



## Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee Meeting

June 22, 2021 \* 2:30 p.m.

### Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Est. Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
I.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	2:30	C. Eley
II.	Cultural Development, Preservation, and Advancing Equity	2:40	Denise E. Gilmore
	<i>Lessons from a career in preservation and racial equity- from Kanas city, MO to Birmingham, AL</i>		
III.	Round Robin	3:20	All Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equity Event Calendar</li> <li>EJ Academy Application Period</li> <li>Ohio House of Representatives introduce two bills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HB 322 and 327</li> </ul> </li> <li>Brian Martin awarded the Walter Scheiber Leadership Award from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)</li> </ul>		
IV.	Next Steps and Closing Remarks	3:50	B. Martin

**\*\*The NEXT MEETING is AUGUST 24, 2021\*\***

If you do not have access to a computer, please call in using the following information.

Dial by your location: All numbers can be used to access the meeting.

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**Meeting ID: 81573025763**



**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE  
MINUTES**

**via Zoom Conference/Video Call  
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573025763>)**

**May 25, 2021  
2:30 PM**

**REI Subcommittee Members Present**

Dr. Larry Burnley, University of Dayton  
Brian Martin, MVRPC  
Nikol Miller, Miami Valley Urban League  
Mike Parks, Dayton Foundation  
Judge Walter Rice, U.S. Federal Courts  
Kristina Scott, Learn to Earn Dayton  
Mary Tyler, Community Leader  
Terra Fox Williams, PHDMC

**MVRPC Staff Present**

Serena Anderson  
Savannah Diamond  
Carlton Eley  
Teresa Lombardelli  
Stacy Schweikhart  
Melissa Swain

**Other Guests Present**

Tania Arseculeratne, The Dayton Foundation  
Sarah Behnke, University of Dayton  
Dennis Grant, URS Dayton  
Stephanie Kellum, City of Trotwood  
Richard Schultze, Concerned Citizen  
Barbra Stonerock, The Dayton Foundation  
Noreen Willhelm, The Dayton Foundation

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission hosted the Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee call on May 25, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference (<https://02web.zoom.us/j/81573025763>).

**I. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Carlton Eley took a moment to acknowledge George Floyd. He was murdered on May 25, 2020. Mr. Eley called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm. Roll call was taken.

Mr. Eley asked the REI Subcommittee what's their preference for summer recess, and the members decided to take summer recess in July.

The August meeting, following summer recess, will be a hybrid meeting. MVRPC will arrange for the meeting to be held at The Dayton Realtors. REI Subcommittee members have the option to attend in person or virtually via Zoom. Meeting information will be provided at a later date.

**II. MVRPC CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS APPROVED**

Mr. Eley announced MVRPC has formally updated the Constitution and Bylaws on May 6, 2021. Because of the update, the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities (ILEC) is formally a MVRPC steering committee.

Brian Martin thanked the working group. Mr. Martin explained how the change would affect the Regional Equity Initiative and Regional Livable Communities Subcommittees.

Mr. Martin explained an Institute Steering Committee (ISC) was added to the structure of the ILEC when MVRPC's bylaws were updated. He noted the ISC member structure; duties & responsibilities; and the timeline for the balance of 2021.

- **ISC Member Structure**

- 13 members approved by MVRPC Executive Committee and Board of Directors.
  - At least 10 delegates from MVRPC Board of Directors
  - No more than 3 Institute Funders
- A chairperson, designated by MVRPC's Board, serves 2 years.
- Other members serve 1 year renewable terms.

- **ISC Duties & Responsibilities**

- Provide oversight, guidance and advisory leadership to accomplish vision and mission
- Establish strategic direction and set priorities in the Institute's Work Plan
- Establish a process for selecting REI and RLC delegates – *Confirms whether current REI members desire to continue under the new structure*
- Evaluate and explore evidence based solutions
- Ensure sustainable operations strategy and alignment of resources
- Advocate for funding, legislation and policy adoption
- Offer formal motions of support, recognition, and commendation for efforts aligned with Institute priorities.

- **Upcoming Milestones (Timeline for Balance of 2021)**

- June MVRPC Nominating Committee Formed and ISC Positions Announced
- August Nominating Committee Report Out
  - *MVRPC Executive Committee and Board Confirm*
- September ISC Inaugural Meeting
- October ISC announces REI and RLC members
- November or December: First Meetings of both subcommittees

Mr. Martin noted the ISC will meet quarterly. However, this Fall they plan to meet monthly.

Mr. Martin responded to questions.

