

# ***SPOKANE NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT***

**8 AM - 1:30 PM  
OCTOBER 25, 2025  
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**MADE POSSIBLE BY:**



**The City of Spokane,  
Office of  
Neighborhood  
Services**



**Building  
Stronger  
Neighborhoods  
Committee**



# SUMMIT AT-A-GLANCE

## Spokane Works Tour

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22, 2025**

Tour - Spokane Police Academy

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

## Spokane Neighborhood Summit

**SATURDAY, OCT. 25, 2025**

Check in / Neighborhood Resource Fair

8 - 9:00 a.m.

Welcome

9 - 9:15 a.m.

Workshops (Session 1)

9:25 - 10:25 a.m.

Workshops (Session 2)

10:35 - 11:20 a.m.

Workshops (Session 3)

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Catered lunch/Keynote

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Closing

1:15 - 1:30 p.m.

**REGISTER NOW**



**NOTE: SUMMIT REGISTRATION IS OPEN  
THROUGH SUNDAY, OCT. 12, 2025**

# WORKSHOPS AT-A-GLANCE

**SATURDAY, OCT. 25, 2025**

## **Check in and Neighborhood Resource Fair: 8 - 9 a.m.**

Meet agencies and programs that offer support to neighborhood councils in Spokane. Each booth will have information aimed at how they work with neighborhoods. Use this as an opportunity to meet partners, schedule speakers for meetings, collect free giveaways, and more.

## **Session 1: 9:25 - 10:25 a.m.**

Stop Screaming into the Void: Learn Communication that Actually Works

Alina Murcar

Working with City Government, City Council and County Commissioners

Heather Hamlin, Amber Waldref, Alex Scott, and Zack Zappone

De-escalation and Conflict Management in Public Forums

Dr. Sarah Johansson

Grant Writing TODAY and An Event that Went Off the Charts

Shawn Terjeson, Amy Lutz, and Heather Page

## **Session 2: 10:35 - 11:20 a.m.**

Empowering the Next Generation of Neighborhood Leaders

Emily Gwinn and Laura Sheikh

Opioid Overdose Prevention & Narcan Administration: Reducing Harm and Saving Lives

Rayce Rudeen Foundation

Majority Rule Sucks - Meeting Facilitation by Consensus Building and Finding Convergent Solutions

Luke Tolley

Pitch Perfect! Speaking to Your NC's Accomplishments (pt. 1 of 2)

Krista Anderson, Tina Luerssen, and Shawn Terjeson

## **Session 3: 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**

Pitch Perfect! Speaking to Your NC's Accomplishments (pt. 2 of 2)

Krista Anderson, Tina Luerssen, and Shawn Terjeson

Community Food Systems Beautiful Neighborhoods

Stephanie Watson and Shawna Beese

How to Organize a Community Event

Tyler Tamoush and Olivia Waldron

Continuous Leadership for Neighborhood Councils

Cyndi Donahue

# WORKSHOPS

## WORKSHOP TRACKS

"Workshop Tracks" help participants identify key themes that will be found in each workshop. Tracks for the 2024 Spokane Neighborhood Summit include:



**Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Communities**



**Technical Assistance, Technology, and Communication**



**Civic Engagement and Community Impact**



**Empowering Neighbors and Engaging Neighborhoods**



**Safe, Healthy, and Beautiful Neighborhoods**



Look for the color of the “ ” next to the workshop title to determine which track it is.

## SESSION 1



### **Stop Screaming into the Void: Learn Communication that Actually Works**



Do you ever feel like you're screaming into a void, never sure if your messages are actually reaching anyone? I totally get it. As part of a team of three that communicates with 130+ employees and roughly 230,000 patrons, I understand how hard it can be to make sure your messages reach your desired audience. So, I come bearing good news - we've done the heavy lifting for you! We've found what works, what doesn't, and I want to share our findings to make your neighborhood communication better than ever. You'll leave with easy tactics you can start right away and you'll even get some on-site practice!

- Alina Murcar (Marketing & Communications Manager for Spokane Public Library)



### **Working with City Government, City Council and County Commissioners**



In this workshop, we'll explore how neighborhood councils can contribute to the formation of respectful and collaborative relationships with municipal and local government agencies and departments, because let's face it, sometimes working with city and county government can be challenging. In this workshop you'll leave with a better understanding of how to partner with local government officials that has the potential to benefit every neighborhood.

