



America
IN BLOOM
GROWING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Metamorphosis

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2024

Check Out
the
Pre-Symposium
Educational
Tours

**America in Bloom
Symposium & Awards Celebration**

COLUMBUS, OHIO

Hosted by Logan, Ohio

www.AmericaInBloom.org/Symposium

The background of the page features a soft-focus image of pink flowers in the foreground, with a cityscape visible in the background under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

WELCOME TO COLUMBUS, OHIO

It's "Homecoming" for this year's America in Bloom Symposium and Awards Celebration in AIB's hometown of Columbus, Ohio.

As the 14th largest city in the country and the fastest-growing city in Ohio, Columbus offers incredible arts and entertainment, exciting collegiate and professional sports, and a spectacular downtown riverfront of sprawling greenspace.

Live for variety? Columbus has built an entire city around it. As a patchwork of communities, each with its own distinct character and offerings, Columbus' style changes with a 15-minute walk. You can sample the historic, the artsy, the sports-oriented, the high fashion, and the college life, all in one very manageable, friendly city.

This year's symposium theme is "Metamorphosis," which reflects the transformation of Columbus, Ohio from a sleepy Midwestern community into a thriving capital city. It also reflects the transformation happening in Logan, Ohio, a community you will visit on Friday. A community dedicated to pollinators – butterflies, especially – the metamorphosis theme fits Logan perfectly. The theme of "Metamorphosis" likely reflects what you are trying to accomplish in your own community. Let's celebrate the remarkable ways America in Bloom communities are becoming more beautiful and vibrant places.

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Message from Logan, Ohio

This Year's Host Community

Welcome to Logan, Ohio, gateway to the Hocking Hills. Our small town is big on charm. Take a stroll in our beautiful downtown lined with trees, flowers, and landscaping that celebrates the history of our region's natural resources, quaint shops, charming lodging, and unique restaurants. We are excited to welcome you to our community, share the story of our community's metamorphosis, and showcase the hospitality for which we are known. Welcome to Logan!

Sincerely,

The Logan Host Committee

- Rick Webb - *Chair*
- Nyla Vollmer
- Chris Kline
- Roberta Bishop
- Audrey Martin
- Bailey Venzin
- Rebecca Miller
- Andy Jones
- Tony Venzin
- Jenna Balasz
- Debbie Dorn
- Mira Burns
Youth Representative
- Sue Karshner
- Mike Shrader
- Kaylee Cox
Youth Representative
- Ann Sauers
- Christa Myers
- Kelly Capuzzi

National AIB Symposium Committee

- Pam Newton - *Chair*
- Lori Kelly
- Rick Webb
- Deb Jayne
- Kelly McWhorter
- Diane Rinkes
- Allison Zeeb

America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play - benefiting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism. Our mission is to promote nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. AIB is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and contributions to AIB are tax deductible.

Hotel & Airport Information

Make your hotel reservations at **The Plaza Columbus Hotel at Capital Square** by calling **888-236-2427**.

To receive the special AIB rate of \$159/night plus tax for single or double occupancy, you must tell them you are with the America in Bloom group. You may also reserve your room online by visiting **AmericainBloom.org/Symposium**.
Reservations must be made by September 1.

The hotel, located at 75 East State Street in Columbus, Ohio, is approximately 15 minutes from the John Glenn Columbus International Airport. FlyColumbus.com has travel information to help plan your trip.

THANK YOU To This Year's Symposium Sponsors



DÜMMEN ORANGE.



Pre-Event Optional EDU Tours Enhance Your Experience

An Exclusive Opportunity for AIB Symposium Attendees.

Special Registration Required.

Thursday, September 26

9 AM – 2:30 PM

Pre-Tour 1:

Topiary Park, Franklin Park Conservatory,
and Governor's Mansion Gardens

(Special Registration Required)

Love flowers and beautiful landscapes? You're in luck because this tour takes you to three Columbus locations that are sure to please any plant lover. The tour starts at the unique Topiary Park, a 9-acre public park and garden designed to depict figures from Georges Seurat's painting, "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte." Then you will go to Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a world-famous site for exotic plant collections, gorgeous landscapes, and special exhibitions. The tour will end at the Ohio Governor's Mansion where you will get to experience the Heritage Garden, a special place to view Ohio's natural habitats. Different areas of the garden represent a physiographic region of the state and include native plants. The gardens give you a unique glimpse into the natural history and environmental landscape of Ohio. Lunch options are available for purchase at Franklin Park Conservatory. **The cost is \$89.**

Seating is limited so register early. See the registration form for details.

