

Palm Beach County Planning Congress Planning Challenges Lunch & Learn Virtual Seminar #1

August 19, 2022 – 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The New American Dream: The Elephant - and Donkey in the Room

Wes Blackman, AICP, was raised in Michigan, relocated to Palm Beach County in 1989, and has resided in the City of Lake Worth Beach since 1992. He has a planning practice (CWB Associates), and specializes in historic preservation. Initially, Wes worked for the City of West Palm Beach as city planner and later went to work for Donald Trump in 1993, spearheading the conversion, restoration efforts, and intricate work necessary to convert of the 18-acre historic Mar-a-Lago estate into a private club. He received the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Achievement for Adaptive Reuse of Mar-a-Lago.

Wes is the President of the PBC Planning Congress, current Chair of Palm Beach County Land Development Regulation Board, and has held many municipal appointments and memberships over the years. Wes is president of Cottages of Lake Worth, Inc., a 501c3. The Cottages of Lake Worth book is in its second printing.



Moderator

C. Wes Blackman, AICP

Planner - CWS Associates

Paul Croce, American Studies Professor and Chair at Stetson University, researches and teaches American cultural and intellectual history—in other words, he has a passion for understanding what makes America tick. He has used his depths of academic research on the life and work of William James, the founder of American psychology and pragmatism, to shed light on how disagreements emerge and how they can become assets rather than only burdens. John Hopkins University Press recently published his second book, [Young William James Thinking](#) (listen for an [author interview](#)). While serving as president of the James Society and in cooperation with Harvard's Houghton Library, he organized the conference, "In the Footsteps of William James," on the 100th anniversary of James's death. Inspired by James's public intellectual work, he teaches about major values issues that manners experts advise not discussing at the dinner table, including debates over the environment, healthcare, science and religion, war and peace, the Civil War, and the 1950s and 1960s—classes where differences become forums for intellectual exchange. His dozens of essays on politics and culture have appeared widely, including in the [Huffington Post](#). They serve as a kind of public classroom—in fact, that is the name of his [webpage](#); see the opener, [Dreaming in Translation](#).



Speaker

Paul J. Croce

American Studies Professor
& Chair - Stetson University