



Directors' Forum

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Hullabaloo Room, Texas A&M Hotel

College Station, TX

TRAPS DIRECTORS' FORUM

Wednesday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

An exclusive learning and networking event for directors and assistant-level directors in parks and recreation to discuss challenges unique to this level of leadership while building a strong community and planning for the future of the industry.

9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Dr. John Crompton (.2 CEU)

The state of the art in the parks and recreation field is in the heads of senior professionals. It is not written down. The most effective way for best practices to be disseminated is for directors to communicate directly with each other. Accordingly, Dr. Crompton will facilitate a sharing session using a roundtable format, limited to no more than 35 directors or assistant directors.

The Texas Legislature's recent mandate limiting cities' operating budgets to a 3.5 percent annual increase is likely to place greater financial constraints on recreation and park departments than at any time in the past. It is not a temporary phenomenon. The constraint will become more acute each year and will require a radical reappraisal of how services are financed. The Directors' Forum focus will be on identifying

strategies, actions and best practices that participants believe could usefully be embraced by other agencies as the field gears up to meet this new challenge.

1-3:30 p.m.

Neelay Bhatt (.2 CEU)

As agencies in Texas plan for the next decade, this interactive workshop will help them identify trends and next practices as they plan for future shifts in an increasingly unpredictable post-pandemic time. The communities we serve today are increasingly more diverse, and the millennial and Generation Z staff entering the workforce are focused on meaning, not just money. It is critical that organizations lead with values to build a truly innovative and inclusive culture that will sustain and excel. At the same time, technology is changing rapidly and reshaping the way we do things.

This session will include sharing and discussing insights for building an agency culture and mindset that can thrive in a changing landscape as parks and recreation agencies look to changes in community demographics, park and facility designs, program and service delivery, financial sustainability, marketing and storytelling, and innovation in general.

THE DIRECTORS' FORUM IS FOR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP – DIRECTORS, ASSISTANT DIRECTORS AND DIVISION MANAGERS.

Those registered for the Directors' Forum will also be able to attend the Institute's Wednesday All Institute session with Dr. John Crompton, Distinguished Professor at Texas A&M University, at 8 a.m.; the General Session from 3:45-5:30 p.m., which will include the TRAPS Lone Star Legacy Park Awards, Leadership Academy Class of 2020 graduation and keynote speaker Neelay Bhatt; and the Exhibit Hall during the President's Preview from 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Lunch is included. Limited to 40 individuals.



About Dr. John Crompton



John L. Crompton holds the rank of university distinguished professor and is both a regents professor and a Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence at Texas A&M University. He received his basic training in England. His undergraduate work was in physical education and geography at Loughborough College. After teaching high school for a year, he attended the University of Illinois where he completed an M.S. degree in recreation and park administration in 1968. In 1970, he earned another M.S. degree from Loughborough University, majoring in business administration. In 1970, he joined Loughborough Recreation Planning Consultants (LRPC) as their first full-time employee. When he left as managing director in 1974, LRPC had developed into the largest consulting firm in the United Kingdom specializing in recreation and tourism. In 1974, Dr. Crompton came to Texas A&M University. He received his doctorate in recreation resources development in 1977. For some years, he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in both the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Marketing at Texas A&M University, but he now teaches exclusively in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences. Dr. Crompton's primary interests are in the areas of marketing and financing public leisure and tourism services. With approximately 40,000 citations and an h-index of more than 80, Dr. Crompton is the most cited scholar in the world in the tourism and leisure management fields. He is a past recipient of the National Park Foundation's Cornelius Amory Pugsley

award for outstanding national contributions to parks and conservation; the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Colleges National Teacher of the Year award; the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Distinguished Professional award; the NRPA National Literary award; the NRPA Roosevelt award for outstanding research; the Distinguished Colleague and the Distinguished Teaching awards of the Society of Park and Recreation Educators; the Travel and Tourism Research Association's Travel Research and Lifetime Achievement awards; Senior Fellow of the World Leisure Academy; Elected Fellow of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism; and Minnie Stevens Piper Professor for excellent teaching in the state of Texas. He has received the Bush Excellence Award for Public Service (presented personally by President George H.W. Bush); the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching; and Texas AgriLife's Faculty Fellow and Senior Faculty Fellow Awards for exceptional research contributions. He was a member of the NRPA's Board of Trustees for nine years, and is a past president of four professional bodies: the Texas Recreation and Park Society, the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration, the Society of Park and Recreation Educators and the Academy of Leisure Sciences. He is a Board member of the National Recreation Foundation. Dr. Crompton served four years as a city council member for College Station, from 2007-2011, and was mayor pro tem in 2010-2011. He was again elected to the city council in 2019 and currently serves in that position.

