

Conference Program

Tacoma, WA | April 21 - 24, 2026



Schedule current as of 4/8/26

Registration Desk Hours: Tues. | 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Wed. | 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Thur. | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Fri. | 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Tuesday

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Tuesday Sponsored Social:
Conference Kickoff
E9 Brewery



Wednesday

Room 318 will be open as a Student Lounge from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

8:15 AM - 9:15 AM
Welcome & Annual Meeting | Exhibit Hall AB

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM
Opening Keynote: Unshakable Resilience: The Key to Embracing Chaos and Leading with Clarity | Exhibit Hall AB
Speaker: Hoan Do

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM
Morning Tradeshow Break
Location: Exhibit Hall AB



10:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Student & Emerging Professional Kick Off
Facilitator: Joanna Martin
Location: Room 317

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM | Session 1 Breakouts

1A: Storytelling Through Parks Photography
Speaker: Bridgette Larsen
Location: Ballroom D

1B: Shadows in the Moonlight: Rediscovering the Missing Half of Parks
Speakers: Phoebe Chuang, Jorge Craveiro, Belle Miller
Location: Ballroom BC

1C: Opening Keynote Concurrent Session
Speaker: Hoan Do
Location: Ballroom A

1D: Growing Up Local: Big Lessons from Small Town Teen Programming
Speaker: Erin Snodgrass
Location: Room 315

1E: Motivation to Move™
Speaker: TBD
Location: Room 316

1F: Interview Like a Pro
Speaker: Joanna Martin
Location: Room 317

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM
Lunch and Networking Meetings
Location: Exhibit Hall AB

Wednesday (Cont'd)

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Session 2 Breakouts

2A: The Circle of Life: How to Evaluate the Life Cycles of Programs and Events
Speakers: Kevin Witte, Megan Keul
Location: Ballroom D

2B: Litigation from A to Z - The Lifecycle of a Parks & Recreation Lawsuit (Part 1)
Speaker: Shannon Ragonesi
Location: Ballroom BC

2D: Turning Conflict into Collaboration: Navigating Public Opposition in Park Projects
Speakers: Melody Burton, Roman Gutierrez
Location: Room 315

2E: Beyond Bingo: Creative Programming for Older Adults
Speakers: Molly Barnett, Rachel Wenholz
Location: Room 316

2F: Adaptable Data Analysis for Parks & Recreation Professionals
Speakers: Ava Jakusovszky, Justin Kocher
Location: Room 317

2:45 PM - 3:30 PM
Afternoon Tradeshow Break
Location: Exhibit Hall AB

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Session 3 Breakouts

3A: Grab & Go Games
Speakers: Abbie Wenick, Ashley Gain
Location: Ballroom D

3B: Litigation from A to Z - The Lifecycle of a Parks & Recreation Lawsuit (Part 2)
Speaker: Shannon Ragonesi
Location: Ballroom BC

3C: Oops! They Said What? Surviving Media Moments in Parks and Recreation
Speaker: Chris Waite
Location: Ballroom A

3D: Food Forests in Parks Case Study: Charlotte's Blueberry Park - Tacoma
Speakers: Kevin Johnson, Anna Markee, Rachel Kunze
Location: Room 315

3E: Urgency to Opportunity: Redmond's Senior & Recreation Center Journey
Speakers: Loreen Hamilton, Chris Roberts
Location: Room 316

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Student & Emerging Professional Networking Dinner | Room 318

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Wednesday Sponsored Social:
The Road to Recreation
LeMay - America's Car Museum



Thursday

Room 318 will be open as a Student Lounge from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

7:30 AM
Thursday Morning Run with Tacoma Runners (Pre-registration required) | Meet at Campfire Coffee

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Session 4 Breakouts

4A: Ask a Pickleball Player Anything
Speakers: Marianne Johnson, Frank Chiappone, Jo Ingalsbe
Location: Ballroom D

4B: Demystifying Discovery, Depositions & Recovery (Part 1)
Speaker: TBA
Location: Ballroom BC

