

Resiliency • Recovery • Recreate

A Region on the Move

2021 Annual Meeting and Awards Program

November 17, 2021



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments
Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

2021 OLGA Winners



Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Stephen Acree

Richard Sauget

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

The Hazelwood School District Board of Education - - Breaking the Silence: Student Voices on Racial Justice and Equity

St. Louis County Library - - Pandemic Response through Collaboration of Community Resources

Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative

St. Clair County, Representative Latoya Greenwood, State Representative Jay Hoffman, State Senator Christopher Belt, Greater STL, Inc., - - Licensure Portability Legislation

St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force and County Health Departments - - Regional Pandemic Response

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

Citizens for Modern Transit and AARP in St. Louis
- - Transit Stop Transformations

Great Rivers Greenway - - Mill Creek Valley Public Art Monument

Program

Welcome and Introductions	Kurt Prenzler Chairman, Madison County Board Board Chair, East-West Gateway
In Memoriam	Jim Wild Executive Director
Business Meeting	Kurt Prenzler
Awards Presentation	Jim Wild
Closing Remarks	Kurt Prenzler
Adjourn	

Please join us at 2 o'clock to view a session focused on issues impacting the St. Louis Region:

- 2020 Census Trends: Population, Race & Ethnicity, and Age in the St. Louis Region



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
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We are proud to present these 2021

Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards

The OLGAs:

Each year, East-West Gateway presents Outstanding Local Government Achievement awards to officially recognize the extraordinary work of municipal, county, special purpose groups, school district officials and individuals in the St. Louis (Missouri-Illinois) region. Jurisdictions, departments and districts, large or small, are eligible as well as individuals who serve as volunteers or paid staff members.

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Honors exemplary individuals who have given a lifetime of service to the public sector.

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

Honors local government jurisdictions, special purpose and school districts, public agencies and individuals for unique achievements in the creation and implementation of exemplary government programs or projects and exceptional public sector contributions.

Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative

Honors cooperative efforts or joint ventures among local government jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and/or the private sector that result in high impact, positive change.

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

Honors forward-thinking planning and design efforts for public spaces or community development that challenges the way people think about their surroundings.

We recognize the great work that local governments and local government officials are doing across the region.

Please join us as we applaud all of our 2021 OLGA nominees.

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

Devlin Hutchins

Rockwood School District

Andrew LaBrier, Freeburg Park District President

City of Highland - Mark Rosen

Tina "Sweet T" Pihl

St. Louis County Parks Safety Committee

Valerie Nelson,

Director of Clinical Services, St. Louis County Department of Public Health/Justice Center,
HVAC COVID-19 Mitigation Project

William Walker

Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood, Inc.

St. Louis County Customer Service Lobby Remodel

City of Florissant

St. Charles County Department of Public Health

Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative

Eastern Missouri Pavement Consortium

Village of Maryville

R.P. Lumber

Mayor Timothy J. Lowery

Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

Emerson Park Transit Stop Transformation

Village of Caseyville, Illinois

Metro Transit Battery Electric Bus Program Initiative (Taulby Roach)

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Nick Gragnani

Jerry J. Kane, retired MCT Managing Director



Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Stephen Acree



Stephen Acree's commitment to community development in the St. Louis region has spanned his entire career. Stephen has over 30 years of experience in community development with considerable knowledge and experience in development finance, particularly with the structured financing of development in more difficult to develop areas. Over the decades, he mentored countless other community development professionals and provided critical support to smaller organizations.

Stephen received an undergraduate degree from The George Washington University and a law degree from Washington University in St. Louis and is a member of the Missouri Bar Association. He worked in three successive City of St. Louis Mayoral administrations and is the former Director of the City of St. Louis Community Development Agency (CDA). Stephen implemented city housing policies, analyzed new and pending federal legislation, and provided invaluable counsel regarding all federal regulatory requirements governing the programs and their impact. Under his professional leadership, in 1996 and 1997, CDA financed the development of over 1,000 homes, over 1,300 home improvement loans and over 1,100 homebuyer assistance loans. In 1997 Stephen was a Fannie Mae Foundation Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Executive Program for State and Local Government Officials. CDA was the recipient of five National Best Practices Awards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1997 and 1998.

