<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Doors open</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Welcome and Overview</td>
<td>Introductions and general program description.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>The Unaffordable Side of Buffalo</td>
<td>While Buffalo is known for its low-cost of living, this is not true for all of its residents. An outdated housing stock, limited access to jobs, and high energy bills are leaving some families struggling to meet day-to-day needs. This session shines a light on what Buffalo and other Western New York residents really pay for housing and how fair housing, zoning and other land use policies play a vital role in housing accessibility and equity. Maintaining a diverse, fair, and affordable housing stock within our local municipalities that meets the needs of local residents and fosters stronger communities is increasingly important in light of our region’s expected demographic changes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>The Way We Plan Today</td>
<td>Equipping citizens to participate in the process of planning for a more sustainable future requires that they understand how our system of land use regulation and planning works today. This segment covers the basics and some of the challenges of our current planning system: the legal context of planning as a home rule affair; work at the municipal level to establish plans, create zoning ordinances, conduct appeals processes, and administer the system; the oversight role of county planning departments; the role of municipalities and counties in planning and budgeting capital infrastructure investments; the regional role of the GBNRTC (Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council); the independent roles of the transit agency, sewer, and water authorities; the role of federal regulators such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers; and more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Organizing for Action</td>
<td>Understanding how the system works and how to influence its outcomes are two different things. This session will answer questions such as: How can citizens impact their communities’ public policy and planning? How can citizens access information? What are the rights of citizens in public review processes for development projects, regulatory matters, and other policy issues? What are the best strategies for communicating with elected officials? How can citizens organize for action on key issues? How can citizens enlist the media in advancing their causes? What goes into constructing an effective action campaign? This segment will be a “how-to” session on effective citizen engagement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:05</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
<td>Text-it-Forward pause and Q &amp; A with session presenters</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50</td>
<td>Networking until 12:45 pm</td>
<td>Meet and connect with other Citizen Planners</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

www.oneregionforward.org
Speakers

**Stephanie Simeon - Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc.**

As Executive Director of Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Stephanie J. Simeon works with people, neighborhoods and organizations to invigorate distressed communities. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Simeon came to Buffalo to pursue degrees from the University at Buffalo. She earned both a B.A. in Social Science Interdisciplinary Studies and a Masters of Urban Planning from the university. With these degrees and an overwhelmingly positive outlook on Buffalo’s opportunities, Simeon chose to make the City of Buffalo her second home and work to make it more equitable and accessible.

Prior to her current position, Simeon worked as the Director of Housing for the University Heights C.D.A., Inc. where she quickly used her education in urban management to supervise the development and completion of over $1 million worth of New York State funded projects. She also played an integral role in implementing the University at Buffalo’s Home Loan Guarantee program as its exclusive Home Buyer Educator.

After a short but successful career in community development in the University District she moved on to Heart of the City Neighborhoods to transform the Lower West Side’s housing conditions through securing funding for housing initiatives from both the public and private sectors. After just 8 months as a Program Coordinator she was promoted to Executive Director.

Simeon has found her life’s work as Executive Director of Heart of the City Neighborhoods. Every day presents a new and exciting challenge. One of her most recent accomplishments involved leading Heart of the City through a publicly funded, $1.5 million development that created eight units of quality, affordable apartments on what was vacant land.

When Simeon is not busy transforming neighborhoods, she volunteers for housing and women leadership causes. For three years she advocated for increased leadership opportunities for women with the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women. She also served as the Vice President for the New York State Neighborhood Preservation Coalition.

**Jason Knight - Department of Geography and Planning at SUNY Buffalo State**

Jason Knight, PhD, AICP, is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at SUNY Buffalo State. His current research focuses on land use policy related to the management of vacant and abandoned properties. His work also examines the spatial evolution of shrinkage and urban decline as it spills out of America’s central cities and into the suburbs. Within this spatial evolution, he focuses on local and regional governance and the challenges presented by local land use authorities and competing local interests. He has presented his work at conferences of the American Planning Association, Association of American Geographers, and the recent Congress for New Urbanism.
His research interests are guided by his extensive experience as a professional land use planner in Buffalo-Niagara. While at the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, he was a major decision-maker in the creation and initial operation of the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation; a multi-jurisdictional land bank formed to combat pervasive vacancy and abandonment problems resulting from decades of depopulation, economic contraction, and suburbanization. As a Project Manager with a local firm, he directed land use development projects through the application, approval, and permitting processes that include local municipal approval and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies. He is currently working with a local community to prepare a community profile, update land use and zoning data, and review the community’s current development and permitting administrative processes in support of an expected update to its comprehensive plan and zoning code.

