



# Consortium for Scenario Planning 2024 CONFERENCE

January 31 – February 2 | Portland, Oregon

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## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

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12:00–12:45 p.m.

**Registration and Lunch**

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12:45–1:00 p.m.

**Welcome Address**

Speaker:

Heather Hannon, Associate Director of Planning Practice and Scenario Planning,  
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

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1:00–2:00 p.m.

**Opening Plenary: Trends for Planners**

The American Planning Association and the Lincoln Institute will release the 2024 Trend Report for Planners on existing, emerging, and potential trends relevant to planners. This session will highlight some trends from the latest report and discuss how planners can use foresight to navigate change and prepare for an uncertain future.

Speaker:

Petra Hurtado, Director of Research and Foresight, American Planning Association

Zhenia Dulko, Senior Research Associate, American Planning Association

Joseph DeAngelis, Research Manager, American Planning Association

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2:00–2:15 p.m.

**Break**

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2:15–3:30 p.m.

**Welcome and Keynote: Tools of the Trade: A Sampling of Cascadia Partners' Decision Support Tools**

Through our work with jurisdictions across the country, Cascadia Partners has developed several tools to help our clients make more informed decisions in the

face of uncertainty. During this session, three of our staff members will share decision support tools they have created or implemented, explaining how these tools helped bring scenario planning principles into the discussion and improved project outcomes.

Speaker: Alex Steinberger, Managing Partner, Cascadia Partners

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3:30–3:45 p.m. **Break**

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3:45–5:00 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS I**

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**Scenario Planning 101 Workshop (Trillium Suite)**

Scenario planning engages community members in considering a range of possible futures for which they can create flexible strategies, resilient planning interventions, and other preparations. This process can be normative or exploratory, and it may be adjusted to a region’s technological and personnel capacities. Session attendees will learn the basics of scenario planning and conduct a mock workshop to identify trends and driving forces, develop strategies, and highlight the best options to address possible outcomes.

Speaker: Heather Hannon, Associate Director of Planning Practice and Scenario Planning, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

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**Scenario Planning for Climate Readiness: Lessons from Around the World (Irving Street Studio)**

Globally, cities and regions grapple with tremendous uncertainty regarding how climate change will manifest and how to integrate this uncertainty into plans and decision-making. Exploratory scenario planning (XSP) offers a structured yet flexible process for responding to such challenges, regardless of context. The Lincoln Institute has already engaged communities in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America through workshops on XSP for climate preparedness, which offer intriguing lessons and valuable comparisons. This session will provide an overview of these experiences and insights and invite participants to discuss how to apply XSP to increase their own communities’ climate resilience.

Speakers: Patrick Welch, Policy Analyst, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

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**Participatory Scenario Planning: A Framework for Neighborhood Development Plans in Egypt**

Complexity and unpredictability dominate Egypt’s built environment—hence its need for innovative approaches to address the unanticipated urban dynamics that result. The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), in collaboration with Egyptian public authorities and local urban consultants, crafted an adaptable framework to develop local-level participatory scenario planning, with a clear process and methods for creating plans that address both current and forecasted urban challenges. The framework lays out three main components: 1) participation by and inclusion of municipal and urban planning authorities and diverse stakeholder groups, 2) multidisciplinary integration of local urban, socioeconomic, environmental, and institutional needs, and 3) comprehensive provision of physical and soft interventions to be implemented by the public authorities in the short and medium terms.

Speaker: Heba Shoaib, SPURS Research Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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5:00–5:15 p.m. **Break**

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5:15–6:00 p.m. **Walking Tour**

Join us for a short walking tour of downtown Portland as we head to our reception at the Canopy by Hilton in Portland’s Pearl District.

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6:00–8:00 p.m. **Reception: Winter Garden Room at the Canopy by Hilton Portland Pearl District**

423 NW 9th Ave, Portland, Oregon, 97209

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## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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8:00–8:45 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**

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8:45–10:15 a.m. **Gamification + Scenario Planning: A Match Made in Heaven**

When we are divided and tired, participating in public processes can be less than enjoyable, but we can add fun, creativity, and a little joy to decision-making. Scenario planning and planning in the face of uncertainty provide an inherent challenge that “plays well” with translating complex or abstract concepts into approachable, gamified activities. This 90-minute session will: (1) cover basic components and considerations for gamification, (2) provide examples of gamified activities being used in a scenario planning process, and (3) playtest a cooperative, persona-based activity that challenges participants to develop a community housing plan in the face of uncertainty.

