



American Planning Association  
**New York Metro Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009**

### **President's Message**

It has been a very busy year for the APA New York Metro Chapter. Metro Chapter's sections and committees had a very active year providing our membership with conferences, tours, and panel discussions. In addition, the Chapter made a conscious effort to provide different mechanisms to assist AICP members to gain certification maintenance (CM) credits. Metro Chapter joined with other Chapters to provide for 18 free CM credits through webinars. We have also provided CD-ROM events in each section to provide CM credits including the required ethics and laws credits.

APA New York Metro Chapter's membership has been affected by the recession through a decrease of 149 members to 1,301 in 2008-2009 from our high of 1,450 in 2007-2008. The downturn in the economy has affected the entire New York Metro Region; the state and local governments are trying to figure out how to continue providing services with less financial resources. While some planning firms have seen a slowdown in work, many government planners have been busy working on projects for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Hopefully, the economic recovery will start soon so we can plan for the future of our region.

Last year our past-President Ethel Sheffer described seven goals to guide Metro Chapter into the future. Below are the goals and an update in italics on any progress toward achieving these goals:

1. Engage in targeted fundraising to increase scholarships for students in all the planning schools in the New York metropolitan area. ***The Chapter has not started a targeted fundraising campaign for New York planning schools.***
2. Develop a strategic plan and evaluation mechanism for the Chapter that won't just be put on a shelf, but will reflect the practical needs of members by means of a menu of programs and strategies. ***The Chapter has not initiated strategic plan and evaluation process. However, the Chapter will discuss***
3. Expand the membership of committees to make them more diverse, to enable them to do research on leading planning issues and projects and to be sure that all committees (all staffed by volunteers) have a year-long agenda of meetings and targets. ***The Chapter is achieving this goal by creating a Young Planners Committee as an outgrowth of the Young Planners Group activities this past year.***
4. Develop an educational and advocacy structure for the public and for the media so that New York Metro becomes the place to go for an understanding of planning issues. ***The Chapter has made some contacts in the media and is still working on developing an educational and advocacy structure.***

5. Expand NY Metro's efforts to train community boards and planning officials in new planning techniques and outreach. ***The Chapter did not expand our efforts to train community board or planning officials this year.***
6. Recruit sponsors who can provide financial support for training workshops for members and for communities and planning officials. ***This year the Chapter kicked off a formal sponsorship campaign for our activities. We plan to review and improve this sponsorship campaign in 2009-2010.***
7. Improve and expand the connections with the region's planning schools to enhance the natural and sometimes neglected connections between academics and the professional planner. ***The Chapter is still working to improve the relationships with the planning schools. However, this past year there was an increase in activities with students through our School Relations Committee. The student leaders developed a conference and other educational and social activities. We hope to build upon this momentum in 2009-2010.***

In closing, it is an honor and a privilege to serve the members of the Metro Chapter. We are planning an informative and exciting year for 2009-2010 starting with the Bi-Annual Conference and Student Conference on September 25, 2009. We hope to see you all there.

Best regards,

***Donald Burns, AICP  
President  
May 25, 2009***

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Intergovernmental Affairs

As always, Michael A. Levine, AICP, represented the Chapter at the annual Legislative and Policy conference in Washington, D.C, in October. With a new, progressive administration about to take office, the tone was considerably more optimistic than in past years that APA's agenda regarding mass transit, affordable housing and urban needs would receive federal attention and action. There was also a considerable focus on strategies necessary to respond to the effects of climate change. For the first time in recent memory, there was no Delegate's Assembly at the National Conference. However, there was a "Policy Forum" followed by a working luncheon for all 50 Legislative Liaisons (one for each chapter) to discuss our legislative program for the coming year. Closer to home, priorities for this year include once again distributing a questionnaire to all the major candidates in the upcoming mayoral race and weighing in on the present controversies regarding transit funding. Mr. Levine also serves on the biennial conference committee and has contributed several articles for the *MetroPlanner*.

### Executive Committee—Secretary's Annual Report

Tina Lund served the Executive Committee in maintaining the leadership contact lists and recording Executive Committee meeting minutes.

### Finances – Treasurer's Annual Report, as of May 15, 2009

The Metro Chapter's financial condition continued to be healthy in Fiscal Year 2008-2009. With a full docket of programs, special events, and new requirements coming from national APA, we have held our own.

Thus far, we have successfully reported our finances to National under the new system.

Through a new National program, the AICP certification maintenance costs have been reduced to an annual flat fee of \$995, which represents a significant savings over FY 2007-2008.