- Rich Schultze inquired how major documents like the Transportation Improvement Program and the Long Range Transportation Plan relate to the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities. Mr. Martin stated the Institute is intertwined through all MVRPC operations. An affirmation of this is MVRPC's Board resolution "Ensuring Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in all MVRPC Staff, Committee, and Board of Directors Actions", approved October 2020. He also noted Mr. Eley is a Title VI Officer and handles matters pertaining to environmental justice as a MVRPC employee.

### **III. INSTITUTE WORK PLAN FOR 2021-2022**

Stacy Schweikhart summarized objectives of the 2021-2022 Institute Work Plan (IWP) and highlighted the action items for the next 12-18 months in each area. She mentioned there will be program specific work in the subcommittees. However, everything will roll up to the Institute level, and the ISC will help guide the priorities and strategy.

- **Institute Projects and Institute Steering Committee**

- Bring together in a collaborative way key stakeholders to identify a community strategy.
- Establish livability and equity action steps, leveraging the region's resources for collective impact.
- Create a network of critical partners through attendance at relevant meetings, trainings, & community events.

- Broad communication about the value and impact of creating livable & equitable communities.
- Execute high-impact, focused projects that address community needs, leveraging resources and leadership in multiple domains.
- Celebrating and institutionalizing best practices.
- **Regional Livable Communities Sub-Committee**
  - Build a coalition of key allies and participants.
  - Coordinate with AARP and other partners around age-friendly communities objectives.
  - Create the structure and opportunities for communities and organizations to implement an ever evolving range of demonstration projects to advance age-friendly communities throughout the region.
  - Initiate a process to formally join Age-Friendly Network with AARP / WHO, and solidify the focus on livability for all ages.
  - Coordinate projects and opportunities for cohesive work in the domains with the Regional Equity Sub-Committee and report progress quarterly to the Institute Steering Committee.
- **Regional Equity Initiative Sub-Committee**
  - Establish a shared vision, common equity goals, and a defined strategy for Regional equity efforts.
  - Ensure meaningful community engagement. Identify, include and engage underrepresented community members in the work, making sure that all voices are represented at the table so that we plan with – not for them.
  - Execute high-impact, equity focused projects that address community needs, leveraging resources and leadership in multiple domains.
  - Develop and implement an approach to scale equity efforts to additional cities, institutions and corporate partners in order to create a “culture of equity” and to accomplish systems transformation.
  - Use data to identify the most appropriate approaches to address equity issues.
  - Coordinate projects and opportunities for cohesive work in the domains with the Regional Livable Communities Sub-Committee and report progress quarterly to the Institute Steering Committee.

Ms. Schweikhart responded to questions.

- Kristina Scott mentioned she’s a member of the National Strive Together Network. Ms. Scott agreed to share a recent document with “community/equity measures”. Participants in the National Strive Together Network need to demonstrate progress in sectors adjacent to education. The document may illuminate how organizations can work in alignment to accomplish community goals while working with national funders and partners.
- Mary Tyler sought clarity about the elements the Del Mar Encore Fellows will be working on and the commitment of this work.
  - Ms. Schweikhart stated the Del Mar Encore Fellows will work on two specific projects engaging our members across the region. The first project will be the creation of an age-friendly network, and the second project will be a culture of equity programs to address the need for training our member organizations and partner organizations.

Carlton Eley reviewed the IWP projects that align with the REI subcommittee. He noted opportunities where members of the subcommittee can volunteer or lead. MVRPC welcomes the leadership of REI Subcommittee members.

<b>IWP Project</b>	<b>REI Subcommittee Volunteers (May 25)</b>
1) Arrange opportunities for the subcommittee to meet and learn from local and national experts.	<i>Kristina Scott, Learn to Earn</i>
2) Review the findings from the equity listening sessions from 2019-2020.	Mary Tyler Public Engagement Team
3) Identify other ways the public can interact with the work of the Regional Equity Initiative.	Public Engagement Team <i>*Kristina Scott, Learn to Earn</i>
4) Collaborate with Learn to Earn and other partners on the Northwest Dayton/ Blue Meridian Project.	
5) Support Learn to Earn's leadership of the Undesign the Redline exhibit and lead the "what's next?" efforts after the exhibit.	Dayton Metro Library has volunteer opportunities. Learn more: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Undesign The Redline Docent Program Application</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Docent Volunteer Job Description</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Exhibit About Redlining Coming to Dayton Metro Library</a></li> </ul>
6) Launch the "Environmental Justice Academy" in cooperation with EPA Region 5.	Mary Tyler
7) Create an Equity Training and Education Program to help partner organizations within the Miami Valley to cultivate "an equity filter" and equity thought process in their communities.	
8) Explore options for creating an equity metrics tool.	

