



50th Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns



ADA accommodations are available upon request.



Jacksonville, Florida
May 20 - 23, 2025

NUSA JAX 2025
Scan Me





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

A Letter From Your NUSA President



NUSA Members and Friends,

On behalf of the NUSA 2025 Board of Directors, I am excited and thankful to have you join us at the Neighborhoods USA Conference in Jacksonville, Florida, to celebrate 50 Years of bringing Neighborhoods together. This year's theme, A Bridge To Tomorrow's Neighborhoods, will focus on building more substantial and vibrant communities.

We hope you enjoy this year's conference and can connect with other attendees to discuss your recent experiences in your neighborhoods and communities. The NUSA Annual Conference is a time for neighborhood leaders and supporters to reconnect and share stories, initiatives, and trends changing our neighborhoods.

I've had the pleasure of being a part of NUSA since 2017.

As a board member, I am honored to represent Neighborhoods across the US and the Bahamas. The board members have been hard at work making sure the world knows about NUSA and the work you all are doing in your neighborhoods. If you want to join this great board, you can find more information on running for the board or hosting a conference on our website, nusa.org.

Additionally, we know there's not enough time at the conference to boast about the fantastic things happening in your neighborhoods. If you'd like your neighborhood highlighted on our blog, please email nusastorytime@nusa.org with your story. As we continue to uplift our neighborhoods, any information on initiatives that bring neighbors together and build communities will be valuable to your fellow NUSA members.

There's a lot of work behind hosting a conference, and thank you to Mayor Donna Deegan, Thomas Waters, and Team Jacksonville for organizing the workshops, tours, and hospitality. To the NUSA Board, past and present, thank you for your work over the last 50 years to make NUSA a success. Your work hasn't gone unnoticed, and we hope your time here in Jacksonville is memorable. Lastly, thank all sponsors, partners, workshop presenters, volunteers, and vendors who worked together to bring the conference to life. Welcome to Jacksonville, Florida!!!

With Appreciation
Precious McKesson





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

Board of Directors



Precious McKesson
President,
3rd term, exp. 10/2027
Program Development, Co-Chair
Awards, Resource Development
Omaha, Nebraska



Keno Wong
Parliamentarian
1st term, exp. 10/2025
Board Development, Public Affairs,
By-Laws & Rules
Nassau, Bahamas



Dwight Pridgeon
Vice President,
3rd term, exp. 10/2027
Resource Development, Chair
Program Development, Co-Chair
Public Affairs
Little Rock, Arkansas



Reba Taylor-Hill
Sergeant At Arms
3rd term, exp. 10/2027
Awards, Membership, Resource
Development
Indianapolis, Indiana



Valorie Duvall
Secretary
1st term, exp. 10/2025
Awards, Public Affairs, Resource
Development
Lubbock, Texas



Paul Gambill
By-Laws & Rules, Chair
1st term, exp. 10/2025
Board Development,
Resource Development
Erie, Pennsylvania



Carrie Snyder
Assistant Secretary
1st term, exp. 10/2025
Membership, Awards, Public Affairs
Cuyahoga Falls, OH



Orlando Robinson, Jr.
Membership
3rd term, exp. 10/2026
Awards Program, Resource
Development
Midfield, Alabama



Joyce Cox
Treasurer, Public Affairs, Chair
2nd term, exp. 10/2025
Program Development,
Resource Development
Memphis, Tennessee



Debbie Lightbourn
Board Development
1st term, exp. 10/2025
Awards Program, By-Laws &
Rules
Nassau, Bahamas





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Board of Directors



Tony Olden, Sr.
Board Development, Chair
1st term, exp. 10/2025
By-Laws & Rules, Program Development
Memphis, Tennessee



Deanna O'Malley
Board Development
1st term, exp. 10/27
Public Affairs, Program Development
Texarkana, Arkansas



Henry Nickel
Awards Program
2nd term, exp. 10/2025
Public Affairs, Program Development
San Bernardino, California



Robert Mike
Membership
1st term, exp. 10/27
Resource Development, By-Laws & Rules
Syracuse, New York



Dora Sims
Board Development, Chair
2nd term, exp. 10/2025
Board Development, By-Laws & Rules
Birmingham, Alabama



Lindsey Pinkston
Awards Program, Chair
1st term, exp. 10/27
Board Development, Program Development
Issaquah, Washington



Rene Aguilera
Membership
1st term, exp. 10/27
Public Affairs, Program Development
Roseville, California



Jeri Pryor
Administrative Assistant
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida



Charmaine Clark
Membership, Chair
3rd term, exp. 10/2026
Awards Program
Columbia, South Carolina



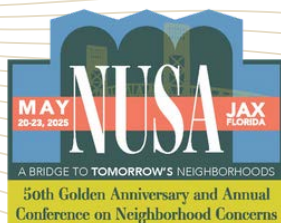


NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary


















































Past Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Presidents

Note: The original steering committee of 1975/77 did not elect a president. The Jacksonville Conference was a joint effort of the committee with Jim Gilmore of Jacksonville, Florida, and the Conference Coordinator.

- Howard Hallman, Maryland/DC
- Judy Lafoon, Kansas City, Missouri
- Lemuel Jackson, Dayton, Ohio
- James Gilmore, Jacksonville, Florida
- Kitty Smith, Nashville, Tennessee
- Florence Bittner, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Warren Moore, Nashville, Tennessee
- Sherry Marshall, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Bill Littlejohn, Dayton, Ohio
- Karen Ledger, Springfield, Massachusetts
- Anthony Capizzi, Dayton, Ohio
- Milton Dohoney, Louisville, Kentucky
- George Manning, Tallahassee, Florida
- Elton Gatewood, Tacoma, Washington
- W. L. Williams, Jr. Birmingham, Alabama
- Sam Bowler, Henderson, Nevada
- Judy Martinson, Dayton, Ohio
- Elton Gatewood, Tacoma, Washington
- Angie Rush, Ft. Worth, Texas
- Andre Bernard, Little Rock, Arkansas
- Tige Watts, Columbia, South Carolina
- Jason Bergerson, Anchorage, Alaska
- Monique Coleman, College Station, Texas
- Catherine Huckabee, Ft. Worth, Texas
- Simone Peterson, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Precious McKesson, Omaha, Nebraska



NUSA Host Cities Over the Years NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

 1976 Kansas City, MO	 2003 Chattanooga, TN
 1977 Jacksonville, FL	 2004 Hollywood, FL
 1978 Portland, OR	 2005 Sacramento, CA
 1979 Wichita, KS	 2006 Kansas City, MO
 1980 Pittsburgh, PA	 2007 Baton Rouge, LA
 1981 Albuquerque, NM	 2008 Hampton, VA
 1982 Birmingham, AL	 2009 Spokane, WA
 1983 Cincinnati, OH	 2010 Little Rock, AR
 1984 Tacoma, WA	 2011 Anchorage, AK
 1985 Newark, NJ	 2012 Indianapolis, IN
 1986 St Paul, MN	 2013 Minneapolis, MN
 1987 San Antonio, TX	 2014 Eugene, OR
 1988 Roanoke, VA	 2015 Houston, TX
 1989 Seattle, WA	 2016 Memphis, TN
 1990 Ft. Worth, TX	 2017 Omaha, NE
 1991 Memphis, TN	 2018 Birmingham, AL
 1992 Anchorage, AK	 2019 Palm Springs, CA
 1993 Jackson, MS	2020 No Conference Due to COVID-19
 1994 Pasadena, CA	 2021 Fort Worth, TX (Virtual due to COVID-19)
 1995 Birmingham, AL	 2022 Little Rock, AR
 1996 Little Rock, AR	 2023 El Paso, TX
 1997 Albany, NY	 2024 Lubbock, TX
 1998 Portland, OR	 2025 Jacksonville, FL
 1999 Madison, WI	
 2000 Phoenix, AZ	
 2001 Pittsburgh, PA	
 2002 Houston, TX	



NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods (WWAN) Award

The Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods award recognizes those individuals whose work mirrors the mission of Neighborhoods, USA: to build and strengthen neighborhood associations; to encourage neighborhood involvement in the decision-making process in local governments; and to promote productive communications and collaborations between neighborhood associations, local governments and the public/private sector.

WWAN – Judging Criteria

Each Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods (WWAN) nominee will be evaluated by the Neighborhoods, USA Board of Directors using the following criteria: the neighborhood involvement of nominee, information on how the nominee has proven to be a leader in the community and specific reasons why the nominee has earned the Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods recognition.

There are two (2) categories for the WWAN Award:

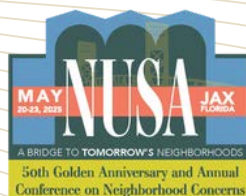
- Governmental nominee - Includes elected officials, local or state government staff, and paid neighborhood advocates and /or community leaders.
- Grassroots/Neighbor nominee - Includes non-paid neighborhood advocates and/or community leaders.

WWAN - Finalists Government

- Brush and Bulky Collection Team from the Sanitation Department of the City of Garland, TX
- Matthew Brawner, Fire Lieutenant, EMS1, Garland, TX
- Cynthia S. Barber, Deputy City Manager, City of Tallahassee, FL
- Wanda Cheeks Holmes, Spartanburg, SC

Grassroots

- Tommy Zapata, Garland, TX





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

2025 Awards Competition Finallists

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) is pleased to announce the finalists of our 2025 Awards Competition.



NUSA proudly presents awards in the following categories:

Neighborhood of the Year

Best Neighborhood Program

Neighborhood Newsletters

Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods

Neighborhood of The Year (NOTY) Award

2025 celebrates the 50th year that NUSA will recognize the outstanding work of neighborhood organizations across the United States for their work toward improving the quality of life in their communities, including efforts to support neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic and work to improve equity and access throughout their neighborhood and city. If your organization completed a neighborhood improvement project or activity in 2024, we invited you to enter the 2025 Neighborhood of the Year Award competition.

Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Awards are given in three (3) categories:

1. **Physical Revitalization/Beautification (Single Neighborhood)** Projects that focus on physical aspects of improving your neighborhood such as parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, green spaces and business district enhancements.
2. **Social Revitalization/Neighborliness (Single Neighborhood)** Projects focusing on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood like safety, youth and/or senior programs, and activities that make neighbors feel connected and foster neighbors working together like an ice cream social, holiday celebration, or festival.
3. **Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships** Projects produced in partnership by at least two neighborhoods or community organizations addressing either physical or social concerns.





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

NOTY - Finalists



Physical Revitalization/Beautification (Single Neighborhood)

- Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Community Garden, Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Development, Indianapolis, IN
- Eastcore Linear Park, 3Sixty, Holland, MI
- Lake Como Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Master Plan, Lake Como Neighborhood Association, Fort Worth, TX
- Traditional (non-HOA) Neighborhood Grants, City of Peoria, Peoria, AR
- Lacrosse Neighborhood Annual Events, Lacrosse Neighborhood, Renton, WA

Social Revitalization / Neighborliness (Single Neighborhood)

- Estates Patriotic Celebration, Firewheel Estates Homeowners Association, Garland, TX
- Historic Kenwood Community Care-Hurricane Relief Efforts 2024, Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association (HKNA) St. Petersburg, FL
- Keeping History Alive Juneteenth Celebration, Rosehill Neighborhood Improvement Association and The Scholars of Texarkana, Texarkana, TX

Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships

- Neighborhood Leadership Network (NLN), The City of Waco Neighborhood Engagement Department





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

Best Neighborhood Program Award



Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) Award

The Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) award program recognizes the outstanding work of governmental entities, businesses, or corporations in the United States who work to improve the quality of life in their communities and neighborhoods, including efforts to support neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic and increase equity and access throughout their neighborhood and city.

