48th Annual Conference
El Paso, Texas

May 24-27, 2023

Siempre Unidos.

EMBRACING A DIVERSE FUTURE.

Hosted by :

CITY OF EL PASO

NUSA Neighborhoods USA Building Stronger Communities

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HEROICA CIUDAD JUÁREZ Gobierno Municipal de Juárez 2021-2024

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eliminating racism empowering women ywca El Paso del Norte Region

EL PASO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

VISION ZERO

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Love Your Block

MÉXICO CONSULADO GENERAL EN EL PASO

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Community Development Program Manager
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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR LEESER

As Mayor of the great City of El Paso, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 Neighborhoods USA Conference. This event brings together community advocates, civic leaders, and professionals from across the country and internationally to discuss issues impacting their communities. Connections made during the conference help keep communities informed and engaged.

Like many cities around the nation, ours is dynamic and vibrant. We are grateful to benefit from NUSA's commitment to building strong communities. We hope to forge ongoing relationships and new experiences with NUSA members to broaden our scope of resources and partnership opportunties. I hope you gain valuable insight from this conference, forge friendships and find new ways to make a difference in your city.

El Paso offers a lively international experience and friendly hospitality, combined with extraordinary weather that is the jewel of the Southwest. We are called the Sun City, and our breathtaking sunsets and striking Franklin Mountains are surpassed only by the warmth of the wonderful people of El Paso, who always make every visitor feel special. El Paso is rich in entertainment as well as history. Many trails exist throughout the city. Our mountains lend themselves to hiking, camping, mountain biking and rock climbing. And we have some of the best culinary experiences in our region.

We hope you look forward to this unique opportunity to learn more about the most effective city initiatives and neighborhood success stories in our nation, while establishing strong connnections for innovative solutions to the challenges many communities are facing.

We look forward to seeing you here in our beautiful city!

Oscar Leeser

Mayor

MESSAGE FROM THE NUSA PRESIDENT

Friends,

On behalf of the NUSA 2023 Board of Directors, We are excited and thankful to have you joining us at the Neighborhoods, USA Conference in El Paso, Texas! The conference theme, "Siempre Unidos, is Spanish for Always United." This year's theme focuses on the positive influential impact when diverse communities unite and join as allies.

As you enjoy this year's conference, we hope that you take the opportunity to connect with other conference attendees and discuss your recent lived experiences from the past couple of years. The NUSA Annual Conference is a time for neighborhood leaders and supporters to reconnect and share stories, initiatives, and trends changing our neighborhoods.

I've had the pleasure of being a part of NUSA since 2017. As a board member I am honored to represent Neighborhoods across the US and Bahamas. The board members have been hard at work in making sure the world knows about NUSA and the work you all are doing in your neighborhoods. If you are interested in joining this great board, you can find more information on running for the board or hosting a conference on our website www.nusa.org.

Additionally, we know that there's not enough time at the conference to boast about the fantastic things happening in your neighborhoods. If you'd like your neighborhood to be highlighted on our blog, please email webmaster@nusa.org with your story. As we continue our recovery from the pandemic, any information on initiatives that bring neighbors together and build up communities is valuable to your fellow NUSA members.

There's a lot of work that goes behind hosting a conference and thank you to Team El Paso for organizing the workshops, tours, and hospitality. Lastly to the NUSA Board, sponsors, and partners who worked together to bring the conference to life I thank you.

Welcome to El Paso, Texas!

With Appreciation

Precious McKesson

CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023		
NUSA Board Meeting	WestStar Room	8:00am - 12:00pm
Registration	Convention Center Lobby	2:00pm - 8:00pm
Local Leaders Welcome Reception	Paso Del Norte Lobby	6:00pm - 8:00pm
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023		
Registration	Convention Center Lobby	7:00am - 3:00pm
Cafecito con Vecinos (Coffee with Neighbors/Table Talk)	Convention Center Lobby	7:00am - 8:00am
Exhibit Hall Open	Hall A	8:00am - 4:00pm
Opening Plenary Session/Breakfast	Hall B	8:00am - 9:30am
Neighborhood of the Year Judging	Rio Grande Room	9:00am - 4:00pm
Workshops (Session 1)	El Paso & Juarez Rooms	9:45am - 11:00am
Workshops (Session 2)	El Paso & Juarez Rooms	11:15am - 12:30pm
Lunch on Your Own		12:30pm - 1:30pm
Workshops (Session 3)	El Paso & Juarez Rooms	1:45pm - 3:00pm
Neighborhood Tours		4:00pm - 8:00pm
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023		
Cafecito con Vecinos (Coffee with Neighbors/Table Talk)	Convention Center Lobby	7:00am - 8:00am
Continental Breakfast	Hall B	7:00am - 8:00am
Exhibit Hall Open	Hall A	8:00am - 4:00pm
NUSA Elections	Juarez Room	8:00am - 5:00pm
Workshops (Session 4)	El Paso & Juarez Rooms	8:45am - 10:00am
Best Neighborhood Program Judging	Rio Grande Room	9:00am - 4:00pm
Workshops (Session 5)	El Paso & Juarez Rooms	10:15am - 11:30am
Neighborhood of the Year Luncheon	Hall B	11:45am - 1:30pm
Workshops (Session 6)	El Paso & Juarez Rooms	1:45pm - 3:00pm
Exhibit Hall Tear Down	Hall A	4:00pm - 6:00pm
Neighborhood Block Party	Hall C	7:00pm - 9:00pm
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023		
Cafecito con Vecinos (Coffee with Neighbors/Table Talk)	Convention Center Lobby	7:00am - 8:00am
Continental Breakfast	Hall B	7:00am - 8:30am
Membership Meeting	Hall C	9:15am - 11:15am
Best Neighborhood Program Luncheon	Hall B	11:30am - 1:00pm
NUSA Board Meeting	WestStar Room	2:00pm - 4:00pm

GUEST SPEAKERS

Fabiola Campos-Lopez

Local Leaders Welcome Reception

Born in El Paso, Texas, and raised in Ciudad Juarez until she started high school and collegiate studies at the University of Texas at El Paso, she is indeed a Borderland lady. Fabiola's Neighborhood Association involvement began in 2017 when, along with her neighbors and family, she registered the Playa Neighborhood Association. Understanding the importance of organizing and working together to improve the neighborhoods, she led the efforts of galvanizing more than 100 members from different neighborhoods in the Mission Valley area to create the Corridor20 Civic Association.

She has been recognized as the "Community Leader of the Year" by the City of El Paso and is currently serving her second term as Chair of the El Paso Neighborhood Coalition. She firmly believes that the only way to achieve community goals is by doing it TOGETHER. #todossomosneighbors.

Nicole Ferrini

Opening Plenary Breakfast

Holding degrees in both interior design and architecture from Texas Tech University, Nicole has leveraged her background in design and systems thinking to launch a career building better, stronger, more prosperous communities. In 2014, Nicole became the first Latina in the world to serve as Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) for a municipal government.

Most recently Nicole is serving as Director of Community + Human Development for the City of El Paso, in which she continues to raise the bar for city leadership by provoking innovation among civic leaders, industry professionals and the community at large. She remains focused on building grass roots resilience across the Paso Del Norte region, emphasizing dynamic solutions to the challenges of climate instability, urban development, housing, homelessness, economic prosperity and social justice.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Jennifer Prophete

Opening Plenary Breakfast

Jennifer Prophete is the Director of The Hopeful Neighborhood Project. The Hopeful Neighborhood Project is dedicated to helping everyday neighbors pursue the common good, right where they live. Jennifer has spent 20 years working in the fields of urban education, community development, and non-profit leadership. As a native of rural Nebraska, she grew up with a strong sense of the power of community. Her desire to live in community, no matter the neighborhood context, has been a driving force in her life and work.

Jennifer has a bachelor's degree from Concordia University-Nebraska in elementary education with certificates in English-as-an-Other-Language, special education, and early childhood education. She received an MBA from the University of Saint Mary. Jennifer and her husband live in Saint Charles, MO with their three young children and among their amazing neighbors.

