



A Celebration and Tribute

NORMAN
KRUMHOLZ

Saturday, February 29, 2020

“It was an honor to have Professor Krumholz for two Urban Planning courses at Cleveland State during my graduate studies. Professor Krumholz's wisdom of Urban Planning is a treat I will always cherish. He was the book of the subject as when he spoke, you listened and gained knowledge. I will remember his lectures and friendly interactions, especially about Cleveland. Thank You and God Bless Professor Krumholz.”

-James Burrows (MUPD ‘19)

“I was Norm’s graduate assistant from 1989-91. When we met we exchanged papers we had both written on the Kerner Commission. I knew I could learn a lot from Norm, and I did. I remember helping Norm proof the final edit of his book as we read aloud to each other — how awesome is that! We lost touch over the years but reconnected in 2009. For the past 21 years, I have been the Director of Real Estate & Development for the Spitzer organization. We hired Norm as a consultant, and talking with him again was great. What a small and wonderful world we live in. I feel blessed to have crossed paths with such a thoughtful, caring and special man. Rest in peace Norm.”

-Cathy Schuster (Murphy) (MPA '91)

“Norm Krumholz was one of the most honest, direct, and kind planners I dealt with in some four decades as editor of Planning magazine. He was the one I called when I needed advice — or a good quote. His views on cities and equity are particularly relevant in scary election year.”

-Ruth Eckdish Knack, FAICP

“Long before city leaders were talking about inclusive economic growth, Norm Krumholz was leading the way. When I traveled the country as President and CEO of CEOs for Cities, as soon as I mentioned that I was from Cleveland, urban planners didn’t ask me about the Cleveland Clinic or the Cleveland Orchestra — they asked me if I knew Norm Krumholz. At a time when many focus on doing more with less, Norm lived a life focused on doing more for those who have less.”

**-Lee Fisher, Dean, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law,
Cleveland State University**

“Norm indelibly stamped his social equity planning vision on me when I spent a week interviewing and observing him and his crackerjack staff as they crafted their ground-breaking Cleveland Policy Planning Report 1975 — leading to a 45-year professional and personal friendship. While some say that “Norm Krumholz takes no prisoners,” Norm actually was a genuine softy and a bit unsure of himself. I ran for APA President in 1985 only to show Norm, who thought he couldn’t get elected, that even a yahoo like me could be elected espousing our shared progressive planning values. Norm convincingly articulated the social equity planning so many of us try to apply to our work that today, even APA officially professes to support the social equity planning it had long delegated to the sidelines. Without planning mensch Norm Krumholz, social equity planning would still be twisting slowly in the wind.”

-Daniel Lauber

**“In profound awe of a mystical relationship,
I am respectfully,
A Once Upon A Time, friend of Norm,”**

**- Helena Koenig
Bethesda, Maryland**

“Professor Krumholz surrounded you with the wisdom of the past and the vision of the future and how to incorporate them to build wholesome communities.”

-BJ Johnson (Nonprofit Administration '10)

“Norm's work on equity planning was profoundly important both for its influence on planning scholarship and as a guide for practitioners. He demonstrated that it was possible to move the discourse about planning away from competitiveness toward justice. I always assigned his writings when I taught planning theory. His thinking influenced generations of students.”

-Susan Fainstein

“This man spent a career studying, writing, and teaching how effective planning practice can create more equitable cities. He was my instructor for planning 101. His wife died part of the way through the semester and he was back in the class room the following week because teaching was that important to him. I cannot think of a better way to have been introduced to planning than through the equity lens.”

-Darren Cross (MUPDD '17)

“Norm reflected the highest standards of professionalism through his path-breaking contributions to urban planning scholarship and practice and through his consistent adherence to the highest ethical standards. Norm always spoke truth to power even when power did not want to hear it. He changed many lives including those of people who did not know him. He will be sorely missed as a community leader, visionary and extraordinary friend to many.”

-Susan Eagan

“Norman Krumholz changed the way I viewed my role as an urban planner; planning for the public good. His and Forester's book, *Making Equity Planning Work: Leadership in the Public Sector* heavily influenced my interest in the social and economic consequences of planning actions. I probably would not have known what equity planning was if a professor didn't expose me to it as a student in the late 1990s. I carry on that tradition by using this book as a lens from which to view planners as influential actors in urban policy. Norman's planning legacy in Cleveland is what led me to apply for a teaching position with the Levin College of Urban Affairs at CSU. I am proud to say I was able to learn even more from him in the few years we were colleagues. Thank you Norm.”

-Beth Nagy

“I worked for Norm at the Center for Neighborhood Development in the late 1980s. Norm made it possible for me to make the transition from being the director of a community organizing non-profit to learning on the job how to support Cleveland's growing CDC movement become more effective at community-based revitalization. He trusted my experience and instincts like he did for all those that worked for him. Without Norm's guidance and support I could not have become the housing and community leader that I am here in Cleveland — more importantly I could not have served the people and communities that I've been privileged to serve over the past thirty years. Thank you my friend.”

