THE 77TH WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY

Navigating Change to Shape Better Futures

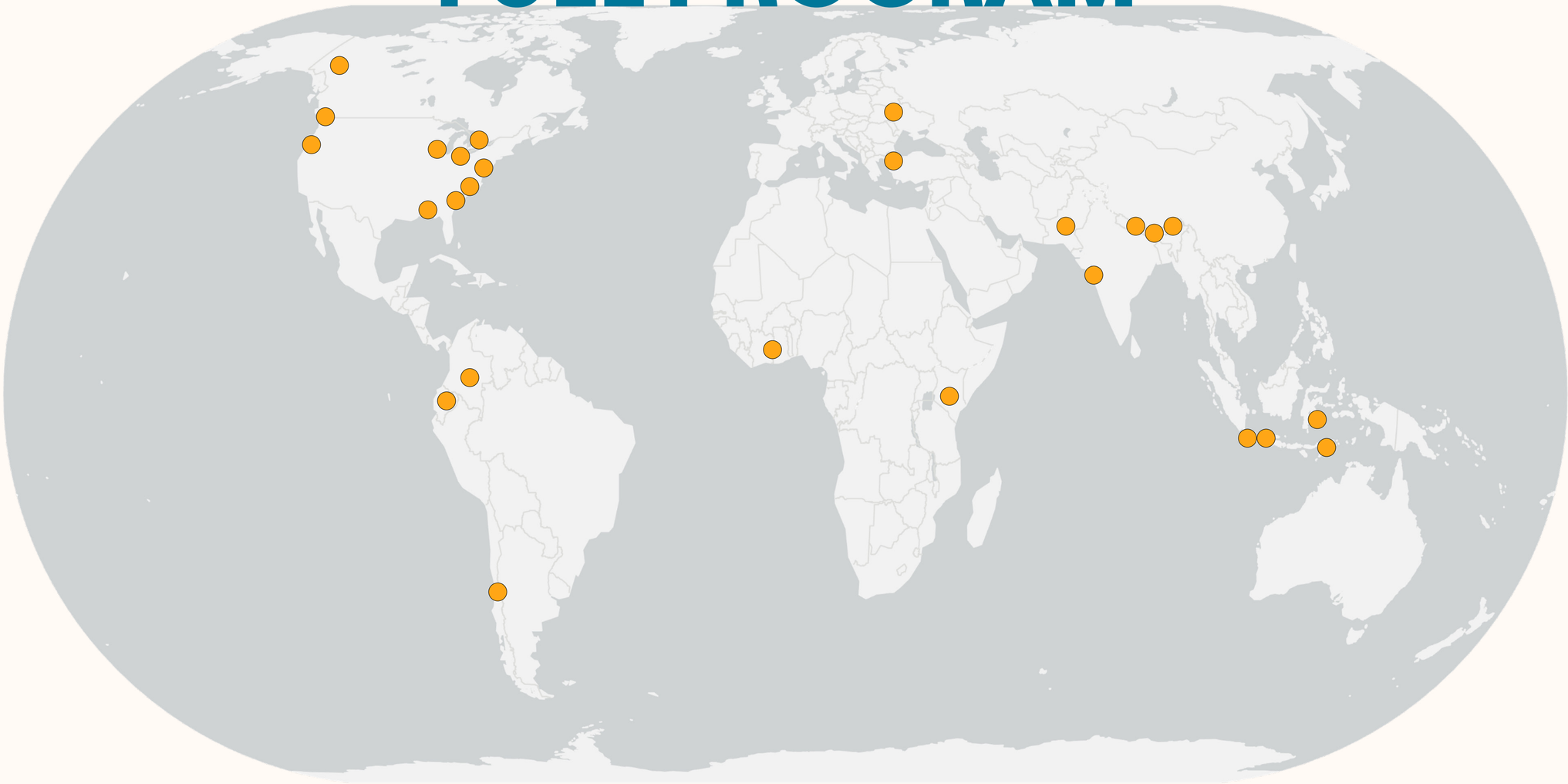
November 6, 2026 • 8AM-6PM Chicago Time, USA

American Planning Association
International Division
Creating Great Communities for All

CIP•ICU
Canadian Institute of Planners
Institut canadien des urbanistes

GLOBAL PLANNERS NETWORK
Sharing new ideas about communities across the world

FULL PROGRAM



Graphic Design & Cartography: Brian Christian (2026), Adobe InDesign & Esri ArcGIS Pro 3.6. Projection References: UN Geospatial & Esri.
Projection: World Eckert IV, an equal-area projection that preserves relative land areas and is also used in United Nations world mapping.

