

APA Virginia Chapter's **lynchburgsymposium**

Monday, April 9, 2018

Holiday Inn Downtown Lynchburg

Speaker Bios

Amanda G. Adams, AIA

Adams is a registered architect with CJMW Architecture, an architecture / interior design firm - with offices in Lynchburg and Roanoke, VA, as well as Winston-Salem, and Raleigh, NC. She is a historic preservation architect with two decades of great projects for private, civic, and institutional clients. Her favorite projects leverage Historic Tax Credits to preserve and revitalize community memories.

A member of the Virginia Society AIA Historic Resources Committee since 1999, Adams has presented on topics ranging from the use of Historic Tax Credits to Intervention Approaches for Historic Preservation. Adams is a LEEDTM accredited professional who brings a focus on sustainability to all her work, developing energy efficient and smart sustainable solutions for preservation projects. As the Project Manager for the renovation of the Academy Center of the Arts as well as other downtown Lynchburg projects, Adams has been an integral part of the historic building's transformation since 2007.

Anna Bentson

Anna Bentson is the Assistant Director of Economic Development for the City of Lynchburg. In her role, Anna leads marketing, entrepreneurship and business development for the Office of Economic Development and Tourism and the Lynchburg Economic Development Authority. She is a graduate of the South Carolina Honors College at the University of South Carolina and has earned a Certificate in Creatives Cities and Economic Development at NYU and a Masters in Nonprofit Leadership at Lynchburg College. Anna has a strong background in nonprofit management and cause marketing with a passion for urban revitalization and creative placemaking.

David Cook

David Cook will be giving a walking tour of downtown Lynchburg that will highlight the revitalization efforts in downtown including catalyst projects such as the Historic Virginian Hotel restoration and the Academy Center of the Arts building restoration and expansion. The tour will also reveal the numerous adaptive reuse residential and commercial properties that have been developed in downtown since the implementation of the 2001 Downtown

Master Plan. The tour will end with a walk on the highly successful Lower Bluffwalk, a \$5.8 million pedestrian-only zone created in 2015 that has generated over \$35 million in private sector investment and redevelopment including the construction of hundreds of loft apartments and several new businesses along the Bluffwalk in the past few years.

Chuck D'Aprix

Chuck D'Aprix is one of North America's foremost experts on the economic revitalization of downtowns and traditional commercial districts. Called by one newspaper "a man of no small enthusiasms" and "indefatigable" by another, he has been a ground breaker and disrupter in the field of local economic development for three decades now. His approach to community revitalization is perhaps best summed up by former Vice President, Al Gore, who said, "Chuck D'Aprix is not tethered to the same old way of developing a local economy but is a man of new ideas and innovations — he is the type of person cities need."

Chuck has consulted in over 300 communities, spoken to countless professional organizations, advised governmental leaders, written for professional journals, appeared on radio/TV, and lectured college classes.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Resource Center in his Richmond, Virginia neighborhood. He serves on the Board of the Greater Fulton Business Association in Richmond and chairs the anti-litter program in the Greater Fulton neighborhood. He has been active in the American Planning Association, the National Main Street Center, The Congress for New Urbanism and CEOs for Cities.

Chuck holds a bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Rose; a master's degree from Syracuse University in journalism & communications; and a master's degree in Management from Lesley University.

Rachel Frischeisen

Rachel Frischeisen is a Planner for the City of Lynchburg who is passionate about placemaking for the entire community. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Geographic Science from James Madison University, Rachel returned home to start her career with the City as a GIS Specialist, before shifting focus to Urban Planning. She believes in bringing data analysis and mapping together with the art and science of planning to create great spaces where people truly want to be.

Philipp Gabathuler, AICP

Philipp Gabathuler is a Lynchburg Native and passionate advocate for downtown revitalization. He works as an Urban Planner at the Region 2000 Local Government Council and serves on the board of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Philipp received his Bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy and Planning and Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning at Virginia Tech. In his time between undergraduate and graduate work, Philipp assisted his father in renovating a historic structure on Main Street into a business location and four apartments. He is an avid outdoorsman and completed a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 2007. Philipp also enjoys riding his flock of bicycles and commutes to

work every day by bike. Philipp and his wife Andrea are part and parcel of the Lynchburg community and love the many activities offered that make them feel “home.”

