The Washington and Oregon chapters of the American Planning Association invite you to submit your session proposal(s) for the 2020 Joint Virtual Conference, to be held during the October 14-16, 2020.

This year’s conference was originally planned as a traditional in-person conference. Due to COVID-19 the Oregon and Washington APA boards have elected to hold this conference virtually and have revised the call for sessions. Session proposals are encouraged to reflect this change in format and employ methods and techniques to make compelling and valuable virtual content.

THEME

This year’s theme is Growing Together Virtually, recognizing the importance and challenges of planning for evolving communities, large and small, in these challenging and polarizing times. The conference will provide the opportunity to share, learn from each other, and grow as professionals. The challenges before us are significant, with a significant one being: How can we help out communities rebound after COVID-19?

You are encouraged to propose sessions that address any aspect of local and regional planning practice, with special focus on the main conference theme or the following general categories:

- COVID-19 Recovery Ideas & Stories
- Design and the Public Realm
- Transportation and Connectivity
- Housing
- Environmental Policy and Climate Resiliency
- Economic Development and Jobs
- Planning Career Development
- Healthy Communities

To allow attendees to easily identify sessions of interest, the following “tags” may be associated with sessions:

- Equity
- Sustainability
- Skill building
- Technology
- Innovative community engagement
- Networking opportunity
- Career development
- Healthy communities
- Interactive sessions
- Public/private partnerships

SESSION FORMAT

- Presentation formats should be conductive to the virtual medium – a wide range of presentation styles are encouraged, (Traditional, Point/Counterpoint, Panel Discussions, Single Speaker, Moderated Debate, Interactive Workshops, Videos, etc.), however they should be manageable given the constraints of the virtual format.

- Sessions should be planned for a length of 45-75 minutes (90 minutes for legal and ethics sessions), and should have no more than 5 presenters including the moderator. All presenters must appear by video, not by phone.

- We expect to offer free or discounted registration for speakers. This will be determined as we work through the details of the virtual conference.

- We will use Zoom for the virtual platform. Presenters will be required to attend practice and training sessions to be announced.

- Each session will be recorded and made available to attendees after the conference.
CALL FOR CONFERENCE SESSIONS
PROPOSALS DUE JULY 19, 2020

REVIEW OF SESSION PROPOSALS

The conference Program Committee will review the session submissions and choose sessions based on relevancy of the topic, originality, format, suitability to the virtual format, and completeness of the proposal. The Program Committee will ensure that the conference includes a wide variety of session topics, formats, and speakers, and may make changes to sessions to better balance the program. Speakers/presenters can be from one or both chapters, but we encourage joint representation where possible and/or session topics of interest to both chapters.

All session applicants will be notified by August 21 if your proposal was accepted or not. The Program Committee will confirm session details and ask you to provide information needed for AICP CM credits within the following month. You will be asked to address the following questions, and provide speaker names and bios:

1. How will your session offer a professionally relevant learning experience for a planner (e.g., for a planner with at least four years of experience after earning a two-year master's degree)?

2. How does this session meet a specific-planning-related training objective?

3. What are the specific training objectives and how does your session meet them?

SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please e-mail session proposals in an MS WORD document named with the proposed session title only. Please include the following information in the order presented and do not include any additional information unless requested.

- Submittals are limited to one, single-sided 8.5" x 11" page.
- Session name (brief, 4 to 5 words, catchy, yet fully descriptive of topic preferred).
- Paragraph describing the topic and message. Provide enough detail in the description so that the committee can fully understand your topic. (500-word maximum - no exceptions. Marketing brochures and other similar types of materials will not be accepted with proposals.)
- Describe the format of your presentation, how it will be conducted in a virtual setting and list the theme category you have selected and any tags (previous page) that apply.
- Have you presented at a webinar or virtual conference before? How familiar are you with the Zoom platform?
- Names, e-mail addresses, mailing addresses and phone/fax numbers of the proposed moderator and all presenters.
- Send your submittal via e-mail to Stephanie Kennedy, conference event manager, totaleventconnection@gmail.com.

SUBMITTAL QUESTIONS

Please e-mail any questions regarding proposals to Stephanie Kennedy, conference event manager, totaleventconnection@gmail.com.

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE

5:00 pm on July 19, 2020