If your organization completed a neighborhood improvement project or activity in 2024 we invite you to enter the Best Neighborhood Program Award competition and bring national attention to the program that makes your community a better place to live.

Last year's finalists included a matching grant program, a neighborhood involvement and community engagement program and celebration, and a neighborhood leadership academy.

There are two categories for the Best Neighborhood Program award:

1. Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Programs that focus on physical aspects of improving your neighborhood such as parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, green spaces, and business district enhancements.
2. Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Programs that focus on physical aspects of improving your neighborhood such as parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, green spaces, and business district enhancements.
3. Social Revitalization/Neighborliness - Programs focusing on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood like safety, youth and/or senior programs, activities that make neighbors feel connected and foster neighbors working together on programs like an ice cream social, holiday celebration or festival.





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) Award - Finalists

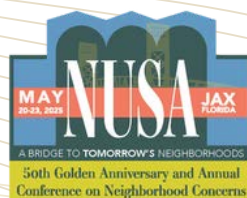
Physical Revitalization/Beautification

- The City of Waco Neighborhood Grant Program, The City of Waco Neighborhood Engagement Department
- The Tool Depot, City of Round Rock, Texas



Social Revitalization/Neighborliness

- Neighborhood Leadership Academy, University of Missouri Extension, Republic, MO
- Books N' Cops, Pasadena, California Police Department
- Coffee and Conversation, City and Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale, FL
- YES Intern Program, City of Monrovia, CA
- City of Monrovia, CA Neighborhood Treasures Program
- The City of Waco, TX Neighborhood Grant Program
- SGF Kickball, Springfield, MO
- Historic Kenwood Community Care-Hurricane Relief Efforts 2024, St. Petersburg, FL
- Peanut Butter Food Drive HOA Competition, The City of Anna, TX
- Neighborhood Appreciation Day, North Hills Neighborhood Pride Association, El Paso, TX
- City of Chandler's Pueblo Viejo Cesar Chavez Celebration: A Model for Community Engagement and Revitalization, City of Chandler, Neighborhood Programs, Chandler, AZ
- The Social Programs Neighborhood Signs, Old West End Neighborhood Association, Muncie, IN





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Neighborhood Newsletter Competition (NNC)

Community newsletters are an effective communication tool to share news about your city, community, and neighborhood. A well-designed newsletter can spark interest in neighborhood involvement, increase membership in neighborhood associations, and encourage volunteerism.

The Neighborhood Newsletter Competition Awards excellence in community newsletters and given in two (2) categories/subcategories:

- **Print Format Newsletters**
- **Electronic Format Newsletters**



NNC Finalists Print Format

- JWN News, Jefferson Westside Neighbors, Eugene Oregon
- ELDO News, El Dorado Park Estates Neighborhood Association, Long Beach, CA
- News from the Neighborhood, Belmont Heights Community Association, Long Beach, CA
- Historic Kenwood LIVE, Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association, St. Petersburg, FL

NNC Electronic Format

- Engaged Neighbor Newsletter, University of Missouri Extension, Republic, MO
- Jefferson Westside Neighbors eNews, Jefferson Westside Neighbors, Eugene, OR
- The Knightly News, Camelot Neighborhood Association, Inc., Garland, TX
- Neighborhood Engagement Neighborhood Newsletter, City of Waco Neighborhood Engagement Department, Waco, TX
- The Courtyards on the Hyatt Community Newsletter, Courtyards on the Hyatts Condo Association, Powell, OH
- The Magnolia News, Magnolia Point Community Association, Green Cove Springs, FL





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2025 NUSA Board Nominees



DAVID BURTON - REPUBLIC, MISSOURI

Since creating the Engaged Neighbor program in 2019, David has become a thought leader for the neighboring movement in Missouri and beyond. His popular Neighboring 101 class has participants from 36 states. His Engaged Neighbor newsletter has over 6,000 subscribers nationwide. He is a sought after speaker on neighboring because his stories come from real, practical experience in his own neighborhood. David is also a researcher on topics related to neighboring with several University publications scheduled to be out in 2025. In addition to the regular articles and blog posts(we-are-neighbors.blogspot.com) he writes about neighboring.

David also writes about neighboring for two regional newspapers.



JOYCE COX - MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Her deep sense of purpose has inspired her work with communities. Foundational lessons taught by her mother are constant reminders, “She taught me to put Jesus first, others second, and myself last. It is not all about you; it is about who you help and serve. Only what you do for Christ will last.”

This teaching has not only shaped her name but has profoundly influenced her approach to community service and leadership.

Her journey into public service began in the banking sector, where she managed foreclosures for the retail credit division. In this role, she witnessed the harsh realities that many families face while trying to find stable housing. However, a transition to the city’s down payment assistance program unveiled a different opportunity and the chance to help families fulfill their dreams of homeownership.

“When I joined the down payment assistance division, I saw people able to get housing who otherwise wouldn’t have been able to afford it.”

This shift from managing foreclosures to facilitating homeownership marked a pivotal change in her career trajectory. “By the time I left, we had helped over 13,000 families secure housing,” she adds, highlighting the significant impact that a focused department can have community empowerment.





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

2025 NUSA Board Nominees



VALORIE DUVALL - LUBBOCK, TEXAS

I am eager to contribute to the NUSA Board of Directors, bringing a strong commitment to community service and years of professional experience. With a background in community development I have developed skills in leadership, strategic planning, and collaboration which will be valuable in supporting NUSA's mission. I am actively involved in the Lubbock Community where I work to foster connections and create positive change. I am confident that my diverse experience coupled with my enthusiasm for community engagement will allow me to effectively serve on the Board and contribute to NUSA's continued success.



ELTON GATEWOOD - FIRCREST, WASHINGTON

I have been an active member of NUSA since 1978 and have demonstrated my commitment and dedication to the organization and membership by encouraging broader representation, civic engagement and participations, national and international outreach, inclusiveness and building stronger neighborhoods and communities, from the ground up together.

As the longest standing member of NUSA, I have always attempted to be an asset to the organization, and hope to continue to be an asset. I hope to offer a historical perspective of the foundation upon which the organization was founded, share a historic perspective, assist in strengthening the organization, and act as a mentor for future generations of neighborhood activists and professionals.



DEBBIE LIGHTBOURN - NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Being from the Bahamas it's an honor to promote/network NUSA, with Caribbean and USA NUSA Board Member 2022-2024 running for re-election. Active in NUSA Board and Committee meetings with 100% attendance. 2024 Bahamas Distinguished Service Medal Honoree by Governor General for National Service. 2023 Bahamas Red Cross Platinum Awardee for Service Contributions. Promoted in 2024 as In Flight Service Manager for Bahamas air - National Airlines of the Bahamas. President of the Jubilee Gardens Neighborhood Watch for over 6 years with NUSA award. Board of Director Member - Bahamas Public Park and Beach Authority. Disaster Manager and First Aid/ CPR Instructor with Bahamas Red Cross. - First Aid/CPR/AED Skills at NUSA Workshops, to promote Community First Aid/Saving Lives.





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

2025 NUSA Board Nominees



TONY OLDEN - MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

As a member of the NUSA Board of directors, I will continue to show strong commitment and professionalism to our members and fellow board members. With my ability to collaborate with stakeholders, community members, government officials. My skills and experience will be a great asset to the NUSA Board.



DORA SIMS - BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

My passion and membership began with NUSA in 1995 when the City of Birmingham served as the Host city for the conference. I have attended all conferences except 5. I ran for the Board (2019) in Palm Springs because I believe in NUSA's mission. In 2023, I led our community to win 2nd Place in the Multi-Neighborhood Category. I have served on the board as Chair, Board Development for the past 2 years to inform, educate and equip board members to serve as effective leaders of NUSA. I am committed to uplifting and amplifying NUSA's mission to serve its members and affiliates groups connecting our neighborhoods and communities both national/international.



KENO WONG - NASSAU, BAHAMAS

As a dedicated member of Neighborhoods USA from May of 2019 I am excited to seek election to the Board of Directors. With my experience as Parliamentarian on the NUSA Executive Board I have developed a deep understanding of Robert's Rules of Order ensuring efficient and productive meetings.

My passion for community development and neighborhood involvement aligns perfectly with NUSA's mission to build and strengthen neighborhood associations.

I have consistently demonstrated my ability to foster collaboration and communication among stakeholders, and I am confident that my skills and expertise make me an asset to the board. I look forward to continuing my work with NUSA and contributing to the growth and success of our organization.





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

Welcome From Mayor Deegan



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DONNA DEEGAN
MAYOR

CITY HALL SUITE 400
117 W. DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Jacksonville, it is my distinct honor to welcome you to our vibrant community for the 50th “Golden” Anniversary of the Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Conference. We are thrilled to host this historic gathering and to celebrate five decades of NUSA’s dedication to strengthening neighborhoods, fostering collaboration, and empowering communities across the nation—and now, around the world.

Jacksonville is a city like no other. As the largest city by land area in the contiguous United States, we are home to a rich tapestry of neighborhoods, each with its own unique character, history, and aspirations. Our commitment to innovation and community-driven solutions is reflected in the creation of Jacksonville’s Neighborhoods Department, ensuring that our residents have a direct line to resources, support, and opportunities for growth.

This year’s conference is particularly special, as we take NUSA beyond its national roots and onto the international stage. Thanks to the invaluable partnerships between the City of Jacksonville, Visit Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Sports and Entertainment Division, and our Sister Cities program, we welcome delegations from across the globe, fostering new connections and exchanging ideas that will shape the future of neighborhood advocacy and engagement.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and support of our corporate sponsors and local partners, whose investment in this conference underscores their commitment to strong, thriving communities. To all our sponsors, presenters, and volunteers, thank you for helping make this event a resounding success.

As you explore Jacksonville, I encourage you to experience the warmth and hospitality of our people, the beauty of our riverfront, and the energy of our growing downtown. Whether you’re attending workshops, networking with fellow community leaders, or discovering what makes Jacksonville unique, I hope this conference inspires and empowers you in your work.

Welcome to Jacksonville and best wishes for a productive and memorable NUSA 2025 Conference!