Speaker: Ayano Healy, Senior Associate, Cascadia Partners

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10:15–10:30 a.m. **Break**

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10:30–11:45 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION II**

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**Housing Affordability RFPs (Trillium Suite)**

These projects are three of the four selected for support by the Lincoln Institute’s Consortium for Scenario Planning (CSP) in response to an RFP issued in January 2022. Each project will use exploratory scenario planning to address housing affordability challenges in communities across the country.

**Project:** Triboro Eco Housing Futures

**Speakers:** EvolveEA

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**Project:** Using Collaborative Exploratory Scenario Planning Workshops in Western Massachusetts

**Speaker:** Janelle Franklin, Assistant Town Planner, Town of Hatfield, Massachusetts

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**Using Scenarios to Advance Climate Resilience in Integrated Water Management** (Irving Street Studio)

Climate change is fundamentally altering the timing, availability, and quality of water worldwide. Planners are increasingly using scenarios to explore the complex relationships among resource management, urban development, and a changing climate. Through presentations and a panel discussion, this session will share diverse perspectives on how scenario planning can support water and climate resilience through integrated planning. Speakers will present research on the relationships between urban growth and water demand management and the benefits of different floodplain management strategies.

**Speakers:** Anne Thebo, Research Scientist, Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington

Guillaume Mauger, Research Scientist, Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington

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11:45–1:00 p.m. **Lunch and Lightning Talks**

Lightning talks are an opportunity for attendees to stand up and share short updates about their recent or upcoming work, research, or events related to scenario planning. Please sign up in the lobby during breakfast!

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1:00–2:15 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION III**

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**Beyond the Basics: Blending Normative and Exploratory Scenario Planning** (Trillium Suite)

Until recently, most urban scenario planning projects could be easily categorized as either normative or exploratory. However, practitioners have increasingly experimented with unconventional approaches combining both, alongside other techniques, to create plans that achieve goals and help communities promote resilience in response to uncertainty. Drawing on in-depth case study research, this session will discuss how practitioners can use scenarios that blend normative and exploratory elements to create effective plans, as well as what emerging methods can link scenarios to better infrastructure decision-making.

**Speaker:** Robert Goodspeed, Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Michigan

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**Keep Scenario Planning Strategic** (Irving Street Studio)

Scenario planning has its roots in strategic management, a 1950s methodology used to help organizations set priorities to focus activities and resources. This application to urban and regional planning emerged in the 1980s as a tool to explore possible futures and improve strategic management of places. However, over time, scenario planning practices became more focused on value questions and less on strategic management. Today, the issues communities face are complicated and fraught with uncertainty about the future. Wading through this complexity and uncertainty—and hundreds of possible solutions—can be

daunting, especially when trying to implement actions with limited resources. Strategic scenario planning allows planners to systemically explore future uncertainty in a manner that helps prioritize actions for implementation. This session will explore how scenario planning can be used as a strategic management tool and provide examples of its use by communities to strategically explore uncertainty, protect values and goals, and determine which actions are most important to take now to prepare for possible change in the future.

Speakers: Ray Quay, Research Professional, Arizona State University

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2:15–2:30 p.m. **Break**

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2:30–3:45 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION IV**

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**Scenario Planning in Rural Wyoming: Adapting to Climate-Driven Changes in Water Availability** (Trillium Suite)

Wyoming Anticipating Climate Transitions (WyACT) is an interdisciplinary research and community engagement project at the University of Wyoming that combines exploratory scenario planning (XSP) and multiscale, iterative scenario building (MISB) in rural communities to plan for climate-driven changes in water availability in the headwaters of the Snake, Green, and Wind Rivers. Each of these watersheds has unique challenges, including differences in local user groups, relationships to downstream systems, levels of political power and trust in climate science, and the dominant land use classifications. In this session, the WyACT team will share the context, process, initial outcomes, challenges, and plans of their work.

Speakers: Caitlin Ryan, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Wyoming Anticipating Climate Transitions (WyACT)

Mary Keller, Senior Academic Professional Lecturer in Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Wyoming

Jeff Hamerlinck, Director of the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center, University of Wyoming

Anderson de Figueiredo, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Wyoming Anticipating Climate Transitions (WyACT)

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**Scenario Planning for Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation** (Irving Street Studio)

Climate change—and its associated disruptions to historical climate and weather patterns on the global, regional, and local scales—poses a particular challenge to traditional methods of hazard mitigation planning. Formalized through a set of federal and state-level policies, legislative requirements, and regulations, hazard mitigation planning methods are also slow to adapt and to integrate new or emerging tools and techniques. This session will explore how planners and local practitioners can use exploratory scenario planning to navigate the inherent uncertainties underlying hazard mitigation and planning in an era of climate disruptions, both within and alongside the existing framework.

