The 2021 American Planning Association (APA) Virginia Chapter Annual Conference is the Chapter’s signature event. For our 51th Annual Conference, we will continue to offer a Conference Program that exemplifies the best of Virginia’s planning practice, theory, projects and persons.

The 2021 Conference theme is *Innovation in Planning!* This past year certainly has been different, where we have found ourselves learning to adapt to live “outside the norm.” We have been forced to do everything differently: how we live, work, and play. This year’s conference will focus on how we have had to adapt as planners from our work stations to how and what we plan. How has transportation, housing, economic development, social equity, public health, finances, etc. changed in the past year? How do all these factors affect communities and impact what planners do? Twenty first century plans must address these challenges and innovations to ensure the vision we establish for our communities remains viable and equitable. We want to hear from you and give you the opportunity to present your thoughts on how the pandemic has impacted the world of planning, how we approach development, our role as planners, and how will it affect the future – where do we go from here?

Priority may be given to sessions that exemplify the 2021 Conference theme (stated above) and/or those topics identified by the Conference Planning Committee including: woman & minorities in planning, career development & advancement, planning management, finance & budgeting, equity & diversity, new & emerging technologies (solar, broadband, apps), civic engagement and public participation.

All session abstract proposals are due no later than **Friday March 12, 2021**. Late submissions may not be accepted.

**2021 Conference Session Formats**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quick Takes (20x20)** **@7 minutes** | **Traditional (Lecture)** **@60 minutes** | **Deep Dives** **@2.5-3.5 hours** |
| These sessions, also known as a 20x20, are designed to be “fast, funny, and passionate,” highlighting a topic, idea, theme, project, or program in a fast-paced and brief format. Slides will be automatically advanced at 20 second intervals (approx. 7minutes duration). Quick Takes will be grouped 4-5 presentations per block with time at the end for a brief Q&A. *Students and recent graduates are encouraged to submit a Quick Take proposal.*  | This format includes a PowerPoint presentation and brief Q&A. Workshop and other hands-on type activities may also be included, but proposals should demonstrate they can work within the allotted 60-minute timeframe. Speaker teams/panels should not exceed three (3) persons.  | This format is intended for more *intensive* topics, themes, projects, or programs including workshops and other-hands-on type activities. Deep Dive presentations should emphasize a high level of expertise or detail in a topic(s), a portion of the time should be devoted to a facilitated discussion, hands-on activities, or other interactive type component (role playing, etc.) and include at least three (3) speakers/facilitators. Sessions should demonstrate how they can fill a minimum 2.5-hour block of time and how that time will be divided up. |

**Instructions for Submitting a Session Proposal**

**Please note new submission format**. Complete the **online submission form:**

[http://bit.ly/APAVA-RFP2021 [bit.ly]](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/bit.ly/APAVA-RFP2021__;!!IZXYVuFH-bp8_Q!A76o2Kf5NDkz6MMpUA221zDm5nOBkMCQqaWFMxLnGfHolh0qHQKGeujkLWvJjuD3INwT$), which should include the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Session Title
 | * Presenter(s) Name
 |
| * Format (Quick Take, Lecture, Deep Dive or something innovative (out of the box idea)
 | * Presenter(s) Credentials
 |
| * Detailed Description of Content
 | * Employer
 |
| * Value of Session to Practicing Planning Professionals
 | * Contact Information (email address & phone number)
 |
| * Indicate Willingness to Present in Person, Virtually, or Both
 | * Brief Biography (3-5 sentences) for each speaker
 |

**All proposals should be submitted electronically no later than Friday March 12, 2021. Late submissions may not be accepted.**

**Questions or comments? Contact:** chapter.affairs@apavirginia.com

**#APAVA21**