



# 2024 OCMA Annual Conference Program

## Reimagining the Future: Shaping Tomorrow's Communities Today

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February 28 - March 1, 2024  
Hilton at Easton Town Center  
3900 Chagrin Drive  
Columbus, OH 43219



Hilliard, Ohio Hilliard Municipal Park during 4th of July





## 2023-2024 OCMA Board Members

### Board Members

Dan Ralley, *President*

Amber Holloway, *Vice President*

Dan Wendt, *Board Member*

Bryan Heck, *Board Member*

Jeff Weckbach, *Board Member*

Robert Fowler, *Immediate Past President*

### Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Schwieterman

### Committee Chairs

#### Professional Development and Education

Daryl Hennessy, *Co-Chair*

Karen Graves, *Co-Chair*

#### Membership Services

Kyle Kridler, *Co-Chair*

Jacolyn Thiel, *Co-Chair*

#### Support of the Profession

Philip Turske, *Chair*

Corey Spackey, *Vice-Chair*

#### Leadership Development

Mariah Vogelgesang, *Chair*

Jeff Weckbach, *Vice-Chair*

#### Diversity and Inclusion

Kenneth Wilson, *Chair*

Tracy Henao, *Vice-Chair*

### Senior Advisors

Ed Ciecka

Jack Haney

Brian Humphress



WIFI

Network

HILTON\_MEETINGS

Password

OCMA24

★ ★ ★ **2024 OCMA Member Ballot** ★ ★ ★

**Full and Lifetime Members - please cast your vote for  
the 2024-2025 Slate of Officers and Lifetime Memberships.**

**Voting closes at 5:00 PM on Thursday, February 29**

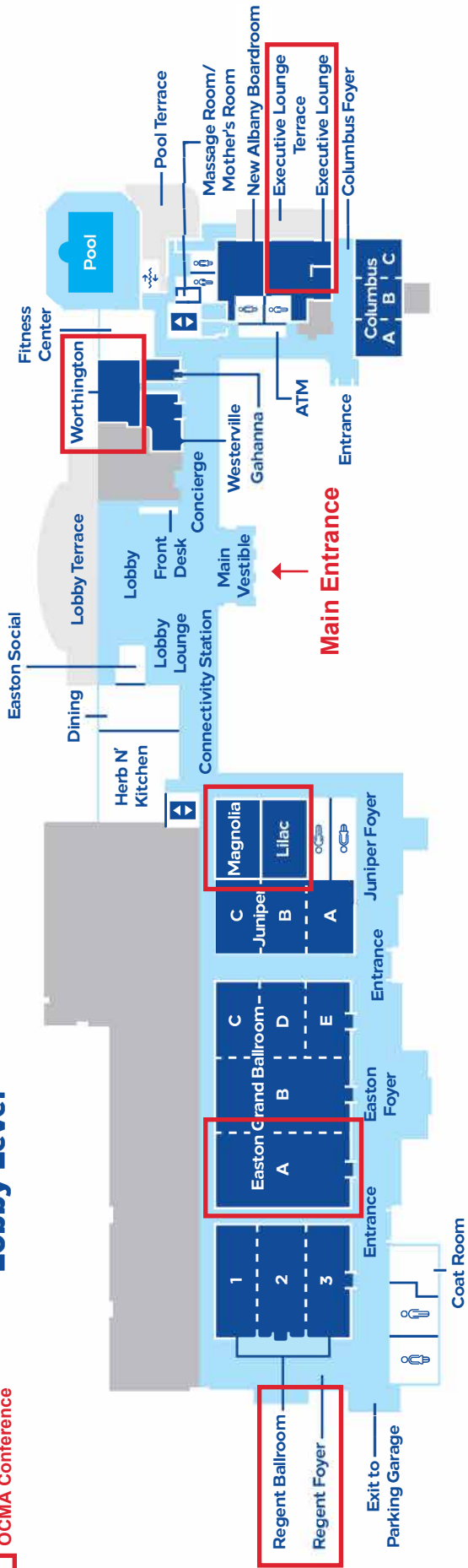
*Please note that at the 2023 Annual Conference OCMA members passed bylaw changes that allow voting to occur at anytime throughout the year, not just at the annual conference. This allows OCMA to use this new electronic voting process, which is intended to open voting up to all members, not just those in attendance at the annual conference.*



**FLOOR MAP KEY**

- Meeting/Conference Rooms
- Amenities
- Public Space
- Private
- OCMA Conference

**Lobby Level**



**Parking Garage**

**Parking Surface Lot**

## *Message from the President*




I want to thank OCMA's Professional Development Committee, led by Daryl Hennessy and Karen Graves, who have helped to organize the 2024 Annual Conference. This year's theme is Reimagining the Future: Shaping Tomorrow's Communities Today. The conference marks an occasion for all of us, from across Ohio, to gather together and network, share best practices, and identify programs and initiatives that will help move our communities forward into the future.

This year's conference is also an occasion for us to imagine the future of OCMA. Feedback opportunities will be available throughout the conference, and in sessions on Friday morning

you can learn more about recent strategic planning efforts for our association. OCMA's mission is to promote excellence in local government management and encourage personal and professional growth of local government administrators. Our strategic planning efforts are intended to align OCMA's mission with our efforts to be the leading organization in the State of Ohio promoting and developing excellence in local government.

This year's keynote will be given by former San Antonio City Manager Sheryl Sculley, author of *Greedy Bastards: One City's Texas-Size Struggle To Avoid A Financial Crisis*. Her message about leadership in the face of adversity and political challenges is one that I think you will find both inspiring and insightful. We will also hear from Valerie Lemmie about her research at the Kettering Foundation into ways that local governments can strengthen democratic practices and engagement efforts. Yaromir Steiner, who helps plan and design retail town centers, including Easton, where this year's conference is being held, will share his insights about the how the form of development can positively influence placemaking efforts within communities.

You may notice several changes to this year's conference schedule that have been driven by member feedback. New social events have been introduced on Wednesday and Thursday evening to allow for more networking opportunities. More breakout sessions have been added to Wednesday and Friday, and membership voting will now be done electronically rather than at an in-person business meeting.



On Wednesday night a restaurant romp will allow members to network and explore Easton. This will be followed by a social gathering at Pins Mechanical where members can show off their duck pin bowling skills or have fun playing pinball and video games. On Thursday evening, Jefferson Health Plan is once again sponsoring the evening reception, where members will be able to talk with vendors and socialize. A hospitality suite will also be available on Thursday evening after dinner for OCMA members on the first floor of the hotel.

Our annual conference could not be successful without the generous financial support of our sponsors who help support our mission to promote excellence in local government in Ohio. I encourage you to find time during the course of the conference to visit them at their booths to see how they may be able to benefit your organization.

I hope that each of you will find an opportunity at this year's conference to connect with a new colleague, especially younger members of our shared profession. Mentoring, providing internships, and volunteering to speak to student groups is a way to support our shared profession.

I would also encourage you to consider becoming more involved with OCMA. OCMA Board members, who can be identified by red ribbons on their name badge, would be happy to talk with you about opportunities to participate in association activities and initiatives.

I want to thank all of you for attending OCMA's 2024 Annual Conference.

Dan Ralley  
OCMA President  
Assistant City Manager, Hilliard, Ohio

## Wednesday, February 28

10:00 - 5:00 PM  
Regent Foyer

### Conference Registration

#### Mobile Workshop

#### Reimagination in Action: Adaptive Reuse and Brownfield Redevelopment Experience

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Regent Foyer  
North Entrance

**Megan Meyer**, Director of Administration and Development, City of Bexley

*Tour of two brownfield redevelopments, transforming the east-side suburb of Whitehall. Lunch at East Market (OYO). Presentation by Bob Lamb and Brad DeHayes of Connect Realty Meet in the Regent Foyer near the North Entrance of the Hilton. The bus will depart the Hilton and return attendees to the same location at 3:00 PM.*

#### Breakout Sessions 1

#### Financing a Sustainable Future: Injecting Cash into Your Community

*Gold Sponsor Presentation*

##### Aaron Marcovy

Director of Community Investment and Economic Development, NOPEC

2:00 - 3:00 PM  
Worthington Room

Everything is just an idea until the financing is in place. Come learn how to help spur economic development, energy infrastructure improvements, and catalytic grantmaking. With massive opportunities from the IRA, IIJA, PACE, USDA, DOE and HUD, cities should be working with Councils of Governments to put together large and small applications across Ohio. NOPEC works with its 240 communities across Ohio to do just that, and is constantly recording and sharing its best practices and lessons learned. Getting the financing for your municipality, and helping businesses be successful, is what this session is all about.

