TAUBMAN COLLEGE












# URP 611 RADICAL PLANNING

WINTER 2023

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ENGAGING WITH DISAGREEMENTS

NEGOTIATIONS TACTICS

PSYCOLOGICAL ROOTS OF CONFLICT



## GUEST SPEAKER

**Julia Minson** (She/Her) is an Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She is a decision scientist with research interests in conflict, negotiations and judgment and decision making. Her primary line of research addresses the "psychology of disagreement" – How do people engage with opinions, judgments and decisions that are different from their own? Julia will be discussing topics in collaborative planning/conflict resolution and how planners can utilize these tools to push for greater community power in planning processes.

# Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Approaches

JANUARY 9, 2023 | VIRTUAL

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

Being receptive to hearing new ideas is different from shifting beliefs.

This session focused on understanding how receptive people are to discussing differences, and looking at research that showed that people were more willing to talk to those who appeared receptive. To practice receptiveness, people can hedge their claims, emphasize agreement, acknowledge the points of others, and reframe to the positive.

| H | E | A | R |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Hedge your claims** | **Emphasize agreement** | **Acknowledge other perspectives** | **Reframe to the positive** |
| "I think it's possible that..."<br>"This might happen because..."<br>"Some people tend to think..." | "I think we both want to..."<br>"I agree with some of what you are saying..."<br>"We are both concerned with..." | "I understand that..."<br>"I see your point..."<br>"What I think you are saying is..." | "I think it's great when..."<br>"I really appreciate it when..."<br>"It would be so wonderful if..." |

## REFLECTIONS:

It is important to practice openness and receptivity – interpersonal relationships are important!

In planning, how can we hold these conversations with people that we might not see again? Can we practice being receptive so that we can, in the moment, effectively communicate with people who hold opposing beliefs? Being able to feel comfortable with difficult conversations is crucial for planning professionals.

# PATH TOWARDS JUSTICE

## PLANNING HISTORY



## GUEST SPEAKER

**Britt Redd** (they/them) is currently a principal planner for land use strategy for Indianapolis's Department of Metropolitan Development, acting as the department's thought leader on land use and development issues. They have collaborated with neighbors and community advocates on regional and neighborhood plans, the design of public spaces, green corridor revitalization, and economic development strategies.Redd also manages the Peoples' Planning Academy, a training program that works to demystify city planning in Indianapolis and equip residents with tools to shape the future of their communities. Britt was the 2022 Taubman College Sojourner and led workshops and conversations with students examining planning's history and opportunities for restorative justice.






# Reckoning with the History of Planning

JANUARY 23, 2023 | VIRTUAL

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

There is a longer history to planning than what planners are typically taught with the invention of zoning or forms of spatial racism such as redlining. Britt Redd traces the history of planning back to chattel slavery and indigenous land theft, looking back at settler-colonial perspectives on land ownership. Manifest destiny drove territorial expansion and the removal of indigenous communities, which enabled settlers to begin staking claims and creating communities that later became cities. Slavery also had huge impacts on planning as formerly enslaved people were freed and migrated to northern cities, transforming demographics and spurring racist policies such as redlining. The ways in which planning is tied to white supremacy and slavery and indigenous land theft are numerous, and the profession needs to understand this history to move forward in a way that is just and equitable.




## REFLECTIONS:

Relationship building is critical for planners to rebuild trust with communities of color given this fraught history. This could look like being in community with people, be that through volunteering or attending neighborhood meetings. Planners need to acknowledge the unseen roots of planning and be radically honest about how the historical development of an area influenced the current conditions of a community. By adopting informed consent as a professional value, practitioners can work with communities to make cities better rather than trying to work for communities.