Stephen started at Rise Community Development (Rise) in 1999 and was its Executive Director and President from 2002 until his retirement in 2021. Rise is a nonprofit organization and specializes in community-based planning and redevelopment. Over the course of his tenure at Rise, the organization in partnership with other community-based organizations developed over 2,800 homes and apartments, representing over \$470 million in affordable housing investments in the St. Louis area. Through its lending and other programs, Rise has assisted in the development of an additional 2,700 homes and apartments, representing another \$335 million in affordable housing investment.

Stephen is a founding member of the Missouri Workforce Housing Association and is also a past president. He is also a founding member of the Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis and a former director and member of its Executive Committee. He served on the Steering Committee for the St. Louis Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, the Behavioral Health Network's Regional Housing Collaborative, the Mental Health Board's Housing Funders Group. Stephen is a member of the University of Missouri at St. Louis Public Policy Research Center's Advisory Committee, Fannie Mae's Southwestern Regional Housing and Community Development Advisory Council, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.'s National Network Advisory Board, and he is the former chairman of the Greater St. Louis Regional Empowerment Zone. Stephen is also a member of the Urban Land Institute and is certified by the National Development Council as a Housing Development Finance Professional. His professionalism and high level of leadership has raised the bar for all community planning professionals in the region.

Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award

Richard Sauget



Richard (Rich) Sauget carries on the family legacy of giving heartfelt service to the community. He is a dedicated community leader with a strong commitment to service and has been involved in numerous businesses, development projects, and civic and philanthropic ventures in the St. Louis region. He has volunteered countless hours of time to the economic development of the St. Louis Metropolitan area by serving on many prominent boards including the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association, the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, the St. Louis Regional Business Council, the St. Louis Lambert Airport Commission, and the Missouri Historical Society Board. Rich was born in 1944 in the Village of Sauget, which was founded by his grandfather, Leo Sauget. The Sauget family was one of the first to settle in the area and Rich continues to reside in Sauget with his wife Judee. Rich was a standout athlete in high school. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame and receiving a master's degree from St. Mary's University, Rich began a successful professional baseball career playing for the Atlanta Braves and San Francisco Giants. He served as a backup catcher for Joe Torre and a catcher for the great Satchel Paige.

Rich continues to be involved in baseball. His passion is the Gateway Grizzlies Baseball Team, a team which he founded. As a managing partner of the Grizzlies, Rich was the driving force in designing and building the new Grizzlies GMC stadium, which opened in 2002. In 2015, Rich was inducted into the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame. Rich serves on several prominent sports association boards, including the St. Louis Sports Commission, Southwestern Illinois Officials Organization, the St. Louis Professional Baseball Scouts Association, and is the current president of the Frontier Professional Baseball League.

In addition to his sports accomplishments, Rich has been a highly-successful business entrepreneur. He is the founder and president of East County Enterprises, Inc., a real estate management company that has been in business for over 35 years and has boosted employment opportunities and business growth in the region. Rich has developed a strong business leadership group, Archview Communities Economic Development Corporation, which facilitates partnerships between government programs, local municipalities, the area's healthcare network, the local education system, and many regional business owners.

As chairman of the board of Touchette Regional Hospital, Rich has been instrumental in the development and expansion of healthcare services to low-income families, specifically underprivileged women and children in Southwestern Illinois. Rich is also Chairman of the St. Clair County Building Commission which oversees continued development of MidAmerica St. Louis Airport. For years, Rich has emphasized the importance of bringing together and developing the entire St. Louis region as one united community, including a highly-integrated airport transportation system. Rich's distinguished contributions and accomplishments have improved the economic prosperity, social welfare, and individual lives of many people in Southwestern Illinois and the St. Louis region.

Exemplary Accomplishment by a Local Government Jurisdiction, Agency or Individual

The Hazelwood School District Board of Education -- Breaking the Silence: Student Voices on Racial Justice and Equity



In response to the tragic killing of George Floyd in 2020 and a national cry for change, the Hazelwood School District (HSD) Board of Education began the collective work of creating a Statement of Solidarity. The ground-breaking statement includes action steps to make Hazelwood School District more inclusive and provides a blueprint to break down the structural barriers that exist in the educational system. Under the Board's leadership, the statement created guidance for a framework to achieve greater equity and eliminate systemic racism throughout the HSD learning community.

On the heels of the Statement of Solidarity, the Board enabled a student-led virtual panel, "Breaking the Silence: Student Voices on Racial Justice and Equality". The panel featured an honest discussion about race and its impact on access to equitable learning outcomes for all students. Following the panel, the Board established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup charged with creating the districts' first policy on racial equity that empowers faculty and staff to eradicate systemic racism and inequality in the learning community.



"Breaking the Silence: Student Voices on Racial Justice and Equality" virtual panel gave a diverse group of students a platform to share their experiences and perspectives, which have in turn informed HSD decision making. In March 2021, the Racial Equity Policy was approved by the HSD Board and established a framework for the reduction of bias, particularly racism and cultural bias.

St. Louis County Library - - Pandemic Response through Collaboration of Community Resources

St. Louis County Library (SLCL) proved to be a vital asset in 2020 as the St. Louis region faced the COVID-19 pandemic. SLCL's strong emphasis on partnerships was a lifeline for patrons. Inventive partnerships ramped up during the pandemic. SLCL looked for opportunities to bridge gaps in services and help with issues like the digital divide, food insecurity, economic instability, and health equity. Library spaces were critical to this work and SLCL transformed branches into vibrant community hubs.



Through SLCL's partnership with Operation Food Search, community members received a staggering 2.5 million free drive-thru meals. Patrons received easier access to COVID-19 tests, vaccines, masks, rental assistance, as well as hotspots, Chromebooks, and tablets. When schools and libraries closed in March 2020, the already stark regional digital divide was compounded. A survey conducted by SLCL in March 2020 found more than 10,000 households in St. Louis County did not have internet access. SLCL forged the Digital Equity Initiative (DEI) to confront the digital divide for students and seniors in the region. The Tap In Center collaboration helped over 200 patrons get legal assistance and connect with local support services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This unique program was made possible because of SLCL's partnership with the Missouri State Public Defender's Office, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and St. Louis County Department of Justice Services. In a community facing a myriad of divisions, SLCL earned a reputation as a place for community connection, collaboration, and refuge.

Exemplary Collaboration, Partnership or Regional Initiative

St. Clair County, Representative Latoya Greenwood, Representative Jay Hoffman, Senator Christopher Belt, Greater STL, Inc. -- Licensure Portability Legislation

Members of the military report the ability of their spouses to maintain a career is a key factor that influences their decision to continue serving in the military. In a United States Air Force countrywide study on support to military families that was released last year, the State of Illinois did not score well in licensure portability. Licensure portability refers to the ability to transfer a professional license from one state or U.S. jurisdiction to another so that a professional can continue their occupation after relocation. Without it, the careers of military member spouses could be impacted and Scott Air Force Base could become a less desirable location.

St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern commissioned a working group to understand how the region could better support military families. The commissioned group identified the need for licensure portability legislation in the Illinois. St. Clair County Director of Military Affairs Kimberly Huth worked with Illinois State Representative Latoya Greenwood, State Representative Jay Hoffman, and Illinois State Senator Christopher Belt to craft updated licensure portability legislation. Ultimately, HB 2776 was passed and signed into law by the Governor JB Pritzker on August 16, 2021.



The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) will now expedite professional license applications submitted by service members or their spouses. The support of this effort by federal, state and local government jurisdictions as well as the nonprofit and business community resulted in high impact, positive change and will improve the ability of Scott Air Force Base to attract military families and continue its significant contribution to the regional economy.

St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force and County Health Departments - Regional Pandemic Response



In response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, the St. Louis region's largest health care systems began working together in April of 2020 as the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force. At the same time the Departments of Public Health for Franklin County, Jefferson County, St. Charles County, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Missouri and Madison County, Monroe County, and St. Clair County, Illinois worked above and beyond to keep people safe. In an unprecedented fashion, the Task Force and the health departments collaborated to create and implement robust plans to assist businesses and schools with mitigation strategies, plan for a surge in COVID-19 cases, and address capacity

concerns, staffing, ventilator shortages, availability of testing materials and other critical supplies. The health departments worked to stay ahead of an unfolding pandemic and manage public health needs that included public education, case investigation and vaccine distribution.

Daily media briefings informed the community about the virus and shared ways to help stop the spread of the virus. The briefings provided real-time data on daily hospitalizations, deaths, ventilators and ICU beds in use by patients with COVID-19. A bond of trust formed with the community as people looked to the health departments and the Task Force to provide guidelines on how to keep themselves and their families safe. The St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force and Departments of Public Health have strengthened the relationship between the region's leading health care systems and provided support during times of uncertainty.



