

# The Promise and Potential of Community Planning Academies

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# Session Agenda

- Laying the Foundation of Community Planning Academies
  - Joe Schilling, Urban Institute
- Moving Ideas into Action—A Roadmap to Develop and Sustain CPAs
  - Donna Carney, Citizens Planning Institute, City of Philadelphia
- Advancing the Promise and Potential of CPAs—Joe and Donna
- Discussion

# Laying the Foundation—CPA Research Project 2021-22



# Project Objectives

- *National Research*: explore how existing planning academies could be redesigned, developed, and operated as a forum for facilitating community conversations and community action on revamping local land use, land development and urban planning systems so they are more just, equitable, and inclusive.
- *Fresno Community Land Use Academy (CLUA)*: co-create a community planning academy “prototype” that could expand the “land use literacy” of Fresnoans and serve as a catalyst for reforming current land use/land development systems in the City of Fresno so they are more just, equitable and inclusive.

# National Scan and Typology of Academy Models

# National Scan of Diverse Academy Models



American Citizen Planning Program at MSU



Baltimore Planning Academy



Center for Land Use Education at University of Wisconsin



Greenline Institute Leadership Academy



Nexus Community Partners Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute



Pace Law School Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Program



Philadelphia Citizen's Planning Institute



Sacramento Citizen Planning Academy



Upstate Forever Citizens Planning Academy

# We Saw Three Primary Planning Academy Models

- Community Planning Model
- Planning and Land Use Professional Model
- Community Builder Model

# Community Planning Model—CPI Philadelphia

<b>Host</b>	Local Government Planning Agency
<b>Staffing</b>	Planning Staff
<b>Applicants</b>	City or county residents identified as leaders in their community due to their community involvement, organizing, volunteering, or advocacy work
<b>Application</b>	Essays and Interviews
<b>Cohort size</b>	20-30 people
<b>Duration</b>	3-5 months
<b>Topics</b>	Planning/land use basic concepts and local processes, zoning, and special topics such as affordable housing, transportation, etc.

# Planning and Land Use Professionals Model—MSU

<b>Host</b>	University-affiliated land use law/policy center or land grant extension office
<b>Staffing</b>	Research Faculty and Extension/Outreach Staff
<b>Applicants</b>	Current local planning officials and planning professionals, such as commissioners, zoning board members Some nonprofits or community-based professionals involved with land use planning
<b>Application</b>	Workshops developed by request <i>or</i> applicants are nominated
<b>Cohort size</b>	10-20 people
<b>Duration</b>	1-2 day workshops or a retreat of a few days
<b>Topics</b>	basics of land use planning/zoning, rules and requirements related to the powers and processes for making land use decisions, public meeting rules, conflict resolution, legal rules and standards.

# Community Builder Model—Nexus, Minneapolis

<b>Host</b>	Regional/ local non-profit
<b>Staffing</b>	Non-profit staff
<b>Applicants</b>	Young BIPOC professionals and community-based leaders involved with local policy/neighborhood issues.
<b>Application</b>	Workshops developed by request <i>or</i> applicants are nominated
<b>Cohort size</b>	8-12 people
<b>Format/ Duration</b>	Fellowship Model: 9–12-month fellowship/community policy project Boards & Commissions Model: 3–5-month academy to prepare BIPOC placement on local boards and commissions
<b>Topics/ Focus</b>	Specific projects/topics (land use+) on pressing priorities to the nonprofit and community, includes leadership development skills. Another model focuses on recruiting, training, preparing and placing individuals of color on a wide array of local government boards and commissions.

# Academy Characteristics—The Four Features

- **Host & Funding**
- **Recruitment & Participants**
- **Curriculum & Delivery**
- **Network Building & Learning to Action**

# Essential Goals for the CPA Field

- ***Increases knowledge and resources*** available to community members to engage in land use and zoning conversations, decisions and actions
- ***Unpacks the role of structural racism in land use*** and how it is perpetuated through exclusionary zoning and other racially discriminatory land use policies and practices
- ***Provides space for conversations*** between participants, planning officials, and other land use and development actors on difficult land use topics
- ***Explores change and reforms*** to current land use and land development policies,
- ***Recruits and works with individuals*** who are underrepresented in land use and zoning decision-making including leaders of color
- ***Builds networks*** and pathways for participants to apply insights they learned, collaborate with the people they have met, and advocate for changes to improve existing planning and zoning policies and practices



