



The information provided here is for informational and educational purposes and current as of the date of publication. The information is not a substitute for legal advice. Consult your attorney for advice concerning specific situations.

## **How are SC municipalities engaging with their residents through Citizen Academies?**

City of Clemson  
City of Fountain Inn  
City of Spartanburg

Annual Meeting  
July 19, 2024

@muniassnc | [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc)



# Upstate Citizen Academies Panel

- **City of Clemson** (17,681 pop.)
  - Lindsey Newton, Community Engagement Coordinator
- **City of Fountain Inn** (10,416 pop.)
  - Elizabeth Bridges, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
- **City of Spartanburg** (38,732 pop.)
  - Christopher George, Communications Manager





Municipal Association  
of South Carolina



LEADERSHIP  
**Clemson**

- **Founding Year: 2004**
- **Lead Department: Administration**
- **Ave. # of Participants: 14**
- **Topics: Community Services, Local Government, Civic Engagement, Planning and Zoning, Quality of life, City Services**



Municipal Association  
of South Carolina



# LEADERSHIP Clemson

- **Tracking ROI: Multiple graduates run for City Council and volunteer on Boards/Commissions**
- **Budget: Tuition is \$225 per person. We provide lunch & class materials, pay for the leadership module, and we host a graduation dinner. The program does not pay for itself so we budget for the loss.**
- **Highlights: Full day programming, class project, tuition scholarship available.**





# LEADERSHIP Clemson

## Purpose



- Educate
- Engage
- Empower



Municipal Association  
of South Carolina

# Program Model

Five full day sessions held once per month, January through May.

## Sessions

Each Session Includes:

- Leadership Module
- Tours/ Presentations
- Project Work Time



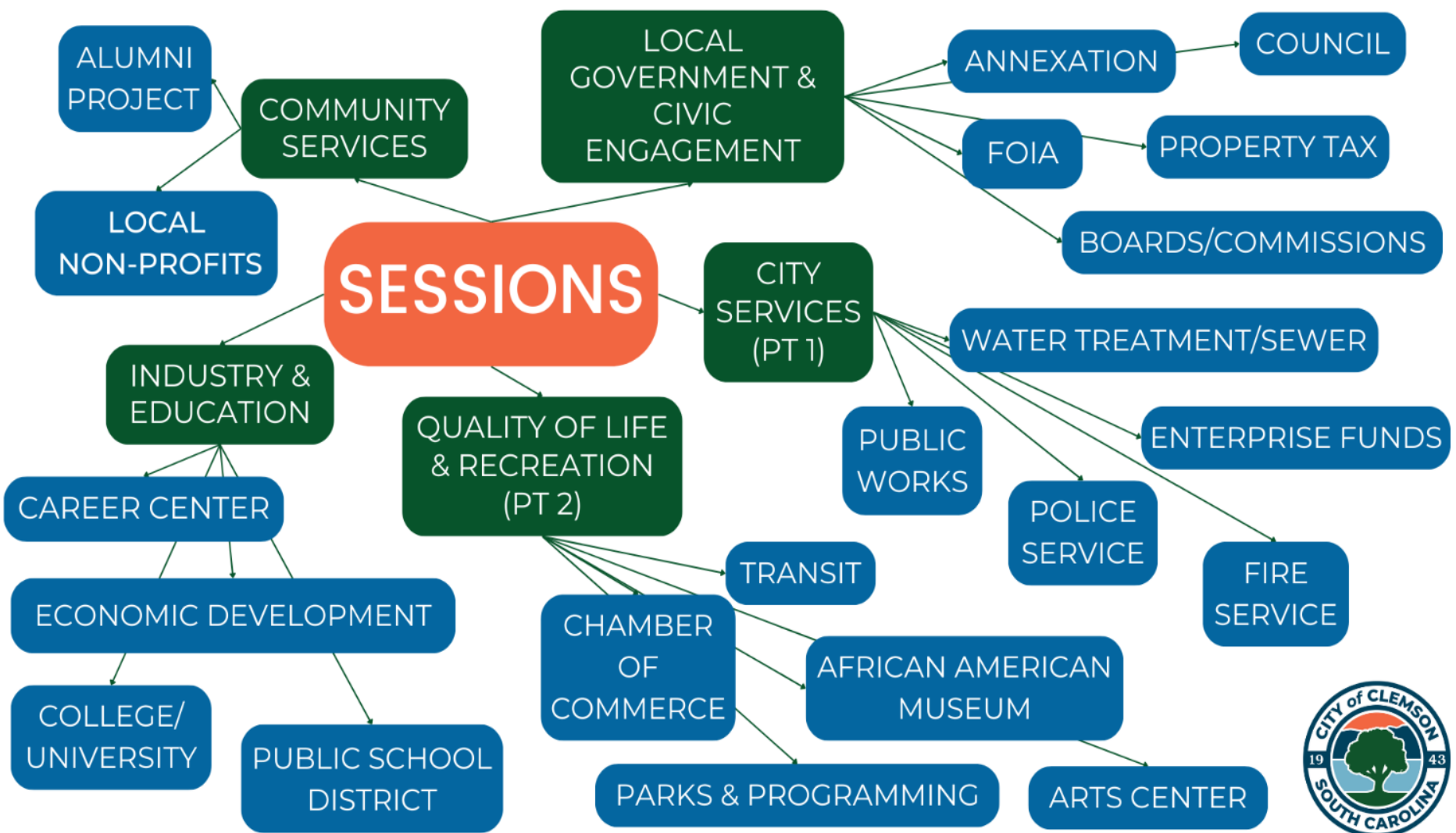
February 15, 2024 at City Hall  
Upper-Level Conference Room  
8:30am – 5:00pm