11 AM – 3:30 PM

Pre-Tour 2:

Adaptive Reuse: How It's Transforming
a Neighborhood

(Special Registration Required)

Looking for ways to breathe new life into structures in your community? In a joint program with the Ohio REALTORS, this line-up will inspire you to think about how to repurpose existing structures into new uses, how mixed land use works, what compact building design looks like, and how walkable neighborhoods allow the community to thrive. You will also learn about the importance of public-private partnerships and how redevelopment is an integral part of the community development process. The day begins with an educational session on the importance of adaptive reuse to communities. A walking tour takes you to the nearby Franklinton neighborhood, a once-downtrodden community that is now the epicenter of young families and individuals looking to be close to downtown but far enough away to enjoy their own amenities. You will enjoy lunch at a local brewery, which has its own adaptive reuse history, followed by another walking tour to newer developments in the area. This tour includes lunch. The Ohio REALTORS sponsor this tour. **The cost is \$99. Seating is limited so register early. See the registration form for details.**



Symposium Program

Thursday, September 26

11 AM Silent Auction Opens

The symposium kicks off with some competitive fun! Silent auction bidding will run through Saturday morning.

3:30 PM Elected Leaders, Municipal Administrators, and Realtors Roundtable and Reception: Vacant Properties, Changing Storefront Uses, and Supporting Small Businesses

America in Bloom is pleased to present an idea sharing and networking program and reception designed exclusively for elected leaders, municipal administrators, and Realtors. Through peer-to-peer discussion, learn about the solutions communities are using to solve some of today's challenges facing municipalities of all sizes. Following the roundtable discussion there will be a reception so elected leaders, city administrators, and Realtors from across the nation can mingle and continue learning from one another.

5:30 PM Opening Night Reception

Catch up with old friends and make new ones during this informal cash bar event. Participate in the silent auction and help kick off the symposium.

6:30 PM Community Connections Dinner Celebration & Silent Auction

Now it's time to celebrate your achievements. This is a time for food, fun, and awards! Each AIB community will be recognized for their efforts. This is where we celebrate YOU and what YOUR community is doing to make America bloom! All Dwight Lund Community Champion nominees will be honored and the winner announced. At the end of the festivities, enjoy dessert while networking with your peers and making your final bids on silent auction items.

Friday, September 27

[Submit your educational sessions hours to your professional organizations to earn CEUs.](#)

7:30 AM Morning Jolt: Caffeine and Conversation

Caffeine + conversation = great start to the day. Grab some coffee and converse with other AIB attendees and the Showcase of Innovation companies. These companies feature innovative products and services relevant to your community. Breakfast is not provided but is available at the hotel restaurant, snack bar, and onsite coffee shop.

8 AM Welcome & Keynote Presentation: Re-Imagining Urban Infrastructure – Unprecedented Call for Unprecedented Solutions **Joe Chambers, MKSK Studios**

Nature, through millennia of trial and error, has evolved to be inherently efficient. We will all need to team with nature in everything we do to restore the balance of the systems that keep our environment clean and healthy. Communities are facing the urgent need for new, forward-thinking resilience tactics. Efforts to improve and beautify towns and cities are a great opportunity.

8:45 AM Putting the FUN in FUNdraising **Joseph Pratt, Portsmouth, Ohio**

Don't get lost in the boring routine of fundraisers that leave your community wanting more. Don't lose the mission for the sake of money. You will learn how to cater your fundraising efforts around programs that accomplish

8:45 AM Putting the FUN in FUNdraising *continued*

your mission while also building excitement with your donors and your community. Learn how to offer a great FUNdraising experience so your donors have a great time while making a tax deduction.