Sincerely,


Donna Deegan
Mayor

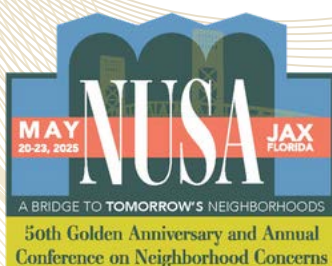


NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary



NUSA Jacksonville Conference Coordinator

Thomas B. Waters, City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods
Department, Director
NUSAJAX2025@coj.net





NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

Jacksonville, FL. NUSA Conference Committee

Thomas B. Waters, City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods Department, Director

Schnell Chin-McCloud, Executive Administrative Assistant

Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services, Manager

Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Daniel Nasr, Finance, Manager

Sandi Assidy, Finance Analyst

Jimmie Carter, Consumer Affairs, Manager

Terrance Jones, Consumer Affairs, Investigator

Travis Jeffrey, Housing and Community Development, Chief

Melissa M. Long, P.E., Environmental Quality, Chief

Thomas Register, Municipal Code Compliance, Chief

Randy Wishard, Mosquito Control, Chief

Alex Alston, City of Jacksonville Sports and Entertainment Department, Executive Director

Mercedes Parker, Executive Assistant

Jennifer Malice-Kelly, Finance

Daryl Joseph, City of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department, Director

Kara Tucker, Disabled Services, Chief

Garrett Callis, Parks Community Programs, Manager,

Michael Corrigan, Visit Jacksonville, President

Jeanne Goldschmidt, Convention Sales, Director

Courtney Gumbinger, Destination Experiences, Director

Bob Doering, Senior National Accounts, Manager

Katie Mitura, Marketing Officer, Chief

Jorie Allinson, Destination Experience, Manager

Jim Pritchard, Prime Osborn Convention Center, Director

Whitney Mayze, Sales, Manager

Olivia Abromeit, ASM Global, Event Coordinator

**Thank you to each committee member for your incredible dedication, hard work,
and creativity in ensuring the vision came to fruition.**





Mayor Donna Deegan, Mayor of Jacksonville Florida

Mayor Donna Deegan is the 45th mayor of the City of Jacksonville, Florida, and the 9th mayor since the City's consolidation in 1968. She is a fifth-generation Jacksonville native who loves the city with all her heart. Mayor Deegan was an award-winning local television news anchor who shared the stories of people living in every corner of Jacksonville. A three-time breast cancer survivor, she founded the DONNA Foundation and 26.2 with DONNA: The National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer to support families facing the disease and fund groundbreaking research. As mayor, she is focused on infrastructure, public health, and economic development to build a city that works for all of us.



Booker T. Washington, Founder & CEO, Techie Homes, Inc.

Booker T. Washington, a visionary real estate developer and investor, boasts exceptional leadership and creativity. With roots in Tuskegee, Alabama, and over three decades in Atlanta, he draws inspiration from the Tuskegee Airmen's legacy. Booker Founded historic South Park Cottages in 2021 and Techie Homes Inc. in 2023. These companies, valued at \$10 million in investments, are renowned for their meticulous attention to detail and innovative construction methods. Washington's corporate management background underscores his profound understanding of the real estate industry, positioning him as a trailblazer in metropolitan and urban development landscapes.



Jennifer Prophete, Director of The Hopeful Neighborhood Project

The Hopeful Neighborhood Project is dedicated to helping everyday neighbors pursue the common good, right where they live. Jennifer has spent 20 years working in the fields of urban education, community development, and non-profit leadership. As a native of rural Nebraska, she grew up with a strong sense of the power of community. Her desire to live in community, no matter the neighborhood context, has been a driving force in her life and work.



Jason Peoples, Executive Director of Jacksonville Arts & Music School

Jason Peoples is the Executive Director of the Jacksonville Arts & Music School. With an impressive background as a decorated United States Army military veteran, college graduate, artist, and former athlete, Mr. Peoples is the embodiment of a Renaissance man. He is known for his ability to think creatively and analytically, to think with, as he calls it, "B.I.G."—Bold Innovative Goals in mind.



Pre-Conference At-A-Glance

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Registration	Prime Osborn Convention Center	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Exhibitor Set-Up	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 4:00 pm
NUSA Board Meeting	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Lunch and Dinner on Your Own		
Welcome Reception : Mayors Welcome/COJ Neighborhood & Matching Grant Awards	Prime Osborn Convention Center	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Conference At-A-Glance

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Opening Breakfast	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 9:30 am
Registration	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 4:00 pm
NUSA Judging Presentation	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Exhibits	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Workshops Sessions 1	Prime Osborn Convention Center	9:45 am - 11:00 am
Workshop Sessions 2	Prime Osborn Convention Center	11:15 am - 12:30 pm
Lunch on Your Own		12:30 pm - 1:45 pm
Workshop Sessions 3	Prime Osborn Convention Center	2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Workshop Sessions 4	Prime Osborn Convention Center	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Dinner on Your Own		5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Grand Bahamas Night in Jacksonville Event (Canapes)	Prime Osborn Convention Center	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Breakfast and Best Neighborhood Award	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 9:30 am
NUSA Board Election	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
NUSA Judging Presentation	Prime Osborn Convention Center	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Exhibits	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Neighborhood Pride Tours/NUSA COJ Habijax House Community Service Project/Emerald Trail Walk	Prime Osborn Convention Center	9:45 am - 1:30 pm
Lunch on Your Own During The Tour	Tour Locations	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Workshops Sessions 5	Prime Osborn Convention Center	1:45 pm - 3:00 pm
Workshops Sessions 6	Prime Osborn Convention Center	3:15 pm - 4:30 pm
Exhibitor Tear Down	Prime Osborn Convention Center	4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Jax Style Fun at Friendship Fountain - Dinner on Your Own	1015 Museum Circle	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Friday, May 23, 2025

Breakfast on Your Own		
General Membership Meeting	Prime Osborn Convention Center	8:30 am - 10:30 am
Closing Luncheon and Neighborhood of the Year Award	Prime Osborn Convention Center	11:00 am - 1:00 pm
NUSA Board Meeting	Prime Osborn Convention Center	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Tours number 7, 8, 9, and 10 will take place weather permitting.
Tour number 6 is wheelchair accessible.



Conference Events

NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary



Opening Breakfast and Best Neighborhood Awards

Rise and dine with us. We'd like to welcome you to the wonderful City of Jacksonville.



Neighborhood Pride Tour - Habijax NUSA House Build
Come prepared to have a great time while making a difference by assisting with a Habitat build. No prior construction experience is needed, just a great attitude and the ability to follow instructions. Safety is our number one priority. Jewelry, loose-fitting clothing, and items that could contribute to an accident are discouraged. Wear sturdy, close-toed shoes. Dress according to the weather, such as sunscreen and a hat.



Wednesday Night - Grand Bahamas Night in Jacksonville
Come mix and mingle while experiencing the sounds and taste of the Caribbean during Jacksonville's mini Junkanoo celebration.



A Jacksonville-Style Night of Fun at Friendship Fountain
Thursday, May 22, 2025, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., 1015 Museum Circle, Jacksonville, Florida

As it is the final evening of the conference, we would be delighted if you would join us along the south bank of the St. Johns River for an entertaining night at Friendship Fountain. Friends, new and old, will gather for outdoor festivities of games, music, food trucks, and the spectacular views of Jacksonville's downtown riverfront. You do not want to miss the fountain's choreographed display of colored lights and water set to music. We hope to see you there.

Weather Permitting



Jacksonville Jazz Festival Begins Friday Night

The Jacksonville Jazz Fest, a standout event since its inception in 1981, is not just one of the largest free jazz fests in the country, but also a unique celebration of music and culture. This Memorial Day Weekend, from May 23rd-25th 2025, immerse yourself in the magic of jazz under the night sky, with outstanding performers and a vibrant atmosphere. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and be part of this spectacular event.

Fun Things to do in Jacksonville - Pre & Post Conference



The Jacksonville Jazz Festival is back for Memorial Day Weekend in Downtown Jacksonville, Florida
May 22 – 25, 2025
Scan the QR Code for details

829 Riverside Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32204
Monday CLOSED Tuesday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday NOON - 4PM

CUMMER MUSEUM



Friendship Fountain

1015 Museum Cir.,
Jacksonville, FL 32207

The fountain will be flowing from 8:00 am to 10 pm daily

Light Showtimes are 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 pm nightly.

1025 Museum Circle
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday CLOSED
<https://themosh.org/visit/>



Tuesday-Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday CLOSED

1st & 3rd Wed 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Museum
Nights

370 Zoo Parkway
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Daily Admission: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Last entry at 4:30 p.m.

Open daily excluding Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.



Visit Jacksonville Recommendations NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary



Scan QR Code For Details

HERE ARE OUR 19 EXPERIENCES YOU CAN'T LEAVE JACKSONVILLE WITHOUT TRYING:

1. Riding the St. Johns River Taxi and Tours - it's not just for transportation, it's the best and most affordable way to book a tour to see Jacksonville from the water – and one of the prettiest ways too!
 2. Visiting one of our museums. From the history of the beaches, to our city history, African-American history, to ancient art, we have it all.
 3. Following the Jax Ale Trail and have a beer at one of our hometown craft breweries.
 4. Eating some Mayport Shrimp from one of our many local fish camps! They catch it off our coast in the historic Mayport Village. Try it from Palms Fish Camp, Safe Harbor Seafood Market and Restaurant or Singleton's Seafood Shack just to name a few.
 5. Exploring Black Rock Beach or any one of our over 400 national, state and city parks.
 6. Eating a big breakfast – We love hometown favorites Maple Street Biscuit Company and Metro Diner, but there are so many more AMAZING breakfast spots.
 7. Enjoying the waves and learning to surf or paddleboard.
 8. Watching the sunrise along our 22 miles of beaches. Boneyard Beach in Big Talbot Island is a must for the perfect sunrise pic.
 9. Touring our historic neighborhoods – Riverside, Avondale, San Marco, Springfield and Murray Hill.
 10. Checking out the awesome public art scene – there are murals and sculptures everywhere you look in Downtown Jax.
 11. Visiting the iconic Friendship Fountain.
 12. Getting your sweet on at Sweet Pete's or Peterbrooke Chocolate.
 13. Going for a sunset stroll down the RiverWalk in Downtown and spotting some dolphins and manatees.
 14. Enjoying a cocktail at one of our rooftop bars overlooking the river or the ocean.
 15. Visiting Congaree and Penn and taking a tour of the farm. Check their website for tour schedule.
 16. Jacksonville and its surrounding areas boast world-class golf courses for every level of play in beautiful ocean-side and riverfront settings. It's easy to golf here.
 17. Catching a Sports Game - Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, Jacksonville Icemen, Jacksonville Jaguars, Jacksonville Axemen.
 18. Visiting an Animal Attraction - The Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens and The Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary.
 19. Shopping local at Riverside Arts Market on Saturdays from 10-3 p.m. or at one of the monthly Art Walks you can find throughout Jacksonville.
- Your paragraph text

Jacksonville Weather in May **NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary**



www.weather-atlas.com

In May, the city fully embraces spring, with generally pleasant weather conditions, clear skies, and longer days.

Temperature

May's arrival brings a slight change in high temperatures, adjusting from 80.1°F (26.7°C) in April to a still moderately hot 85.5°F (29.7°C). During the nights in May, Jacksonville experiences a consistent average temperature of 68°F (20°C).

Humidity

The average relative humidity in May in Jacksonville is 70%.

Rainfall

In May, rain falls for 12.9 days, accumulating 2.09" (53mm) of precipitation. Throughout the year, there are 172.6 rainfall days, accumulating 25.35" (644mm) of precipitation.