# OUR RELATIONSHIP TO LAND

## INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP



## GUEST SPEAKER

**Malulani Castro** (he/they) is a 2nd year PhD candidate at SEAS working with Kyle Whyte researching environmental justice. His work is broadly focused on organizational evaluation, planning, and theory. Specifically, he focuses on engendering how Indigenous communities historically, traditionally, and contemporarily understand and implement evaluation as a means of nation-building, self-determination, and land-based living. Malu's kuleana (i.e. responsibility) is to be a steward of the land and those it feeds—even beyond the shores of his ancestral homes of Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

# You Need Land to Plan: Indigenous and Settler Theories of Land

JANUARY 30, 2023 | A&AB Room 2104

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

**How we think about land has far-reaching implications for how we plan. What is our relationship with land? Is it something we care for and that cares for us? Is it a place we eat, sleep, live, and die? Or is it an asset, something commodified to be bought or sold or rented? When we commodify land, we do not live on land, but are floating above it. When we can be removed from land because we have to pay taxes or rent or a mortgage, we are never truly rooted. Indigenous worldviews see people as more directly rooted to the land, unable to be removed or alienated.**







## REFLECTIONS:

**How can planners, as professionals that are intimately involved in the colonial use of land, participate in repairing land relationships? Malu's work with Sustainable Molokai offers some insight into how planners can work within the existing colonial systems that we have to return land to indigenous stewardship. Land today is seen as a commodity, and rethinking land use and land stewardship means starting with understanding what land is.**

# GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE IMPACTS

# SOUTHWEST DETROIT COMMUNITY BENEFITS COALITION

# COMMUNITY PROTECTIONS



## GUEST SPEAKER

**Simone Sagovac** (she/her) is a 30-year Detroit resident and serves as Director of the Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition since 2008. The coalition organized to secure millions in programs with the Gordie Howe International Bridge to Canada, including for home repairs and a home swap program, health and air monitoring, and more. She has implemented door-to-door health surveys, community air monitoring and truck counts, and works on EJ issues and sustainable policies. Simone attended the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources, and Wayne State University Urban Planning and Geography. She spent 15 years working in the labor movement, and briefly was a teacher and soccer coach in an all-girls middle school in SW Detroit.

# Coalition Building, Community Benefits Agreements and Community Empowerment

FEBRUARY 02, 2023 | VIRTUAL

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

Large scale infrastructure projects aren't untouchable but are difficult to combat alone. Organizing resistance to the negative environmental outcomes associated with the construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge involved conversations across several different communities. Collective advocacy required community members and organizations to find common ground with each other before engaging with development professionals and government agencies. Internal negotiation was key in building a strong coalition with shared resources. Persistent organized action was key in making progress toward more environmentally just development.




## REFLECTIONS:

While community driven planning and codesign processes aren't yet industry practice, current practitioners have high interest in these strategies. What does a community driven, large scale infrastructure project look like? How about an international project? Transportation planning is a specialty that has historically prioritized the opinions of professionally licensed professionals, quantitative data to guide development processes and decision making. Is that actually the best practice? Why did the Delray community members make more headway in their advocacy efforts with privately completed technical air quality studies than when they brought up their concerns about what they were experiencing in terms of air quality and public health? Planners need to actively resist and challenge development processes and professional culture in which this type of exclusion is permitted.

