Presentation Proposals Invited for GIS-Pro 2024 in Portland, Maine

URISA’s 62nd Annual Conference, GIS-Pro 2024, will be hosted October 7-10, 2024 in Portland, Maine. The conference planning committee is pleased to invite presentation proposals. All submissions received by April 8, 2024 will be reviewed and considered as the committee develops the agenda.

To deliver a positive learning experience, URISA seeks proposals that will engage attendees and advance the profession. Proposals should:

- Encourage attendees to explore fresh solutions.
- Explore relevant topics essential to geospatial professionals
- Provide a compelling business case backed by research or data-driven evidence
- Illustrate forward-thinking in the field
- Feature diversity, equity, and inclusion practices
- Showcase innovative and engaging program formats
- Demonstrate relevance of lessons through “real-life” case studies

**Presentation Themes to Consider**

- GIS Leadership and Management
- Climate Change, Community Resiliency, and Sustainability
- Developers: Doing More through Automation and Customization
- The Role of GIS in the Pursuit of Equity and Social Justice
- Government and Land Management
- Data Governance
- Spatial Analysis and Modeling
- Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence

- Share successes and lessons learned from your research and project work

continued on page 2
• Open Source GIS
• Geospatial Career Pathways
• Interdisciplinary GIS
• Other Topics

Presentation Formats

Panel: A 60-90 minute presentation which encourages interaction and discussion between the panelists and the audience. Panel presentations should include at least three panelists all speaking on different aspects of a particular topic.

Individual Presentation: Each presenter is allotted 20 minutes, which includes time for questions. Presentations of this type will be scheduled with similar topics to form a cohesive session of 60 or 90 minutes in length.

Ignite-Style Presentation: Also known as lightning talks, these presentations are limited to five minutes (20 slides auto-advanced at 15 seconds each). The best presentations are both educational and entertaining!

Interested in submitting a full or half-day workshop proposal for GIS-Pro?
URISA’s Professional Education Committee must have your proposal in FEBRUARY and a substantial draft of the workshop and activities in April. Review requirements and submit your workshop proposal HERE.

For a detailed look into possible presentation topics for each theme and additional details, please proceed to the Call for Presentation Proposals. Peruse the suggestions. Perhaps one or more topics will resonate with you, or you have a colleague or customer who is doing something amazing that would be a great addition to the conference. Talk them into submitting a proposal.

Take advantage of the opportunity to engage and discuss, learn from different perspectives, and enjoy relevant and invaluable peer-to-peer interaction at GIS-Pro 2024.

Proposal Submission Deadline: April 8, 2024

The conference planning committee will meet April 20-21 to discuss proposals and collaboratively develop the educational agenda. Shortly after that, we will be able to share the details and open up registration.

GIS-Pro 2024 Conference Basics
Call for Presentation Proposals
So you want to be a leader? Do these 8 things…

By Jim Bouchard

Before you start it’s OK to admit you’re unmercifully critical of any “X Steps” advice when it comes to leadership. Undoubtedly, you’ve got an infinite supply of books and programs that identify the 5 characteristics or 10 traits of great leaders or claim to know the 9 steps to effective leadership.

The fact is, leadership is as much art as it is science. You’ve got to take in all this advice and shape your technique and practice to suit your style, personality, and the ever-changing circumstances and conditions you face. Now that the disclaimer out of the way, here are 8 Strategies that will help you prepare for your first—or next leadership position.

#1 Work first on being a good follower…
Without exception, the best leaders you’ll meet and work with are also terrific followers. Even more important, they understand that “leader” and “follower” are not fixed positions. They’re interchangeable roles. Sometimes a subordinate has more skill, knowledge, experience, or insight in a given situation. Can you step back and follow when necessary?

The practice of being a good follower also means committing yourself to the process of learning. What can you learn from the people around you? Above you? Below you?

#2 Find the right master…
Expanding on the importance of learning—do you have a mentor? If not—get one. Now.

#3 Commit yourself to personal and professional mastery…
Do you see a theme developing here? One of the greatest treasures taught by a Sensei is this important lesson: “Perfection is not a destination. It’s a never-ending process.”

Mastery is not just a level of achievement. It’s a perpetual commitment to the process of learning, growth, and development. Start now—and never stop.

#4 Ask before you’re asked. Act before you’re asked…
This one can trigger a great deal of debate. You certainly don’t want to step on toes or show disrespect to those who have more experience. However, the greater problem today is that too many people simply say, “Not my job.” Or worse, “They don’t pay me enough to…”

If you see something that needs doing—do it! And if you’re not sure if you’re staying in bounds—ask if you can do have a shot at it.

#5 Learn to deal with uncertainty…
Long ago Pliny the Elder said, “The only certainty is uncertainty.” Life is change. Our lives, our society, and our business environment are changing at an unprecedented and ever-accelerating rate. No honest leader can tell you with certainty what’s going to happen tomorrow.

One thing that never changes, however, is that the greatest opportunities come from the greatest uncertainty. Learn to be flexible, adaptable, and comfortable with uncertainty and you’ll be much better positioned to seize these opportunities where others run for cover.

#6 Learn to talk and write good…
If you don’t get the joke, you’ve got serious work to do.

You’ve got to simplify complex ideas and problems. You’ve got to express your mission clearly and help people understand decisions and strategies. Most of all, you’ve got to inspire people and unite them behind a strong and meaningful vision.

To do this, you must practice your communication skills—and stay up-to-date on new methods to deliver your message effectively.

#7 Focus on experience over rewards…
It’s tempting and sometimes understandable to grab the short money. As with any investment, those who are willing to sacrifice immediate gratification usually enjoy exponential long-term rewards.

An opportunity to accept more leadership responsibility or meaningful leadership experience will pay much higher dividends over time.

