

## FALL 2014 Course Summaries (also at <http://citizensplanninginstitute.org/class>)

---

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

October 8, 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. You'll also learn about tools for citizen engagement in the process. A drawing exercise will help you think about your own neighborhood's "sense of place". At a city planning level, you will learn about the Philadelphia City Planning Commission 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. An "action planning" group exercise will get you started with your course project and learning from your fellow students.

**Andy Meloney**, City Planner, Philadelphia City Planning Commission



**Unit 2: *Mantua: A Neighborhood Case Study.*** Community engagement happens when organizations and individuals in a community build ongoing relationships of reciprocity and nurture respect for what was, what is, and what is to come. Learn how one community is developing a collective vision and mobilizing resources to catalyze changes in policies, programs and practices. Get a grassroots look at what it takes to manage change and coordinate multiple programs and partnerships. Two CPI graduates will provide their perspective on neighborhood planning and taking on a leadership role.

**Donna Griffin**, Community Capacity Builder Consultants  
**Michael Thorpe**, Mt Vernon Manor  
**DeWayne Drummond**, President, Mantua Civic Association

---

### Core Session 2- Zoning and Land Use

October 15, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm



**Unit 1: *Property Rights and Zoning.*** 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. An overview of the zoning code will help you understand what zoning regulates, as well as what it does not. Real projects will be used to demonstrate three methods of zoning "relief": variances, special exceptions, and zoning remapping. We'll also look briefly at land use tools to address blight and vacancy.

**Owen Franklin**, AICP, Director of Research & Planning, Portfolio Associates



**Unit 2: Zoning in Philadelphia.** Gain a better understanding of how to navigate the new zoning code from an applicant’s perspective—what are the steps to go through to learn what can be built on a lot and what approvals does a project need? Learn about the elements in the code that help preserve neighborhood character and the procedures for input by civic organizations on proposed development. A small group exercise will help you gain an appreciation for other points of view, an important perspective for neighborhood leaders.

**Kiki Bolender**, Bolender Architects, Philadelphia; Chair, Design Advocacy Group

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

October 22, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm



**Unit 1: The Development Process- the Private Side.** John will help you sympathize with developers as he outlines the multiple elements of the development process in an easy to understand way. You’ll learn the steps to get projects built and the financial constraints all developers face. The roles of various stakeholders in impacting the nature and quality of development will be discussed through both small-scale and large-scale case studies. Our **special guest speaker** will provide an overview of the rapidly changing

landscape of development in Philadelphia.

**John Mondlak**, Senior Director of Real Estate Development, Commerce Department

**Special Guest Speaker: Alan Greenberger**, FAIA, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, Director-Philadelphia Commerce Department



**Unit 2: The Development Process- the Non-Profit View.** NKCDC brings life to abandoned buildings by providing affordable housing to first-time homebuyers and collaborating with city, state, and federal agencies on brownfield redevelopment. The creation of Coral Street Arts House is part of the NKCDC strategy of community-based improvements through the arts. This \$7.5 million investment is part neighborhood stabilization catalyst, part economic development, and part affordable housing. The conversion of this former textile mill into quality, affordable live-work artist spaces has had an unanticipated positive impact on the social and cultural fabric of the neighborhood.

**Shanta Schachter**, Deputy Director, New Kensington CDC

### Elective #1- Healthy Communities & Green Streets

October 29, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm



#### Unit 1: Planning Healthy Places

The choices we make about land use, transportation systems, open space and economic development have impacts on the health of Philadelphia’s residents and communities. This unit will provide an overview of the research that identifies relationships between the built environment and health issues including obesity, asthma, diabetes and pedestrian safety. Learn how the city’s district plans and zoning code address these issues and promote development that increases access to healthy foods,

encourages active transportation and promotes physical activity.

**Keith F. Davis**, Healthy Communities Coordinator, PCPC

**Juell Stewart**, Consulting Project Coordinator, The Food Trust



**Unit 2: Complete Green Streets & Walkability**

Philadelphia contains over 2,500 miles of streets serving a great diversity of purposes and neighborhoods. Philadelphia’s “Complete Streets Handbook” and “Green Streets Design Manual” represent best practices in street design from Philadelphia and other major cities. Design that makes all streets safer and more user-friendly encourages more healthy activities such as walking and biking. “Green” street design reduces flooding through managing stormwater, but also results in more attractive, cleaner and inviting streets that also encourages pedestrian activities and social connections. The 2012 Pedestrian and

Bicycle Plan and 2013 Trail Master Plan also represent policies and projects to increase public access to destinations for transportation and recreation. This unit will describe several upcoming infrastructure and development projects and highlight opportunities for public input in the planning process.

**Jeannette Brugger**, AICP, Transportation Planner, PCPC

**Elective #2: Community Planning Tools & Techniques**      **Nov. 5, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm**



**Unit 1: Community Visioning**

A plan is a written testimony of faith in a community. It begins with a “vision” that focuses on improving the quality of life for everyone who lives there. Leading a community visioning process does not require special training or education. What is needed are individuals who can listen, direct, work as a team, and let go so others can follow through. Learn how to get started, how to conduct workshops, and methods of engaging with the community. Whether your organization is hiring a consultant or embarking on a DIY planning effort, it’s essential to know how to facilitate community conversations to shape community vision.

**Garlen Capita**, Urban Designer, Planner, WRT



**Unit 2: Housing Programs**

The Office of Housing and Community Development offers a variety of programs and resources to preserve housing diversity and protect long-time residents. For nearly 40 years, OHCD has led and overseen all of the City’s housing and community development contracts from a wide range of public and private sources. OHCD and its private and nonprofit partners have leveraged billions of investment dollars to transform the City’s most distressed areas into thriving communities- building on neighborhood assets to encourage new private investment.

**Deborah McColloch**, Director, OHCD

**Melissa Long**, Deputy Director, Office of Housing & Community Development

**Elective #3: Conserving Community Character**      **Nov. 12, Wed., 6:00-9:00pm**



**Unit One: You Are Here: Put Yourself on the Map!**

Philadelphia is a city of historic buildings, distinctive neighborhoods and a rich cultural heritage. Learn about the many ways you can contribute to the stewardship of Philadelphia’s architectural and cultural heritage. Be inspired by examples of projects undertaken by volunteer organizations across the city to celebrate and create greater awareness of our irreplaceable physical assets. We’ll walk through this valuable online resource to learn more about

what historic preservation means to the city and its citizens. CPI grad Tonetta Graham will talk about her organization's role in the renovation of a SEPTA bus station, winning them a Community Action Award.

**Patrick J. Hauck**, Director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs, Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia  
**Ben Leech**, (title), Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia  
**Tonetta Graham**, President, Strawberry Mansion CDC



### **Unit 2: Protecting Your Community Assets**

Whether you are interesting in protecting a single property or assets in your larger community, you must understand the tools that can be used to protect them. CPI grad Rachel Hildebrandt will lay out the steps in getting your group organized, recruiting the right team, and developing an appropriate strategy to protect your community assets.

**Rachel Hildebrandt**, Program Manager, Partners for Sacred Places

---

## **Presentations & Pizza Workshop**

**Nov. 19, Wed. 6:00-9:00pm**

### **“Course 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 “**course project**” requirement. *(You can also submit your course project in writing instead of giving a presentation. Templates will be available. Examples of previously submitted projects here: <http://citizensplanninginstitute.org/materials>)* 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:**

**NEW! Networking & Social event -October 1: 5:30-8pm Location TBD....(for accepted applicants)**

- **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, “Classroom” page. <http://citizensplanninginstitute.org/class>**

