#ICMA2018 Wrap-Up:
Four Days of Courageous Leadership

Agrowing list of difficult social and economic issues transcend geographic boundaries, and the key to success is courageous leadership. This was a key theme of ICMA’s 104th Annual Conference, held in Baltimore on September 23–26, 2018.

Day One: The science of timing

Daniel Pink, author of *When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing*, and the opening general session keynote speaker, shared fundamental principles that he says will help local government leaders perform better. He pointed out the hidden patterns of the day that profoundly affect our mood and performance, emphasized the power of periodic breaks, and advised that leaders should communicate bad news before good news because people like to end with something that elevates.

* >Read more about the scientific secrets of perfect timing: icma.org/perfect-timing.

Pink was introduced by ICMA President David Johnstone, who welcomed attendees and set the stage for the conference theme of courageous leadership with examples of members around the world who lead with integrity and innovative approaches in the face of disasters and environmental challenges.

Day Two: Exploring the attributes shared by great leaders

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin returned to ICMA’s keynote stage to draw from her newest book, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*. Goodwin examined the characteristics that contribute to the reputations of four presidents—Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson—all of whom successfully led the country through some of its most chaotic times.

* >Read more on how these leaders cultivated cultures that motivated and inspired the best in their employees at: icma.org/turbulent-times.

Day Three: Courageous leaders need patience and self-discipline

Greg Bell, Tuesday’s keynote speaker and author of *Water the Bamboo*, suggested that local government leaders need to ask how they can deliver services faster.

The secret to success lies not only in speed but also in patience, perseverance, self-discipline, and courage. As with bamboo, good ideas may require a lengthy period of nurturing before they come to fruition. “It’s important to be patient with processes, people, and yourself,” he said. “Persevere by nurturing high-value activities and be self-disciplined in your actions. Leaders need courage and they need to encourage their teams,” he added.

* >Read more about the importance of patience and self-discipline at: icma.org/courageous-leader.

Day Four: Envision an environment in which all are welcome

At the Celebration of Service on Wednesday, David Johnstone moved into the past president slot and Karen Pinkos, assistant city manager of El Cerrito, California, was inducted as the 2018–19 ICMA president, along with the incoming president-elect and vice presidents. Pinkos kicked off her new role with one of the most memorable quotes of #ICMA2018: “The story of local government is the story of making people’s lives better.” It was the perfect summation of the Local Government Service and Excellence Awards, which recognized and celebrated local leaders for their dedication to public service and professional management.

Keynote speaker Wes Moore, author of *The Other Wes Moore* and CEO of New York City’s Robin Hood organization, the largest foundation with a sole focus on alleviating poverty, encouraged attendees, when thinking about their communities, to consider how they think about developing educational systems that prepare young people for the future, and housing policies that can grow real estate values without leaving some residents underserved. He asked “What kind of society are we going to foster? Who is it that we will choose to fight for?” This often means fighting for people who have traditionally been left out of the conversation.

* > Read more about building an inclusive community at: icma.org/all-are-welcome.
TWEETABLE MOMENTS with #ICMAProud

Keith Bergman @TAlittletonMA • Sep 25
Those four decades went by quickly. Honored to have such a long career in local government service #localgov #serviceaward #ICMAProud

Tanya Spiegel @tsspiegel • Sep 26
“The story of #localgov is the story we all share together.” - @kepinkos #ICMA2018 #ICMAProud

ICMA EVENTS @ICMAevents • Sep 23
Opal Mauldin-Jones walks away with the 1st EVER Leadership Trailblazer Award. Pictured here with her 2 daughters. Congratulations, Opal! #ICMA2018 #ICMAProud @WomenLeadingGov

Jane Bradway @Gun_NowJane • Sep 26
As we said that there is no success in the @ICMA presidential succession it's beginning to look a regular occurrence. #ICMA2018 #ICMAProud #ICMADay #ICMAProud

Sheryl Iong, MMA @Sheryllong19 • Sep 23
#ICMA2018 ready to learn, engage and bring home perspectives that only professionals from across the world can provide. #network #lead #ICMAProud

Shanna Lodge @scorpionsphinx23 • Sep 26
So long, #ICMA2018 and farewell, Baltimore! I’m never more #ICMAProud than when I have the privilege to learn alongside #localgov administrators from across the country and around the globe.

#ICMA2018 by the Numbers

3,413
Total Attendees

2,668
Members in Attendance

223
Exhibitors

53
Sponsors

310
Speakers

155
Sessions (Educational, Special, Roundtables, Solutions Track and Learning Lab)

25
Countries Represented at #ICMA2018

9,218
Steps Per Day by an ICMA Staff Member

210
#ICMAProud Tweets

150
Pairs of ICMA Socks Distributed
Revisit 2018 Session Favorites

- We, Not Me: Beyond Service Awards
  - icma.org/beyond-service-awards

- Grow Your Own
  - icma.org/grow-your-own

- Staffing for the Future: Does Your Community Need an Equity Officer?
  - icma.org/community-equity

- Alternative Strategies to Reduce Domestic Violence
  - icma.org/reduce-domestic-violence

- Newsroom to YouTube: Scalable Community Engagement
  - icma.org/community-engagement-tools

- Planning, Preparing and Adapting to Climate Change
  - icma.org/preparing-for-climate-change

- Building Resilient Communities
  - icma.org/building-resilient-communities

- Crisis Ready
  - icma.org/crisis-ready

- Ethics and Corruption: What to Do When It Isn’t You
  - icma.org/ethics-corruption

- Power Imbalances: Implementing Integrity in the Workplace
  - icma.org/power-imbalance

- Showcasing Yourself
  - icma.org/showcasing-yourself

- Behavioral Health and Opioid Addiction
  - icma.org/opioid-addiction

- Staffing for the Future: Does Your Community Need an Equity Officer?
  - icma.org/community-equity
ICMA thanks its Strategic Partners for their continued support.

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Nashville

#ICMA2019

For more details, visit icma.org/conference.