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COMMITTEES & ASSOCIATIONS

On The World Town Planning Day, 8 November every year, planners and communities all over the world come together to celebrate how good planning improves the lives of people and benefits society at large, creating places where to live, work, and play together. Argentinian Professor, Carlos María della Paolera, a graduate at the Institut d'urbanisme in Paris, started the World Town Planning Day in Buenos Aires in 1949.



Sandra Pinel, PhD, AICP
Vice Chair, APA INTL



Krishna Shrivastava, AICP
Committee Member, APA INTL



Antonella Salmeron, AICP
Committee Member, APA INTL



Brian Christian
Vice Chair-Elect, APA INTL

Carter Williams, AICP
Vice Chair, APA INTL

Emma Chetuya, AICP
Committee Member, APA INTL

Jing Zhang, FAICP
Chair, APA INTL

APA INTL

APA International Division (INTL) is one of many divisions in the American Planning Association. Founded in 2004, APA INTL connects American planners to the world as well as brings the world closer together. APA INTL shares knowledge, learn from, and collaborate with other divisions, planners, and communities across the world. APA INTL, with CIP and GPN, annually hosts and organizes the World Town Planning Day.

APA

American Planning Association

Creating Great Communities for All

The American Planning Association (APA) exists to elevate and unite a diverse planning profession as it helps communities, leaders, and residents anticipate and meet the needs of a changing world. APA is governed by a Board of Directors that works in partnership with the leaders of its professional institute, AICP, to set strategy, provide oversight, and ensure progress toward goals.

CIP·ICU
Canadian Institute of Planners
Institut canadien des urbanistes

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) works on behalf of over 10,000 diverse planning professionals and has supported planning community in Canada since 1919. CIP is a member-based organization for planning professionals across Canada and beyond. CIP's values drive its culture and priorities, and provide a foundation for the organization to thrive.

GPN
GLOBAL PLANNERS NETWORK
Sharing new ideas about communities across the world

The Global Planners Network (GPN) is a group of spatial planning institutes and other related organizations, who have signed the Vancouver Declaration. Current GPN membership extends to 25 organizations representing more than 150,000 planners. Founding members include APA, CIP, Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP), Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

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EVENT AGENDA

08:00 Welcome
Overview of WTPD 2026 Themes & Tracks

08:15 Keynote
Planning to Achieve the New Urban Agenda

08:40 Instructions
Host: American Planning Association (APA)

08:45 Session 1 • Climate & Environment
- **Revising Development Control Regulations through Earth Observation: Addressing Peri-Urban Flood Vulnerability in Panvel, Maharashtra, India** (Amruta Khairnar, Priya Mendiratta, Suman Kumar)

09:30 Session 2 • Recovery & Resilience
Moderator: Krishna Shrivastava, AICP
- **Humanizing the Hills: Inclusive and Resilient Himalayan Cities** (Mahreen Matto, Ramesh Negi, Krishna Shrivastava)
- **What Planners Can Learn from Nepal's Recent Rasuwa GLOF Disaster** (Tej Karki)



Sandra Pinel, PhD, AICP
Vice Chair, APA INTL



Sue Schwartz, FAICP
President, APA



Lesley Cabott, FCIP
President, CIP



Shubhagato Dasgupta
Chief of Planning & Finance
UN Habitat Global Solutions Division



Amruta Khairnar
Assoc. Professor, Pillai University



Priya Mendiratta
Former Add. Chief Planner, CIDCO



Suman Kumar
Town Planner, UXO Lab



Mahreen Matto
Team Lead, NIUA



Ramesh Negi
President, IMI



Krishna Shrivastava, AICP
Founder/Chief Planner, LIKAplan



Tej Karki
Visiting Faculty, Kathmandu University

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EVENT AGENDA

10:30 Session 3 • Housing & Heritage

Moderator: Krishna Shrivastava, AICP

- **Better Homes, Living Heritage: Regenerating Drinchengang Village, Bhutan** (Richard Streitz, Phub Rinzin, Tashi Norbu)



Richard Streitz
Dy. Executive Director, DRV Project



Phub Rinzin
Executive Director, DRV Project

Tashi Norbu
Sr. Architect, RoID Punakha

- **Revitalizing Jepara's Global Identity as the Carving City of the World: Digital Collaborative Citizenship through JIFBW** (N. A. Budi Yulianto)