## POWER AND OPPRESSION

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZING



## GUEST SPEAKER

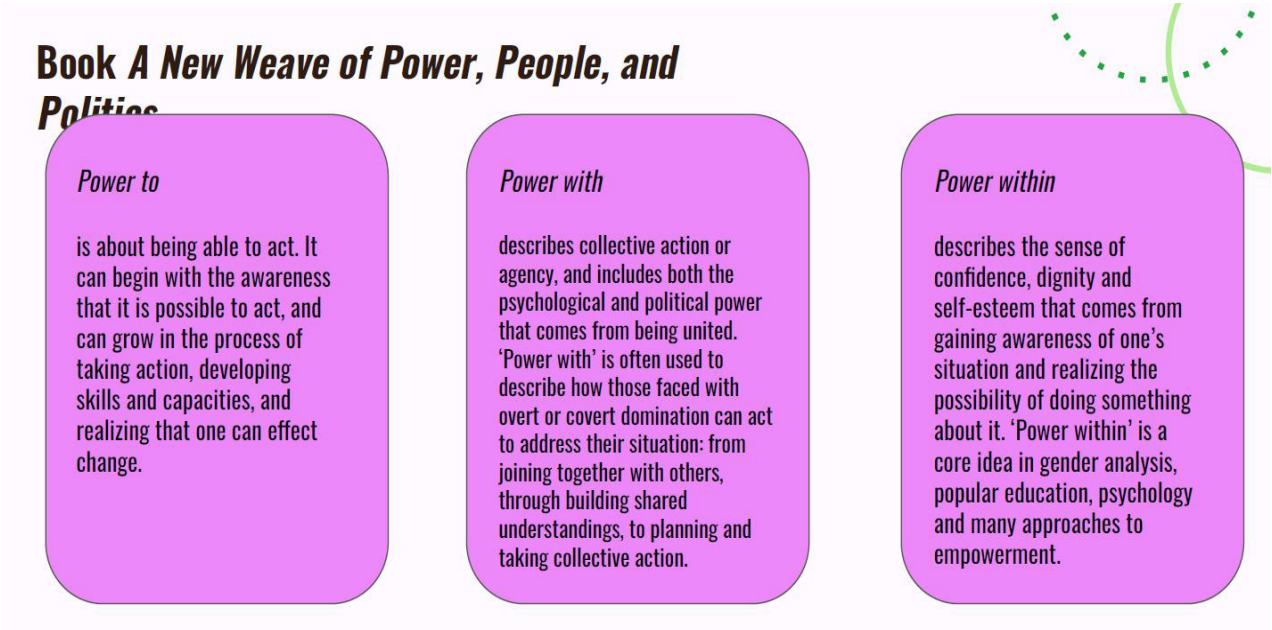
**Jose Richard Aviles**(they/he/elle) works as an Equitable Transportation Analyst at the Othering and Belonging Institute and adjunct professor of planning at UC Berkeley. Aviles is a multimedia artist, urban planner, and social worker based in South Central Los Angeles. Aviles has over 15 years community organizing experience. Aviles is interested in the intersections between space and justice, laughter and resistance, and the magic on stage. Aviles teaches Community Organizing for Urban Planners (COUP), which bridges the disciplines of urban planning, social work, and community organizing, by proposing an alternative discourse beyond historical planning literature– a discourse inherently gendered, rooted in white supremacy and settler colonialism. At the basis of community organizing lies two core principles 1) a deep commitment to the unlearning of said discourse and 2) reimagination of a new world.

# Radicalizing Urban Planning, Power Analysis, and Equity in the Built Environment

FEBRUARY 13, 2023 | A&AB Room 2104

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

Urban planning can learn from principles of social work, particularly in the context of community engagement. Using a strengths perspective, focusing on community assets, local knowledge, and community organizing. Jose Richard Aviles notes, "Lived experiences should be leveraged and seen as truth, even when planners can't connect with them. Remember: we are of service, not to be serviced." To ensure planning actions avoid causing or perpetuating harm upon communities, planners ought to center community in decision-making processes to spur more equitable outcomes. Additionally, Aviles calls upon planners to practice "power mapping" to realize the interest and influence of stakeholders in planning processes and projects. Power mapping can also be a beneficial tool for community empowerment and leveraging different connections to create transformative social change.




## REFLECTIONS:

How can urban planners, whose profession has historically caused harm in marginalized communities, work to empower those very communities? Jose Richard Aviles' work in community engagement and equitable planning provides pathways towards ethical, reciprocal relationships with community to actualize positive social change. Oftentimes, community engagement is viewed as a box to tick in planning and development. This sentiment must be reversed and community engagement must consider power and acknowledge historic harm in planning to build trust.

# TRIBAL ADVOCACY MOVEMENT IN INDIA

## GOVERNANCE LANDSCAPES



## GUEST SPEAKER

**TARU** (she/her) is a PhD student in Urban Planning at Taubman College. Taru's work primarily situates itself in international and post-colonial territories and is deeply engaged with normative planning theories and their application in places with plural institutions, structural violence, and difference. Her current dissertation focuses on the role plural institutions and community networks can play to effectively address disaster- specifically looking at COVID-19 response in ordinary cities. Taru is currently engaged with the Jharkhand State Control Room, while the state sought to rescue more than 1.5 million migrant workers, as well as the health-based, and socio-economic concerns among the transient and vulnerable populations within the state. This research examines the roles social movements and civil society play in service delivery and everyday governance, especially in areas facing structural violence and conflict. She has completed a Masters of Regional Planning from AAP, and a Sustainable Global Enterprise Immersion from SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University; and a Certificate in African Studies, LSA, University of Michigan, focusing primarily on African Cities.

