



LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Community Organizing

The first step to creating any community based plan is to effectively involve the public. This welcome session will provide you with “on the ground” perspective from community based planners who have worked at grassroots levels to organize and plan for their neighborhoods.

Using Data for Planning Part I: Maps and data are two critical pieces of information necessary for creating community-based plans. This session will provide participants with an overview of the principles of GIS (Geographic Information Systems), provide insight for how to best use it as a tool in the community planning process, and provide guidance in using census data for planning. Conducted in a computer lab, the session will also provide you with live hands-on training in basic mapping.

Using Data for Planning Part II: A continuation of Using Data for Planning Part I (see above), this course will explore how data and maps can be used to better illustrate community concerns and advance in their advocacy and planning efforts. This workshop will cover some of the basic questions faced by community planners as part of their engagement in GIS mapping projects, and will introduce some of the most common tools and resources available to them.

ULURP and EIS

Learn more about the city’s official process for making land use decisions: the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure and how to participate effectively. Learn about how to use Environmental Impact Statements (required for large-scale developments) to emphasize neighborhood concerns.

Sustainability

Since the announcement of PlaNYC 2030, sustainability has become the buzzword. Learn more about the elements of sustainability and how you can use them to plan more holistically, effectively, and equitably for neighborhood growth and development.

Economic Development

Small neighborhood business and local jobs are a priority for most communities. This workshop will provide participants with a basic understanding of economic development and the tools needed for addressing economic issues at the neighborhood level.

Affordable Housing

Almost every NYC community grapples with how to best address the need for quality affordable housing. This workshop will provide participants with a basic understanding of how to create, preserve and advocate for affordable housing.

197-a Planning

What do you do after you've done the community organizing, collected the data, identified the planning issues, and are ready to take it to the next level? The official New York City process for neighborhood planning is Section 197-a of the Charter—a long, complicated process that ultimately makes your plan into city policy. You may want to pursue 197-a planning, or you may want to think about different ways to document and pursue your planning goals—both options are addressed in this workshop.

Zoning

Zoning is a basic tool for planning. Learn how your community can take best advantage of the City's zoning designations to make informed decisions about what works and doesn't work in your neighborhood. Zoning in NYC is complex—this “Zoning 101” workshop will help you to understand the fundamentals.

Historic Preservation and Protection of Cultural Assets

Preserving and protecting neighborhood character while balancing growth and development are two essential elements of neighborhood planning. You'll learn about both the basic tools of historic preservation and innovative approaches to maintaining neighborhood character and sites of cultural significance.

Using the Livable Neighborhoods Network (lunch)

The easiest way to exchange information, ideas, images, and documents these days is through the internet. We have designed an internet-based network that is easy-to-use, monitored, and, we hope, will become an important way for you to gather and share more information as you undertake planning initiatives. The Livable Neighborhoods Network will provide documents, extra resources such as information on additional planning topics, photographs, videos of the training workshops, and a forum for discussion. At this workshop, you'll receive special instruction in how to use the Livable Neighborhoods Network.