

## Spring 2016 Course Summaries

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### Core Session 1- The BIG Picture- Planning in the City

April 13, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm



**Unit 1: *What is Planning?*** Everyone is a planner- in the sense that we all prepare for the future. Learn the tools and principles city planners use to assess current conditions, chart a future vision, and get things done. At a city planning level, you will learn about the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC) and its staff, the role it plays, and how other city agencies work with it. You will get an overview of the citywide comprehensive vision- **Philadelphia 2035** (adopted in 2011) and how citizens are involved in developing the 18 Strategic District Plans- the second phase of the plan. Learn how planning influences decision-making in the city, as recommendations in the District Plans are being implemented. You'll also get an introduction to "Neighborhood" plans and a DIY approach to getting one done.

**Ian Hegarty**, City Planner, PCPC, [South & Lower SW District Plan Manager]



Joyce Smith is a CPI graduate and an inspiring example of a neighborhood advocate bringing about positive change. Learn how a Community Design Collaborative service grant resulted the "Project Reclaim Neighborhood Revitalization" plan which is guiding development and shared community space improvements.

**Joyce Smith**, Community Development Officer, Viola Street Residents Assoc., and CPI grad

In the second half of this class, an "action planning" group exercise will give you a head-start on thinking about your Course Project, required to earn your Certificate as a Citizen Planner.

**Required reading:** "*Introduction to Planning in Philadelphia*"- handout to be sent prior to the first class.

### Core Session 2- Zoning and Land Use

April 20, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm



**Unit 1: *Zoning & Citizen Involvement.*** The "new" zoning code (adopted in 2012) includes standards for citizen participation in the development process. Learn about these procedures for input, what zoning regulates (and what it doesn't) as well as an overview of elements in the code that help preserve neighborhood character.

**Kiki Bolender**, AIA, LEEP AP, Bolender Architects, Philadelphia; Chair, Design Advocacy Group



**Unit 2: *The Zoning Code.*** Understand the reasons why zoning has evolved as an important tool of planning. Zoning regulates land uses and the type, size, and height of buildings. Real projects will be used to demonstrate three methods of zoning "relief": variances, special exceptions, and zoning remapping. Gain a better understanding of how to navigate the code from an applicant's perspective-- what the steps are to learn what can be built on a lot and what approvals a project needs.

**Owen Franklin**, AICP, Director, Promise Zone initiative, Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment & Opportunity

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## Core Session 3- The Development Process – Nuts & Bolts

April 27, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm



### **Unit 1: *The Development Process- the Private Side.***

Learn from an experienced private developer who has renovated and restored more than 200 vacant deteriorated commercial and residential units in the Philadelphia region during the past 25 years. You'll learn the steps to get projects done and the financial constraints all developers face. The roles of various stakeholders impacting development will be discussed through case study examples.

**Ken Weinstein**, President of Philly Office Retail, LLC, entrepreneur & real estate developer



### **Unit 2: *The Development Process- the Non-Profit View.***

The People's Emergency Center (PEC) has invested over \$60 million to improve the quality of life for all the residents of Lower Lancaster Avenue neighborhoods: Belmont, Mantua, Mill Creek, Saunders Park, and West Powelton. Through its Community Development Corporation, PEC is beautifying open spaces and developing eco-friendly mixed-use housing opportunities. Learn about their new affordable housing project at 4050 Haverford Avenue- a creative hub specifically designed for low-income artists, an essential part of the Lower

Lancaster area identity, replacing a large vacant lot in West Powelton with a new 3-story building with 20 living units.

**Kira Strong**, Vice President of Community & Economic Development, People's Emergency Center

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## Elective #1- Commercial Corridors Reality Check

May 4, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm



### **Unit 1: *What does it take to make a corridor successful?***

Philadelphia contains more than 250 pedestrian-oriented commercial corridors in neighborhoods throughout the city. These corridors traditionally were an important shopping and gathering place for neighbors. As neighborhoods and shopping patterns have changed, the health and vitality of these areas continues to be critically important to the success and stability of surrounding neighborhoods.

As part of the Department of Commerce's larger effort to grow businesses and job opportunities within Philadelphia, the Office of Neighborhood Economic Development uses a variety of strategies to revitalize and strengthen these important areas. Learn about resources available to serve these important areas and proven strategies to improve the corridor within your neighborhood.

**Dennis Murphy**, Director, Commercial Corridor Development, Commerce Department



### **Unit 2: *On the Street- successes on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street***

Traditionally known as "West Philadelphia's Main street", the 52<sup>nd</sup> Street commercial corridor connects to multiple West Philadelphia neighborhoods, is centered on a major transit stop, and is home to more than 100 brick-and-mortar businesses and dozens of sidewalk vendors providing goods and services to local residents.

Learn about the multiple activities that Akeem is working on to build a vibrant corridor- from business assistance to community outreach that could be applied in other corridors.



N5SRP (North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Revitalization Project) was founded by Olney residents and the Korean Community Development Services Center in 2005 as a focused reinvestment toward one of Philadelphia’s most historic and diverse main streets. Director (and CPI grad) Philip Green will give you inspiring ideas on how a corridor can build community ties while expanding economic opportunities.