# Insurgent Planning and Deep Democracy: Speaking Truth to Power?

FEBRUARY 20, 2023 | A&AB Room 2104

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

The field of urban planning can learn from international insurgent and deep democracy movements that generate bottom-up institutional change. These movements attempt to counterbalance state power through collaboration to establish legitimacy in community priorities. Insurgent planning efforts emerge from grassroots initiatives that seek to disrupt structural inequity and oppression. Taru uses Jharkhand, a state in eastern India where she worked with radical organizations, as an illuminating case study of insurgent planning and organized resistance. Taru notes that in this context, insurgent planning led by Jharkhand's Indigenous Adivasi community assigned greater accountability of the state in ensuring community priorities were met and harmful development would not destroy cultural assets.




## REFLECTIONS:

Planners can learn from insurgent planning, which challenges structural inequity, often through resistance approaches. Transformative planning processes like insurgent planning challenge dominant urban planning paradigms that prescribe top-down approaches. Co-production lays at the heart of this approach in networked power building to demand and achieve lasting structural change. Planners ought to realize the transformative potential of community-driven social movements in achieving urban equity.

## TOOLS OF WHITE SUPREMACY

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT




## GUEST SPEAKERS

**Yodit Mesfin Johnson** (she/her) is a mother, poet, activist and strategist with an abolitionist mind and a visionary heart, holding love as a guiding value, a way of being, an action and a politic. She is a co-founder of FutureRoot, founder of Black Men Read, a member of the Coalition on Re-Envisioning Safety (CROS), and a community partner of Black Washtenaw County, documenting local racism and resistance. She thrives in building community around the questions that matter most; how can we unlock the potential and possibility needed to radically transform our communities, see the ecosystem and the whole, and design and act in ways that bend the long arc of history towards balance and harmony? Yodit uses various mediums, including poetry, writing and storytelling as tools in her organizing, activism and in the rewriting of her own personal narrative. She lives, works and plays on the occupied land of the Anishinaabeg, commonly called Washtenaw County and holds deeply the belief that the upliftment, freedom, and dignity of African people on the continent and in the diaspora is tied to the freedom and dignity of all Indigenous peoples..



**Jessica A.S. Letaw** (she/her) is a local community organizer and advocate for housing abundance and affordability. She is a co-founder of FutureRoot. Jessica also founded Building Matters, an Ann Arbor non-profit devoted to local architecture and the built environment. Jess is an advisory board member of Justice InDeed and educates the community around racially restrictive covenants on housing deeds.

# Returning Home: Community-driven Planning, Power & Vision Building

MARCH 06, 2023 | A&AB Room 2104

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

Yodit and Jess's session centers on ways in which we can adapt 'planning' so that it happens with, not for, those impacted by it. Urban planners need to understand that they operate in the context of white supremacy culture. This culture is a widespread ideology baked into the beliefs, values, norms, and standards of our groups, communities, states, nations teaching us both overtly and covertly that whiteness holds value, whiteness is value. It affects us all. Through discussion of the Ann Street, Ann Arbor and Black Bottom neighborhoods in Detroit, they show how tools of supremacy were used to discriminate Black communities. They pose a question, "How can we unlock the potential and possibility needed to radically transform our communities, and design and act in ways that bend the long arc of history towards balance and harmony?" One way is by shifting our beliefs: self to systems. Energy expended is not sustainable when individuals are not healed / work through trauma (individually and collectively). "If we choose...we can engage in the collective project of freeing ourselves from this project of colonization." The second is to deepen our understanding and become thoughtful about who else is in the room with you.




## REFLECTIONS:

Community driven planning is about self-determination for Black, Brown and Indigenous people. We need to develop more capacity in communities to develop their own solutions and plans to replace the exclusionary practices of top-down planning. Planners need to realize that trust and capacity are the two things needed in the community to radically transform the way community engagement happens.

