

# PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

## Planners as Communicators

Planning is a simple concept but an increasingly complex public activity.

Cultural diversity, competing funding demands, NIMBYism, open meeting acts, the digital revolution, are all issues that place organizational, management and communication demands on planners leaving them out of the process of communicating planning.

*Putting the Pieces Together* will focus on bringing public engagement into the planning process. This workshop will explore the skills necessary to develop an open, participatory and interactive planning process characteristic of democratic governance.

Ron Thomas, AICP, an awarding winning planner will lead this day-long workshop sharing his expertise in a wide range of participatory methods and techniques for organizing and facilitating effective public engagement.



## Workshop Agenda

- 9:00 - 9:30 am **Registration**
- 9:30 - 9:45 am **Workshop Welcoming Remarks**  
Samuel J. Parker, Jr Chairman  
Prince George's County Planning Board
- James Potter, President  
Maryland APA Chapter
- 9:45 - 10:00 am **Workshop Overview and Introductions**  
**Ron Thomas**  
Visualization profile of participants and introduction to keypad polling in the public planning process including a demonstration of Pop-up reports and random sampling.
- 10:00 - 10:30 am **Experiences in Participatory Planning -**  
**Ron Thomas**  
Overview of the origins, values and principles of the public planning process in America. Review of best practices for creating a culture and climate for successful public participation. Discovery Exercise - the challenges of effective listening
- 10:30 - 10:45 am **Break**
- 10:50 am - Noon **Creating a Participatory Planning Process**  
**Ron Thomas**  
Overview for group processes and facilitation skills, including table exercise in collaborative decision-making
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm **Lunch Keynote**  
**Carolyn Lukensmeyer - America Speaks**
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm **Mediation and Dispute Resolution Methods**  
**Kate Cullen, Helen Spinelli**  
Variously called conflict resolution, alternative dispute resolution or mediation, this workshop module offers participants an overview of methods to help pre-empt, limit or resolve disagreements.
- 2:00 - 2:45 pm **Planning a Participation Strategy**  
**Ron Thomas**  
Case Study Application: Participants will take on a collaborative exercise to plan a real or hypothetical public participation process including process design, agenda development and framing for public participation.
- 2:45 - 3:00 pm **Evaluation wrap up - Ron Thomas**

### Keynote Speaker

**Dr Carolyn Lukensmeyer**  
President, America Speaks

Carolyn Lukensmeyer, is founder and President of America Speaks. Under her leadership, America Speaks has earned a national reputation and won several awards in the field of deliberative democracy and democratic renewal.



### Guest Presenters:

**Kate Cullen, MSW**

Kate Cullen served for almost 10 years as the Executive Director of CALM, Inc., the Frederick County Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center. Ms. Cullen is an officer of the National Center for Mediation Education, Inc. and has a private mediation practice in Frederick and Annapolis.

**Helen M. Spinelli, AICP**

Helen Spinelli is a certified planner with over 20 years of planning experience. She is currently Chief of Community and Environmental Planning for Queen Anne's County MD and is responsible for all long range, comprehensive and community planning for the county as well as plan implementation.



AICP members can earn 5.25 CM Certificate Maintenance for this workshop. More information about AICP's CM program can be found at: [www.planning.org/cm](http://www.planning.org/cm)