Leadership in Planning and Design Innovation

Citizens for Modern Transit and AARP in St. Louis - - Transit Stop Transformations

Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT), the St. Louis region's transit advocacy organization, and AARP in St. Louis, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that empowers people to choose how they live as they age, worked together on projects that enhanced transit access points. Transit Stop Transformation projects highlight transit's ability to positively influence the community and highlight how transit stops can be transformed into active, engaging areas that connect individuals and neighborhoods. To date, two Transit Stop Transformation projects have been successfully completed with more to come in the near future.



The Transit Transformation projects begin with extensive community engagement and involvement in the design of improvements. Over 100 residents, business owners and transit riders participated in the Maplewood MetroBus stop project. The success of the transformation of the Maplewood MetroBus stop encouraged local officials to explore revitalizing the other MetroBus stops in their communities and provided inspiration for similar projects at other transit centers across the region.



The Emerson Park MetroLink Station Transformation project engaged over 500 residents including students from East St. Louis High School. Benefits of the project extend beyond the station area. An affordable housing complex, a senior living facility, a local market and a barbeque restaurant are all adjacent to the station. The enhancements create a better experience for riders across the region, but also provide a new community space for nearby residents. Each project reinforces an element of fun that comes with activating space around transit and building community.

Great Rivers Greenway - - Mill Creek Valley Public Art Monument

Mill Creek Valley, once located between Compton Ave and 20th Street in the City of St. Louis, was home to a thriving Black community of 20,000 residents, 800+ businesses and 40+ houses of worship. In the late 1950's, during the age of "urban renewal", the community was demolished for redevelopment and right of way for the interstate highway system. As a way to honor Mill Creek Valley, Great Rivers Greenway (GRG) is incorporating a public art monument into the design and construction of the Brickline Greenway. A four-year community engagement effort by GRG is the source of inspiration for the project.



A one-mile segment of The Brickline Greenway will go through the area that was once Mill Creek Valley and will include a powerful public art installation. St. Louis resident and nationally acclaimed artist, Damon Davis, will create pieces that will incorporate the stories of people that lived in Mill Creek Valley. A portion of the installation will be housed on the campus of Harris-Stowe State University. St. Louis CITY SC will house a portion of the installation as well.

The Mill Creek Valley public art monument is a commendable way that GRG and their planning partners are recognizing past inequities that disproportionately burdened predominately Black communities. By connecting with and listening to former residents of Mill Creek Valley (30 people so far) and creating a public-private partnership with many stakeholders, this project is both literally and figuratively uplifting the voices of those most impacted by past inequitable planning efforts.

2021 In Memoriam

Each year, East-West Gateway Council of Governments honors those elected officials and public servants who we have lost since last November. Please join us in remembering the following individuals

Sgt. Hershel Turner, City of Moline Acres, MO

Mark Cross, former Mayor - City of Troy, IL

Security Guard James Cook, contract security guard – Bi-State Development

Jim Dodd, former Madison County Board member

Halbert Sullivan, Founder of Fathers & Families Support Center

Viola Murphy, former Mayor - City of Cool Valley, MO

Alderman Larry Arnowitz, former Alderman - City of St. Louis, 12th Ward

Gail Mitchell, former longtime Mayor - Fairview Heights, IL

Donald Robert Feher, Lifetime Achievement Awardee, City of Fairview Heights, IL

Carolyn McDowell, City Clerk for City of Olympian Village, MO

Fire Chief William “Todd” Werner, City of South Roxana, IL

Hazel Erby, former St. Louis County Council Member

Betty Thompson, former Missouri State Representative

Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., Retired President of Harris- Stowe State University

Police Officer Brian Pierce Jr., City of Brooklyn, IL

William R. “Bill” Haine, former Illinois State Senator, County Board Member,
and Madison County State’s Attorney

Winona ‘Jean’ Schrieber, first female St. Louis County police officer

Todd Akin, former U.S. Representative for Missouri’s 2nd District

Tiffany Graham, former Mayor - City of Greendale, MO

Tom Hannagan, former Missouri State Representative

Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz, City of Wentzville, MO

Police Officer Tyler Timmins, City of Pontoon Beach, IL



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