#### Small Town - Big Climate Goals

**Jessica Greene**, Assistant City Manager, City of Oxford

**Reena Murphy**, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Oxford

2:00 - 3:00 PM  
Magnolia Room

You can be a small city and take climate change seriously. The City of Oxford has adopted ambitious climate goals and aims to be a carbon-neutral community by 2045. Come learn about our attempts, setbacks, and consistent efforts to address climate sustainability and resiliency in our community. You will leave with key takeaways on steps your community can take to address your sustainability goals and/or respond to a changing climate and its impact.

#### If Tomorrow is the Day, Are You Ready? Managing and Conducting High Profile Press Conferences

##### Judith Zimomra

Adjunct Faculty, The Ohio State University

2:00 - 3:00 PM  
Lilac Room

We do not know if or when our local government will be impacted by a disaster or high media interest event. However, we do know there are pre-preparation steps we can take from proven lessons learned to be best positioned when the media spotlight shines brightly on our community. Leave the session with a specific personalized follow-up "Check-list".



## Mobile Workshop

For landlocked and built-out communities, infill redevelopment is often the viable only option. Learn about the landmark Trolley District revitalization in the historic Franklin Park neighborhood of Columbus, as well as major redevelopments transforming the east-side suburb of Whitehall. The workshop will focus on public-private partnerships that have helped to make each project possible, including the use of tax credits and Ohio Department of Development grant programs. The tour will include the following points of interest:

- 1 The Historic Trolley District: East Market**  
Newly opened in 2022, the East Market has transformed an underutilized trolley barn into a modern, mixed-use destination in the heart of the Franklin Park neighborhood in Olde Town East. Workshop will provide a tour of the Trolley District, which includes a brewery, restaurant, event space, coworking space and apartments. Lunch at East Market (OYO) and presentation by Brad DeHays and Bob Lamb of Connect Realty.
- 2 Defense Supply Center Columbus** (Drive-by)  
A 26-agency military installation on 530-acres; The City of Whitehall's primary employer (8,000+ employees)
- 3 Wasserstrom Company Headquarters** (Drive-by)  
World's leading restaurant supplier and distributor of food service supplies and equipment with 1,800+ employees; Headquarters (225 employees) moved to Whitehall in 2017
- 4 Discover Financial Call Center** (Drive-by)  
Under construction community-based call center (100,000 sq ft) with 300-500 jobs; Modeled after call center model adopted in Chatham neighborhood of southside Chicago
- 5 Norton Crossing** (Drive-by)  
Developed by Continental Realty on the site of the former Commons at Royal Landing (known widely as housing of last resort), Norton Crossing constituted a \$50 million investment into the Whitehall community. Opened in 2021, it represented the first new market rate housing brought to Whitehall since the 1970s.
- 6 Priority Designs** (Drive-by)  
World-class product research and design firm; Often described as the business catalyst behind Whitehall's recent redevelopment uptick
- 7 Rockwell District**  
50-acre infill redevelopment site adjacent to I-270. Master developer, T-Squared Developments, plans to bring 1,000 housing units, 250,000 sq ft of Class-A Office and 100,000 sq ft of retail/restaurant space; Demolition of former Woodcliff Condominiums supported by a \$5 million Ohio Department of Development Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program Grant
- 8 Whitehall Community Park and YMCA** (Drive-by)  
Adjacent to the planned Rockwell District, the newly renovated park is one of the largest urban nature parks (80-acres) within I-270
- 9 Heartland Bank Headquarters** (Drive-by)  
Heartland Bank recently announced plans to double their footprint in Whitehall; Original development agreement supports bond for adjacent park improvements
- 10 The Enclave on Main** (Drive-by)  
Developed by Woda Cooper Companies, the former brick yard will soon host 102-units of LIHTC supported workforce housing; Anticipated certified LEED building
- 11 Wirthman Yard** (Drive-by)  
Proposed by LDG Development (Louisville, KY), the former automotive salvage yard recently received City of Whitehall approvals and a CRA agreement for a 316-unit workforce housing complex. Site is under a VAP, with redevelopment and environmental clean-up supported by a \$5.05 million Ohio Department of Development Brownfield Remediation Grant

## Breakout Sessions 2

### Data-Driven Decision-Making on a Shoestring Budget

**Ben Young**

Public Policy Analyst, City of North Canton

3:00 - 4:00 PM  
Worthington Room

Learn practical strategies for harnessing the wealth of data generated by local governments to enhance service delivery without breaking the bank. The session will explore cost-effective methods for developing the crucial connection between data, operational efficiency, and improved public services. Understand what your departments are doing, how that affects your services, and why it is happening that way. By emphasizing resource-efficient approaches, city managers will learn how to leverage existing data streams, implement simple yet powerful analytics tools, and foster a culture of informed decision-making.

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### I.D.E.A.S. to Create a Positive Work Culture (and Make DEI Achievable)!

**Bryan Heck**, City Manager, City of Springfield

**Karen Graves**, Strategic Engagement Manager, City of Springfield

3:00 - 4:00 PM  
Magnolia Room

The City of Springfield is strategically focused on creating a positive workplace culture that fosters an inclusive and diverse workforce through implementation of the I.D.E.A.S. initiative: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness | Springfield. Bryan Heck and Karen Graves will share insights on how IDEAS is intentionally creating a culture where everyone feels they can thrive and reach their highest potential. Heck and Graves will discuss the key programs and initiatives that IDEAS has implemented for City staff to:

- Build a positive, equitable and inclusive culture that embraces employee growth and retention through accessible programming
- Facilitate organizational engagement and involvement
- Keep employees informed with timely and transparent information to increase employee satisfaction and morale

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### Planning, Funding, and Building Your Community Initiatives: How to Access and Manage \$2.4B in New State Funds

*Gold Sponsor Presentation*

**Mike Jacoby**, Economic Development Consultant, Bricker Graydon

**Amy Blankenship**, Attorney, Bricker Graydon

**Ben Hyden**, Attorney, Bricker Graydon

**Laura Bowman**, Attorney, Bricker Graydon

3:00 - 4:00 PM  
Lilac Room

Join Bricker Graydon attorneys and Economic Development Consultant for valuable insight on how you can use new state programs including the AOFF, ACG, OTSCIF, Welcome Home Ohio, Brownfield grants, and demolition grants to support economic development, housing, and community development in your community. The team will share best practices on how to successfully access these programs with appropriate planning. The team will also discuss one of Ohio's greatest challenges with zoning issues which may be stalling housing initiatives. Zoning changes are likely with the aforementioned programs. Is your zoning code up to date and ready? We will discuss how your community can make the needed updates and navigate code changes. Other aspects of municipal law related to planning will also be covered. Finally, we will walk through how to plan for the building phase including Procurement, Design and Construction legal considerations.

4:00 - 4:15 PM

Vendor Networking/Break

General Session

Easton Town Center Development - Insights and Perspective

4:15 - 5:15 PM  
Regent Ballroom

Yaromir Steiner  
Founder and CEO, Steiner + Associates

General Session

# Yaromir Steiner

Wednesday, February 28, 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM, Regent Ballroom



**Yaromir Steiner**  
Founder & CEO of Steiner + Associates

Yaromir Steiner formed Steiner + Associates in 1993 with a vision of creating welcoming, sustainable, pedestrian-friendly, Town Center destinations—environments for people to not only shop, but also to live, work and play. Over the past 24 years, the company has turned that vision into reality by developing more than 7.4 million square feet of mixed-use space including retail, restaurant, residential, entertainment, hospitality and office uses. Mr. Steiner oversees all operations, development, leasing, and management efforts for the Steiner + Associates and its portfolio.

He travels extensively to meet with community leaders and tenant partners and maintains a “hands-on” approach to development and property management.

He is frequently invited to address community, civic and professional organizations in the U.S. and abroad to share his unique insights and perspectives into the retail real estate development world. Mr. Steiner has held a variety of positions in civic and professional organizations. He served as a past board member of the Richard M. Ross Hospital, a past Trustee of the International Council of Shopping Centers, a past Director of the International Council of Shopping Centers Foundation, and a past Board of Trustee member of the New Albany Community Foundation, the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital, and Richard J. Solove Research Institute Foundation.

He has also served as President of the French American Chamber of Commerce in Houston, President of the Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce, Director of Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, and is a past President of the Simon Kenton Boy Scout Council of Central Ohio.

