

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Shannon McDowell

Adams County

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Shannon McDowell is the open space program manager for the Adams County Parks and Open Space department. Shannon oversees the disbursement of \$15 million in sales tax funding each year, with the majority distributed through a competitive grant program. Shannon serves as the liaison to partner organizations and helps facilitate interjurisdictional projects. Shannon also works on planning projects relating to parks, open space and trails. Shannon was the project manager for the award-winning 2012 Adams County Open Space, Parks and Trails Master Plan and was a key figure in The District Plan, a planning effort focused on preserving and enhancing farmland and food systems south of Brighton. She began her career as planner on duty in Adams County, where she learned how to effectively communicate with the public and gained valuable knowledge of county procedures. She earned her bachelor's in urban planning and development from Ball State University. She has experience with land use case review and more complex projects.

Kristin Sullivan

Adams County

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Kristin is the deputy director of Community and Economic Development for Adams County, where she has worked for the past seven years. She oversees development services and economic development. She has held several other roles at Adams County including planning manager, economic development manager and legislative liaison. She has extensive experience with public-private partnerships, tax increment financing, affordable housing and transit-oriented development. She holds a bachelor's in geography and a master's in urban and regional planning.

Aja Tibbs

City of Brighton

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Aja Tibbs is the long-range and historic preservation planner for the City of Brighton. She has more than five years of experience as a planner, processing all types of land use and development applications, as well as two years' experience managing long-range and historic preservation projects for the City of Brighton. Aja's experience has provided her with a unique and holistic perspective of the past, present and future of community planning. In addition to helping develop the Local District Plan, her recent projects include municipal code amendments addressing marijuana home-grow operations and urban agriculture practices, as well as serving as the project manager for Brighton's comprehensive plan update and public engagement process. Aja is an enthusiastic and inspired public planner who thrives in unifying multiple perspectives to improve future communities. She holds a bachelor's in environmental design from the University of Colorado with an emphasis in planning.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jack D. Lewis

City of Black Hawk

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Jack Lewis has served as city manager of Black Hawk for the past five years. He has been in senior management positions for various cities and towns for over 25 years in Colorado. Before moving to Black Hawk he was city administrator for Salida and held positions in Eagle County, Breckenridge and Golden. Additionally, Jack has worked in the private sector, including for Vail Resorts in Eagle and Summit counties in Colorado and Heavenly in California. Jack left Colorado for seven years for a senior management position at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Jackson, Wyoming, where he led the redesign and development of the resort. Much of Jack's work for these companies was focused on resort development and the creation of employee housing. This combination of experience gives Lewis a unique perspective to help Black Hawk become Colorado's next major destination resort.

Jack grew up in Colorado Springs and holds a master's from Adams State University. He is always active in the communities where he and his family live. He previously served on the board of the Vail Valley Medical Center, including four years as its chair.

Nicole Klepadlo

City of Austin, Texas

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Nicole Klepadlo is a redevelopment project manager in the City of Austin's Economic Development department where she works on the development and execution of the Soul-y Austin Business District Incubator, a program aimed at creating and preserving the unique culture of Austin's commercial business districts.

A native Michigander, Nicole received a master's in urban planning from Wayne State University in Detroit, and has nine years of experience in urban planning, local and regional government, and community and economic development. Starting as a planner for the Woodward Avenue Action Association, an organization managing National Scenic Byway funds for 27 miles, she worked closely with metro Detroit communities to bring stakeholders together to strengthen the byway's potential and strong heritage.

In a quest for different planning challenges and career development, Nicole worked as a planner in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Denver — communities experiencing ongoing growth and transition. Her work in Iowa focused on the damage caused by the 2008 flood, the sixth largest FEMA-declared national disaster, during which time she worked with the State of Iowa's Economic Development Department on business-assistance programs for post-flood rehabilitation and redevelopment. Bringing her skills of working with stakeholders, specifically the business community, to Denver, Nicole led DRCOG's Citizens Advisory Committee, helped with policy development for Metro Vision 2040 and co-led the urban centers designation and grant process at a regional scale. With a background in social work and an evolving career in planning and economic development, Nicole has found a balance that promotes the integration of people and business, places and community and economic development.