Ocean temperature

Jacksonville, Florida's average water temperature in May is 74.8°F (23.8°C).

Sunshine

In May, the average sunshine is 10.7h.

UV index

The months with the highest UV index are May through August, with an average maximum UV index of 7.

Updated: Aug 30, 2024 Published by: Weather Atlas

A

Crime, Safety, Security & Re-entry in our Communities

In the City of Jacksonville, we understand that safety, security, and reducing crime levels are essential to nurturing a safe living environment for our residents. Workshops will focus on multiple initiatives, groups, citizens, etc., enacted with the goal of fighting crime and/or maintaining cities and youth safety.

B

Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation

Initiatives have been undertaken to beautify, revitalize & preserve neighborhoods all over the United States. Thanks to these initiatives, we are seeing many beautiful, clean, evolving and dynamic neighborhoods. Workshops will focus on describing the beauty, revitalization & preservation of one's neighborhood(s), and highlight how these successes are achievable.

C

Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles

Addressing neighborhoods essential needs regarding quality of life for all neighbors. Highlighted topics will include accessibility for direct groups including, but not limited to the workforce, veteran's services, mature, accessibility, youth, and unhoused. Topics include food accessibility, commerce, employment and housing needs.

D

Neighborhood Enhancement, Education & Technology

More communities use technology and data to keep their neighborhoods informed and empowered. Workshops will include educational opportunities, technology innovations, and connectivity empowerment.

E

Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success

Leading a neighborhood association requires skills in planning, advocacy, facilitation, conflict resolution, event management and much more. Workshops will focus on programs for leadership development, advocacy, neighbor to neighbor based training, and ways that one can gain skills and abilities to effectively lead.



F

Highlighting Multicultural Communities, Celebrations & Creativity

Neighborhoods and communities often celebrate and empower others while promoting culture, language, arts, and traditions. Workshops will feature embracing multicultural celebrations and creative immersion within neighborhoods.

G

Neighborhood Environment, Sustainability & Resiliency

Neighborhoods throughout the world are impacted by unforeseen environmental disasters, natural hazards, and environmental development challenges every day. Workshops will focus on the importance of preparedness, protection, and resiliency to potential challenges.

H

Foundations of Homeownership

Affordable housing is the foundation of healthy communities. This track will focus on the affordable homeownership journey, which is the key to affordable living and unlocking affordable housing options. The dynamic from vacant to vibrant communities can be accomplished through affordable housing. Additionally, homelessness, emergency shelters, outreach to individuals who are homeless, and options to prevent homelessness will be covered.

I

NUSA Workshops

Learn more information about the NUSA organization. Attend workshops on running for the NUSA Board, connecting via social media, or becoming an affiliate member.

J

Non-Profits/Local Government/Local Neighborhoods

This workshop will focus on the best practices in the city of Jacksonville.



Workshops at a Glance		
Workshop Session 1: Wednesday 9:45 AM to 11:00 AM		
PROGRAM TRACKS	WKSH #	WORKSHOP TITLE
A: Crime, Safety, Security & Re-entry in our Communities	A.1	A Bridge to Tomorrow's Neighborhood: An Enhancement to Crime, Safety & Security <i>Camika Jerido (904) 566-9238 info@usaunlimited.org</i>
B: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation	B.1	Preserving Heritage and Cultivating Beauty: Strategies for Neighborhood Revitalization in Jacksonville's Historic Eastside <i>Ariane L. Randolph (786) 393-0091 arianerandolph@me.com</i>
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.1	CHW's Affect Change: Improved Family and Neighborhood Maternal and Child Health Outcomes <i>Beverly Butler (904) 575-5297 bbutler@nefhsc.org</i>
D: Neighborhood Enhancement, Education, & Technology	D.1	Parents Who Lead: Parents as Community Leaders & Advocates <i>Latrice Carmichael (904) 466-1653 tlatricecarmichael@gmail.com</i>
D: Neighborhood Enhancement, Education, & Technology	D.1.2	Using Data to Improve Neighborhoods <i>Andrew Kieve (800) 535-2329 https://www.tolemi.com/</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.1	A Destination for Youth Transformation: Reimagining Community Programming for Youth <i>Jason Peoples (904) 480-6919 Jason@jamslife.org</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.1.2	Building Neighborhood Capacity: Strategic Planning for Small Neighborhood Organizations <i>Michael Haskins (904) 353-7727 sparoffice@sparcouncil.org</i>
G: Neighborhood Environment, Sustainability & Resiliency	G.1	Community Driven Resilience: Preparing for Disasters in East Aldine <i>Shirley Ronquillo (713) 396-2436 houdortr@gmail.com</i>
G: Neighborhood Environment, Sustainability & Resiliency	G.1.2	Open Street Boise: A Model for Collaborative Placemaking and Community Engagement <i>Nicole Carr (208) 805-2170 NCarr@Cityofboise.org</i>
Workshop Session 2: Wednesday 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM		
A: Crime, Safety, Security & Re-entry in our Communities	A.2	Long Beach Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) <i>Laura Reimer (562) 570-5610 Laura.Reimer@longbeach.gov</i>
B: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation	B.2	Rethinking How Local Governments Address Code Violations <i>Jason Reynolds (407) 836-5547 Jason.Reynolds@ocfl.net</i>
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.2	From Soil to Soul: Strengthening Community Resilience Through Food Security <i>Dr. Laureen Husband (352) 284-0211 Lhusband@Feedingnefl.org</i>
D: Neighborhood Enhancement, Education & Technology	D.2	Many Cultures, One Bright Future: The Evolution of Pine Hills, FL <i>Lavon Banks Williams Lavon.Williams@ocfl.net</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.2.1	Neighborhood Planning: Organizing Your Neighborhood for Improvements <i>Dr. Elton Gatewood (253) 473-1458 egatewood@aol.com</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.2.2	Cultivating Resident Leaders and Empowering Communities <i>Jillian Driscoll Jillian.Driscoll@talgov.com</i>

Workshops at a Glance

NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.2.3	Leading the Way: The Impact and Success of the iLead Interactive Neighborhood Training Program in Creating Strong Associations <i>Cindy B. Light (407) 246-3245 Cindy.Light@orlando.gov</i>
F: Highlighting Multicultural Communities, Celebrations & Creativity	F.2	National Good Neighbor Day: Creating Change Through Celebration <i>Jennifer Prophete (833) 343-1509 Jennifer@hopefulneighborhood.org</i>
G: Neighborhood Environment, Sustainability & Resiliency	G.2	Beverly Reimagined: Empowering Communities Through Connection and Collaboration <i>Jaylon Scott (903) 798-1779 jaylon.scott@texarkanatexas.gov</i>
J: Non-profits/Local Government/Local Neighborhoods	J.2	Spark the Block: Activating the Advocate in Every Neighbor <i>Dr. Rahman K. Johnson (904) 613-6820 Rahman@coj.net</i>

Workshops at a Glance

Workshop Session 3 Wednesday 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

A: Crime, Safety, Security & Re-entry in our Communities	A.3	Life After Prison: The Challenges of Reintegration Back into the Community <i>Dwight Pridgeon (501) 371-4476 dpridgeon@littlerock.gov</i>
B: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation	B.3	Love Your Block Grant Program: Inspiring Grassroots Change Through Civic Engagement and Innovation <i>Renata Campante (617) 335-1441 renata.campante@jhu.edu</i>
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.3	Collaboration is Key: Building a Youth Workforce Program Through Strategic Partnerships <i>T. Marie King (205) 401-7982 L.marie@jvtf.org</i>
D: Neighborhood Enhancement, Education, & Technology	D.3	Grant and Proposal Writing Made Simple <i>Dr. Elton Gatewood (253) 473-1458 egatewood@aol.com</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.3.2	Skills and Strategies to Successfully Advocate for Your Neighborhood <i>Jason Reynolds (407) 836-5547 Jason.Reynolds@ocfl.net</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.3.1	Empowering Community with a Neighborhood Leadership Academy <i>David Burton (417) 848-3442 burtond@missouri.edu</i>
F: Highlighting Multicultural Communities, Celebrations & Creativity	F.3	Tallahassee Proud: Celebrating Neighbors and Neighborhoods <i>Connie E. Jenkins-Pye (850) 891-8765 Connie.Jenkins-Pye@talqov.com</i>
G: Neighborhood Environment, Sustainability & Resiliency	G.3	Building Resilience Together: The Inspiring Recovery of the Beverly Neighborhood <i>Vashil Fernandez (903) 798-3904 Vashil.fernandez@texarkanatexas.gov</i>
H: Foundations of Homeownership	H.3	Empowering Homeowners: Strategies for Financial Stability and Homeownership Preservation <i>Carrie Davis CarrieDavis@wealthwatchersfl.com</i>



Workshop Session 4: Wednesday 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM		
A: Crime, Safety, Security & Re-entry in our Communities	A.4	Phoenix Cares About Neighborhoods Greg Gonzales (480) 229-4786 gregory.s.gonzales@phoenix.gov
B: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation	B.4.1	Neighborhood Revitalization Through Tool Lending Joseph Brehm (512) 341-3148 jbrehm@RoundRockTexas.gov
B: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation	B.4.2	John G. Riley Park: Transforming Public Spaces with Community Input Jillian Driscoll, (850) 354-1926 Jillian.Driscoll@talqov.com
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.4.2	Neighborhood Commons: Building Bridges to Tomorrow's Connected and Resilient Communities Dr. Laureen Husband (352) 284-0211 Lhusband@Feedingnefl.org
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.4.1	Creating Healthy Futures by Expanding Infrastructure that Supports Healthy Lifestyles Dr. Lisa K. Staten (317) 278-3068 lkstaten@iu.edu
D: Neighborhood Enhancement, Education, & Technology	D.4	Community Transformation to Live Better Longer Marlo Zarka (904) 307-2769 Marlo@BlueZones.com
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.4	Authentic Allyship: Building Inclusive Leadership and Skills for Thriving Neighborhoods Kimara Snipes (402) 819-0830 kimara@oneomaha.org
F: Highlighting Multicultural Communities, Celebrations & Creativity	F.4	Understanding and Connecting with Hispanic Neighborhoods Rene Aguilera (279) 842-0443 Rene.Aguilera2020@gmail.com
G: Neighborhood Environment, Sustainability and Resiliency	G.4	Cultivating Relationships to Prepare for the Unexpected: Lessons from the Adopt-A-Southside Neighborhood Initiative Danielle Baxter (850) 354-1603 Danielle.Baxter@talqov.com

Workshops at a Glance		
Workshop Session 5: Thursday 1:45 PM – 3:00 PM		
A: Crime, Safety, Security & Re-entry in our Communities	A.5	Bridge the Gap to Achieve Collaborative Success Susana Porras (626) 710-6078 susanaporras@cityofpasadena.net
B: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation	B.5	Beautify and Strengthen: Collaborative Approaches to Neighborhood Renewal Lauren Prekop (407) 664-3077 lauren.prekop@ocfl.net
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.5.2	The Bridge to Tomorrow's Quality of Life is Transportation Brooklyn Holton (509) 630-5529 connect@firmfoundationscc.com
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.5.1	Neighborhood Resources, Bridging Gaps in Our Community, One Need at A Time Priscella Quintana (480) 262-7361 Priscilla.quintana@chandleraz.gov
D: Neighborhood Enhancement, Education, & Technology	D.5	Developing Neighborhood Leadership Excellence with John Maxwell's "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader" David Burton (417) 848-3442 burtond@missouri.edu

