



Monday, October 26

1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Metro Atlanta Land Bank tour

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Welcome Reception at the GMA office



Tuesday, October 27

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Opening & Keynote address

Welcome

Jim Thornton, GMA Deputy Executive Director

Keynote Presentation

Meaghan Shannon-Vlkovic, Senior Vice President, Programs, Enterprise Community Partners

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 AM - Noon

Concurrent Session: Partnering with the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH)

Austin Chancy, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, Department of Community Affairs

Learn how communities with land banks can leverage the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) to strengthen local housing strategies and expand opportunities for community revitalization. This session will explore how land banks can participate in the GICH program, build cross-sector partnerships, and align land bank activities with broader community housing goals. Participants will gain practical ideas for connecting land, housing, and community development efforts to create lasting local impact.

Concurrent Session: Creative Partnerships: Building Community Connections

Anita Smith Dixon, Executive Director, Community Housing Services Agency, Inc.

Strong community partnerships can help land banks expand their capacity, resources, and impact. This session will explore creative approaches to identifying, establishing, and sustaining relationships with nonprofits, local governments, developers, community organizations, and other partners. Participants will learn practical strategies for building trust, aligning shared goals, and turning partnerships into successful projects that benefit their communities.

Noon – 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Concurrent Session: Land Banks and Homelessness Initiatives

Anita Smith Dixon, Executive Director, Community Housing Services Agency, Inc.

Everett Verner, Executive Director, Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority

Alison Goldey, Executive Director, Savannah-Chatham County Land Bank Authority

Explore how land banks can play a meaningful role in supporting projects that create housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. This session will highlight strategies for using land bank properties, partnerships, and community resources to help advance affordable housing and supportive housing opportunities, while addressing common challenges and considerations for successful projects.



Concurrent Session:

Land Bank 101 & Sunshine Laws

Sara Toering, SJT Partners

New to land banking—or looking for a refresher on the fundamentals? This session covers the essential knowledge every land bank needs to operate effectively, from conducting productive board meetings and navigating sunshine laws to understanding insurance, governance, and day-to-day administrative responsibilities. Participants will leave with practical guidance and tools to strengthen their land bank's foundation.

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 PM – 4:00 pm

General Session: Understanding the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act

Michael Wallace, Legislative Director of Housing, Community and Economic Development, National League of Cities

Molly McLaughlin, GMA Federal Relations Manager

The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act introduces significant changes to federal housing programs, housing supply, and community development. This session will provide an overview of key provisions and explore what the new law may mean for land banks, local governments, and affordable housing efforts. Participants will learn about opportunities, implementation timelines, and practical steps land banks can take to prepare for and engage with new federal programs and resources.

Dinner on Your Own



Wednesday, October 28

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast

9:00 AM – 9 :45 AM

GALBA Business Meeting and Elections

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

Break

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

General Session: Land Banks and Developer Partnerships

Donna Lusk, President & CEO Habitat for Humanity of Georgia, Inc.

Jim Blackstone, SVP of Housing & Operations, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity

Ivey Hall, Executive Director, Macon Milledgeville Regional Habitat for Humanity

Doug Higgins, Square Foot Ministries

Discover how land banks can build effective partnerships with developers to turn vacant and abandoned properties into thriving homes and communities. Using real-world projects with Habitat for Humanity as a case study, this session will explore successful approaches to property transfer, project coordination, affordability, and community impact. Participants will gain practical insights into structuring partnerships and moving projects from land bank inventory to completed homes. This session will be available virtually to Habitat Affiliates across the State of Georgia.

11:00 AM – Noon

Concurrent Session: DCA Funding Opportunities for Land Banks and Affordable Housing

Samanta Carvalho, Director, Homeownership Development and Preservation Division, Department of Community Affairs

Explore funding opportunities available through the Department of Community Affairs to support land banking, property redevelopment, and affordable housing initiatives. This session will provide an overview of available programs, eligibility requirements, and strategies for positioning land bank projects for funding. Participants will gain a better understanding of how state resources can help turn community priorities into successful housing and redevelopment projects.

Concurrent Session: Tools for Blighted Property

Lynda Lee Smith, Entertainment Tourism Alliance of Georgia

Everett Verner, Executive Director, Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority

Alison Goldey, Executive Director, Savannah-Chatham County Land Bank Authority

Learn about the tools and strategies land banks can use to address blighted, vacant, and abandoned properties in their communities. This session will explore practical approaches for identifying problem properties, navigating acquisition and disposition, and coordinating with local partners to move properties toward productive reuse. Participants will gain ideas and resources they can take back to their own communities.

Noon – 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM



General Session: Legislative Landscape: What Land Banks Need to Know

Noah Roenitz, GMA State Relations Manager

Kaylon Day, ACCG Associate, Governmental Affairs

Stay informed on the legislative issues shaping local government, land banking, housing, and community development across Georgia. Presented by the Georgia Municipal Association and ACCG, this session will provide an overview of legislation enacted during the 2026 session, along with a look ahead at emerging issues and potential legislation for the upcoming session. Participants will gain insight into how changes at the State Capitol may affect land banks and the communities they serve, as well as how to stay engaged and prepared.

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

General Session: 16 Years of Impact: Metro Atlanta Land Bank

Chris Norman, Executive Director, Metro Atlanta Land Bank

Take a look at 16 years of land banking in action as the Metro Atlanta Land Bank shares findings from its impact study. This session will highlight key accomplishments, lessons learned, and measurable community outcomes over more than a decade of work. Participants will gain insights into how land bank investments and partnerships can translate into long-term neighborhood revitalization, housing opportunities, and community impact.

Adjourn