# WEDNESDAY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

## Restaurant Romp at Easton Town Center

Dine and unwind with fellow conference attendees at OCMA's inaugural Restaurant Romp! Sign up online or at the registration table for your restaurant preference based on available dining options. Dinner OYO. All dining venues are within walking distance from the conference hotel.

### **Texas De Brazil - \$\$\$**

Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 PM  
4040 Easton Station Suite E 105, Columbus, OH 43219  
2-minute walk from Hilton

### **Forbidden Root Brewpub - \$\$**

Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 PM  
4080 Worth Ave, Columbus, OH 43219  
11-minute walk from Hilton

### **True Food Kitchen - \$\$**

Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 PM  
4052 Worth Ave, Columbus, OH 43219  
11 minutes walk from Hilton

### **Cheesecake Factory - \$\$**

Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 PM  
3975 Townsfair Way, Columbus, OH 43219  
4 minute walk from Hilton

## Pins Mechanical

After dinner, join us for a round of duck pin bowling at Pins Mechanical!

No RSVP needed. Mention OCMA Annual Conference at the welcome desk.  
Bowling is free. Beverages and other games on your own.

Wednesday, February 28  
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
4117 Worth Ave, Columbus, OH 43219  
10 minute walk from Hilton



8:00 - 5:00 PM  
Regent Foyer

**Registration**

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8:00 AM  
Regent Foyer

**Breakfast**

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8:30 AM  
Regent Ballroom

**Sponsor Welcome**

**Dan Ralley**  
OCMA President  
Assistant City Manager, City of Hilliard

**Steven Craig**  
President, Energy Systems Group, Presenting Sponsor

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8:45 - 10:15 AM  
Regent Ballroom

**Keynote Address: “Courageous Leadership”**

**Sheryl Sculley**  
Author, *Greedy Bastards* and former City Manager of San Antonio

*Introduced by:*  
**Mariah Vogelgesang**, Assistant City Manager, City of Centerville

**Dan Wendt**, *Moderator*  
City Manager, City of Vandalia

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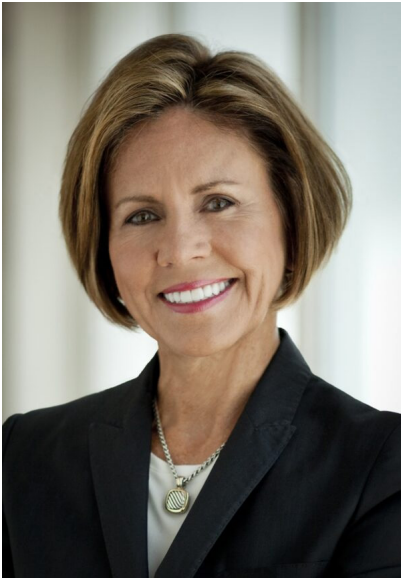
10:15 - 10:45 AM  
Regent Foyer

**Networking Break and Book Signing**

Keynote Speaker

# Courageous Leadership

Thursday, February 29, 8:45 AM - 10:15 AM, Regent Ballroom



**Sheryl Sculley**  
Author of *Greedy Bastards*

When Sheryl Sculley was recruited to serve as San Antonio's city manager in 2005, the organization she inherited was a disorganized mess. City infrastructure was crumbling, strong financial policies and systems were non-existent, many executive positions were vacant, public satisfaction was low, ethical standards were weak and public safety union salaries and benefits were outpacing revenues, crowding out other essential city services.

Simply put, San Antonio was on the verge of collapse. Her book, *Greedy Bastards*, tells the story of Sheryl and her new team's uphill battle to turn around San Antonio city government. She will take you behind closed doors to share the hard changes she made and the strategies she used to create mutually beneficial solutions to the city's biggest problems. Many of the issues Sheryl found in San Antonio are present in cities across the US. Her story provides a guidebook for any city official tasked with turning around an underperforming organization.

Sheryl Sculley is known as a change agent with 45 years of experience in city management. She served as city manager of San Antonio, Texas (2005-2019), where she was the chief executive officer of the municipal corporation of 13,000 employees, an annual operating and capital budget of \$2.8 billion, and a city population of 1.5 million residents.

Sculley brought a completely new level of fiscal management to San Antonio and launched ambitious capital infrastructure campaigns using the City's newly earned Triple A credit rating to borrow at favorable interest rates to invest more than \$3 billion in a city long accustomed to underinvestment.

One of Sculley's greatest achievements is her leadership development and succession planning. All six of the deputy and assistant city managers that she promoted and hired were recognized as credible candidates to become San Antonio's next city manager. Deputy city manager Erik Walsh succeeded Sculley, while deputy Peter Zanoni was hired as city manager in Corpus Christi, joining T.C Broadnax, an earlier hire of Sculley's, who went to become city manager of Tacoma, WA and now Dallas, and Penny Post oak Ferguson, another earlier hire, who was appointed County Manager of Johnson County, Kansas.

Sculley is married and has two adult children. She is a Life Member of ICMA and a fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration. She is also an adjunct professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin.

**Breakout Sessions 3**

**You're Fine, I'm Fine, We're All Fine**

**Brian Riblet**, City Manager, City of Montgomery  
**Tracy Henao**, Assistant City Manager, City of Montgomery

10:45 - 11:45 AM  
Easton A Room

The statistics tell a clear story. Mental health concerns for both adults and adolescents have grown significantly since 2018 and the need for support has only grown since the pandemic. With the support of our City Council, the City of Montgomery began a mental health initiative for staff and the community. As a small local government, providing treatment for mental illness was not feasible; however, the City believes that being a conduit to connect people with the help they need is a moral obligation. This session will provide information and resources for getting a mental health program off the ground for staff and the community in your jurisdiction.

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**Manage Your Way Out of This: Large Capital Projects Across Your Entire City**

*Presenting Sponsor Presentation*

**Keith Valiquette**, Account Executive, Energy Systems Group  
**Dan Wendt**, City Manager, City of Vandalia  
**Bryan Chodkowski**, Assistant City Manager, City of Huber Heights

10:45 - 11:45 AM  
Lilac Room

The testament of how two City Managers, with similar objectives - yet drastically different financial positions, turned their cities upside down and tackled capital improvements at all buildings, all at once. Learn how they leveraged enabling legislation which allowed them to move the projects forward and keep the jobs locally – 134 jobs created or retained as a result of the partnerships. The key? Locking in pricing early, over traditional procurement methods and protecting their budgets against costly change orders. Join us to hear how their story ends. Spoiler alert! In Bryan's words, ESG helped us catch up on what we were behind on.

# Thursday, February 29

11:45 - 12:00 PM  
Regent Foyer

## Vendor Networking/Break

### Sponsor Introduction

#### Darnita Bradley

Senior Manager Local Government Affairs & External Engagement, JobsOhio  
*Gold Sponsor*

### ICMA Update

#### Lon Pluckhahn

President, ICMA

12:00 - 1:30 PM  
Hayes Ballroom  
Regent Ballroom

## Annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon

*Hosted by:*

#### Jackie Thiel

Assistant City Manager, City of Upper Arlington

#### Kyle Kridler

Assistant City Manager, City of Delaware

*Lunch is sponsored by JobsOhio.*

## 2024 OCMA Annual Award Winners

### CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

Tom Homan, City Manager, City of Delaware

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

City of Cincinnati, Balance the City Budget Game Show

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT/MENTORING

Kenneth Filipiak, City Manager, City of Mentor

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

NW 33 Council of Governments The Beta District

### DISTINGUISHED EARLY CAREER

Daniel Wendt, City Manager, City of Vandalia

### PLACEMAKING

City of Dublin, Riverside Crossing Park

### INNOVATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Montgomery County Behavioral Task Force

### REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

City of Norwood, Factory 52



# OCMA Annual Awards

The OCMA Annual Awards Program honors individuals or programs that have made outstanding contributions to their community. The award for Distinguished Early Career is new this year!

**OCMA will begin accepting nominations for the 2025 OCMA Annual Awards later this year.**

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## AWARD CATEGORIES

### **Career Achievement Award**

Recognizes an outstanding local government administrator who has fostered representative democracy by enhancing the effectiveness of local elected officials and demonstrated a commitment to the development of the profession, especially through involvement in ICMA and/or OCMA.

### **Career Development/Mentoring Award**

Honors an OCMA member who has made a significant contribution to the development of new talent in professional local government management.

### **Distinguished Early Career *new***

Recognizes an individual who is leading, changing and establishing the standard for professional management of the next decade.