We have also sustained income from a solid and growing membership base. We are preparing for our biannual conference (FY 2009-2010).

The following page summarizes our current financial performance and forecast for the fiscal year. Please review it and direct any questions to [treasurer@nyplanning.com](mailto:treasurer@nyplanning.com).

<b>New York Metro Chapter of APA Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget and Results as of May 15, 2009 unless otherwise noted (fiscal year starts October 1st, 2008)</b>				
		<b>7 Mos</b>		
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Year End</b>	
	<b><u>FY 08-09</u></b>	<b><u>Oct 08-Apr 09</u></b>	<b><u>Forecast</u></b>	
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Chapter Dues APA Rebate	48,000	25,589	48,000	
Listings - Consultants/Jobs/Web	11,000	9,050	11,000	
Program Income (grants, event sponsors & admin fees)	9,600	1,473	9,600	
Conference	---	---	---	
AICP Professional Development--Fees/Charges	5,000	2,810	5,000	
Bank Interest	510	123	510	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>74,110</b>	<b>39,045</b>	<b>74,110</b>	
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
New sletter	1,350	211	1,350	
Chapter Conference	1,000	---	1,000	
Annual Meeting	5,000	---	5,000	
Office--Administration	33,000	21,201	33,000	
Office--Supplies & Services	6,450	1,860	6,450	
Office--Computer Hardware & Software	2,300	2,401	2,300	
Office--Rent	8,500	5,040	8,500	
Web	1,000	1,400	1,000	
Travel & Conference Registration	4,000	1,055	4,000	
Program Expenses	5,100	1,036	5,100	
Holiday Party	4,000	5,677	4,000	
AICP Professional Development	600	87	600	
Insurance	1,500	1,796	1,500	
Other Expenses	---	---	---	
Charges to Scholarship Fund				
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>73,800</b>	<b>41,764</b>	<b>73,800</b>	
<b>Net Operating Excess (Deficit)</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>-2,719</b>		
Transfers to Reserve Funds (Projected)	310	-2,719	-2,719	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; TRANSFERS TO RESERVES</b>	<b>74,110</b>	<b>39,045</b>	<b>71,081</b>	
<b>New York Metro Chapter of APA Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget (continued)</b>				
<b>Excess (Deficit) After Transfer to Reserves</b>	<b>---</b>		<b>-</b>	
<b>Weinberg Student Awards Fund (April 30, 2009)</b>		20,371	<b>25,500</b>	
Amount Owed Chapter Account		---		
<b>Checking Account Balance (April 27, 2009)</b>		21,157		
<b>Reserve Fund (April 30, 2009)</b>		15,828		
		36,984		

## Professional Development (PDO)

James Rausse, AICP, began his tenure as Vice President for Professional Development or Professional Development Officer (PDO) in October 2008. The position immediately faced a number of changes and challenges surrounding the Certification Maintenance (CM) system, which APA National was in the process of revamping. A beta version was launched in December 2008, with the full site becoming available in January 2009. Since then, nine events have been approved for 51 CM credits. Through partnerships with like-minded organizations, we have been able to expand the number of CM options for New York Metro Chapter members. Additionally, the Chapter has been hosting Ethics and Law Review courses utilizing the CD-ROMs purchased from APA National. This has given members all over the region an opportunity to claim their ethics and law requirements. So far showings have taken place or been scheduled in New York City, Woodbury, White Plains, Monticello, and Poughkeepsie.

The Chapter also hosted two AICP Exam Review sessions in March and April for the May 2009 exam. Fifty-seven members signed up to take the May 2009 exam, while six members have already signed up for the November 2009 exam. Fifty-seven percent of New York Metro Chapter members passed the November 2008 exam, which was down from 69% for all of 2007 and below the National pass rate of 62%.

A major concern for members has been the delay in having events available for CM credit on APA National's Web site. The delays in posting have primarily been due to APA National's three-to-four-week timeline in making CM credits available online for submitted events and the timeliness of event information from those submitting their events for CM review.

## Programs

Vice President for Programs Neal A. Stone worked with the Executive Committee to attempt a Chapter-wide fundraising initiative to attempt to bolster revenues for programs for the 2009 programming year. The fundraising mail-out was released at the start of 2009, but due to the current economic climate, it is hoped that the responsiveness of potential corporate contributors may be better for 2010 should the Chapter choose to pursue this again.