About Neelay Bhatt

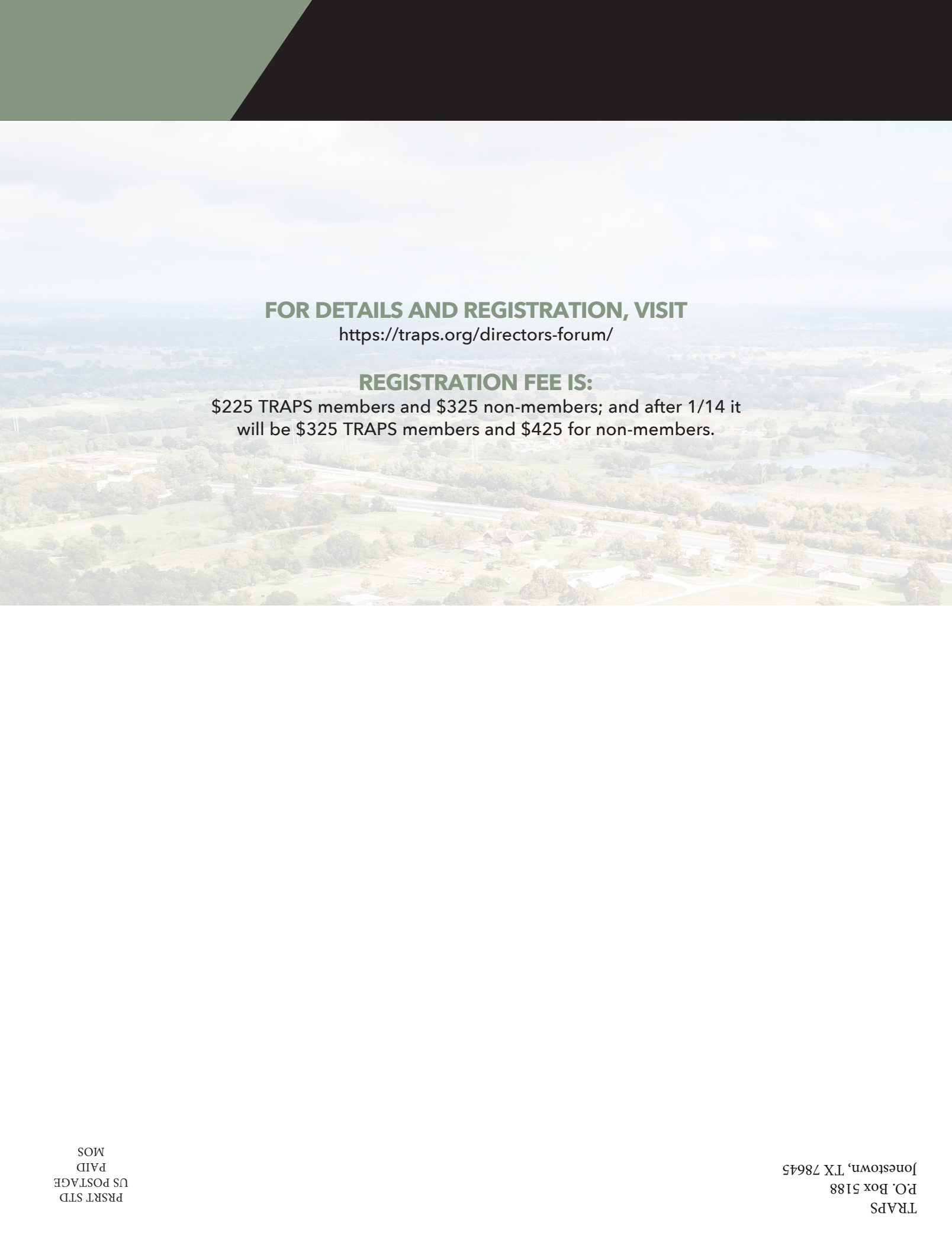


Neelay's career on five continents includes Disney, the Super Bowl and the Olympics, besides several years of consulting, public speaking and training. TEDx, the global platform for ideas, describes him as a business and communications visionary, and his service on the National Recreation and Park Association's Board of Directors served to ensure that "no child is left indoors."

As an alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School and the No. 1 ranked Sports Management Program at Ohio University, his keynotes and talks on magical customer service, trends, empathetic leadership and the art of storytelling have benefited executives, professionals, start-

ups and students from New York State to China and from Europe to New Zealand.

He champions "Ideas Worth Spreading" as the curator and organizer for TEDxIndianapolis, TEDxIndianapolisWomen, TEDxCollegePark (Maryland), besides presenting multiple TEDx talks and coaching TEDx presenters. As the principal at PROS Consulting Inc. (headquartered in Indianapolis), he has led 130-plus park system strategic and master plans, sports facility development projects that have recommended new development and improvements totaling more than \$2 billion USD and are helping shape a better vision for health and wellness, conservation and social equity in communities in Texas and globally. Find him on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/neelay and on Twitter at @neelaybhatt.



FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION, VISIT

<https://traps.org/directors-forum/>

REGISTRATION FEE IS:

\$225 TRAPS members and \$325 non-members; and after 1/14 it
will be \$325 TRAPS members and \$425 for non-members.

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