Rosa Guerrero

Keynote - Neighborhood of the Year Luncheon

Rosa Ramirez Guerrero of El Paso, Texas, is an artist, educator, dance historian, and humanitarian. Mrs. Guerrero founded and became the artistic director of the International Folklorico Dance Group. Her film "Tapestry," based upon creating cultural harmony and understanding, was honored with a national award for documentary filmmaking. She was awarded a lifetime membership with the Texas PTA and was the first Hispanic woman in El Paso to have a school, Rosa Guerrero Elementary, named in her honor.

Rosa Guerrero has been called "a tapestry of many cultures whose mission is to share this tapestry of cultural diversity, and how it is woven, with all people." She continues her mission of love, peace, and cultural understanding to this day as an educational consultant giving presentations and lectures.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Richard Pineda

Moderator - Neighborhood of the Year Luncheon

Dr. Richard Pineda is Chair of the Department of Communication and Director of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Originally from El Paso, Dr. Pineda has been back home nearly 20 years as a faculty member at UTEP.

In that time, Dr. Pineda has focused his research on the intersection of political communication, Latinidad, and popular culture. He has served as a Hunt Family Foundation Fellow with the Aspen Institute and is sought after as a media commentator on political and cultural issues for regional and national media.

Ben Miranda

Panelist - Neighborhood of the Year Luncheon

As the Deputy Senior Director of Operational Business Development for the national non-profit Endeavors, Benjamin Miranda Jr. is responsible for the operation and expansion of programs supporting Veterans, migrants, people struggling with homelessness, and communities in crisis. Ben is also the owner of Cross-Cultural Leadership Development, a leadership training company, and co-owner and Chief Operating Officer of Doctor Bins, an eco-friendly residential and commercial cleaning service.

A 24-year Veteran of the United States Air Force, Ben rose to the Air Force's highest rank of Chief Master Sergeant. He deployed in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, and UNIFIED RESPONSE, as well as to multiple counter-drug operations in Latin America. He has served on the board for many Veteran and community programs, including as a Commissioner for the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, as well as the George W. Bush Institute's Stand-To Veteran Leadership Program.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Eric Pearson

Panelist - Neighborhood of the Year Luncheon

Eric Pearson is the president and CEO of the El Paso Community Foundation. He is a native El Pasoan who came up through public schools and the University of Texas at El Paso, and worked for about 20 years in broadcast journalism and media prior to joining the El Paso Community Foundation in 2003. Eric has been CEO since 2011; he has worked to engage the El Paso Community Foundation in solid leadership projects.

Grants, community convening, and leadership projects define the El Paso Community Foundation. The Foundation has grown since 1977 to approximately $210 million in assets, and in the process has given more than $249 million in charitable gifts and projects to West Texas, Southern New Mexico and northern Mexico.

Andrea Ramirez

Panelist - Neighborhood of the Year Luncheon

Mrs. Andrea Ramirez began her 13-year journey with Amistad, a not-for-profit agency serving elderly, persons with disabilities and persons-at-risk. as the Director of the Aging, Disability & Transportation Resource Center (ADTRC) and was later promoted to COO of Social Service Programs. Her success at the agency has revolved around grant writing and sustainability to provide much needed services to the El Paso community.

As of June 1, 2020, she assumed her the role as CEO for Amistad. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), a Licensed Professional Dependency Counselor (LPDC), a Society of Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) and holds a Master of Counseling with a Specialization in Marriage, Family and Child Therapy. She was a member of Leadership Class 41 with the El Paso Chamber of Commerce and was selected as a Woman of Impact by the El Paso Inc. in 2021.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Tracy Colunga

Opening Speaker - Closing Luncheon

Tracy M. Colunga joined the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University after a sixteen-year career in city government. Tracy serves as the Civic Engagement Practice Director and works to expand the already bustling Civic Engagement Practice through initiatives like Cities of Service, Local Infrastructure HUB, and Love Your Block. She is focused on advancing and credentialing the field of civic engagement as a core tool for government innovation. Most recently, she served as the Chief Innovation Officer for the City of Long Beach, CA.

As the granddaughter of migrant farmworkers, Tracy is a first-generation college graduate and holds a master's degree from UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. Tracy is currently a lecturer at California State University Long Beach School of Social Work.

Daniel L. Stewart

Keynote - Closing Luncheon

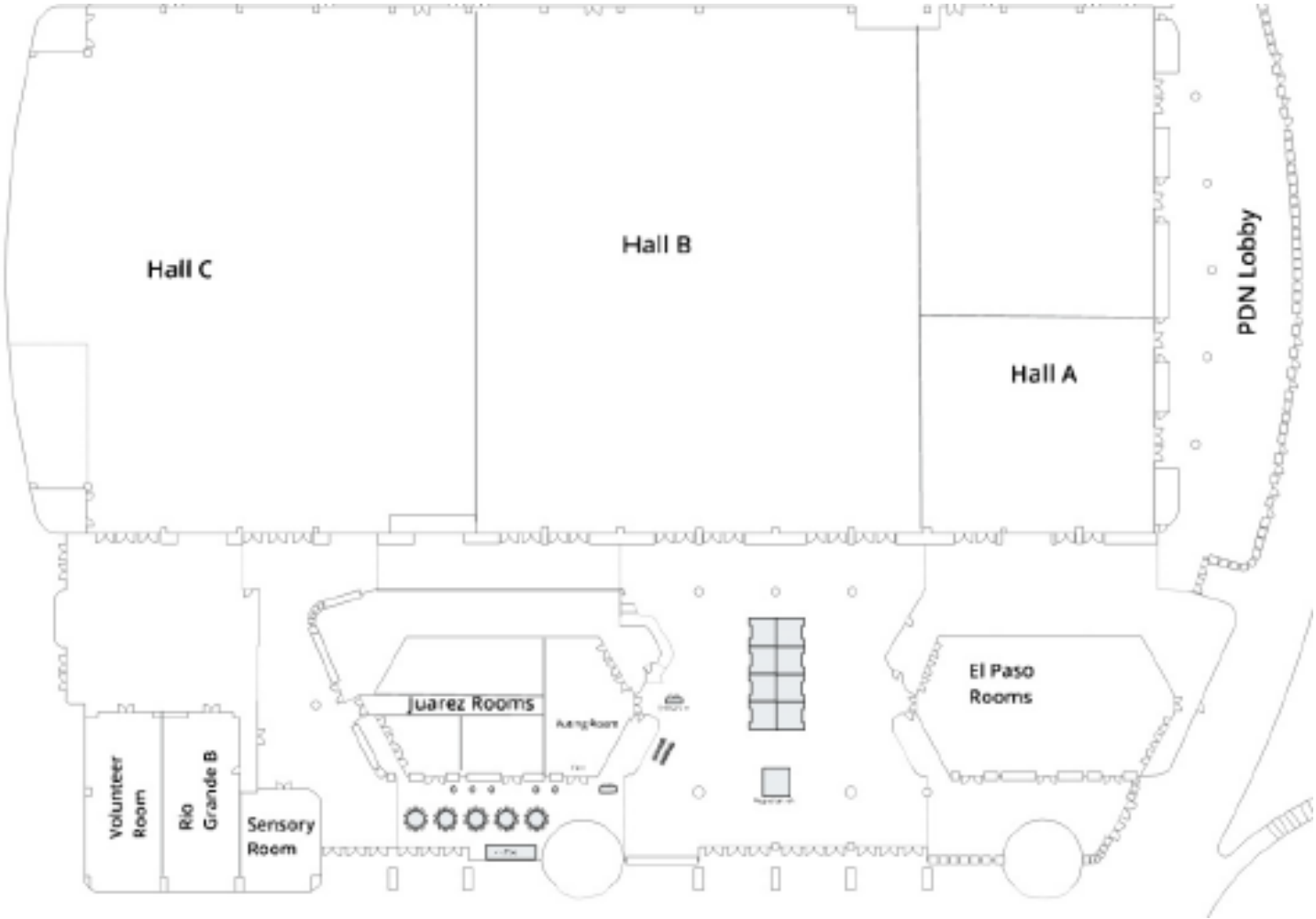
As a former Sergeant in the United States Air Force, member of the Strategic Air Command, and three-term City Councilor and Mayor, Daniel Stewart is no stranger to public service. In his three terms as Mayor in the City of Plattsburgh, New York, Stewart helped achieve the national ranking of #1 Small City in the United States by Site Selection Magazine for small city development opportunities.