The Chapter's holiday party was held at "Top of the Times" – a rooftop venue in Times Square owned and operated by the non-profit organization *Common Ground*, whose mission is to bring an end to homelessness. The venue was targeted and selected because of its location, and the ability of the Chapter to support the work/cause of this organization through the expenditure of the facility rental fee. Timothy Marx, Executive Director, was on hand to address the attendees. The holiday party was very well attended with over 225 people at the catered event.

Several other programs were offered to Chapter members in the winter and spring, most notably for AICP members, the Law & Ethics Series that provided several dates and venues over eight weeks throughout the various geographic Sections of the Chapter. The purpose of implementing the Law & Ethics Series was to ensure that AICP members have the opportunity to receive these specific Certification Maintenance (CM) credits in a local location, so that they are not compelled to leave their Chapter Section to obtain these CM credits elsewhere.

A conference committee was established in February for the Chapterwide Student & Professional Biennial Conference to be held in September. To date, 10 discussion panels are in place covering topics that include bicycle and pedestrian-friendly design, sustainability and energy, planning law, ethics in planning, housing, transportation megaprojects, economic development, young planners, geographic information systems, and preparing for the 2010 US Census. One keynote speaker has been confirmed; two are tentative; and others are still actively being sought.

Other CM-eligible events offered by the Chapter have included the online monthly webcast presentations for AICP credits, which have occurred throughout 2009 and shall continue to the end of the year.

The Chapter's Annual Awards and General Meeting will be held at the Times Square Alliance Visitor Information Center in the old Embassy Movie Theater on Seventh Avenue between 46th & 47th Streets on Monday, June 1, 2009, at 6:30pm.

## **MetroPlanner**

The Chapter's bi-monthly newsletter continues to be prepared and delivered in an all-digital format. In terms of content, the primary objectives have been to bring reports of Chapter events to the membership, to report on position papers prepared by the Chapter's committees and to highlight planning projects and programs across Long Island, New York City and the lower Hudson Valley. An effort has been made to increase the use of event and project photographs and graphics to literally provide a more comprehensive picture of member activities and projects. Committees have increased coverage of their events. Ideas for coverage and submission of articles are always welcome.

## **Area Representation**

We are very proud that the New York Metro Chapter has active geographic sections whose representatives accomplished much during this past year.

### **Long Island Section**

The Long Island Section had a busy 2008-2009 year including the following:

- Co-sponsored the Suffolk Planning Federation's Fall Planning Conference where nine sessions were offered on various land use and planning topics. The event was attended by 170 professional planners and planning and zoning board members.
- Offered audio/web and CD-based training programs to members for professional training and AICP certification maintenance in Nassau County and the East End.
- Hosted the second annual "East End Planning Conference" at Southampton College attended by 80-90 professional planners and planning and zoning board members. Two panels discussed east-end agricultural economics and land use issues.
- Presented the "Arthur Kunz Memorial Breakfast" with 70 attendees, where three entry-level planners were awarded scholarships to attend the 2009 national APA planning conference. Babylon Town Supervisor Steve Bellone was the guest speaker.

Our goals for the 2009-2010 year include these and other programs:

- Assist with the planning, organization and execution of the annual Suffolk and Nassau County Planning Federation conferences. Coordinate the two conference programs.
- Expand the audio/web and CD-based training programs for professional training and AICP certification maintenance to other parts of Long Island.

- Host the third annual East End Planning Conference in the spring and other East End training programs throughout the year.
- Award scholarships to entry-level planners at the Arthur Kunz Memorial Breakfast.
- Continue discussions with Long Island colleges toward establishing a planning degree program.
- Provide considered opinions on planning issues in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
- Host social events for planners.

### **Hudson Valley East Section**

Lukas Herbert, the Hudson Valley East Director focused the section's efforts on expanding opportunities for members who are AICPs to obtain the necessary CM credits to maintain their AICP credentials.

Many of the professional planners who live and/or work in the area north of the city have limited options when it comes to attending CM courses since the majority of CM courses so far have been offered in the city, which may not be practical for planners in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties. Since traveling to the National Conference can be a huge expense necessitating taking time off from work, the section has strived to make enough courses available to people so that the necessary credits can be obtained without needing to attend the conference.

Part of this effort has been the development of a monthly CM credit program offered at the Westchester County Department of Planning. Additional program sites are currently being sought, particularly in the northern end of the chapter area.

