Pattern to Host Panel Discussion on Capital Planning

Mark your calendar!
Pattern for Progress is hosting a discussion on Monday, November 25, that offers municipal employees a chance to learn about the challenges and opportunities faced by local governments in developing greater capacity for asset management and capital planning.

Four presenters will draw on their experience in city management, fiscal oversight and the private sector to provide insights into how asset management and capital planning are actually taking place in the Hudson Valley. The City of Beacon will be used as a case study.

The four panelists include:
- **ELLIOTT AUERBACH**, New York State deputy comptroller for the Division of Local Government and School Accountability
- **MARY BETH BIANCONI**, partner at Delaware Engineering
- **TRACY HITCHEN BOYD**, New York State assistant comptroller for the Division of Local Government and School Accountability
- **ANTHONY RUGGIERO**, administrator for the City of Beacon

The panel will be moderated by Andy Stewart, senior vice president for research and analysis at Pattern for Progress.

The event will be held between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. at Kaplan Hall Great Room at SUNY Orange’s Newburgh campus. Tickets are $25 per attendee. Please RSVP to rdegroat@pfprogress.org or click here to register online and pay online.

Pattern for Progress’s Center for Housing Solutions and Urban Initiative Hosts 12th Annual Housing Conference

Pattern for Progress’ Center for Housing Solutions and Urban Initiatives hosted its 12th annual housing conference that drew as many as 120 leaders and professionals in the fields of affordable housing, community development, municipal government, housing development, planning and engineering and community lending.
The conference, titled “From Blight to Bright: Reclaiming Your Neighborhood,” was held on Friday, November 1, at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel and focused on reclaiming neighborhoods and rebuilding communities.

Lynne M. Patton, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey, delivered the keynote address. Patton, who oversees the largest public housing program in the country, stressed the importance of housing because, she said, it not only provided security and stability, but also hope and dignity.

“New York and New Jersey represent an extremely dense and high-cost area of the country where this administration recognizes that we cannot afford not to address blight and preserve our existing affordable and public housing, as in many cases, there is no place to build,” said Patton. “We are doing this through historic physical inspection reform, innovative programs like RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration) and federal oversight of distressed public housing authorities.”

The event also featured the following speakers:

**Karen L. Black**, Principal of May 8 Consulting, spoke about tools to mitigate blight and revitalize communities through code enforcement

**Adam Zaranko**, President of the NYS Land Bank Association and Executive Director of the Albany County Land Bank Corporation, discussed the benefits of land banks and best practices for their implementation

**Brian Pine**, of Burlington Associates, spoke about the benefits, best practices, and how-tos for community land trusts, with a focus on affordable housing

**HUD Community Planning and Development Specialist Joseph Baietti** gave a presentation about Opportunity Zones and Section 108, HUD’s loan guarantee program.

Madeline Fletcher, of NYS Homes and Community Renewal, joined Karen, Adam, and Brian to moderate a panel discussion between them focusing on comprehensive community development

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**Pattern's Fellows Program is Off to a Great Start**

Pattern began its 13th Fellows class on October 22 with an orientation and a presentation on negotiations by Josh Weiss, co-founder of Global Negotiation Initiative at Harvard University and president of Negotiation Works Inc.

The innovative leadership curriculum of the program is designed to expand the horizons of those already active in their communities and disciplines. Over the past decade, nearly 250 Pattern Fellows have graduated from the program, including leaders from the fields of finance, government, economic development, land conservation, law, human services, healthcare, academia and more.

This year's Fellows program focuses on overcoming the important issue of “us and them” that permeates so much of the current discourse. Projects by the 21 Fellows will focus on improving relations between various communities. The readings will focus on leadership and negotiation, and the point-counterpoint sessions will draw from ongoing disputes within and outside of the Hudson Valley.

In addition to the introductory class, Weiss will join the program for another three of its 22 sessions. Other speakers have been chosen for their role in resolving current or recent disputes within the Hudson Valley. Pattern will also bring to the Fellows program Steven Spielberg’s six-part documentary called “Why We Hate.”

The class meets on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.in Newburgh. Pattern plans two networking sessions with alumni, allowing current Fellows to benefit from the insight and experience of past Fellows.

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