# Fresno's Pilot—Community Land Use Academy (CLUA)

## Community Bootcamp



- Entry-level for community members
- Focus on how land use affects their everyday lives and basic land development, zoning and planning concepts
- Delivered in the neighborhood over 6 weeks
- Delivered by community organizers/developers tailored to local land use problems

## Planning & Development Academy



- Bootcamp graduates and active/engaged community members
- Focus on land use systems and urban planning more broadly
- Delivered in a 10-week cohort model
- Taught by local land use professionals and experts in the field

# **What's on the Horizon?**

**How can planners advance the  
promise and potential of  
Community Planning Academies?**



***Coming this summer:***

**APA PAS Report:  
Community Planning Academies**

by

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**Director, CPI**

***[CitizensPlanningInstitute.org](http://CitizensPlanningInstitute.org)***



# Looking Ahead:



- **Greater inclusion and accessibility**
- *Youth and planning*
- *Focus on leadership development*



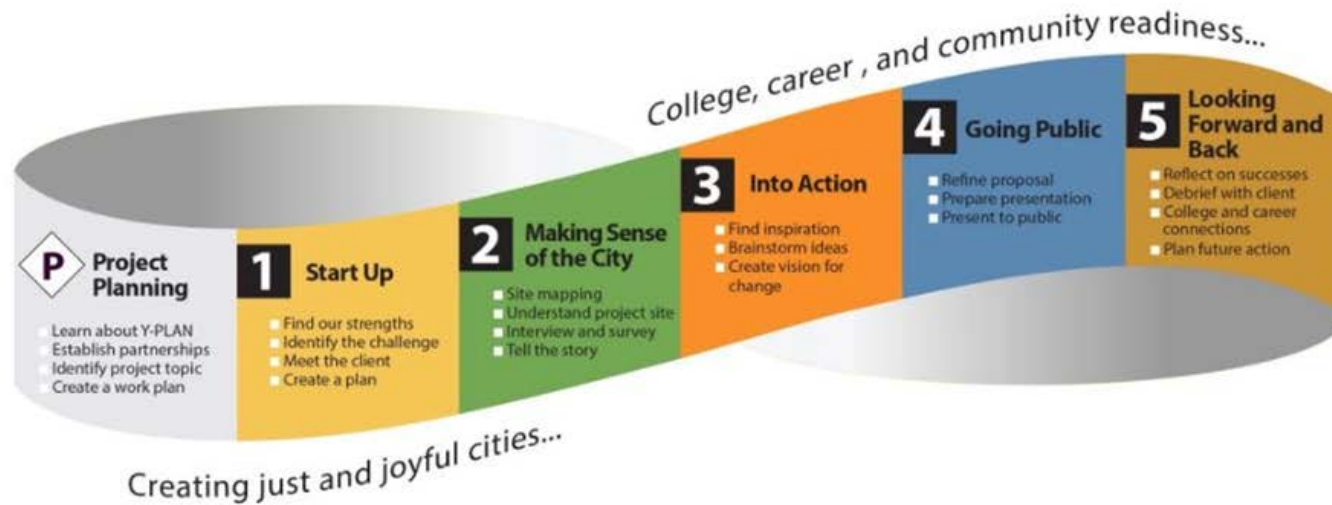
## How will we:

- Determine access is fair?
- Accommodate physical and learning disabilities?
- Decide which geographic areas should be represented?
- Evaluate how people find out about the opportunity?

# Looking Ahead:



- *Greater inclusion and accessibility*
- **Youth and planning**
- *Focus on leadership development*



**Y-PLAN Roadmap:** Young people follow a rigorous 5-step methodology, modeled both on professional research methodologies and participatory planning techniques.

# Looking Ahead:



- *Greater inclusion and accessibility*
- *Youth and planning*
- **Focus on leadership development**



# Promoting CPAs through Policy and Programs

- Expand the scope and scale of CPA programming
- Align multiple academy models through collaborative partnerships and networks
- Support learning opportunities that lead to action, advocacy and community capacity building
- Elevate structural racism and equitable land use reforms
- Leverage federal/state and philanthropic grants to support community land use education and capacity building

**For More Information:**

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