

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** MAYOR FISCHER AND CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** DANIELLE MAHONEY, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** MARCH 3 FUTURIST WORKSHOP – WHAT TO EXPECT  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 26, 2025

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As part of the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee's efforts to shape Novi's future, we have scheduled a Futurist Workshop on March 3. This session will be facilitated by professional futurist Rebecca Ryan and is designed to help us explore long-term trends, uncertainties, and potential scenarios that may impact Novi by 2050.

## **What to Expect**

The workshop will be interactive and engaging, encouraging strategic thinking about the forces shaping our community. Below is a condensed overview of the session:

- 1. Welcome & Introduction (15 min)**
  - Icebreaker: Reflection on history vs. future-focused thinking.
  - Participants share their name, role, and a personal experience that inspired their civic involvement.
- 2. Understanding Cognitive Bias (22 min)**
  - Introduction to "Fast" and "Slow" Thinking and how biases shape decision-making.
  - Small groups identify a cognitive bias, create a bumper sticker to represent it, and discuss how to manage it.
  - Groups present their findings to the larger team.
- 3. The Big Sort Strategic Foresight Game (90 min)**
  - Teams analyze and rank emerging trends based on their potential impact and Novi's readiness.
  - The Twist is introduced near the end to challenge assumptions.
  - Results are displayed visually, assessing whether the city is more "Ready" or "Not Ready" for future trends.
- 4. Debrief & Next Steps (20 min)**
  - Reflection on key takeaways and how findings inform long-term strategic planning.
  - Participants complete debrief questions and discuss next steps for Novi 2050.

This workshop will challenge traditional thinking, help identify blind spots, and foster a future-ready mindset as the City plans for long-term success.

The following resources are enclosed:

- NEXT Generation Consulting/[Rebecca Ryan bio](#)
- Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, & Political (STEEP) Trend Cards
- Council Agenda