2027 Symposium Session Description and Participants

Thursday Citizen Night Session - Main Library			
Time Frame	**Session Title**	**Session Description**	**Session Participants**
Thursday, February 11, 2027 6 - 8 pm	**Community Connections – Resources to Cultivate Resilient Communities**	Join us for an evening dedicated to helping you understand, protect, and improve the environment you live in. You'll get to engage directly with city personnel, environmental experts, and community leaders.	
Friday Symposium - University of North Florida			
8:45 a - 10:15 a	Opening Session and Morning Keynote	Morning welcomes, SORR Exec Summary and information on projects and efforts of the UF School of Architecture here in Jacksonville.	Dr. Karen Patterson - UNF, Dr. Erin Largo-Wight - UNF, Dr. Gerry Pinto - JU and Nancy Clark - UF JaxLabs
NETWORKING			
10:30 a - 11:45 a	**UNF Research**		
10:30 a - 11:45 a	**Resilient Jacksonville Annual Update**	Updates on progress made over past year on Resilient Jacksonville actions	Anne Coglianese
10:30 a - 11:45 a	**State of the River Report - Deep Dive**	Dr. Pinto and members of the SORR team will provide a more detailed look at the report	Dr. Gerry Pinto - JU

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10:30 a - 11:45 a	**Building a Complete Street**	Discussion of how bike paths, mass transit, green infrastructure, and tree canopy are successfully incorporated into roadway projects.	Matthew Bolyard, PE and Daniel Ashworth - GAI Consultants, Matt Fall, Justin Gearhart, and Dan VanSickle, COJ
NETWORKING			
12:00 p - 1:15 p	Luncheon Keynote	Luncheon keynote and other announcements	Keynote from Colette Pichon-Battle of Taproot Earth
NETWORKING			
1:30 p - 2:15 p	**UNF Research**		
1:30 p - 2:15 p	**COJ Sustainability Update**	Since last year's symposium, the City of Jacksonville has continued advancing its sustainability initiatives. Update will also highlight LEED for Cites Platinum Certification and Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).	Ashantae Green
1:30 p - 2:15 p	**How to Host a Low Waste Event**	Join this session to learn from local organizations implementing low-waste events while supporting Jacksonville sustainability goals.	Sustainable Events Network, Florida & Caribbean- Emma Carlo ; Apple Rabbit Compost - Tiffany Bess

1:30 p - 2:15 p	**LID Building Practices for Commercial Development (Case Study)**	What happens when shutting down simply isn't an option? This session explores how Northeast Florida's critical facilities prepare for hurricanes, flooding, extreme heat, power disruptions, and other hazards while looking beyond traditional hardening and backup systems. The discussion will consider how sustainable and low-impact strategies can work alongside redundancy, operational continuity, and emergency planning to create facilities that are not only prepared to withstand disruption, but better equipped to adapt to changing conditions.	
NETWORKING			
2:30 p - 3:15 p	**UNF Research**		

2:30 p - 3:15 p	**What Are Youth Up To?**	Youth are leading sustainability through initiatives like the Manatee Tank, supported by the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund, which provides youth ages 15-24 with funding to implement sustainability projects. Other examples include youth involvement in the DCPS Food Plan (school/community composting efforts, showing young people moving from climate advocacy into hands-on projects and policy). Including IERE information and updates as well.	
2:30 p - 3:15 p	**Business Strategies for Environmental Projects**	How to get started and go further with your sustainability planning with the four steps of evaluation, imagination, innovation, and implementation.	
2:30 p - 3:15 p	**SJRWMD Black Creek Aquifer Recharge Project**	Overview of Keystone Heights Aquifer Recharge Project. It is a partnership among several agencies and utilizes activated media to remove color from high tannic source water	
NETWORKING			

3:45 p - 4:30 p	**Young Professionals: Environemental Career Paths and Networking Strategies**	The environmental field offers a wide range of career paths. This interactive panel will bring together professionals from across the industry to share their career journeys and offer practical guidance to help college students and early-career professionals launch successful environmental careers.	Stephanie Cornais - Moderator, Lauren Canady, MPA - UNF IERE, Peter Cornais, P.E. - Greenfield Env Trust, Tom Lewis,P.E. - NOVA Engineering, Peter Uchino, J.D. -
3:45 p - 4:30 p	**COJ Food Plan**	The COJ Food Plan session will provide an overview of Jacksonville's work to better understand and strengthen the local food system, including findings from the State of the Food System assessment and development of the Citywide Food Plan. The session will highlight key opportunities around food access, local food production, reducing food waste, and building a more resilient and connected food system.	Anne Coglianese / Ashantae Green
3:45 p - 4:30 p	**UF JaxLab Projects**	Faculty and students will share information about projects they have worked on in the community.	

3:45 p - 4:30 p	**AI Uses in Environmental Projects: Case Studies**	How agencies, consultants and organizations are using AI to advance work on environmental projects	