Nur Ahmad Budi Yulianto
Lecturer, Polibang Jepara

11:30 Session 4 • Data & Digital Planning

Moderator: Antonella Salmeron, AICP

Fast & Fun Presentations

- **'Charli' - AI Assistant for Bogota's Occidental Savannah Region's Inclusive Strategic Plan** (Michelle L. Oren)
- **Can Technology Make Cities Safer? Lessons from Pakistan** (Irum Abbasi)
- **Beyond Connectivity: TPAY as a Bridge to an Inclusive Digital Economy in Timor-Leste** (Sesaltina Jannet da Rosa Maia)
- **AI Lives Somewhere: Governing the Local Footprint of the Global AI Boom** (Brian Christian)
- **Planning for a Just Nickel Transition: Community Resilience in Indonesia's Critical Mineral Frontiers** (Muhammad Obie Lasiko)



Michelle L. Oren
Research Lead, ProBogota Region



Irum Abbasi
SPURS Fellow, MIT



Sesaltina Jannet da Rosa Maia
SPURS Fellow, MIT



Brian Christian
Fulbright Scholar, UIC



Muhammad Obie Lasiko
Assoc. Professor, Halu Oleo University

12:30 Break for Lunch

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EVENT AGENDA

13:00 Session 5 • Housing & Local Knowledge

Moderator: Deborah Morrison, CIP

- **Hand in Hand: Building Indigenous Housing Together**



[Emily Johnson](#)
Project Planner, M'akola Development



[Bronwyn McLean](#)
Reg. Director, M'akola Development

14:00 Session 6 • Recovery & Resilience

Moderator: Sandra Pinel, PhD, AICP

- **From "City Building" to Place Value: Reforming Planning Education for Ukraine's Democratic Reconstruction** (Gala Korniyenko, Oleksandra Patiukhina, Nathan Hutson)



[Gala Korniyenko](#)
Lecturer, The Ohio State University



[Oleksandra Pantiukhina](#)
Assoc. Professor, PSTU Ukraine



[Nathan Hutson](#)
Visiting Professor, KSE Ukraine

- **From Planning to Resilient Infrastructure: Connecting Project Risk, Lifecycle Value, and Community Outcomes** (Casey LaFrance & Ali Dehbashi)



[Casey LaFrance](#)
Professor, Western Illinois University



[Ali Dehbashi](#)
Senior Project Manager, RWS

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EVENT AGENDA

15:00 Session 7 • Well-Being, Climate, and Resilience

Moderator: Emma Chetuya, AICP

Fast & Fun Presentations + Student Presentations

- **Cities According to the For You Page** (Eva Bird)
- **Planning Beyond Clean-Ups: Tackling Coastal Plastic Pollution in Ghanaian Communities** (Emmanuel Mishiame)
- **From Strategic Vision to Statutory Action: Süleymaniye UNESCO World Heritage Site, İstanbul 2050 Integrated Planning Model** (Seher Erbey Aksoy)
- **Why Does Children's Active Mobility Matter?** (Amanda Padilla)
- **Climate Resilience Planning and Communicative Process in the Urban South** (Erwin Nugraha)
- **Are Our Plans Keeping Up with Risk? Lessons from 50 U.S. Counties** (Isaac Baah)

16:00 Session 8 • Recovery & Resilience

- **Centering Resilience on Community** (Charles Kelley, Roberto Moris, Tijana Tufek Mmisevic)

- **Two Years On: Rethinking Rural Resilience in the Wake of Hurricane Helene** (Nicholas Stover)



Eva Bird
Plan. Technician, University of Guelph



Emmanuel Mishiame
Student, University of Cape Coast



Seher Erbey Aksoy
Urban Planner, SEA Urban Planning



Amanda Padilla
SPURS Fellow, MIT



Erwin Nugraha
Postdoctoral Research Associate, SSS



Isaac Baah
Student, Alabama A&M University



Charles Kelley
Principal, Green Urban Design



Roberto Moris
Dy. Director, PC University of Chile



Tijana Tufek-Mmisevic
Vice President, ISOCARP



Nicholas Stover
Researcher, UNC at Chapel Hill

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EVENT AGENDA

17:00 Session 9 • Equity
Moderator: Emma Chetuya, AICP
- **From Vision to Visualization: Pride of Hayti Commons & Emerging Tools for Equity-Centered Planning** (Maritzelena Chirinos, Cayden Hercules, Maiya Washington)