#8 Lead by sharing…
It’s often challenging to summarize leadership as succinctly as possible. Here it is…

“Leadership is sharing. A leader shares.”

The rest of the conversation is about exactly what leaders should share and how. And that can be a lengthy conversation!

This is one of the most important conversations you’ll have as a new/promoted leader. The discussion centers on the fact your success as a leader is ultimately measured by one thing—and one thing only: The success of the people you serve.

What’s talked about here is “power”—your ability to get things done. Power only expands through sharing. You simply cannot do it alone—as much as some might try. If you want to do more—to be
more powerful—make others powerful.

As a leader, you get things done when you inspire, empower, and guide others. When they succeed, you succeed. And any failure is ultimately your failure as a leader.

No matter where you are in your leadership journey, the time to start practicing these strategies is right now. The more sincerely you embrace these strategies, the more likely it is that you’ll be noticed by the people who can offer you your next leadership opportunity.

Remember Strategy #4. Act before you’re asked.

What’s stopping you?
URISA has a long history of delivering resources and educational content focused on addressing, GIS, and emergency response. Through this work, our members also often support education, standards, and best-practices activities of NENA: The 9-1-1 Association (NENA) and collaborate with states through the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).

Together, URISA, NENA, and NSGIC are pleased to announce a third annual Location, Enterprise Addressing, and Public Safety (LEAP) Conference taking place virtually February 27-29, 2024. To celebrate our collaborative efforts, members of all three associations are eligible for discounted registration rates.

Take some time to review the complete program here including these featured sessions:

**Tuesday, February 27: Moving Public Safety Forward**
The quick pace of innovation and change in public safety technology simultaneously thrills and raises anxiety. This session explores changes on the horizon, the differences that they mean, and fears they may raise.

**Wednesday, February 28: State Perspectives on Next Generation 9-1-1**
State-level 9-1-1 and GIS groups provide programs and advice for localities in their states. Alabama, Idaho, and Minnesota join this panel session to discuss Next Generation 9-1-1 and GIS in their states including what is going well and what keeps them up at night.

**Thursday, February 29: U.S. Federal Addressing Initiatives: FGDC, Census, DOT, USPS**
Geospatial Data Act reporting requirements are changing the way federal agencies organize and share geospatial data. Census, Transportation, and USPS are the key agencies leading US federal initiatives on road centerlines, MAF/TIGER data, postal addressing, and the standards data requirements that govern them. This session will provide an overview and update on key federal address initiatives and standards.

Nearly 30 speakers are on the program and sessions will cover these important topics:
- Moving Public Safety Forward
- Expanding Location Data and Tools
- Local Government Addressing Case Studies
- NENA GIS Updates
- Where are we going and how do we get there?
- Transforming Addressing in Local Government
- Building & Operating Enterprise Address Databases
- Special Event Location Intelligence
- Cartography Basics

The complete conference agenda is posted here.

In lieu of an exhibit hall, we are pleased to offer sponsorship packages to provide opportunities for software companies and consultants to demonstrate their support for this conference. Showcase Sessions and lightning talks will be provided by LEAP conference sponsors.

Daily networking and discussion sessions are also on the agenda.

Registration is now open for this 3-day educational conference. The cost for URISA, NENA, and NSGIC members to attend is only $150; the nonmember registration fee is $250. Get a group of staff members - as many as you like - to view the proceedings together (perhaps in a conference room with snacks!) for the affordable member price of $275, nonmember price of $375.

Registrants will have access to the full conference recording for additional study/viewing.

Visit the LEAP conference website and make your plans to attend: https://urisa.org/page/LEAP_Conference
What To Do About Burnout When You’re Not Burned-Out

3 Ways To Keep Burnout From Spreading Like Wildfire
By Jessica Rector

Burnout is impacting every company, position, and industry. With 90% of the workforce experiencing burnout in the last year, you can no longer afford to ignore this epidemic. It’s affecting teams, leaders, and the whole organization…even you.

Even if you’re not the one in burnout, it still impacts you. Think of it this way. How do you feel the next morning when you don’t get quality sleep the night before? Grumpy? Groggy? Fogggy? Impatient, irritable, unfocused? Lack of sleep impacts your perspective, attitude, how you respond to others, and how you react to situations.

The same thing happens with burnout. It doesn’t stay self-contained.

When a team member, let’s say Burnout Betty, has burnout, it impacts how she leads, communicates, listens, focuses, thinks, interacts, her behaviors, energy, mood and disposition.

It literally impacts everything. When one person is in burnout, it also trickles out to others, because burned out people burn others out.

Even if you don’t have burnout, you’re being impacted by it when someone else does or is on the brink of it. You have the power to do something about it.

What can you do?

Start a dialogue—Begin talking about burnout is the best place to start. Even though burnout is rampant in the workforce, there’s still some stigma around it. People often fear, if they admit they have it, what will others think, do or say. Will my leaders think I can’t do my job? Will they take away responsibilities or will they lose trust in me?

If Burnout Betty (BB) isn’t focused, she becomes distracted, unproductive, and making more errors. She will do the same work multiple times, miss deadlines or forget to meet a client. Those are best case scenarios. BB will easily cut corners, leading to cybersecurity attacks, safety issues and possible injuries.

When BB misses deadlines, makes mistakes, or has to redo work, how does that impact you? You might have to stay longer, do some of her work, or maybe your work gets pushed back waiting on her to get her part to you, which means missing dinner with your family, being absent at your kids’ activities, or not meeting your deadlines.

Lean into your storytelling skills. Share your burnout story with BB. When you were in it, what led to burnout in your life, and the strategies you implemented to move past it. When people are in burnout, they tend to pull away and isolate themselves. When you tell your burnout story, they will start to engage. The more you talk about burnout, the more it reduces this stigma. In the process, you allow others who are experiencing it to not feel alone and to know that someone, somewhere gets it and understands. You create a safe place of compassion and empathy.

This lets others know it’s okay to feel burned out. You can still love your job and be burned out.

Create awareness around burnout—Burnout doesn’t discriminate. It’s impacting your people. The more your team knows what to look for and what to do to prevent it, the less likely they will find themselves in it. Develop a keen eye, because you can’t change something you aren’t aware exists.

Since burnout impacts mental health, Burnout Betty is easily frustrated or irritable, making it harder to communicate or interact with her, because others don’t want her mood to affect them. One Burnout Betty, Negative Nancy or Toxic Tim can bring a dynamic team to a halt.

Talking to BB can leave the most positive person in a negative state, because she doesn’t listen or she’s in a bad mood. So, every conversation takes longer than it should, which means less time for you to tend to your daily tasks.

Build a task force of people who want to be the eyes and ears in your organization in regards to burnout. They can gather information, ask questions to BB and other team members, and start creating a strategy to combat this epidemic. Then take the information they gather, and do something now to help them prevent it.

This allows BB to know that she is being heard and understood and that she matters. One of the biggest qualities people want in their company is to know they matter. When BB knows she matters, she feels supported, knowing she will get the help she needs to combat burnout.

Hint: Time off is great, but vacation won’t cure burnout. Once you create awareness around it, share with your people day to day strategies that work to help alleviate burnout.

Implement a burnout program—This is the key, fundamental element. Talking about it is a great beginning, but it’s imperative to do more. The only way to prevent and address burnout is to be intentional and strategic with it. Workplace wellness programs aren’t enough; 97% of them don’t specifically address or help with burnout, which is also why 80% of employees aren’t actively involved in wellness programs.
As a leader, you have to do your part to help your people with burnout. If you want long term results, your organization **MUST** implement a continual program (not a one and done) to help people like Burnout Betty with burnout and others to prevent it.

A long-term strategy is where the magic happens with burnout. Burnout is a slow crawl, and working through it is multi-layered. Whether it’s an online course, bootcamp or Train the Trainer certification, burnout training is no longer a “nice to have.” It’s imperative if your company wants to keep their top talent and create a happy, thriving workplace and culture.

The most successful burnout programs have these key components: accountability, support, encouragement, and Q&A.

Burnout doesn’t go away on its own. With most industries incurring staff shortages, it’s up to you, as a leader, to invest in your people if you want to keep them. Since the #1 reason why people leave organizations is due to burnout, it’s a huge opportunity for you to end the burnout epidemic by starting the dialogue, creating awareness and implementing a burnout program in your company.

It’s a win-win for everyone.

What will you do to help your people end burnout?

**About the author:**
Jessica Rector, MBA, author of the #1 best-selling “Blaze Your Brain to Extinguish Burnout” and nine other books, helps organizations, leaders, and teams Say Yes to eradicate burnout and enhance mental health. As a burnout trailblazer, her research is used in her consulting and speaking and often shared on her podcast, “The Say Yes Experience.” For how Jessica can help your organization and team, go to [www.jessicarector.com](http://www.jessicarector.com)

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**Where are you in your GIS Leadership Journey?**

Attend the [URISA GIS Leadership Academy](#) in Seattle, Washington or Fort Worth, Texas.

**URISA GIS Leadership Academy**

**June 3-7, 2024**

**Seattle, Washington**

**URISA GIS Leadership Academy**

**November 18-22, 2024**

**Fort Worth, Texas**

**What GLA Graduates Say**

“The GLA was a great program to help any GIS professional recognize their role as a geospatial leader. One of the best trainings I’ve participated in.”

**Are you already a GLA Graduate?**

Then consider joining us for the inaugural [Advanced GIS Leadership Academy](#) in Chicago!

Registration is now open.
GIS/Valuation Technologies Conference Heads to Charlotte, North Carolina

This annual conference, co-hosted with the International Association of Assessing Officers, is focused on using technology to improve the property tax assessment process. If you support property mapping, GIS, assessment, and/or land records at your organization, this event is for you. Take some time to review the program and plan your agenda.

The conference offers full and half-day workshops on Monday and on Thursday afternoon. Here is the workshop line-up:

- GIS Program Management (URISA Certified Workshop)
- Strategic and Operational Planning
- Using ArcGIS Dashboards and Experience Builder to Build Responsive and Powerful Dashboards
- Updating CAMA Systems with Regression-based AVMs: Considerations for Office Leadership
- Converting SPSS Regression Models to Python Regression Models Using Jupyter Notebook
- How To Use Large Language Models in GIS and Valuation Workflows
- Parcel Mapping in ArcGIS Pro

There are three program tracks with multiple sessions in each:

- GIS Technologies
- Leadership
- Modeling & Valuation

Bonny P. McClain is our opening keynote speaker. She will focus on the use of open-source tools and datasets to discover a city’s identity and what it reveals about the health and well-being of its communities.

Derrick Niederklein is our closing keynote speaker. Derrick’s talk “Motivated to Serve: Enhancing Public Service with Purpose” will leave us inspired and ready to tackle the challenges ahead.

Bonnie P. McClain is our opening keynote speaker. She will focus on the use of open-source tools and datasets to discover a city’s identity and what it reveals about the health and well-being of its communities.

Solutions will be on display in the exhibit hall. Connect with companies like Esri, Tyler Technologies, Esri Canada, Cyclomedia, Avineon, Nearmap, Schneider Geospatial, and many more. Here is the preliminary participant list:

GIS/ValTech is a substantial conference and a great opportunity to explore innovations and advances. Attendees also earn valuable GISP and Continuing Education credits.

