

STEVEN AMES PLANNING

Building Strategic Vision for the Future

Steven C. Ames, Principal
Consulting Long-Range Planner

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PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

STEVEN AMES is a consulting long-range planner and principal of **Steven Ames Planning**, an Oregon USA consulting firm providing long-range and strategic planning services for public sector clients. He is also a principal of **NXT Consulting Group LLC** based in Portland. In this capacity, he has advised local governments and community organizations, regional, state/provincial and federal government agencies, and institutions of higher education, health advocacy, and the courts.

Sometimes described as an “architect of public process,” Steven is recognized for his work in community and regional planning and visioning. He is the author of the American Planning Association’s (APA) award-winning handbook, **A Guide to Community Visioning**, and innovator of its *Oregon Model*. He has advised two generations of visioning projects for the City of Portland (**Portland Future Focus**, **VisionPDX**), as well as the projects of numerous Oregon cities. He has also advised other cities across the U.S. and overseas.

In recent years, Steven consulted on visioning projects in Central Oregon (**Bend 2030**, City of Bend), the Big Island of Hawai‘i (**Envision Downtown Hilo 2025**, County of Hawaii), the Columbia River Gorge (**Columbia Gorge Future Forum**, Columbia River Gorge Commission), and the South Texas Coastal Bend (**BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend**, City of Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and DelMar College).

Outside the U.S., Steven has advised local, regional and state/provincial governments in Canada, New Zealand and Australia, including the province of Alberta, Canada (**Alberta 2020**), the greater Christchurch, New Zealand region (**Future Path Canterbury**), and the cities of Brisbane (**CityShape**) and Canberra (**Canberra Spatial Plan**) in Australia.

Most recently he has advised the **Bold Future** process of Gold Coast City Council in Queensland, Australia’s iconic “Sea Change” city, the **2029 and Beyond** process of the City of Greater Geraldton, Western Australia, in the heart of Australia’s booming mining economy, and the **Committee for Perth**, an independent urban think tank focused on the future of metropolitan Perth.

Steven’s award-winning clients include the **Columbia Gorge Future Forum**, winner of Oregon Chapter APA Professional Achievement in Planning Award (2009), **Hillsboro 2020** (Hillsboro, Oregon), winner of the Project of the Year Award from the International Association for Public Participation (2002), **Sustainable Blue Mountains** (formerly *Blue Mountains Our Future*, Blue Mountains, NSW, Australia), whose vision has won numerous national, state and regional planning awards, and Gold Coast’s **Bold Future** project, winner of three Australian Business Awards for Innovation, Community Contribution and Public Service (2009).

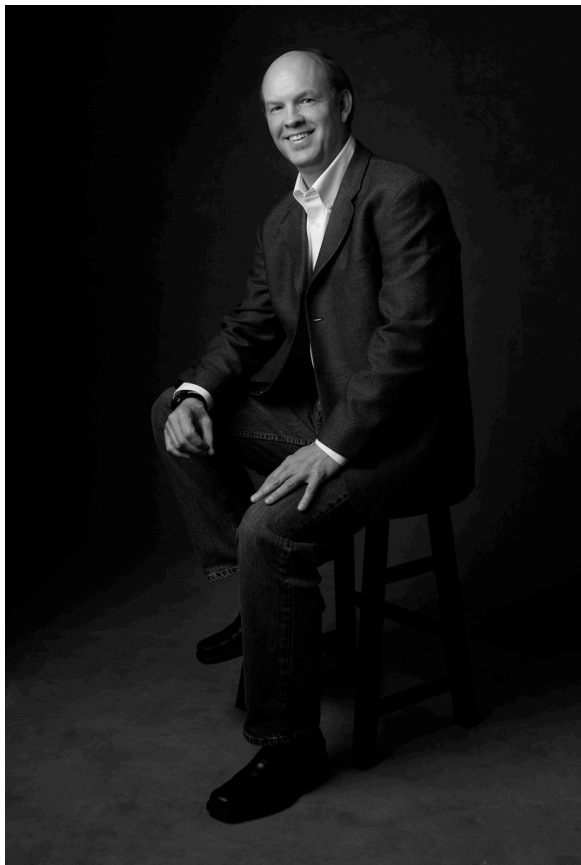
Steven speaks frequently on planning for the future and the relationship between civic vision, planning and sustainability. He has taught independent master classes on the community visioning process sponsored by the Planning Institute of Australia, New Zealand Planning Institute, and New Zealand Futures Trust. He is a

contributor to publications in the U.S., Europe and Australasia, including the American Planning Association's **PAS Memo**, and its planning reference work, **Planning and Urban Design Standards**, J. Wiley & Sons.

Steven is active in the international planning community, including the American Planning Association (APA), Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) and New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI). In 2009, he addressed the PIA's National Planning Congress in Darwin, Australia. He is a recipient of the Oregon APA's **Award for Distinguished Leadership by a Professional Planner** (2003), and was recently named as the first recipient of the Craig Byrne Fellows program of the **Orton Family Foundation**, a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to helping small rural towns and communities enrich and protect their sense of place.

