



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION 2022 EASTON FUTURE VISION FELLOWS PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2021, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission developed an internship program which utilizes talented graduate and/or undergraduate students in The Ohio State University – Knowlton School of Architecture to advance local community planning projects.

The program is designed to augment classroom experience with real world challenges while simultaneously benefiting the host government by providing temporary employees dedicated to community planning. The program announcement took place at MORPC's annual 2021 State of the Region event through the expansion of the range of sponsorship options.

Thanks to resources from multiple partners, the program supports four graduate students known as the "Easton Future Vision Fellows" for 14 weeks at 40 hours per week. Fifty percent of the funds are provided by the Easton Community Foundation, The Ohio State University Knowlton School's City and Regional Planning Program, and MORPC. The other fifty percent of the funds are provided by four host communities.

The four host communities in 2022 included:

- ✓ City of Bexley
- ✓ Central Ohio Transit Authority
- ✓ Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission - Rapid5
- ✓ Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission - Trail Planning



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



MORPC is Central Ohio’s regional council with 80 local governments located in a 15-county area. These governments represent counties, cities, villages, townships, and regional organizations. These same governments provide the human capital to deliver critical services and community planning to a growing region. As an association of members, MORPC provides a wide range of direct and indirect services to its diverse membership. Included in these services is a robust Local Government Summer Internship Program. The program has dual benefits in that it not only provides opportunities for college students to work in public services, but it also brings fresh resources to local governments. Intern recruitment extends to all Central Ohio schools and to college students who reside in the region, but may attend school outside this area. Geographic expansion enables MORPC to widen the search to include candidates from reputable colleges known for their strength in nurturing diverse student bodies that exist beyond Central Ohio. The fellows were incorporated into this program to supplement their professional experiences.

PARTNERSHIP GOAL:

The program successfully connected the fellows to community planning experiences. The fellows were charged with developing projects with these parameters:

1. Deliver actionable projects in public service,
2. Incorporate innovation and creativity in their plans, and
3. Infuse equity and innovation into trails, new development and/or housing.

BASIC DETAILS:

- The fellows were included in MORPC’s 14-week paid program from May 9, 2022 to August 12, 2022.
- Each fellow was compensated for 40 hours/week during the program.
- The fellows’ projects will be highlighted at the 2023 State of the Region, and two projects will be honored with special distinction.
- Regional and/or local government hosts were recruited to serve as hosts. These hosts hired the fellows as a part-time staff member, administered the payroll, and provided a supervisor.
- MORPC provided a senior staff member to serve as a mentor to the fellows.
- MORPC also provided coordination and supplemental enrichment programs to introduce the fellows to urban planning experts and model examples of innovative projects throughout the area.
- The fellows attended educational sessions on regional initiatives and MORPC commission meetings.
- The fellows presented brief overviews to the Central Ohio Greenways Board.



RECOMMENDED PROJECTS:

- Storytelling and communication strategies
- Trail and/or mobility development and innovation
- Equity analysis in trails, mobility or development projects
- Business development analysis along the trails
- Innovative financing for trail development and connections

APPLICANTS:

Interested candidates earning a Masters or undergraduate degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University – Knowlton School of Architecture submitted their resumes to Kim Burton at OSU. MORPC provided the host communities with a list of eligible candidates and coordinated the placement.

THE 2022 FELLOWS

City of Bexley	Marcus Duemmel
COTA	Lakesha Lewis
MORPC	Jake Buchanan
MORPC	Letitia Cetina

THE PROJECTS:

Each project had a direct or indirect tie to the Easton Community. As a result, meetings were set up to learn more about the history, development expansion, and current conditions of the area. A prevailing theme became the main focus of many meetings, which was how to improve the connectivity of this extraordinary community so there would be significant impact on equity and inclusion for under-resourced residents.

- City of Bexley Project:** Becoming a Trail Town
- Cota Project:** Addressing Food Insecurity in the City of Columbus
- MORPC Rapid5 Project:** Alum Creek Water Trail Framework
- MORPC:** Easton Town Center - Becoming a Trail Town



SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS:

MORPC provided weekly check-in meetings with the fellows. These were led by Jennifer Noll, who served as the technical advisor, and Eileen Leuby, who served as the coordinator for all Summer Interns. In addition, MORPC arranged for special meetings for the fellows to hear from planning experts and accomplished visionaries.

These included:

Steiner + Associates: Yaromir Steiner and Beau Arnason

OSU - Keith Myers, VP Planning, Architecture and Real Estate

Yay Bikes – Erin Synk

Neighborhood Design Center – Kerry Reeds

RAPID5 – The Unveiling at the Columbus Metropolitan Club Forum

Central Ohio Greenways Board

National Association of Regional Councils - Gil Penalosa

MORPC Commission

MORPC William Murdock

MORPC held specialized supplemental programs to enhance career building knowledge, skill attainment, and networking.

