

DEVAN D. LEAVINS

University of Florida, Department of Urban and Regional Planning
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CURRENT POSITIONS

SPECIAL PROJECTS ADMINISTRATOR 2017 – Present Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department

As the Special Project Administrator for the Planning Department, I act as an ombudsman for high-priority community and development projects throughout Tallahassee, while developing and implementing strategies for community engagement and collaboration. I also help to facilitate intergovernmental coordination between the Planning Department and others, such as the Community Redevelopment Agency, Neighborhood Affairs, and Public Works to achieve the City of Tallahassee's Five-Year Strategic Plan goals. My project management experience in this role includes development of the Southside Action Plan (2021), Miccosukee Placemaking Plan (2020), and the Frenchtown Placemaking Plan (2018) from inception to adoption by the City and County Commissions.

DEPUTY PLANS CHIEF 2018 – Present Leon County Division of Emergency Management

As Deputy Plans Chief, I manage the tasks of the Emergency Operations in accordance with the Incident Command Structure (ICS) while coordinating information and resources from Operations, Logistics, Resources, and other branches assigned to emergency events. I also oversee the development of Situation Reports, Resource Tracking, and Demobilization Plans.

ADJUNCT LECTURER 2022 – Present University of Florida Department of Urban and Regional Planning

As Adjunct Lecturer, I teach the Urban Planning Project studio course for the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning online degree program. I develop curriculum and connect students from across the U.S. with real-world planning scenarios that bring planning theory and practice to life.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE | URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING Housing and Community Development Concentration Florida State University | 2011

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE | URBAN DESIGN Florida State University | 2011

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE | URBAN PLANNING University of Central Florida | 2009

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | SOCIOLOGY

Florida State University | 2006

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | SOCIAL SCIENCE

Florida State University | 2006

PROFESSIONAL PLANNING EXPERIENCE

Previous Positions

DESIGNWORKS SENIOR PLANNER 2016 – 2017

Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department

As a senior planner with the DesignWorks team, I consulted with developers, contractors, architects, and engineers to achieve optimum site design meeting local Land Development Code requirements and best practices in accordance with developers' economic goals. My project experience included site studies for the City and County Commissions, and engaging with citizens such as merchant groups, boards and committees, and other community organizations to facilitate better development outcomes. During this period, I lead the Frenchtown Neighborhood Better Block project, lead urban and rural community charrettes for the development of placemaking plans, and coordinated planned development criteria for the rezoning of city parcels for private development within the Tallahassee Community Redevelopment Area.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT SENIOR PLANNER 2013 – 2017

City of Tallahassee Growth Management Department

In this role I conducted development review for projects within the City of Tallahassee, issuing Land Use Compliance Certificates and Zoning Verifications, and guided both public and private development applicants through the permitting process. My responsibilities included developing 3D renderings and graphics to help visualize code language and future development, managing the department intern program, and working with applicants and citizens on better understanding the permitting process.

DEPUTY DISASTER HOUSING COORDINATOR 2011 – 2013

Florida Division of Emergency Management

As Deputy Disaster Housing Coordinator, I helped to develop local Disaster Housing Plans and provided implementation assistance to counties throughout the State of Florida. I also conducted trainings on Mitigation Planning and Disaster Housing Strategies, and worked with contractors to develop a capacity model for Host Communities and model development, which led to emergency housing contracts with the private sector, while working closely with state and federal housing programs such as CDBG, LIHTC, SHIP and others.

MITIGATION PLANNER IV 2010 – 2011

Florida Division of Emergency Management

In this position I reviewed Local Mitigation Strategy Plans and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans, and assisted with the development of a Florida Flood Mitigation Program in coordination with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. I was also responsible for managing grants and providing technical assistance to local governments.

Recent Consulting Work

PUTNAM COUNTY ECONOMIC PROSPECTUS 2020

Putnam County Chamber of Commerce | Madison Street Strategies

BOARD POSITIONS

TALLAHASSEE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Board Member, 2017 – Present

THE SHARING TREE

Board Member, 2017 – 2020

FLORIDA AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, CAPITAL AREA SECTION

2013 – Present

Immediate Past Chair	2019 – Present
Chair	2017 – 2019
Vice Chair	2015 – 2017
YPG Ambassador	2013 – 2015

HONORS & RECOGNITION

ACCESS TALLAHASSEE FUTURE 5 LEADERSHIP AWARD 2021

Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce

THE VILLAGE SQUARE LOCAL PATRIOT AWARD 2020

The Village Square Tallahassee

KNIGHT CITIES GRANT FINALIST 2017

Knight Creative Communities Foundation

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

CNU FLORIDA VIRTUAL SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE 2020

Florida Congress for the New Urbanism

FLORIDA PUBLIC POLICY WORKSHOP TOUR LEADER 2016 – 2019

Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association

MENTOR A PLANNING STUDENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR 2013 – 2017

Florida American Planning Association, Capital Area Section

KNIGHT FOUNDATION CREATIVE COMMUNITIES CATALYST 2013 – 2014

Downtown Tallahassee Sense of Place Project Leader

PRESIDENT, SYNOPTIKOS 2010 – 2011
Florida State University Student Planning Organization

COMMUNITY SERVICE

FORT BRADEN PLACEMAKING 2020 – 2021
Volunteered as a consultant with local leaders to kickoff rural placemaking efforts

MENTOR A PLANNING STUDENT PROGRAM MENTOR 2013 – 2020
Florida American Planning Association, Capital Area Section and Florida State University

ULI URBAN PLAN FACILTATOR 2018 – Present
Urban Land Institute Tallahassee, Florida

BOX CITY YOUTH PLANNING PROJECT FACILITATOR 2010
Florida State University and Leon County Schools

PUBLICATIONS

Leavins & Heinrich (28 Jul, 2020) “Best Practices: COVID-19 Has Some Cities Closing Streets to Car Traffic,” *Florida Planning*.