And don’t miss the conference social event at the NASCAR Hall of Fame!

Click here for all of the conference details.
Series of free webinars celebrating the 2023 URISA Exemplary Systems in Government Award Winners.

SINGLE PROCESS SYSTEMS

Winner: City of South Lake Tahoe, California: “Defensible Space Inspection System”
- Friday, February 9 at 3 PM Eastern VIEW RECORDING

- Friday, March 8 at 3 PM Eastern REGISTER (FREE)

ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS

Winner: King County Washington: “King County Smart Building Management System”
- Friday, April 12 at 3 PM Eastern REGISTER (FREE)

Distinguished System: Pulaski Area Geographic Information System - Arkansas: “PAgis Damage Assessment and Emergency Response Program”
- Friday, May 10 at 3 PM Eastern REGISTER (FREE)

Distinguished System: Cuyahoga County Ohio: “Cuyahoga County Fiscal GIS Hub”
- Friday, June 14 at 3 PM Eastern REGISTER (FREE)

Webinar Series:
- The Role of GIS in Determining the FEMA Community Disaster Resilience Zones - Thursday, February 22 at 2 PM Eastern REGISTER (FREE)
- The Role of GIS in Flood Hazard Identification, Analysis, and Solutions - Tuesday, April 2 at 2 PM Eastern REGISTER (FREE)

Best Practices When Thinking About the Geo in Geospatial Data Governance
Wednesday, March 13 at 3:00 PM Eastern
LIMITED CAPACITY ALERT! Be sure to check out the list of the esteemed panelists! REGISTER (FREE)

Have an idea for a webinar? Submit a proposal HERE.
URISA is well-known in the GIS Community for being comprehensive, vendor-neutral, and providing valuable educational opportunities to support geospatial professionals at all stages of their careers. Aside from conference presentations and academies, URISA provides fact sheets, newsletter articles, podcasts, webinars, workshops, and special publications. In addition to education and reference resources, these programs offer you the opportunity to volunteer and share your experience and expertise with others.

URISA’s Professional Education Committee (PEC) is soliciting proposals for new education content in many areas in a variety of content forms. Please contact us if you have knowledge or experience to share with the GIS Community.

**Topic Areas**

URISA is always accepting proposals on geospatial professional and technology topics. We are especially interested in:

- What’s next? Stories and use cases from the cutting edge
- Digging deeper into GIS management topics for GIS in public and private organizations including governance funding & resources, return on investment case studies, and data. How do you improve the status of GIS professionals in organizations and compensation and classification studies?
- How are you solving problems and challenges with automation, programming, and creative use of tools?
- Legal, policy, regulatory, and ethical issues impacting the GIS profession
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion topics using GIS to support underserved communities or address social equity and injustice
- Using geospatial applications to support sustainability and resiliency including managing climate change, green infrastructure, vertical farming, and wildlife management
- Stories about data and applications using: imagery, elevation, temperature, hydrography, transportation, utilities
- GIS applications and use cases for emergency management, public health, elections, and for elected officials
- How are you using free and open source geospatial tools and data?
- Trends in information technology and how they affect GIS included cloud infrastructure, service-oriented architecture, distributed systems, internet of things (IoT), integrating GIS with enterprise systems, alternate reality, virtual reality, and cybersecurity
- Applications of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and deep learning techniques

**Content Delivery Options**

There are several content delivery options. Newsletter articles and webinars are great options for examples and case studies. Fact sheets and workshops are great options for deeper dives with multiple examples. While some ideas may make a great workshop from the start, it is also possible to scaffold content by starting with a fact sheet, then delivering a webinar, then creating a workshop.

**Geospatial Fact Sheets** are generally one to five page documents with a specific focus or purpose. Examples include GIS Data Layers for Next Generation 9-1-1 and What They Do and Geospatial Data Act. Fact sheets are commonly written by individuals or small groups and are reviewed by subject matter experts before publication.

**GIS Professional newsletter articles** are generally one to four page articles (sometimes more!) educating and informing on a specific topic or practice. Beyond technical concepts, they often discuss professional development and strategy. Articles are commonly written by one or two individuals and are reviewed by the GIS Professional Content workgroup and staff before publication. The GIS Professional is published every other month.

**Podcasts** are presented as a 30 to 60 minute recorded event with URISA and Directions Magazine. Events are usually a small panel discussion or a conversation between an interviewer and an interviewee. Topics range from professional and career development to unique per-
Webinars are live presentations or panel discussions usually 30 to 60 minutes long on a particular project, use case, or topic. Send in a title and abstract for consideration to get the process started. Participants often agree to record the session for posting to URISA’s YouTube Channel.

Workshops (whole or half-day; in-person, virtual, or both) are usually delivered as a class in a conference or online setting and consist of course material in the form of PowerPoint slides with breakout discussions, activities, or exercises. Approximately 6.5 hours of material are required to fill a full-day session; 3-3.5 hours of material for a half-day session. The best workshops include activities and case studies. Consider incorporating team activities and discussion, peer to peer sharing and other ways to promote active learning. Consider designing your material to align with specific levels of experience, such as beginner or advanced. If your ideas and passions are for shorter engagements or for panel discussions, consider proposing a webinar or conference session.

Workshop Criteria: Proposers and instructors must be URISA members. If accepted, a workshop must be presented with a minimum of two instructors. The workbook may not be copyrighted by the author or contain proprietary materials which may preclude URISA’s use of the workbook/workshop at other URISA conferences. All proposals must include specific Learning Outcomes, which describe what the learner will be able to do upon successful completion of a unit of study. Outcomes use active verbs, are measurable, and are often stated as “Upon completion, the student should know…”. Properly stated outcomes define assessment questions allowing the learner’s knowledge to be tested or measured.