Workshops at a Glance

NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.5.1	Fostering Neighborhood Leadership and Engagement to Promote Community Change <i>John Doherty (850) 901-5208 John.doherty@talgov.com</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.5.2	Discovering the Gifts of Your Neighborhood <i>Jennifer Prophete (314) 614-5210 Jennifer@hopefulneighborhood.org</i>
J: Non-profits/Local Government/Local Neighborhoods	J.5	Securing Generational Wealth: Jax's Collaborative Approach to Preventing Heirs Property Challenges <i>Carrie Davis CarrieDavis@wealthwatchersfl.com</i>
Workshop Session 6: Thursday, 3:15 PM to 4:30 PM		
A: Crime, Safety, & Security & Re-entry in our Communities	A.6	Foster Partnerships for Inclusive Community Engagement <i>Dr. Pam Peoples-Joyner (336) 773-7962 pjoyner@wspd.org</i>
B: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation	B.6.1	Refreshing Grassroots Neighborhood Empowerment Program Through Program Evaluation <i>Daniel A. Kilponen (407) 836-7371 Daniel.Kilponen@ocfl.net</i>
B: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation	B.6.2	Community Place Making <i>Tamara P. Johnson (407) 836-5620 Tamara.Johnson@ocfl.net</i>
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.6.2	Getting People Out and About Their Neighborhood <i>Matt Evans (801) 860-5885 matt@outabout.org</i>
C: Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles	C.6.1	From Camper to Colleagues – Growing Our Own Talent Through PYD Programs and Community Connection <i>Kim Brown (864) 266-1617 kbrown@cityofspartanburg.org</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.6.1	Tell Your Story to Engage Neighbors & Funders <i>Joyce Cox (901) 636-6982 joyce.cox@memphistn.gov</i>
E: Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success	E.6.2	The Lenses We Wear: Perspective Transformation for Leadership <i>Annie Rodriguez (904) 415-0378 Rodriguez@equityconsultingnetwork.com</i>
G: Neighborhood Environment, Sustainability & Resiliency	G.6	Engage, Empower, Evolve: Funding Community Initiatives- Partnership Engagement Fund-City of Minneapolis <i>Ariah Fine (612) 673-2243 ariah.fine@minneapolismn.gov</i>
H: Foundations of Homeownership	H.6	Financial Coaching for Prosperity: Elevating Your Financial Coaching Approach <i>Chaikirah Parker Chaikirah.parker@tlcsunshinefinancial.org</i>
I: NUSA Board	I	NUSA - Running for The NUSA Board



WORKSHOP SELECTIONS NUSA JAX 2025 50TH ANNIVERSARY

- ❖ **Track A:** Crime, Safety, Security & Re-entry in our Communities
- ❖ **Track B:** Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization & Preservation
- ❖ **Track C:** Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles
- ❖ **Track D:** Neighborhood Enhancement, Education & Technology
- ❖ **Track E:** Building & Developing Neighborhood Leadership & Skills for Success
- ❖ **Track F:** Highlighting Multicultural Communities, Celebrations & Creativity
- ❖ **Track G:** Neighborhood Environment, Sustainability & Resiliency
- ❖ **Track H:** Foundations of Homeownership
- ❖ **Track I:** NUSA Workshops
- ❖ **Track J:** Non-profits/Local Government/Local Neighborhoods

Example: A.5 = Track A, Session 5

Crime, Safety, Security & Re-entry in our Comm.

A.1 A Bridge to Tomorrow's Neighborhood: An Enhancement to Crime, Safety & Security

The future of our neighborhoods will be shaped by how we address the challenges of crime, safety, and security. This proposal outlines a comprehensive approach to bridging the gap in tomorrow's neighborhood by implementing effective strategies to enhance crime prevention, safety measures, and security protocols.

Presenters:

Camika Jerido, PhD, USA Unlimited Inc., Founder
Carlos Dillion, USA Unlimited Inc.
Jacksonville, FL

A.2 Long Beach Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

The Long Beach Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program is coordinated by the City Prosecutor's Office in partnership with the Police Department, the Health Department, and local nonprofit organizations. LEAD is a pre-arrest diversion program that allows law enforcement officers in the field to connect individuals to social workers for shelter, mental health, and substance abuse programs.

Presenters:

Laura Reimer, Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office
Doug Haubert, Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office
Tracy Hall, Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office
Long Beach, CA

A.3 Life After Prison/The Challenges of Reintegration Back into the Community

Upon release from prison, individuals who the justice system has impacted face numerous challenges. From securing housing and employment to reconnecting with families and avoiding old, destructive habits, the path to reintegration can seem overwhelming. The City of Little Rock's Reentry Program is specifically designed to address these challenges by providing support and resources to those recently released.

Presenters:

Dwight Pridgeon, NUSA Board Vice President
Shanika Jones, Assistant
Little Rock, AR

A.4 Phoenix Cares About Neighborhoods

Learn how amazing partnerships and collaborations with numerous city departments and agencies can deliver invaluable resources to change the community positively. Through establishing programs such as the Gated Alley Program, Phoenix C.A.R.E.S., and Private Property Clean-up, the City of Phoenix could demonstrate to communities that they were addressing their concerns.

Presenters:

Greg Gonzales, City of Phoenix, Neighborhood Services Department, Economic Development Program Manager
Lisa Hubbard, City of Phoenix, Neighborhood Services Department, Special Projects Administrator
Phoenix, AZ

A.5 Bridging the Gap to Achieve Collaborative Success

Neighborhoods are a community's life force, contributing to a city's distinct and diverse character. Learn to maximize resources and achieve success through thoughtful collaboration among agencies, nonprofit organizations, and city departments, improving community relations, safety, and the

WORKSHOP SELECTIONS NUSA JAX 2025 50TH ANNIVERSARY

dissemination of critical information. Learn how to redefine today's urban community.

Presenters:

Susana Porras, Pasadena Police Department, Program Coordinator
Pasadena, CA

A.6 Foster Partnerships for Inclusive Community Engagement

This workshop aims to define the roles and responsibilities of partner agencies and community members in fostering neighborhood empowerment through collaborative efforts. Participants will explore strategies to enhance community engagement by promoting shared responsibility and collective vision. The session will focus on developing actionable, measurable outcomes for community initiatives and emphasize the importance of effective communication among residents, law enforcement, and local government to drive sustainable progress.

Presenters:

Dr. Pam People-Joyner, Winston-Salem Police Department, Community Engagement Director
Tabetha Childress, Winston-Salem Police Department, Public Information Officer,
Gary Lash, City of Winston-Salem, District Recreation Manager,
Winston-Salem, NC

Beautification, Neighborhood Revit. & Preserv.

B.1 Preserving Heritage and Cultivating Beauty: Strategies for Neighborhood Revitalization In Jacksonville's Historic Eastside

Jacksonville's Historic Eastside exemplifies how an African American neighborhood can preserve its heritage while undergoing revitalization. Explore beautification initiatives, building local partnerships, collaborating, mitigating gentrification, and promoting withintrification. This interactive session offers practical strategies, solutions, and real-world lessons from residents and experts, inspiring attendees to create culturally rich, economically vibrant, and inclusive communities.

Presenters:

Suzanne Pickett, Historic Eastside Community Development Corp., President

Travis Williams, Sr., Liftjax, Inc., Chief Operating Officer

Ariane L. Randolph, Florida Avenue Main Street Co-Chair
Jacksonville, FL

B.2 Rethinking How Local Governments Address Code Violations

A local government's ability to bring code violations into compliance is essential for safety, public health, and quality of life issues. As neighborhoods change, it is imperative for local governments to evolve their approach to code violations. This workshop will provide best practices for local governments to rethink bringing code violations into compliance.

Presenters:

Jason Reynolds, Orange County Neighborhood Services Division, AICP, Manager
Orlando, FL

B.3 Love Your Block Grant Program: Inspiring Grassroots Change Through Civic Engagement and Innovation

Love Your Block is a grant program that funds resident-led neighborhood revitalization projects in U.S. cities. This panel highlights how cities can leverage the program's Blueprint and innovative strategies to build trust and foster grassroots, sustainable community change. Featuring cities currently implementing the program, attendees will gain actionable tools to leverage civic engagement and best practices for impactful, resident-led neighborhood revitalization.

Presenters:

Renata Campante, Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation, Johns Hopkins University, Senior Program Associate
Baltimore, MD

B.4.1 Neighborhood Revitalization Through Tool Lending

The City of Round Rock, Texas, recently introduced a new resource called the Tool Depot to assist residents with property maintenance. This workshop will cover the evolution of the Tool Depot from its early days as a tool-lending trailer used in neighborhood cleanups and the synergy it creates with many programs

WORKSHOP SELECTIONS NUSA JAX 2025 50TH ANNIVERSARY

involving code enforcement, community revitalization, and residential assistance.

Presenters:

Joseph Brehm, Community and Neighborhood Services, Director

Grayson Roberts, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Devin Taylor, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Round Rock, TX

B.4.2 Transforming Public Spaces with Community Input

Parks are a tremendous public asset to their host community. The John G. Riley Park, nestled in one of Tallahassee's northwest communities, recently underwent a transformation. Attend this workshop to learn how the City of Tallahassee worked with the Griffin Heights community to improve this underutilized urban park through the City's Neighborhood First Plan implementation process.

Presenters:

Jillian Driscoll, City of Tallahassee, Neighborhood Affairs Division, Neighborhood Services Coordinator,

John E. Baker, City of Tallahassee, Neighborhood Affairs Division, Manager

Tallahassee, FL

B.5 Beautify and Strengthen: Collaborative Approaches to Neighborhood Renewal

Explore programs that beautify and strengthen neighborhoods, and gain ideas for outreach strategies to expand your reach! Focus on beautification efforts and community involvement to inspire residents to form new connections, boost neighborhood pride, and make communities more vibrant and enjoyable.

Presenters:

Lauren Prekop, Orange County Government, Neighborhood Services Division, MSW, Program Coordinator

Orlando, FL

B.6.1 Refreshing Grassroots Neighborhood Empowerment Program Through Program Evaluation

In 2000, Orange County established the Safe Neighborhoods Program to support and empower volunteer neighborhood organizations in targeted

communities. After more than 20 years, the program had stagnated. To refocus the Safe Neighborhoods Program, the Neighborhood Services Division revamped it by developing a capacity-building strategy and training component for the neighborhood organizations and creating a guidebook for the program.

Presenters:

Daniel Kilponen, Orange County Government, Neighborhood Services Division, AICP, Chief Planner

Orlando, FL

B.6.2 Community Place Making

Learn about the step-by-step process of community redevelopment. Gain insights into building capacity for community revitalization. Receive tips for creating prosperous, livable, and healthy communities. Engage with experts and peers in discussions and workshops.

