Call for Sessions

Submission Deadline: April 15, 2022

CELEBRATING commUNITY
APA CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 1-4, 2022 ★ ANAHEIM MARRIOTT

APA California is returning to an in-person conference in 2022! The Orange Section Conference Host Committee is excited to invite you to come to Anaheim next October. The conference theme is "Celebrating CommUNITY," which recognizes the hard-won victories and achievements in planning that required collaboration, cooperation, and creative problem solving to navigate the last few years and highlights this long-awaited opportunity to assemble, socialize, and reconnect with colleagues. As always, the conference program will be pivotal to the overall success of the event. We invite you to contribute to that success by submitting a session proposal.

Session Types

We're looking for proposals for sessions that promote a broad discussion of the proposed topic through panelists, presenters, and facilitators with varying expertise, experience, and perspectives. Proposals with a diversity of speakers from both the public and private sector are encouraged, as are proposals that include speakers from multiple firms and/or jurisdictions and locations throughout the state. We also encourage you to propose atypical presenters and speakers, including community members, non-planners, and others with different points of view. For this year's event, we have developed a new framework of session types that promote variety, creativity, and value:

Shorts (30 minutes). These short sessions are envisioned as high energy and engaging formats to share thought-provoking ideas and/or essential information that teaches, inspires, and makes us think. These may include interesting stand-alone case studies, knowledge sharing, "stump the expert" challenges, quick hits/top tens, best practices, and succinct tips and skills. We recommend a maximum of two presenters.

Features (60 or 90 minutes). We welcome robust, diverse, and interesting panel presentations and discussions. Proposed speakers should be able to provide a well-rounded and informed discussion on the presentation topic. Ideally, these sessions will take a deep dive into a relevant planning topic or issue – providing guidance, ideas, and examples. We recommend a maximum of four speakers to allow for Q&A (three speakers recommended for sixty-minute sessions).

Animations (60 or 90 minutes). Think workshop or training for this session type – be creative! We are looking for participatory activities with minimal presentation and lots of hands-on problem solving or learning. Pose a probing question for a group to tackle or propose to coach innovative planning skills or practices such as virtual facilitation or development of objective design standards. While considering how to shape your session, also consider using a unique delivery. Would a healthy debate or design charrette help draw out the important concepts? How could you really engage your audience in the topic?

Session Topics

While the overall conference theme is "Celebrating CommUNITY," we are looking for sessions that address a wide array of topics and themes important to planning. We're asking you to identify the primary topic and up to two additional topics that your proposed session will address, but we are not proposing conference "tracks" that will constrain or limit your ideas. We look forward to working with you to create an event that covers many important planning topics in creative and innovative ways!

Questions?

Contact Programs Committee Chair Susan Harden, FAICP, or Conference Co-Chairs Stephanie Roxas Tomaino, AICP, or Amber Gregg, AICP, at *Sessions2022@apacalifornia.org*.

Proposal Process

This year, APA California is hosting the session proposal process through Cvent's Abstract Management module, streamlining the process for both session proposers and reviewers. This will also allow for seamless integration of the selected session information into the conference website and mobile app, providing direct access to selected moderators and speakers. The simple three-step process allows you to provide the following details about your proposed session. Once you begin the process, you will be able to save and update your proposal as often as you need to until the submission deadline.

- **Session Title:** A brief attention-grabbing title that reflects the content of the session.

- **Session Summary:** A short description of the session to be used in the conference program.

- **Session Abstract:** A description of the session and its relevance to important planning challenges. Include specific planning-related training objectives the session will address and how it will do so.

- **Session Topic:** Identification of the primary planning-related topic and up to two additional topics that the session will address.

- **Session Type:** Short (30 minutes); Feature (60 or 90 minutes); or Animation (60 or 90 minutes) (see descriptions).

- **Proposer, Moderator, and Speaker Information:** Contact information and a brief bio for each proposed participant.

When you are ready to prepare your proposal, click the following link and begin providing information about your proposed session.

Prepare Proposal Link

Thanks, and we look forward to reviewing your proposal!