### Session #2: Local Government & Civic Engagement

8:15	Coffee and Pastries
8:30-9:45	Leadership Module – Mary Bess Johnson, Maxwell Leadership
9:45	Break
9:50-11:15	Local Government 101- Andy Blondeau, City Administrator
11:15	Break
11:20-12:20	Growth & Planning in the City- Nathan Woods, Dir of Planning & Development
12:20-1:00	Lunch and Project Discussion
1:00-1:45	Panel Discussion- Elected Officials – Mayor and Council Members
1:45	Break
1:50-2:20	Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)- Alli Gantte, Deputy City Administrator
2:20-3:15	Annexation and the City- Alli Gantte
3:15	Break
3:20-4:20	City Boards & Commissions 101 –Nathan Woods, Lindsey Newton
4:20	Continued Project Discussion (if needed)



Municipal Association  
of South Carolina







Municipal Association  
of South Carolina



**FOUNTAIN INN**

*est 1886*



**Municipal Association  
of South Carolina**

# Fountain Inn Civics Academy (FICA)

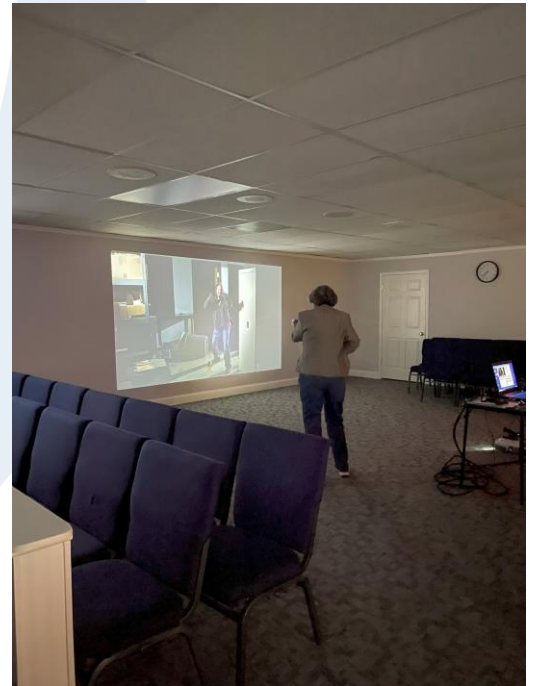
- **Founding Year: 2022**
- **Lead Department: Community Relations**
- **Ave. # of Participants: 10**
- **Topics: Department Function, Government Function**



# Fountain Inn Civics Academy (FICA)

- **Tracking ROI: Multiple Board Members**
- **Budget: \$500 - \$1,000**
- **Highlights: Free to the public, Multi-week Course**





Municipal Association  
of South Carolina



City of  
**SPARTANBURG**  
south carolina



Municipal Association  
of South Carolina

# City of Spartanburg Citizen Academy

- **Founding Year: 2017**
- **Lead Department: Community Relations**
- **Ave. # of Participants: 20-25**
- **Topics: City operations, community and downtown development, local government structure**



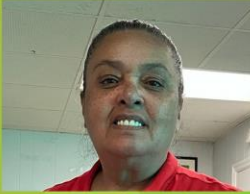
# City of Spartanburg Citizen Academy

- **Tracking ROI: Routine communication on opportunities to serve, graduates added to City email newsletter list**
- **Budget: \$3,000**
- **Highlights: Nearly 20 graduates serve or have served on City Boards & Commissions**





# 2023 Graduates



Carol Cook



Par'ris Fluker



Michelle Gray



Lauren Hampton



Callie Henline



Gail Jones



Cheryl Meeks



Marvel Murray



Kereatha Proctor



Elaine Rhodes



Patti Rubenzer



Alice Setzer



Benjamin Smith



Freddie Smith



Jamie Smith



Tammy Smith



Victoria Steighner



# Questions and Contact

- **City of Clemson**

Lindsey Newton, Community Engagement Coordinator  
[lnewton@cityofclemson.org](mailto:lnewton@cityofclemson.org)

- **City of Fountain Inn**

Elizabeth Bridges, Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
[ebridges@fountaininn.org](mailto:ebridges@fountaininn.org)

- **City of Spartanburg**

Christopher George, Communications Manager  
[cgeorge@cityofspartanburg.org](mailto:cgeorge@cityofspartanburg.org)





# How are SC municipalities engaging with their residents through Citizen Academies?

City of Clemson  
City of Fountain Inn  
City of Spartanburg

Annual Meeting

July 19, 2024

@muniassnc



[www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc)



Municipal Association  
of South Carolina