



Palm Beach County Planning Congress

Planning Challenges Virtual Seminar Series

June 25, 2021 - Combating the effects of COVID –
How Planners Cope, Function & Thrive in the New Norm

OVERVIEW

This panel will discuss the past year of the Covid pandemic - a year of a lot we may want to forget. Yet as planners/designers the panel will analyze the year and see what we learned and how we changed because of COVID. The panel will address whether there were benefits of pandemic living for new norm of professional practice. Take-a-ways from the seminar will be shared learning regarding COVID recovery and reinvention. Topics to be addressed include: Creation of healthy workplaces and organizations; Changes and security in public and private workplaces; Changes in planning, zoning and building transactions and meetings; personal coping for professional functioning; changing demographics due to Covid; successes from the Covid work experience.

Stephanie Thoburn, AICP - Moderator

Stephanie Thoburn is the Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of Jupiter and has been with the Town for 25 years. She is the Chair of the Bicycle Trailways Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the PBC Transportation Planning Agency, and has a Bachelors of Landscape Architecture and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida. In her role with Jupiter she oversees comprehensive planning, zoning, development review, historic preservation, natural resources, and the Town's Open Space Program and Workforce Housing Program. Major accomplishments include the development of Abacoa (a 2,000 acre New Urbanist Community), the Jupiter Inlet Village land development regulations (a form-based code), the Town's greenway system, and the US1/Intracoastal Waterway zoning district (which received an Award of Excellence from the Florida American Planning Association in 1999).

Thuy Shutt - *Invited Speaker*

Thuy (Twee) Shutt is Assistant CRA Director for Boynton Beach since July 2017. Thuy is a licensed architect and a certified FRA Redevelopment Administrator with more than 29 years of professional experience in the public and private sectors. As a graduate from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech, her design background began in the D.C. metropolitan area in a traditional architectural practice and then continued when she moved to South Florida where it expanded to include comprehensive planning and real estate development. She served as Principal Planner for Palm Beach County Zoning Division and progressed to community redevelopment as the City of Delray Beach's first Urban Designer and later as a Senior Land Entitlement Manager for Centex Homes and Assistant Director of Palm Beach County's Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA. Most recently she was the Assistant Director of the City of Delray Beach CRA and is a member of the Palm Beach AIA Women in Architecture. Thuy has also served on a number of advisory boards, including Delray Beach Planning & Zoning, Site Plan Review and Appearance, Housing Authority, and Large Home Task Force, PBC Infill Redevelopment Task Force, Urban Redevelopment Area and Land Development Regulatory Board Subcommittees, and Overall Economic Development Program Committee. She currently represents PBC on the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, a committee consisting of representatives from Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. The CEDS Committee is required by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to develop strategies to address economic development issues, including the diversification of the region's economy and job expansion.



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James Gavigan, Jr. - Invited Speaker

James C. Gavigan, Jr., shareholder at the law firm of; Jones Foster, focuses his practice in the areas of land use and governmental law and complex commercial litigation with a particular emphasis on real estate, land use and zoning, eminent domain, and property rights. Jamie represents clients in a wide variety of industries, including real estate, local government, hospitality, and medical, to obtain and defend land use and development approvals, and resolve disputes involving breach of contract, business torts, intellectual property, and property rights such as boundary and title issues, easements and restrictive covenants, state and local permitting issues, and takings claims and condemnation actions. Municipal clients include the towns of Jupiter, Jupiter Island, Palm Beach, and Lake Park. As an experienced litigator, Jamie regularly handles cases on behalf of corporations, municipalities, developers, and property owners in state and federal courts throughout Florida, including multidistrict class actions. Jamie is involved in numerous industry organizations including the Association of Eminent Domain Professionals, the Federal Bar Association Palm Beach County Chapter, and the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Land Use & Local Governmental Committee and Judicial Relations Committee. Jamie has been honored by prestigious peer-reviewed legal industry publications including the 2021 Best Lawyers in America "Ones to Watch", 2021 Super Lawyers "Rising Stars", 2021 Palm Beach Illustrated "Top Lawyers", and 2020 Florida Trend "Legal Elite Up & Comer".