Stewart's time in local and state government service gives him a keen knowledge and understanding of the many implications and challenges involved in the decision-making process for deploying technology projects at the local and state government levels. As a current Senior Advisor for State and Local Government at Cisco, Daniel Stewart is dedicated to helping government entities find the tools to implement the use of available technology with increased economic development, citizen satisfaction, public safety and security.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Judson F. Williams Convention Center & Performing Art Center

Located at the heart of the Central Business District, the Judson F. Williams Convention Center is within walking distance of several hotels, museums, Arts Festival Plaza and dining establishments. Visitors can enjoy the shaded outdoor space while enjoying El Paso's optimal year-round weather.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun City Leaders Welcome Reception

Wednesday, May 24 - 6:00PM

Bienvenidos and welcome to El Paso NUSA 2023 attendees! Join us for appetizers and drinks at our opening event to reconnect with colleagues, hear from local leaders, and kickstart the "revitalizing" conversations with new neighbors!

- Mayor Oscar Leeser
- Major General James P. Isenhower
- County Judge Ricardo Samaniego
- County Commissioner Iliana Holguin
- Neighborhood Coalition Chair Fabiola Campos-Lopez
- City Manager Tommy Gonzalez

Cafecito Con Vecinos: Table Talk (Coffee w/Neighbors)

Thursday, May 25 - Saturday, May 27
7:00AM

Friends do bring happiness into your life, but BEST friends bring coffee. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to engage with local neighborhood-centric, change makers at these roundtable sessions to get your conference day(s) started right! Exchange firsthand experiences, share diverse perspectives, and begin transforming inspiration into action.

Neighborhood of the Year Luncheon (NOTY)

Friday, May 26 - 11:45AM

Public recognition and showcasing appreciation for excellence are the focal points of the NOTY, in which neighborhood organizations across the United States are rewarded on a national stage for their innovative and collaborative accomplishments that are driven by community participation. Let's come together at the largest event of the conference to hear from our keynote speaker(s) and honor these admirable organizations for their great work!

Neighborhood Block Party

Friday, May 26 - 7:00PM

Time to celebrate! Every year of impactful work deserves to be capped off with a neighborhood block party. With a cash bar, delicious food, photo booth, special guests, and live entertainment from El Paso's own Fungi Mungle, you won't want to miss it!

P.S. Bring your dancing shoes.

Cafecito Con Vecinos (Coffee w/Neighbors): Table Talk Sessions

Thursday, May 25 - 7:00AM
Community Affairs in the Borderland

"It takes a village!" Join a dynamic and diverse group of local leaders to engage and gain inspiration in conversations centered around El Paso's unique binational, philanthropic, and military affairs and how our community has come together in establishing creative solutions with strategic, multi-sector partners.

Friday, May 26 - 7:00AM
Bridging the Age Gap: Neighborhood Youth Engagement

When cross-generational partnership is at its best and young people and adults co-create spaces in which youth can not only participate, but are encouraged to serve as community leaders, neighborhoods evidently thrive. From the Opportunity Youth Action Network, youth advisory boards, and more, come out and discuss how you can help increase intentionality on attracting youth into your ongoing community engagement and intiatives.

Saturday, May 27 - 7:00AM
Meet & Greet: City of El Paso's Climate & Sustainability Team

Come out to connect with the City of El Paso's new Climate and Sustainability team and chat about opportunities to implement programs and projects that enhance sustainability and resiliency across your community.

Raffle prizes + giveaways will be included! Downtown restaurant gift cards, souvenirs, etc

NUSA Sensory Room

In an effort to be more inclusive of people with sensory needs or those of you who simply want to take a break, our event will include a Sensory Room. This area will provide people with a safe space to take a break from the "hustle and bustle" of the event. The room will be in a secluded area of the building to give those experiencing sensory overload space for peace and quiet.

2023 NUSA CONFERENCE WORKSHOP TRACKS

THE HOPEFUL NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT™

Presented by the Hopeful Neighborhood Project

A Safe and Beautiful Neighborhoods (Crime and Safety/Urban revitalization)

El Paso and other great cities take pride in being recognized as one of the safest cities to live in. Learn more about neighborhood beautification and improvement, prioritization of safety, as well as making cities livable, healthy and sustainable.

B Supporting Community Vulnerabilities (Lifestyles)

COVID 19 has amplified and exacerbated populations that are vulnerable and are at-risk. Learn about innovative partnerships that support populations experiencing Homelessness, Re-Entry, Opportunity Youth, Senior Citizens and more.

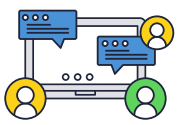
C Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Communities (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

Diversity represents the makeup of your organization, equity means promoting fair procedures, processes, and distribution of resources and inclusion refers to how your members and fellow neighbors feel within your residential area. Neighborhoods thrive when they actively work to diversify their membership and ensure meaningful representation and relationships with identify-based groups. Learn how neighborhoods are successfully advancing their priorities through inclusive and multicultural initiatives that drive positive, long-term community impact.

D Mapping Power for Community Change through Civic Empowerment (Neighborhood Leadership/Engagement)

Understanding the power in residents' voices, organized advocacy and how to leverage that influence, is fundamental in effectively stimulating change through collaboration with your local government. We will take a close look at how to adopt and implement valuable practices in your neighborhood and how it can be utilized to its benefit. Workshops focused on neighborhood capacity building, volunteer leadership, and sustainability. Learn about Civic Empowerment, and how Cities are working hand in hand to ensure more than engagement, that we are giving voice to the people.

E Digital Communities (Technology)



Digital strategies for our fast-changing world. Starting with how we incorporate the use of technology at our Center for Civic Empowerment, or social media to ensure public awareness for a more connected, data driven, resilient neighborhood.

WORKSHOPS AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023		
SESSION 1: 9:45am - 11:00am		
A1	Urban Neighborhood Villages: The Key to Health, Safety, and Security	El Paso - Castner Range
A2	Pets as Family & Community Members: How neighborhoods can help advocate for animal safety & welfare	El Paso - Tigua
B1	Effective Strategies to work with Planners & Neighborhood Associations	Juarez - La Feria
C1	Texarkana Farmers Market: Promoting Neighborhood Health & Efficacy through Food	El Paso - Ft. Bliss
C2	Unleash the Unconference!	Juarez - La Equis
D1	Organizing for Neighborhood Change & Sustainability	El Paso - Los Lagartos
D2	Making History in the Barrio	Juarez - El Mercado
E1	Online to Offline: Leveraging Technology to Neighbor & Shift Power	El Paso - Hueco Tanks
SESSION 2: 11:15am - 12:30pm		
A3	Creative Community Connections	El Paso - Ft. Bliss
A4	Neighborhood Vigilance: How Empowered Neighborhoods can Learn to Reduce & Identify Crimes in their Community through Prevention & Intervention	El Paso - Castner Range
B2	Every Child in the Community Deserves a Chance to Play: All Abilities Playground	El Paso - Tigua
C3	Hispanic-Latin Initiatives: a Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging as a Foundation for Participation, Involvement, and Engagement (DIBPIE)	Juarez - La Equis
D3	Relación socioeconómica en la Región Paso del Norte	El Paso - Hueco Tanks
D4	How the City of Shreveport Created a Vision for Public Participation for it's Land Use Decisions	Juarez - El Mercado
E2	Center for Civic Empowerment: Making spaces and places for a 21st century Neighborhood Association	Juarez - La Feria
SESSION 3: 1:45pm - 3:00pm		
A5	Your Local Fire Department: Important Prevention Partner	El Paso - Ft. Bliss
A6	Turning Tragedy into Strength: #ElPasoStrong	El Paso - Castner Range
B3	Beyond the BRIDGE: Bridging Relationships that Impact, Develop, Grow, and Engage (Presentation title & presenter was modified)	Juarez - El Mercado
D5	The Neighborhood Project Lab (4 Hour Block Concurrent w/ Tours)	El Paso - Hueco Tanks
D6	It Starts With Hello: The Story of Building Community Through Missouri Good Neighborhood Week	El Paso - Los Lagartos
C4	Recognizing our common history, a base to conform a strong socio-economic border and regional community from Juarez to Santa Fe.	El Paso - Tigua
D7	Neighborhood Leadership Academy	Juarez - La Feria