17:45 Global Agenda for Planning: Steering Toward Success

18:00 Conclusion
Sandra Pinel, PhD, AICP



Maritzelena Chirinos
Research Assistant, Morgan State Uni



Cayden Hercules
Development Associate, Parity Homes



Maiya Washington
Rehab. Specialist, Sheppard Pratt



Bruce Stiftel, FAICP
Professor Emeritus, Georgia Tech
APA International Division



Lyndsey Deaton, AICP
Director, HE+ED Lab



Mushfika Ansary
Member, HE+ED Lab



Zahra Ghazanfari
Member, HE+ED Lab



Ethan Hoang
Member, HE+ED Lab



Shanshan Hu
Member, HE+ED Lab



Sammy Kocher
Member, HE+ED Lab



Kinsey Meggett
Member, HE+ED Lab

Session Notes & Key Outcomes Recording Team

Health Equity + Environmental Design Lab
Clemson University

The Health Equity + Environmental Design Lab (HE+ED) at Clemson University is a transdisciplinary research collective dedicated to reducing health disparities. Students supporting this WTPD examine how the built environment shapes well-being and develop design strategies that advance health equity at the scale of a room, a neighborhood, or a city.

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SPEAKER BIODATA



Shubhagato Dasgupta is the Chief of Planning and Finance at the UN Habitat Global Solutions Division. With nearly 30 years of international experience across the public, private, multilateral, academic, and non-governmental sectors, he has led transformative initiatives in urban planning, housing, municipal finance, and sustainable urban development across South Asia, East Asia, and Africa.



Sandra Pinel, PhD, AICP, is a planner and applied anthropologist specializing in capacity-building and transboundary governance. A Fulbright NEXUS Scholar, she holds an MS and PhD in urban and regional planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After retiring from U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, she continues her research at Antioch University New England.



Lesley Cabott, FCIP, is the President of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a planner based in Whitehorse, Yukon. She specializes in northern and Indigenous community planning, emphasizing sustainability, resilience, and treaty implementation. A former chair of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, she was named a CIP Fellow in 2022 for her contributions to northern and Indigenous communities.



Dr. Priya Mendiratta is an urbanist, with interests in geoinformatics, policy and academics. She has worked extensively for the planning and development of the greenfield Navi Mumbai.



Dr. Mahreen Matto is the team lead at the National Institute of Urban Affairs, India. She has over 15 years of experience advancing urban water and sanitation management across human settlements in the Global South.



Bruce Stiftel, FAICP, is Professor Emeritus and founding chair of Georgia Tech's School of City and Regional Planning. His work focuses on collaborative governance, environmental policy, and international development. A former Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) president, he has held leadership roles with APA and UN-Habitat and received the Jay Chatterjee and Martin Meyerson awards.



Sue Schwartz, FAICP, is the President of the American Planning Association and planning director for Greensboro, North Carolina. With over 40 years of experience, she champions data-informed planning, community collaboration, zoning reform, and professional resilience. A former AICP Commission president, she holds degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



Dr. Amruta Khairnar is an urban planning faculty at Pillai University specializing in regional spatial development, periurban governance, and translating environmental data into actionable planning policy.



Suman Kumar is an urban planner and researcher with 10+ years' experience in geospatial analytics, machine learning, and urban expansion studies, specializing in master planning, land use, and data-driven city growth solutions.



Ramesh Negi, IAS (1984 AGMUT), is a former Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh with extensive administrative experience in urban development, infrastructure, tourism and governance.

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SPEAKER BIODATA



Krishna Shrivastava, AICP. After 50 years of planning and project management work from village to national level development and remediation programs, he is currently active in broadening the outreach of APA's International Division abroad through liaison with MIT/SPURS, NOSPlan, API and others individually.



Richard Streitz, former Disney Imagineer and current Deputy Executive Director of Bhutan's Drinchengang Regenerative Village Project, advances inclusive planning, heritage preservation, regenerative development, and shared impact prosperity.



Nur Ahmad Budi Yulianto is a lecturer and researcher at Politeknik Balekambang Jepara, Indonesia, studying digital collaborative behavior, organizational dynamics, and creative-industry ecosystems, with research and practical experience in the local Jepara context.



Irum Abbasi is an MIT SPURS Fellow. She is a senior law enforcement officer with 15 years of experience in policing, intelligence, public policy, institutional reform, and digital transformation.



