



NEWSLETTER

August 2025 (Volume 3, Issue 8)

Workshops are Coming!



Toward the end of every year, we like to think of new and exciting ways to keep the community engaged and help people get involved. As we wrap up 2025 and look toward 2026, we are adding community member led workshops!

These workshops will take place once per month. Each workshop will teach specific skills those in the workshops can learn and begin to use immediately. Every workshop is free to Syracuse Urbanism Collective members. Membership is also free. If you are receiving this newsletter, you are already a member. If you know someone who wants to join, here is the link: <https://syracuseurbanism.org/join/>.

We already have workshops for 2025. If you would like to lead a workshop in 2026, please send an email to syracuseurbanism@gmail.com. Put “Jaynelle” in the subject line, and we can coordinate your workshop.

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM: 101

What change would you like to see in your community? Do you want to help, but you do not know where to begin? Are you new to community advocacy and activism? Are you a seasoned organizer who wants to learn new techniques?

Our first workshop will allow you to gain knowledge of several types of advocacy and activism. Most people have a limited view of what advocacy and activism is. Additionally, most people think they do not have the necessary power or skills to create significant positive change in their own communities, and we are hoping to change that.

This workshop will help you learn various ways you can work toward creating the changes you want to see and discovering the strengths you already have. This workshop will also allow you to create with other participants as you learn.

Presenter: Dr. Jaynelle D. Nixon–Vice President of Syracuse Urbanism Collective

When: Monday, September 15, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes early as we will start promptly at 6:00 pm.

Where: Betts Branch Library (Large Community Room), 4862 S Salina St, Syracuse, NY 13205

You do not need to bring anything for the workshop. However, it will be helpful for you to have something to write with/on. A smartphone or pen and paper will suffice.

[Get Your Ticket for Advocacy & Activism 101 Workshop.](#)

Seed Saving and Homemade Farm Fresh Dinner with Salt City Harvest Farm



Salt City Harvest Farm has an amazing opportunity for those who want to learn how to save seeds from the food they consume and/or flowers they love. They are having a FREE seed cleaning session. From their site:

[“Bring your own seeds to clean, winnow, and process. Crystal Stewart-Courtens will be bringing a mobile seed cleaning trailer full of tools and equipment to process anywhere between a handful - bags full of seeds.”](#)

Once again, this is FREE! However, if this is the only session you attend, I highly encourage you to donate whatever you can in order to support this farm that is providing wonderful opportunities for New American farmers.

After the free session, there is also a tour of the farm, seed-saving workshop, dinner, and live music. This portion of the event is a ticketed fundraiser.

When: Saturday, September 13, 2025. Free seed cleaning session is from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Ticketed seed-saving workshop, dinner, and live music is from 2:00 pm to sunset.

Where: Salt City Harvest Farm, 449 Fyler Rd, Kirkville, NY 13082

[Register for the free seed cleaning session.](#)

[Register for the fundraiser that includes farm tour, seed-saving workshop, dinner, and live music.](#)

First Annual BareRoots Music Festival coming to Thornden Park



As stated on their page, the BareRoots Music Festival is “[a free music festival celebrating Syracuse’s artists in one of its most beautiful parks.](#)”

This event will have art, food trucks, craft beer, and live music. There will also be a collaborative mural available to all—whether you consider yourself a seasoned artist or you are just a lover of art and want to be a part of the creation.

When: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Where: Thornden Park, Thornden Park Dr, Syracuse, NY 13210

[Get your free tickets in advance.](#)

Head to the Northside and View the Bus Benches Art Project in Person!



The Bus Benches Art Project is a community art project that aims to highlight the multicultural and diverse Syracuse Northside neighborhood through public art. Using wooden benches as blank canvas and inviting the Northside Youth to express their creativity, the goal of this project is to install the benches at bus stops throughout North Salina street.

Originally each bench was meant to represent single cultures found in the neighborhood, however, the project went beyond these original intentions to something greater. The resulting benches now reflect what happens when youth from various cultural backgrounds get together to create

something. Each design now displays the aspirations, dreams, and aesthetic ideas shared among young people who have recently found themselves relocated from their respective mono-cultures to a shared place with a vibrant diversity and multiculturalism.

The coordinating, facilitating and mentoring artists involved in this project were Daniela Nikolavsky (original concept development, mentor), David “Clarke” Smith (lead coordinator, supervisor, mentor), Romina Mendoza (supervisor, mentor), Brandon Lazore (workshop facilitator, mentor), and Fasika Zewdie (supervisor, mentor).

This project was made possible by collaboration with Hopeprint, a Syracuse-based 501c3 organization that facilitates sustainable development in marginalized communities and through funding by the United Way of Central New York.

Special thanks to “AJ” Augustine Jusu, for his supervisory help, Lisi Plaza for her crucial early assistance, Quan - for bench assembly help, and Nicole Watts, Director of Hopeprint for making this project possible.

Photos provided by Daniela Nikolavsky.

