

Downtown Plans that Make a Difference



Amarillo, TX
Denton, TX
Fort Worth, TX
McKinney, TX
moderator

Melissa Dailey
Ron Menguita, AICP
Andy Taft
Rick Leisner, AICP
Clayton Comstock, AICP

Texas Chapter of American Planning Association
4 October 2012

2:00 – 3:30 pm



In this panel session we will have representatives from four (4) Texas cities describe their newly established downtown plans. These plans for Amarillo, Denton, Fort Worth and McKinney were developed with significant stakeholder and community input, which will be reviewed.

Each downtown plan and planning process defines “lessons learned” that will be take-a-ways for all attendees. These plans focus on creating dense mixed-use urban neighborhoods, strong linkages and the redevelopment of current streets into “Complete Streets”. Implementation actions and tools that are assisting these downtown’s will be reviewed.





Melissa Dailey
Executive Director
Downtown Amarillo Inc.

Melissa Dailey is the Executive Director for Downtown Amarillo Inc. Downtown Amarillo, Inc. (DAI), a private, non-profit organization formed for the purpose of implementing the Downtown Strategic Action Plan. DIA's primary goal is to encourage quality development and redevelopment in Downtown Amarillo. Melissa keeps their focus on planning and economic development initiatives to bring development downtown and help create a vibrant, economically strong core for everyone in the community. DIA recently completed the Civic Center Area Concept Plan providing a vision for redevelopment of a 50-block area in Downtown Amarillo.





Ron Menguita, AICP
Senior Planner
City of Denton

Ron is a Senior Planner with the City of Denton. Mr. Menguita leads the Development Review Committee and Long Range Planning with the City.

Ron was the co-project manager for the Denton Downtown Implementation Plan (DTIP) which was created over an 18-month time frame. Ron is well versed with the comprehensive downtown elements included in the DTIP, which includes: future land use, complete streets, parks & open space, solid waste, pedestrian movement, building facades, parking and the form based code (FBC).





Andy Taft
President
Downtown Fort Worth Inc.

Andy joined Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. as President in 2003. He serves on the Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitor's Bureau Boards of Directors, the Fort Worth Homeless Commission and Day Resource Center for the Homeless Board of Directors. Andy is also Past Chair of the International Downtown Association Board of Directors. Prior to his Fort Worth experience Andy served Shreveport's Downtown Development Authority for six years as its Executive Director and previously he worked in Tampa, FL with Grubb & Ellis as a commercial real estate salesman.





Rick Leisner, AICP

Assistant Director of Development Services
City of McKinney

Rick has more than 25-years of experience working in the urban planning/land development professions. Rick started his career by working for some of the more recognized private planning & design firms including: Sasaki Associates, WRT and HOK Planning.

Recently, Rick joined the team at the City of McKinney after working for them as a consultant on several important assignments. He oversees development activities in the planning, engineering, building inspections and code enforcement departments. Rick has spent his entire career working with communities to implement plans & create standards for high-quality development.

