

## Spring 2020 Course Summary

All sessions located at 1515 Arch Street, Room 18029 (18<sup>th</sup> floor)

Apply by March 15! [www.citizensplanninginstitute.org](http://www.citizensplanninginstitute.org)

### Orientation: Welcome to CPI

April 8, 6-8pm

Congratulations! You've been selected to join the Spring 2020 CPI Cohort, making you one of 600 Citizen Planners in Philadelphia! During this required orientation you'll get to know fellow classmates, learn about the selection process and review logistics. You'll receive course materials and get a jumpstart on your final project or presentation.

### Core Class #1: Introduction to City Planning

April 15, 6-9pm

**Unit 1: *What is Planning?*** Everyone is a planner- in the sense that we all prepare for the future. At a city planning level, you will learn about the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC), 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 have been involved in developing the 18 District Plans. A panel of Citizen Planners will share how they're using the information they gained in CPI and their final project or action plan. Learn from your peers and get inspired!



**Unit 2: *Neighborhood Planning*** Learn about the history and evolution of planning in Philadelphia and how you can be involved in your neighborhood's plan. A neighborhood plan emerges from a planning process that both engages all stakeholders in the community and reflects a collective vision for the future of that community. Your "Neighborhood Planning Workbook" outlines a DIY approach to doing a neighborhood plan. Another approach is to employ the services of a professional planning firm. Learn about methods of community engagement from a nationally recognized local firm and their experiences working on various Philadelphia neighborhood plans.

Mindy Watts, Principal, Interface Studio LLC

**Required reading:** "*Introduction to Planning in Philadelphia*"- handout to be sent prior to the first class.

### Core Session #2: Zoning

April 22, 6-9pm



**Unit 1: *The Zoning Code.*** 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. Real projects will be used to demonstrate three methods of zoning "relief" from the zoning code: variances, special exceptions, and zoning remapping. Gain a better understanding of how to navigate the code and what the steps are to learn what can be built on a lot and what approvals a project needs. Learn the limitations of zoning, as well as the elements in the zoning code that help preserve neighborhood character.

Donna J. Carney, CPI Director, PCPC

Andy Meloney, Senior Planner for Implementation, PCPC



**Unit 2: *Citizen Involvement*** As President of the Wynnefield Residents Association, Crystal is an advocate on behalf of residents on quality of life issues. Crystal will share her journey from issue identification through peaceful resolution as her community explores a major utility (PECO) acquisition of a parcel of land to build a substation. She will talk about the community reaction, how they used their elected officials, the zoning process and legal resources to come to a peaceful resolution.

Crystal Morris, President, Wynnefield Residents Association, Citizen Planner

## Core Session #3: Real Estate Development: Understanding and Influencing the Project Cycle

April 29, 6-9pm

How do real estate developers make decisions and complete projects? Learn about the phases in the real estate development cycle – pre-development, construction, operations, disposition/re-position. Understand how community input influences project progression and the best time to engage developers. Learn about the different approaches taken by market-rate and affordable housing developers.

John's office is a first point of contact for large developers and will outline the steps to get projects built and the financial constraints all developers face. Angela brings the perspective of affordable housing development. The roles of various stakeholders impacting development will be discussed through a hypothetical housing development project.

There are different ways to create housing that is affordable or keep existing housing affordable. Learn about city programs to help pay property taxes and to keep people who are behind on their property taxes from losing their homes.



**John Mondlak**, Deputy Director of Development Services, Office of Planning and Development

**Angela Steele**, Senior Project Manager, Stone Sherick Consulting Group, Citizen Planner  
**Department of Revenue Representative to be announced**

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## Special Topic #1: Community Leadership in Climate Resilience

May 6, 6-9pm

Philadelphia will confront serious risk from climate change even if carbon emissions were to dramatically be reduced. Challenges include increased heat and flooding and low-income residents and residents of color will be disproportionately impacted. With exposure to the impacts of climate change already occurring and expected only to increase in severity in the coming decades, those on the frontlines of climate risk must drive the solutions that foster more resilient neighborhoods. In this workshop participants will learn how to engage community leaders in the development of place-based solutions that address issues of community importance and reshape the structural systems that contribute to vulnerability.