In his hometown of Bend, Oregon, Steven informally advises the nonprofit **Bend 2030** board. He managed Bend 2030's **Living City Design Project**, developed by an all-volunteer team of planners, architects and engineers and submitted to the 2011 Living Cities Design Competition sponsored by the International Living Futures Institute and Cascadia Green Building Council. This project includes a series of photo visualizations for Downtown Bend if it were redeveloped according to the principles of the ILFI's Living Building Challenge.

Steven holds an A.B. degree in political science from **Drew University**, College of Liberal Arts, Madison, New Jersey, and an M.S. degree in natural resources from the **University of Michigan**, School of Natural Resources, Ann Arbor, where he studied environmental advocacy and long-range planning. He has also studied with faculty of the **London School of Economics**.



PROFESSIONAL COMMENDATIONS

From Client Communities...

"Steven Ames has been an invaluable member of the *Hillsboro 2020* project team. His extensive knowledge and experience of visioning projects across the continent has contributed tremendously as our community developed and began implementing the *Hillsboro 2020* Vision and Action Plan. Steven's excellent skills as a facilitator and consensus builder have been very helpful throughout the strategic planning and implementation phases."

Mr. Erik Jensen, Director
Administration Department
City of Hillsboro
Hillsboro, Oregon

"The *Bend 2030* visioning project was historic in its public participation and robustness. We were blessed to have Steven Ames as our guide, mentor, and friend. As the architect of the Bend process, he melded his knowledge of effective visioning practices with the local political and cultural realities to create an engaging and effective series of events and activities that has resulted in a profound plan for our future."

Ms. Linda S. Johnson, former Bend City Councilor
Chair, Bend 2030 Project Management Team
Bend, Oregon

"Steven Ames brings a credibility to the visioning process that sets the stage for the serious work of imagining a world of the future. The Columbia Gorge Future Forum has been a huge success and has generated...frequent and thoughtful communication across borders and geography to create a regional approach for the future. We are indebted to Steven for his large part in this. Steven's work with multiple communities, tribes, ethnic groups and visitors to the region elicited an umbrella of overarching visions while recognizing and respecting the varying viewpoints of individuals."

Ms. Jill Arens, Executive Director
Columbia River Gorge Commission
White Salmon, Washington

"EnVision Downtown Hilo 2025 was one of the most exciting, challenging...I have worked on. Steven Ames took us by the hand, focused our energies, and led us down a clear path to create our a community-based vision and "living" action plan for Downtown Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii. Many of us who were involved in the visioning process were transformed, both individually and collectively. Our view of community planning and how we work together to preserve, create and achieve the kind of communities that we love and value has changed dramatically."

Ms. Susan K. Suzuki Gagorik
Long Range Planning Division
County of Hawaii
Hilo, Hawaii

From Professional Colleagues...

"Steven Ames has guided, as staff, facilitator or coach, some of the most significant community futures and vision efforts in the United States. He combines an ability to facilitate as well as to write and publish on specific processes... Steve is an excellent guide for organizations or communities who want to take a serious look at the future, and he is particularly skillful in aiding communities and organizations actually create better futures."

Dr. Clement Bezold, President
Institute for Alternative Futures
Arlington, Virginia

"Designed as a grass-roots, community-driven and delivered process, Alberta's Vision 2020 program has attracted the attention of progressive community leaders, professional planners and futurists from around the world. Vision 2020's elegantly simple, yet highly effective four-step process was based primarily on the work of Steven Ames. Steven's expertise and participation contributed directly to the success of this program..."

Dr. Graham C. Power, Director (ret.)
Research & Development
Alberta Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

"Steven Ames has played a critical role in the success of the *Blue Mountains Our Future* initiative... What is most significant about Steven's contribution is the way that he engages with municipalities and communities within a learning framework that makes the complexities of future planning achievable and within the grasp of local planners and citizens... The *Oregon Model* – with its clear stages, driving questions and empowering methodology – provides a best practice approach for long term planning and community visioning work. It has the potential to be the foundational stone for the development of community visions by local municipalities across the planet."

Dr. Rosemary Dillon, Manager, Corporate Planning
Blue Mountains City Council
New South Wales, Australia

"Steven Ames has played a lead role in strategic visioning and community planning in...local authorities throughout Australia. His obvious experience generally from involvement in the *Oregon Model* and implementation in communities in the United States has been acknowledged in Australia, presenting an alternative to the more land use focused planning models we have traditionally used... Steven has been an ambassador conveying many of the positives of planning in Oregon, helping others to appreciate (that) there are other ways of looking at the challenges of change."

Mr. Gary White, Deputy Director-General, Planning
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Queensland State Government
Queensland, Australia

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Professional Clientele

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