### **Hudson Valley West Section**

Alan J. Sorensen, AICP, the Hudson Valley West Director, spoke at several regional planning conferences and has continued to focus on regional planning issues including eco-tourism and transportation planning. Mr. Sorensen spoke at the following regional conferences:

- Catskills Local Government Days at Frost Valley YMCA, Denning, NY. Conducted a workshop regarding scenic byways. The workshop included a case study of the effort to designate NYS Route 97 as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. Mr. Sorensen discussed the consensus-building techniques that were used to successfully bring together 10 municipalities spanning three counties (Delaware, Sullivan and Orange) with the common goal of securing scenic byway designation for NYS Route 97 and the on-going efforts of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway not-for-profit board in managing the scenic byway.
- Main Street Institute, Liberty, New York. Conducted workshop that included case studies of successful Main Street revitalization efforts in the Hudson Valley Region. Also discussed the types of programs that are now available to assist communities with their Main Street Revitalization efforts such as the New York Main Street program, which Mr. Sorensen helped to create in his former role as Assistant Commissioner of Public Policy at NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal.
- Orange County Citizen Foundation, Newburgh, NY. Participated in a panel discussion regarding opportunities for Transit-Oriented-Developments within Orange County with a focus on proposed plans to bring commuter rail to the villages of Walden and Montgomery along Wallkill Valley Branch line from Campbell Hall to the Village of Walden.

- CM AICP Credit Workshops, Sullivan County, NY. In conjunction with Sullivan County and Sullivan Renaissance, conducted several CM workshops to enable AICP members to obtain CM Credits by participating in workshops that were conducted in Sullivan County. These included a September 2008 Workshop with Randell Arendt and 2009 video workshops sponsored by the APA New York Metro Chapter and held within Sullivan County.

Goals for 2009-2010 are:

- To coordinate with Orange, Sullivan, Rockland and Ulster counties to conduct regional planning forums to enable AICP members to earn the CM credits within the Hudson Valley West area.
- To invite the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to discuss its plans for Stewart International Airport, including, but not limited to, the possibility of a regional rail connection to the airport.
- To invite the MTA to discuss opportunities for Transit-Oriented-Developments within West-of-Hudson communities.

## COMMITTEES REPORT

### Aviation Committee

The Aviation Committee met several times and participated in industry related events.

We maintain a Google group for online communication and document sharing. One highlight was the March, 2009, symposium on NextGen aviation system development sponsored by The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the FAA, the NY Partnership, and the Regional Plan Association. The group discussed the need for bringing GPS and other current systems to revitalize the air traffic control system and other aspects of air travel.

A visit to Stewart International Airport is planned for sometime in the coming months.

### Awards Committee

The Awards Committee solicited nominees for the six categories of awards for which it is responsible. These are the Lawrence Orton, the Paul Davidoff, the Meritorious Achievement, the William H. Whyte, the Journalism and the Andrew Haswell Green Award (*formerly known as the Distinguished Service Award*). In addition, the Committee solicits the Robert C. Weinberg Student Awards from each of the chapter's four Graduate Urban Planning Programs: Pratt Institute, Hunter College, Columbia and New York University. It considers a wide variety of nominees for the six categories and seeks to recognize the best projects, initiatives, organizations and individuals in the planning field.

This year's awards, bestowed at the Chapter's June 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, are as follows:

*Lawrence M. Orton Award:* **Kent L. Barwick**

*Andrew Haswell Green Award:* **Frank S. Fish, FAICP**

*Meritorious Achievement Award:* **Access to the Region's Core**

*Paul Davidoff Award:* **West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing**

*Journalism Award:* **CITYLAND**

*William H. Whyte Award:* **TKTS/Duffy Square**



*Robert Ponte Award:* **Joseph S. Salvo**

*Robert C. Weinberg Award*

**Stefanie Lynn Garry**, Columbia University

**Michael Keane**, Hunter College

**Courtney Wolf**, New York University

**Rachel Berkson**, Pratt Institute

## **Economic Development Committee**

The Economic Development Committee hosted a presentation by New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Executive Director Seth Pinsky (held at the AIA Center for Architecture in September of 2008), focusing on the role that EDC is playing in the development community in New York. The event was well attended.

The Economic Development Committee is looking to recruit new membership in the upcoming year with the goal of increasing our membership to be able to employ resources to generate more economic development events. We put together four informative panel discussions during the year from July 1, 2007 thru June 30, 2008: Renaissance City, Newark, New Jersey; NYC 2030 Comparative Practices (co-hosted with the AIANY Planning and Urban Development); Can NYC build affordably?; and Urban Agriculture.

