

# Land Use and Public Health

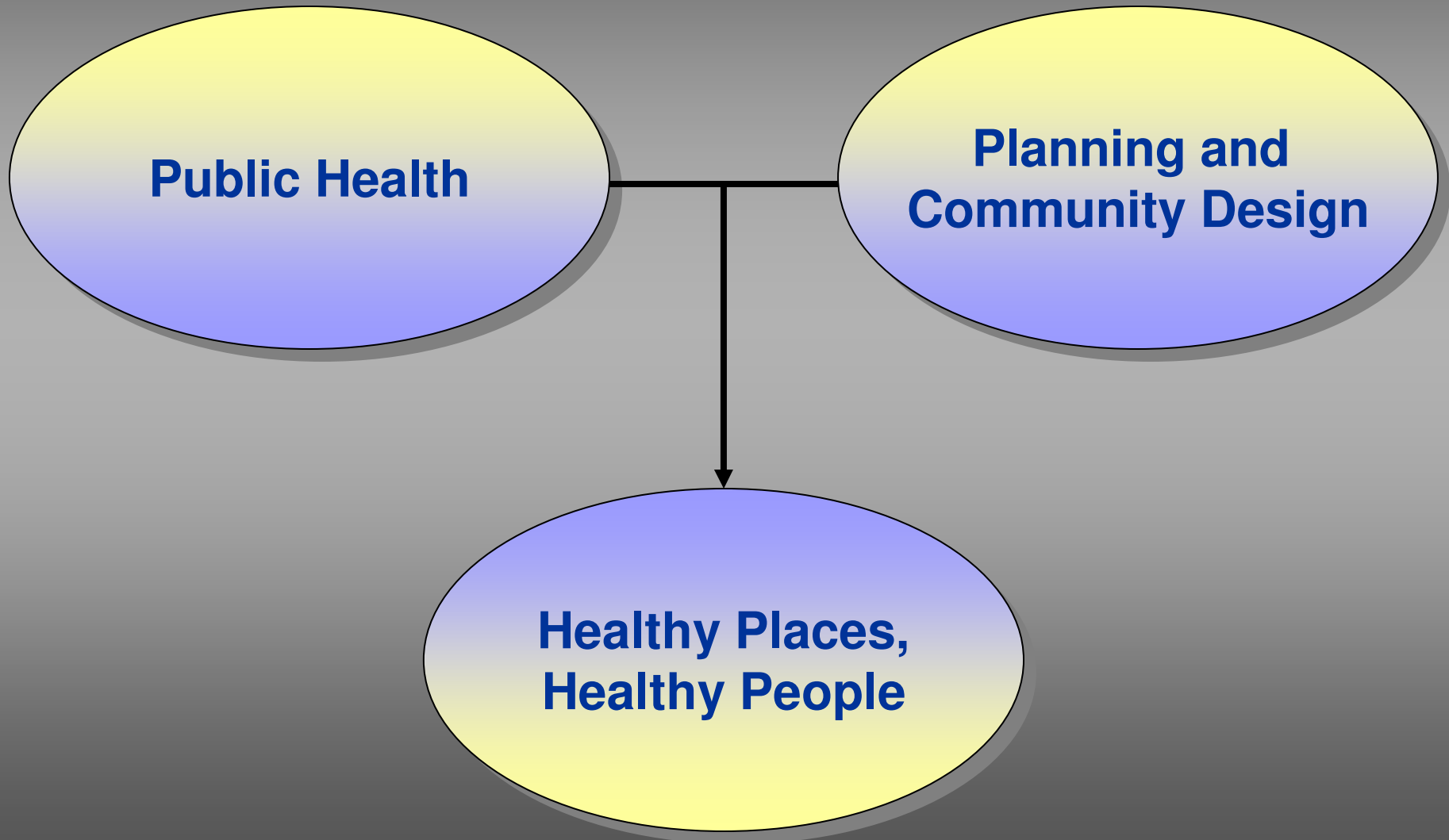
Regional Equity '08

New Orleans

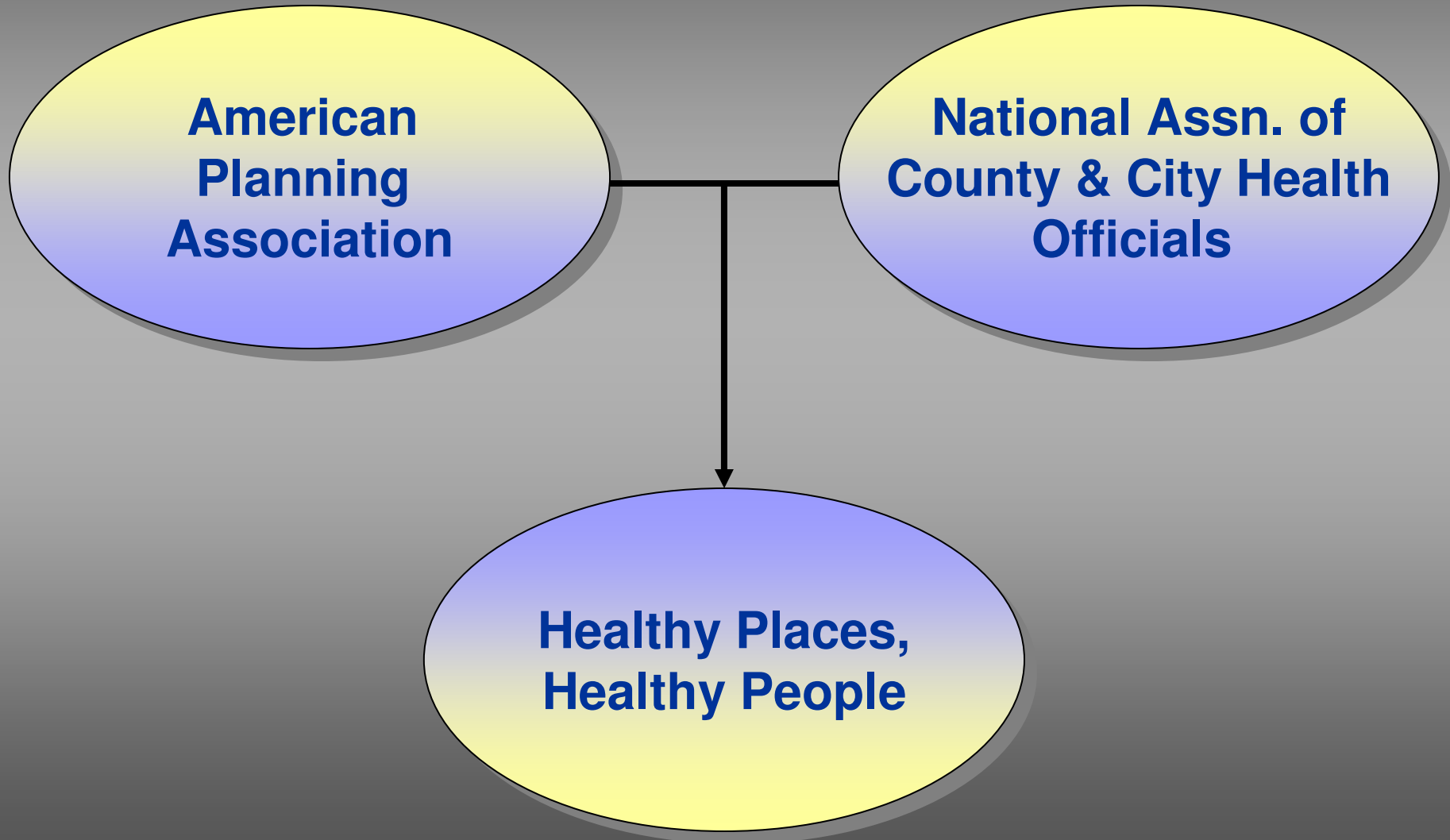
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# A Convergence of Priorities Among Disciplines



# Healthy Collaboration



# How Did This Come About?

- Planning has historic health underpinnings
- Planning & health diverged for decades
- What changed?
  - Smart growth movement took hold
  - Environmental health drew connections between built environment and risks factors
  - 1996 Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity
  - CDC, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The California Endowment, Kaiser Foundation, Kellogg, and other philanthropies got on board
  - Common sense made a comeback!

