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A Publication of the American Planning Association Washington Chapter

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2015 presents great opportunities to top Seattle's previous national conference.

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Join the Puget Sound Regional Council, APA Washington Chapter, and the Washington State Department of Commerce on the third Thursday of each month for sessions on a variety of timely topics.

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[Immerse yourself in water planning](#)

Learn the tools to improve your understanding of water issues at a May 14 event in Seattle.

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Learn strategies for healthy urban forests at annual symposium

The 6th annual event, this time with a focus on climate change impacts, will take place on May 28 at the University of Washington.

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September event teaches crime prevention techniques through better design

Attend this five-day conference in Bellingham to learn how to design your community to be safer from crime.

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Ten Big Ideas: Build Social Capital

This month, learn how investing in social capital can improve the planning process.

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American Planning Association **Washington Chapter**

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May President's Message

By Ivan Miller, AICP

I started thinking about the role of grief and change in planning after my kid and I recently saw Seattle artist Chris Jordan speak at his middle school's Water Week event. Chris spoke about plastic waste and its tragic impacts on sea life. His photographs of dead albatross on [Midway Island](#), with their stomachs completely full of plastic bits, were hugely sobering. Chris finished by showing the wonderful mating dance of the albatross, but by then it was hard to feel good about baby birds after learning about their perilous future.

Chris talked about grief as a way to connect with what we really love. He said that grief is not just sadness; it is the feeling of love for something lost or being lost. Feeling grief deeply enough can transform us and our future.

Planners are all about the future, so his message was also about us. Planners manage change, and although change can create new opportunities, it can also mean loss, perhaps even the loss of something we love.

How do planners consider grief in the planning process? My guess is that most of us don't. It's not something we're trained to do, and it does not fit well within the boxes of plan, monitor, or update. Most planners probably have a passing knowledge of the stages of grief, as made famous by Elizabeth Kübler-Ross in *On Death and Dying: What the Dying Have to Teach Doctors, Nurses, Clergy and Their Own Families*: denial and isolation, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. But I don't hear much about adding these elements to the planning process.

Similarly, how do planners consider change? Change is hard. Change brings resistance. Change brings fear. And change is not uniform; it's made of many parts. It's about before, during, and after—in other words, it's about transitions.

In his book, *Managing Transitions*, author William Bridges writes,

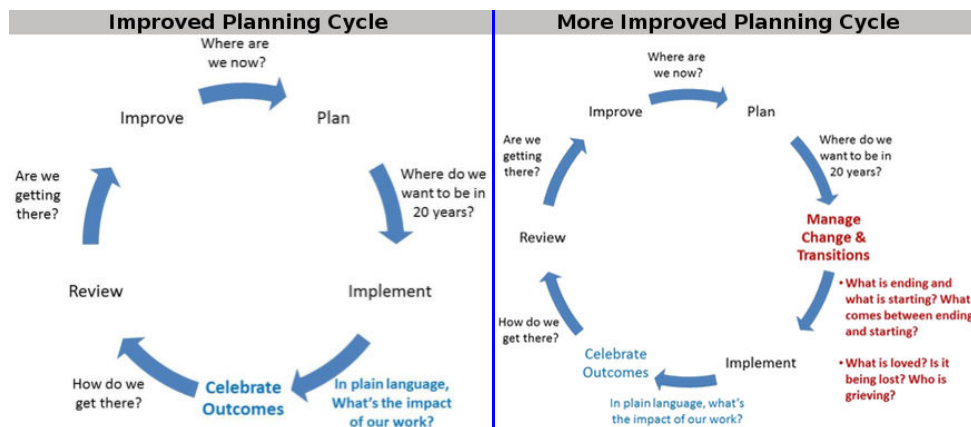
"It isn't the changes that do you in, it's the transitions ... before you can begin something new, you end what used to be ... beginnings depend on endings."

People often don't like endings.

