Do You Have What It Takes To Move Yourself or Your Urban Forestry Program To The Next Level?

The Municipal Forestry Institute (or MFI) may be able to take you there! MFI is an exciting, high-level training opportunity educating people in the leadership and managerial aspects of urban forestry. This week-long intensive educational program delivers a challenging opportunity to grow a more successful community tree program. Come learn and master leadership and management tools of program administration, coalition building, strategic thinking, program planning, and public relations by investing a week in your personal growth and development. Sign up now for MFI 2020, being held February 23-28, 2020 in Gulf Shores, AL.

What Does MFI Cover?

The Institute curriculum was developed by a team of urban forestry professionals and educators with over a century of experience in leading urban forestry efforts at the local, state/provincial, federal, and non-profit levels. There are four major components of the MFI curriculum:

• Developing A Leadership Approach To Your Position
• Thinking and Planning Strategically to Advance Urban Forestry Efforts
• Working Effectively with Boards, Coalitions, and Non-Profit Organizations
• Managing the Relationship Between People and Trees

The curriculum is presented in a variety of formats including lectures, multi-media presentations, panel discussions, group exercises, and real-life scenarios.

Who Should Attend?

People who want to become more effective leaders—who plan, manage, or advocate for urban forestry efforts. Past MFI classes have included:

• City Foresters and City Arborists
• Urban Foresters, Municipal Arborists, City Planners, Tree Wardens
• State Urban Forestry Staff
• Civil Engineers
• Municipal Tree Advocates
• Non-Profit Organization Staff

What is Diversity in MFI?

The Municipal Forestry Institute (or MFI) in collaboration with Southern University and USDA-Forest Service is pleased to announce DIVERSITY in MFI, a special edition of national diversity leadership training opportunity in Urban and Community Forestry. Participants including all ethnic origins (African Americans, Asian or Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Hispanics and White) and genders with careers in urban and community forestry and related areas will be recruited to the DIVERSITY in MFI for leadership training and professional development throughout the nation.

The all-inclusive registration fee for MFI 2020 covers the following:

• All course materials
• Five nights hotel lodging (Sunday through Thursday)
• All meals from Sunday supper through Friday breakfast

Registration Investment:

$2299 USD for SMA members
$2399 USD non SMA members

Participants of ethnic and racial diversity who are accepted to the Diversity in MFI 2020 can apply for stipend to cover the registration cost plus a $500 travel stipend.

CEU Options Available

ISA CA, BCMA, Municipal Specialist SAF Certified Forester
APA/AICP Certified Planner

HOW TO APPLY

Visit www.urban-forestry.com. Course registration closes on December 1, 2019 or when full. If you are applying for a diversity stipend, use code MFMNSCLR.

Participants will be notified of acceptance in late December.

If you have any questions, contact the SMA at: urbanforestry@prodigy.net or ask someone who has attended!

Follow us on Facebook!

Online Registration is Now Open at www.urban-forestry.com
Why Should YOU Attend?

MFI is a unique leadership and professional development opportunity you won’t find anywhere else. A team of dedicated urban forestry professionals from across North America will help you gain insights into how to move from a good urban forestry effort to a great one. You will learn from and network with urban forestry professionals from large cities and small towns, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations. MFI is an investment in your professional future—one that pays great dividends to you and your city or organization.

MFI 2020: What to Expect

Required Institute Pre-Work
Part of the MFI experience involves readings and online discussions that will be held during January and early February, 2020. If you’re accepted into MFI 2020, you’ll need a valid email address and internet access from work or home. Plan on spending about 1-2 hours a week for 5 to 7 weeks on the Institute Pre-Work.

Instructors
The MFI 2020 instructional staff comes with decades of experience in all phases of urban forestry, at the municipal, state/provincial, federal, private, and non-profit levels. Most MFI teaching teams have over 100 years combined urban forestry expertise.

MFI Week Schedule
MFI is an intensive learning experience. You must be able to attend from 4 pm on Sunday until noon on Friday.

There are numerous breaks and a little free time, but the event involves a rather demanding and time-intensive schedule. Though there are sights to see in the area, plan to see them before or after, not during MFI. Your full attendance will be required at every session—partial attendance is not possible. Sorry but pets, partners, and dependents or guests cannot be accommodated at MFI.

Why Diversity in MFI?

Urban and community forestry is the art, science and technology of managing trees, forests, and natural systems in and around cities, suburbs, and towns for the well-being of all people. With more than 83% of the U.S. population (322 million) currently living in towns and cities (urban areas), urban and community forests are a vital component of the urban infrastructure that provides enormous environmental, ecological, and social-economic benefits when managed properly.

As indicated in the Ten-Year Urban Forestry Action Plan (2016-2026) by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and USDA-FS National Urban and Community Forestry Program, one of the strategic focus areas is to cultivate diversity, equity, and leadership in urban and community forestry. This will ensure that a diversified workforce can be developed to establish, maintain and sustain the nation’s urban and community forest resources at all levels. As such, actions are needed to engage minorities, women, and underserved communities in urban and community forestry education, leadership development, and promote expanded collaboration, training and communication with professional organizations within the field of urban and community forestry to build a diversified green workforce. Therefore, DIVERSITY in MFI is a collaborative effort between the Society of Municipal Arborists and its Municipal Forestry Institute, Southern University Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources, and USDA-FS National Urban and Community Forestry Program, to enhance national minority leadership training in urban and community forestry.

Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana is the only HBCU university in the nation that offers a comprehensive urban forestry education program leading to BS, MS, and PhD degrees in urban forestry. The Program was established in 1992 with support from the USDA Forest Service and the Louisiana Board of Regents. After 25 years of partnership with USDA Forest Service, Southern University has made and continues to make significant contributions to diversifying the nation’s workforce in urban & community forestry and natural resources.

Online Registration is Now Open at www.urban-forestry.com