- Mark McDermott (MUPDD '07)

Special thanks to Barbara and David
Thomas, for their contribution to the Dr.
Norman Krumholz Scholarship Fund
*"in memory of the deep humanitarian
contributions of Dr. Krumholz and in honor
of his friendship with Helena Koenig."*

“An unwavering commitment to the truth was at the core of what I learned from Norm. After the loss of a family member several years ago, Norm called me as soon as he found out. He asked how I was doing and offered his support, but he also spoke in direct terms about how the feelings of loss could bring both sadness and joy. Acknowledging things like grief, suffering, and intolerance force us to take on uncomfortable truths, but Norm set a fearless standard for both recognizing and acting on the truth.”

-Jordan Yin (Urban Studies, '91)

“For me Norm was a wonderful, important friend. I first met him fighting the Clark Freeway and we served together in the Stokes Administration. Thereafter we remained close. We both lost a child and supported each other. We also had many good times. He always cared and will be so missed.”

- William S. Gaskill

“I first met Norm as a young graduate student when he came to Cornell to lecture on equity planning. My classmates and I were thrilled to meet a national planning figure who was so deeply committed to advancing social justice through inspired planning and participatory policy-making. One of the things I most appreciated about Norm was his enthusiastic support for and willingness to assist young planners who were seeking to do the kind of work he described in the Cleveland Planning Policy Report. We honor Norm's life and work by continuing to create democratic spaces within planning for the hopes and aspirations of poor and working class communities to be heard. If we can do this with half the humanity, intelligence, compassion, and humor that Norm did for so many years, there is a good chance that we will build "The Beloved Community" that Dr. King challenged us to create.”

-Kenneth Reardon

“I met with Professor Krumholz for coffee soon after he retired at the young age of 90. He reassured me that as a young urban planner practicing in the CDC realm that I was on the right path and had plenty of opportunity ahead of me. To illustrate this, he shared how he had recently found his dream job as an urban planner in a small, racially diverse California city and had just submitted his resume. Amused, I wondered what it would like for the city to receive a resume from one of the nation's most renowned equity planners at the age of 90. That shows the kind of undeterred spirit that Norm had for life and urban planning.”

- Joyce Huang (MUPDD '16)

“From my very first days of planning school, I remember hearing about a planner in Cleveland named Norm Krumholz. When he came to our campus to speak, he offered a different way of looking at planning, one that resonated with me and with so many others. While I didn’t have an opportunity to work with him until much later, he was a mentor. Working with him on the book, *Advancing Equity Planning Now* was a joy, thanks to his keen mind, his wise guidance, his unwavering commitment to equity and social justice and his generous spirit. He will be missed but through his many accomplishments his legacy will continue.”

- Kathryn Hexter

“Norm Krumholz was on the right side, the fair side, the ecologically conscious side before that was well known. He was analytical. He paid attention to the details of urban living while keeping us in view of the larger urban and suburban consequences of ‘development.’ He did this with heart as well as mind and knowledge and experience.”

- Linda Tobin

“Norm Krumholz My Professor, Friend, Community Supporter, The First to take me to the State House in Columbus, Ohio, Extensive Urban City Planning discussions, Loved the City of Cleveland and the least, lost, left-out, poor and underserved. I'm in tears, mourning to find out and hear about the passing of my dear friend, Mentor Professor Norm Krumholz. He was scheduled to be one of our 20th year annual Behind the Scenes Humanitarian Awards on Saturday on April 4, 2020 in Memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. RIH & RIP my friend.”

-Dr. Marcia L. Thomas McCoy (Urban Studies '98)

“I was a student of Norm’s in the mid 70's when he was Planning Director for the City of Cleveland. Who better to teach Urban Planning than someone who was actively doing it. I will never forget his influence on my future career in human services in the urban setting.”

-Steve Walker (MSUS '76)

**“I always appreciated Norm Krumholz as an advisor, mentor,
and visionary urban studies thinker.”**

**-Brad Masi (MSUS '02)
Blue Heron Productions**

“I recall reading *Making Equity Planning Work* cover to cover when I arrived in Cleveland in 1992, well before I was accepted in the PhD program, and I was hooked. A fond memory was when, as a professor, I taught a class where we focused on equity planning as a framework. Our budget was limited, and Norm graciously did his first Skype presentation to 75 of my students (dapper dresser as he was, he had a red sweater on and his son helped him position perfectly in his office with perfect lighting and books in the background). And his influence continues. This fall we used *Advancing Equity Planning NOW* in my community development practice class. Norm's spirit continues here in Chicago.”

-Janet L. Smith (PhD Urban Studies '98)

Professor, Urban Planning and Policy

Co-Director, Nathalie P Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement

College of Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago