



# Cherie Bryant, AICP

Planning Director, Tallahassee-Leon County

## Profile

As an urban planner with 23 years of experience in state and local urban planning, I am growing my skills and experience to harness the power of Geographic Information Systems mapping and development. In particular, I want to help tackle urban growth and sustainability challenges with a focus on making technical information and complex interrelationships more accessible and comprehensible for the public so as to better inform decision making.

## Employment History

### Planning Director for Tallahassee-Leon County

#### Tallahassee, Florida

2014 — Present (position upgraded from Manager to Director in 2017)

- Manage the day to day operations of the department's 25 employees, four divisions, three citizen committees, and the Planning Commission
- Prepare complex policy analyses and make professional recommendations affecting long-term sustainability, growth, and development for a county of 300,000 people
- Regularly make professional presentations on complex and controversial topics
- Brief City and County elected officials and top management on politically sensitive or high-profile projects and issues
- Organize and run numerous public meetings, workshops and hearings throughout the community
- Coordinate regularly with various departments, the Community Redevelopment Agency, businesses and neighborhood groups
- Technical subcommittee member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency
- Oversee completion of special projects requested by City and County administration
- Served during the emergency management response to three major hurricanes

## Details

850-491-3998

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## Skills

Print and Web Map Production

Graphic Information Systems analysis

Certified Planner, American Institute of Certified Planners

Comprehensive land use planning & zoning

Land use regulation/code development

Multimodal transportation policy development

Managing multiple competing and complex projects and teams

Professional presentations, in person & televised

Grant writing & management

## Software

ArcMap & ArcPro

Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, HTML5/CSS3, Bootstrap, Map Box Studio

Basic geocomputing, including Python, GDAL/OGR & ArcPy

Microsoft Office Suite

## Hobbies

Oil painting

Bead weaving

Kayaking

## **Comprehensive Planning Administrator, Special Projects Manager, Transportation Senior Planner & Land Use Senior Planner for the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department**

August 2001 — December 2013

- Promoted to progressively more responsible positions
- Coordinated planning activities for the City and County, including the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map, which govern development patterns for the next twenty years
- Coordinated the City of Tallahassee proposals included in a \$750 million infrastructure voter referendum, which then passed in 2014
- Developed the Multimodal Transportation District Plan, carried it through to adoption and supervised the drafting of implementing zoning code; this reversed 40 years of automobile-oriented policies to instead require pedestrian, bicycle, and transit oriented development for 18 square miles of central Tallahassee
- Managed the drafting of a \$30 million+ countywide bicycle route and greenways trails system plan which was funded by the above referenced voter referendum in and is currently under construction
- Established a customer service oriented Urban Design Studio to support quality urban infill and redevelopment
- Oversaw the development of a Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan
- Oversaw development and implementation of “Sense of Place” Action Plans that prioritize social and infrastructure investments in support of walkable urban centers and vibrant neighborhoods; three such plans were also funded for a total of \$35 million by the above referenced referendum
- Authored an innovative Memorandum of Agreement (in effect since 2009) with the Florida Department of Transportation to fund key road, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle projects
- Prepared community outreach plans, ran public meetings, and made presentations to key stakeholder groups
- Reviewed periodic updates to the master plans of Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee Community College to ensure consistency and cohesion with City goals and plans
- Authored right-of-way preservation and interconnection policy for the Comprehensive Plan and implementing land development code ordinances, leading to increased connectivity and reduced demands on roadways
- Gave educational presentations to the local Chamber of Commerce, Builders Association, Board of Realtors and neighborhood groups
- Served as Clerk of the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Commission and was responsible for managing all site plan and zoning appeal cases
- Managed and reviewed applications to the Canopy Roads Citizen Committee, which is charged with preserving and promoting our network of historic roadways canopied by centuries old live oaks
- Served as a member of City and County Development Review Committees, making decisions to approve, alter, or deny major development proposals

**Project Manager at Summit Professional Services****Tallahassee, Florida**

January 1999 — August 2001

- Prepared federal and state grant and loan applications for infrastructure and housing improvements for small local governments in north and central Florida
- Responsible for tracking and completing federal/state reporting requirements for 15-20 grantees, many of which had multiple ongoing grants and projects involving millions of dollars
- Prepared and held public hearings before various city and county councils around the state
- Organized and conducted door to door, phone, and mail surveys necessary for Community Development Block Grant applications
- Maintained working knowledge of Community Development Block Grant, Florida Department of Transportation, United States Dept. of Agriculture/Economic Development Administration, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and various other agency policies and procedures related to grant and loan programs and tenant relocation

**Intern, then Community Assistance Consultant for the Florida Department of Community Affairs****Tallahassee, Florida**

August 1995 — August 1998

- Responsible for managing \$20-40 million in grant contracts and 15-30 local government projects per year for federally funded community development and disaster relief
- Traveled to cities and counties throughout the state to confirm compliance with state and federal regulations, review project status, and provide technical assistance
- Provided training workshops for applicants and grantees
- Maintained working knowledge of federal labor laws and bookkeeping requirements

**Intern for Operation New Birmingham****Birmingham, Alabama**

January 1993 — January 1994

- Conducted research on Business Improvement District models around the country by identifying and contacting cities with similar programs
- This research was foundational to creating a Business Improvement District in downtown Birmingham

**Accounts Receivable Clerk at Liberty Overalls Company****Birmingham, Alabama**

July 1991 — December 1992

- Part-time work providing clerical support while in college

## **Education**

**Master's of GIS and Web Map Programming (online)**

**University of Wisconsin – Madison (Madison, Wisconsin)**

[January 2020 – May 2023 \(expected\)](#)

**Graphic Information Systems Fundamentals Capstone Certificate (online)**

**University of Wisconsin – Madison (Madison, Wisconsin)**

[May 2019 — December 2019](#)

**Master's of Urban & Regional Planning**

**Florida State University (Tallahassee, Florida)**

[August 1994 — May 1996](#)

**Bachelor's of Political Science**

**Birmingham Southern College (Birmingham, Alabama)**

[August 1991 — May 1994](#)