A few months ago I wrote about improving the "typical planning cycle" by including a celebration of the outcomes of our work as we implement our plans, as shown in the left diagram below. I also propose that including management of change and transitions into the planning cycle is worth considering, as shown in the diagram on the right side. Of course, this element fits in more than one place, so consider the diagram to be illustrative.



Ivan Miller, AICP—President, APA Washington

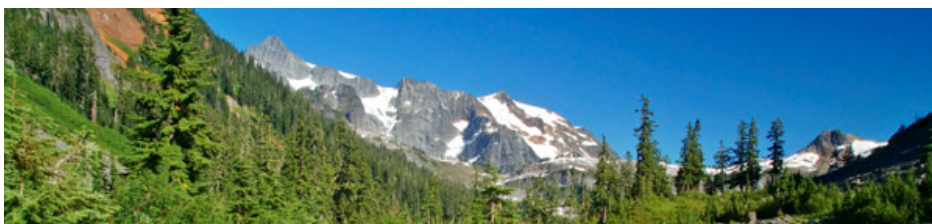


Proactively addressing this element of planning—the feelings created by change, transitions, and grief—means more work. Planners must play this role and myriad others, often without funding or much training to be effective.

I did not leave Chris Jordan's presentation with easy answers, or even clear answers. It did make me think about why public processes can be so hard and why plans sometimes are not well received.

Perhaps the right place to end is where Chris Jordan ended. He said if we could feel even just one small feeling then maybe we could make a change.

Ivan Miller, AICP
President, APA Washington
ivanmillerseattle@hotmail.com



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Cast your vote soon for APA Washington President-Elect

By Chris Comeau, AICP

As Chapter Secretary and Nominating Committee Chair, I'd like to remind you that the election for APA Washington President-Elect is under way. The candidates for President-Elect are Josh Peters, AICP and Paula Reeves, AICP CTP.

As a member of APA Washington, you should have received an e-mail in late April with an announcement of the election and a link to the electronic ballot. The deadline for casting your vote will be Friday, May 9. Election results will be verified by the Nomination Committee shortly after the voting deadline and the election results will be announced in the June issue of The Washington Planner.

The successful candidate will serve a four-year term as President-Elect from July 2014 to June 2015; as president from July 2015 to June 2017, and then finish as past president from July 2017 to June 2018.

I would like to thank the members of the Nominating Committee—Jill Sterrett, FAICP; Brad Collins, FAICP; Gary Mabley, AICP; and Mark Kulaas, FAICP—for their diligent work to nominate and vet a qualified slate of candidates.



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Time to update your local SEPA ordinance?

By Neil Aaland

When was the last time you updated your city or county's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) ordinance? Thanks to some recently updated provisions in the SEPA rules, cities and counties may now have the opportunity to streamline some of their SEPA review processes if they meet certain requirements.

The Department of Ecology has just adopted the second phase of a two-part revision of the SEPA rules. These changes were filed on April 9 and will become effective on May 10.

Ecology undertook a two-phase rule adoption process after the State Legislature passed bill 2ESSB 6406 in 2012. The first phase, completed in December 2012, included:

- Increasing the flexible thresholds that local governments may adopt to exempt minor new construction projects from SEPA review, and providing different threshold levels for jurisdictions fully planning under the Growth Management Act
- Increasing the thresholds for electric facilities
- Adding efficiency improvements to the environmental checklist (including the ability to use electronic signatures and transmit the checklist electronically)

The second phase of changes includes:

- An updated definition for "lands covered by water"
- A change in the categorical exemption for land use decisions
- New requirements to address notice for cultural and historic resources
- Clarification of exemptions related to maintenance activities
- Additional refinement of the environmental checklist
- Other minor updates and technical corrections

These changes give cities and counties an opportunity to streamline some of their SEPA review processes. However, in order to take advantage of most of the streamlining, you must revise and update your local SEPA ordinances. The SEPA rules now require certain types of findings in your ordinance, and you must be able to demonstrate that your development regulations provide adequate protection of the natural and built environment before increasing the threshold levels.

