

Lifelong Learning Collaborative
BIG PLANS, LITTLE STATE: PLANNING THE FUTURE OF R.I.
Spring 2018 | Syllabus | **Final**

Meeting time: Fridays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Dates: March 16 through May 18

Location: Temple Beth El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, except for field trips as noted.

For the past six years, the “Cities” class has explored great metropolises in the U.S. and the world, what makes them tick and attractive to residents and visitors now and in the future. Last year we focused on communities in Rhode Island. This semester we’re upping our focus to the state level through the lens of the Statewide Planning Program and other state agencies.

We will learn how state officials are working to make sure that our state will have the resiliency, resources, economic strength and people power to survive and thrive into the future. Over the course of the next 10 weeks, we will hear from top officials in state government about such topics as:

- All Urban? Suburban? Farms? RI’s Land Use Dilemmas and Solutions
- Climate Change: Hurricanes, Rising Sea; Can the Ocean State Survive and Thrive?
- Water: Will It Be Clean Enough to Drink in 2050?
- RI’s Energy Addiction: Can RI Reduce Its Fossil Fuel Addiction and Get Clean with Renewables?
- “Gimme Shelter”: Housing for Every Rhode Islander
- Moving RI: What is the Department of Transportation up to?
- What’s the Better (Economic) Driver: Locally-Made or Bring in the Big Firm?

Format: Of the eight weekly topic slots, session leader(s) will have a chance to interview a guest speaker, one-on-one. On the day of the guest’s appearance, the interviewer(s) will introduce the guest and provide some background on the topic. The guest will speak and lead discussion during the second hour. Background research on the speaker and topic may be accomplished through the interview and online resources. Two potential field trips are planned. An optional opportunity: You are encouraged to register (at the \$30 student rate) to attend GrowSmartRI’s all-day “Power of Place Summit,” on Thurs., March 29, at the RI Convention Center.

Resources/Expenses: Selected readings in PDF formats, news articles, video files. Class participants must have access to the Internet. No expenses are anticipated other than the cost of driving to a field trip location—and class members are encouraged to carpool.

Coordinators: Nick Miles spent his career in communication and marketing in multiple industries before retiring and moving to RI three years ago. He has co-coordinated a section of the Theatre Conversations class for the past two years. Sam Shamoon is a certified planner with more than 45 years of experience in planning throughout the State of Rhode Island. Before retiring, he was the Director of Planning for the City of Providence.

BIG PLANS, LITTLE STATE | SPRING 2018 SCHEDULE

| DATE/TIME/ LOCATION | TOPIC | TOPIC EXPERT/SPEAKER | SESSION LEADER(S) |
|---|---|---|--|
| Fri., March 16 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | Welcome; Introduction to Statewide Planning & related agencies | Sam Shamoon & Nick Miles , class co-coordinators | |
| Fri., March 23 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | Seeing the Big Picture: Relative value of in-state development vs. imported? | Parag Agrawal , AICP, Associate Director, Division of Statewide Planning | Jean Stoddard |
| Thurs., March 29 Providence Convention Ctr. | “Power of Place Summit,” at the RI Convention Center. This all-day conference is sponsored by GrowSmartRI. Class members may register at the student rate of \$30 before March 5; thereafter for \$40. Register here: http://www.growsmartri.org/2018-power-of-place-summit/ | | |
| Fri., March 30 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | Water resources for the Ocean State | Kathleen Crawley , Acting General Director, RI Water Resources Board | Allan Klepper |
| Fri., April 6 10 a.m.–Noon Save the Bay HQ | Planning for climate change—from severe weather to rising sea | Liz Stone , Director’s Office, RIDEM and member of EC4 | Terry Meyer, Mary Snowden |
| Fri., April 13 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | RI’s Land Use Dilemmas & Solutions | Nancy Hess , Supervising Planner, RI Department of Administration, Land Use | Shirley DeMatteo, Penney Stein & Ros Gereboff |
| Fri., April 20 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | Transportation strategies for moving people more efficiently and faster | John Flaherty , Grow SmartRI and Amy Pettine , Acting CEO, RIPTA | Hugh Oechloer, Bob Faulkner & Ken Thompson |
| Fri., April 27 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | “Gimme Shelter”: Enabling Rhodies to find suitable housing | Barbara Fields , Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing | Dennis Flavin, Lenore Bunting |
| Fri., May 4 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | Reclaiming and making the most of what we discard | Krystal Noiseux , Education and Outreach Manager, RI Resource Recovery Corporation | Jim & Jessie Kingston |
| Fri., May 11 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | Creating a sustainable energy future for RI | Carol Grant , Commissioner, RI Office of Energy Resources (OER) | Stephanie Sullivan Pam Perkins & Heidi Smith |
| Fri., May 18 10 a.m.–Noon Temple | Hour 1: topic TBA; Hour 2: Summary and course wrap-up | Hour 1: Christopher Marsella , president, Marcella Development Corp., on proposed Providence Intermodal Transit Center. Hour 2: Sam Shamoon & Nick Miles , class co-coordinators | |

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|------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Sat., May 26 9 a.m. | OPTIONAL field trip to tour the Johnston recycling facilities of the RI Resource Recovery Corporation | | |