

Renee Price Bio

Born and raised in Rochester NY, Renee Price earned a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude from Tufts University majoring in urban affairs, and a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University with concentrations in city development planning and environmental planning and design. She also studied at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in the Master of Arts program.

Renee's early work experience in New York involved reclaiming inner-city neighborhoods, land-use planning, historic preservation, affordable housing and environmental impact analyses. Just prior to leaving NY, she served as director of the Joint Legislative Commission on Rural Resources for the General Assembly drafting legislation and reviewing land use statutes. She also remained active in voter registration.

Upon arrival in Orange County in 1990, Renee became deeply involved in sustainable agriculture, travelling to rural areas across NC and the Southeast to promote small family farms, rural economic development and natural resource conservation. She spent two years in Alabama directing a forestry program for minority and traditionally marginalized landowners, and then returned to Hillsborough.

Renee's commitment to the people of Orange County extends over 20 years, giving support to nonprofit organizations and serving on various Orange County advisory boards and task forces. The list includes: Hillsborough Arts Council [Chair], Historical Foundation of Hillsborough & Orange County, Commission for the Environment [Chair], Orange Unified Transportation Board, Planning Board [Vice-Chair], Historic Preservation Commission [Chair], Inter-local Agreement Committee between Hillsborough & Orange County, and Human Relations Commission.

Several years ago, Renee took a leading role in a grassroots battle against a major transportation proposal, the Elizabeth Brady Road Bypass. That project would have damaged the Eno River ecosystem, demolished up to a dozen long-standing homes and destroyed the Historic Occoneechee Speedway. It also would have wasted \$48 million-considering that NC Department of Transportation in the end determined that the project had no purpose or need.

Two years ago, Renee co-founded Free Spirit Freedom, a cultural arts project that explores and celebrates the rich historical diversity of Orange County. She now realizes and appreciates even more inherent value of this community, and will do her best to maintain and improve the quality of place that we hope to enjoy for the foreseeable future and beyond.