SUC CITY HIKES



After cancellations due to poor air quality and sweltering heat, a few of us were finally able to get out and enjoy another hike at the awe-inspiring Clark Reservation State Park.

Join the SUC City Hikes WhatsApp group from within the Syracuse Urbanism Collective community to stay up to date on hiking events.

SWAG Bike Rides



We continue to have monthly SWAG (Syracuse Women & Gender Nonconforming People) Bike Rides as a spinoff of the annual SWAG Bike Fest that takes place every June. Join the SWAG Bike Rides WhatsApp group from within the Syracuse Urbanism Collective community to stay up to date on cycling events.

Rolling Thru Rolls into Syracuse



Pat Kelly, producer and host of *Rolling Thru*, a new BTPM PBS digital series about cycling, climate solutions, and local culture across New York State hosted a bike ride in collaboration with Syracuse Bike Party and Syracuse Urbanism Collective!

Each episode of *Rolling Thru* follows part of the Empire State Trail and tells the story of the communities along the way, through history, food, advocacy, and fun.

The show filmed in Syracuse on Monday, August 25. This community ride is the show's final segment in our Syracuse episode, which also features the Erie Canal Museum and Spatchcock Funk.

The show is looking to spotlight not just the joy of riding, but also the advocacy that allows that joy to exist in the first place.

Join Syracuse Bike Party for their Monthly Rides



Syracuse has a variety of cycling groups and events so everyone can find one (or more) that is just their style. If you want a ride that feels like a party full of fantastic people, [Syracuse Bike Party](#) is the group for you! They have special rides throughout the year, but you can always join them on their regular monthly rides.

When: Last Saturday of every month. Meet at 6:45 pm. Ride at 7:00 pm.

Where: Clinton Square, 161 Genesee St, Syracuse, NY 13202. If this is your first time riding with Syracuse Bike Party, just look for the large group of cyclists, and you will be in the right place.

Syracuse Hikes, Bikes, & Explores



Go Finger Lakes recently gave Syracuse a shout regarding the plethora of beautiful parks and wonderful outdoors activities available in our area. They discuss everything from Green Lakes State Park (pictured above) to Morgan Hill State Forest.

If you are new to the area and/or want to get out and explore, “[Syracuse Outdoors: Highlights for Hiking, Biking, and Exploring!](#)” is a great place to start!

Updates from the Syracuse Urbanism Collective



I-81 Viaduct Project Recommendations

We're continuing to meet with NYSDOT to discuss their progress on the I-81 Viaduct Project contracts. Currently they're designing Contract 6, which mostly concerns I-690 from Leavenworth to Crouse, a bit of West Street and I-81, and northern Downtown. We're also meeting with EGRA (the business district for East Genesee Street east of I-81), to discuss some of our proposed design changes for the project in their neighborhood.

Regional Planning Policy Platform

We're working to finalize our comic strip showing a child's walk to their friend's house through well-planned and poorly planned communities, highlighting the importance of planning with urbanism in mind.

Urbanist Book Club

Our next book is *Building and Dwelling* by Richard Sennett. We plan to have an order of books arriving soon! Then, we'll continue with book club meetings!

Moving People Transportation Coalition

This longstanding urbanist organization focused on transportation issues has joined the collective. More info will be available soon. We're looking forward to working together closely.

Public Policy Team

We're currently in the process of discussing our public policy memos and other priorities with local elected officials and candidates.

Volunteer Opportunities

Recently, we've closed out a few of our hands-on volunteer-led projects. If you'd like to lead or participate in our next project, or have an idea for what that could be, please reach out!

New Meeting Locations: September Meeting at Beauchamp Branch Library



We promised changes in 2025, and we have been true to our word. Our meetings are significantly shorter, more interactive, and more collaborative. We are continuing these changes with our meeting locations. Our meetings will highlight various locations in the beautiful city of Syracuse.

Our September 30, 2025. meeting will be at [Beauchamp Branch Library](#). The address is 2111 S Salina St, Syracuse, NY 13205.

More Syracuse News



General Information

Please stay up to date on community events and infrastructure improvements throughout the city. The [Syr.Gov](#) site includes updates on the [Community Calendar](#), the [Public Meeting Calendar](#), the [Municipal Sidewalk Program](#), and [Bicycle Infrastructure](#).

Call for Features



Would you like your organization, project, or event featured in the Syracuse Urbanism Collective newsletter? Please send the following to syracuseurbanism@gmail.com:

- 150-200 word description of your organization, project, or event.
- Picture or image you would like to accompany your feature.
- Deadline/special dates for projects and events.
- Contact person for any follow up questions.

August Meeting



Our September meeting is Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at **6:00 pm**.

Location: Beauchamp Branch Library, 2111 S Salina St, Syracuse, NY 13205.

You are receiving this newsletter because you became a member of the Syracuse Urbanism Collective. If you wish to no longer be a member of the Syracuse Urbanism Collective, please send a message to SyracuseUrbanism@gmail.com with “unsubscribe” in the subject line. You will no longer receive any communication from Syracuse Urbanism Collective if you do so.