The mission of the Economic Development Committee is to develop and host panel discussion on issues having both an economic development and planning focus to help understand the relationship between these forces that shape development projects. We have been looking to partner with multiple groups in the City to gain greater knowledge of the development community, to expand overall interactions between APA and other area organizations and to share in the presentation of projects and issues that cross over multiple APA areas of interest.

In the upcoming months, the APA Economic Development Committee plans to continue its pursuit of offering access to panels providing insight on interesting topics. In addition, it will support APA New York Metro Chapter initiatives.

## **Environmental Committee**

The core group of the Environmental Committee met several times over the past year to discuss issues, plans and programs for 2008/2009. New members also continue to sign-up increasing committee membership and opportunities. In February 2009, the committee met for the purposes of identifying issues and inputs related to the City's CEQR Technical Manual Update, which is due out at the end of 2009. The committee also represented the APA New York Metro Chapter at the Mayor's Office Stakeholder meeting which was held on May 20th for the purposes of reviewing and discussing manual update issues. In April 2009, the committee also held a panel discussion on the Fresh Kill Landfill GEIS. Forthcoming potential committee events include a panel discussion on protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the urban setting. In addition, a 2009 summer outing is being planned (check the APA website for details). The committee continues to reach out to new members who can contact [rwhite@akrf.com](mailto:rwhite@akrf.com) or [sw@starrwhitehouse.com](mailto:sw@starrwhitehouse.com) if they are interested in becoming part of the committee.

## **Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee**

The Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee held several informative events and lively discussions this year.

In September 2008, we led a tour of Roosevelt Island that was attended by over 40 people. We visited some of the new housing that has been built and held discussions on the history, planning, population growth, open space needs and transportation challenges of the Island. The tour was approved for certification maintenance credit for AICP members.

In January 2009, we studied supportive housing and toured two buildings of this type, the Christopher in Manhattan run by Common Ground and Intervale Green in the Bronx developed by WHEDco.

In March 2009, we learned about Habitat for Humanity's efforts in New York City to provide affordable ownership units to those willing to contribute sweat equity. We toured its first large-scale condo project in Brooklyn, a 41-unit development nearing completion, located on Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway.

In May or June 2009 we will tour Arverne, a redeveloped area of the Rockaways.

Other topics that we studied and discussed this year include the 2008 Housing & Vacancy Survey, inclusionary housing, and the impacts of the present economic downturn on the housing market. These discussions led us to develop a session on neighborhood stabilization for the upcoming Fall Chapter Conference.

## **Planners for Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee**

The Planners for Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee has essentially been on hold for the last year. New leadership needs to be identified, and activities for 2009/2010 will be focused on developing a renewed strategy. Anyone interested in leading this Committee should contact Vice President for Committees Michael Marrella at Michael.Marrella@parks.nyc.gov.

## **School Relations Committee**

In last year's annual report, one of the goals of the President was the following:

"Improve and expand the connections with the region's planning schools to enhance the natural and sometimes neglected connections between academics and the professional planner."

In 2008-2009, the School Relations Committee addressed this goal. In previous years, the School Relations Committee focused primarily on one event during the year, which is the annual Student Studio Presentations event. The event successfully took place this year on May 8th, but the School Relations Committee hosted many more events this year, catalyzed by the expansion of the committee to more than just the School Relations Coordinator. In 2008-2009, the School Relations Coordinator recruited first- and second-year student representatives from each of the four local planning schools – Columbia, Hunter, NYU and Pratt – to serve on the School Relations Committee.

This year, the School Relations Committee organized a program of events for the year. The student representatives collaborated with each other and executed events that allowed for students across the schools to interact and learn from each other. Program highlights include:

### **Conference and Panel Discussion Events**

#### September 19, 2008

Student Conference, "Planning Ahead: Opportunities for Professional Growth"

Number of Participants: Over 100

NYU Wagner and Columbia University's urban planning programs joined together to host a half-day student conference with sponsorship from the APA New York Metro Chapter. The primary objective of the conference was to provide networking opportunities for current students and planning professionals in the New York City area. The event also aimed to increase collaboration between the region's planning schools and the New York Metro Chapter. The conference was conceived, organized, and executed by two student representatives, Nikki Georges-Clapp from Wagner and Catherine Kim from Columbia.

The conference began with a catered Welcome Reception and Career Fair. The organizations that participated in the Career Fair included New York City agencies, university research centers and planning firms. The Career Fair was followed by welcoming remarks from Donald Burns, New York Metro Chapter President, and four student presentations. Two students from Columbia and two students from Wagner presented a brief overview of their internships from the previous summer.