Presenters:

Tamara P. Johnson, Orange County Government, Neighborhood Services Division, Executive Director

Orlando, FL

Neighborhood Health & Lifestyles

C.1 CHW's Affect Change: Improved Family and Neighborhood Maternal and Child Health Outcomes

Learn how Community Health Workers make a difference in Maternal and Child Health. Community Health Workers conduct and assess data from health education surveys, implement door-to-door canvassing, partner with local businesses, facilitate health education classes on toxic stress and its effects on pregnancy, motherhood, and child development, and link families to community resources to address stressors.

Presenters:

Beverly Butler, Coordinated Intake and Referral, Director

Kara Ramesar, Community Health Worker, Team Lead

Jacksonville, FL

WORKSHOP SELECTIONS NUSA JAX 2025 50TH ANNIVERSARY

C.2 From Soil to Soul: Strengthening Community Resilience Through Food Security

The Black Church Food Security Network (BCFSN) addresses food insecurity in Jacksonville by cultivating fresh, healthy produce on local land. This initiative promotes food sovereignty, community resilience, and sustainable agriculture, empowering neighborhoods to take control of their food systems. BCFSN fosters economic independence, healthier lifestyles, and stronger social connections, working toward a future of food security for all.

Presenters:

Hermoyone Walker, Life's Leadership for Neighborhoods, Community Coordinator, Healthy Smart Small Farms & Urban Gardens

Eddie Hunter, Greater Jacksonville Comm. Church Master's Touch Ministries, Food Ministry Coordinator

Robert Stanford, Life Touch the Word Ministry, Pastor

Dr. Laureen Husband, Feeding Northeast FL., Vice President, Public Policy & Community Engagement

Jacksonville, FL

C.3 Collaboration is Key: Building a Youth Workforce Program Through Strategic Partnerships

With support from strategic partnerships, Jones Valley Teaching Farm's Youth Pathways & Experiences department empowers Birmingham youth with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to build strong foundations for economic sustainability and brighter futures. This session will highlight how JVTF's innovative programs provide paid work-based learning, training, enrichment experiences, and support services to youth in Birmingham City Schools and beyond.

Presenters:

T. Marie King, Jones Valley Teaching Farm, Youth Pathways & Experience, Director

Birmingham, AL

C.4.1 Creating Healthy Futures by Expanding Infrastructure that Supports Healthy Lifestyles

Being healthy is more than treating disease. Indianapolis residents living in areas that experience health disparities are focusing on disease prevention as part of the Diabetes Impact Project (DIP-IN). Panelists will share examples from over 45

prevention-focused community projects, including a mobile bookstore, meditation garden/labyrinth, and cycling group, discuss the selection process, and share tools and resources.

Presenters:

Jama Bennett, Hawthorne Community Center, Near West Neighborhood Community Health Worker

Vickie Driver, Oxford Neighborhood Association, President

Lisa K. Staten, Indiana University Indianapolis Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, Assoc. Professor of Public Health

Adelle Stokes, Riverside Riders, Co-founder, Near NW DIP-IN Steering Committee

Indianapolis, IN

C.4.2 Neighborhood Commons: Building Bridges to Tomorrow's Connected and Resilient Communities

The Neighborhood Commons initiative by The Well at Springfield creates inclusive, shared spaces that foster connection and collaboration across diverse community groups. Reducing isolation and promoting engagement strengthens neighborhood bonds and encourages collective action. This project cultivates authentic relationships, fosters inclusivity, and empowers residents to work together for lasting, positive change in their community.

Presenters:

Susan Rogers, The Well at Springfield, Pastor

Mary Elizabeth Ballentine, Neighborhood Commons Coordinator

Nathan Ballentine, Overalls Farm, CEO

Dr. Laureen Husband, Feeding Northeast FL., Vice President, Public Policy & Community Engagement

Jacksonville, FL

C.5.1 Neighborhood Resources, Bridging Gaps in Our Community, One Need at A Time

Neighborhood Resources will demonstrate how three lean but mighty divisions come together to enrich the Chandler community by providing high-quality services and resources through educational programs, neighborhood revitalization, resident empowerment, partnerships, and assistance to those in need. You will hear about real-life events that have organically fused the divisions to work together to avoid "dropping the ball" and strengthen forces.

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Presenters:

Priscilla Quintana, Neighborhood Preservation Program Manager

Latisha Gillmore, Management Assistant
Chandler, AZ

C.5.2 The Bridge to Tomorrow's Quality of Life is Transportation

Standard across demographic and geographic disparities is how individuals will, literally, access opportunity. Regardless of the barrier or the availability of services, if the physical infrastructure in a community does not facilitate the safe and reliable movement of people, the true quality of life remains inaccessible to every individual. Discover how equipping movement within a community transforms the quality of life for all there.

Presenters:

Brooklyn Holton, Firm Foundations Community Consulting, LLC., Founder & Principal
Cashmere, WA

C.6.1 From Camper to Colleagues – Growing Our Own Talent Through PYD Programs and Community Connection

The manner in which Spartanburg, South Carolina, responds to the challenges of socioeconomic disparities must align with an ever-changing local and national landscape. Collaboration across community grassroots efforts, government, and public/private sectors has broadened the capacity of our Parks and Recreation Department to sustain programming aimed at equipping youth, nurturing their growth through adolescence, and preparing them to enter the workforce.

Presenters:

Kim Brown, Parks, Recreation and Special Events, Director

Olivia McCutchen, Swim Instructor, Asst. Swim Team Coach and Head Lifeguard

Jasmine Patin, Youth Development Coordinator

Wanda Cheeks Holmes, Community Support Coordinator

Terrance Boyd, Recreation Specialist
Spartanburg, SC

C.6.2 Getting People Out and About Their Neighborhood

Everyone wants their neighborhood to be safe, clean, and friendly, but declining social cohesion is harming our communities. The US Surgeon General has declared a national Epidemic of Loneliness and Social Isolation. We will examine ways neighborhoods and cities can help residents get to know one another, building trust and the human relationships at the heart of every community.

Presenters:

Matt Evans, Neighborhood Out & About, Founder
Draper, UT

Neighborhood Enhancement, Educ., & Tech.

D.1 Parents Who Lead: Parents as Community Leaders & Advocates

Parents Who Lead is a proven initiative modeled after the National Parent Leadership Institute's parent leadership program. Locally, it is a direct result of the partnership between Jacksonville Public Education Fund, Duval County Public Schools, and Kids Hope Alliance. The goal of PWL is to develop civic-minded community members who will positively impact the city and its children through advocacy, public policy, and action.

Presenters:

Latrice Carmichael, Parents Who Lead, EMPP, Site Coordinator/Facilitator

Tiffany Clark, Parents Who Lead, Facilitator

Monique Tookes, Parents Who Lead, Facilitator

Mickee Brown, Parents Who Lead, Facilitator

Marcus Smothers, Parents Who Lead, Facilitator
Jacksonville, FL

D1.2 Using Data to Improve Neighborhoods

Creating meaningful, lasting change in neighborhoods requires more than good intentions. It takes a strategic, data-driven approach. Join us to explore how cities are leveraging data to strengthen neighborhood improvement programs and measure their impact over time. We'll share real-world examples, including how cities identify and invest in high-need blocks through coordinated cross-departmental efforts, prioritize vacant lots, and

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assess the effectiveness of ongoing initiatives using performance data.

Presenters:

Andrew Keive, TOLEMI, Chief Executive Officer
Bolek Kurowski, TOLEMI, Lead Data Engineer
Boston, MA

D.2 Many Cultures, One Bright Future: The Evolution of Pine Hills, FL

This interactive workshop empowers participants to shape the future of their neighborhoods by fostering collaboration, innovation, and inclusiveness. Attendees will co-create actionable strategies to enhance neighborhood health, safety, and engagement. Through hands-on activities and real-world case studies, participants will build bridges to stronger, more connected communities, ensuring lasting, community-driven impact.

Presenters:

Lavon Banks Williams, Esq., AICP, Orange County, FL Community and Family Services Department, Deputy Director
Tamara P. Johnson, Orange County Government, Neighborhood Services Division, Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement District, Executive Director
Ralphetta G. Aker McClary, Fiscal & Operational Support Division, Public Works Department, Orange County Government-Innovation Lab, Manager
Jonathan Kohn, Orange County Government, FL – Community Action Division
Orlando, FL

D.3 Grant and Proposal Writing Made Simple

This workshop will provide an interactive, participatory, and hands-on approach to grant and proposal writing. It will offer simple and easy steps in preparing good proposals.

Presenters:

Dr. Elton Gatewood, Ph.D. Public Administration
Fircrest, WA

D.4 Blue Zones Project: Community Transformation to Live Better Longer

The Blue Zones Project Jacksonville is a community well-being initiative designed to make the healthy choice the easy choice. When individuals and

organizations participate, small changes can lead to significant benefits, including lower healthcare costs, improved productivity, and a higher quality of life. Come learn how to reverse-engineer your neighborhood to live better and longer, based on lessons from the world's longest-lived communities.

Presenters:

Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project Jacksonville, Public Policy Lead
Jacksonville, FL

D.5 Developing Neighborhood Leadership Excellence with John Maxwell's "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader"

John Maxwell's book shows that the best leadership qualities can be divided into 21 indispensable qualities. Learn about these qualities, whether or not you have them, and how they can be developed. Handouts will enable you to explore the topic in greater depth after this session, and links to videos about each individual quality will be provided, allowing you to watch them at your own convenience.

Presenters:

David Burton, University of Missouri Extension, Community Development Specialist
Springfield, MO

Bldg. & Dev. Neighborhood Leadership & Skills

E.1 A Destination for Youth Transformation: Reimagining Community Programming for Youth

A Destination for Youth Transformation interactive workshop will explore innovative strategies for designing neighborhood programs that inspire Creative Youth Development. Participants will engage in hands-on activities and discussions to identify key elements of constructing immersive learning environments for youth and their families. The presentation will emphasize the importance of and connection between Cultivating creativity and Developing Leadership. Additionally, it will highlight the role of schools and public and private sector partnerships in strengthening communities through active involvement in these programs.

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Presenters:

Jason A. Peoples, Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS), Executive Director
Jacksonville, FL

E.1.2 Building Neighborhood Capacity: Strategic Planning for Small Neighborhood Organizations

In this interactive workshop session, participants will learn from and collaborate with three neighborhood leaders to build capacity and develop strategic plans for their organization's future. This workshop emphasizes best practices in organizational structure and governance, financial planning and development, as well as building relationships with city officials. Led by three neighborhood leaders with extensive experience working in the Urban Core Historic Districts of Jacksonville.

Presenters:

Michael Haskins, Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council, Inc., Executive Director
Bryant Shumaker, Commercial and Residential Infrastructure Committee, Chair
Bill Hoff, Commissioner of the City of Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission
Jacksonville, FL

E.2.1 Neighborhood Planning: Organizing Your Neighborhood for Improvements

The workshop will provide an interactive and participatory approach to several simple steps for making neighborhood improvements. It will also address the value of mobilizing and organizing a neighborhood organization to be part of the planning and improvement process.