Dan Hague

After receiving an MBA in the early 80s I worked for a large multi-national and then at residential real estate sales. In 1993 I founded Sportrock, Inc. to build and manage indoor rock climbing facilities near Washington, DC. Under my direction, Sportrock grew to the largest indoor rock climbing company on the east coast. In 2005 I left Sportrock to move to Lynchburg. I have been a downtown Lynchburg resident ever since, witnessing the rebirth of this once overlooked section of the city. I restored my home on Diamond Hill and have been active in the neighborhood historic society. I am a strong advocate for the redevelopment of downtown.

In 2007 I restored 1225 Church St into the popular Rise Up Climbing. Since then I transformed both 1220 and 1300 Main St into lofts and commercial space. I am now planning the redevelopment of 1209 to 1217 Church St. I am a long time proponent of local, natural and organic foods going back to a health crisis in 1984. I have experienced personally what a natural diet can do in restoring and maintaining good health.

I have been chair of the Grassroots steering committee since its inception, helping guide its rapid transition from concept to near reality at an accelerated pace.

David Malewitz

Parking Manager
City of Lynchburg
900 Church St.
Lynchburg, VA 24504
(434) 455-4240
david.malewitz@lynchburgva.gov

David has been the Parking Manager for the City of Lynchburg since mid-2014. He is responsible for management of all on-street and off-street parking in the Central Business District of downtown Lynchburg. Since taking on his new role in Virginia, David has been actively engaged in community building and growth initiatives by bringing parking back to the forefront of community leader discussions. David’s goal is to drive business retention and revitalization through a successfully managed parking program aimed at increasing parking space availability and convenience to downtown businesses and residents.

Prior to coming to Lynchburg, David started his parking career in his hometown of Grand Rapids, MI. After almost three years in Grand Rapids, David moved up to northern Michigan and spent eight years serving as the Deputy Parking Administrator and eventually the Parking Administrator for the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority.

Tom Martin, AICP

Tom Martin, AICP has served as the City Planner for the City of Lynchburg’s Department of Community Development since 2002 and has over 24 years of local government experience.

He supervises a staff of planners in long range planning, subdivision and development review, ordinance writing, historic preservation, and other planning activities.

Tom serves as the Chair of the City's Technical Review Committee, Secretary to the Lynchburg Planning Commission, serves as the planning staff representative to City Council and is a Board Member of the Fifth Street Community Development Corporation and the James River Council for Arts & Humanities.

Tom believes the most rewarding aspect of the planning field is developing relationships within the community to allow a plan to move from concept to reality.

Tom received a degree in Urban Studies & Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1993 and a Masters Level Certificate in Local Government Management from Virginia Tech in 2011.

Anne Leslie Nygaard, AICP

Anne Leslie Nygaard, AICP, was born and raised in Lynchburg and after a few years away returned in 2012 to work as a planner for the City of Lynchburg with a specific interest in creating walkable, healthy, and vibrant urban environments. Anne attributes the beginning of downtown's revitalization in the early 2000s and the planning work done for the city's midtown as what first sparked her interest in the field. She then went on to receive her Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia, Master of City and Regional Planning and a Certificate of Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. Anne also serves on the board for Riverviews Artspace and as the Secretary to the City's Historic Preservation Commission.

Evelyn Slone, AICP, LEED, AP (*FAICP inductee on April 22, 2018*)

Over her 35-year career in local government and private practice, Evie has positively influenced the growth and livability of over 50 metropolitan and rural communities throughout Virginia and the Carolinas. During the last 15 years with Hill Studio, she directed the development of user-friendly, tailored comprehensive plans and downtown revitalization plans using hands-on, collaborative approaches to create illustrative, strategic plans that engage multiple partners for implementation. Each of these plans use asset-based planning methods to strengthen the community's unique sense of place, guide future public investment, encourage public-private partnerships, and identify economic opportunities for growth and prosperity.

Dorie D. Smiley

Dorie Smiley was born in Minnesota, but raised in Lynchburg from toddlerhood. She has seen downtown transition from a busy retail center in the late 50's and early 60's, to a desolate sector of neglected buildings in the 70's and 80's and recently, the return to a thriving and evolving downtown.

Dorie has been with the Academy Center of the Arts (formerly the Academy of Fine Arts) since its inception in 2004 and was employed for 7 years by the Academy of Music Theatre, Inc., one of the two organizations which merged to form the current organization. She brings

experience in the construction/design industry as well as special event planning and has been involved in both areas with the Academy. Currently, Dorie is serving the Academy as the Construction Liaison on staff.

Dorie has been an active member of the League of Historic American Theatres for over 15 years and serves on the Board of the Downtown Lynchburg Association as Vice President.

