



SOUTHERN VERMONT ECONOMY SUMMIT

MAY 12, 2022 • MOUNT SNOW

CULTIVATE CHANGE

HOSTED BY



These organizations are equal opportunity employers. Funding for the summit was made possible in part by the USDA Rural Community Development Initiative.

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To access video, photos, and presentations from today's event: Visit www.SoVermontSummit.com starting in June or contact Meg Staloff at mstaloff@brattleborodevelopment.com

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:45am - 8:45am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	Somerset Lobby & Ballroom
8:30am - 8:45am	Summit Welcome	Somerset Ballroom
8:45am - 9:15am	Plenary Keynote Speakers	Somerset Ballroom
Morning Breakout Sessions		
9:30am - 11:00am	<i>Housing for a Strong Town</i>	Raponda South/Central
	<i>ARPA Funding</i>	Raponda West
	<i>Passing the Torch: Success Planning for Your Business</i>	Deerfield South
	<i>"On Belonging"</i>	Deerfield North
11:00am - 11:25am	Networking + Coffee	Somerset Ballroom
11:30am - 12:00pm	Mid-day Keynote Speaker	Somerset Ballroom
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Grab-and-go box lunches	Somerset Ballroom
Afternoon Breakout Sessions		
12:30pm - 2:00pm	<i>Jumpstarting Downtown</i>	Raponda South/Central
	<i>Sparks to Shovels: The Messy Project Process</i>	Raponda West
	<i>Recognize the Elephant in the Room: Preparing Your Business for Change</i>	Deerfield South
	<i>How Do We Create More Welcoming Workplaces?</i>	Deerfield North
2:00pm - 2:25pm	Networking & Cookie Break	Somerset Ballroom
2:30pm - 2:50pm	Emerging Leaders Recognition	Somerset Ballroom
2:50pm - 3:00pm	Summit Close	Somerset Ballroom
"Hot Topics" Networking Sessions		
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Networking by subject interest area: look for posted maps and go!	Somerset Ballroom & Lobbies

SPECIAL EVENT DETAILS

SUMMIT WELCOME: CULTIVATE CHANGE

Adam Grinold, Executive Director, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
Bill Colvin, Acting Director, Bennington County Industrial Corporation

PLENARY KEYNOTE: BUILDING SYSTEMS TO WELCOME NEW AMERICANS

Speakers: Joe Wiah and Thomas Huddleston, ECDC Multicultural Community Center

Introduction: Dan Yates, Brattleboro Savings and Loan

Concluding remarks: Robyn Lucius, Against the Grain Gourmet

This winter Southern Vermont welcomed 90+ people displaced from Afghanistan. Learn about the process of refugee resettlement, from arrival to making community connections and accessing job opportunities. Sponsored by Brattleboro Savings and Loan.

MID-DAY KEYNOTE: DECRIMINALIZE DEVELOPMENT

Speaker: Chet Clem, Lyme Properties

Introduction: Jason Dolmetsch, MSK Engineering

Did your last planning board hearing feel like a parole board? Let's change the conversation around the D-word: development. It's time to shift our thinking, respond and react to our present reality, and Decriminalize Development. Chet Clem is a real estate developer (and recovering comedy writer) who shows how to combine a little levity with common sense and collaboration to create planning processes that are less prosecutorial, and more productive. *Sponsored by MSK Engineering.*

EMERGING LEADERS OF SOUTHERN VERMONT RECOGNITION

Today we recognize 20 emerging leaders in the Bennington and Windham regions, nominated based on their contributions to economic and community development within Southern Vermont. These young leaders are championing economic development initiatives, assuming leadership roles within their place of work, and demonstrating outstanding commitment to serving their communities.

SESSION DETAILS

HOUSING FOR A STRONG TOWN

MORNING SESSION

Record-high housing prices and few options mean nearly everyone is feeling the squeeze these days. Join us for a workshop with one of the country's foremost experts, Daniel Herriges from Strong Towns, to understand what's in the way of meeting our communities' housing needs, and what we can do about it.

Room: *Raponda South/Central*

Speaker: *Daniel Herriges, Strong Towns*

ARPA FUNDING

MORNING SESSION

How is YOUR town going to use ARPA funding? Learn the ins and outs of getting the most from American Rescue Plan Act dollars from state and regional experts, along with ideas and examples from communities that are already deep into ARPA planning. Start thinking beyond reducing the municipal budget! From understanding rule changes to learning how to leverage additional funding using ARPA, this session will help your community look at the big picture and seize this opportunity.