Mr. Eley thanked Mr. Shultze for recently inviting him to participate in a weekend discussion on race and equity with his church. Mr. Eley added REI Subcommittee members may invite him to participate in discussions that they are leading.

#### **IV. 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER FOCUS OF THE REI SUBCOMMITTEE (JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2021)**

Mr. Eley briefly summarized the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter focus of the REI Subcommittee. The major focuses for the summer months (June, July and August) will be to catch up on subcommittee priorities, including public engagement messaging and reviewing research.

The two priority events taking place at the end of the summer are "The Undesign the Redline" exhibit in August and "The Environmental Justice Academy" starting in September.

Mr. Eley responded to questions.

- Kristina Scott inquired what the "messaging/framing" public engagement work looks like. She wished to understand how she can contribute given her limited capacity.
  - Mr. Eley stated the recommendation from the Public Engagement Team was to frame an equity message that is context sensitive to this region. Ms. Scott would like to join the public engagement team. She would like to see alignment in the messages between the REI Subcommittee and Learn to Earn.
- Mr. Schultze asked where the equity work will be in 5-years. What will be different?
  - In 5-years, Mr. Eley anticipates a greater level of awareness, education, and sensitivity as well as progress on discrete projects.
  - Mr. Eley added it is important to identify methods that will engage people to be part of the process of change from the bottom up.

- Judge Walter Rice asked how a copy of the Institute Work Plan could be accessed or shared with the REI Subcommittee.
  - Stacy Schweikhart will add it to the MVRPC Committee Center. The IWP is draft.

## **V. ROUND ROBIN**

There were no updates from the team members.

Mr. Martin added there will be 53 different seats to fill within the new structure of the Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities.

- If you want to join the Institute Steering Committee; Regional Livable Communities Initiative Subcommittee; or the Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee, please let MVRPC know. Mr. Martin invited participants to think critically about how they want to be involved.
- Mr. Martin thanked the Subcommittee for their involvement. Also, he thanked Mr. Eley for laying out the work and providing the opportunity for REI Subcommittee members to help.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Eley announced the next meeting will be June 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the guest presenter will be Denise Gilmore, Senior Director of the Division of Social Justice and Racial Equity, of the City of Birmingham.

Mr. Eley adjourned the meeting at 3:45pm.







## **Denise E. Gilmore**

Denise E. Gilmore serves as Senior Director of the Division of Social Justice and Racial Equity in the Office of Mayor Randall L. Woodfin for the City of Birmingham. She leads the Division comprised of the Office of Social Justice and Racial Equity, Office of PEACE and Policy, LGBTQ+ Affairs, Cultural Preservation, Homelessness Services, Faith-Based Initiatives, Immigrant Affairs, and Special Initiatives. The Division of Social Justice and Racial Equity seeks to create a just and equitable City in the distribution of resources and access to City government. Denise recently completed an eight-month assignment

by the Mayor as Special Director of Transition of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Denise champions preservation efforts for culturally significant heritage and historic resources in the City of Birmingham. Her work includes stewardship of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, created through presidential proclamation in January 2017 by President Barack Obama. Denise leads the restoration of the historic A.G. Gaston Motel on behalf of the City of Birmingham and in partnership with the National Park Service, having completed the first phase of the restoration. The A.G. Gaston Motel is a Green Book site and the place where Civil Rights leaders planned the 1963 Birmingham Civil Rights campaign.

Denise's professional experience includes the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, DC, where she advocated for preservation as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization using her extensive experience in community development. In Kansas City, MO, she led the redevelopment of the historic 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine Jazz District. During her tenure, the Jazz District saw significant new investments in mixed-income housing, commercial properties, infrastructure, and greenspaces.

Denise is a recognized authority on equitable redevelopment strategies in urban communities. She has a M.B.A. in Finance and Business Administration from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, MO and a B.S. in Accounting and Business Administration from the University of Kansas. She has a Certificate in Community Economic Development from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Bloch School of Business.



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# EQUITY EVENTS CALENDAR

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## EQUITY EVENTS CALENDAR

The Equity Events Calendar is a central, web-based program that enables users to view and search for events about equity within MVRPC's service area. The calendar is a tool for the public to promote community events and activities for equity related topics. It is specifically designed to house information about special events and public meetings. Please refer to the [Event Submission Information and Guidance](#) to submit your events for inclusion in this calendar.