Through this session, you'll gain an understanding of how to:

- Engage in an analysis of climate trends and the associated impact of heat and flooding on neighborhoods
- Increase awareness of systems of oppression contributing to disproportionate climate impacts
- Draw upon the history of place and community assets to ensure climate solutions meet the needs of communities
- Use best practices to engage meaningfully with community members in resilience planning.



**Saleem Chapman**, Deputy Director, Office of Sustainability  
**Cheyenne Flores**, Climate Resiliency Fellow, Office of Sustainability

**Gabriella Gabriel Paez**, Education and Community Development Coordinator, Esperanza

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## Special Topic #2: Supporting Businesses & Living Wage Jobs in Your Neighborhood

May 13, 6-9pm

Learn how worker-owned cooperatives (co-ops) can create new businesses and help existing businesses in your neighborhood stay open. A worker-owned co-op is a business that is owned by the people who work there. They can provide decent wages and greater democracy in the workplace. Converting existing businesses to worker-owned co-ops can keep businesses open that would otherwise close. For example, if a business is facing bankruptcy, or the business owner is retiring. You'll also learn about a neighborhood-based loan that can help new and existing businesses.

Whether someone works at a co-op or not, workers in Philadelphia have rights. These rights make sure they get paid, get the time off they've earned, and receive their schedules in advance. Many workers do not realize they have these rights or know what to do if they're violated. Wage theft, violation of sick leave laws, and unfair scheduling can create and perpetuate low

incomes. Help make sure your neighbors are receiving the pay they've earned and treatment they're entitled to in the workplace. Learn what to do if your neighbors' rights at work have been violated.



**Tempest Carter**, Director of Community Development, Achievability, Citizen Planner  
**Jeanette Cuevas**, Co-op Business Developer, Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance  
**Maiya Darby**, Business Financial Resources Manager, Department of Commerce  
**Abdul Qadeer Gulzari**, Director of Business Financial and Technical Assistance, Department of Commerce  
**Romain Paumard**, Engagement Specialist, Mayor's Office of Labor

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### Special Topic #3: Navigating City Government: Building Relationships and Leveraging City Resources May 20, 6-9pm

Navigating City Government in a city the size of Philadelphia can be a challenge. Ever wondered how city government works? How you can interact with elected officials ethically? What resources are available for you to help your community? This class will help address some of these questions and more!

In this class, we will cover Philadelphia City Government, the legislative and policy process and learn how to use your government. You'll learn ways to get involved and hear one Philadelphian's dive into local politics. You'll hear how ordinary citizens can build, leverage and benefit from relationships with council, community organizations, block captains, etc. as you tackle planning projects in your community.

The class will also cover the importance of transparent and ethical relationships with public officials and you'll learn about standards of governmental conduct, campaign finance, and lobbying.



**Jen Devor**, Civic Impact Manager, The Economy League, Citizen Planner  
**Kenneth Luu**, Deputy Service Officer, Mayor's Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteer Service  
**Bryan McHale**, Public Integrity Compliance Services Supervisor, City of Philadelphia Board of Ethics  
**Venise Whitaker**, Constituent Services Representative, Office of Council President Darrell L. Clarke

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### Presentations & Pizza Workshop May 27, 6-9pm

#### Final Presentations

Give a 5-minute presentation on a project that you or your organization is working on, or a dream project. Receive feedback from your fellow CPI participants and professional city planners. This meets the **final paper or presentation** requirement.

This is a low-stress way to get public speaking practice and have a networking opportunity with your classmates and professional city planners! *Attendance is optional.*





### **Additional Course Info:**

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 **BEFORE** the 6pm 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, “Course Info” page.

<http://citizensplanninginstitute.org>



### **CPI Networking & Happy Hour!**

**Wednesday, April 1: 5-7pm**

**Porta (pizza) Philadelphia, 1216 Chestnut St., Phila, PA 19107**

For Spring 2020 participants, CPI Graduates and Instructors from previous classes