In her free time, Dorie enjoys travel, gardening and time with children and grandchildren.

Kim Soerenson

As a native of Germany, Kim Soerensen earned a degree in Design, and moved to the USA in 1986. Stateside, she built a career in business management and design. Kim put these aside for a time to raise her daughter. During this period, Kim became an entrepreneur, creating several successful businesses, including two of which she is locally best known for: DK Spaces renovates and leases residential properties and Omniterrum which locates and obtains rare world globes and related planetary artifacts for museums and private collectors. This company received global media attention, including features in Oprah magazine, the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN, Discovery Channel and Russia1TV. Around Lynchburg, Kim is known as “the globe lady.” Kim sold Omniterrum in 2016 to dedicate her time as an advocate to the arts.

As the Executive Director of Riverviews Artspace, Kim is the dedicated steward ensuring its sustainability as a thriving, inclusive creative center for all – today and into the future through innovative partnerships with governmental and non governmental organizations, the non-profit and for profit community, the arts and the building itself with a dedicated staff and passionate volunteers. Since 2016 Riverviews’s status changed from “Best Kept Secret” of central Virginia to “Best Arts Venue” (voted by patrons of the News & Advance) in 2016, 2017 and 2018. By recognizing and reacting to the needs of the community, patronage and support increased from 3700 - 10,000 patrons annually. In addition, both Riverviews Artspace and Kim were recently nominated in the “50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Award” program, celebrating 50 years of the Virginia Commission for the Arts. In 2018 the Ovation Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Ovation TV, has recognized the work of Riverviews Artspace as part of its 2017 Creative Economy inNOVATION Grant Awards Program. The program focused on identifying model nonprofit arts organizations that cultivate and support artists and enterprises in the creative industries through capacity-building, accelerating partnerships, and/or fiscal support.

Kim is considered an innovative and entrepreneurial change-agent building viable and equitable platforms for artists and organizations to thrive.

Kim has also taken stewardship of the Bower Center for the Arts in Bedford in December of 2017 in order to build a regional Arts collaborative and community within Central Virginia. She implemented “Cultivate Amherst” in 2016 and provides consulting for Danville’s new Arts Center currently in development. Kim serves on several boards, including James River Council for the Arts and Humanities and the James River Arts & Cultural District Program.

In her free time, Kim enjoys “globetrotting” with her daughter and spouse, exploring cultures, regions and cities in all corners of the world.

James Stephen Talian, PE

- Chief Engineer for the City of Lynchburg, Department of Water Resources
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Penn State University
- Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Penn State University

Licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia and Missouri 40 years of professional experience in Water Resources Management, Transportation Engineering, and Community Design.

Worked for the City of Lynchburg for a total of 15 years in the Departments of Public Works, Community Development, and Water Resources. Managed several high profile projects in downtown Lynchburg, including the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courthouse, two interceptor projects along the riverfront, and the first two phases on the Downtown Utility & Streetscape. Also serves as the program manager for the City’s CSO program, and manages the Engineering Division of the Department of Water Resources.

Prior to the City of Lynchburg worked for engineering consulting firms in Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia, and for the US Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis. Co-authored numerous engineering policy and procedure manuals, and developed software for engineering computations for urban and suburban design processes.

Participated on negotiation teams for controversial engineering and procedural issues.

Active in the American Society of Civil Engineers and chaired several national committees, participated and chaired at the state level, participated in national and state legislative initiatives, and is past president of the local Lynchburg Branch.

Always had a keen interest in the history and revival of urban areas, governmental processes, particularly at the local level, and a life-long collector of maps.

Native of New Jersey; grew up in Pennsylvania. Lived in six different states and visited 47 of them. Married with two sons, two daughters-in-law, and two granddaughters, who live in North Carolina and North Dakota.

Heather Zippel

Heather Zippel joined Downtown Lynchburg Association in the role of Development Coordinator in October of 2017. Her focus is primarily on fundraising, while also supporting business outreach efforts. Heather previously owned various retail storefronts in the city of Lynchburg and operated a successful interior design business, serving clients locally, nationally, and abroad. Her design work has been published in several region publications. Heather’s retail and entrepreneurial experience provides her a strong understanding of the challenges facing today’s brick-and-mortar businesses. Prior to her career in interiors, Heather worked in the biotechnology sector with a concentration in stem cell research. She

holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Virginia Commonwealth University, is married, has four children, and enjoys volunteering throughout the greater Lynchburg community.