### **Innovation in Local Government Award**

Recognizes one or more local governments that have successfully applied the concepts of reinvention, re-engineering, TQM, customization, or other cutting-edge organizational tools in the delivery of public services.

### **Citizen Participation Award**

Recognizes successful strategies designed to inform citizens about the local government service available to them and to include citizens in the process of community decision making. This award concentrates on areas such as community consensus building and adult citizenship education.

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation Award**

Recognizes outstanding programs developed out of cooperative actions or strategic partnerships between at least two jurisdictions or between a jurisdiction and a non-profit agency established by a jurisdiction.

### **Placemaking**

Highlights innovative ways that communities create unique public spaces. Placemaking projects are often on a smaller scale, and help attract and retain talent, residents and businesses by providing a sense of community and place.

### **Redevelopment Projects**

Recognizes innovative community redevelopment projects.

**Breakout Sessions 4**

**Rethinking the Design of Capital Improvement Projects**

**Steve Bergstresser**, Assistant City Manager/City Engineer, City of Kettering  
**Shayna McConville**, Division Manager for Cultural Arts, City of Kettering

1:30 - 2:30 PM  
Easton A Room

The City of Kettering recently replaced the Ridgeway Road Bridge, a 1965 bridge with a strong sentimental meaning to the community. Through community feedback sessions and collaborative practice, the bridge was redesigned, engineered and built by a special team led by the City Manager's Office. The Design team included the City's Engineering staff and Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts staff, a commissioned artist team and bridge design firm. This session will look in more detail at the project's successes and challenges, and address setting up a design team and establishing expectations; working within a budget established through Federal, State, and Local funding sources; ODOT processes and public art; neighborhood outreach and community engagement; and project evaluation.

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**Save a Tree - and Your Peace of Mind: How Modernizing Your Internal Business Processes Improves Efficiencies & Community Satisfaction**

*Gold Sponsor Presentation*

**Dan Ralley**  
Assistant City Manager, City of Hilliard

1:30 - 2:30 PM  
Magnolia Room

**Gerrod Franklin**  
Solutions Engineer, OpenGov

Central Ohio has experienced a population boom since 2010 in large part due to major corporate development projects like Intel, Honda and others. Community leaders were drowning in paper and analog practices as they tried to keep pace with the demands of the growing population. Can a switch to digital be the answer? For Hilliard, the answer is yes.

In this session, you will learn how to speed up permit and license processing, what to consider when shifting to digital, and lessons learned from Hilliard's experience in its own transformation.

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**Perspectives on Economic Development:  
The Economic Development Policy Space, Measuring Success, and What  
City Managers Need to Know**

*Gold Sponsor Presentation*

**Michael Salvadore**  
American Structurepoint

1:30 - 2:30 PM  
Lilac Room

Gain a new perspective on economic development by learning from a panel of practitioners from communities across Ohio on how this policy space contributes to increasing the overall quality of life in your community. Designed to speak to specifically to this audience of City and County Managers, this session offers insights into how align the day to day activities of economic development professionals with community best practices.

2:30 - 2:45 PM

**Vendor Networking/Break**

**Breakout Sessions 5**

**Hot Topics and Current Takes**

*OSU Student-Led Session*

**Joe Laborie**, Community Development Coordinator, Jefferson Township

**Jennifer Teal**, Manager, Raftelis

**Judith Zimomra**, Adjunct Faculty, John Glenn College of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University

2:45 - 3:45 PM  
Easton A Room

Engage with the future local government leaders at our student-led conference session! ICMA student chapter members from OSU will facilitate table discussions on what they believe are some of the greatest issues and opportunities facing local government today, including threats to home rule, challenges in civic engagement, socioeconomic opportunities, and innovative approaches to economic development. This unique session offers a platform for shared learning and networking for all participants.

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**The Juggle is Real: Trying to Solve the Puzzle of Balancing Work and Personal Lives**

**Mariah Butler Vogelgesang**, Assistant City Manager, City of Centerville

**Robyn Stewart**, Acting City Manager, City of Worthington

**Michele Boni**, Township Administrator, Orange Township

**Holly Christmann**, Assistant County Administrator, Hamilton County

**Jeff Weckbach**, Township Administrator, Colerain Township

**Kate Bostdorff**, Communications Director, City of Centerville (moderator)

2:45 - 3:45 PM  
Magnolia Room

Balancing work and life can be a challenge for anyone, but it can be especially difficult for local government employees. With long hours, demanding workloads and the constant pressure to serve the public, it can be tough to find time for yourself and your loved ones. But it is possible to find a healthy balance between work and life, especially in the challenging environment of local government. This panel will provide you with the tools and strategies you need to come closer to achieving work-life integration.

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**Health Insurance 101: Understanding your Options**

*Gold Sponsor Presentation*

**Mark Schlagheck**, Chief Fiscal Officer, Jefferson Health Plan

**Bill Kocher**, Sales and Marketing Team, Jefferson Health Plan

2:45 - 3:45 PM  
Lilac Room

This session will review the different options for health insurance coverage and will provide an overview the pros and cons of each option. The presenters will provide insight into these health insurance options for local governments based on their experience with the Jefferson Health Plan and their previous experience as City Mangers. The goal of the presentation is provide decision makers with a better understanding of their options when renewing their health insurance.

3:45 - 4:00 PM  
Regent Foyer

## Vendor Networking/Break

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### General Session

4:00 - 5:00 PM  
Regent Ballroom

## **Achieving Effective Community Leadership: Fostering Democratic Innovation, Public Trust, and Resilient Communities**

### **Valerie Lemmie**

Senior Advisory for State and Local Government, Kettering Foundation

*Introduced by:*

**Michelle Crandall**, City Manager, City of Hilliard

In this interactive session, participants will explore current and emerging leadership challenges and responsibilities confronting local government managers. These trends range from fostering democratic innovation, enhancing public trust, and creating resilient communities in an environment of political polarization, incivility, information integrity concerns and backlash on strategies to create more inclusivity.

Come prepared to share what keeps you up at night and what inspires you to lead our communities in these unique times. We will discuss your stories, experiences, and lessons learned.

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5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Regent Foyer

## **The Jefferson Health Plan Reception**

### **James Herring**

Vice President of Growth, Retention, and Administration, The Jefferson Health Plan



## General Session

# Achieving Effective Community Leadership: Fostering Democratic Innovation, Public Trust, and Resilient Communities

Thursday, February 29, 4:00 - 5:00 PM, Regent Ballroom



**Valerie Lemmie**  
The Kettering Foundation

Valerie Lemmie is senior advisor for state and local government at the Kettering Foundation. An adept strategic thinker and local government thought leader, Lemmie is a distinguished pracademic with over 40 years of experience solving public problems and controversial issues in governmental organizations; leading research on democratic practices and public engagement; and advising communities across the United States on innovative and effective strategies for advancing multiculturalism. Currently, Lemmie is coproducing, encouraging, and supporting strategies, programs and policies that strengthen democracy, foster inclusion, and advance public accountability, transparency, and collaboration.

Lemmie joined the foundation in 2014 after a distinguished career in public service. She served as city manager for the cities of Petersburg, Virginia, and Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio; commissioner on the Public Utility Commission of Ohio; and district director and acting chief of staff for Congressman Turner (Ohio's 10th District). Lemmie has also served as adjunct professor at Howard University, the University of Dayton, and Port Elizabeth Technikon (now Nelson Mandela University) in South Africa.

Lemmie serves on numerous local, federal, and international boards and commissions including Initiatives of Change, USA; the SIVIO Institute, Zimbabwe; National Civic League; National Council on Citizenship; and the Dayton Foundation. She is Chair of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and Ohio Patriots, a nonpartisan political action committee. She is also an advisor to the Portman Center for Policy Solutions at the University of Cincinnati. A Fellow and past board chair of the National Academy of Public Administration, Lemmie is a published author and international speaker on democracy, public governance, leadership, and diversity.

Lemmie received her BA in political science and urban sociology from the University of Missouri and an MA in urban affairs/public policy planning from Washington University in St. Louis.

# THURSDAY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

## Jefferson Health Plan Reception

Thursday, February 29  
5:00 - 7:00 PM  
Regent Foyer  
*Hors d'oeuvres and open bar*



## OCMA Hospitality Suite

Join us for a drink, card game, and conversation!

