

Highlighted Sessions by Professional Practice Network

September 16–18, 2026 · Los Angeles, CA

Urban Environments PPN

Focus: Urban design, retrofitting cities, public space, and urban ecology.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

WED-C10

Los Angeles Beyond the Car: Hidden Landscapes of Nature, Culture, and Power

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM PT

Experiencing a city at street level reveals hidden nature, social networks, and power dynamics. Through cycling in Los Angeles, this session uncovers grassroots cultures, equity struggles, and policy challenges, demonstrating how embodied movement and community engagement can transform how designers read, understand, and act within urban landscapes.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

WED-C02

In Defense of Urban Habitat: Biodiversity in the Los Angeles Basin

 Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM PT

What if every project in Los Angeles helped repair one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots? As housing mandates, invasive species, and climate extremes fragment habitat, discover how multi-scalar, multidisciplinary strategies—from ecological mapping to planting design—can transform development into restoration, producing resilient landscapes with measurable performance and cultural meaning.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

THUR-A04

Take Action or Suffer: Bridging Heat Research, Policy, and Design

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM PT

(Full abstract coming soon.)

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

THUR-B10

Designing the In-between: Streets as Civic Rooms, Local to Global

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Explore how New York City streets are being transformed from traffic corridors into vibrant civic public spaces. Through Paseo Park, Chinatown Connections, and the Future of Fifth projects, learn how community engagement and strategic right-of-way reallocation enable permanent, equitable, multimodal, and climate-resilient streetscape transformations across varied urban contexts and scales.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

THUR-B01

Urban Biodiversity in Practice: Three Pathways for Education, Stewardship, and Policy

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Communities often value biodiversity when they can see, care for, and participate in it. This session presents three practical pathways, institutional partnerships, community stewardship, and policy tools. Attendees will learn how participatory processes build ecological literacy, local capacity, and long-term advocacy.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

THUR-C07

Can We Restore "Real" Rivers in Cities?

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM PT

Globally, urban rivers have been confined, buried, and rerouted, making reclamation seem impossible. Yet increased flooding, aging infrastructure, and the demand for "rewilding" urban spaces are fueling innovative solutions. This session highlights strategies from around the globe for bringing urban rivers back to life.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

THUR-C02

Plants Are Not the Problem: Designing Resilient Landscapes in Los Angeles County

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM PT

Explore ecologically grounded, wildfire-resilient landscape strategies in Los Angeles County—home to one of the nation's most significant urban biodiversity hotspots. This session shares research- and practice-driven approaches to plant selection, Firewise design, and biodiversity-informed planning, demonstrating how rigorous science can produce defensible spaces that are both beautiful and biodiverse.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

FRI-D02

Adapting to Changes: Urban Forest Actions from Coast to Coast

 Friday, September 18, 2026 | 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM PT

Access to urban forests is vital for health and climate resilience, yet cities face canopy loss, inequity, and management challenges. This panel highlights planning, implementation, and stewardship actions from Boston and Cambridge to Los Angeles and California, emphasizing equity, biodiversity, and adaptive resilience.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

FRI-D05

Meeting Waters: Interdisciplinary Design for Urban Resilience

 Friday, September 18, 2026 | 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM PT

How can designers transform a flood-prone urban waterfront into a resilient, inclusive public realm? This session explores the Providence Riverwalk Resilience project, highlighting research-driven design, community engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Attendees will gain practical insights into participatory strategies and climate-adaptive approaches shaping equitable waterfront development.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)