9:15 AM Getting Youth Involved: How We Do It

Julia Collins, Castle Rock, Washington; Rebecca Miller, Logan, Ohio

Your community's young people have the ability and desire to be engaged in your community's volunteer efforts. When youth start volunteering early, they are more likely to continue to volunteer into adulthood, strengthening the community for years to come. Learn from two America in Bloom communities how they have excelled in getting their youth engaged.

10 AM Showcase of Innovation & Conversation

This networking break allows you to continue sharing ideas and meeting Showcase of Innovation companies.

10:15 AM Best Ideas Community Forum

Facilitator: Sue Amatangelo, AIB Advisor

This popular interactive session will be packed with ideas you can take home and implement. Through roundtable discussions you will hear about solutions – big and small – that can help to transform your community. Come with your own best ideas to share!

11:30 AM Showcase of Innovation & Conversation

This networking break allows you to continue sharing ideas and meeting Showcase of Innovation companies.

11:45 AM Lunch & Learn: Know Before You Go

While enjoying lunch you will learn more about Logan, Ohio's America in Bloom efforts. This lunch and learn program will help you understand how Logan has been transformed. You will see things during this presentation that you won't get to experience during the tour to Logan.

12:30 PM Buses Depart for Logan, Ohio Adventure

You get to experience the beauty of Logan, Ohio, a community in the heart of the Hocking Hills region, a nationally-recognized outdoor adventure area. Today's community tour will spotlight Logan's rich history, its celebration and protection of pollinators, its award-winning beautification efforts, and the volunteer spirit that is woven into the culture and identity of the community. Following the tour there will be a reception and dinner at a local building that was once a car dealership but is now a thriving restaurant/brewery/winery/distillery. Cheers!

8 PM Buses Depart for Return to Columbus

Saturday, September 28th schedule on p. 8



Saturday, September 28

Submit your educational sessions hours to your professional organizations to earn CEUs.

7:45 AM Morning Jolt: Caffeine and Conversation

Caffeine + conversation = great start to the day. Grab some coffee and converse with other AIB attendees and the Showcase of Innovation companies. These companies feature innovative products and services relevant to your community. Breakfast is not provided but is available at the hotel restaurant, snack bar, and onsite coffee shop.

8:15 AM State of the Organization

Rod Barnes, AIB President and Laura Kunkle, AIB Executive Director

Learn about the organization's current status and how AIB is striving to make even more of an impact in communities.

8:30 AM Keynote Presentation: Climate Change and Gardening

Dr. Aaron Wilson, The Ohio State University

How often do we find ourselves asking, "What's up with the weather?" Weather is such a vital force in our lives and something we experience daily. Evidence clearly demonstrates that our weather patterns, or climate, are changing. But the changes we experience depend on where we live. Dr. Wilson, an atmospheric scientist, will discuss the observed changes in temperature and precipitation over recent decades, from a global overview to local changes. Learn the key impacts on our environment, from plants and animals to natural resources, gardening, and communities. Discover ways we can individually and collectively adapt to and mitigate future expected changes.

9:15 AM Hot Topics Deep Dive Breakout Sessions

We pick the topics, you pick where to go! Each breakout session will focus on a hot topic impacting communities. Be prepared to take lots of notes as you explore innovative solutions and best practices for tackling these issues.

9:45 AM Showcase of Innovation & Conversation

This networking break allows you to continue sharing ideas and meeting Showcase of Innovation companies.

10 AM Hot Topics Deep Dive Breakout Sessions

Because there are so many good topics in the 9:15 AM breakout sessions, we are repeating them so you can go to a second session.

10:30 AM Showcase of Innovation & Conversation

This networking break allows you to continue sharing ideas and meeting Showcase of Innovation companies.

11 AM Meet with the Advisors

These sessions are set up so community members can meet with Advisors and delegates from other AIB communities. Get excellent insight into the ordinary and extraordinary things towns and cities are doing across America. AIB Advisors will share what they saw during their visits to communities and how to enhance your town's participation in AIB.

Afternoon Lunch and Free Time On Your Own: Go Explore Columbus!

The afternoon is yours to explore. Within easy walking distance of the hotel are restaurants, breweries, the Scioto Riverfront, Statehouse gardens, and Columbus Commons, a park that features gardens, a performance stage, carousel, interactive playground, and more. A short Uber ride will take you to the historic German Village area; the artsy Short North district; or The Ohio State University campus. Whatever food – or mood – you’re searching for, you’ll find it in Columbus.