4C: Neuroinclusive Teams: Building a More Supportive Workplace
Speakers: Joanna Martin, Randi Mendoza
Location: Ballroom A

4D: Dream Big, Plan Smart: Visionary PROS Planning, Practical CIPs
Speakers: Chris Overdorf, Nick Norton, Genevieve Dial
Location: Room 315

4E: Small but Mighty: Big Rec in a Small Community
Speakers: Kerry Jack, Bethany Klassen
Location: Room 316

4F: Outdoor Explorers: Expanding Youth Access to Nature
Speakers: Denay Stell, Akayla Wolcott
Location: Room 317

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM
Morning Tradeshow Break
Exhibit Hall AB

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Session 5 Breakouts

5A: Reinventing the Blueprint: Sustaining Programs During Budget Cuts
Speakers: Stacey Allington, Jesse Jimenez
Location: Ballroom D

5B: Demystifying Discovery, Depositions & Recovery (Part 2)
Speaker: TBA
Location: Ballroom BC

5C: Leading vs Managing: Know the Difference
Speaker: Kevin Witte
Location: Ballroom A

5D: Building Blocks for Successful Community Events
Speakers: Bruce Skinner, Ryan Schroeder, Chuck Denney
Location: Room 315

Thursday (Cont'd)

5E: Building Common Ground: Community, Collaboration, and Creative Placemaking

Speakers: Tracey Perkosky, Chris Waite, Audrey Cooper
Location: Room 316

5F: Riding the Tides: Parks As a Solution to the Challenges of Sea Level Rise!

Speakers: Guy Michaelsen, Sylvana Niehuser, John Payne
Location: Room 317

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunch + Prize Drawing | Exhibit Hall AB

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Session 6 Breakouts

6A: More Than a Backdrop: Parks and Recreation's Role in Community Safety

Speakers: Daniel Mero, Debbie Russell
Location: Ballroom D

6B: 180 Days of Chaos: Lessons from a Forced Registration System Change

Speakers: Colin Walker, Gina Nielsen
Location: Ballroom BC

6C: What If Public Outreach Didn't Start with a Project but Instead with People?

Speakers: Delia Flores, Mani Valenzuela
Location: Ballroom A

6D: Emergency Management: Preparing Your Lifeguard Team for the Aftermath of a Critical Incident

Speaker: Jeff Fryer
Location: Room 315

6E: Beyond the Minimum: Features to Positively Enhance Park Experiences for All Visitors™

Speakers: TBD
Location: Room 316

6F: Tree Equity Spokane

Speakers: Katie Sorenson, Amber Ramirez
Location: Room 317

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Afternoon Break
Foyer

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM | Session 7 Breakouts

7A: Reimagine Meadow Park GC - Using a Capital Project to Redefine Local Government

Speakers: Joe Brady, Chris Goodman, Terry Jungman
Location: Ballroom D

7B: Metropolitan Park Districts: Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

Speakers: Jen Burbidge, Paul Simmons, Travis Stombaugh, Peter Mayer
Location: Ballroom BC

7C: Reel Quick: Maximizing your Social Media - AI: Friend or Foe of Community Engagement?

Speakers: Megan Keul, Melody Burton
Location: Ballroom A

7D: Disability and Inclusion Training

Speaker: Bailey Cornell
Location: Room 315

Thursday (Cont'd)

7E: Are You Setting Your Lifeguards Up for Failure?

Speaker: Jeff Fryer
Location: Room 316

7F: From Chaos to Coordination: Practical Tools for Leading Through Uncertainty

Speaker: Quincy Henry
Location: Room 317

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Awards Banquet
(Must have a ticket for entry)

Location: Exhibit Hall B



7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Thursday Sponsored Social
Whisky, Boots and Big Ideas
Location: Steel Creek



Friday

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Closing Keynote - Embracing the Chaos:
Finding Energy, Purpose, and Alignment in
an Unpredictable World

Speaker: Quincy Henry
Location: Ballroom AB



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