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT

PLANNING, ADVOCACY AND DISRUPTION



## GUEST SPEAKER

**Juan Jhong Chung**(he/they) is a queer immigrant, born in Peru, of Indigenous Chanka and Cantonese Chinese ancestry. Juan is the current Climate Justice Director for the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition. He is passionate about creating ecological futures that center the lived experiences and knowledge of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as well as other disadvantaged groups. Juan holds dual masters degrees from the School of Environment and Sustainability and the Urban and Regional Planning Program at the University of Michigan. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Boston University. Juan brings to MEJC a diverse skill set including policy analysis, activism and advocacy, community planning, and expertise in science & technology. He lives in Detroit, where he organizes for systems change through radical solidarity.

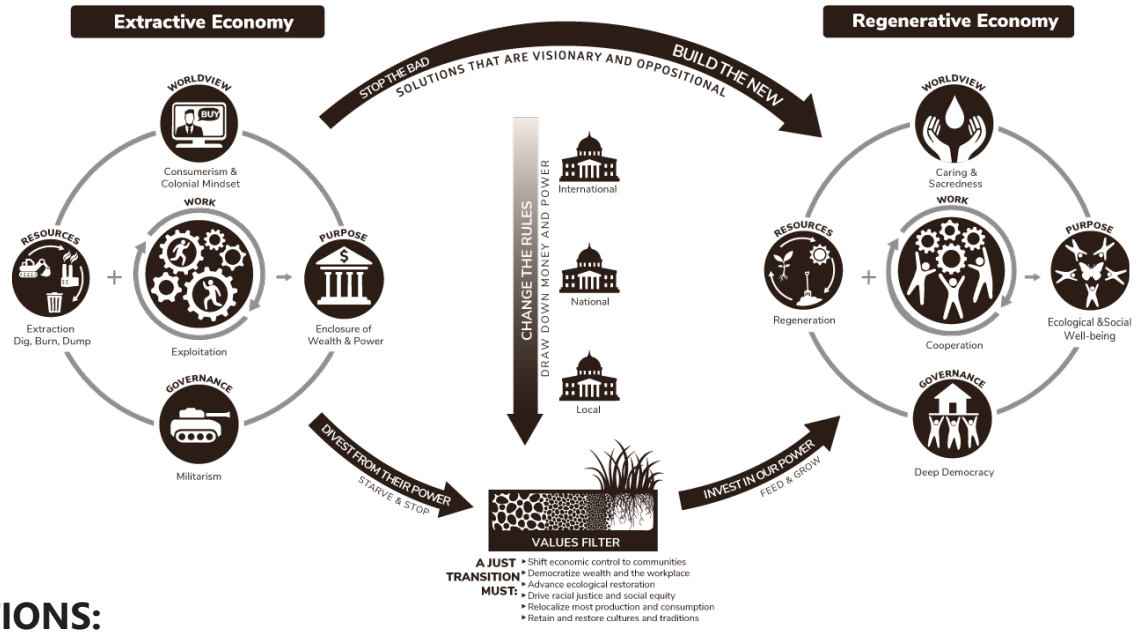


# Planning For A Clean And Just Energy Future

MARCH 13, 2023 | A&AB Room 2104

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

Mainstream environmentalism fails to address the concerns of marginalized communities. Central to the rise of the Environmental Justice(EJ) movement, is the understanding that we are not all affected by environmental issues equally. This movement advocates for the need to address issues of racial justice and human health as a part of environmental impacts. Another key differentiator of the EJ movement, is a change in how we use resources and labor. Instead of an extractive exploitative relation with nature and labor, the EJ movement focuses on regeneration, maintaining the sacredness between human and nature and encouraging deep democracy that improves outcomes for everyone. The EJ movement uses three tools: Planning, Advocacy and Disruption. Plan for repairing past harms and fair distribution of burden and benefits, Advocate for just outcomes and Disrupt the status quo that encourages profit maximization of only certain people. Juan discussed current and upcoming issues in energy and climate planning and policy through news articles on key industrial infrastructural interventions like power plants, refineries and oil pipelines. On the discussion of electric vehicles, there was an important question that Juan put forth, "Will the renewable energy revolution break with the fossil fuel industry's long history of ignoring treaty rights for the sake of development or will it become another venue for environmental injustice?