WORKSHOPS AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023		
SESSION 4: 8:45am - 10:00am		
A7	Lofts at the Hotel Grim: Catalyst for Downtown Revitalization in Texarkana	El Paso - Hueco Tanks
A8	"The Challenges Ahead: Community and Police Engagement for a United and Safe Community in the 21st Century."	El Paso - Castner Range
B4	Building a Community Hub Table (Responding together to those most at risk)	Juarez - La Feria
C5	Using History and Culture to Leverage Community Organizing	Juarez - El Mercado
C6	Dimensions of Accessibility	El Paso - Ft. Bliss
D8	Neighborhood Well-Being Window: A Wholistic Tool for Evaluating Collective Neighborhood Well-Being	El Paso - Los Lagartos
D9	Grants and Proposals Made Simple	El Paso - Tigua
D10	Dirt y Girls Compost	Juarez - La Equis
SESSION 5: 10:15am - 11:30am		
A9	The effectiveness of a management district to mitigate crime, enhance beautification and empower communities.	Juarez - La Feria
A10	Code Compliance: How Code Enforcing Helps Keep Communities Beautified and Safe	El Paso - Castner Range
B5	Successful Re-entry - A Better Path Forward for Re-Entering Citizens	El Paso - Ft. Bliss
C7	Instituting Equity within Funding Programs	El Paso - Tigua
D11	Impacts of an Active Neighborhood Association	Juarez - El Mercado
D12	Comparison on US Neighborhood Councils & Japan – Focusing on Present Challenge of Social Changes	El Paso - Los Lagartos
E3	El Paso Helps: Enhancing Access for El Pasoans in Crisis	Juarez - La Equis
	NUSA, Running for the NUSA Board: Ever Wonder How the Sprit and Magic of Neighborhoods, USA stays alive?	El Paso - Hueco Tanks
SESSION 6: 2:00pm - 3:15pm		
A11	The Paso del Norte Trail: A Trail for Everyone	El Paso - Ft. Bliss
A12	Organizing for Neighborhood Improvements	El Paso - Castner Range
B6	Collaboration in Addressing Homelessness	El Paso - Los Lagartos
B7	Love Your Block - Addressing Blight through Equity & Volunteerism	Juarez - La Feria
C8	Neighborhoods ARP Funding: Participatory Budgeting in Action	El Paso - Hueco Tanks
D13	Better Together-Discovering the Gifts of Your Neighborhood	El Paso - Tigua
D14	Blast from the Past: Revitalizing Historic Neighborhoods, Bringing Vacant & Abandoned Building Back to Life	Juarez - El Mercado
E4	Learn about Digital Marketing	Juarez - La Equis

WORKSHOPS

A Safe & Beautiful Neighborhoods (Crime & Safety/Urban revitalization)

A1 Urban Neighborhood Villages: The Key to Health, Safety & Security

Placemaking is the life force of a community, contributing to a City's distinct and diverse character. Learn how residents and city collaborations capitalize on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that improve urban vitality, sustain the historic character, and promote people's health, happiness, and well-being with the leaders of 2023 USA Today's Choice Awards voted Best Historic Small Town in America, San Elizario, Texas.

- *Mike Medina - San Elizario, TX*
- *Mayor Isela Reyes - San Elizario, TX*
- *Al Borrego - San Elizario, TX*
- *Lorenzo Luevano - San Elizario, TX*

A2 Pets as Family & Community Members

Learn to provide a safe, comfortable environment for pets in the community, promote responsible pet ownership through resources and community involvement. These well-being ways can help advocate for animal safety and welfare ensuring pets of their 5 Freedoms: Freedom from hunger and thirst, Freedom from discomfort, Freedom from pain injury or disease, Freedom to express normal behavior, Freedom from fear and distress.

- *Jessica Navarro - El Paso, TX*

A3 Creative Community Connections

The City of Peoria is pleased to present several fun and creative programs utilized to connect with residents. The programs are a collective means to bridge communication gaps and connect residents to resources, ensuring a high quality of life by strengthening and revitalizing neighborhoods and communities.

- *Lisa Mattox - Peoria, AZ*
- *Eric Hannah - Peoria, AZ*
- *Adam Johnson - Peoria, AZ*

A4 Neighborhood Vigilance: How Empowered Neighborhoods can Learn to Reduce & Identify Crimes in their Community through Prevention & Intervention

Through this discussion, participants will learn strategies to become safe and empowered neighborhoods by learning to identify suspicious behaviors, discuss the fundamentals of crime intervention and prevention and to be aware of crime trends that occur in neighborhoods.

- *Michael J. Gaither - El Paso, TX*
- *Cynthia Jimenez - El Paso, TX*

A5 Your Local Fire Department: Important Prevention Partner

This session highlights how modern fire departments have stepped into the 20th century as savvy partners ensuring communities are safe places to live, work, learn, and play. The Pflugerville Fire Department and national partner, NFPA, will explain how they use a data-driven Community Risk Reduction (CRR) process to identify risks, engage stakeholders, and implement strategic community safety plans.

- *Karen Berard - Reed- Quincy, MA*
- *Daniel Berger - Pflugerville, TX*
- *Casey Villanueva - Pflugerville, TX*

A6 Turning Tragedy Into Strength #ELPASOSTRONG

On August 3, 2019 a man with an automatic weapon drove 10 hours to attack our people. That hate driven act of terror was an extraordinary shock to our community. 23 people died that day and many more were impacted. ELPASOSTRONG was born to the national stage that day. Learn about resilience principles and how El Paso rallied with pride and came together to drive out hate and come out El Paso Strong.

- *Nicole Ferrini - El Paso, TX*

WORKSHOPS

A7 Lofts at the Hotel Grim: Catalyst for Downtown Revitalization in Texarkana

How a community turned a 30+ year vacant property into community housing. End result: Fully restored historic building including Grand Lobby, Palm Room and 93 affordable rate apartments.

- *David Orr - Texarkana, TX*
- *Antonio D. Williams - Texarkana, TX*
- Tim Minson - Merriam, KS
- Daphnea Ryan - Texarkana, TX

A8 "The Challenges Ahead: Community & Police Engagement for a United and Safe Community in the 21st Century."

In the 21st Century law enforcement must focus on continual self- evaluation in order to effectively serve the communities who have given them their authority. This workshop will continue the vital discussions on police funding, police and community engagement and strategies for ensuring policing in the 21st Century is constitutional, respects the rights of all people and ensures public safety.

- *Brian Biery - Pasadena, CA*
- *Darryl Qualls - Pasadena, CA*
- *Keith Roberts - Pasadena, CA*

A9 The effectiveness of a management district to mitigate crime, enhance beautification & empower communities

Learn about the power a management district has in revitalizing neighborhoods through a multipronged approach with a focus on public safety, economic development, urban development, and community partnerships. The Hawes Hill & Associates firm has mastered the ability to transform neighborhoods throughout Texas in ways many thought we impossible. This will be a focus on the International and East Aldine Management Districts.

