

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1:45PM - 3:15PM

Housing Strategy Working Session for City of Providence - Student Union Ballroom

The City of Providence, in coordination with RKG Associates, has begun work on Providence's first Comprehensive Housing Strategy. The ten-year plan will provide strategies and housing production goals to ensure Providence offers housing that is affordable, safe, and sustainable. Additionally, the City is initiating the development of its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, which will guide decisions around the use of HUD funds for housing and community development needs. Today's interactive working session is one of several the City will hold to engage stakeholders and residents in shaping the strategy. Participants will discuss investments, as well as legal, administrative, regulatory, and economic changes needed to foster and support development and access to affordable housing.



Facilitated by City of Providence and RKG Associates

Getting Involved! Civic Engagement, Boards, and Commissions - Faculty Center Main Dining Room

Civic engagement is a cornerstone of collective action and public participation in community life, and there are many ways to get involved. This session will explore civic engagement through the diverse perspectives of civic leaders in Rhode Island, with a focus on boards and commissions as a pathway to effect change.



Panelists: Kyle Bennett, United Way of Rhode Island, Marcela Betancur, Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University, Lola Herrera-Ximenez, Working Cities Newport, Cynthia Roberts, Ph.D., Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Engage North Smithfield
Panel moderated by Paula McFarland, Pawtucket Housing Authority

Can We Meet? Mastering Successful Meetings - SU Room 307

We spend endless hours at meetings, from formal public hearings to citizen workshops, and there are many ingredients required to ensure that they're successful. How can we plan and run effective meetings and educate our peers to do the same? We'll discuss best practices, tips and techniques, and strategies for mastering meetings. Bring your success (and horror!) stories.



Facilitated by Jen West, Narragansett Bay Research Reserve

Public Narrative for Social Change - Faculty Center South Dining Room

Public narrative is a leadership practice. Through narrative, we can learn to access the moral resources we need to make choices in response to the challenges of an uncertain world – as individuals and as communities. Public narrative is the art of translating values into action. Because it engages the “head” and “heart,” narrative can instruct and inspire - teaching us not only why we should act, but moving us to act. In this workshop, learn how to craft your own public narrative to interpret your values to others, enable one's community to experience values it shares, and inspire others to act on challenges to their values. Learn how to tell a story of self, a story of us, and a story of now.



Facilitated by Matt Wilson, Consultant