## REFLECTIONS:

Juan's session gave a unique lens to reframe the environmentalism approach towards environmental justice by thinking about who is incurring the majority of burden(past and present). The EJ movement pushes for a transformative change that requires thinking about shifting power and resources towards marginalized communities. Planners need to become advocates for communities that don't have the political or economic power to resist the siting of pollution infrastructure in their neighborhoods. A shift in thinking about planning for collective well-being and not just economic benefits.



CITIZENS AS COPRODUCERS

BUILDING CIVIC CAPACITY

FOSTERING BELONGING



## GUEST SPEAKER

**Valerie Lemmie**((she/her) is the director of exploratory research for the Kettering Foundation. An adept strategic thinker with more than 35 years of experience in solving complex problems and controversial issues, Lemmie joined the foundation after a distinguished career in public service. She served as city manager for the cities of Petersburg, Virginia and Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio; commissioner on the Public Utility Commission of Ohio; and district director and acting chief of staff for Congressman Turner. Most recently, Lemmie directed the Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council, an initiative designed to evaluate transmission grid development options throughout the Interconnection. Lemmie has also served as adjunct professor at Howard University and the University of Dayton and as a fellow at the Center for Municipal Management at George Washington University. Lemmie has served on numerous boards, including Dayton History, Initiatives of Change, National Academy of Public Administration (where she is an elected fellow), House of Representatives Committee on Urban Redevelopment, and President Clinton's Greenhouse Gas Advisory Committee. A published author and speaker on public policy and utility regulatory issues nationally and internationally, Lemmie received her BA in political science and urban sociology from the University of Missouri and an MA in urban affairs/public policy planning from Washington University.

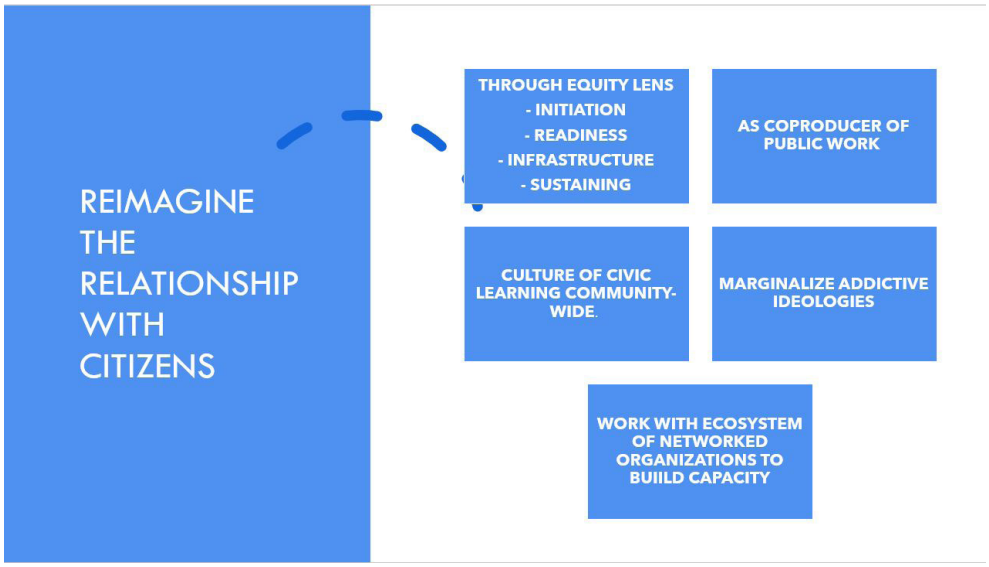


# Planning and Co-production: Working with the Public to Develop Inclusive Land Use Policies and Practices

MARCH 20, 2023 | A&AB Room 2104

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

As a city manager for over two decades, Valerie gave insights on how one needs to move to positions of power and authority to better influence the problems of the community. She suggested to rise to the challenge of not accepting the order of things as they are in an organization but bring new ideas, sense of belonging, and change-making to organizations. Explaining key components for making democratic processes work, she outlined how the government needs to build trust with the community and a part of that is hearing what citizens have to say. Establish platforms, courts to listen to what people have to say through deliberation, and not surveys where you record and try to see what's happening. This requires time, honesty, passion and intentionality. Another key aspect of making democratic processes work is building civic capacity. Establish citizen internships and fellowships so that they can interact and learn how to navigate across city structures. She gave examples of how she built trust in the community as a city manager in Dayton and Cincinnati.