- *Natali Hurtado - Houston, TX*
- *Richard Cantu - Houston, TX*
- *Victor Beserra - Houston, TX*

A10 Code Compliance: How Code Enforcement Strives to Keep Communities Beautiful & Safe

Learn how the City of El Paso's Code Compliance Divisions work in tandem with other City departments and citizens to promote safe, desirable living and working environments.

- *Danny Soto - El Paso, TX*
- *Steve Alvarado - El Paso, TX*
- *Dolores Hernandez - El Paso, TX*

A11 The Paso del Norte Trail: A Trail for Everyone

The Paso del Norte Trail is a 68-mile hike and bike trail that traverses El Paso County. Community stakeholders, including neighborhood associations, have been in the planning and design of trail segments in the Lower Valley and Central El Paso.

- *Jana Renner - El Paso, TX*
- *Nahum Apodaca - El Paso, TX*

A12 Organizing for Neighborhood Improvements

The workshop will provide an interactive and participatory approach to several simple steps for making neighborhood improvements. It will also address the value of mobilizing and organizing a neighborhood organization to be part of the improvement process.

- *Elton Gatewood - Tacoma, WA*

WORKSHOPS

B Supporting Community Vulnerabilities (Lifestyles)

B1 Effective Strategies to work with Planners & Neighborhood Associations

Learn how the City of El Paso's Planning and Inspections Department helps their community one neighborhood at a time by providing opportunities for them to reach their goals by efficiently and effectively providing direct services to residents, businesses, visitors, developers, and the construction community.

- *Marcos Vela, Kevin W. Smith, Raul Garcia, Jessica Sanchez*

B2 All Abilities Playgrounds

Every Child in the Community Deserves a Chance to Play, an all-abilities playground is a special kind of playground that has been designed to be inclusive and accessible for children of all ages and abilities. The panelists will discuss and answer questions on what it takes to plan, build and important factors to consider when thinking of implementing this inclusive idea in your community.

- *Nicholas Gonzalez - El Paso, TX*
- *Deborah Blea Hradek - El Paso, TX*
- *Nate Tierney - El Paso, TX*

B3 Beyond the BRIDGE: Bridging Relationships that Impact, Develop, Grow, and Engage

(Presentation Title & Presenter was modified)

This workshop is designed to educate you on strategies to empower and engage neighborhoods through collaborative efforts. Learn the value of active responsibility motivated by community driven vision and the power of effective communication between residents, law enforcement and local government and its impact to community progress.

- *Tabatha Childress - Winston Salem, NC*
- *Gary Lash - Winston Salem, NC*
- *Dr. Pam Peoples-Joyner - Winston Salem, NC*

B4 Building a Community Hub Table: Responding together to those most at risk

Every community has members who experience challenges and circumstances that put them, and others, at risk of harm. Building Community Hub Tables is a model to address the need to connect community members in need with the services and resources to mitigate risk and prevent harm from occurring. Lack of communication among service providers can lead to individuals and families slipping the cracks and remaining at high levels of risk. The Hub Situation Table is a highly structured triage process that allows service providers to share limited and important information with other agencies that creates a more comprehensive and collaborative service intervention.

- *Amber Besaw - North Adams, MA*
- *Daniel Cortez - Chelsea, MA & Hampton, VA*

B5 Successful Reentry - A Better Path Forward for Reentering Citizens

There are several issues that face reentry. The goal of this workshop is for participants to gain an understanding of the obstacles men and women face as they are trying to navigate the "system" after being released from prison. You will gain invaluable knowledge as you experience post-release life.

- *DeAnna O'Malley - Fayetteville, AR*

B6 Collaboration in Addressing Homelessness

The way in which Spartanburg, South Carolina responded to the challenges of homelessness has changed substantially since the initial convening of the Homeless Taskforce in 2018, which includes stakeholders such as government leaders, business owners, nonprofit agencies, and more. Led by the taskforce and the community's strong collaboration, Spartanburg has since invested in resources for its case management, outreach services, and more!

- *Marilyn Nguyen - Spartanburg, SC*
- *Hannah Jarrett - Spartanburg, SC*
- *Beth Rutherford - Spartanburg, SC*
- *Joseph Pilato - Spartanburg, SC*

WORKSHOPS

B7 Love Your Block - Addressing Blight through Equity & Volunteerism

Cities of Service – Building Stronger Neighborhoods, one block at a time through the Love Your Block program; an initiative focused on helping cities to partner with community groups and activate resident volunteers to repair, remediate, or otherwise address blight in their neighborhoods. Through this discussion, learn how El Paso and other cities are centering equity and encouraging community members to love their block.

- *Tracy Colunga - Long Beach, CA*
- *Christian Lopez - El Paso, TX*

C Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Communities (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)

C1 Texarkana Farmers Market: Promoting Neighborhood Health and Efficacy through Food

The implications of food security run deeper than wealth disparity from home to home or neighborhood to neighborhood, even. With a focus on food security, the Farmers Market seeks to provide equity and efficacy within all neighborhoods in the community while promoting healthier lifestyle.

- *Vashil Fernandez - Texarkana, TX*

C2 Unleash the Unconference!

Are you a little tired of doing the same engagement practices? Then spice it up and unleash the Unconference! (not to be confused with unleashing the Kraken... that would be bad.) Join us as we share how to implement an interactive unconference where every participant who attends is involved in the process from beginning to end.

- *Dan Bagley - Raleigh, NC*
- *Grady Bussey - Raleigh, NC*
- *Sheila Lynch - Raleigh, NC*
- *Luis F. Olivieri-Robert - Raleigh, NC*

C3 Hispanic-Latin Initiatives: a diversity, inclusion, and belonging as a foundation for participation, involvement, and engagement (DIBPIE)

A panel for sharing perspectives, experiences, and initiatives used to promote Hispanic-Latino community involvement in different cities around the United States. The City of Raleigh will share what has been done since 1998 to grow awareness, provide information, organize educational programs and cultural events, develop leadership, and create opportunities. By understanding what diversity, inclusion, belonging mean then participation, involvement and engagement can happen.

- *Luis F. Olivieri-Robert - Raleigh, NC*
- *Dan Bagley - Raleigh, NC*
- *Sheila Lynch - Raleigh, NC*

C4 Recognizing Common History Between Our Regions

This workshop will narrate the local history of the old territory of New Mexico to illustrate the need of understanding our past and thus discover our strong bonds. Trust & common bonds are needed to construct successful economies. Our region to include; Cuidad Juarez, MX, El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM and all of New Mexico are an important participant of the global economy, and it can grow stronger if common bonds are accepted and recognized by the inhabitants

- *Jose Mario Sanchez Soledad - Paso Del Norte Region*

WORKSHOPS

C5 Using History and Culture as A Tool to Leverage Community Organizing

Segundo Barrio is one of El Paso's iconic neighborhoods. It has been called the Ellis Island of the southern border. Like many urban historic neighborhoods, it faces many challenges. This workshop will explore how community members are using the neighborhoods history and culture to leverage community organizing.

- *Simon Chandler - El Paso, TX*
- *Juan Adame - El Paso, TX*
- *Osvaldo Velez - El Paso, TX*

C6 Dimensions of Accessibility

The greatest accommodation an employer can provide for a person with disabilities is opportunity. Having the ability to shed any preconceived notions that the employer might have about employing a person with any disabilities is a crucial step in creating these opportunities. This workshop will provide you with the tools you need to have a productive and healthy relationship with current and prospective employees with disabilities

- *George Zavala - El Paso, TX*
- *Tom Laign - El Paso, TX*

C7 Instituting Equity within Funding Programs

Minneapolis's Neighborhoods 2020 funding program strives to center equity in the engagement work conducted by the city's 70 neighborhood organizations. Through a robust public engagement campaign that included multiple work groups, 100 public engagement sessions and a racial equity analysis completed by an outside contractor, the Neighborhoods 2020 funding program redefined the roles and expectations of neighborhood organizations that received funding through the City.

