

Connected Communities: Designing the Future Together

Discover how community engagement is evolving in today’s fast-paced, digitally driven world. From building trust through collaboration to redefining public participation with immersive tools, effective engagement involves meeting people where they are. Learn why community involvement isn’t just a checkbox but a key part of meaningful, fair development. Join us as we dive into the “why” and “how” of modern engagement, offering creative programming ideas, real-world examples, and tech-savvy strategies to foster genuine dialogue.

Whether reimagining public spaces through arts-based visioning, launching mobile pop-ups, or creating videos to connect with younger generations, you’ll gain the insights and inspiration to build stronger, more connected communities. Explore the future of engagement and leave prepared to create participatory experiences that resonate, empower, and endure.

Day 1: Thursday, October 16, 2025

- 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Rethinking Traditional Approaches to Public Engagement.....BerryDunn
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- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.**

How to Engage with Confidence and Clarity.....Whitney Guison
Master the framework for leading your community through conflict. Gain practical tools to approach tough conversations with confidence, clarity, and purpose—turning difficult moments into opportunities for growth and engagement. [0.1 CEU]
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

Lunch
- 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Tech Tools for Real Engagement.....BerryDunn
Explore creative, tech-powered strategies for community engagement. From interactive tools to AI-driven assistance, this hands-on session blends innovation with equity to help you design participatory experiences that build trust, spark dialogue, and shape the future. [0.3 CEUs]
- 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

Happy Hour (on the patio)

Day 2: Friday, October 17, 2025

- 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Building Trust Through Co-Creation.....Shockey Consulting**
Parks and recreation are central to community life, but building trust and support requires going beyond informing the public. Learn how to move toward true co-creation—where residents, youth, and stakeholders actively shape projects and programs. Through case studies and a role-play activity, discover strategies to engage diverse voices, foster community ownership, and ensure projects deliver measurable, people-centered outcomes. [0.2 CEUs]
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Lunch**
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Case Studies: Cities Doing Engagement Differently**
- 2:00 p.m. Closing Remarks & Dismissal**

Total CEUs = 0.8