## REFLECTIONS:

This session gave insights on the role of city manager within public administration and how that's connected to how plans are implemented on ground. Being in positions of power or working within the government requires planners to address trade offs in bureaucracy. But, at the same time, it gives them responsibility and accountability.

‘SOLVING’ WICKED PROBLEMS

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



## GUEST SPEAKER

**Mike Huggins** (he/him) is a retired Wisconsin city manager and community development director with over 40 years of leadership experience in local government and public engagement. He is a Credentialed Manager with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and served as a Leading Practices Service Provider for the ICMA Center for Management Studies. He was a Senior Lecturer in leadership and citizen engagement at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and founder and former board member of Clear Vision Eau Claire, a 2015 National Finalist for the Harvard University Ash Center Innovations in Public Engagement in Government Award. In 2016-2017 he served as co-chair and lead facilitator for a citizen-led public engagement initiative to address poverty and income insecurity in Eau Claire County. He is a Local Government Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service and serves on the National Civic League Council of Advisors. Mike’s research and training experience includes public engagement and problem solving, civic organizing, local democratic practices, and articles published in Public Management and the National Civic Review. He completed the Gamaliel Network National Leadership Training for community organizers and holds a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Kansas.

# Wicked Planning Problems and Participatory Budgeting

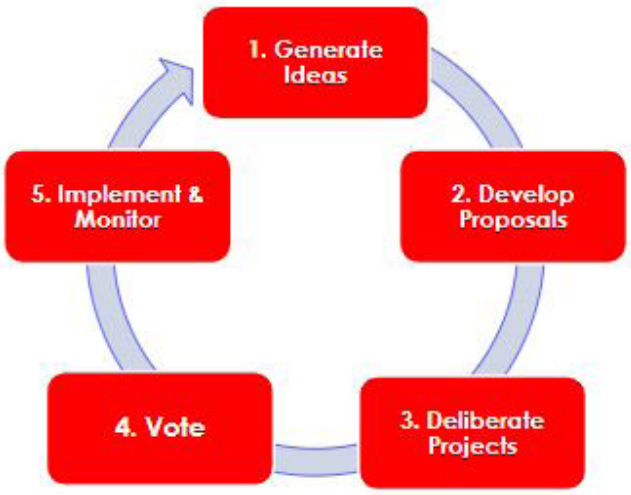
MARCH 27, 2023 | VIRTUAL

## SESSION TAKEAWAYS:

Planners often work on wicked problems where solutions may be "better or worse" choices. To navigate these policy challenges practitioners should adopt a wicked problems mindset. Engaging this mindset means the practitioner accepts uncertainty and proceeds by focusing on improving and continuing conversations amongst impacted parties. They acknowledge and manage rather than fix tensions.

Quality planning and public engagement is often the product of building authentic personal relationships. One on one meetings are a valuable strategy to accomplish this goal.

Personal wellness should be a practitioner priority not an afterthought.




## REFLECTIONS:

Planners love to talk about place, process and progress. We don't spend as much time talking about how challenging the day to day work can be. Professional practice is rarely as clear cut as the case studies and theories taught in school . Thoughtful design of the built environment can positively contribute to the greatest challenges of our time; but it is unreasonable to expect the profession (and practitioners) to fix them outright. Mike's talk offered many useful resources and strategies for being a persistent and effective public advocate. He reminded us of our ability to influence change but cautioned us to set realistic expectations for ourselves and others on what that change looks like and on what timeline. Mike highlighted the importance of setting time aside to reflect on our own values and to actively prioritize our own personal wellness.

# URP 611 RADICAL PLANNING