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06/15/21



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Agenda

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## Events from Jun 15th



### Social Change: More Than Just A Post on Zoom

Fri Jul 16th 12:00pm - 2:00pm

What side of history do you want to be on? This interactive workshop will help prepare you to address the current social movement and push for racial equity. This is our time to be BOLD. This training ...

**Online Event Location:** [Virtual Training event](#)



# ENVIRONMENTAL >>> Justice ACADEMY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the Environmental Justice Academy is to provide individuals an opportunity to learn additional skills and how to improve communication skills when environmental concerns in their community become present.



## EJ ACADEMY

Through a series of nine modules, the Environmental Justice Academy (EJ Academy) will cultivate skills so that participants may successfully identify their environmental challenges and accomplish their environmental improvement goals.



### Education

Gain a basic understanding of environmental justice and its principles, concepts, and history.

### Networking

Learn how to leverage human, social, & financial resources to build long-term progress in communities.

### Community Development

Work with community leaders, members, and their stakeholders to bring about a positive change in the community.

### Experience

Gain experience in conducting an evaluation of progress and efforts, evaluating plans, designing logic models & documenting program efforts.

## — BUILDING LEADERS —

*Strengthening Communities from Within*

For more information, contact: [R5\\_EJAcademy@epa.gov](mailto:R5_EJAcademy@epa.gov)



# Educators: 2 Ohio bills reach too far

Backers say state's schools shouldn't teach 'critical race theory.'



*Shannon Cox, superintendent of the Montgomery County Educational Service Center.*

BY JORDAN LAIRD AND  
JEREMY P. KELLEY  
STAFF WRITERS

## DAYTON DAILY NEWS IN-DEPTH

Two Ohio House bills that would outlaw teaching certain concepts around race represent an unprecedented infringement on schools' rights to make local curriculum decisions, area educators said.

Supporters of the legislation have said the concepts the bills seek to ban are "dangerous and flat-out wrong."

Ohio House Bill 322 — titled "Regards the teaching of certain current events, race and sex" — and House Bill 327 — titled "Prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts" — were both introduced two weeks ago.

Several area Republican representatives who are sponsoring one or both bills did not return requests for comment. Those legislators are state Reps. Phil Plummer, R-Butler Twp.; Tom Young, R-Washington Twp.; Rodney Creech, R-West Alexandria; Bill Dean, R-Xenia; Paul Zeltwanger, R-Mason; and Jena Powell, R-Arcanum.



The bills would take away some of the local authority that traditionally public schools have had in Ohio, said Shannon Cox, superintendent of the Montgomery County Educational Service Center. She does not know of any area district or school administrator that supports these bills because they would infringe on local control.

“Lawmakers are pretty adamant that we need to have a more inclusive environment, and I think the language that they’re putting into this bill is exactly the language that is divisive ... . Letting us handle that in our school districts, that’s what will allow us to provide an inclusive environment,” she said.

State Rep. Don Jones, R-Freeport, said in a statement announcing House Bill 322 that his measure would prevent state agencies and school districts from teaching that one race or gender is superior to another or that a person can be inherently racist or sexist.

This comes as lawmakers in 16 states have introduced or passed legislation this year limiting the teaching in public schools of what the bill writers call critical race theory, according to Inside Higher Ed.

“Critical race theory is a dangerous and flat-out wrong theory. It is designed to look at everything from a ‘race first’ lens, which is the very definition of racism,” Jones said. “CRT claiming to fight racism is laughable. Students should not be asked to ‘examine their whiteness’ or ‘check their privilege.’ ”

Cox said she does not know of any local school district teaching critical race theory.

Critical race theory is an academic model that experts, supporters and opponents define differently. Key tenets of the theory include acknowledging that race is not biologically real but socially significant and that racism is embedded in institutions like the American legal system.

Marlese Durr, a professor of sociology at Wright State University, said critical race theory is a framework for studying America that students can agree or disagree with, but it does not state that whiteness is a bad thing and it should not be censored.

“Critical race theory brings up the unpleasantness these lawmakers are



seeking to hide,” she said. “Legislating revisionist beliefs or building ‘legislative cancel culture’ policies denies discussing unpleasant sociohistorical facts.”

Dayton Public Schools Superintendent Elizabeth Lolli said she was working with a group of local people to lobby against the bills.