Speaker: Joseph DeAngelis, Research Manager, American Planning Association

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3:45–4:00 p.m. **Break**

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4:00–5:15 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSION V**

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**Preparing for a Changed Community in Vancouver, Washington** (Trillium Suite)

Since 2011, when the City of Vancouver, Washington, last updated its Comprehensive Plan, the community has seen significant population growth, demographic and economic changes, and shifting social values. This interactive scenario planning workshop will guide participants in evaluating tradeoffs concerning sufficient housing and housing production; guiding land use and development patterns toward walkability, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and “15-minute neighborhoods”; and centering the needs of “equity priority communities” to reduce displacement risk.

Speakers: Dominique Martinelli, Senior Long Range Planner, City of Vancouver  
Nicole McDermott, Senior Planning and Public Involvement Specialist, WSP USA  
Tyler Bump, Partner and Project Director, ECONorthwest

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**Creating and Applying Exploratory Future Scenarios for Puget Sound Recovery** (Irving Street Studio)

The Puget Sound Partnership is sponsoring an interdisciplinary exploratory future scenario planning effort intended to examine Puget Sound recovery strategies from the Action Agenda, such as Smart Growth, and identify challenges and opportunities associated with uncertainties. Scenarios are structured around multiple complex drivers (population growth, climate change, government actions, and public perceptions and behaviors) and examine the potential biophysical and human dimension outcomes. Scenario work has been supplemented by the development of an actor-based geospatial model, a watershed-scale qualitative network model, and a model that integrates habitat implications for salmon. Model outputs help illustrate the scenarios and support comparison between scenarios. This session will discuss the success and challenges of this ambitious Puget Sound-wide effort as well as the next steps.

Speakers: Elizabeth McManus, Principal, Ross Strategic  
Katherine Wyatt, Assistant Science Director, Puget Sound Partnership  
John Bolte, Common Futures, Corvallis  
Jennifer Kassakian, Senior Associate, Industrial Economics

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

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8:00–9:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

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9:00–10:15 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSION VI**

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**Imagination, Justice, and Hope: Scenario Planning for New Haven County, Connecticut** (Trillium Suite)

Through a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency, the University of Massachusetts Amherst partnered with the South Central Regional Council of Governments to create a Priority Climate Action Plan. The team drafted three scenarios for the year 2045 based on interviews with regional experts, the IPCC's latest regional report, Connecticut's energy and climate policies, and local socioeconomic priorities; they then identified best practices and measured their impact on each scenario, with a focus on equity. This session will cover these elements' contributions to the finished plan and what implementation will look like.

Speakers: Hunza Irfan, Graduate Student of Regional Planning and Sustainability Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Emily Hodos, Master of Regional Planning Candidate, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Swetha Hiranya Venuturupalli, Master of Regional Planning Candidate, University of Massachusetts Amherst

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**Exploratory Scenario Planning for Natural Hazards and Community Resilience** | (Irving Street Studio)

Analysts from two Oregon counties will summarize how they recently employed exploratory scenario planning (XSP) in updating a local hazard mitigation plan, highlighting the benefits and challenges of incorporating the process into hazard mitigation planning. Following a brief presentation, attendees will participate in an XSP session adapted for hazard mitigation planning, where they will evaluate multiple hazard scenarios to identify and prioritize robust mitigation actions while accounting for multiple cascading impacts. This session will challenge attendees to critically examine this necessary but novel adaptation of XSP practice.

Speakers: Brendan Irsfeld, Senior Management Analyst, Lane County Office of Emergency Management

Hannah Shafer, Senior Management Analyst, Benton County Office of Emergency Management

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10:15–10:45 a.m. **Break**

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10:45–11:15 a.m. **Unconference Session I** (Trillium Suite and Irving Street Studio)

Create your own participant-driven session! Ideas will be solicited on a board in the lobby throughout the conference, and conference organizers will post the proposed “unconference” sessions for participants to choose from and attend. Suggest a topic or enjoy selecting from fellow conference attendees’ sessions.

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11:15–11:45 a.m. **Break**

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11:45–12:30 p.m. **Unconference Session II** (Trillium Suite and Irving Street Studio)

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12:30–1:30 p.m. **Lunch and Farewell**

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