



FALL CONFERENCE

26

GROWTH BY DESIGN

ALIGNING LAND USE, WATER, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT TO ADVANCE LONG-TERM PROSPERITY

SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2026
DAVIS CONFERENCE CENTER
LAYTON, UTAH



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Planners from across Utah and the broader region will gather in Layton September 9-10 for the 2026 Fall Conference of the American Planning Association Utah Chapter. Held at the Davis Conference Center, the three-day conference agenda features a wide range of sessions designed to serve professional planners, citizen planners, and elected officials alike. Presentations will explore both urban and rural planning challenges, with topics spanning planning ethics, historic preservation, transportation, housing, and inclusive community development.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

	MERIDIAN BALLROOM	MERIDIAN (DH)	TWILIGHT	MOBILE TOURS	
8:00-8:30	REGISTRATION AND LIGHT BREAKFAST				
8:30-8:45	OPENING REMARKS APA Utah Board				
8:45-9:00	LOCAL WELCOME				
9:00-10:00	GREAT SALT LAKE Brian Steed, VP of Government Affair, Utah State University, Former Great Salt Lake Commissioner				
10:00-10:15	BREAK				
10:15-11:15	BUILDING COMMUNITY TRUST: REQUIRED ETHICAL BEHAVIORS IN PLANNING Bruce Parker, Rob Terry 	MISSION TO MARKET: HOW MIDA IS SHAPING GROWTH AT FALCON HILL AND THE GATES Hilary Venable, Judy Flores	UDOTS BUILDING TRAILS?! HOW THE UTAH TRAIL NETWORK IS EXPANDING TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS IN OUR STATE Erick Buell, Kate Wright		
11:15-12:45	APA UTAH PLANNING AWARDS & LUNCH				
12:45-1:45	DRAWING UP THE PLAY Ted Knowlton 	PLANNING FOR WATER: INSIGHTS FROM THE HILL AIR FORCE BASE RESILIENCY STUDY Steven Jones, Easton Hopkins	INNOVATIVE HOUSING PROJECTS John Janson	LAGOON TOUR	TOD: STATION AREA PLANS IN ACTION Bradley McIlrath
1:45-2:00	NETWORKING BREAK				
2:00-3:00	DIVERSITY BY DESIGN Andrea Garfinkel-Castro 	BUILD YOUR OWN SCENARIO FOR WATER IN THE GREAT SALT LAKE BASIN Cody Lutz, Jason Brown	SWIM AGAINST THE STREAM Ted Knowlton		
3:00-3:15	NETWORKING BREAK				
3:15-4:15/30	LANDSCAPE REVIEW 101: CODE, WATER, PLANTS Shital Poudyal, Kelly Kopp, Jake Powell, Erika Chmielewski 	RETHINKING AGRICULTURAL IDENTITY: LAND USE, WATER, AND THE FUTURE OF LOCAL AGRICULTURE Matt Yost, Jim Bowcut	SWIMMING AGAINST THE STREAM: THE SOLUTIONS Tim Watkins, Russ Akina, Andy Hulka		

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

	MERIDIAN BALLROOM	MERIDIAN (DH)	TWILIGHT	THE ZEPHYR (PLANNING 101)	MOBILE TOURS	
8:00-8:30	REGISTRATION AND LIGHT BREAKFAST					
8:30-8:45	OPENING REMARKS APA Utah Board					
8:45-9:45	ARBINGER INSTITUTE KEYNOTE					
9:45-10:00	BREAK					
10:00-11:15	CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION WITH ARBINGER INSTITUTE	HOAS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY Erin Rider	MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING: CHARACTER, HOUSING CHOICE, AND IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS FOR UTAH COMMUNITIES Rob Terry, Laura Hanson, Michaela Bell, Chase Freebairn	PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND ZONING FUNDAMENTALS John Janson 		
11:15-12:30	BUILDING THE UTAH WE LOVE - A COORDINATED VISION FOR THE STATE'S FUTURE Laura Hanson, Tim Davis, Anna McEntire, Andrew Gruber					
12:30-1:30	HOW DEVELOPMENT FINANCING WORKS Erik Daentiz, Benjamin Becker, Jason Boal	GRAPHIC DESIGN BOOTCAMP FOR PLANNERS McKayla Dunfey, Joe Moss, Jenifer Gardner	UNLOCKING BACKYARD HOMES: LESSONS FROM UTAH'S DADU TRANSITION Jessica Kjar, Turner Bitton	PLANNING COMMISSION BYLAWS, ETHICS, MEETING MANAGEMENT John Janson 	LAGOON TOUR Terry Capener, Lyle Gibson	ANTELOPE ISLAND
1:30-1:45	NETWORKING BREAK					
1:45-2:45	SHOW ME THE MONEY: INNOVATIVE FUNDING STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT Japheth McGee, Susan Becker	AI FOR PLANNERS: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS, PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, AND REAL-WORLD WORKFLOWS Jason Boal, Micah Hansen	MEETING HOUSING NEEDS THROUGH GENTLE DENSITY Cody Ferguson	MIXED USE PROJECTS & ORDINANCES John Janson 		
2:45-3:00	NETWORKING BREAK					
3:00-4:15	THE DATA CENTER DILEMMA Francis Lilly, Evan Berrett, Brandon Larsen	HOW TO MAKE USER-FRIENDLY CODE McKayla Dunfey, Brandon Rypien	MOVING PAST PLANNING: DOWNTOWN Ben Levenger	ACTUAL ORDINANCE CHANGES YOU NEED TO MAKE John Janson 		

Agenda subject to change.





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