“In urban schools, there are always issues that come up that have to be openly addressed,” Lolli said. “And when you have limits on how you teach and what you teach to the point that it controls topics that you’re actually teaching, then I think that urban schools, especially, will feel as if they are being suppressed.”

HB 327 applies to school districts and state agencies and specifies that it includes state colleges. It would ban teaching such concepts as “the United States is fundamentally racist or sexist” and “an individual, by virtue of the individual’s nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same nationality, color, ethnicity, race or sex.”

HB 322 applies to schools and state agencies but does not specify if that would include colleges. It would outlaw teaching such concepts as “fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or sex” and “the advent of slavery in the territory that is now the United States constituted the true founding of the United States.” The latter concept is a reference to the New York Times Magazine’s 1619 project, which examines the role of slavery in American history.

Spokespeople for Wright State University and Sinclair Community College both declined to comment on the bills. Durr said these bills if passed could negatively impact how concepts around race and gender are taught at Wright State.

F. Erik Brooks, provost at Central State University, a state college and historically Black university in Wilberforce, said universities should have control over what they teach.

“To me, it is an overreach to attempt to strong arm the curriculum of a university,” he said. “I don’t think any teacher teaches in an accusatory fashion. The fundamental purpose of education is to expose students to

information they may not be aware of.”

Contact staff reporter Jordan Laird at [jordan.laird@coxinc.com](mailto:jordan.laird@coxinc.com).

## WHAT OHIO HOUSE BILLS 322 AND 327 WOULD PROHIBIT TEACHING

OH HB 322 applies to state agencies and school districts and would prohibit teaching the following concepts

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex
- An individual, by virtue of the individual’s race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously
- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual’s race
- Members of one race cannot or should not attempt to treat others without respect to race
- An individual’s moral standing or worth is necessarily determined by the individual’s race or sex
- An individual, by virtue of the individual’s race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex
- An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of the individual’s race or sex
- Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a particular race or sex to oppress members of another race or sex
- Fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or sex or to members of that race or sex because of their race or sex
- The advent of slavery in the territory that is now the United States constituted the true founding of the United States
- With respect to their relationship to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality.

OH HB 327 applies to school districts, state agencies, including state

colleges and would prohibit teaching the following concepts ■ One nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex is inherently superior to another nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex.

■ The United States is fundamentally racist or sexist.

■ An individual, by virtue of the individual's nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.

■ An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex.

■ Members of one nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex.

■ An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by the individual's nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex.

■ An individual, by virtue of the individual's nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex.

■ Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by a particular nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex to oppress another nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex.

“Race or sex stereotyping” means ascribing character traits, values, moral and ethical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex or to an individual because of the individual's nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex.

■ “Race or sex scapegoating” means assigning fault, blame, or bias to a nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex or to members of a nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex because of their nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex. It also includes any claim that consciously or unconsciously, and by virtue of their nationality, color, ethnicity, race, or sex, members of any nationality, color, ethnicity, or race are inherently racist or are inherently inclined to

oppress others or members of a sex are inherently sexist or are inherently inclined to oppress others.

## *Achievement Awards*

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### Major Metro Award

### Medium Metro Award

### Rural Award

The National Association of Regional Councils' Achievement Awards recognize excellence in programs and services of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). These awards highlight organizations that promote and exemplify regional cooperation and coordination and have a positive impact in their region. Involvement of private and civic sectors and originality, duplicability, and quality of the program/project are also taken into consideration. These awards are given in three categories:

Major Metro: 1 million population and over

Medium Metro: 251,000 population to 1 million population

Rural: 250,000 population or less

## *Leadership Awards*

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### Walter Scheiber Award

The Walter Scheiber Leadership Award recognizes significant impacts an executive director has made at the local, state, or national level. The awardee must demonstrate professional and executive management excellence in carrying-out regional concepts, approaches, and programs. Award winners have contributed to the goals of NARC and advanced the cause of regionalism through their dedicated service and effort.

### Tom Bradley Award

The Tom Bradley Leadership Award recognizes leadership excellence an elected or appointed official has made in advocating regional concepts, approaches, and programs at any level of government. Awardees are highly respected in their field and provide a high quality of service to their member regional council or MPO.

### NARC President's Award

The NARC President's Award recognizes leadership and excellence in advocating regional concepts, approaches, and programs at any level of the regional community. This award recognizes any partner, NARC member, or congressional member who has provided time and dedication to benefit regionalism and NARC. Retiring Executive Directors or policy officials are often awarded this for recognition of their career.

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