

Next Steps with small footprint residential: toward best practices - Friday, October 14th 10:45-12:00

Safe, healthy and stable communities all share an asset: housing types and costs that reflect the needs of all residents. As we look to manage housing costs, size matters. This hands-on session aims to transform the collective experience of architects, planners and builders into best practices in small-footprint residential policy.

1. How the session meets a specific planning-related training objective? Planners focus on the need to ensure community and individual health and prosperity—despite limited financial and natural resources. One aspect of sound planning involves efficient use of these resources to encourage appropriate residential density near essential services, transit and employment. Whether density is achieved through detached cottages and ‘tiny house’ forms, micro apartments, residential hotels or housing cooperatives, planners will benefit from clear, consistent and common-sense policies and practices.

2. How the session will offer a professionally relevant learning experience for a planner with at least 4 years of experience? Experienced planning professionals share a responsibility with elected officials and citizens to anticipate community needs and create ‘places of lasting value.’ The session is not limited to the ‘Tiny House’ model or urban realities; we will explore how traditional and contemporary models of density can and do help future proof communities throughout the west. Well-designed, mixed-income housing becomes part of a community’s essential infrastructure, serving as a perpetual economic development asset and wage subsidy for local employers.

3. What attendees will learn from the session? We will discuss current or pending zoning and building codes involving alternative housing types, with input from a ‘tiny house’ architect/builder and some of Idaho’s most knowledgeable officials. Participants will then learn more about the role of small-footprint housing types in sustainable cities and how, where and why they can be integrated into future planning and development policy. Finally, participants will be asked to brainstorm realistic best practices to fill any unmet needs and inform housing development policies statewide.

Presenters/contacts

Macy Miller

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Macy has a passion for nature, the built environment and how they intersect. She earned an M.A. in Architecture from the U. of I. in 2007. Long interested in sustainability, her relationship to the tiny house movement began in 2011 when she designed and started constructing her own very small house. She currently occupies the 196 s.f. home—featured in Dwell and Time Magazines—with her partner, two young children and a 150lb. Great Dane. Since ‘going tiny’ Macy has learned that the tiny house movement is about more than just a house. Her current focus is empowering others to take on their own project. Learn more about Macy at her website, www.MiniMotives.com.

Teri Ottens

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Teri has over 26 years experience working for and with non-profit associations and local government agencies. This includes trade associations, public service associations, cities, counties, planning agencies, transportation organizations, and economic development groups. Prior to starting Association Management Solutions (AMS) in 1998, Teri served as Deputy Director of the Association of Idaho Cities, and in several communities as a City Manager or Administrator. As owner of AMS, she offers support in strategic and event planning, board relations, lobbying, and budgeting.

Hal Simmons

HSIMMONS@cityofboise.org

Hal began his service to the City of Boise in 1993 as Chief Comprehensive Planner and was named Boise City Planning Director in 2004. He directed the rewrite of the Boise Comprehensive Plan in 1993-96, oversaw the 2011 Comprehensive Plan rewrite and has written or co-written several New Urbanism and Smart Growth-oriented zoning ordinances for the City—including the Pedestrian Commercial, Town lot Residential, Accessory Dwelling Unit and Specific Plan codes.

Erik Kingston, PCED

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Erik joined the Idaho Housing and Finance Association in 1995 and oversees diverse projects, including program development, community outreach, fair housing education, as well as partnerships and planning for a range of housing, economic and community development efforts. He coordinates web projects such as housingidaho.com, fairhousingforum.org, and rampupidaho.org. Erik has served on Idaho’s Community Review Team since 2000, and was appointed to the Idaho Rural Partnership in 2009.