Get the workshop process started by sending in a title, description, and general outline. URISA’s Professional Education Committee will review, provide feedback, and have someone guide you through the process. All URISA workshops are peer reviewed. First time workshops have a longer review period than existing workshops. For delivery at GIS-Pro (usually in October), URISA needs to have your proposal in February and a substantial draft of the workshop and activities in April.

Special Publications: URISA also offers ways for longer form written content and reference materials to reach the GIS Community. Examples include Redistricting: A Guide for the GIS Community and Model GIS Job Descriptions. Contact us to discuss your ideas and agree on a plan and timeline. All special publications are peer reviewed.

Ready to propose content? Submit via this form. Please send any questions to Danielle Giza.
Apply for a 2024 URISA ESIG™ Award!

Has your organization improved the delivery and quality of government services through the application of geospatial information technology? If so, that achievement should be recognized and shared with your peers. Nominate your organization for a prestigious URISA Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG™) Award. Or convince a colleague to participate!

Why Participate?

"By participating in the ESIG process we are able to demonstrate how GIS technology benefits the whole organization in a very broad scope. Winning the award also greatly increased “GIS awareness” in the organization. The project eventually received an internal “City Manager Award”, boosting the importance of GIS in the organization’s technology environment.” - Nianwei Liu, GISP, Senior System Analyst, City of Charlotte, NC - Virtual Charlotte, ESIG Enterprise Systems Category Winner

"One of the most rewarding aspects of participating in the ESIG Awards process was the rare opportunity to formally acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our staff and regional partner agencies for their collaborative work. Recognition of their achievements by URISA’s respected community of GIS professionals and peers has provided quite a charge.” - Eric Brandt, GISP, GIS Program Manager, Lane Council of Governments, OR - Regional Land Information Database (RLID), ESIG Enterprise Systems Category - Distinguished System

Winners will be recognized during the Awards Breakfast at GIS-Pro 2024 in Portland, Maine. One person from each winning and distinguished system will receive a complimentary full registration for the conference. ESIG award recipients will have the opportunity to showcase their accomplishments during the Awards Ceremony at GIS-Pro (see examples of recent winners’ videos) and as part of URISA’s Excellence in GIS webinar series. Winners will receive additional recognition in URISA publications and an announcement of their accomplishment will be distributed to media representatives around the world.

In order for the ESIG™ Review Team to fairly evaluate each system, specific information (A-F below) must be included in your submission. When submitting this application, send it as an email attachment to URISA at wnelson@urisa.org in PDF or Microsoft Word format. Include “ESIG Application” in the email subject field. Provide all requested information in your submission. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

A. System

1. Name of system and ESIG™ category for which you are applying (Enterprise System or Single Process System).

   **ESIG™ Award Categories:**
   - **Enterprise Systems:** Systems in this category are outstanding and working examples of using information systems technology in a multi-department environment as part of an integrated process. These systems exemplify effective use of technology yielding widespread improvements in the process(es) and/or service(s) involved and/or cost savings to the organization.
   - **Single Process Systems:** Systems in this category are outstanding and working examples of applying information system technology to automate a specific SINGLE process or operation involving one department or sub-unit of an agency. The system application results in extended and/or improved government services that are more efficient and/or save money.

2. A letter from the executive administrator authorizing submission of the system application (letters must be signed and scanned).

3. One (1) page, or less, summary of what the system accomplishes and why it is exemplary.

4. Three “user testimonials”. These testimonials should include the title of the system, the person’s name, job title (if relevant), a statement of what specific ways the system improves their work and/or the work of their organization, and how frequently they use the system (testimonials may be signed and scanned).

The application deadline is June 3, 2024.
B. Jurisdiction
   1. Name of jurisdiction
   2. Population served by the organization/agency
   3. Annual total budget for jurisdiction
   4. Name, title, and address of chief elected and/or appointed official
   5. Name, title, address, telephone, FAX, and email for contact person for system

You must answer each of the following questions. Please cross-reference your responses to each of the topics/questions listed below. Be sure that your responses are clearly written and sufficiently comprehensive for reviewers to develop a clear understanding of the system. Responses should be in complete sentences and as brief as possible while communicating the necessary information. If appropriate, include graphics.

C. System Design
   1. What motivated the system development?
   2. What specific service or services was the system intended to improve?
   3. What, if any, unexpected benefits did you achieve?
   4. What system design problems were encountered?
   5. What differentiates this system from other similar systems?

D. Implementation
   1. What phases did you go through in developing the system?
   2. Were there any modifications to the original system design? Why? What?

E. Organizational Impact
   1. What user community does the system serve and how?
   2. What are the ultimate decisions/operations/services being affected? If appropriate, provide a few examples including, but not limited to: screen input/output forms, paper products, or other descriptive graphics.
   3. What were the quantitative and qualitative impacts of the system?
   4. What effect has the system had on productivity?
   5. What, if any, other impacts has the system had?
   6. How did the system change the way business is conducted with and/or service delivered to clients? Give specific examples comparing the old way with the new.

F. System Resources
   1. What are the system’s primary hardware components? Give a brief list or description of the hardware configuration supporting the system.
   2. What are the system’s primary software components? Describe the primary software and, if a commercial package, any customizations required for the system.
   3. What data does the system work with? List and briefly describe the database(s).
   4. What staff resources were required to implement the system? (i.e., report approximate staff and consultant time as FTE’s)
   5. Comment on anything unusual about the resources used to develop your system, such as data, software, personnel and financing.

