

### **Building Fences or Housing: Planners' Responsibility to Include the Unhoused in Public Planning**

As income inequality and poverty has risen over the past 40 years in the United States, so too has homelessness. A rapidly growing number of people are struggling to secure consistent housing. Parks and public spaces have become increasingly important for those lacking access to shelter and other social services. As more individuals experiencing homelessness find refuge in parks, planners are confronted with who will be included in meetings and activities to plan public spaces. This presentation focuses specifically on equity and public discourse around planning issues relating to public parks and pedestrian spaces.

This session will address the responsibility of city planners to include the unhoused population in public planning that affects them. It will detail best practices developed by 880 Cities, AARP, National Coalition for the Homeless, and the National Recreation and Park Association. The presentation will also highlight examples of recent planning projects in which Groundwork Studio collaborated with various agencies and organizations to educate the public around systemic causes of homelessness as well as elevate and advocate the concerns and voices of Albuquerque's unhoused populations during project planning phases.

This session has the following objectives:

- Present the recommended responses framework from the "Addressing Homelessness in Parks: An Inclusive Practices Guide" and discuss ways in which this framework can be used locally.
- Introduce concepts of trauma informed design, hostile architecture, and design with dignity as tools to use when planning with marginalized populations.
- Present a GWS project in which unhoused individuals were included in the planning and design processes.
- Discuss local stakeholder groups that can be included in the planning process and creative engagement techniques to employ when considering public meetings in neighborhoods traditionally hostile towards the homeless.

#### **APA core competencies include:**

3. Communication and Interaction:
  - k. Public Participation and Relations
4. Plan Making
  - d. Facilitation and Consensus Building
6. Leadership
  - a. Influencing Decision Making in the Public Interest

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