Kate Grangard - Invited Speaker

Kate is an accomplished CPA and serves as CFO and COO for one of the most respected insurance agencies in the state, The Gehring Group, Inc. Serving as CFO for more than 15 years, she has succeeded in achieving year-over-year operating profitability, growing the team from 15 to 98 employees and significantly expanding Gehring Group's footprint throughout the state and country. During her tenure in the employee benefits & risk management consulting industry focusing on public sector clients, she has continued to expand her knowledge through the pursuit of higher education at the London School of Economics, industry specific designations through NAHU and the Health Care Congress and by building strong relationships with peers and industry experts from Florida to Washington D.C., having met with numerous members of Congress regarding the state of the healthcare industry. Kate is also a graduate of the 2016 Class of Leadership Florida, a statewide organization dedicated to bringing together emerging and existing leaders from across the state to challenge, prepare and inspire them to build a better Florida. Kate is a highly respected and requested speaker, including as Keynote speaker on various healthcare topics relating to compliance and legislation at numerous public sector and human resources conferences. She also authors informational newsletters and presents educational webinars and seminars throughout the year. She is a certified provider for Continuing Education credits for CPA's, insurance agents, and human resources professionals; and her sessions are regularly also accepted for credit for payroll professionals and attorneys. Kate also serves on the Health Care Reform committee as part of the legal working group of The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers; as a member of GFOA's CORBA (The Committee on Retirement and Benefits); and on the Employer Working Group of NAHU (National Association of Health Underwriters).



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Susan Ajoc - Invited Speaker

Susan Ajoc is the Community Services Director for the City of St. Petersburg. She has served the City of St. Petersburg for 31 years in the area of neighborhood and public engagement including neighborhood planning and problem solving. Community Services staff work with neighborhood associations, volunteer groups, pet-friendly initiative, youth employment, and coordinates the right-of-way citizen complaints with other city departments, utilities or other governmental entities. Ms. Ajoc received her MAURP from the University of Florida and a BA in Psychology from the University of North Florida. She is a member of the American Planning Association (APA) and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). She was one of the founding members and past chair of the Florida Neighborhoods Conference. She is also a past chair of the Florida Design out Crime Association (FLDOCA) – the state's CPTED organization.

George Gentile - Invited Speaker

George Gentile- FASLA, is Director of the firm 2GHO. Gentile has practiced as a Landscape Architect and Planner in Palm Beach County for over 35 years. He has worked on numerous public and private projects that have contributed to the quality of life of all the residents of Palm Beach County and South Florida. His planning, site planning and Landscape Architectural Design work can be found though out the County and the State of Florida. His peers recognized him for his professional dedication and contributions by being made a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1996 and chosen as the Landscape Architect of the Year by the Palm Beach County, American Institute of Architects in 2007. Mr. Gentile is President and Founder of Gentile Glas Holloway O'Mahoney & Associates, Inc. (2GHO, Inc) a full-service Landscape Architecture, Planning and Environmental Consulting firm, which was established in 1988 in Jupiter Florida and is dedicated to sustainable and environmentally sensitive planning and design. He holds registration to practice his profession in Florida, Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee and North Carolina. He is currently a Commissioner and Chairman of the Jupiter Inlet District. George graduated from Palm Beach Community College in 1973 and the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree in 1977.

Lindsey Libes, AICP - Invited Speaker

Ms. Libes, AICP WGI, is Director of PLACE Operations. She has a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida Atlantic University, 2007 & Master of Science, Construction Management - Florida International University, 2010. Lindsay has extensive experience providing professional planning services in both the public and private sectors. In addition to her extensive experience with due diligence reports, comprehensive plan amendments, rezoning, and site and master planning. Lindsay provided planning support for land acquisition through the eminent domain process for the FDOT, facilitated public outreach, and worked with neighborhood groups on master plans, and with government entities on corridor and streetscape studies. Lindsay also has experience managing and representing multidisciplinary projects through the entirety of the land use entitlement process.



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Erin Sita, AICP - Invited Speaker

Erin Sita is currently serving as the Assistant Director of the Department for Community Sustainability of the City of Lake Worth Beach. She has 20 years of professional experience in the planning and development field, in both the public and private sector. Her planning related skills include experience in community redevelopment plans, comprehensive plans, zoning and land use analysis and implementation. She has a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University. As a resident of the City of Lake Worth, she has served on advisory boards and brings the perspective of professional planner and community volunteer to her work. Ms. Sita is also the current President of the Palm Beach County Planning Congress, which is a storied organization that provides networking and continuing education for south Florida land use professionals.