The findings requirements are particularly important as they relate to cultural and historic resources. Many interested parties, including some tribes, use the SEPA process as a way of getting notice about projects with the potential to cause impacts to these resources. If jurisdictions raise the optional threshold levels, they must document how their local ordinances and regulations provide adequate protection and notice.

[WAC 197-11-800\(1\)\(c\)\(iv\)](#) discusses this process of documenting and the minimum requirements.

Many cities and counties are currently undertaking updates of their comprehensive plans and development regulations as part of the required Growth Management Act update cycle. This is a perfect time to consider an update of your SEPA ordinance as well.

Neil Aaland, consulting planner for Aaland Planning Services, Inc., was the facilitator of the SEPA Advisory Committee formed to advise the Washington State Department of Ecology on amending the SEPA rules. He can be reached at neil@aalandplanning.com if you have questions.



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Share your ideas on the environmental process for transportation projects

The Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration invite you to participate in a [National Online Dialogue](#) on the use and scope of programmatic approaches to conduct environmental reviews for transportation projects.

Section 1305 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) requires rulemaking allowing for the use of programmatic approaches that are consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable laws to conduct environmental reviews. Input from the National Online Dialogue will allow FHWA and FTA to consider all stakeholder perspectives and ideas received when preparing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The National Online Dialogue will be open until May 16, 2014. This site allows you to share and discuss ideas on the use of programmatic approaches to conduct environmental reviews for transportation projects. At this site, you can find background information on programmatic approaches for environmental reviews and view questions to help guide the discussion. You can submit as many ideas as you like. To join the conversation and contribute an idea or comment:

- Register and sign up to participate in the Online Dialogue at <http://programmatic.ideascale.com/>.
- Once registered, you can share your ideas by clicking the submit idea button.
- Registered participants can discuss and rank all the ideas.
- The best ideas will bubble up to the top.

If you have questions on the national dialogue, please contact Dan Stillson at Dan.Stillson@dot.gov.



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After Atlanta, it's time to plan for Seattle

It's time to get excited about the National Planning Conference. No, we're not talking about this year's national conference held in Atlanta, we're talking about the 2015 conference, which will be... here in Seattle!

Seattle last held the National Planning Conference in 1999. Thanks to then-Chapter President Michael DaVolio and an exceptional local host committee, that conference wowed attendees and set the record up to that point for being the largest APA national conference ever. Depending on how you measure attendance, Seattle is still a contender for having the largest conference in APA history. (It vies with the 2008 conference in Las Vegas, but everyone we talk to says Seattle was superior.)

A lot has changed in the Pacific Northwest since 1999. Although the annual conference is our profession's opportunity to share ideas and techniques and to honor great planning, in 2015 it will also be an opportunity for us in the Northwest to show off our corner of the country.

The 2015 conference will highlight what is great about the region—its unique and beautiful natural and built environments—and some of the most important planning and community development work in the country. Whether it's the rebuilding of the Seattle waterfront, new forms of green energy, smart growth development projects, major transportation infrastructure, the transformation of tribal areas, or "unique" land use issues (i.e., pot), we have an exciting story to tell about how the Northwest is growing, changing, and making great communities happen.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can be part of this great opportunity. A local host committee has formed and is starting work now to plan for next year. We need people to help on committees for sessions, receptions, mobile workshops, the Planners Guide, and sponsorships. As we gather steam over the next two months, we will post more information on the [APA Washington web site](#).

The 2015 conference will also provide a rare opportunity for planning firms and other businesses to connect with more than 6,000 attendees. We look forward having our sponsors integrated into the conference so that they get tremendous value.

If you can help or if you would like to know how your firm or company can be involved, contact us at the email addresses below.

The 1999 Seattle conference set a high bar with record-setting attendance, great sessions and mobile workshops, and an outstanding local host team showing off a great city and region. We are confident that the 2015 conference can be even greater with your involvement! We invite all Washington planners, planning firms, agencies, and supporting businesses to bring their energy and creative ideas to help make this conference memorable. With your help we are confident that we can top our successes from 1999 in every way.