- Heather Hamlin (City of Spokane, Office of Neighborhood Services Director), Amber Waldref (Spokane County Commissioner), Alex Scott (City of Spokane, City Administrator), and Zack Zappone (Spokane City Councilperson)

# WORKSHOPS

## ▶ **De-escalation and Conflict Management in Public Forums**



Neighborhood council meetings can get a little heated. Many people care deeply about their communities and bring their concerns to these spaces, and this is what we want from our meetings. Sometimes, these concerns create significant emotional arousal, leading to the expression of anger and feelings of hostility, hindering not only forward progress and problem solving, but potentially creating environments that feel unsafe to council and/or community members. You may have seen one person completely derail a meeting with the strength of their emotions. In this collaborative session we'll explore ways to de-escalate individuals as well as groups, and to get ahead of bigger issues before they happen. There is power in having the tools to manage a community space where everyone feels valued and safe, and the intention of this session is for participants to leave having confidence in their ability to use those tools.

- Sarah Johansson, Ph.D. (EWU Assistant Professor - Clinical Counseling & Applied Psychology)

## ▶ **Grant Writing TODAY and An Event that Went Off the Charts**



Writing a grant calls for the groundedness of an accountant and the lyricalness of a poet. Your plan and goals must be realistic and clear. Your proposed budget should be detailed and easy to grasp. At the same time, the hoped for outcome for your community needs to be woven into a compelling narrative.

That is the very nice 60,000 foot view, but how the heck in a competitive grant environment is your request going to rise to the top? And once you get the grant, then what do you do?

Why not ask a grant professional? At the same time get observations from a complete newbie who just flopped their way through producing an event?

Heather Page, Spokane Housing and Community Development (HCD) Program Manager works on many Federal Grants for our City, including the Community Development Block Grant program.

Amy Lutz is a long-time Spokane Parks Foundation Board Member and is Chair of the Grants Committee. She will provide insights on effective grant writing tips and strategies.

Finally, a first-time grant writer Shawn Terjeson, who got very lucky with a smash up event. Both brilliance (not his...) and disasters happened. But donuts and coffee can fix so much...

- Shawn Terjeson (Lincoln Heights Neighborhood), Heather Page (HCD Program Manager), and Amy Lutz (Spokane Parks Foundation Board Member and Grants Committee Chair)

## SESSION 2

## ▶ **Empowering the Next Generation of Neighborhood Leaders**



Ready to supercharge youth involvement in your neighborhood council? This dynamic workshop dives into powerful recruitment, communication, and outreach strategies that'll help you connect with and activate young leaders. Since the Spokane City Charter allows members as young as 16 to vote, now's the perfect time to learn how to inspire and empower the next generation to make a real impact in your community.

- Emily Gwinn (West Central Neighborhood) and Laura Sheikh (Grandview Thorpe Neighborhood)

# WORKSHOPS

## ▶ **Opioid Overdose Prevention & Narcan Administration: Reducing Harm and Saving Lives**



This training is designed to provide participants with essential knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to opioid overdoses using Narcan (naloxone). The session begins with a foundational understanding of fentanyl—what it is, how it is distributed, its appearance, and why it poses such a significant risk to communities. Participants will also explore current trends in opioid use both nationwide and locally, helping to contextualize the urgency of this public health crisis.

The workshop addresses the stigma and common myths associated with opioid use, with the goal of fostering compassionate, evidence-based responses to those impacted by substance use. Participants will learn how to identify the signs of an opioid overdose, what Narcan is and how it impacts the body, how to administer Narcan safely and effectively, and what to expect post-administration, including when to call emergency services and how to support the individual until help arrives. Whether you are a concerned neighbor, community volunteer, or member of a neighborhood council, this training equips you with life-saving tools to make a direct impact. No prior experience is necessary. Participants will leave the session with increased confidence in their ability to intervene in an overdose situation and contribute to creating a safer, healthier community. Participants will also receive a One Box and 2 doses of Narcan.

- Rayce Rudeen Foundation

## ▶ **Majority Rule Sucks - Meeting Facilitation by Consensus Building and Finding Convergent Solutions**



The goal of this session is to introduce (or develop a more in depth understanding of) the concept of consensus-based problem solving and decision making in grass roots organizations. We will focus on meeting facilitation through consensus involving guiding a group towards a decision that all members can support, even if it's not their ideal solution. This approach emphasizes inclusivity, collaboration, and finding solutions that address the needs and concerns of everyone involved. It's a process that often requires more time than other decision-making methods but can lead to stronger buy-in and implementation.

When consensus cannot be easily reached, we usually default to majority rule which is fraught with disenfranchisement and dominant cultural bias, not to mention the seasoned, savvy organization members can guide the decision-making process unfairly (e.g. he/she who makes the motion directs the discussion). The antithesis to this approach is finding instead convergent solutions based on the common core motivations of the opposing sides and brainstorming new strategies that may satisfy all parties far more than one majority or another getting their way. Participants will come away from this session with an understanding of how consensus actually works in organizational decision making, the value of basing meeting facilitation on consensus building and when that falls short, how to brainstorm convergent solutions. Participants will also come away with concrete tools for implementing these strategies.