After the student presentations, a keynote panel consisting of alumni from Wagner and other planning programs discussed how they navigated the complex world of urban planning in New York City. The four breakout sessions each covered specialized topics in the field of urban planning. A number of Wagner's alumni and adjunct faculty participated in these panel discussions as well as members of the New York Metro Chapter's Executive Committee. A Networking Happy Hour held at the Center for Architecture followed the conference.

#### February 27, 2009

New Planner and Certifications Panel Discussion

Number of Participants: Over 50

More than 50 students from the local planning schools attended this event at NYU's Kimmel Center to hear four planners, some of whom are recent planning school graduates themselves, discuss certification options and their experiences in the job market. The panel shed light on the anxiety faced by planning students trying to navigate the job market during the economic climate. The panelists offered their experience and suggestions, such as becoming AICP- and LEED-certified to distinguish oneself in the job market.

After the discussion, attendees had the chance to attend the Chapter Spring Mixer at Apple Restaurant and Bom Bar near NYU. Keeping with the theme of the earlier panel, attendees at the mixer were asked to write on their nametags if they were AICP- or LEED-certified in order to facilitate discussion between planning students and young professionals.

## **Professional Open House Events**

The committee also organized a new series of professional open houses at various agencies within the city. Each school took the lead to organize a month-long series of open house events that focused on a specific specialty within planning. The Professional Open Houses offered students the opportunity to visit firms and organizations across the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Practicing professionals at each agency dedicated two hours to give a brief tour of their facilities and a presentation of their organization's projects. A Q & A session followed. The open house events gave students the opportunity to meet with practicing professionals and to learn about their role in the larger context of planning. Below are the open house events that took place:

**March 2009: Transportation Open Houses** (Organized by NYU Student Representatives)

March 6, 2009—NYC Department of Transportation - Department of Pedestrian Projects, Department of Planning and Sustainability, Number of Participants: 16

March 20, 2009—Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates, Number of Participants: 9; NYC Transit (MTA), Operations Planning, Number of Participants: 8

March 27, 2009—Transportation Alternatives, Number of Participants: 14. (Transportation Alternatives offered a brief presentation at their office and then site visits of the Ninth Avenue bicycle lanes, Broadway pedestrian spaces, and/or Madison Square Park.) Projects for Public Spaces, Number of Participants: 8 (Students were invited to join the firm's happy hour.)

**April 2009—Environmental and Economic Development Open Houses** (Organized by Pratt Institute and Columbia University Student Representatives)

April 10, 2009—Sustainable South Bronx, Number of Participants: 10

April 17, 2009—AKRF Environmental, Planning and Engineering Consultants, Number of Participants: 14; LISC NYC, Number of Participants: 10

Friday, April 24—New Yorkers for Parks, Number of Participants: 7; New York City Economic Development Corporation, Number of Participants: 16

April 28, 2009—Appleseed, Number of Participants: 5

## **Annual Student Studio Presentations Event**

May 8, 2009, Anticipated Number of Participants: 100

This annual event is a longtime tradition of the Chapter and serves as a unique opportunity for students from all the NYC-area planning schools - Columbia, Hunter, NYU, Pratt, and Rutgers - to share their knowledge and exchange experiences through presentations of selected studio projects from each of the five schools. Each school takes turns hosting the event. This year the event was hosted by Pratt Institute. The event included time for networking prior to the presentations.

Four senior professionals - Michelle de la Uz from the Fifth Avenue Committee, David Fields from Nelson/Nygaard and the Chapter's Transportation Committee Co-chair,

Len Garcia-Duran from the Department of City Planning, Staten Island Borough Office, and Tom McKnight from the Economic Development Corporation - were selected to serve as panelists. They reviewed each presentation and gave feedback to the students.

The five schools presented the following studio projects:

- Columbia University, "Revitalization Opportunities in Bedford-Stuyvesant"
- Hunter College, "Access Roosevelt Island"
- New York University, "Abu Dhabi Car Sharing Program"
- Pratt Institute, "Community Power: An Affordable and Sustainable Plan for the Broadway Triangle"
- Rutgers University, "Feasibility of Rail Access to Liberty State Park"

### **Plans for 2009-2010**

The School Relations Committee is taking an active role in planning the Chapter's Biennial Conference in September. The SRC is organizing a session track geared towards students and young professionals.