Presenters:

Elton Gatewood, Ph.D. Public Administration
Tacoma, WA

E.2.2 Cultivating Resident Leaders and Empowering Communities

Neighborhood leaders are residents who have stepped out of their comfort zone to provide leadership for their communities. Their leadership is vital for maintaining stable cities. Facilitating this corps of leadership should be multi-pronged, providing a wide range of support and services. This workshop explores key initiatives that the City of

Tallahassee has implemented to cultivate and support neighborhood leadership.

Presenters:

John E. Baker, City of Tallahassee Neighborhood Affairs Division, Manager
Jillian Driscoll, City of Tallahassee Neighborhood Affairs Division, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Tallahassee, FL

E.2.3 Leading the Way: The Impact and Success of the iLead Interactive Neighborhood Training Program in Creating Strong Associations

Empower your neighborhood leadership skills with iLead! This engaging workshop introduces key strategies for building strong community connections, organizing successful events, and inspiring future leaders. Join us to gain practical tools and insights that will elevate your neighborhood association's impact.

Presenter:

Cindy Light, City of Orlando, Communications and Neighborhood Relations, Neighborhood Relations Supervisor
Orlando, FL

E.3.1 Empowering Community with a Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Every thriving neighborhood needs leaders. The most effective way to develop leaders among residents is through a targeted educational program that teaches practical leadership skills and enables participants to apply those skills in real-world settings. Learn about MU Extension's Neighborhood Leadership Academy and how to use the model in your neighborhood or community.

Presenters:

David Burton, University of Missouri Extension, Community Development Specialist
Springfield, MO

E.3.2 Skills and Strategies to Successfully Advocate for Your Neighborhood

An essential role of a neighborhood leader is to advocate for their neighborhood. To successfully advocate for a neighborhood, leaders must practice effective communication and employ strategies to

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engage decision-makers. This workshop will ensure success when neighborhood leaders address an elected body, an elected official, or a group of stakeholders.

Presenters:

Jason Reynolds, Orange County Neighborhood Services Division, AICP, Manager
Orlando, FL

E.4 Authentic Allyship: Building Inclusive Leadership and Skills for Thriving Neighborhoods

Discover the power of authentic allyship to enhance neighborhood leadership and create inclusive, thriving communities. This workshop equips participants with actionable tools, including the 10 types of allies and the ORID discussion method, to foster advocacy, resolve conflicts, and strengthen engagement. Develop essential skills to lead with empathy, amplify voices, and foster meaningful neighborhood collaboration.

Presenters:

Kimara Snipes, One Omaha, Executive Director
Omaha, NE

E.5.1 Fostering Neighborhood Leadership and Engagement to Promote Community Change

The City of Tallahassee is excited to present its collaboration with The Village Square. The intent is to strengthen neighbor-to-neighbor connections and equip neighborhood leaders with the skills and tools required to enhance the quality of life for residents through a series of interactive program offerings.

Presenters:

Leann D. Watts-Williams, Neighborhood Services, Supervisor
Christine Cox, The Village Square, Executive Director
John Baker, Neighborhood Services Manager
Tallahassee, FL

E.5.2 Discovering the Gifts of Your Neighborhood

Every neighborhood has unique gifts, both in the people who live there and the things they share. This workshop will help you, as a neighborhood leader, discover those gifts or assets in your neighborhood. Participants will spend time actively identifying gifts

and learning how to utilize them to develop asset-based approaches in their community.

Presenters:

Jennifer Prophete, The Hopeful Neighborhood Project, Director
Saint Louis, MO

E.6.1 Tell Your Story to Engage Neighbors & Funders

The case for support is at the heart of all nonprofit fundraising. It's your story – and your nonprofit's fundraising depends on it! Four community development organizations from Memphis, TN, created their own case for support using a facilitated cohort learning process. Learn from the Memphis experience and get started creating your own case for support.

Presenters:

Joyce Cox, The Office of Neighborhood Engagement, City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development, Manager
Sherman Robinson, The Office of Neighborhood Engagement, City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development, Community Affairs Coordinator
Dee Franklin, Binghamton Development Corporation, Executive Director
Pearl Shaw, Saad & Shaw – Comprehensive Fund Development Services, President
Memphis, TN

E.6.2 The Lenses We Wear: Perspective Transformation for Leadership

The lenses we wear determine how we see the world and how we engage with it. By becoming aware of our lenses, we gain the power to transform our perspectives, our institutions, and most importantly, our impact. Transformation requires intentional reflection, conscious choice, and a commitment to personal and collective growth.

Presenters:

Annie Rodriguez, Equity Consulting Network, LLC, Lead Trainer
Jacksonville, FL

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Highlight Multicult., Comm., Celeb. & Creativity

F.2 National Good Neighbor Day: Creating Change Through Celebration

National Good Neighbor Day offers a new approach to promoting neighborhood well-being, beginning with celebration and social connection. Join this panel featuring leading experts from The Hopeful Neighborhood Project, the University of Missouri Extension, and CommunityWorks as we explore the power of celebrating and discovering practical ways for your neighborhood to get involved.

Presenters:

Jennifer Prophete, The Hopeful Neighborhood Project, Director of Community Programming

David Burton, University of Missouri Extension, Community Development Specialist

Megan Ginn, CommunityWorks, Project Director
Saint Louis, MO

F.3 Tallahassee Proud: Celebrating Neighbors and Neighborhoods

The City of Tallahassee's neighborhoods are vibrant, unique, and diverse. Their history and culture fuel their diversity. These neighborhoods are led by volunteer resident leaders who encourage community involvement. Attend this workshop to learn how the city utilizes its Neighborhood Awards Program to celebrate and highlight the diversity and achievements of its residents and neighborhoods.

Presenters:

Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

John E. Baker, Neighborhood Affairs Manager
Tallahassee, FL

F.4 Understanding and Connecting with Hispanic Neighborhoods

This presentation takes a deeper dive into the diversity within the Hispanic community to better understand and connect with them. It encompasses a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures, and musical and culinary tastes. The presentation will also cover social issues and struggles that many Hispanic communities face and how the role of

Hispanic liaison helps bridge gaps of communication and trust.

Presenters:

Rene Aguilera, Folsom Road Neighborhood Association, NUSA Board Member
Roseville, CA

Neighborhood Enviro., Sustain & Resiliency

G.1 Community Driven Resilience: Preparing for Disasters in East Aldine

Discover how East Aldine residents, with partners like the Houston Department of Transformation, BakerRipley East Aldine, and the Westfield Fire Department, are tackling disaster preparedness. After struggling during the Beryl Storm without elected official support, they're addressing challenges like power outages through grassroots initiatives and strong partnerships, empowering the community for future disasters.

Presenters:

Shirley Ronquillo, Houston Department of Transportation, Executive Director

Adrian Dillehey, Westfield Fire Department, Chief

Rosalva Hernandez, BakerRipley, East Aldine Campus, Manager of Community Development

Ruben A. Salazar, East Aldine Civic Association, President & Founder

Pearl Castaneda, BakerRipley, East Aldine, Manager of Civic Engagement

East Alpine, TX

G.1.2 Open Street Boise: A Model for Collaborative Placemaking and Community Engagement

This session will provide a how-to guide for planning, partnerships, and community engagement strategies to ensure a successful Open Streets event. Participants will learn actionable strategies for fostering collaboration, engaging diverse stakeholders, and creating inclusive, sustainable events that aim to strengthen neighborhoods and inspire active lifestyles.

Presenters:

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Nicole Carr, Energize Our Neighborhoods, Program Manager

Boise, ID

G.2 Beverly Reimagined: Empowering Communities Through Connection and Collaboration

In 2024, Amachi Vision Corps, Inc. partnered with the City of Texarkana, Texas, to reopen the Beverly Community Center, a vital resource hub for the community. Collaborating with the Believe in Beverly Neighborhood Association, the center focuses on enhancing the quality of life by providing essential services and support to the neighborhood and beyond.

Presenters:

Jaylon Scott, City of Texarkana, Community Development Specialist Planning and Community Development

Daphnea Ryan, City of Texarkana, Grants Administration Manager Planning and Community Development

Kristi Kendrick, City of Texarkana, President of Amachi Vision Corps., Inc.

Texarkana, TX

G.3 Building Resilience Together: The Inspiring Recovery of the Beverly Neighborhood

Hurricane Beryl caused significant damage in Texarkana's Beverly neighborhood, uprooting trees, downing power lines, and leaving residents without electricity. The City of Texarkana and the Believe in Beverly Neighborhood Association led relief efforts, offering support and building resilience. This workshop will focus on partnerships to meet community needs, build resiliency, and prepare for future disasters.

Presenters:

Vashil Fernandez, Planning, Community Development and Health, Director

Texarkana, Texas

G.4 Cultivating Relationships to Prepare for the Unexpected: Lessons from the Adopt-A-Southside Neighborhood Initiative

This workshop explores how partnerships, particularly with the Tallahassee Fire Department

(TFD) and Tallahassee Police Department (TPD), can enhance neighborhood preparedness for natural disasters and environmental hazards. Participants will learn how the Adopt-A-Southside Neighborhood initiative fosters strong relationships among residents, City departments, and local organizations to build a resilient and prepared community.

Presenters:

Leann Watts-Williams, Neighborhood Affairs Division, Supervisor

Daniell Baxter, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, MPA

Richard Jones, Administration, Deputy Chief

Allan Morris, Lt., Tallahassee Police Dept.

Tallahassee, FL

G.5 Why American Society is in Trouble, and What we can do About it.

This workshop provides a valuable opportunity to explore the ideas in Seth Kaplan's book, "Fragile Neighborhoods," and learn how to create stronger, more resilient communities. By focusing on practical strategies for building social capital and fostering inclusivity, participants will leave with the tools they need to strengthen their neighborhoods and contribute to long-term community stability.

Presenters:

Seth Kaplan, PhD, Professional Lecturer at John Hopkins University

Baltimore, MD

G.6 Engage, Empower, Evolve: Funding Community Initiatives-Partnership Engagement Fund-City of Minneapolis

Discover how Minneapolis leverages the Partnership Engagement Fund to foster equity, strengthen trust, and build impactful community relationships. This session highlights innovative collaborations, best practices for reducing disparities, and actionable strategies for empowering underrepresented communities. Learn how to adapt this model to enhance engagement and drive systemic change in your city or organization.

Presenters:

Ariah Fine, City of Minneapolis, Department of Neighborhood and Community, Neighborhood Support Specialist II

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Tate Nguyen, City of Minneapolis, Department of Neighborhood and Community, Neighborhood Support Specialist I

Steven Gallagher, City of Minneapolis, Department of Neighborhood and Community, Neighborhood Programs, Manager
Minneapolis, MN

Foundations of Homeownership

H.3 Empowering Homeowners: Strategies for Financial Stability and Homeownership Preservation

This workshop will equip homeowners with practical tools and knowledge to maintain and preserve their homes effectively. Participants will explore key areas, including financial management, water and energy conservation, preventive maintenance, securing affordable homeowners' insurance, and foreclosure prevention. By addressing these topics, attendees will gain insights into sustaining homeownership, reducing expenses, and enhancing the value and comfort of their properties. Local experts will share best practices and resources tailored to the Jacksonville community, fostering a collaborative environment that promotes learning and empowerment.

