

Candidate to be Included on Slate

Michigan Chapter

Board Member at Large

Paul Lippens, AICP, NCI

238379

Position Statement

More than 20-years ago, I answered the call to walk into a life of public service and pursue a professional career as an urban planner. There's something that happens in cities between the porches in the sky. The cracked sidewalks. The wanderers. The kites tied to strings. Something that reminds us, tomorrow is coming, and we can make it better. Like many of you, my journey has been supported by people who have walked this path before me. The Michigan Association of Planning has given me so much, and now I am answering the call to give back.

There are three pillars that support my work that I will bring to the Board: ethics, empathy, and equity. I will measure success by ensuring meaningful processes. In ethics lays the principles to engage in and manage hard decisions. In empathy rests insights that can only come through the stories of others and a reminder to serve people first. In equity elevates the responsibility to address opportunity with a just and urgent response based on community needs.

What makes MAP invaluable to our profession, is not just that it offers a venue to explore and share the very best thought leadership, technical analysis, and design values. MAP also creates a space to connect generations and cultures in a manner that will secure the future of the State of Michigan. I pledge to continue to develop and explore ideas (and places) with our members. More importantly, by continuing to support student conferences, as well as events and discussions sponsored by groups like MAP's Emerging Professional Planners (EPP), Black Professional Planners (BPP), and Planners in Private Practice (PIPP), I hope to help the Board expand what is possible and make tomorrow better. Thank you for considering me as a candidate.

Work Experience

Market Lead / Principal Urban Designer, Toole Design, Grand Rapids, MI, 2024-Present

Vice President, McKenna, Northville, MI, 2014-2024

Director of Planning, Active Transportation Alliance, Chicago, IL, 2010-2014

Urban Planner, Storrow Kinsella Associates, Indianapolis, IN, 2007-2010

Environmental Planner / Analyst, City of Ann Arbor, MI, 2002-2007

Education

Master of Urban Planning, University of Michigan, 2004 | Bachelor of Arts, Hampshire College, 1998

Achievements and Affiliations

Harvard, Graduate School of Design, Retail and ECommerce Certificate, 2023

Board of Directors, Transportation Riders United, 2015-2021

National Charrette Institute, 2018

Congress for the New Urbanism, 2018

American Institute of Certified Planners, 2009

Mackinaw Prize, CNU-MI

Transportation Plan Excellence, MAP

Transportation Plan Excellence, MAP

Plan Implementation, APA-IL

Best Practices Award, APA-IL

To Charrette or Not to Charrette, Michigan Planner, 2024

Planning for Disruption, Michigan Planner, 2020