These programs included:

Social Media Best Practices for Local Government

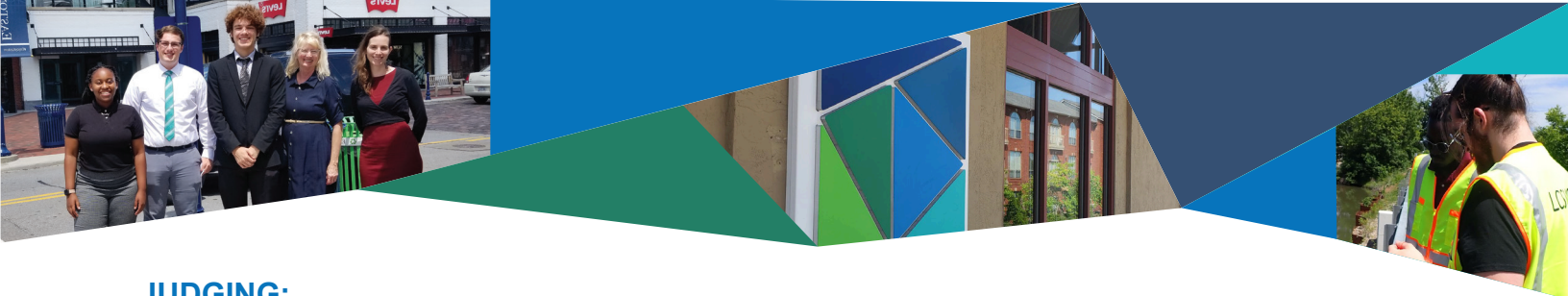
Represent Documentary - met Bryn Bird who was featured in the film

Career Planning

MORPC Night at the Clippers

Rural Forum - Trail Town Visioning and Bike Tour

Diversity and Inclusion Training Inclusion: My Pronouns, My Identity



JUDGING:

The fellows presented their projects to a panel of three judges on August 9, 2022. The fellows had ten minutes to present a summary and 5 minutes to answer questions. The judges consisted of:

- William Murdock, MORPC, Executive Director
- Dr. Jason Reece, OSU Knowlton School of Architecture, Assistant Professor, City & Regional Program
- Mr. Beau Amason, Steiner + Associates, EVP Asset Management

RESULTS:

The judges concluded that all four projects were exceptional and that two deserved special recognition at the 2022 State of the Region.

Special Recognition Recipients:

City of Bexley	Marcus Duemmel
MORPC	Letitia Cetina

FINANCES:

FINANCIALS

PROJECTED FULL COST PER FELLOW			
Rate	Hours	Weeks	Cost
\$15	40	14	\$8,400
			\$650
			\$9,050
4			\$36,200

APPROXIMATE ACTUAL COST TO HOST			
Rate	Hours	Weeks	Cost
\$15	20	14	\$4,200
			\$4,200*
4			\$16,800

*In addition, the Host paid for their pre-employment costs to hire a fellow as a part-time staff member.

EASTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	\$10,000
OSU-KNOWLTON SCHOOL	\$6,600
MORPC & HOSTS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS	\$17,000
MORPC INTERN PROGRAM FEE WAIVED	\$2,600
	\$36,200



EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT:

William Murdock, MORPC, Executive Director

Dr. Kerstin Carr, MORPC, Director of Planning & Sustainability

FELLOW MENTOR & TECHNICAL ADVISOR:

Jennifer Noll, MORPC, Associate Director, Community Development

FELLOW & LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUMMER INTERN ADVISOR:

Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer

CONCLUSION

MORPC collected feedback from the hosts and fellows. The hosts were extremely appreciative of the quantity and quality of the fellow's work. In all four cases, the fellows advanced planning projects that the host did not have the resources to fulfill during a pandemic. Each project incorporated an equity component in the work. The fellows shared how their projects would enhance mobility and access to resources and/or opportunities. Many of the fellows ended up assisting their host's with additional projects while simultaneously working on their priority project.

All four hosts attended the final, in-person presentations and relayed how much they were enriched by the work of these fellows. The hosts wished they could offer the fellows full-time opportunities. Two fellows were hired to work part-time while finishing their degrees. (MORPC hired Marcus Duemmel and City of Columbus (a non host) hired Letitia Cetina). All four hosts noted they would not have been able to utilize these fellows for their visionary projects without the subsidies provided by the funders.

MORPC and the hosts are indebted to the generous sponsorships from OSU and the Easton Community Foundation. Each project is better positioned to take advantage of future funding sources to turn these visions into reality so that generations will benefit and the greater community is enriched as a result.

For more information, please contact Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer, eleuby@morpc.org.

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