LOCAL HOST CO-CHAIRS

Paul Inghram
paulinghram@gmail.com

Deborah Munkberg
deborah@inovapcd.com



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Turn your neighborhood into an EcoDistrict

EcoDistricts for Practitioners is coming to Seattle on May 6, 2014. This half-day training is designed for practitioners of all kinds—from public policymakers to urban designers—and delivers the vital tools for accelerating urban regeneration projects and spurring neighborhood-driven change.

Through workshops and hands-on practical training, participants get a detailed introduction to the EcoDistricts Framework, a collaboratively built, research-driven tool for activating district-scale sustainability, and learn how to apply it to innovative urban projects in their own communities.

The EcoDistricts Framework represents years of research, consultation, and collaboration. Through workshops and practical training, you'll get a detailed introduction to this four-step process management tool, gain conceptual understanding of neighborhood revitalization process, and learn firsthand how to fit all of the pieces together to activate district-scale sustainability in your community—from a faculty of today's leading industry experts.

See the EcoDistricts for Practitioners [flyer](#) for additional details.



American Planning Association
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Making Great Communities Happen



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May webinar offers updates on land use case law

Want to learn the latest on important land use cases from the past year from the convenience of your office?

The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) will offer its next Land Use Case Law webinar on Thursday, May 15 from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$35, and professional development credits are available.

This webinar, part of a regular series, is open to the public. It is designed for all local government officials, planners, attorneys, hearing examiners, planning commission and board of adjustment members, and anyone else interested in local planning and land use law.

To register or learn more, please visit [MRSC's website](#).

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Phil Olbrechts serves as hearing examiner for eight jurisdictions and city attorney for three others. He publishes numerous articles on land use law and is the last editor of the "Short Course on Local Planning," published by the Washington State Department of Commerce. He has taught several land use courses at the University of Washington and has made hundreds of presentations on land use law throughout the state. He is an honors graduate of the Seattle University Law School and former equity partner at Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC. He is currently managing member of Olbrechts and Associates, PLLC.



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Brown bag and networking series in Seattle offers best practices and resources for local planning

Please join the Puget Sound Regional Council, APA Washington Chapter, and the Washington State Department of Commerce for TOOLBOX 2014, a Brown Bag and Peer Networking Series beginning May 15.

The series will focus on best practices and resources for local planning and implementation, in coordination with the PSRC Comprehensive Review Program and implementation of the Growing Transit Communities Strategy.

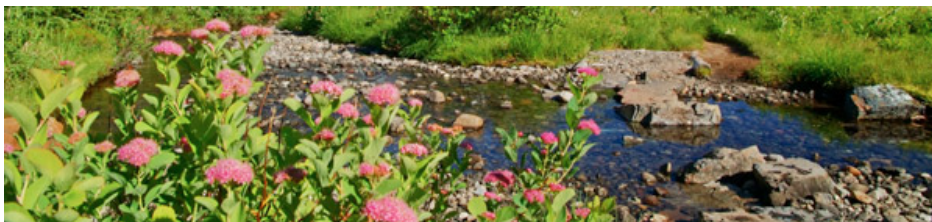
The sessions will take place from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at PSRC's offices in downtown Seattle (see special date in October because of the APA Washington Conference).

SESSION TOPICS

- **May 15:** Transit-Supportive Planning Toolkit
- **June 19:** Addressing Food Policy in Comprehensive Planning
- **July 17:** Multimodal Concurrency
- **August 21:** Planning for Whole Communities Toolkit
- **September 18:** Housing Elements and Needs Assessments
- **October 23 (special date):** Planning in Centers
- **November 20:** TBD

Two AICP credits per session are pending.

For more information on the events, including updates on session descriptions and speaker bios, please visit www.psrc.org/growth/brownbags or contact Sara Maxana at smaxana@psrc.org.



