

**Workshop #3: Planning for Age Friendly Communities: Resources for Local Governments
& Community Members**

April 20, 2021, 9:00am to 10:30am

Presenters:



Esther Greenhouse, MS, CAPS

Ms. Greenhouse is the Strategic Director for one of the U.S.'s first Age-Friendly Centers for Excellence in Tompkins County, NY. A catalyst for positive change, Esther Greenhouse is a built environment strategist, consulting with municipalities, senior housing providers, and organizations to help them leverage the design of the built environment to address significant challenges and enable their people to thrive. She creates and develops innovative initiatives, such as Equity by Design, a collaboration with AARP International to generate a quantum leap for the creation of Enabling and Equitable Age-Friendly Housing and Multigenerational Communities. At Cornell University, she is an adjunct lecturer and an industry scholar in the Institute for Healthy Futures. She has been invited to

contribute her expertise by presenting for the Clinton Global Initiative, by co-authoring the American Planning Association's Aging in Community Policy Guide, and on the design of the U.S.'s first elder-focused emergency department.



**Dr. Mildred Warner, Professor, Department of City and
Regional Planning, Cornell University**

Dr. Warner is a Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University. She is an international expert on local government services, how to plan for more child and age-friendly cities, and how local governments promote economic development and environmental sustainability. In 2013 she partnered with ICMA to conduct the first national survey of Planning Across Generations with an update in 2019. She helped author APA's 2014 Aging in Community Policy Guide. She works closely with APA and local government associations encouraging communities to employ a multigenerational planning framework.

Her research can be accessed at www.mildredwarner.org.

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**Paul Beyer, State Director of Smart Growth
Planning, NYS Department of State**

Paul Beyer is the State Director of Smart Growth Planning at the NYS Department of State. In this position, Paul promotes the principles of Smart Growth on the state, regional and local level in New York. Paul's experience in land use and Smart Growth began when he worked in the New York State Legislature, where he focused on land use, environmental and public health policy. Paul served on the Planning Board in the Town of Amherst, NY, where he helped develop the town's Comprehensive Plan; he currently serves on the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee in the Town of Bethlehem, NY. Paul has a law degree from the University at Buffalo.



**Joan Jurkowich, Planning Administrator, Tompkins
County Department of Planning and Sustainability**

Joan has been a member of the Tompkins County Department of Planning since 1992. As part of her many responsibilities, Joan led the preparation of the County's first adopted Comprehensive Plan in 2004 and the full update of that plan in 2015. Prior to joining the Department, she worked as a planner in Columbia, South Carolina and in Milton, Vermont. Joan earned her Master of Regional Planning from The University of Michigan and has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from St. Lawrence University. Joan spent 20 years teaching tai chi and is an avid Mets fan.

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Dr. Xue Zhang, Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Global Development, Cornell University

Dr. Zhang is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Global Development at Cornell University. She is interested in regional economics, equity, community development policy and public health. Her current research focuses on local governments' actions to build age-friendly communities and rural development. Her research links planning, built environment, services, and public health to explore community development strategies.



Robyn Wardell, Graduate Student, Cornell University

Robyn Wardell is a second-year graduate student of City and Regional Planning with a keen interest in land use practices that build vibrant, healthy communities. Her current research is focused on age friendly planning practices and supportive housing developments. Ms. Wardell's previous work focused on food access in a diversity of contexts, from rural Maine to urban Flint, MI and Portland, OR. Most recently, she developed and ran a national leadership program for FoodCorps AmeriCorps alumni seeking to build careers in public health, education, food systems and school food specifically.



Grace McCartney

Grace McCartney is a junior pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Urban and Regional Studies at Cornell University. She believes people thrive when they have access to lively and equitable communities.

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Presenters:



Wil Lawrence, Active Community Member

Wil has been participating in Age-Friendly workshops over the past four years with encouragement from the Tompkins County Office for the Aging and the Human Services Coalition staffs. She has been volunteering in the Ithaca area for the past twelve years, mainly at the Brooktondale Community Center and with NY StateWide Senior Action Council. Her efforts to support local food security have been mainly as part of the Brooktondale Farmers Market, as a Cooperative Extension community organizer, in giving away chickens for backyard flocks, and in various roles with the Caroline food pantry and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier's Food Truck distribution. Her favorite volunteer activity has been the four years of the Gadzukes! Zucchini Festival at the Brooktondale Community Center, along with encouraging Caroline Elementary schoolchildren to grow zucchinis.



Lin Khant Oo

Lin Khant Oo is an urban planning student at Cornell, focusing on the role of local governance and societal context in community planning. His academic interests surround the relation between economic development, transportation services and fostering community.