Application Deadline: Monday, June 3, 2024

Celebrate previous winners and learn more here: https://urisa.org/page/ESIGawards

If you’ve successfully improved the way in which government operates, through the use of geospatial information technology, you should apply for a 2024 URISA ESIG™ Award. If you have any questions, contact Wendy Nelson at URISA wnelson@urisa.org.
CASE STUDY: Nevada County Fiber Leverages GIS to Expand Broadband Service

Andrew Wilkinson, founder of Nevada County Fiber (NevCoFiber), is living in the middle of our nation’s digital divide. “We used to think our 6 Mbps DSL service was great, but bandwidth needs have continued to grow.” Wilkinson was faced with either selling and moving to a location that has fiber-optic broadband or fixing the issue himself. He chose to stay and fix the problem himself.

This is how Nevada County Fiber came to be. «The reason that NevCoFiber was founded was to fix the internet shortcomings for myself and my neighbors,” said Wilkinson. Having spent over 20 years working for technology companies, he was able to leverage his experience in business and engineering to find a successful way to bring affordable underground gigabit broadband to his community.

Much of NevCoFiber’s early success is credited to geographic information system (GIS) technology. Wilkinson knew he would be building long-term infrastructure and wanted to establish a secure and scalable cloud-based system for his data. While searching for an easy and reliable spatial platform, Esri was a clear choice to host, manage, and analyze his spatial data.

Broadband Management with GIS
The effort to collect accurate and dependable data in the field started immediately at NevCoFiber. For field data collection, NevCoFiber staff utilized a Trimble Catalyst GNSS receiver and Esri ArcGIS Field Maps. This enabled them to collect centimeter-accuracy data on the company’s broadband rights-of-way and other physical features. They deployed the affordable cloud-based GIS system without costly on-site hardware and IT support.

“The Trimble and Esri systems were very affordable for our startup operating on a limited budget,” Wilkinson said. The cost of the Trimble receiver, coupled with the affordable ArcGIS software, was a perfect fit for NevCoFiber.

When it realized it would need help configuring web maps and apps, NevCoFiber engaged the services of Esri partner Platte River Analytics. Platte River trained NevCoFiber staff in collecting data in the field, creating online maps, and developing efficient workflows with ArcGIS Online. Platte River also assisted staff with custom landowner maps to ensure accurate communication.

Utilizing the collected field data in ArcGIS Online, NevCoFiber now knows the location of its fiber-optic lines including access points, rights-of-way, and other assets. NevCoFiber benefits from its web maps by visualizing data layers such as tax parcels, topography, and demographic data. Staff regularly utilize American Community Survey data from ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World to visualize funding at a census block level. The parcel data from Nevada County is instrumental in evaluating rights-of-way.

GIS Assists with County and State Funding
NevCoFiber quickly realized that the way to succeed in broadband is to “start small, learn quickly, and prove that we can build a reliable and fast underground network.”

While meeting with the supervisors at the County of Nevada, Wilkinson was introduced to the Last-Mile Broadband Grant designed to improve local broadband and worked with county officials to detail why this approach to increase broadband service would work.

GIS played a key role in the relationship between NevCoFiber and the county grants. The company and the county consistently shared data back and forth, and NevCoFiber utilized multiple county data layers, including parcels, in its GIS workflows. Maps and spatial data are required in many grant forms to apply for state or federal funding.
funding. With ArcGIS, custom maps are easily produced.

NevCoFiber was fortunate to receive additional funding from the California Advanced Services Fund and the County of Nevada that will be instrumental in its broadband buildout.

**The Value of GIS in Fiber Management**

“Because we have over four miles of fiber in the ground, not knowing where that fiber is located would be a very bad business strategy. Without GIS, you are flying blind,” Wilkinson said. The cost savings of having a reliable GIS system at NevCoFiber has been substantial.

The next steps for NevCoFiber and its GIS are to solidify workflows and begin a documentation process. Wilkinson expects that the company will scale past his “bandwidth.” He wants to establish a standard he can use to train new partners in the future. He is excited to work with Platte River Analytics to help scale the GIS system and grow its service offerings.

From a business strategy standpoint, the existing management will not be around forever. Someone will always need to know where the network lies, and GIS is critical for that. - Andrew Wilkinson, Founder of Nevada County Fiber
California GIS Professionals to Gather in Visalia

Have you made your plans for CalGIS 2024?

There is no better place to connect with the California GIS community, learn about opportunities, and identify solutions to help you and your organization meet and surpass your goals.

Start with workshops on Monday, March 18 (included with your full conference registration):

Half-Day Courses
- Hands-On Mobile Workshop: High-Accuracy GNSS Data Collection in California (AM) – JUST ADDED
- Imagery & Drones (PM)

Full-Day Courses:
- Connect your Data with the National Hydrography Framework
- Efficiency & Management Hacks
- GIS Program Management – URISA Certified Workshop

Nearly 60 speakers will generously share their experiences during the conference.

Take some time to read more about the sessions on the agenda, including:
- Connecting Californians to Community Resources
- GIS Transformations: County Spotlights and Enterprise Insights
- I Can Show You the [raster] World
- Supercharge your ArcGIS on AWS
- Connecting you to Nature and Agriculture
- The Path Forward: Updating 3DEP and 3DHP
- Your Role, Responsibility, and Requirements for the GIS Profession
- Lightning-Fast Talks on History, Meet-ups, and Sea Urchins Oh My!
- This is Your Moment
- GIS in Emergency Management: From Evacuation Planning to Resource Prepositioning
- Hydrography and 3D Modeling Allows Water to Flow Downhill
- The Future of Dispatching: Enter GIS and Real-Time Data
- Using GIS to Comply with Changing Laws for Climate Change
- Leveraging Technology to Modernize Cities, Workflows, and Public Outreach
- Geocoding in ArcGIS Pro 3.X with Custom Data
- Esri Gold Sponsor Session - What’s New with WebGIS
- Connecting Californians to Power and the Internet
- Connecting You to the Future of GIS: Transformations in AI and Geospatial Technology
- What’s out in the (Open Source) World?
- Geospatial Engagement, Innovation, and Policy

CalGIS is a manageable and welcoming conference, with ample opportunity to have meaningful discussions and deep-dives into the topics and challenges that are impacting you. When a speaker says something that resonates with you, catch up with them in the hallway or at one of the networking events to ask follow-up questions or share an idea.