- Luke Tolley (Bemiss Neighborhood)

## ▶ **Pitch Perfect! Speaking to Your NC's Accomplishments (pt. 1)**



*[This is a 2 part workshop - must sign up for session 2 and 3]*

Spokane Neighborhood Councils are wonderful assets. We do great work that positively affects all our neighbors, but not everybody knows. On all fronts, councils need a bigger presence, we need better PR, we really need to up our game. Come prepared with your neighborhood stories – who you are, what you've accomplished, and the challenges you face. You will learn to speak persuasively, to tell your story and inspire the listener to care. Learn the value of talking points and coordinated testimony. Plus, use positivity to grow your "brand". Participants will create an Elevator Pitch and practice it in a supportive environment with constructive feedback. This workshop will get the participants thinking about the best ways to communicate about their council. How can you help your council grow?

- Krista Anderson (Chief Garry Park), Tina Luerssen (Grandview-Thorpe), and Shawn Terjeson (Lincoln Heights)

# WORKSHOPS

## SESSION 3

### **Pitch Perfect! Speaking to Your NC's Accomplishments (pt. 2)**



*[This is a 2 part workshop - must sign up for session 2 and 3]*

Spokane Neighborhood Councils are wonderful assets. We do great work that positively affects all our neighbors, but not everybody knows. On all fronts, councils need a bigger presence, we need better PR, we really need to up our game. Come prepared with your neighborhood stories – who you are, what you’ve accomplished, and the challenges you face. You will learn to speak persuasively, to tell your story and inspire the listener to care. Learn the value of talking points and coordinated testimony. Plus, use positivity to grow your “brand”. Participants will create an Elevator Pitch and practice it in a supportive environment with constructive feedback. This workshop will get the participants thinking about the best ways to communicate about their council. How can you help your council grow?

- Krista Anderson (Chief Garry Park), Tina Luerssen (Grandview -Thorpe), and Shawn Terjeson (Lincoln Heights)

### **Community Food Systems in Beautiful Neighborhoods**



How can neighborhood councils support vibrant, healthy communities through food? This session explores how community food systems—from gardens and farmers markets to school partnerships and food pantries—contribute to safe, healthy, and beautiful neighborhoods. We’ll begin with a panel of neighborhood leaders and food system practitioners, including Shawna Beese, to share community-based approaches to food access, youth engagement, and neighborhood beautification.

Across our watershed, we’ll spotlight creative strategies that reflect the unique identities and success stories of each neighborhood. The Spokane Food Policy Council will highlight citywide opportunities for civic engagement, advocacy, and collaboration with City Council and departments. Participants will also receive practical guidance to initiate or support food system efforts in their own neighborhood councils and learn how to engage diverse voices—including local businesses, youth, and community gardeners. This workshop is ideal for neighborhood leaders seeking to integrate food access, community well-being, and civic participation into their work. A practical handout will be provided to help participants take next steps in their own neighborhoods.

- Stephanie Watson (Latah-Handman) and Shawna Beese (Millwood)

### **How to Organize a Community Event**



After attending this workshop, participants will walk away with templates for coordinating community events, action steps and advice for organization of an event, workshopped ideas for future neighborhood council and Community Assembly committee events, and a structured understanding of how to proceed when wanting to host a successful community event.

- Olivia Waldron (Cliff Cannon) and Tyler Tamoush (Minnehaha)

### **Continuous Leadership for Neighborhood Councils**



This workshop is designed to support Neighborhood Councils (NCs) in building a sustainable, inclusive leadership pipeline that ensures long-term community cohesion and preserves vital institutional knowledge. As many NCs experience the challenges of leadership vacuums and transition, this session offers practical guidance for identifying emerging leaders, mentoring them effectively, and planning for transitions that maintain momentum and engagement.

Attendees will leave with concrete ideas and action steps to initiate or refine leadership development efforts, ensuring their NC is equipped for the future with a continuous thread of community-driven leadership.

- Cyndi Donahue (Gonzaga School of Leadership)

# SPOKANE WORKS TOUR

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22, 2025

### **Spokane Police Academy**

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
2302 N Waterworks St.

Have you ever wondered about what goes into Spokane Police Department officer training? Now's your chance to peak behind the curtain and tour the Spokane Police Training Academy. Learn about cadet training, meet the K-9 unit and more!

[Register Now](#)



## IN THE KNOW

NEWS,  
EVENTS,  
MEETINGS,  
+ MORE

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**Community Update Newsletter:** Published weekly and includes city-wide updates and event information.

- [my.spokanecity.org/communityupdate/](https://my.spokanecity.org/communityupdate/)

**Neighborhood News You Can Use Newsletter:** Published monthly and includes information relevant for neighborhood councils

- [my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/news/](https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/news/)

**From the Mayor's Desk Newsletter:** Published monthly, this newsletter includes updates about Mayor Brown's initiatives and priorities.

- [From the Mayor's Desk](#)