Room: *Raponda West*

Speaker: *Katie Buckley, Vermont League of Cities and Towns with help from the Windham Regional Commission and the Bennington County Regional Commission*

PASSING THE TORCH: SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR YOUR BUSINESS

MORNING SESSION

This session will explore National, State and Regional perspectives on business succession. Panelists will provide insight into examples of successful business transitions and explore opportunities for business owners on the cusp of retirement, as well as aspiring business owners who are ready to make a move!

Room: *Deerfield South*

Moderator: *Alyssa Baldino, Owner, Trend Innovative Business Solutions*

Panelists: *Tommy Vorio, Development Director, Ready For Next Cities (RFN)*

Tammy Richards, Business Broker, Country Business Inc.

Matt Cropp, Executive Director, Vermont Employee Ownership Center

Debra Boudrieau, Area Advisor, VT Small Business Development Center

ON BELONGING

MORNING SESSION

Southern Vermont is welcoming international arrivals through asylum and refugee projects. The focus is often on immediate or material needs. Özge Savaş of Bennington College is a psychologist who goes further to understand the aspirations and challenges that newcomers face as they build self, identity, and community in a new place. The session will conclude with a panel discussion with community members who have arrived in Southern Vermont over the past year, and those who have been working to help them through this process.

Room: *Deerfield North*

Presenter: *Özge Savaş, Bennington College*

Panelists: *Amir Samar, BDCC*

Célestin Nkusi Ntaganda

Robyn Lucius, Against the Grain

JUMPSTARTING DOWNTOWN

AFTERNOON SESSION

Has mixed-use development on Main Street stalled out? Can entrepreneurs afford to get a start in your town, and can local businesses find the workforce they need to grow? This interactive workshop with national expert Daniel Herriges of Strong Towns will help you identify and alleviate barriers to local incremental development.

Room: *Raponda Central*

Speaker: *Daniel Herriges, Strong Towns*

SPARKS TO SHOVELS: THE MESSY PROJECT PROCESS

AFTERNOON SESSION

When funding isn't the biggest problem, the challenge remains: how do you translate great sparks of ideas into shovel-ready projects? Katie's project stewardship experience ranges from town to state level, including public and private sector projects. Join her, and our panelists, in exploring a range of projects from across Southern Vermont to learn more about how our region is getting things done.

Room: *Deerfield North*

Facilitator: *Katie Buckley, Vermont League of Cities and Towns*

Panelists: *Eric Durocher, Economic Development Director, Town of Dover: Dover Town Forest*

Martin Langeveld, Board Chair, Friends of Vernon Center: Governor Hunt House

Jessica Martin, Executive Director, Springfield on the Move: Springfield Main Street Master Plan

SESSION DETAILS

RECOGNIZE THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: PREPARING YOUR BUSINESS FOR CHANGES AND SEEING OPPORTUNITIES

AFTERNOON SESSION

A diverse panel will discuss tactics and strategies for dealing with change. This will include managing team dynamics, perceived challenges, vulnerabilities, and recognizing opportunities all while being able to make the decision to adapt your business in an ever changing world. Daniel Schöener is passionate about radical innovation and is an active mentor in the New England innovation ecosystem supporting upcoming startups in Diagnostics, Digital Health and Clean Tech. Daniel is intimately familiar with taking teams through changing environments, while instilling confidence in achievement and assuring focus on positive outcomes.

Room: *Deerfield South*

Moderator: *Daniel Schöener, Independent Consultant & Innovation Leader*

Panelists: *Deb Raber, Head Women's Soccer Coach, MCLA*
Nancy Koziol, Owner, Couch & Cork
Catlin O'Shaughnessy Coffrin, Founder and CEO, Captivating Co.

HOW DO WE CREATE MORE WELCOMING WORKPLACES?

AFTERNOON SESSION

We're seeing more women in manufacturing, growing racial diversity among VT high school grads, and increasing numbers of newcomers in our community and workforce from across the country and world. Vermont's community, and future workforce, is increasingly diverse. Learn about steps employers are taking to embrace change.

Room: *Raponda West*

Facilitators: *Dr. Mary M. Gannon, Ed.D., Racial and Social Equity Consultant, Trainer and Strategist - Strategies for Growing Diverse Organizations and Communities*

Steffen Gillom, MA, President, Windham County NAACP

Panelists: *Michelle Coursen, HR Director, Brattleboro Savings and Loan*
Jonathan Phipps, Equity Coordinator, Southwestern Vermont Supervisory Union
Leslie Addison, HR Director, United Counseling Service
Beth Wallace, Family & Community Partnership Manager, Bennington County Head Start
Rebecca Collins, HR Director, Cersosimo Lumber
Mikaela Simms, Director of the Office of Diversity and Equity, Windham Southeast Supervisory Union

“HOT TOPICS”

NETWORKING SESSION

Join panelists, speakers, and area experts for informal conversations in specific subject areas of interest. Here’s your chance to connect, ask questions, and lean into anything the day brought up or didn’t address yet! Areas to include: Housing, Community Facility Development and Funding, Startups and Small Business Development, Municipal Projects and Infrastructure, Workforce Development, Welcoming Communities programs, Broadband and Connectivity, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Emerging Leaders Meet and Greet, Local EDO/Chamber Network, and more!