Burton, Leavins, & Stenmark (3 May, 2016) “The Emergence of Microbreweries in Florida,” *Florida Planning*.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Leavins, Harbin, & Duncan, “Engaging with Diverse Communities: Examples from the City of Tallahassee’s Southside Action Plan.” *Accepted*
American Planning Association Florida | 2022

Floyd, Leavins, Harbin, & Duncan, “Placemaking with Purpose: Engaging Diverse Citizen Groups in the Planning Process.”
American Society of Landscape Architects Florida | 2021

Floyd, Leavins, & Johnson, “Landscape Architect in the Public Domain: Balancing Private Investments with Public Interests”
American Society of Landscape Architects Florida | 2021

Clark & Leavins, “Tactical Project Management”
American Planning Association Florida | 2019

Harbin, Leavins, & Floyd, “The Rising Tide of Public Participation in Placemaking: A Cross-Case Comparison of two Placemaking Initiatives in the City of Tallahassee.”
American Planning Association Florida | 2019

Leavins, “Practical and Tactical: Update on Frenchtown”
Congress for the New Urbanism Florida | 2019

Leavins, “Tactical Urbanism and Place Activation: Frenchtown Betterblock”
Congress for the New Urbanism Florida | 2017

Donovan, Floyd, Leavins, & Wilcox, “DesignWorks: Urban Design as a Public Service”
American Planning Association Florida | 2017

Leavins, McIntyre, McCraw, & Wilcox, “Gaines Street Revisited: A Retrospective on Urban
Infill & Development”
American Planning Association Florida | 2016

Leavins, “Disaster Housing Strategies”
National Hurricane Conference | 2012

Leavins, “Florida’s Risk Management for Mitigation”
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets National Conference | 2011

GUEST LECTURES & INVITED SPEAKING ENAGEMENTS

University Guest Lectures

URP 6341 PLANNING PROJECT – “Community Engagement & Equity”
University of Florida | 2021

SOW 5545 FIELD SEMINAR – “Rural Placemaking”
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University | 2020

ISS 1921 COLLIQUIUM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS – “Sustainable Development”
Florida State University | 2020

URP 5743 NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING – “Frenchtown Placemaking Plan”
Florida State University | 2019

URP 5711 LAND USE PLANNING – “Land Use Planning & Community Engagement in
Tallahassee & Leon County”
Florida State University | 2018

URP 4318 GROWTH MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING – “Growth
Management”
Florida State University | 2018

URP 5881 URBAN DESIGN – “Tactical Urbanism”
Florida State University | 2016 & 2017

ENV 389 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING – “Brownfield Redevelopment & Cascades Park”
Rollins College | 2016

URP 5059 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – “Community Engagement”
Florida State University | 2016

URP 300 INTRODUCTION TO PLANNING – “Planning Practice”
Florida State University | 2016

URP 5930 PROFESSIONAL TOPICS – “Planning Practice”
Florida State University | 2013 – Present

Community and Professional Organization Presentations

WFSU LIVE BROADCAST – Panelist “Engaging More Affordable Housing in Tallahassee”
WFSU Public Media | 2022

MORNINGS WITH PLANNING – “Looking to 2021: Topics & Trends in Planning Throughout the U.S.”
Lexington, KY Long-Range Planning Department | 2020

SOCIAL SCIENCES CAREER PANEL – Panelist
Florida State University College of Social Sciences and Public Policy | 2019

KNIGHT CREATIVE COMMUNITIES – Guest Speaker “Placemaking”
Knight Foundation | 2019

WFSU LIVE BROADCAST – Panelist “Balancing Growth with Preserving Community Character”
WFSU Public Media | 2018

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – “Planning Participation Workshop for Local Governance”
Tallahassee League of Women Voters | 2018

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES TAUGHT

AICP Credit

Leavins, Floyd, Harbin, & Duncan, “Placemaking with Purpose: Engaging Diverse Citizen Groups” American Society of Landscape Architects Florida | 2022

Harbin, Leavins, & Floyd, “Zombie Subdivisions : Local Tales on Resurrecting Dead Developments” Florida American Planning Association, Capital Area Section | 2020

Harbin, Leavins, & Floyd, “Art of the Napkin Sketch”
Florida American Planning Association Annual Conference | 2019

FEMA Emergency Management Training

DISASTER HOUSING STRATEGIES COURSE

Florida Division of Emergency Management | 2012 – 2013

G-318 MITIGATION PLANNING

Florida Division of Emergency Management | 2011 – 2012

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION | 2009 – Present

CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM | 2018 – Present