Explore solutions in the exhibit hall without being rushed. Get the specs and details you need to help guide decisions back at the office.

Earn ample GISP Education Points!

Participate in a mapathon and make valuable connections at the many networking events during CalGIS 2024!

California URISA members receive significant discounts (up to $100) on registration and if you register before the early bird deadline of February 18, your registration is discounted even further!

Take a bit of time to review the complete program agenda, speaker profiles, and sponsor directory HERE.

Register, consider sponsor packages, and make your hotel and travel arrangements HERE.

For more information and to register, please visit www.calgis.org.
Imagine it’s early January, and you hail from a northern city on a great lake, accustomed to feet of snow and sub-zero temperatures at that time of year. Now, envision yourself fortunate enough to travel to Naples, Florida, for a two-day symposium presented by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), tailored to your role as a Chief Elected Officer. You’d likely share my elation, relishing a brief escape from the winter doldrums. However, once in Naples, with the symposium confined indoors while you gaze longingly at the seventy-degree weather outside, it feels more like punishment than paradise.

But let’s acknowledge this as a first-world type of punishment and move on from my grievance. The symposium offered invaluable content and engaging conversations, particularly with Wendy Nelson, John Nolte, and I, centered around URISA’s operations. ASAE presented thought-provoking content and questions, providing us with the time and tools to deepen our understanding of URISA’s purpose and function. For instance, what defines an Association and why do they exist? The answer may seem simple, but many overlook it—it’s a collective of individuals voluntarily joining forces to address common challenges, fulfill shared needs, and achieve mutual objectives. This foundational concept underpins URISA’s existence; we come together voluntarily because the tasks at hand are too substantial for any individual to manage alone, thus necessitating the creation of associations like URISA.

Over the two days, we delved into four primary discussion threads:
- “The Special Nature of Associations”: Exploring why associations exist and how they’re led.
- “Chief Staff Executive and Chief Elected Officer Relationships”: Essential for sustaining success.
- “Roles, Relationships, and Responsibilities”: Pertaining to guiding the governing board.

Though these topics covered extensive ground, I’d like to highlight a few key takeaways concerning the URISA Board of Directors and its organizational role. While seemingly straightforward and understandable, these concepts often escape our immediate attention, reminiscent of the idiom, “You can’t see the forest for the trees.”

Let’s begin with the three main Board responsibilities and briefly discuss their relevance to URISA:

**Provide Oversight:**
As members of the Board of Directors, we bear a fiduciary responsibility—a duty to act in trust on behalf of others. This entails adhering to three pillars:
- **Duty of Care:** Ensuring informed decision-making and exercising reasonable care in stewarding the organization.
- **Duty of Obedience:** Remaining faithful to URISA’s mission and objectives.
- **Duty of Loyalty:** Prioritizing the organization’s welfare above personal interests, complying with ethical standards, and avoiding conflicts of interest.

Oversight is a weighty responsibility, and as URISA board members, it’s imperative we understand and uphold these duties, consistently reminding ourselves of our obligations.

**Ensure Necessary Resources:**
During the February meeting, Judy Colby-George, URISA Treasurer, presented the Finance Committee’s 2024 operating budget, which was duly approved by the Board of Directors. This ensures URISA possesses the financial resources required for effective operation and member service.

**Set Organization’s Direction:**
ASAE presenters aptly reminded us that the Board of Directors serves as the visionaries of the organization. Tasked with gathering pertinent information, they set the organization’s vision, strategy, and direction—typically encapsulated in a written Strategic Plan outlining objectives and goals. Subsequently, the Board coordinates and delegates tasks to committees to fulfill these objectives, aligning with URISA’s mission and vision.

In light of our “Post-Covid Hangover,” Wendy, John, and I, along with our cohort, recognize the importance of revisiting and updating URISA’s Strategic Plan. In our February meeting, I announced our intention to refresh and commence implementation of the Plan in 2024.

As your President, rest assured that your Board of Directors comprehends its obligations and the significance of its fiduciary role.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions, comments, or concerns as we navigate through this post-pandemic period.
Welcome New URISA Members