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Immerse yourself in water planning

Want to acquire tools to help you approach water issues in a more holistic way as a planner? Look no further than H2O: Informed Design Strategies, an all-day forum dedicated to explaining water's complicated subjects and how to effectively integrate water into the built environment. Topics include adaptation, ecology, and resilience.

What: H2O: Informed Design Strategies

When: May 14, 8 am – 5 pm

Where: Mountaineers Project Center, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Cost: \$190 for APA members and city/government employees, \$30 for students

The keynote speaker will be Paul R. Brown, co-author of *Water Centric Sustainable Communities: Planning, Retrofitting, and Building the Next Urban Environment*. For more information, visit www.aiaseattle.org/waterforum2014.



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Learn strategies for healthy urban forests at annual symposium

Join the University of Washington Botanic Gardens and Plant Amnesty for the 6th annual Urban Forest Symposium on Wednesday, May 28.

What: 6th Annual Urban Forest Symposium

When: May 28, Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: University of Washington Botanic Gardens Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St, Seattle, WA 98105

Cost: \$75 per person. Lunches are available for \$15.

This year's symposium takes an in-depth look at climate change and considers the impact to the urban forest. Learn about the climatic changes our region can expect and strategies that can be used to plan and manage for a healthy and resilient urban forest. Presenters will discuss the expected changes to the climate, urban forest responses, and what urban foresters and advocates can do to prepare.

Presentations will be relevant to urban foresters, landscape professionals, restoration ecologists, tree care professionals, consulting arborists, sustainability professionals, urban planners, landscape designers, landscape architects, municipal managers, and tree advocates.

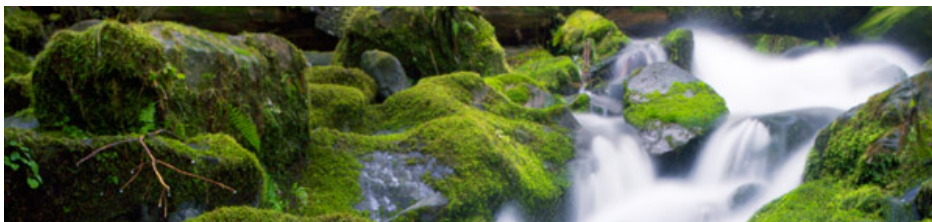
Presenters include:

- Greg McPherson, research forester, Urban Ecosystems and Social Dynamics— Pacific Southwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service
- Jim Robbins, journalist and author of *The Man Who Planted Trees*
- Nick Bond, Washington State climatologist and principal research scientist for the UW Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean
- Nancy Rottle, RLA, ASLA, associate professor at University of Washington and founding director of the UW Green Futures Research and Design Lab
- Tom Hinckley, professor emeritus, University of Washington School of Environmental and Forest Science
- Drew Zwart, Ph.D. Plant Pathology and Physiology, Bartlett Tree Experts
- Municipal Representatives on putting urban forest-related climate change plans into action

[Click here](#) for the latest information and to register.

CPH, PLANET, ISA, ASCA, AICP CM (APA), and SAF credits are approved. APLD and ASLA credits are pending.

For further information, or to register over the phone using a credit card, please call (206) 685-8033 or email urbhort@uw.edu.



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SEARCH

THE WASHINGTON PLANNER

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September event teaches crime prevention techniques through better design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is the practice of making living environments safer from crime through smart urban design. In September, the National Institute of Crime Prevention will host a weeklong course on this subject.

Participants will learn how environmental design influences criminal behavior and how that can be prevented through good design. Attendees will learn about using natural means to prevent crime, along with topics such as field assessments, lighting, natural surveillance, and planning and zoning while keeping CPTED in mind.

Art Hushen, president of the National Institute of Crime Prevention, will instruct the course. Hushen is involved with CPTED promotion in Florida.

The registration deadline is August 1 for both the course and for reserved hotel rooms.

