

# Local Government Day at CNU 34:

Custom training and networking for Local Government and Elected Officials.

**JOIN US: Tuesday, May 12th at the Graduate Hotel, Fayetteville**

\$100 includes lunch and at least 6 hours of AIA, APA, LA-CES, and CNU-A continuing education credits, followed by a networking Happy Hour.

8:30 AM

#### Welcome and Agenda Overview

**Christina Anderson — City Planner & Deputy Director, City Planning & Economic Development, Kalamazoo (MI)**

9:00 AM

#### Opening Session

### Infrastructure, Housing, and Planning as One System

**John Zeanah, Planning Director, City of Memphis (TN)**

Too often, infrastructure, housing, and land use planning operate in silos—leading to missed opportunities and inefficient growth. Drawing on his experience leading planning and development in Memphis, John Zeanah shares how aligning capital investments, regulatory frameworks, and housing strategy can unlock more walkable, equitable, and financially resilient outcomes. This session offers a behind-the-scenes look at coordinating departments, prioritizing infrastructure spending, and ensuring that public investment actively supports housing delivery and great urbanism.

10:00 AM

#### Educational Session

### Tired of Waiting? City as Developer

**Rebekah Kik, Assistant City Manager, City of Kalamazoo (MI); Tim Corcoran, Planning Director, City of South Bend (IN); and Eric Kronberg, Kronberg Wall Architects, Atlanta (GA)**

This session will look at two cities that are rethinking their role in getting projects built — moving from regulatory changes, pre-approved plan sets, to site acquisition and now partnerships for development. When market gaps or infrastructure barriers stall development, we are increasingly stepping into the role of developer of last resort to ensure that community visions actually happen. This conversation with South Bend and Kalamazoo will walk through how cities can move a vision from concept plan into a viable project using proactive tools: pre-approved plans, brownfield remediation funds, infrastructure investments, and partnerships with motivated developers.

11:00 AM

#### Educational Session

### Rewiring the Public Realm: Creative Solutions for Public Works in Fast-Growing Regions

**John McCurdy, Director of Community Development, City of Rogers**

This session examines how public works can evolve from a focus on vehicle throughput to shaping vibrant public realms. Drawing on projects in Northwest Arkansas, including Railyard Park, it highlights corridor retrofits, form-based codes, and tactical pilots that transform suburban landscapes into walkable, mixed-use places. Attendees will gain practical, replicable strategies for aligning infrastructure, policy, and design.

12:00 PM

**Lunchtime Networking Sponsored By:**



1:30 PM

Educational Session

## Reimagining Housing Conversations: The CHATS Engagement Experience

**Duke McLarty & Lindsey Navarrette, Groundwork**

Northwest Arkansas Council CHATS (Connecting Housing and Transformative Solutions) is a community engagement initiative developed by Groundwork that allows attendees to participate in a guided discussion about housing challenges and solutions. During this 60-to-90-minute session, each table of 7-10 attendees will participate in a CHATS with Groundwork staff facilitating. The interactive CHATS experience goes through impact and solution cards that reveal how different residents are affected by the lack of housing options and what strategies can address those gaps. Groundwork will guide table hosts to lead dialogue and reflection, simulating how CHATS builds empathy, understanding, and collective problem-solving. Attendees will leave with insights on how to replicate this scalable, engagement model to foster productive housing discussions in their own cities or regions.

2:30 PM

Educational Session

## Rebalancing the Rules: Zoning for Fiscal Health

**Heather Worthington, Principal, Urban3, former Director of Long Range Planning, Minneapolis (MN) and Brooke Bailey, Performance & Finance Manager, Urban3**

This session explores how a city's regulatory framework directly shapes its financial future. Learn how zoning, land use, and development patterns impact long-term revenue and costs—and how rebalancing these systems can create more resilient, productive, and sustainable communities. Through real-world analysis, discover how better rules lead to stronger municipal balance sheets.

3:30 PM

Closing Session

## Incremental Success: Bite-Size Lessons from Big Cities

**Emily Liu, Planning Director, City of Dallas (TX) & Rico Quirindongo, Planning Director, City of Seattle (WA)**

During this closing session, attendees will hear from two planning directors with decades of experience of incremental successes over the long-haul. Emily Liu, currently Director of the Planning Department for the City of Dallas, will discuss the lessons learned through decades of planning across four states, and the way small wins can build big change. Rico Quirindongo, Director of the City of Seattle's Office of Planning & Community Development, will share how he has maintained a proactive vision for revitalizing and reimagining the City's historic landmarks and neighborhoods through multi-agency collaboration, for over 25 years. Then, in a moderated discussion, the pair will address common setbacks faced by cities large and small, and identify the best bite-sized lessons to close the day.

4:30 PM

**Networking Happy Hour Sponsored By:**



**For More Information:**

For pricing or to register for CNU 34.Northwest Arkansas



[cnu.org/cnu34/program](https://cnu.org/cnu34/program)