

# AGENDA

## WINTER 2025 MEETING WASHINGTON, DC



All conference events are at LiUNA, 905 Black Lives Matter Plz NW - 9th Floor

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

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1 - 2:30pm	<b>Steering Committee Meeting (MIP Steering Committee Members only)</b>
2 - 4pm	<b>Conference Check-in</b> LiUNA, 905 Black Lives Matter Plz NW - 9th Floor
4pm	<b>Kickoff and Welcome</b> LiUNA, 905 Black Lives Matter Plz NW - 9th Floor
4:30 - 6pm	<b>Advancing Local Wealth and Opportunity</b> Mayors across the country are working to reshape local economies to ensure wealth and assets are broadly held, locally rooted, and recirculated within the community. This panel will highlight city-led efforts to champion workforce and business development policies and programs that foster inclusive growth to create resilient, sustainable economies where prosperity is shared broadly, and where long-term stability benefits the entire community. <b>Moderator: Nairuti Shastry</b> , Community Wealth Building Fellow · The Democracy Collaborative <b>Caprichia Spellman</b> , Director of the Office of Community Wealth Building · Richmond, VA <b>Kim Norton</b> , Mayor · Rochester, MN <b>Victoria Woodards</b> , Mayor · Tacoma, WA
6 - 6:30pm	<b>Innovation Showcase</b>
6:30 - 7:30pm	<b>Reception</b>
7:30 - 9pm	<b>Keynote Dinner</b> <b>Xavier (Xav) de Souza Briggs</b> , Senior Fellow · Brookings Metro

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### THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

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8 - 9am	<b>Breakfast</b>
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9 - 10:30am	<p><b>Leadership and Policy for Welcoming and Inclusive Communities</b></p> <p>Mayors play a crucial role in shaping the character of their cities. As the faces of local government, they have the unique ability to foster a welcoming environment for all residents - and to defend those conditions - regardless of background, economic status, primary language, or neighborhood. Inclusive cities can meet their highest civic and economic potential by unleashing the power of their biggest asset – its people. This panel will highlight mayors leveraging their positions to create inclusive communities to counter the growing tide of divisiveness and create formal pathways for all residents to inform local policy.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Daniel Valdez</b>, Chief External Affairs Officer · Welcoming America</p> <p><b>Lauren McLean</b>, Mayor · Boise, ID</p> <p><b>Danene Sorace</b>, Mayor · Lancaster, PA</p> <p><b>Kerri Talbot, J.D.</b>, Executive Director · Immigration Hub</p>
10:30 - 10:45am	<b>Break</b>
10:45am - 12:30pm	<p><b>Data and Financing for Flood Resilient Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Many areas of the country are still reeling from the effects of the 2024 hurricane season, and the new administration is expected to cut federal funding for disaster recovery, making resilience ever more critical for US cities. This panel will explore data, leadership, and financing tools to ensure communities are prepared to withstand and recover quickly from floods.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Shalini Vajjhala, PhD</b>, Executive Director · PRE Collective</p> <p><b>Ravinder Bhalla</b>, Mayor · Hoboken, NJ</p> <p><b>Andrea Limauro</b>, Senior Neighborhood Planner · Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>Melissa Roberts</b>, Executive Director · American Flood Coalition</p>
12:30 - 1:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 - 3pm	<p><b>Stronger Together: Improving Governance Culture</b></p> <p>Effective leadership hinges on strong and collaborative relationships between mayors, city councilmembers, and city staff. Respectful and productive relationships promote civil discourse, support recruitment and retention of quality staff and elected officials, and allow mayors to accomplish more for their communities. This workshop, led by former mayors, is designed to equip mayors leading under both strong mayor and council-manager forms of government with skills and strategies needed to build and maintain productive partnerships.</p> <p><b>Karen Freeman-Wilson</b>, Former Mayor of Gary, IN and President &amp; CEO · Chicago Urban League</p> <p><b>Jake Spano</b>, Former Mayor of St. Louis Park, MN and President · Spano Group Advisors LLC</p>
3 - 4pm	<b>Mayors discussion with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg</b>
4 - 4:45pm	<p><b>MIP Research Project Briefing</b></p> <p>We'll provide a briefing summary of the results from our 2024 survey of mayors and our 2024 interview project with women mayors.</p> <p><b>Betsy Hodges</b>, Former Mayor of Minneapolis, MN · Betsy Hodges LLC</p> <p><b>Chasity Wells-Armstrong</b>, Former Mayor of Kankakee, IL · Catalyst Coaching &amp; Transformation</p> <p><b>Katya Spear</b>, Managing Director · Mayors Innovation Project</p>
4:45 - 5pm	<b>Break</b>
5 - 5:45pm	<b>Women Mayors Network Session</b>
5:45 - 6:30pm	<b>Women Mayors Network Reception</b>