Shaketa Redden - VOICE Buffalo

Shaketa Redden was born and raised in Buffalo, New York and is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo. She earned a BA in Studio Art with a concentration in photography as well as a minor in English. Redden lived in Washington DC for 5 years where she worked as a co-teacher at a public charter school. She recently returned to Buffalo after a year of service with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) in San Diego. While in the JVC Redden became frustrated with those who were eager to perform service but not change systems. She decided to move back to Buffalo in 2012 and is now committed to making system-wide changes to her hometown as a Community Organizer with VOICE-Buffalo. VOICE draws people of various denominations and income levels together to act meaningfully on local, regional, state and national issues of justice and equity through community-building, negotiation with decision-makers, and direct action. VOICE is comprised of 45 member congregations/organizations throughout Erie County.

Moderator

Robert Shibley, FAIA, AICP- University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning

Bob Shibley is Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo (UB), State University of New York. He joined the faculty in 1982 as a full professor and served as the chair of the Department of Architecture for eight years. He then founded The Urban Design Project, a university center dedicated to the study and critical practice of urban design.

Under his leadership, the center developed an international award-winning ensemble of plans for the City of Buffalo, focused on its downtown, waterfront, and Olmsted park system, as well as the city-wide comprehensive plan. He is also the University Campus Architect.

Prior to his appointment as Dean, Shibley led the development of UB 2020: The Comprehensive Physical Plan as a Senior Advisor to the President from 2006 to 2010. He has also co-authored thirteen books, including Placemaking: The Art and Science of Building Community, Urban Excellence, and Time Savers Standards for Urban Design.
Professor Shibley is the recipient of eleven lifetime achievement awards from national, regional and local institutions, including the distinguished 2014 American Institute of Architects’ (AIA) Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture, the James R. Haecker Award for Leadership in Architectural Research from the Architectural Research Centers Consortium, and the University at Buffalo’s President Medal. He is a Fellow of the AIA and the New York State AIA recognized him in the Excelsior Award Program with the 2014 Nelson Rockefeller Award for Public Architecture and the 2013 Educator of the Year Honor Award. In addition he has led projects resulting in over thirty international, national, regional and local professional awards. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

During his career, he had four years of service on the NY State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council and served six years as a Federal Commissioner on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. His career prior to his appointment at UB included nine years practicing architecture as a client representative for the U.S. Army Office of the Chief of Engineers and two years with the U.S. Department of Energy as a Branch Chief in the Passive and Hybrid Solar Energy Division. Professor Shibley has a Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Science in Psychology degrees from the University of Oregon and his Master of Architecture with a concentration in Urban Design from the Catholic University of America.

Invited Panelists Bios

Daniel Howard, AICP - Town of Amherst Planning Department

Daniel Howard is an Associate Planner with the Town of Amherst, NY. He has been with the Town since 1984 as its lead long-range planner. His areas of responsibility include comprehensive planning, transportation planning, capital improvements programming, public participation, and special project development and management. Howard holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning from Buffalo State College, as well as a Master of Arts degree and a PhD. in Geography from the University at Buffalo. He is also a Medical Service Corps officer in the US Army Reserve with over 36 years of service. Mr. Howard lives in Amherst with his wife Anne Marie.

Jennifer Mecozzi - PUSH Buffalo

Jennifer Mecozzi has been with PUSH Buffalo from the beginning; first as a member, then as a Board Chair, and now as its Director of Organizing. She firmly believes that PUSH is making her neighborhood, the West Side, a better neighborhood, and she works hard to contribute to this effort. Mecozzi’s overall mission is to tell everyone she can that ordinary people have real power and can be valuable policymakers. She is motivated by making her neighborhood and the world in general a better place for her four children.