Asma Abdalla  
Oluwatobi Adefisan  
Adebimpe Adeniyi  
Arash Afghahi  
Asger Ali  
Randy Andrade  
Franz Arend  
Charline Avey  
Elizabeth Baldwin  
Jennifer Barnett  
Alexandre Barreto  
Jonathan Beck, A.A.S.  
Amour Benjamin  
Rupesh Bhandari  
Denver Billing  
Lydia Bisland  
Jennifer Bjerke  
Justin Boehle  
Sarah Brenneman  
Tarah Browne  
Philippa Burgess  
Gairy Canady  
Hailey Carino  
Jennie Catalano  
Nanda Chand  
Esteban Cisneros  
Christine Clark  
Colt Clarson  
Christopher Clary  
Narica Coggins  
Tianna Coleman  
Chazz Coleman  
Zachary Conner  
Cameron Conrad  
Jas Cooke  
Kasey Cox  
James Cunningham  
Nicole Daniels  
Samuel Davis  
Ted Deitz  
Steven Delery  
Cody Dellaport  
Kevin Deneault  
Will DeOreo  
John Diaz  
Lucas Dillon  
Dawn M. Drake  
William Dutton  
Foster Emmert  
Michael Fink  
Bethany Fitch  
Omega Fredrick  
Jake Fritz  
Tina Fuller  
Danielle Giza  
Raju Gopinath  
Corey Greenfield  
Astin Haddox  
Dylan Haight  
Grace Hall  
Yu Han  
Johnny Hayre  
C.J. Headley  
Ryan Hensel  
David Hollings  
Arden Holloway  
Steve Holmes  
Mike Holt  
Patrick House  
Matt Huser  
Rina Hutajulu  
Dan Janiga  
Eric John  
Matthew Johnson  
Jim Jones  
Joshua Keese  
Bryan Kelley  
Tyler Kiovsky  
Andrew Koure  
Erich Lammott  
Ollivia Larson  
Alyssa Latargia  
Logan Laudano  
Preston Lawson  
Emma Leary  
Rita Lee  
T. Lee  
Kate Lenzer  
Valentin Leon  
Albert Leung  
Stuart Lioce  
Jorge Lopez  
Fran Lopez Tapia  
Michael Lucas  
Scott Magnity  
Rithi Rani Mandiram  
Morgan March  
Sera May  
Michael Mazanek  
Ruth McColl  
Jennifer McKibben  
Timothy Mealy  
Derek Morgan  
Cameron Morrison  
Rachael Newell  
Jared Nicastro  
Roddy Nickey  
Izuchukwu Odoh  
Oluwafemi Ogunsanya  
Guillermo Ordones Vallejos  
Temitope Owoyombo  
Hjalmar Pachas  
Allison Painter  
Kirin Pallachulla  
Ava Patterson  
Candace Paulman  
Andrea Perez  
Patrick Phaup  
Emily Pitman Handy  
Brett Popov  
Tyler Prahl  
Noah Puchovsky  
Rodrigo Ramirez  
Trevor Ramsey  
Nathan Ray  
Jeannette Reed  
Matthew Reed  
Jennifer Reilly  
Julia Reisemann  
Nadia Ritt  
Baqar Rizvi  
Patrick Robbins  
Elizabeth Robinson  
Rebecca Rosenstiel  
LeAnna Russell  
Patricia Rutledge  
Alex Samaniego  
Ryan Scamehorn  
Jeffrey Scarmazzi  
Jean Schaffer  
Brendan Schultheis  
Michael Scott  
Allyson Scott  
Audrey Sewell  
Tosha Shanbleh  
Sanjay Shenoy  
Burt Simpson  
Caitlin Sjodin  
Candace Smallwood  
Bryan Smith  
Corryn Smith  
Tessa Switzer  
Christopher Thompson  
Benjamin Tjepkes  
My-Thu Tran  
Alexandra Valdes  
Cheryl van Allen  
Ulises Ventura  
Priyanka Vyas  
Danielle Warden  
Auburn Warr  
Ryan Whisenhunt  
Corwin Willis  
Brendan Wiltshire  
Ainsley Grace Wright  
Peter Wyckoff  
Jun Xiao  
Gintautas Zavadzhas  
Joshua Zeeb

New Government Agency Members

Regional
North Central Texas Emergency Communications District (NCT9-1-1)

County
Clay County - Minnesota
County of Inyo - California
Guilford County - North Carolina
Jefferson County - Alabama
Osceola County Property Appraiser - Florida

Municipal
City of Arvada, Colorado
City of Aspen, Colorado
City of Austin, Texas
City of Belleville, Ontario, Canada
City of Seattle, Washington
Lakewood Township Municipal Utilities Authority - New Jersey
Metropolitan Nashville Department of Emergency Communications - Tennessee
Town of Cary, North Carolina

New Business Partner
GeoCam
Welcome New Business Partner

GeoCam helps organizations map their world.

Our mission is to use emerging Vision based Machine Learning technology to enable Cities, Utilities, and Building owner/operators in creating and maintaining Geospatial Digital Twins of their Infrastructure.

We’re simplifying the entire workflow to build and operate a reality capture practice. Using only GNSS and Imagery data, we automate the creation of large-scale accurate imagery and 3D map data. Our technology generates Local Government Public Works maps, Utility Network Asset Maps, and Facilities Indoor Floor Plans. We’re moving from a world where it was slow and costly to make map data to a time where we’ll be generating so many map layers with detailed attribution that the next question will be how well can we mobilize to fix and maintain the physical world based on accurate digital twin.

We have offices located in Los Angeles, USA and Dunedin New Zealand. Contact us myles@geocam.xyz to learn more about how we can help you.

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EARN A MASTER’S DEGREE IN SPATIAL ANALYSIS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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The program prepares students to effectively collect, map and interpret geographic information to test and refine hypotheses to answer a set of questions within the public health sector. Location information, now routinely collected with health data and also obtainable from advancing technologies, is providing a gateway for researchers and practitioners to incorporate the power of geography into public health.

Master of Applied Science (MAS): 2–4 years
Post-baccalaureate Certificate: 1 - 3 years
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Take advantage of streamlined government agency membership!

Learn more here
Mark Your Calendar!

February 27-29, 2024
URISA LEAP Conference
Virtual

March 18-20, 2024
CalGIS 2024 Conference
Visalia, California

April 8-11, 2024
2024 GIS/Valuation Technologies Conference
Charlotte, North Carolina

June 3-7, 2024
URISA GIS Leadership Academy
Seattle, Washington

August 12-16, 2024
URISA ADVANCED GIS Leadership Academy
Chicago, Illinois

October 7-10, 2024
GIS-Pro 2024
Portland, Maine

November 18-22, 2024
URISA GIS Leadership Academy
Fort Worth, Texas

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