- *Aryca Myers - Minneapolis, MN*
- *Steve Gallagher - Minneapolis, MN*
- *Tate Nguyen - Minneapolis, MN*

C8 Neighborhoods ARP Funding: Participatory Budgeting in Action

The City of Muncie, IN allocated $1 million to help combat the effects of COVID-19 within Muncie's neighborhoods. The process that developed to ensure the equitable distribution of those funds focused on residents' voices and meeting the needs of each individual neighborhood association.

- *Heather Williams - Munice, IN*
- *Megan "Mo" Orbin - Munice, IN*
- *Krista Flynn - Munice, IN*

D Mapping Power for Community Change through Civic Empowerment (Neighborhood Leadership/Engagement)

D1 Organizing for Neighborhood Change & Sustainability

We all have power. Come learn valuable and effective practices that will help your neighborhood group build capacity, acquire volunteers and stay around for years to come.

- *Kimara Snipes - Omaha, NE*

D2 Making History in the Barrio

El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization/Border Interfaith will share its proven set of tools for more effective citizen advocacy in its neighborhoods. Specialized training for community leaders and its unique organizational structure has positively impacted the El Paso community for the past 40 years in a multitude of areas of concern. Presentation will focus on specific areas of major impact.

- *Surya Kalra - El Paso, TX*

WORKSHOPS

D3 Relación socioeconómica en la Región Paso del Norte (Paso Del Norte Socioeconomic Relations) *

La relación entre México y los Estados Unidos es compleja y en momentos de tensión, como de conflagración. Sus realidades son de convivencia intensa, y a la vez de interdependencia en la Región Paso del Norte, conformada con alrededor de 2.4 millones personas, y enmarca en una constante relación socioeconómica. Influida por la colaboración, cooperación y conformación de alianzas estratégicas.
*Presentation will be in Spanish

- *Dr. Tomás Cuevas-Contreras - Cuidad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico*

D4 How the City of Shreveport Created a Vision for Public Participation for its Land Use Decisions

Imagine land use decisions that don't involve masses of opposition, but instead collaboration, as a result of effective public participation. This workshop introduces both planning professionals and citizen to the principles of effective public participation. Using Shreveport, Louisiana as a case study, you'll learn how and when public participation can be integrated into the land use decision making process.

- *Emily Trant - Shreveport, LA*

D5 The Neighborhood Project Lab – The Hopeful Neighborhood Project*

The Hopeful Neighborhood Project Lab is an interactive experience designed to walk 5 neighborhood groups through The Hopeful Neighborhood Process. Each group will leave with a customized project plan for pursuing the common good. Using tools like the Neighborhood Gift Map and possibility statements will equip your group with both theory and a practical plan you can start the minute you get home.
*This is a special 4 hour project lab that will take place during the neighborhood tours. Please do not sign up for neighborhood tours and this workshop.

- *Sara Johnson - St. Louis, MO*

D6 It Starts with Hello: The Story of Building Community Through Missouri Good Neighbor Week

National Good Neighbor Day (Sept. 28) provides a perfect opportunity for leaders and neighbors from every color, creed and walk of life to promote healthy community engagement. It is as simple as "Starting with Hello." David Burton and Jennifer Prophete provide the research, insights, and best practices that helped them launch Missouri Good Neighbor Week and grow the National Good Neighbor Day coalition.

- *David Burton - Springfield, MO*
- *Jennifer Prophete - St. Louis, MO*

D7 Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Bridging a qualitative connection between local governments and residents is critical to establishing sound collaboration in preserving and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Learn about (2) educational and engaging models/programs designed to stimulate intentional deliberation and grant residents the opportunity to gain a clear understanding of local government's day-to-day operations and/or take an active role in a decision-making process.

- *Christian Lopez - El Paso, TX*
- *Sarah Atwood, PhD - St. Paul, MN*

D8 Neighborhood Well-Being Window: A Wholistic Tool for Evaluating Collective Neighborhood Well-Being

Neighborhood well-being is much like physical well-being; it is wholistic. The Neighborhood Well-being Window is a tool designed to help neighborhood leaders assess the well-being of their neighborhood. In this session, participants will explore the twelve indicators of neighborhood health, how to collect data to assess them, and how to use that data to increase the well-being right where they live.

- *Jennifer Prophete - St. Louis, MO*

WORKSHOPS

D9 Grant & Proposal Writing Made Simple

The workshop will provide an interactive, participatory, and hands-on approach to grant and proposal writing. It will offer simple and easy steps in preparing good proposals.

- *Elton Gatewood, Ph.D. - Tacoma, WA*

D10 Dirt y Girls Compost

How two women took it upon themselves to make their neighborhood a little greener by starting a Free Community Composting program. In exchange for kitchen scraps, neighbors get fresh composted soil and opportunities for seed exchange events. This free program empowers neighbors to live more sustainably and healthy.

- *Veronica Vasquez Perez - El Paso, TX*
- *Patricia Garcia Montoya - El Paso, TX*

D11 Impacts of an Active Neighborhood Association

An insight view from the Montoya Heights Neighborhood Association here in El Paso, TX and the positive impact that it is making in the community as well as identifying challenges that have been overcome; discussion will focus on community engagement, effective collaborations and innovative projects.

- *Craig Matthews - El Paso, TX*
- *Hilda Matthews - El Paso, TX*

D12 Comparison on US Neighborhood Councils and Japan Machiukuru Kyogikais – Focusing on Present Challenge of Social Changes

The workshop will provide an interactive and participatory exchange of information and compare the Social Changes of Neighborhood Councils in Japan and the USA. It will also address local areas, especially neighborhoods are forced to confront many problems in the dramatically changing society. It will explore ways to address and solve problems such as shrinking population and cities, spreading social gaps, poverty, social exclusion and isolation.

- *Elton Gatewood, Ph.D. - Tacoma, WA*
- *Soichiro Maeyama, Ph.D. - Hiroshima, Fukuyama City Japan*

D13 Better Together – Discovering the Gifts in Your Neighborhood

Minneapolis's Neighborhoods 2020 funding program strives to center equity in the engagement work conducted by the city's 70 neighborhood organizations. Through a robust public engagement campaign that included multiple work groups, 100 public engagement sessions and a racial equity analysis completed by an outside contractor. The Neighborhoods 2020 funding program redefined the roles and expectations of neighborhood organizations that received funding through the City. The program's goal is to ensure Minneapolis' neighborhood network, the City's neighborhood-based engagement structure, more equitable and effective.

- *Jennifer Prophete - St. Louis, MO*

D14 Blast From the Past: Revitalizing Historic Neighborhoods, Bringing Vacant and Abandoned Buildings Back to Life

Revitalizing historic neighborhoods: Bringing Vacant and Abandoned Buildings back to life. Community organizers transforming historic abandoned neighborhood buildings into livable and community business spaces.

- *Ben Fyffe - El Paso, TX*
- *Gerald Cichon - El Paso, TX*

WORKSHOPS

E Digital Communities (Technology)

E1 Online-to-offline: Leveraging Technology to Neighbor and Shift Power

Online-to-offline: Leveraging Technology to Neighbor and Shift Power - Learn about how communities can utilize simple technologies to catalyze more face-to-face interactions and grassroots civic action.

- *David Valero - El Paso, TX*

E2 Center for Civic Empowerment

Making Spaces and Places for a 21st Century Neighborhood Association; a glimpse at the City of El Paso's collaboration with Cisco Webex and its visual/audio integration allowing for a modern and innovative approach as a multi-use connectivity hub. The Center for Civic Empowerment (CCE) was engineered to equip nonprofit, neighborhood organizations, civic groups, and community-driven events with the technological tools to further the vision, mission, and goals set by the CCE including, but not limited to, building and strengthening new collaborations and the capacity of our partners to increase the City's impact on the progress of people and place.