Thursday, February 29  
8:00 - 10:00 PM  
Executive Lounge (Franklin Room)  
1st floor, Hilton at Easton

## Photo Booth

Make sure you stop by the photo booth!  
The photo booth will send your photo to your phone via text  
and will print-out copies right after your session.

Thursday, February 29  
3:00 - 7:00 PM

# Friday, March 1

8:00 AM  
Regent Ballroom

## Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00 AM  
Regent Ballroom

## Presentation of 2023-2024 OCMA Officers

### OCMA Incoming President Remarks

**Amber Holloway**

City Manager, City of West Carrollton, Incoming OCMA President

## Breakout Sessions 6: OCMA Strategic Planning Working Groups

9:00 - 10:00 AM  
Easton A

### Shaping the Future: Strategic Planning to Encourage OCMA Professional Development

**Mariah Vogelgesang**, Assistant City Manager, City of Centerville  
**Jeff Weckbach**, County Administrator, Colerain Township

Join for an engaging session focused on formulating robust strategies to steer the course of professional development for the next five years. In this session, attendees will delve into the current OCMA Strategic Plan Roadmap and participate in round table discussions to provide insights into potential strategies aimed at elevating the professional growth of OCMA members. This interactive session provides a platform for conference attendees to share specific feedback to shape next OCMA Strategic Plan.

9:00 - 10:00 AM  
Magnolia

### OCMA Membership: Recruitment and Retention

**Ed Ciecka**, OCMA Senior Advisor  
**Kyle Kridler**, Assistant City Manager, City of Delaware  
**Mark Schwieterman**, Former Kettering City Manager  
**Jackie Thiel**, Assistant City Manager, City of Upper Arlington

Please join us to collaborate on opportunities to grow and retain the OCMA membership. We will be discussing the Strategic Road Map goals for membership that include inclusivity, affordable membership opportunities, and recruitment activities. There will be a brief presentation where historic and current membership numbers are reviewed along with the recommendations from the OCMA survey on where our membership needs will take us in the future.

9:00 - 10:00 AM  
Lilac

### OCMA Strategic Planning Working Group: Support of the Profession

**Dan Wendt**, City Manager, City of Vandalia  
**Robert Fowler**, Assistant City Manager, City of Mentor  
**Phil Turske**, Deputy Director of Administration, City of Wooster  
**Corey Spackey**, Village Administrator, Village of Crestline

Please join us to discuss the Roadmap to Promote Excellence in the Support of the Profession. Participants will review the OCMA Strategic Roadmap strategies to enhance the support of the profession and share feedback with working group members.

## Friday, March 1

10:00 - 10:15 AM  
Regent Foyer

### Vendor Networking/Break

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### General Session

#### **The Practice of Government Management**

10:15 - 11:15 AM  
Regent Ballroom

#### **Dr. John Bartle**

Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

President-Elect, American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)

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11:15 - 11:30 AM  
Regent Ballroom

### Closing Remarks

#### **Dan Ralley**

Assistant City Manager, City of Hilliard  
OCMA President

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11:30 - 11:45 AM  
Regent Foyer

### Vendor Networking/Break

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11:45 - 1:00 PM  
Regent Ballroom

### Skills Training

#### **Authentic Leadership & Teambuilding in High Pressure Environments**

#### **Dr. Don Stenta**

Assistant Vice President for Alumni Experiences, The Ohio State University

## Professional Headshots

A photographer will be available to take your professional headshot!  
Friday, March 1  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



# The Practice of Government Management

Friday, March 1, 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, Regent Ballroom



**Dr. John Bartle**  
University fo Nebraska at Omaha

**John R. Bartle** is Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, and a Professor of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is President-Elect of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). He was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration in 2010 and currently serves as Treasurer. He received two major awards from ASPA sections: the Aaron Wildavsky Award for lifetime achievement in budgeting and financial management, and the Truitt-Felbinger Award for significant contributions to the field of transportation policy and administration.

He has co-authored or edited four books: *Innovative Infrastructure Finance: A Guide for State and Local Governments*, *Management Policies in Local Government Finance*, *Sustainable Development for Public Administration*, and *Evolving Theories of Public Budgeting*. He has published 70 articles and book chapters in both academic and practitioner outlets.

He has worked with the Nebraska Legislature to provide policy advice for over ten years. His bachelor's degree is from Swarthmore College, his MPA from the University of Texas, his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the State University of New York. He worked in city and state government in Minnesota, and for state and national nonprofit research organizations on tax policy issues.

## Skills Session

# Authentic Leadership and Teambuilding in a High Pressure Environment

Friday, March 1, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM, Regent Ballroom



**Dr. Don Stenta**  
The Ohio State University

This session is focused on how you as a leader can create effective teams that are developed from a place of authenticity. Participants will learn about the dynamics of change, dimensions of authentic leadership, and the personal capabilities that are necessary for shaping effective teams. There will be a focus on emotional intelligence so that leaders can consider the benefits that come with being more self-aware. The session will end with suggested activities to implement authentic leadership team building as a supervisor.

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Dr. Don Stenta is an Assistant Vice President with The Ohio State University Alumni Association and Distinguished Adjunct Professor with the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. He has been at Ohio State for 30 years in various student services and advancement roles and played an important role in the founding of the Glenn College as he served as the Associate Director of the John Glenn Institute and carried that role over into the Glenn School.

Since that time, Don has been an instructor and mentor to many of our students and taught modules in many of our professional development programs. Don teaches undergraduate and graduate leadership courses, a graduate course on public policy issues in higher education, and has served as an instructor with the Leadership Certificate programs at Glenn College.

Don is a proud alum of Ohio State, having earned his PhD in Educational Policy and Leadership and a minor in public policy and management in 2001. Don earned his undergraduate degree in psychology from Binghamton University (SUNY) and his graduate degree in higher education and student affairs from the University of Vermont. Don is a student and scholar of leadership, has taught and written extensively on the topic, and continues to be inspired by the amazing students and Glenn College colleagues to continue to advance Senator John Glenn and Mrs. Annie Glenn's legacies. Working with the Glenns and former Glenn leaders and alumni to establish what is now the John Glenn College of Public Affairs continues to be a point of pride in Don's Ohio State career.

## Notes

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## Speaker Bios

### **Steve Bergstresser**

Steve Bergstresser is the Assistant City Manager and City Engineer for the City of Kettering. He has over 22 years of diversified municipal engineering and management experience in both the public and private sectors. Steve holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree and a Master of Public Administration degree, both from the University of Dayton, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio. He is a member of the Ohio City/County Management Association, the American Public Works Association, and is member and Past President of the Dayton Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He currently serves on the Board for ODOT's Ohio Research Initiative for Locals and ODOT's State-wide LPA Advisory Committee.

*Rethinking the Design of Capital Improvements Projects*  
Thursday, February 29, 1:30 - 2:30 PM, Easton A Room

### **Amelia Blankenship**

Amy Blankenship is a seasoned attorney in Bricker Graydon's Public Sector Industry Group and is a member of the firm's Political Subdivisions Team. Having served in Law Director roles for several municipalities in southwest Ohio, Amy knows first-hand the legal challenges and opportunities her public sector clients face. As a former Deputy Director of the City of Dayton law department, Amy works with public sector clients in matters involving land use and zoning, labor and employment, public records and open meetings matters. Her clients have come to rely upon Amy to maneuver through tricky legal challenges to meet their community's specific needs. Amy knows that each community's priorities and challenges are distinct and deserve a specialized approach.

*Planning, Funding, and Building Your Community Initiatives: How to Access and Manage \$2.4B in New State Funds*  
Wednesday, February 28, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Lilac Room

### **Michele Boni**

Michele Boni currently serves as the Township Administrator for Orange Township, Delaware County, Ohio, a community of roughly 40,000 people with an annual operating budget of \$25M. Ms. Boni has had the pleasure to serve as Administrator for the past 3 years and prior to that as Orange Township's Zoning Director for 5 years. She oversees operations of the Township including but not limited to Fire, Zoning, Parks, Roads and Administration and having just under 100 employees.

*The Juggle is Real*  
Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Magnolia Room

### **Kate Bostdorff**

Kate Bostdorff is the City of Centerville's Communications Director. In addition to her work documenting and promoting local government, she is also an Emmy Award winning reporter. Kate spent several years as evening anchor at WHIO-TV, the Number One CBS affiliate in the country. Kate recently received her MBA from Ohio University. She completed her undergraduate studies at Ball State University and spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar in Palembang, Indonesia.