# Think About It

## **Land use**

- Where we live, work, play, learn

## **Transportation & mobility**

- How we get from A to B to C
- What we live in

## **Housing**

- What we drink

## **Resource protection**

- What we breathe
- What we eat

## **Neighborhood planning**

- How we stay safe
- Who we know

# **Five Strategic Points of Intervention**

- 1. Visioning and goal setting**
- 2. Rethinking planning in all contexts**
- 3. Local implementation tools**
- 4. Site design and development**
- 5. Siting public facilities and capital spending**

# Five Strategic Points of Intervention

1. Visioning and goal setting
2. Rethinking planning in all contexts
3. Local implementation tools
4. Site design and development
5. Siting public facilities and capital spending



# Point 1. Visioning and Goal Setting

- Begins with a discussion of shared values
- Results in a shared image of a community imagines most desired future
- Provides a broad context within which goals are set and plans are developed
- Majority of planning efforts now launched with a visioning exercise (reflective of more citizen participation)



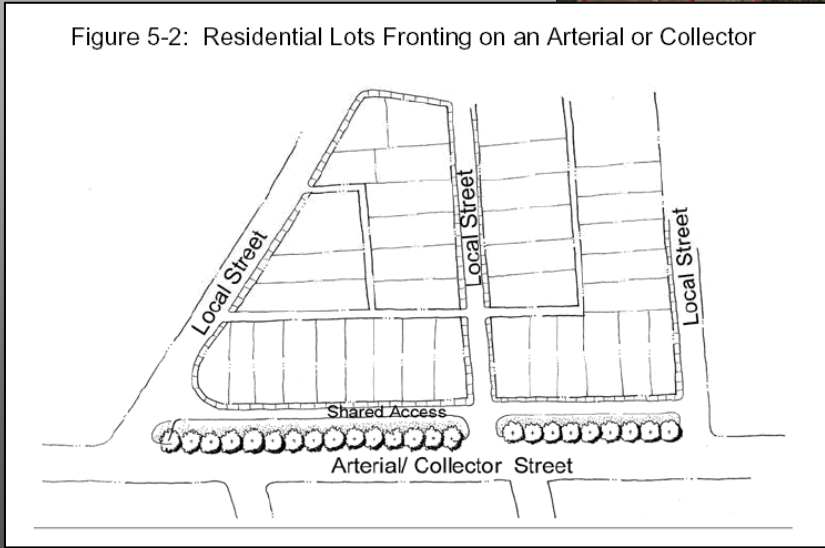
# Point 2. Rethinking State and Local Planning

- Comprehensive plans
- Neighborhood plans
- Redevelopment plans
- Functional Plans
  - Land use
  - Bicycle and pedestrian
  - Transit
  - Streets and circulation



# Point 3. Implementation Tools

- Update zoning, land development regulations or create a form based code
- Pedestrian overlay districts
- Minimum residential density requirements
- Mixed use districts
- Street connectivity requirements
- Town center districts
- TOD and TND



# Point 4. Site Design and Development

- On and off-site pedestrian environment
- Security, lighting, visibility
- Building orientation, setback requirements
- Public art
- Architecture, ground floor setting
- Street trees, landscaping, open spaces
- Well connected routes



# Point 5. Siting Public Facilities and Capital Spending



- Siting and design of public spaces, parks, post offices, libraries serve as walking destinations, community gathering places
- Addresses school location, size, travel mode choice
- Can promote safe routes to schools
- Addresses full spectrum of elderly housing, mobility issues

# Making the Most of What We Know

All aspects of planning have implications for health . . .

And all aspects of health have implications for social and economic equity.

We can do good by planning well.