



Palm Beach County Planning Congress Planning Challenges - Virtual Seminar Series

June 18, 2021 – Overcoming Inequities in
Planning & the Community

OVERVIEW

This online luncheon webinar consists of a panel of professionals that will "set the table" for DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging) discussion. It will showcase K. Michael Slater as a keynote speaker to the summer series of weekly webinars planned by the Palm Beach County Planning Congress. Mr. Slater comes at the topic of DEIB from a public participation, community planning and economic perspective, including trends he sees with his work with communities and public health organizations throughout the country. The Village of Wellington's recent community conversations following national and local protests will be highlighted as an demonstration of what communities can do. Panel members will add their experiences in public participation and dialogue, particularly on DEIB issues.



Adam Kerr has 19 years of experience in transportation planning and traffic engineering gained through a variety of projects, including: traffic impact analyses, Florida Department of Transportation action plan analysis, developments of regional impact, data collection coordination, and computer modeling. Adam is also experienced in traffic signal design across multiple jurisdictions in Florida and has worked on DRIs throughout the state of Florida. Adam brings proficiency in highway capacity software, Synchro, Florida Standard Urban Transportation Model System traffic modeling.

Adam received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson in 2001 and is registered as a professional engineer in Florida. He is a past President of the Palm Beach County Planning Congress and continues to volunteer with the organization.

Moderator Adam Kerr, PE

Transportation Engineer
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.



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Alissa Barber Torres PhD, FAICP, CLTD has over 27 years of experience in urban and regional planning that includes transportation, land use, economic development, public participation, and intergovernmental coordination in local government, private sector, and regional planning agencies.

Alissa is a Chief Planner with Orange County Transportation Planning Division and an adjunct instructor in the University of Florida's urban planning graduate program teaching transportation planning and policy. She holds a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University, a Ph.D. in Texts and Technology (technical communication and digital media) from the University of Central Florida, and the Certified in Logistics, Transportation, and Distribution designation from ASCM.

Alissa's extensive professional service and leadership at local, state, and national levels focus on the growth and inclusivity of the urban planning profession, including as a Co-Chair of the APA Florida Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee.

Alissa's achievements in planning practice, planning education, professional and community service, and leadership led to her recognition as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2020.

Speaker & Panelist
Alissa Barber Torres
PhD, FAICP, CLTD

Chief Planner, Orange County
Transportation Planning Division



Kona Gray is a firm leader at EDSA with 27-years of experience in 30+ countries, his global design and management sense has positively shaped the outcomes of many environments. At EDSA, Kona's award-winning projects are inspired by a passion for creative design solutions that solve meaningful global issues. His portfolio ranges from large-scale planning to detailed site design, with emphasis on communities, parks, hospitality, urban public realms, mixed-use destinations, healthcare and campus spaces. With an uncompromising dedication to quality, he consistently takes into consideration important factors like community, heritage, environment, and the constant pursuit of improving humanity through Landscape Architecture.

Currently, Kona serves as an American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Representative to the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board and recently served as ASLA Vice President Professional Practice. He is a Past President of the Landscape Architecture Foundation, an active member of the Urban Land Institute Southeast Florida and Caribbean District Council and NSU Huizenga School of Business Real Estate Advisory Board..

He is a registered Landscape Architect in Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Commonwealth of Virginia and holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia.

Speaker & Panelist
Kona A. Gray, FASLA,
PLA

Principal, EDSA



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Jim Barnes has over 30 years of experience in the public and private sector in environmental planning, development, and local government administration. He currently serves as the Village Manager for the Village of Wellington, Florida. Born and raised in the Philippines, he moved to the United States in 1977 and has called Palm Beach County home ever since.

He is a certified planner with an advanced specialty certification in environmental planning as well as a credentialed manager with ICMA and a certified parks and recreation professional with NRPA. He also serves on the board of the Florida Green Building Coalition and is immediate past president of the Florida Planning & Zoning Association.

Speaker & Panelist Jim Barnes, AICP

Village Manager
Village of Wellington



Kevin Michael Slater is a senior diversity executive and leadership consultant with extensive experience designing and delivering progressive methods of equity, inclusion and organizational change. He is internationally recognized for achievements in cultural integration, crisis management, executive coaching and group facilitation.

Mr. Slater is a former dean and financial executive who has worked extensively across sectors in: Government, Hospitality, Consumer Goods, Science & Technology, Finance and Academia. He is an alumnus of Dartmouth Tuck School of Business and Gordon College and has attended NYU College of Global Public Health and Sever Institute of Technology at Washington University. He is also member of the New York Academy of Sciences and is certified in Executive Coaching by Wilson Learning.

Mr. Slater has lectured at over a hundred business conferences and more than three hundred universities and has directed change-management for countless national and global Fortune 500 companies. His areas of specialization include research, strategy and innovation, organizational behavior, conflict resolution and cross-cultural training. He has guided startup, mid-size and large organizations - from the FBI, to Yale University, to Johnson & Johnson, ATT and Darden Restaurants - in actualizing their workplace goals. His commitment is to be a strategic partner with organizations committed to reaching their full potential for inclusivity and belonging across in all aspects of diversity.

Speaker & Panelist Kevin Michael Slater

Senior Diversity Executive &
Leadership Consultant