LOOKING FOR IDEAS TO CELEBRATE EDW?

Visit tinyurl.com/EDWtoolkit to download the free 2022 Economic Development Week Toolkit and access:

- Special ways to engage your elected officials
- Press release templates and event ideas
- Electronic and print advertising templates
- City, county, and state resolutions templates
- Social media marketing sample promotional messaging
- Championing Economic Development resources

FEATURED PRESENTERS



JOE WIAH *ECDC Multicultural Community Center, Brattleboro*

Joe Wiah became the director of the The Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) with more than a decade of experience in the non-profit sector serving vulnerable populations both in Vermont and internationally in Africa. Most recently, Joe was a Housing Case Manager for Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) in Brattleboro, through which he helped Vermonters from 15 towns within Windham County access housing, fuel, food and home repair services. Internationally, Joe's work focused on creating legislation, policies and programs that contributed to the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers in Liberia.



THOMAS HUDDLESTON *ECDC Multicultural Community Center, Brattleboro*

With 15 years of international experience with Migration Policy Group & Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), Thomas Huddleston (PhD, Maastricht) is a leading international expert on migration, integration and diversity. He currently organizes, trains and supports co-sponsorship groups and volunteers across Southern Vermont, building friendships and community between 100 Afghan evacuees and refugees and the 100+ Vermonters ready to welcome them. Thomas is working to build up Southern Vermont's new Multicultural Community Center, located in Brattleboro. MCC is part of the ECDC family—America's first and only community-based, refugee-led resettlement agency.



CHET CLEM *President, Lyme Properties*

Lyme Properties is a West Lebanon, NH-based Real Estate Development company that focuses on the master planning, permitting, and execution of transformative real estate projects, grounded in a philosophy of community-conscious development. A contributing member of Proud Places and 3rd generation leader of the “Damn It, Do It” movement, Chet was formerly the Editorial Manager at The Onion, has an MBA in Entrepreneurship from Babson College, and was an Environmental Policy major at Bates College. He's a second-stint Vermonter, living in Norwich with his wife, twins, and a dog named Willie Nelson. He is Vice Chair of the West Lebanon Revitalization Committee, the Town of Norwich representative on the Connecticut River Joint Commission, and a semi-competitive BBQ cook.



DANIEL HERRIGES *Senior Editor and Founding Member, Strong Towns*

Daniel Herriges serves as Senior Editor for Strong Towns, and has been a regular contributor since 2015. He is also a founding member of the organization. Daniel has a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Minnesota, with a concentration in Housing and Community Development. He grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, before moving west to the San Francisco Bay Area, and later east to Sarasota, Florida, where he lives with his wife, daughter, and too many pets. Daniel's obsession with maps began before he could read; a general fascination with cities and how they work was soon to follow. He can often be found exploring out-of-the-way neighborhoods (of his own town or another) on foot or bicycle. Daniel's lifelong environmentalism can also be traced all the way back to age 4, when he yelled at his parents for stepping on weeds growing in sidewalk cracks.



ÖZGE SAVAŞ *Faculty Member, Bennington College*

Özge Savaş is a faculty member at Bennington College. She received her PhD in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Michigan. Her research examines marginalized people's sense of belonging in groups, institutions, and nations; privileged individuals' beliefs and attitudes about who deserves to belong; and everyday practices of homemaking and citizen-making amidst social inequality. Before moving to Vermont in 2020, she worked with Syrian refugees and houseless populations in Southeast Michigan.



KATIE BUCKLEY

Director of the ARPA Assistance and Coordination Program, Vermont League of Cities & Towns

Katie Buckley works closely with the 277 Vermont municipal entities that accepted funding through the American Rescue Plan Act to help them navigate the complexities of this rare federal funding and leverage the opportunities it presents. Prior to joining the League, Katie was a Principal with M&S Development, served as the Commissioner for the VT Department of Housing and Community Development, ACCD, Director of Real Estate Development for Windham & Windsor Housing Trust and served as the Town of Guilford's first Town Administrator for almost a decade. Presently, she is the Chair for VHFA and a Member of VCF sitting on the Nominating Committee. She is a passionate advocate for Vermont's communities and understands firsthand the critical role local government plays in the daily lives of all Vermonters.



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IN SOUTHERN VERMONT

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