*The Juggle is Real*  
Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Magnolia Room

## Speaker Bios

### Laura Bowman

Laura Bowman's practice focuses on the preparation of construction project documents on behalf of private and public owners. Laura provides guidance on project delivery systems, including construction manager at risk and design-build, and creates procurement and bidding documents as well as construction project contracts. Her experience also includes advising public owners on compliance with Ohio statutory requirements relating to construction bidding and procurement. Project values vary from less than \$100,000 to over \$1 billion. Additionally, Laura represents a variety of other public and private entities in Ohio. She has worked on agreements for private developers, building and office renovations for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) entities; renovation and new build projects for cities, villages, townships, libraries, counties and port authorities; jail construction and renovation projects; water/wastewater construction projects; and event center projects.

*Planning, Funding, and Building Your Community Initiatives: How to Access and Manage \$2.4B in New State Funds*  
Wednesday, February 28, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Lilac Room

### Ed Ciecka

Ed is an OCMA Senior Advisor, and a forty-nine-year veteran of public management in Ohio, starting with a staff position with a regional transit authority. He has a 26 year service record in county government, 20 as the County Administrator and finally as a City Administrator. His background gives him a unique insight into public management perspectives, in various types and sizes of organizations, which is beneficial for assisting members of OCMA.

*OCMA Membership: Retention and Recruitment*  
Friday, March 1, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Magnolia Room

### Bryan Chodkowski

Assistant City Manager, City of Huber Heights

*Manage Your Way Out of This: Large Capital Projects Across Your Entire City*  
Thursday, February 29, 10:45-11:45 AM, Lilac Room

### Holly Christmann

Holly Christmann is the Assistant County Administrator for Hamilton County. In this position, she oversees 911, Planning + Development, Environmental Services, Facilities, Economic Development and the federal pandemic funds.

*The Juggle is Real*  
Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Magnolia Room

### Steve Craig

Steve is President of Energy Systems Group, with nearly three decades of experience. In his role with ESG, Steve is responsible for developing growth strategies and driving results through the convergence of different lines of business. He works across teams to define then execute various business opportunities. Steve works closely with other members of ESG's leadership team to develop strategic initiatives and ensure their successful implementation. In addition, Steve works with government agencies to support programs and contract vehicles as they relate to the energy services business. Before joining ESG, Steve spent several years as an executive with Honeywell International, Inc., holding most recently the title of Director of Sales. At Honeywell, Steve spearheaded growth opportunities for the company's federal energy solutions group, helping establish the division as one of the most successful in the industry. Steve received his B.A. in Marketing from Texas Christian University.

*Sponsor Welcome*  
Thursday, February 29, 8:30 AM, Regent Ballroom

## Speaker Bios

### **Robert Fowler**

Assistant City Manager, City of Mentor

*OCMA Strategic Planning: Support of the Profession*

*Friday, March 1, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Lilac Room*

### **Gerrod Franklin**

Gerrod Franklin is a Solutions Engineer at OpenGov, Inc. Prior to joining OpenGov, Gerrod spent 8 years in local government, working in community development and business analysis roles for the City of Indianapolis and the fast-growing City of Fishers, IN. In this role, he implemented multiple digital service solutions and reworked business processes to enable significantly more efficient permitting, licensing, and code enforcement workflows for the City to keep pace with development and the needs of its growing communities. Gerrod is also the co-founder and owner of a photography company with his wife and he has an Urban Planning and Development Degree from Ball State University and an MBA from the University of Southern Indiana.

*Save a Tree - and Your Peace of Mind: How Modernizing Your Internal Business Processes Improves Efficiencies & Community Satisfaction*

*Thursday, February 29, 1:30 - 2:30 PM, Magnolia Room*

### **Karen Graves**

Karen Graves is the Strategic Engagement Manager for the City of Springfield, Ohio. She has more than 25 years of marketing and communications experience serving in both private and public sectors. Prior to joining Springfield, she served as assistant to the city manager for Public Affairs for the City of Lebanon for 19 years. Graves is a longstanding member of 3CMA (City-County Communications and Marketing Association), a national premier network of local government communicators, and has been honored to receive nine 3CMA Awards in recognition of creatively communicating community information and programs. Graves has worked on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives both professionally and on a volunteer basis. She currently volunteers for the Centerville-Washington Township Diversity Council as publicity chair. Graves also serves as a Program Advisor for Ashland University's Women in Leadership program and is a committee member on Springfield Foundation's Development and Marketing Committee.

*I.D.E.A.S. to Create a Positive Work Culture (and Make DEI Achievable)!*

*Wednesday, February 28, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Magnolia Room*

### **Jessica Greene**

Jessica Greene is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Oxford and is responsible for implementing and tracking progress toward City Council goals, one of which is Climate Sustainability. She also directs Oxford's Human Resources, Communications, and Economic Development operations. She loves the variety and impact of working in local government. She graduated from Miami University with a Bachelor's in Social Work and a Masters of Public Administration from Kent State University.

*Small Town, Big Climate Goals*

*Wednesday, February 28, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Magnolia Room*

## Speaker Bios

### **Bryan Heck**

Bryan Heck has been serving the community of Springfield, Ohio as City Manager since 2019. Heck oversees 585 employees with an annual general fund budget of \$59 million, and a city population of over 60,000 residents. Prior to his appointment as City Manager, Heck served in various capacities including Assistant to the City Manager, Planning and Zoning Administrator and Deputy City Manager. During his 18 years with Springfield, he has played an integral role in many urban planning and economic development projects, including the Springfield Regional Medical Center, redevelopment of the former International Lagonda Assembly Plant into Topre America Corporation, South Limestone Corridor rezoning and redevelopment, downtown parking garage, Center Street Townes, and several other recent housing developments. Heck has also played a key role in the development of the City's communication efforts both internally and externally. He received a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Dayton and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Wittenberg University in 2006.

*I.D.E.A.S. to Create a Positive Work Culture (and Make DEI Achievable)!*  
Wednesday, February 28, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Magnolia Room

### **Tracy Henao**

Tracy Henao was appointed Assistant City Manager for the City of Montgomery, Ohio in April 2019, the Community Development Director in January 2015 and previously served as the City Planner since September of 2006. Her prior experience includes serving as the Director of Planning and Zoning for Goshen Township in Clermont County and other roles relating to urban planning and development. Tracy received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Cincinnati in Environmental Studies and a Master's Degree in Planning from Indiana University. She is also a graduate of the Leading, Educating, and Development Program from the University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. Tracy is a member of the International City Manager Association, Ohio City/County Management Association, Urban Land Institute, and American Planning Association.

*You're Fine, I'm Fine, We're All Fine*  
Thursday, February 29, 10:45 - 11:45 AM, Easton A Room

### **James Herring**

Mr. Herring is Vice President of Growth, Retention, and Administration, The Jefferson Health Plan. He works with the non-profit, partially self-insured health care program to provide economical health care and related benefits to political subdivisions through group purchasing. Herring was an educator for 20 years prior to his current stint and rose through the ranks from teacher and assistant principal to ultimately superintendent. He holds a master's degree in administration and served as superintendent at Southern Local Schools and, most recently, the East Liverpool City School District. His present position focuses on communication, support and growth for current and future members and he said the goal is to save in more ways than one.

*Jefferson Health Plan Reception*  
Thursday, February 29, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Regent Foyer

### **Amber Holloway**

Amber is City Manager of West Carrollton. Holloway previously held the positions of assistant city manager and city planner in Vandalia. Prior to working for the city of Vandalia, Holloway was a planner for Miami-based engineering and planning firm Corradino Group until 2015. She earned her undergraduate bachelor's degree in city and regional planning from Knowlton and a master's degree in public administration from Wright State University. She is a certified planner of the American Planning Association and serves as the vice president of the Ohio City/County Management Association.

*Welcome*  
Friday, March 1, 8:30 - 9:00 AM, Regent Ballroom

## Speaker Bios

### **Benjamin Hyden**

Ben Hyden, a civil engineering graduate, worked with major construction firms before entering law school and brings that experience to his law practice. His practice focuses on representing owners, design professionals, and contractors. He represents public works clients such as K-12 school districts, sewer districts, higher education institutions, municipalities, townships, public housing authorities, and counties; drafting contract documents; responding to bid disputes; addressing construction defects; and pursuing claims that arise from construction projects. Ben also represents businesses and political subdivisions in complex zoning, land use, and land development issues and appears before planning, development, and zoning commissions in zoning, variance, and related public service matters.

