



Spring Feature
Harrisonburg – May 27, 2009

Speaker Biographies & Contact Info

Jonathan Brown, Principal, Public Realm Planners

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Jonathan Brown is an artist, teacher, and professional planner who strongly believes in the power of place. Born and raised in Fairfax, Brown received his undergraduate degree in history and sustainable development from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., where he met his wife Samantha. Together, they founded the Asheville-based nonprofit CitySeeds, known for its seminal work in urban ecology including development of the nation's first edible public park. Brown holds a master's degree in urban design from the University of Maryland, College Park and is pursuing a Ph.D. candidacy in urban design from Virginia Tech. He lives in Richmond's historic museum district with his wife and their daughter Rose.

Al Bryan, Landscape Architect, Virginia Department of Transportation

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A Certified Landscape Architect, Al Bryan is an honors graduate of the North Carolina State University School of Design. He has worked for the architectural and planning firm of Carlton Abbott and Partners, the Land Mark Design Group, and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), where he's spent 19 years in roadway and landscape architecture design. Bryan has contributed to prominent streetscape projects, such as the Yorktown Waterfront and Gloucester Village, and completed dozens of master planning efforts, including work on Maymont, the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia, Colonial Williamsburg Chippokes Plantation State Park, and Jordan's Point Park. Bryan serves as VDOT's Eastern Region Landscape Architect, working with enhancement grant review and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

Pam Liston, Transportation Enhancement Program Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation

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As the Transportation Enhancement Program Manager at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Pam Liston is involved in all aspects of the program, including program eligibility, policy and compliance. She brings 23 years of VDOT experience to the position. A graduate of the College of William & Mary, Liston started her career in the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office working as a contract administrator for the local construction program. She later moved to VDOT's Staunton District, and in 1999 transferred to a position in the

Central Office Construction Division dealing with the letting and awarding of contracts. Liston joined the Transportation Enhancement Program in 2001.

Alexis Morehouse, Promotions Manager, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance

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Alexis Morehouse has worked with Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance (HDR) since 2006, first as a volunteer and then as promotions manager. Morehouse oversees media relations, event promotion, retail and restaurant initiatives, and downtown image campaigns. In 2009, she and co-worker Jessica Chase presented HDR's promotional accomplishments using online social networking tools at the National Main Streets Conference in Chicago. Morehouse holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in public administration from James Madison University and spends her "down" time working for Harrisonburg's local National Public Radio station, Rosetta Stone, and singing in weddings.

Joseph Murray, Biology Professor & Consulting Arborist, Blue Ridge Community College

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Joseph Murray teaches biology at the Shenandoah Valley's Blue Ridge Community College and travels the United States as a tree biology educator, teaching and learning about trees and people. Murray has led arboriculture training for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and the Virginia Crime Prevention Association. A certified arborist, he serves as a regional coordinator for the Virginia and National Big Tree Registries, and currently chairs the ISA Educational Goods and Services Committee. Murray holds a master of science in plant pathology from Virginia Tech, a master of teaching from the University of Richmond, and a bachelor of arts in biology from Radford University.

Kristina Robertson, Business Owner, Barkley Square Gourmet Dog Bakery & Boutique

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Kristina Robertson has dedicated her professional and personal life to protecting and pampering dogs since being rescued by her own pets. She founded her growing pet-sitting business, Karing By Kristina, in Alexandria, Virginia in 1991 and followed that success with Barkley Square Dog Bakery & Boutique. Kristina is an early member of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) and an active member of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, the Alexandria City Visitors Association (ACVA), and the Old Town Business Development Association (OTBDA), through which she works to enhance the community's pet-friendly atmosphere. In 2009 she was elected to the board of the Del Ray Business Association, which represents businesses within Alexandria's community of Del Ray.

Chris Thompson, Program Manager, Project Management Office, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

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Chris Thompson is a program manager at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), where he works with local governments, nonprofits and other organizations to assess and address a wide range of community and economic development needs.. Much of his work focuses on providing rural communities with technical assistance as they develop fundable projects. Thompson also works to develop guidance for new agency initiatives such as the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and the Rural Broadband programs. Originally from Lynchburg, Thompson has been at DHCD for eight years, working as a program administrator and a policy analyst.

Jerry Van Eimeren, Executive Director, Destination Downtown South Boston

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Jerry Van Eimeren is the executive director of Destination Downtown South Boston, Inc. (DDSB), a nonprofit organization catalyzing the revitalization of South Boston's historic business district. Prior to his 2004 start with the Main Street program, Jerry spent 15 years in retail management and 15 years as a Redondo Beach, California-based business training consultant, specializing in leadership and customer service skills. He has given more than 2,000 training seminars to more than 200,000 people on six continents. In California, Van Eimeren served as a liaison consultant between the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau and the City of Redondo Beach on the redevelopment project of the city's waterfront area.

Kimberly L. Vann, County Planner III, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Henrico County Division of Police

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Having served Henrico County for more than 22 years, Kim Vann provides the public and private sector with training on the concepts and strategies of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Vann conducts security audits and reviews, provides recommendations on development applications to the county, and serves as the coordinator of the Certified Crime Prevention Community Program. In her 14 years with the Division of Police, she has successfully advanced the program to warrant the creation of a second planner position. A Certified Crime Prevention Specialist, Vann holds a bachelor of science in geography from Radford University. She currently chairs the Virginia Safer by Design Coalition and is a past president of the Virginia Crime Prevention Association.