- What: Basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design — CPTED Professional Designation Qualifying Course
- When: September 15 – 19
- Where: Bellingham Police Department, 505 Grand Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225
- Cost: \$595 per person; discounted to \$500 per person for two or more people. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Lakeway Inn at 714 Lakewood Drive in Bellingham. The government room rate is \$83 per single or \$99 per double. Reference room block "Crime Prevention" when making reservations.

For more information, contact Chad Cristelli at 360-778-8631 or via email at ccrestelli@cob.org. Information is also available at <http://www.cptedtraining.net/>.



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Washington Chapter
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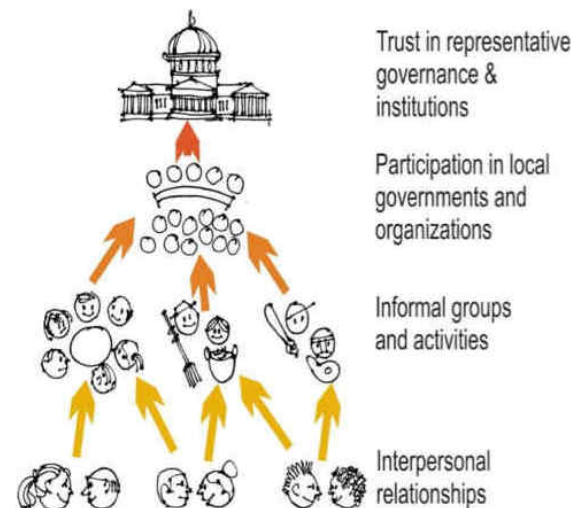
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Ten Big Ideas: Build Social Capital

By John Owen & Laura Benjamin

TEN BIG IDEAS INITIATIVE

The Ten Big Ideas Initiative, an outgrowth of the Game Changing Initiative and in coordination with the Oregon Chapter of the APA, is designed to bring about far-reaching and fundamental change on a variety of social issues. These include addressing climate change, rebuilding our infrastructure, restoring and protecting our eco-systems, and supporting economic development and sustainable agriculture. Each month will focus on one of the Ten Big Ideas, providing Washington APA members with more information on the work being done and how they can get involved.



Social capital flows from individual interaction to larger organizations and activities and ultimately affects the effectiveness of governments and institutions.

See *Bowling Alone* by Robert Putnam

Pierce, and Snohomish counties have great civic strength—the ability to get involved, confront changes, and get things done. Yet they rank among the worst in the country in informal civic participation, such as talking with neighbors or receiving favors with neighbors. Research by the Seattle City Club and the National Conference on Citizenship underscores that social capital is the “icing on the cake” of regional prosperity. Social capital is an essential ingredient for attaining prosperity as it affects local gross domestic product (GDP), economic resilience, upward income mobility, and public health. If we wish to continue to promote smart growth and prosperity across the state, we need to address this lack of social capital.

But how do we as planners foster social capital? The challenge is to increase opportunities for access and leadership for all people. The opportunity is to build greater social capital among all people and thus increase trust in and support for governance and institutions at all levels. We can leverage the power of networks

BUILDING SOCIAL CAPITAL

Effective democratic governance depends on “social capital”—the connections among individuals and the social networks, and the reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them. Peoples’ engagement as individuals, and in small groups, organizations, and activities translates into participation in local government and ultimately into trust in larger governmental and institutional organizations. Because social capital is largely generated at the individual, local, and community levels (even in these days of social media), planners working at the community, municipal, and regional levels can play a big role in fostering the social capital that will facilitate more effective and inclusive government.

Washington is in need of a boost in social capital. According to the [Greater Seattle Civic Health Index](#), residents of King,

and hubs to foster trust and connectivity—physically through public transit, parks, and other shared spaces, and socially through neighborhood associations, alumni groups, and social media.

The Building Social Capital Working Group is collaborating with groups such as local chambers of commerce, NGOs, educational institutions, and others to design and develop a community-based program in which participants from all sectors (business, government, education, industry, youth, NGOs, etc.) share perspectives and help to mentor young and emerging people to become leaders in their fields.

For more information on how you can lend your skills to grow social capital throughout the state, please contact: John Owen

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