*Planning, Funding, and Building Your Community Initiatives: How to Access and Manage \$2.4B in New State Funds*  
Wednesday, February 28, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Lilac Room

### **Mike Jacoby**

Mike Jacoby is a seasoned economic development professional with over 25 years of experience in the field. He has worked at the state, local, and regional levels. His understanding of both private business and public sector economics, and his sensitivity to the interests of entrepreneurs and emerging growth companies, places him in a position to manage resources necessary to retain and help grow existing businesses, attract new businesses to the area, and coordinate private and public economic development programs of mutual benefit.

*Planning, Funding, and Building Your Community Initiatives: How to Access and Manage \$2.4B in New State Funds*  
Wednesday, February 28, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Lilac Room

### **Bill Kocher**

Bill Kocher has been on the Sales and Marketing team at Jefferson Health Plan Since August 2022. Prior to this he was a City Manager for 25 years for the City of Mt. Healthy. He also spent 7 years in the private sector working in operations for 3 different companies in Boston and Northern New Jersey. Bill graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Political Science. He also attended the University of Cincinnati to study Public Administration.

*Health Insurance 101: Understanding your Options*  
Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Lilac Room

### **Kyle Kridler**

Kyle is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Delaware. Prior to this, Kridler worked as an economic-development administrator for the city of Dublin, leading development efforts in its Historic, Bridge Street and Perimeter Commerce districts. He received his bachelor's degree from Penn State University and his Master of Public Administration from Wright State University. Kyle has broad experience in local government management and a passion for public service.

*OCMA Membership: Retention and Recruitment*  
Friday, March 1, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Magnolia Room



## Speaker Bios

### Joe Laborie

Joe Laborie was born and raised in rural Wood County, Ohio where his family operates a small hardwood lumber business. After graduating from Elmwood Local Schools, he enrolled in the Ohio State University in the university exploration program. Knowing he wanted a career in public service, but not wanting to get involved in politics, he joined the John Glenn College of Public Affairs in the Public Policy Analysis bachelor of science program. Currently he is completing his Master of Public Administration degree at the Glenn College. Throughout his college experience, Joe has served as president of the OSU student chapter of ICMA. In this role, he has worked closely with the state organization and national organization to attend conferences and build student interest in the field of local government management. Joe is employed as the Community Development Coordinator at Jefferson Township in Franklin County, and has previously worked in the Franklin County Auditor's Office. At Jefferson Township, Joe is responsible for managing the various tax incentive districts utilized by the Township, as well as doing grant writing work and general program support.

*Hot Topics and Current Takes*

*Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Easton A Room*

### Aaron Marcovy

Aaron Marcovy is Director of Community Investment and Economic Development for NOPEC, Ohio's largest governmental energy aggregator. NOPEC supplies energy to 240 communities across 20 counties throughout Ohio. His role encompasses NOPEC's sustainable energy grant, audit, and lending programs, as well as working at the local, state, and federal levels of government to bring resources to bear for NOPEC communities. Prior to joining NOPEC, Mr. Marcovy held leadership positions as a nonprofit executive at Business Volunteers Unlimited, The Foundry Rowing and Sailing Center, and Community Blight Solutions, where his work centered around sustainable real estate development and management, blight mitigation policy, community building, and leadership training. Mr. Marcovy has authored several policy and position papers and formal responses to energy and blight mitigation in the State of Ohio, the City of Chicago, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and has presented at a myriad of conferences, including the Ohio and New York State Mortgage Bankers Associations. Mr. Marcovy also holds certifications in the UN SDG best practices and has assembled conferences surrounding the SDGs.

*Financing a Sustainable Future: Injecting Cash into Your Community*

*Wednesday, February 28, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Worthington Room*

### Shayna McConville

Shayna McConville is the Division Manager for Cultural Arts for the City of Kettering, where she oversees Rosewood Arts Center and the CitySites Percent for Art Program. She is the co-organizer of PechaKucha Night Dayton and an advocate for local arts organizations and artists. She has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, and Culture Works Dayton, and as well as for numerous art programs and commissions throughout the US. She has worked in the creative sector for over twenty years, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tyler School of Art at Temple University, the North Philadelphia Arts and Culture Alliance, the Dayton Art Institute and the University of Pennsylvania.

*Rethinking the Design of Capital Improvements Projects*

*Thursday, February 29, 1:30 - 2:30 PM, Easton A Room*

## Speaker Bios

### **Megan Meyer**

Megan Meyer recently transitioned to a new role as the Director of Administration and Development for the City of Bexley, a Central Ohio suburb of 13,000 residents. Prior to Bexley, Megan served for the City of Whitehall in multiple roles, including most recently as Assistant City Administrator and Interim City Administrator. Her work in Whitehall focused on community engagement and redevelopment, and she was part of the team that attracted Discover Financial Services' new community-based customer care center to Broad Street as well as new affordable housing redevelopments to East Main Street. Megan has a decade of local government experience, previously serving in various roles in Village/City Manager's Offices in the Village of Glencoe, Illinois and City of Upper Arlington, Ohio. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics and Government from Ohio Wesleyan University. She lives in the Franklin Park neighborhood of Columbus with her family.

*Mobile Workshop*

*Wednesday, February 28, 11:00 - 3:00 PM*

### **Reena Murphy**

Reena Murphy is the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Oxford and is responsible for climate action planning and implementation. She is passionate about equitable community engagement and finding practical solutions for government operations, residents, and businesses. Reena is an alumna of Miami University and holds a Master of Environmental Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry.

*Small Town, Big Climate Goals*

*Wednesday, February 28, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Magnolia Room*

### **Dan Ralley**

Dan Ralley is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Hilliard, OH. Dan helps to oversee the City's Community Development Department which includes Building Standards, Planning, Engineering, and Transportation and Mobility. Prior to that, he was the Assistant City Manager for the City of Upper Arlington, OH where he concurrently served as Director of Community Development in Upper Arlington from 2014 to 2019, which included supervision of the Planning and Building Standards Divisions. In both Hilliard and Upper Arlington Dan helped to implement new permitting systems that significantly improved online submissions, digital payments, processing workflows, and most importantly customer satisfaction. Earlier in his career, Ralley served as City Manager of Petoskey, Michigan, from 2009 to 2014, and Village Administrator of the Village of Cardington, Ohio, from 2004 to 2009. He received his master's degree in Public Administration from Maxwell School in 2004, his Juris Doctor degree from Syracuse University College of Law in 2004, and his bachelor's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago in 1996.

*Save a Tree - and Your Peace of Mind: How Modernizing Your Internal Business Processes Improves Efficiencies & Community Satisfaction*

*Thursday, February 29, 1:30 - 2:30 PM, Magnolia Room*

## Speaker Bios

### **Brian Riblet**

Brian Riblet was appointed as City Manager on January 9, 2018. He previously served as the Interim City Manager from August 2017, as Public Works Director from 2012 until January 2018, and as Assistant Public Works Director from 2006 to 2012. He has been employed in various capacities as a public works employee for over 33 years. His prior experience includes 17 years with the City of Defiance, Ohio, where he began his public works career in 1989. Brian was promoted to Parks and Recreation Director in 1998, where he served four years before being promoted to Superintendent of Streets and Highways in 2002. Brian attended Defiance College, served as President of the Public Works Officials of Southwest Ohio (PWOSO), past member of the American Public Works Association (APWA), Ohio City/County Management Association (OCMA), International City/County Management Association (ICMA), current Board Member of the Cincinnati Area Managers Association (CAMA), Rotary Club of Northeast Ohio and is also a graduate of the Leading, Educating and Development Program from the University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.

*You're Fine, I'm Fine, We're All Fine*  
Thursday, February 29, 10:45 - 11:45 AM, Easton A Room

### **Michael Salvadore**

American Structurepoint

Thursday, February 29, 1:30 - 2:30 PM, Lilac Room

### **Mark Schlagheck**

Mark Schlagheck has been the Chief Fiscal Officer for the Jefferson Health Plan since April 2018. Prior to his current role, he served as the City Manager/Finance Director for the City of Bellbrook for ten years. Previous work service includes Finance Director for the City of Centerville, Accountant for the Hamilton City Schools and Auditor for Ohio Auditor of State. Mark received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Dayton and his Master of Public Administration degree from Wright State University. He is also a Certified Public Accountant.

*Health Insurance 101: Understanding your Options*  
Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Lilac Room

### **Mark Schwieterman**

Mark Schwieterman is the former City Manager of Centerville. He was employed by Kettering for over 34 years - with more than 16 as its top administrator. The redevelopment of what is now Kettering Business Park, the modernization of Kettering's fire and police facilities, and job growth at the Miami Valley Research Park all came under Schwieterman's leadership. Schwieterman is treasurer for OCMA.

