Pattern For Progress’ Center for Housing Solutions and Community Initiatives is bringing together national and local housing experts at a September 14th forum to outline how to increase and improve housing in the valley’s urban areas— an important component in helping rejuvenate communities and a goal of Pattern’s Urban Action Agenda.

"Housing in Urban Centers: What It All Means," will be held at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The overall goal of the forum is to expose people to tools, examples, and methods of successful urban revitalization strategies that can be utilized in small cities. We hope to reach this goal by hearing from the following speakers and the tools, examples and methods they plan to share:

Jonathan Rose, President, Jonathan Rose Companies and author of "The Well-Tempered City."
- Tools for long range planning that are inclusive of climate change, increase in urban population, resource scarcity, lack of affordable housing, and inequality
- The necessity of integrating housing, health, education, transportation, open space and healthy food to regenerate communities that grow opportunity for their residents.

Diane Yentel, CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, will provide perspective on population segments sometimes left behind amid housing growth.
- Housing policy updates from Washington DC
- Using wage data to show need for affordable housing on local level

Tiffany Manuel, vice president of Enterprise Community Partners
- Best ways to frame the need for affordable housing and services in public meetings
- How the Opportunity 360 tools can be best utilized to verify the need for and create neighborhoods of opportunity

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?
Recruitment has begun for the 2017-2018 Pattern Fellows program, and now is your chance to join the growing ranks of this celebrated and rewarding program! The prestigious Pattern Fellows program, now in its 11th year, has graduated over 240 innovators that include corporate managers, academic leaders, nonprofit executives and municipal officials who now have their own Fellows Alumni network.

Does someone you know have what it takes to be a Pattern Fellow? Pattern needs your help to recruit what could be the biggest and brightest class yet. Contact Evan or call the office at (845) 565-4900 with any referrals. Based on the amount of applications we have already received there will be a very competitive selection process this year. More information can be found on the Pattern For Progress website at: by clicking here

Pattern’s Regional Housing Award for Excellence will be presented to Kevin O’Connor, CEO of RUPCO, Inc., a Kingston-based nonprofit that advocates for quality, affordable housing and community development.

Pattern welcomes Evan Menist as Planner and Fellows Alumni Coordinator

Evan joins the team as a Junior Research Planner and also the Pattern Fellows Alumni Coordinator. Prior to joining Pattern for Progress, Evan spent four years working in various roles at Marist College in the Information Technology department where his innovative management skills allowed him to improve efficiency in the department while enhancing services. Evan has his B.A. in Political Science as well as his Master’s in Public Administration from Marist College.

Evan will work closely with other members of the staff on the Regional Fellows Program as well as assisting with the organization’s technology, working on various projects, and community engagement. As the Pattern Fellows Alumni Coordinator he has started to work on strengthening relationships with the Fellows Alumni: creating a new newsletter for Alumni and on the development of an Alumni Directory. Many of the Alumni are working with Pattern to assist us in our work on education and will be helping us learn more about the school districts in the Valley by sharing information from their home districts. To learn more, contact Evan at emenist@pfprogress.org

Forum continued:
Register now to learn from experts in the community development and urban revitalization fields as to how best apply this knowledge within the Hudson Valley.

TO REGISTER:
Register at Pattern-For-Progress.org or call (845) 565-4900. Registration is $75 for Pattern members; $85 for non-members; and $55 for elected and appointed officials and employees of local governments. The fee for communities and officials within Pattern's Urban Action Agenda is $50.
I am honored to be a part of such an incredible organization because the broad ranging development of the Hudson Valley is crucial and something that everyone should stand behind. The economic, and overall growth that is occurring throughout the Hudson Valley in large part because of the work being done in partnership with Pattern for Progress and I am honored to be a part of such an incredible organization.

Why are you, and your business, based in the Hudson Valley?

The Hudson Valley is unique – it is linked to the NYC metropolitan market, but has its own distinct cultural, economic, and environmental identity. In the early 1990s, AKRF realized we needed to have a local presence to provide the core environmental, planning, and engineering services we first built in NYC to the Valley’s communities and community builders.

How does your business help quality of life in the valley?

Our services enhance the physical, environmental, and economic well-being of our communities. Whether we provide comprehensive planning services to a small village or engineering of green infrastructure for a regional transportation agency, it all adds to quality of life.

What new initiative helped your business grow in the past year?

Recently, AKRF has integrated “green technology” into just about everything we do. Our infrastructure and our regulations need to keep pace with the local businesses and communities seeking to become more sustainable and resilient. And we must constantly improve upon what has come before.

Briefly describe the Hudson Valley in five years, 2022.

We have only scratched the surface with technological improvements in our communities. As we embrace 21st century technologies we will discover new and creative ways to engage in place-making that will connect us in more profound ways to our physical and cultural environment.

Your advice on how to ensure a strong workforce?

Be open to new ideas and, especially, new ways of doing things. Don’t presume to know everything.

What was your first job?

During summers in college I worked for the Appalachian Mountain Club in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. I worked 16-hour days cooking, cleaning, packing 80 pound loads on my back, and doing search and rescue. Never knowing what challenge awaited me around the next bend has helped me manage the unexpected.

Why have you chosen to support Pattern for Progress?

Pattern’s mission and approach to community planning closely mirrors my own preference for regional planning and collaboration. Pattern’s expertise and position as an independent knowledge-broker provides an invaluable resource to the Valley as we work together to build its economy and protect its special culture and environment.