- *Christian Lopez - El Paso, TX*
- *Nicole Ferrini - El Paso, TX*
- *Barbara Walker - El Paso, TX*

E3 El Paso Helps: Enhancing Access for El Pasoans in Crisis:

Launched in January of 2023, El Paso Helps, was created to help individuals in crisis. Learn how this public private partnership came together to improve community outcomes in homelessness, housing, food security, and other community challenges all through a virtual web interface.

- *Nicole Ferrini - El Paso, TX*
- *Barbara Walker - El Paso, TX*
- *Adela Alonso - El Paso, TX*
- *Daniel Stewart - Florida*
- *Candace Valenzuela - HUD Region 6*

E4 Learn All About Digital Marketing

Digital marketing can help create more informed neighborhoods, with the world going digital it has become necessary to gain the knowledge on how to communicate digitally; this workshop will provide an opportunity to learn about the potential and benefits associated with implementing digital changes to your programming and communication.

- *Gracie Cain Viramontes - El Paso, TX*

NUSA - Running for the NUSA Board

Ever Wonder How the Spirit and Magic of Neighborhoods, USA stays alive?
This workshop will present an overview of the NUSA organization and what is involved in joining the volunteer Board of Directors. If you ever thought of being involved in the neighborhood movement on a national level, this is your invitation. This workshop is a prerequisite to running for the Board.

- *NUSA Board Members*

NUSA BOARD ELECTIONS

For more than forty years, Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) has been on the front lines of building stronger communities across the United States. In 1975, a small group of neighborhood leaders across the United States came together to form a national organization to provide guidance, encouragement and educational tools for community activists and civic officials to organize neighborhood groups and bring them into the local decision-making process. Neighborhoods are the building blocks of every city throughout our nation. Communities are at their strongest when neighbors look out for one another and work together to improve their surroundings. Strong grass-roots groups not only have a positive impact on our quality of life, but they are popular vehicles to affect positive change and revitalization. Neighborhoods face a menu of complex problems every day, whether it be fighting crime, getting more people involved or just being heard by their local elected officials. NUSA helps provide the knowledge and skills that leaders and neighborhood groups need to strengthen their base of support, build efficient partnerships and create a new synergy.

Cast your vote in the Elections Room (Juarez) Friday, May 26th from 8:00am-5:00pm!

Charmaine Clark

Charmaine Clark is currently an employee with the City of Columbia's Community Development Department as a Community Liaison. I devote my time interacting with different cultural and ethnic groups within my city and its community of neighborhoods. I am a multi-talented leader dedicated to community neighborhood engagements with a strong sense of neighboring and community building. I am currently serving on the NUSA Board and will continue bringing innovative, timely and engaging ideas and perspectives. I graduated cum laude with a bachelor in Organizational Management from Claflin University and cum laude with a Master degree in Business from Webster University. I solicit your vote for re-election to the NUSA Board 2023 – 2026.

Orlando Robinson, Jr.

Orlando Robinson, Jr. is seeking re-election to the NUSA Board of Directors. Orlando has been affiliated with NUSA since 2015; he was elected to the NUSA Board in 2017. During this time, Orlando has served in various capacities including NUSA Awards committee and as secretary of the board. Orlando exemplifies NUSA's mission to build and strengthen neighborhoods, and to promote productive communications through his volunteer work as a neighborhood leader in Midfield, Alabama where he resides. Orlando is an influencer, community servant and ordained minister. He currently serves on the Midfield Library Board of Trustees, and Midfield Chamber of Commerce. His attentiveness to details and exemplary planning skills are just a few of the ways he stays on top working in collaboration with the NUSA Board. He always strives for perfection, and operates with a proactive mindset that he says helps him stay one step ahead of the community's needs.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE TOURS

Presented by El Paso Electric

All tours are free with registration unless specified. Boxed dinner provided for all tours unless otherwise specified. All tours have limited space; first come, first served.

T 1: Southside Neighborhoods Mural Tour

Bus Tour/ Moderate Walking/ Limited wheelchair accessibility.

The Murals in the Segundo Barrio Neighborhood in the El Paso Southside area are a latent reminder of who we are as a Border Community. Segundo Barrio is Spanish for "The Second Neighborhood". The site is iconic for its history and closeness to the port of entry to Ciudad Juarez in Mexico. The Murals located throughout the Segundo Barrio Neighborhood and beyond honor our neighborhood's values and strengthen the border culture in El Paso.

T2: Breathtaking Views of the Paso del Norte Region

Bus Tour/ Moderate Walking/ Limited wheelchair accessibility.

The drive will make its first stop at the iconic El Paso High School. The school, built in 1916, is the oldest operating high school in El Paso, Texas. The Portico of Octavia in Rome inspires the campus's unique Greco-Roman Architecture. The next visit will be to two of the most impressive Central neighborhoods, the Rim area neighborhood, and the Kern Place neighborhood, with a vibrant community nestled in the foothills of the Franklin Mountains. The Neighborhoods are just uphill from Downtown, so urban life is enjoyed too. El Paso is a special place because of the breathtaking views from the Scenic Drive area. The site has a fantastic view of downtown El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, with several pull-offs to stop for pictures or a better view.

T3: City of El Paso Neighborhood Association Origins

Bus Tour/ Moderate Walking/ Historic neighborhood with limited wheelchair accessibility.

The Manhattan Heights Neighborhood is centrally located in a historic district and built on a previous smelter company grounds. The copper company's smelter was demolished by 1912 to make way for the residential area. Most of the homes were completed in 1930. The houses were designed with wealthy buyers in mind. The houses, streets, and parks are kept well for its residents and delight for whoever likes to know the area and visit their iconic parks. In the heart of the district lies Memorial Park, a desert oasis, and the Municipal Rose Garden which showcases over 430 varieties of roses. Another jewel in the Manhattan Heights Neighborhood is the Loretto Academy that was built in the middle of nowhere and is now in Central-East El Paso. Designed by Gustavus Trost, the Academy is in excellent condition today. The building is in a Spanish renaissance style and features red Spanish Tile roofs with beautiful campus grounds that beautify the Manhattan Heights neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE TOURS

All tours are free with registration unless specified. Boxed dinner provided for all tours unless otherwise specified. All tours have limited space; first come, first served.

T4: Sunset Heights, El Paso's first suburb & Our Partners in Education Tour

Bus Tour/ Moderate Walking/ Historic neighborhood with limited wheelchair accessibility

The visit to the University of Texas in El Paso (UTEP) will inspire everyone who accepts this ride to the University campus. The University is enclaved in an iconic and historic neighborhood, The Sunset Heights Neighborhood. UTEP is a public research university and the second-largest University in the United States to have the majority Mexican American student population after the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The University has been distinguished because of its positive social and economic impact on the community and region it serves. Its neighbor, Sunset Heights, is one of the City's first hillside suburbs, home to mansions overlooking the Paso Del Norte. The Sunset Heights Neighborhood is a historic area engulfed in 170 acres. Covering 170 acres, it's one of El Paso most economically diverse neighborhoods It is under pressure from speculative investment and increasing values and rents, presenting challenges and opportunities. This tour will highlight some of the homes and history and present of this historic neighborhood.

T5: Westside's Newest City Neighborhoods

Bus Tour/ Moderate Walking/ ADA Accessible

The Franklin Mountains are the sleeping guardian of El Paso, dividing the City into two areas, The Eastside and the Westside. The Westside is distinguished for its economic, housing, and community-growing impact on the City. In addition, the Westside is where three states neighbor each other, El Paso, Texas; Sunland Park, New Mexico and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico.

The area comprises the newest home developments, occupied mainly by couples and starting families. In addition, a few neighborhoods close to the El Paso border have been organized as Neighborhood Associations for the last 20 years. Traveling to the east of the area, the Franklin Mountains connect to the North eastside area of El Paso thru its Transmountain road. The Transmountain City scenic stop serves to appreciate our region with spectacular sunset views.