*OCMA Membership: Retention and Recruitment*  
Friday, March 1, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Magnolia Room

### **Robyn Stewart**

Robyn Stewart has served as Assistant City Manager for Worthington, Ohio since 2008 and is currently serving as Acting City Manager. She currently oversees the city government's operations, assists City Council in determining strategic priorities and initiatives and directs their implementation by staff, is responsible for the preparation of the City's operating and capital budgets and appoints City employees. Prior to her work with the City of Worthington, Ms. Stewart served as Interim City Manager, Assistant City Manager and Assistant to the City Manager/Public Information Officer for the City of Leavenworth, Kansas. Ms. Stewart has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Kansas and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a Minor in Economics from Wittenberg University.

*The Juggle is Real*  
Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Magnolia Room

## Speaker Bios

### Jennifer Teal

Jennifer is a Manager at Raftelis and leads the Raftelis Performance Academy. She has over 20 years of public sector experience, including 10+ years of direct leadership experience in local government as a Finance Director and City Administrator. Jennifer earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Miami University and her Master's Degree in public administration from George Mason University. She is also a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. For the last six years, Jennifer has served as a management consultant, facilitator, and trainer supporting local governments and utilities around the country. She has a wide array of expertise in organizational assessment, process improvement, financial management, strategic planning, and leadership development. Throughout her career, Jennifer has led numerous organizations through the development of strategic plans, performance measurement systems, workforce development programs and in-house process improvement and innovation academies.

*Hot Topics and Current Takes*

*Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Easton A Room*

### Jackie Thiel

Jackie is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Upper Arlington. Prior to this, she was the city engineer and public service director. Thiel joined the city in 2013 when she was hired as an assistant city engineer. She was promoted to lead the department in 2014, and her duties were expanded to include serving as deputy public service director and held that position until being promoted in 2019. Jackie is currently co-chair of the OCMA Membership Services Committee.

*OCMA Membership: Retention and Recruitment*

*Friday, March 1, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Magnolia Room*

### Keith Valiquette

Keith Valiquette has been working in the energy industry for more than 40 years. He spent 15 years in various operational roles at Dayton Power & Light, now AES, gaining extensive expertise in distribution, transmission, and generation services. One of his most high-profile projects was a \$9 million steam plant for Formica Corporation, where he led development showcasing his skills in central plant construction and outsourcing of process steam production. At Smart Papers, he successfully developed a \$26 million, 26 MW generation facility whereby the customer became a market participant in MISO, buying and selling energy to the grid based on market pricing. For the past 20 years, Keith has focused on modernizing local government infrastructure, using a design-build approach to renovation, repurpose, and remodel buildings to optimize operations. With experience in over \$50 million worth of municipal projects, Keith's knowledge of local government construction is unparalleled. In 2018, Keith joined ESG, leveraging his well-rounded background spanning utilities, central plant expertise, and public sector infrastructure improvement. He leads projects from audits to implementation, helping customers achieve their facility, financial, and environmental objectives. Keith received his MBA and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering Technology from the University of Dayton. Keith holds credentials in the State of Ohio and West Virginia as a Professional Engineer as well as a LEED Accredited Professional with USGBC and a Certified Energy Manager through AEE.

*Manage Your Way Out of This: Large Capital Projects Across Your Entire City*

*Thursday, February 29, 10:45-11:45 AM, Lilac Room*

### Mariah Butler Vogelgesang

Mariah Butler Vogelgesang began her local government career with the City of Centerville in 2018 as the Assistant City Manager. Mariah oversees development, information technology, communications and community resources and manages The Club at Yankee Trace and local event center Benham's Grove. A licensed attorney, Mariah earned her juris doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law and holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Mary Washington. Beyond her professional achievements, Mariah is the current Board Chair of the RMHC Dayton where she is actively involved in a \$30M capital campaign that opens a new house later this year.

*The Juggle is Real*

*Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Magnolia Room*

*OCMA Strategic Planning Working Group*

*Friday, March 1, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Easton A Room*

## Speaker Bios

### Jeff Weckbach

Jeff Weckbach currently serves as the Township Administrator for Colerain Township, a community of about 60,000 people with an annual operating budget of \$50M. In his role, he oversees operations of the organization, including 300+ employees spread across five departments: Police, Fire, Development, Public Services, and Administration.

*The Juggle is Real*  
Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Magnolia Room

*OCMA Strategic Planning Working Group*  
Friday, March 1, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Easton A Room

### Dan Wendt

City Manager Wendt is the chief executive officer and public safety director, responsible for the day-to-day operations of a complex municipal organization serving a residential population of 15,000 across 12.39 square miles. As the City's chief executive, Mr. Wendt ensures that all laws and ordinances are enforced, he appoints and removes all directors and subordinate employees in the classified and unclassified service, exercises control over all administrative departments and divisions, and advises Council as to the financial condition and needs of the City. Mr. Wendt regards public service as a privilege. He encourages a positive and high-energy work environment with a focus on multi-disciplinary collaboration and continuous learning on the part of public servants. He seeks to enhance Vandalia's livability while heightening the reputation of the Dayton Metropolitan Area and building upon a strong tradition of professional local government management.

*Manage Your Way Out of This: Large Capital Projects Across Your Entire City*  
Thursday, February 29, 10:45-11:45 AM, Lilac Room

### Ben Young

Ben Young currently serves as a Public Policy Analyst at the City of North Canton and brings a wealth of experience in public service and policy development. Having held various roles within municipal government, including Director of Legislative Affairs and Clerk of Council, Ben has demonstrated a commitment to effective governance and leadership. During his time with North Canton, Ben pioneered the modernization of the City's data capture and analysis infrastructure. His diverse responsibilities include the creation and administration of the City's rental registration program, the recent digitization of the City's permitting process, and a data-based performance audit of the City's Fire Department. As a current MPA candidate at Ohio University with years of municipal experience, the presenter brings a unique blend of expertise and hands-on experience to the discussion on data-driven decision-making

*Data-Driven Decision-Making on a Shoestring Budget*  
Wednesday, February 28, 3:00 - 4:00 PM, Worthington Room

### Judith Zimomra

Judie Zimomra is a native of Newton Falls, Ohio. Her family originally moved to her hometown and built their home in Newton Township when her grandparents relocated from the coal mines of southeast Ohio for local steel mill jobs in 1928. She currently is a resident of Grove City, Ohio. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Kent State University, her Master's Degree in public administration from the Ohio State University and her Juris Doctorate Degree from Capital University. She is also a graduate of the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program. After a very successful career in public service, 22 years in Ohio (working for the City of Worthington, Hamilton County and the City of Cleveland) and 20 years in Florida (as City Manager of Sanibel Island) she accepted an offer to join the staff of the Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs as a member of the Adjunct Faculty.

*If Tomorrow is the Day, Are You Ready?*  
*Managing and Conducting High Profile Press Conferences*  
Wednesday, February 28, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Lilac Room

*Hot Topics and Current Takes*  
Thursday, February 29, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Easton A Room



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As one of the largest public law firms in Ohio, Bricker Graydon represents more than 1,000 political subdivisions. Every day, we partner with our clients to advance their interests and, in doing so, advance the interests of public entities throughout the State of Ohio. Bricker Graydon is committed to public law and has been for over 75 years. Our unwavering dedication to providing top-tier legal services is reflected in our team of devoted

attorneys at the forefront of public sector law. We employ a comprehensive and collaborative approach to empower our clients to serve their communities effectively and efficiently.

Many Bricker Graydon attorneys formerly held positions within state and local government. We proudly draw on this tradition and experience to help public sector entities as they leverage opportunities to keep our communities running smoothly. The depth and breadth of experience, our enthusiasm for the work we perform, and the relationships we forge with our clients distinguishes the Bricker Graydon public sector legal team from our competitors.

Our team develops creative, yet practical, solutions for municipal, township, county and quasi-public clients' ever-changing legal needs. We strive to bring new opportunities forward from which our clients can benefit, both economically and otherwise. From general public law issues to specific areas such as zoning, annexation, and labor and employment, our attorneys serve political subdivisions as law directors, special counsel, and trusted advisors.

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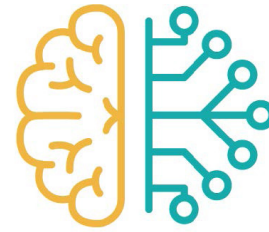
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