Brian Christian is a Research Specialist at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Urban Transportation Center and Vice-Chair-Elect of APA International Division. A Fulbright Scholar from Indonesia, he was elected Director of the Fulbright Association Chicago Chapter after graduating from UIC Master of Urban Planning & Policy program. Brian was named the first-place winner of the APA Planning & Law Division's 2026 Student Writing Competition.



Tej Karki holds a Ph.D. in Law, Policy, and Society from the Northeastern University, USA. He holds a master's degree in urban planning from the Asian Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Architecture from the Chandigarh College of Architecture. He has served as visiting faculty at Boston University and Tufts University, and was a visiting scholar at MIT in 2016. He previously served as Chief of Office at the Kathmandu Town Planning Offices.



Phub Rinzin is the Executive Director of Bhutan's DRV (Drinchengang Regenerative Village Project).



Dr. Michelle L. Oren is Charli's research leader, urban planner, and scholar in urban innovation and the socio-technical dynamics of municipal governance, infrastructure, and human rights.



Jenny Maia (Sesaltina Jannet da Rosa Maia) brings private-sector experience in telecommunications and digital innovation in Timor-Leste and is currently a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at MIT.



Dr. Muhammad Obie Lasiko is an Associate Professor of Rural Sociology at Halu Oleo University, researching critical mineral transitions, agrarian justice, community resilience, and social-ecological governance in Indonesia.

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SPEAKER BIODATA



Emily Johnson is a planner at M'akola Development with over four years of experience supporting nonprofits, Indigenous governments, and public agencies across British Columbia.



Dr. Gala Korniyenko is a lecturer at the city and regional planning program (The Ohio State University) and R&D Director (NYAP) researching inclusive public participation, universal design, and planning for neurodiverse populations.



Dr. Nathan Hutson is a Visiting Professor at KSE and UT Austin specializing in post-war reconstruction, freight planning, and Eurasian supply chains.



Ali Dehbashi is a Senior Project Manager at RWS.



Emmanuel Mishiame is a young aspiring researcher and advocate for inclusive and participatory planning built on reliable data.



Bronwyn McLean is M'akola Development's Regional Director for Vancouver Island, with over 10 years of planning and project management experience delivering housing and community-focused capital projects.



Dr. Oleksandra Pantiukhina is an Associate Professor at PSTU specializing in sustainable architecture, participatory design, and resilient urban reconstruction in Ukraine.



Dr. Casey LaFrance is a professor and project management scholar-practitioner specializing in sustainable project management, infrastructure resilience, governance, and long-term public value.



Eva Bird has recently graduated from a Master of Science in Planning at the University of Guelph.



Seher Erbey Aksoy founded SEA Urban Planning after five years at Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and is currently pursuing doctoral research at Istanbul Technical University.

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SPEAKER BIODATA



Amanda Padilla is an Ecuadorian architect, designer, and urban planner, specializing in public spaces, active mobility, child-centric cities, and educational cycling programs for children.



Isaac Baah is a graduate planning researcher at Alabama A&M University focused on land use, hazard mitigation, community resilience, and practical planning solutions.



Roberto Moris is an Associate Professor at Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and former National Director of Urban Projects (MINVU), researching urban resilience and post-disaster reconstruction.



Nicholas Stover is an urban planner and Boone resident who survived Hurricane Helene. He bridges the gap between technical infrastructure policy and real-world grassroots community resilience.



Cayden Hercules is a City & Regional Planning Student at Morgan State University. His background is in construction, planning, and real estate development. He plans to get into international planning and development.



Erwin Nugraha, PhD, is affiliated with Scientia Sacra Sahitya and the Indonesian Association of Urban and Regional Planners. He is the co-editor of Overlooked Cities.



Charles Kelley is an urban designer from Portland, Oregon with 39 years of experience planning resilient community centered neighborhoods in Japan, North America, Korea, and Ukraine.



Tijana Tufek-Memisevic is an urban planning educator with a background in architecture, teaching at DePaul University in Chicago and advising on urban sustainability at the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development. She is also Vice President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners.



Maritzelena (Ritzy) Chirinos is a planning graduate student and researcher at Morgan State University focused on equitable development, community engagement, transportation, and environmental justice.



Maiya Washington is a City and Regional Planning graduate student at Morgan State University with a social work background, focused on equitable development and community-centered planning.

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