The SRC also plans to organize more Open House events and make this a permanent program of the SRC. The group also anticipates organizing social events for planning students such as happy hours and neighborhood tours.

## **Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee and the New York City Section have collaborated to produce a very active year focused on promoting professional dialogue, providing technical guidance in the form of policy statements, and offering lectures on topics of interest to our members. Key events this year included facilitating a TOD training seminar, participating in the 23rd Street PlaNYC Workshop, hosting the Director of Transportation for the City of New Haven, and initiating a Policy Task Force to develop chapter responses to major initiatives underway throughout the region. We also reunited with our engineering peers for our annual collaborative dinner with the New York City Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers with presentations on BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) in New York City and the prioritization of transportation services in Lower Manhattan. And, because all work and no play makes planners pretty dull, we organized the third annual Planner's Scavenger Hunt, challenging our members to show how much they know about New York City.

Anyone interested in joining the Transportation Committee or would like to present an interesting project should contact the committee chairs: David Fields ([planman72@yahoo.com](mailto:planman72@yahoo.com)) and Janet Jenkins ([jjenkins@eng-wongtaub.com](mailto:jjenkins@eng-wongtaub.com)).

## **Urban Design Committee**

The Urban Design Committee's presence is largely virtual with discussions mostly limited to the online world. The Urban Design Committee's online discussion group has focused this past year on Earthday 2009, Ecology Technology, and the general umbrella topic of green design. The Committee intends to continue discussions on Density; Disadvantage & Capital; Urban Design; Art, Architecture and Planning; and Design DATA.

Additionally, the committee is working on a survey to help guide future discussions which can be found online at: <http://www.communitydesign.net/urbandesigncommittee/survey>

## **Waterfront Committee**

With New York continuing to experience enormous changes along its waterfronts, the APA Waterfront Committee has had an exciting year filled with committee presentations and discussions, analysis and comments on proposed rezonings, collaboration with other civic groups in the Governors Island Alliance, and cooperation with our colleagues in AIA and ASLA on New York City's Waterfront Zoning.

The Waterfront Committee has held lively committee discussions on major waterfront rezoning proposals such as Willets Point and Coney Island, the state of environmental regulations impacting waterfront planning, and the evolving issues of climate change. Outside the City, we had presentations on best waterfront practices from the Netherlands and participated in a scoping session by the NY State's Sea Level Rise Task Force.

In terms of public events, the Waterfront Committee organized a presentation and panel discussion at the Center for Architecture in cooperation with AIA and ASLA about proposed revisions to the City's waterfront zoning text and design standards. Following the panel, we participated in drafting a joint AIA/APA/ASLA statement summarizing our comments, which was read at the City Planning Commission's public hearing about the proposed amendment and resulted in modifications to the text.

The committee's co-chair, Bonnie Harken, represents APA on the Governors Island Alliance (GIA), a coalition of civic and professional groups led by RPA committed to public access, memorable parks and public spaces, and appropriate reuse of the Island and its historic structures. GIA was active in securing continued funding for the Island despite budget pressures at the City and State, and has commented extensively this year on the progress of design for Governors Island's public waterfront park and promenade.

The Committee plans to continue to address these kinds of issues in the coming year and would welcome your input. In addition, we will be planning a waterfront outing over the summer and invite you to join us.

Please contact co-chairs Bonnie Harken ([harken@nautilus-international.com](mailto:harken@nautilus-international.com)) or Bob Balder ([Robert\\_Balder@Gensler.com](mailto:Robert_Balder@Gensler.com)) for more information.

## **Young Planners Group**

In 2007, National APA formed a Young Planners Group (YPG) Task Force. The task force identifies young planners as those just entering the workforce or with one-to-five years of experience and generally under the age of 35. Young planners have a range of needs that APA is not currently addressing. To excel individually and lead collectively in the field of planning, young planners need guidance, resources and professional development.

The task force recommends local chapters and young planners to work together in addressing the needs of young planners by encouraging chapters to form their own Young Planners Group. Several local chapters across the nation have started their own YPG, including the New York Metro Chapter.

In September 2008, Reyna Alorro, a member of National APA's Young Planners Group (YPG) Task Force and a New York Metro Chapter member, presented the background and mission of the YPG to the Executive Committee and submitted an article regarding the task force that was published in the September/October 2008 MetroPlanner, to start raising awareness of the YPG movement.