Presenters:

Carrie Davis, Wealth Watchers, Inc., CEO

Jo Jones, Wealth Watchers, Inc., Certified Housing Counselor

Nathaniel Herring, State Farm, Insurance Agent

Travis Jeffrey, Housing and Community Development Division – City of Jacksonville, Chief

Jacksonville, FL

H.6 Financial Coaching for Prosperity: Elevating Your Financial Coaching Approach

Discover why “Financial Coaching for Prosperity” stands out in the field and how it can revolutionize your agency’s approach to financial empowerment. This workshop will provide an in-depth understanding of our gold-standard program, equipping participants with the skills to lead clients toward economic stability and growth.

Presenter:

Chaikirah Parker, TLC Sunshine Financial, Chief Executive Officer

Tampa, FL

NUSA Running for the NUSA Board

I. NUSA -Running for The NUSA Board

If you are interested in becoming involved in the neighborhood movement nationally, this is your invitation. This workshop will present an overview of the NUSA organization and what is involved in joining its Volunteer Board of Directors. This workshop is a prerequisite for running for the Board.

Presenters:

NUSA Board

Non-profits/Local Government/Local Neighborhoods

J.2 Spark the Block: Igniting the Advocate in Every Neighbor

This high-energy, interactive session led by Jacksonville City Council Member Rahman Johnson—TV/Radio personality, actor, educator, policymaker, and lifelong community builder—will equip participants with real tools to engage their neighbors, elevate local priorities, and execute grassroots strategies with lasting impact. This workshop is for anyone who wants to turn passion into policy, porch talk into purpose, and neighbors into networks for change.

Through storytelling, collaborative mapping, and a taste of community-rooted organizing, participants will learn how to:

- Identify advocacy assets in their own communities
- Translate everyday concerns into winnable campaigns
- Build cross-cultural coalitions for collective impact
- Partner with local government to drive outcomes that matter

This isn't your average civic seminar – it's a movement with music, flavor, and purpose. Attendees will leave with a customized “Spark Sheet”

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filled with action items and strategies tailored to their neighborhood, plus access to a digital toolkit for ongoing activation.

Presenters:

Dr. Rahman Johnson, Jacksonville City Council Member, Ph.D.
Jacksonville, FL

J.5 Securing Generational Wealth: Jacksonville's Collaborative Approach to Preventing Heirs' Property Challenges

Heirs' property – land or homes passed down without clear legal documentation – poses significant risks to homeownership stability and the preservation of family wealth. This workshop highlights Jacksonville's proactive and collaborative efforts to address and prevent heirs' property challenges. Participants will gain insights into:

- Understanding Heirs' Property
- Local Initiatives
- Legal and Financial Tools
- Community Engagement

By showcasing these collaborative efforts, the workshop aims to empower homeowners with the knowledge and resources needed to secure their properties, thereby fostering generational wealth and community stability.

Presenters:

Carrie Davis, Wealth Watchers, Inc., CEO
Kristopher Smith, LISC, Community Development Program Officer
LaTonya Lipscomb Smith, Heirs Property Project Manager, Three Legal Services, Esq., Managing Attorney
Jacksonville, FL

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE TOURS NUSA JAX 2025 50TH ANNIVERSARY

All tours will be conducted on Thursday, May 22, 2025, and depart at 9:45 a.m. Lunch is on your own.

Tour #1 – Jacksonville Coastal Neighborhoods

The coastal communities are comprised of several municipalities, including the City of Jacksonville, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, and Jacksonville Beach. As we drive through the different communities, we will see the Jacksonville Beach Pier and Bandstand, new town centers in Jacksonville Beach and Atlantic Beach, Hanna Park, the historic Mayport lighthouse, and the Mayport fishing village.

Tour #2 – Arlington/Ft. Caroline /San Marco

Before Hollywood existed, Jacksonville was the winter home of numerous silent film studios. Members of the Arlington community created an organization and worked with the City of Jacksonville to save and restore the last silent film studio in Jacksonville. This tour will take us by Norman Studios and other revitalization projects in the Arlington area. The tour will take us through the Cosmo community, a community that our local Gullah Geechee has called home for many years. The tour will stop at the Fort Caroline National Memorial, where the French explorers landed in Florida. This national park is historic and has amazing views of our abundant waterways. The tour will next visit the historic San Marco community.

Tour #3 – West Jacksonville Neighborhoods

The tour will begin with a drive through the Brooklyn neighborhood, a once-forgotten community and now one of Jacksonville's growing mixed-use neighborhoods that connects the historic LaVilla and Riverside neighborhoods. We will view the beautiful architecture of the historic homes of the Riverside and Avondale neighborhoods nestled along the St. Johns River. See the diverse Murray Hill Neighborhood, home to artists, families, entrepreneurs who work hard to preserve, small businesses, and a walkable community. We will then make our way to the CORK Art Studio, the creative home to 60 artists in a network of three warehouses that total over 80,000 square

feet. We will briefly visit the McCoys Creek Restoration Project site. This important neighborhood beautification project will provide opportunities for recreation and clean water and create more natural habitats for birds, fish, and wildlife. We will then travel to the Jacksonville Farmers Market, where locals have purchased fresh foods and vegetables for over 100 years, before visiting the recently revitalized Rail Yard District, which houses many unique small businesses, and then return to the Historic Prime Osborne Convention Center downtown Jacksonville.

Tour #4 – Northwest Neighborhoods

As the tour departs from the convention center, it will travel past the Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park before it travels past the Ritz Theater and Museum, the Jacksonville Urban League, and the LaVilla School of Arts. This tour will take us past the private Christian historically Black university, Edward Waters University, founded in 1866, and continue to J. P. Small Memorial Stadium. The tour will travel to Eartha's Farm and Market.

Tour #5 – Jacksonville's Neighborhoods, Downtown and Beyond

This tour will feature several key landmarks in downtown Jacksonville, everything from historic locales to brand new landmarks, including the retired naval ship, the USS Orleck. As we approach the sports complexes, you will see EverBank Stadium (home of the Jacksonville Jaguars), VyStar Ballpark (home to the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp), and VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. The tour will travel to the historic Eastside, where we will learn about the various revitalization projects that are occurring. After we leave the Eastside, we will travel through the historic Springfield community as we journey to the north side of the Trout River and point out the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, the Jacksonville Cruise Terminal, and the Jacksonville Port Authority.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE TOURS

NUSA JAX 2025 50TH ANNIVERSARY

All tours will be conducted on Thursday, May 22, 2025, and depart at 9:45 a.m. Lunch is on your own.

Tour #6 – Mandarin Neighborhoods



Wheelchair Accessible

The bus will travel south down U.S. Highway 1 (locally known as Philips Highway and has carried locals and travelers alike since 1926) to the Mandarin community. Mandarin is the southernmost portion of Jacksonville, Florida. In 1830, the Mandarin community was named after the mandarin oranges grown and shipped along the banks of the St. Johns River. The tour will take us to the historic post office, Walter Jones General Store, and the 1898 St. Joseph’s Mission Schoolhouse for African American Children. The tour will stop at the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society to enjoy the museum and visit the 10-acre Walter Jones farm on the river. The views from the river are incredible.

encircle the urban core and connect 14 historic neighborhoods to downtown, Hogans Creek, McCoys Creek, and the St. Johns River. Groundwork Jacksonville is one of 21 such trusts across the country and the only Groundwork Trust in Florida.

Tour #9 – St. Johns River Tour



Weather Permitting

Join us on the St. Johns River as we explore this hidden gem of Jacksonville’s waterways. Hop aboard one of the St. Johns River Taxi’s vessels and view the St. Johns River’s abundant grass beds that serve as critical nurseries for fish, plus areas for nature viewing, birdwatching, and fishing. If you’re lucky, you may see dolphins or manatees at play.

This tour has very limited seating.

Tour #7 – HabiJax NUSA House Build



Weather Permitting

As part of the NUSA conference, attendees can participate in building a local home with HabiJax. HabiJax is one of the largest non-profit affordable housing builders in Duval County and is considered one of the most successful Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the United States. It has provided homeownership opportunities and other housing services to over 2,300 families. HabiJax is a multifaceted organization that advocates for affordable housing and fair housing policies to help families improve their housing conditions.

Tour #10 – Discover Downtown’s Transformation:
A Walking Tour with the DIA



Weather Permitting

Join the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) for an exciting behind-the-scenes walking tour of Downtown Jacksonville’s evolving Central Business and Historic District neighborhoods! As Downtown’s official Community Redevelopment Agency and Economic Development arm, the DIA is leading the charge in revitalizing the urban core – funding major infrastructure projects, attracting new retail and restaurants, and supporting vibrant residential communities.

This 2.5-mile journey will take you through the heart of Downtown’s Central Core, North Core, and Cathedral Hill—once primarily serving office workers, now transforming into dynamic mixed-use districts. Explore new residential developments, emerging retail hotspots, and the expanding network of riverfront parks that are redefining Downtown’s public spaces. Learn how strategic investments and incentives are fueling this exciting growth and learn what’s next for the heart of Jacksonville.

Tour #8 – Emerald Trail Walking Tour with
Groundworks Jax



Weather Permitting

You are invited to take a walking tour guided by Groundwork Jacksonville. Groundwork Jacksonville is the city’s nonprofit partner created to clean and redevelop Hogans and McCoys creeks and convert contaminated land into parks, playgrounds, trails, and other public spaces. Groundwork is engaging neighborhood stakeholders, business leaders and funders in the planning and construction of the Emerald Trail. When complete, this signature outdoor destination of trails, greenways, and parks will

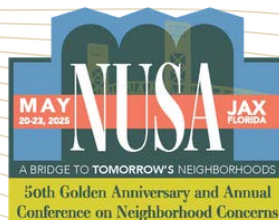


NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

NUSA Jax 2025 50th Anniversary Conference Photo's may be viewed and purchased by scanning Head Shots Studio QR Code below



Head Shots Studio



What's Cooking in NUSA's Neighborhoods

COOKBOOK

We're celebrating 50 years of NUSA with a cookbook of recipes submitted by our members!

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

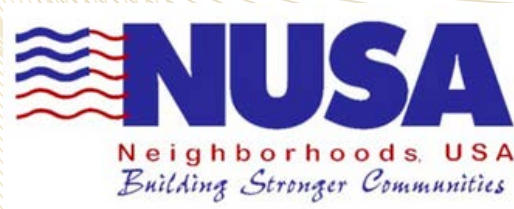
MAIN DISHES
ETHNIC FOODS
APPETIZERS
SOUPS, SALADS, SAUCES, DRESSINGS
VEGAN/VEGETARIAN
DESSERTS
BEVERAGES
OTHERS

SCAN ME



*Learn more & submit recipes at:
bit.ly/nusacookbook*

*Submit recipes by
September 30, 2025
Questions? Email info@nusa.org*

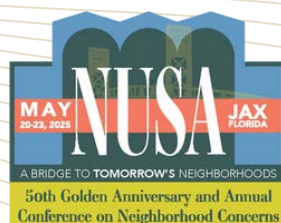


NUSA JAX 2025 50th Anniversary

We would like to thank our generous sponsors and partners who have contributed to this event.



Thank You





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