T6: Northeast Breathtaking Neighborhoods at the foot of the Franklin Mountains

Bus Tour/ Moderate Walking/ ADA Accessible

Because of its proximity to the military base called Fort Bliss, The Northeast neighborhoods hold most of the veterans' community population who decide to make El Paso their home and stay. As a result, El Paso has been proclaimed by County Judge Samaniego as the Veteran's Capital of the U.S.A. Additionally, the Northeast area is one of the more ethnically diverse areas of town due to a high concentration of enlisted military families. Some of the Northeast neighborhoods are close to the Franklin Mountains' foothills, with extensive open areas and trails to enjoy the El Paso desert scenery. In addition, the annual Poppies Festival is hosted in the area during the spring bloom. To the north of the area, it extends to the New Mexico State line.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE TOURS

All tours are free with registration unless specified. Boxed dinner provided for all tours unless otherwise specified. All tours have limited space; first come, first served.

T7: Mission Valley Neighborhoods

Bus Tour/ Moderate Walking/ Wheelchair accessible

The Missions are an essential part of the history of our neighborhoods and region. The Spaniards including in their pilgrim routes, had Missionaries who entered thru once called Paso del Norte area (now Ciudad Juarez). The established Missions are still active and used by El Pasoans and adjacent Towns' communities. Three Missions will be visited, Ysleta del Sur Mission, Socorro Mission, and San Elizario Mission. There is a lot of history behind every Mission and the neighborhoods where they are located. The Paso del Norte Trail connecting all three Missions is the only trail route along the Rio Grande river, which marks the U.S. border with Mexico.

T8: Eastside Edge of El Paso

Bus Tour/ Moderate Walking/ Wheelchair accessible

The Eastside neighborhoods area is the fastest-growing area of town. With a population of over 150,000, east El Paso is also the largest area in the City. It also possesses the greatest number of entertainment venues in the City. In addition, there is a mix of historic, very active, and new neighborhoods in the Eastside area. A visit to the Beast Urban Park in Upper East El Paso boasts the region's first public indoor natatorium with a diving well and other amenities. Did you know El Paso is home to the world's largest inland desalination plant? Join us as we also visit the Kay Bailey Hutchison (KBH) Desalination Plant and El Paso Water's TecH2O Center to get an inside look and appreciation of total water management in the Chihuahuan Desert.

T9: Soul of El Paso Streetcar Tour

Street Car/ Easy Walking/ Wheelchair Accessible

El Paso Downtown Streetcar is one of the most outstanding amenities brought back in recent years. It uses a fleet of restored PCC streetcars that had served the City's previous system until its closure in 1974. The system covers 4.8 miles in two loops from Downtown El Paso to the University of Texas at El Paso. A small trolley cart was introduced to El Paso in 1902, replacing El Paso's mule car system, which had the town's pet, "Mandy the Mule," taking passengers across the border and around the downtown area. The streetcar will take you around El Paso Downtown to appreciate the beautiful revitalized downtown area, including the mix of historic and new buildings and hotels. The ride will get about three blocks closer to the Port of Entry to Juarez. Possible visit to one of the iconic historic hotels Downtown to hear the story behind the landmark hotel's magnificence.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE TOURS

All tours are free with registration unless specified. Boxed dinner provided for all tours unless otherwise specified. All tours have limited space; first come, first served.

T 10: Our Neighbors from Across the Border, International Tour

A valid US Passport is required at time of registration. Price: $50 per person. Cash Only. You will pay at day of tour.

Van/ Moderate Walking/ Not ADA Accessible/ Approx. 4 Hours

El Paso and Ciudad Juarez lie together, surrounded by mountains and desert. The cities are separated by the thin trickle of the Rio Grande, which flows through concrete channels built to end the river's natural habit of changing course and muddying boundaries. Nevertheless, thousands of people from both sides commute daily for business, school, or leisure. The tour will help visitors understand the borderland life. The first stop will be at the Mision de Guadalupe, which marks the origins of the City. Then the region's economic success is mainly due to the success of the "Maquilas" factories established specifically in Ciudad Juarez for the excellent and inexpensive labor compared to other Countries. Therefore, a visit to a Maquila will follow. After that visit, the drive will include going through neighborhoods before arriving at one of the exquisite Mexican cuisine restaurants to add to this fantastic Ciudad Juarez, Mexico-of-a-kind experience. Fee: Dinner stop in one of the iconic restaurants in Ciudad Juarez.

T 11: Mariachi Street Car Tour* Special Friday Tour*

Street Car/ Easy Walking/ No Meal Included/ Wheelchair accessible

The Mariachi, a jewel of Mexican folklore music, will take over the El Paso Streetcar with a selection of its most beloved hits! The special performance by Mariachi Alegre will delight your ears while you enjoy the beauty of Downtown El Paso. The ride will loop through 4.8 miles of track and 27 stops through the most iconic neighborhoods of El Paso. Do not wait to sign up for a true Borderland Fiesta on the streetcar filled with joy and Mexican folklore!

THINGS TO DO

Indoors:

- Art Museum: 1 Arts Festival Plz, El Paso, TX 79901,
- History Museum: 510 N Santa Fe St, El Paso, TX 79901
- Holocaust Museum: 715 N Oregon St, El Paso, TX 79902
- Border Patrol Museum: 4315 Woodrow Bean Transmountain Dr, El Paso 79924
- Archeology Museum: 4301 Trans Mountain Rd, El Paso, TX 79924
- Monteleone's Ristorante: 3023 Gateway West Blvd. 79903
- Red Room Escape Room: 8889 Gateway Boulevard West, Ste 2800, El Paso, TX 79925

Outdoors:

- El Paso Chihuahuas Baseball: 1 Ballpark Plaza Southwest University Park El Paso, TX, 79901
- El Paso Zoo: 4001 E Paisano Dr, El Paso, TX 79905
- El Paso Trails: [4300-4370] Woodrow Bean Transmountain Dr, El Paso, Tx 79912
- Easy- El Paso Mines, Moderate-Aztec Cave Trails, Hard- Sugar Loaf Summit

Shopping:

- Fountains of Farrah: 8889 Gateway Boulevard West, El Paso, TX 79925
- The Outlet Shops of El Paso: 7051 S. Desert Blvd Canutillo, TX 79835
- Star Western Wear: 112 E. Overland Ave, El Paso Texas 79901
- Tooth and Veil Oddities and Macabre Shop: 820 N Mesa St. El Paso, TX 79902
- Chuco Relic: 3750 Gateway Blvd E Ste B, El Paso, TX 79905
- So El Paso: 2717 N Stanton St, El Paso, TX 79902
- El Paso Texas Souvenir Store: 6232 Gateway Blvd E, El Paso, TX 79905

SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY PARK

Attend an El Paso Chihuahuas Minor-League Baseball game at the award-winning Southwest University Park!

For special rates on tickets visit

https://fevo.me/neighborhoodusaeptx

This magnificent sculpture by Julio Sanchez de Alba that stands across Southwest University Park, depicts the treacherous crossing of the Rapido River, a prominent tribute to the patriotism and sacrifice of these men from El Paso whose legacy is one of pride, respect, and honor for them, for all our families, for El Paso, and for all Chicanos. The significance of Company E was in its unique, original composition of 100% Mexican American young men mostly from the barrios of El Paso, an intentional, pre-civil rights act of segregation designed to “Americanize” Spanish-American youths. Of greater significance is the outstanding bravery, camaraderie, and heroism displayed as the unit was the first in WWII to deploy into mainland Europe at Salerno, Italy and proceed to battles at Alta Villa, Mt. Rotondo, San Pietro, the Rapido River, and onward to the liberation of Rome.

Did you know?

Company E was the only all Mexican-American infantry unit with 250 soldiers during World War II and their ranks came from across the state of Texas — many from El Paso. There were 85 soldiers from El Paso's South Side neighborhood who had attended Bowie High School.