The Chapter recognized the need to get young planners involved and, to gather interest within the NY Metro Chapter, the Chapter organized two quarterly mixers hosted by the informal Young Planners Group. The first mixer took place on October 23, 2008, at Vig 27. The second mixer took place on February 27, 2009, at Apple Restaurant and Bom Bar. Both events were open to all chapter members; however the majority of attendees were new professionals and students. The latter event encouraged those with AICP and/or LEED certification and those wishing to take the AICP or LEED exam to attend and share information. Both events were well attended with over 100 participants.

The Chapter's Young Planners Group held a formal Kick-Off Meeting on April 16th, 2009. This led to the formation of several committees that have been charged to create a proposal of programs and events for the upcoming year. The committees are: Events, Mentorship, Online Networking, Outreach and Publicity. Each committee consists of three to 14 members. The Young Planners Group will present their proposal at the May 18th Executive Committee meeting, and on May 28th, the Young Planners Group will host its first formal event at Rebar in DUMBO.

## **Zoning Committee**

The Zoning Committee meets to discuss current zoning issues and initiatives of interest to planning professionals in New York. Our membership includes a wide range of expertise and experience with architects, lawyers and planners from government, the private sector and non-profit organizations.

After many months of planning and discussion, the Zoning Committee hosted a panel discussion in January 2009 on the interaction of the Department of City Planning (which writes the Zoning Resolution) and the Department of Buildings (which interprets and enforces the Zoning Resolution). Panelists included representatives from Department of City Planning, Department of Buildings, American Planning Association and the American Institute of Architects.

Our committee meetings over the past year have included discussions of the proposed changes to the City's Inclusionary Housing program and of the expanding use of Special District controls across the city. The Committee also hosted presentations by the Department of City Planning on its initiatives to institute zoning requirements for bicycle parking, as well as the City's ambitious proposal for the rezoning and redevelopment of Coney Island. The Committee prepared testimony to the City Planning Commission and City Council on both of these initiatives.

If you have any suggestions for new issues to look at or if you would like to participate in the committee, please contact [Zachary.Bernstein@friedfrank.com](mailto:Zachary.Bernstein@friedfrank.com)

## **SPECIAL LIAISON INITIATIVES**

### **New York/New Visions (NYNV)**

NYNV has continued to meet regularly to discuss the ever-shifting plans at Ground Zero, as well as some PlaNYC 2030 initiatives throughout the city. Of foremost importance is the public realm around lower Manhattan for pedestrians, workers, cyclists, visitors, cars, and buses. Given the current fluctuations in the economy, NYNV has recently been discussing the public realm as it relates to the proposed construction schedule of the WTC buildings. For instance, if some buildings are put on hold for years—even decades—what will temporarily take their place at the construction sites, and how might the public realm (streets, sidewalks, plazas) be affected?

Highlights of NYNV's work include:

- January meeting to see the newly completed 7 World Trade Center and tour the Silverstein architects' offices, including plans for WTC 2, 3, and 4.
- Meetings throughout the year with representatives from:
  - MTA
  - Memorial Foundation
  - Amalgamated Transit Union
  - Private security consultants
  - Downtown Alliance
  - Transportation consultants
  - Spring charrette examining larger downtown area and initiating the concept of a tourist bus loop/tram

Still of prime importance to the group has been the issue of tour buses: where will they drop off passengers? Where will they park? How can we reduce their impact on the memorial site, as well as the inevitable environmental impacts as well? These are the issues we will continue to refine and revisit as our work continues.

### **Fine Arts Federation Affiliation**

Although the APA New York Metro Chapter is a constituent organization of the Fine Arts Federation (FAF), we have been an inactive member in recent years. The APA Executive Board made the decision in early 2009 to once again become active and has appointed Sue Tilden, as our delegate to the FAF.

Mrs. Tilden has been attending the FAF Board Meetings and submits a monthly report on the proceedings to Michael Marrella and Don Burns. The FAF is a nonprofit organization founded in 1895 to "create and defend art and architecture citywide." It coordinates united action advocating for fine arts in the public realm and formulates positions expressive of the keen interest held by its constituent organizations for all that is art- and urban design-related in New York City. Once a year the FAF seeks highly qualified New York residents for nomination to the Art Commission and also proposes individuals for consideration as members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

FAF interest in public art, architecture, planning, parks and historic preservation ranges from such things as whether or not to endorse various public art installations such as Art Bridge to pondering the impact of changes in Department of Building's development review process on the form of the city. The FAF annually hosts two meetings on relevant issues regarding the quality of life in New York for which it hopes to solicit the input and participation of the APA New York Metro Chapter.