

Speaker/Trainer Biographies

Designing Downtown NOW:

Real Tactics and Tools to Enhance Your Businesses and Districts

July 25, 2012 - Atlantic City, NJ



Tom McGilloway, ASLA

Tom McGilloway is a Principal at Mahan Rykiel Associates, Inc. a landscape architecture, urban design and planning firm located in Baltimore, Maryland. Tom is a 1984 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Landscape Architecture. He has 27 years of experience in planning and design of downtowns, neighborhoods, open spaces, streetscapes and campuses throughout the United States. He has worked extensively with towns and Main Street communities in Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Mississippi. Tom continues to be part of a resource team through the Mississippi Main Street Association, participating in week-long revitalization work sessions throughout the state and he frequently speaks at local and national Main Street and revitalization conferences. Recently, Tom led and completed a place-making based open space plan for Downtown Baltimore.

In addition to his professional experience, Tom is active in the preservation and revitalization of his own community. He was an active board member of both the Neighborhood Design Center (Baltimore) and Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks and Landscapes; President of Hampden Village Main Street, one of Baltimore's Neighborhood Main Street programs; and currently serves on the board of Friends of Wyman Park Dell and the Friends of Stony Run.



Leigh Minor Nagy, Retail Therapist

Leigh Nagy is first and foremost a mother of three beautiful and spirited children. A designer by default, she is a woman who has always had a love for retail therapy – big and small.

Having served as the Vice President of a Main Street Board of Directors while owning a downtown small business herself, Leigh can speak directly to all the charms and challenges of running a downtown business. From painting the walls and crafting creative visual displays to strategically navigating the semi-annual buying markets, she has the experience of being both behind the counter and creating the effective downtown programs that have the potential to ring registers. In addition, Leigh worked as a successful interior designer prior to opening a retail store. She has also worked as a retail store window designer and has been at the forefront of acquiring and liquidating a struggling downtown business as a transition strategy for new business opportunity.



Daily Breeze

Ben Muldrow

Ben Muldrow, a Partner at Arnett Muldrow & Associates, is responsible for all community marketing and branding functions of the Greenville, SC-based urban planning firm. Ben helps communities to develop their brand identity through an open process including public design sessions and collaborative small groups. He has designed new branding and marketing elements for revitalization projects in over 300 communities in Arkansas, Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

A Greenville native and a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Muldrow was Strategic Branding Manager for NewSouth Communications and Owner of Mudduck Design, an advertising and graphic design company specializing in design for residential home builders, developers, real estate, and support businesses in the industry.



Aurash Khawarзад

Aurash Khawarзад is the Founder & Principal of Change Administration. He is a City Planner, Designer, and Maker of products and processes that build social relationships, and address beauty and equity in the built environment. He is based in Brooklyn, New York by way of Washington, DC and Alexandria, Virginia.

He is also co-founder, DoTank, an interdisciplinary collective that does public space interventions, and has been a Planner for the NYC-based Project for Public Spaces, a non-profit that works with communities on public space planning.

His professional mission is threefold:

- Create spaces that foster creative commerce, build social connections, and are good for the environment;
- Work on policies and actions that mitigate the impacts of gentrification on existing communities and important local/regional economies
- Make cities beautiful again



Mike Lydon, CNU-A

Mike Lydon is a founding Principal of The Street Plans Collaborative. Before launching the firm in 2009, Lydon worked for Duany Plater-Zyberk and Company (DPZ), an international leader in the practice of smart growth planning, design, and research techniques. As a planner, writer, and advocate, Mike's work has appeared in or been featured by NPR, The New York Times, CNN Headline News, Planetizen, Grist, Utne Reader, Next American City Magazine, Planning Magazine, Streetsblog, and a number of other national and local publications. Mike collaborated with Andres Duany and Jeff Speck in writing *The Smart Growth Manual*, published by McGraw-Hill in 2009, and honored by Planetizen as one of the top ten planning books of 2010. Mike is also the creator and primary author of *The Open Streets Project* and *Tactical Urbanism: Short-Term Action, Long-Term Change (Vol. 1 & Vol. 2)*, which was named by Planetizen as one of the top planning trends of 2011 - 2012.

Mike received a B.A. in American Cultural Studies from Bates College and a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. Mike is a CNU-Accredited Professional who encourages you to trade four wheels for two.