5:30 PM Closing Night Reception

This final night cash bar reception allows you to mingle with old and new friends, swap contact information, and make plans to stay in touch.

6:30 PM Evening in Bloom: America in Bloom Awards Program

The anticipation goes into high gear with a banquet, fun, and awards. This final-night event shines the spotlight on the transformative efforts by AIB communities.



Schedule At-A-Glance

Thursday, September 26

9 AM - 2:30 PM Pre-Tour 1: Topiary Park, Franklin Park Conservatory, and Governor's Mansion Gardens (**Special Registration Required**)

11 AM - 3:30 PM Pre-Tour 2: Adaptive Reuse: How It's Transforming A Neighborhood (**Special Registration Required**)

11:00 AM Silent Auction Opens

3:30 - 5:30 PM Elected Leaders, Municipal Administrators, and Realtors Roundtable and Reception: Vacant Properties, Changing Storefront Uses, and Supporting Small Businesses

5:30 - 6:30 PM Opening Night Reception

6:30 - 9:30 PM Community Connections Celebration & Silent Auction

Friday, September 27

7:30 - 8 AM Morning Jolt: Caffeine and Conversation

8 - 8:45 AM Welcome & Keynote Presentation: Re-Imagining Urban Infrastructure – Unprecedented Call for Unprecedented Solutions

8:45 - 9:15 AM Putting the FUN in FUNdraising

9:15 - 10 AM Getting Youth Involved: How We Do It

10 - 10:15 AM Showcase of Innovation & Conversation

10:15 - 11:30 AM Best Ideas Community Forum

11:30-11:45 AM Showcase of Innovation & Conversation

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM Lunch & Learn: Know Before You Go

12:30 PM Buses Depart for Logan, Ohio Adventure

Saturday, September 28

7:45 - 8:15 AM Morning Jolt: Caffeine and Conversation

8:15 - 8:30 AM State of the Organization

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Keynote Presentation: Climate Change and Gardening

9:15 AM - 9:45 AM Hot Topics Deep Dive Breakout Sessions

9:45 - 10 AM Showcase of Innovation & Conversation

10 - 10:30 AM Hot Topics Deep Dive Breakout Sessions

11 AM - 12:30 PM Meet with the Advisors

Afternoon Lunch and Free Time On Your Own: Go Explore Columbus!

5:30 - 6:30 PM Closing Night Reception

6:30 - 9:30 PM Evening in Bloom: America in Bloom Awards Program

Registration

Deadline
September 6, 2024

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Company Name (if applicable) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone Number (including area code) _____ E-mail Address _____

Please list any dietary or mobility restrictions:

Please select one of the following packages:

- Full registration** - \$375
(\$425 after September 6)
- Thursday** AIB dinner and awards only – \$150
(\$175 after September 6)
- Saturday** AIB dinner and awards only – \$150
(\$175 after September 6)

Additional packages available:

- Pre-Tour 1:** Topiary Park, Franklin Park Conservatory, and Governor's Mansion Gardens at **\$89 (Thursday)**
- Pre-Tour 2:** Adaptive Reuse: How It's Transforming A Neighborhood at **\$99 (Thursday)**

Will you join us for the Friday afternoon and evening activities in Logan, Ohio?
 Yes No

Method of Payment (Registration will not be processed without payment.)

U.S. check/money order enclosed (Make payable to America in Bloom)

Charge my : VISA MasterCard American Express

Account number: _____

Expiration date: _____ V-Code: _____

Name as appears on card (please print) _____

Authorized signature: _____
(I hereby agree to the terms and conditions of my card issuer agreement)

Billing Address (if different from mailing address) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____



Register online at www.AmericaInBloom.org/Symposium or send a copy of this registration form to:
America in Bloom • PO Box 44005 • Columbus, OH 43204
P: 614-453-0744 • **E:** aib@AmericaInBloom.org

Cancellations made on or before September 6 will be refunded in full, minus a \$25 processing fee.
Cancellations made after September 6 are non-refundable.



America in Bloom

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