**Akeem Dixon**, 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Corridor Manager for The Enterprise Center (CPI grad)

**Philip Green**, Director, & **Stephanie Michel**, Assistant Director, North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Revitalization Project, Olney (CPI grads)

## Elective #2: Public Spaces for People

May 11, Wed. 6:00-9:00pm

In previous classes you’ve heard how “clean, green, and well-lit” are important elements in healthy and welcoming neighborhoods. How can residents participate in the process of re-imagining spaces and participate in place-building activities? Learn about small-scale projects that aim to make a small part of a city more lively or enjoyable for pedestrians. They may start out as quick, cheap and temporary, but could lead to long-term change. The popularity of many new temporary public spaces in Philadelphia- pop-up parks and beer gardens—show we’re hungry for well-designed places that put people first.



### Unit One: *Start with Building*

When we were young, we discovered the world around us by banging, building and knocking down things. If this is the fundamental way we learn to explore our environment, why is it that as we grow older we ‘end’ with building? Alex Gilliam shares his insights about the incredible things that can happen when we ‘start with building’ in design and community planning processes, especially when we let youth take the lead with sledgehammers and circular saws.

Public Workshop is an organization that redefines the way youth and communities participate as citizens and leaders in the design of their neighborhoods and cities. Be inspired by projects across the country that use innovative participatory community design tools that help people rethink possibility.

**Alex Gilliam**, Founder, Public Workshop

### Unit One: *Activating Triangles and More!*

SOSNA (South of South Neighborhood Association) is an established civic group actively engaged in reclaiming triangular spaces in the neighborhood (among many other projects) through volunteer efforts. Triangle areas are those “leftover” spaces formed at intersections of angled streets. They are often under developed public spaces that represent safety hazards to both motorists and pedestrians. Improvements to these public spaces can provide opportunities to celebrate the history and culture of a neighborhood, as well as providing a stronger sense of identity and place recognition.

**SOSNA Representative:** to be announced

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## Elective #3: Neighbors Helping Neighbors- a Citizens Toolkit May 18, Wed. 6:00-9:00pm

### Unit 1: *The Essential Rules for Engaging Your Neighbors*



Learn the things that, no matter what, you must do if you want to get things done on your block or in your neighborhood. You'll also learn tips for how to break the ice with your neighbors, and good opening lines for knocking on doors. These lessons are part of the *Citizen's Toolkit*; a collection of experience and expertise from 15 longtime neighborhood advocates, many of whom are CPI graduates. Their wisdom and stories were compiled into the Toolkit through a series of group and one-on-one conversations. You'll also learn how to use the Toolkit!

**Mark Wheeler**, Chief Geographic Information Officer, City of Philadelphia (formerly PCPC staff), Citizen's Toolkit co-founder

**Andrew Goodman**, Community Engagement Director, New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC), Citizen's Toolkit co-founder

### Unit Two: *On the Ground Stories*

Hear from three *Citizen's Toolkit* contributors about their successes getting things done in their neighborhood, and ask questions about how they did it. Stories range from leveraging small home repairs in Strawberry Mansion, to stopping a 700-unit development in Eastwick, to getting a civic association getting a real seat at the table with Drexel in Powelton Village. You'll learn how these Philadelphia residents worked with neighbors, tackled a problem or project, and improved their neighborhood groups.



**Tonnetta Graham**, President, Strawberry Mansion CDC  
**Ramona Rousseau-Reid**, Vice President, Eastwick Friends & Neighbors & Chair, Eastwick Action Committee  
**Michael Jones**, former President, Powelton Village Civic Association

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## Presentations & Pizza Workshop

**May 25, Wed. 6:00-9:00pm**

### Final Projects Presentations

You present a project that you or your organization is working on--or a "wish" project-- to get feedback from the group and to meet the "**final project**" requirement. *(You can also submit your course project in writing instead of giving a presentation. Templates will be available).*



We will also have community planners from the Planning Commission available for roundtable discussions. This is a low-stress way to get public speaking practice and have an informal networking opportunity with your classmates!

Depending on how many people want to give presentations, we can include other topics the group is interested in, such as how to hold successful meetings or how to assess community assets. The group will decide! *Attendance is optional and will not be required to attain "Citizen Planner Certificate of Completion".*

### Additional Information:

- All sessions include time for Q&A with presenters and most include an interactive fun group exercise at the end of the session to help you “lock in” what you’ve learned. You’ll receive handouts at each session, as well as a syllabus with reading suggestions prior to each class.
- We pack a lot into each class, so it’s important that you plan to arrive PRIOR to the 6:00pm start time, to get settled, talk to your classmates and get some dinner! (included in course fees)
- To learn more about the instructors for each class, go the CPI website, “Course Info” page.  
<http://citizensplanninginstitute.org>



### **HOLD THE DATE!**

#### **Networking & Social event:**

**Wednesday, April 6: 5:30-8pm Location TBD....**

*(only for accepted applicants and past CPI participants)*

