



American Planning Association
New York Metro Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

ANNUAL REPORT

2011-2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last Annual Report as Chapter President. It has been a rewarding four years representing the Chapter to the rest of APA. We have weathered the storm from the downturn in the economy, when the Chapter lost members and revenues, and emerged much stronger.

2011-2012 Year in Review

The 2011 year started with the Biennial Conference at Columbia University. The conference was attended by about 280 planners, students, and other professionals. Special thanks to the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation - Urban Planning Program for co-hosting the conference. The conference featured a wonderful keynote presentation on the Vision 2020 Waterfront Plan by Amanda Burden, FAICP, Chair of the New York City Planning Commission. The following plenary session, *Robert Moses: Visionary or Villain* inspired much debate during and after the conference. The afternoon breakout sessions were both interesting and informative and the overall conference was a success. We also had a successful Holiday Party at Stout in Midtown Manhattan.

On November 30, 2011, APA NY Metro Chapter submitted testimony to the New York City Planning Commission in support of establishing an HIV/AIDS Memorial Park at West 12th Street and 7th Avenue adjacent to the former St. Vincent's Hospital. The Rudin Management company proposes to redevelop the hospital site for residential uses converting some buildings and demolishing others. The Chapter feels that the location is an appropriate location for an AIDS Memorial given the historic role St. Vincent's played in NYC's AIDS crisis in the 1980s.

In March 2012, I moderated a panel entitled "How Planning Can Lead Economic Development" at the Kunz Memorial Scholarship Breakfast at Molloy College's Suffolk Center at Republic Airport in Farmingdale.

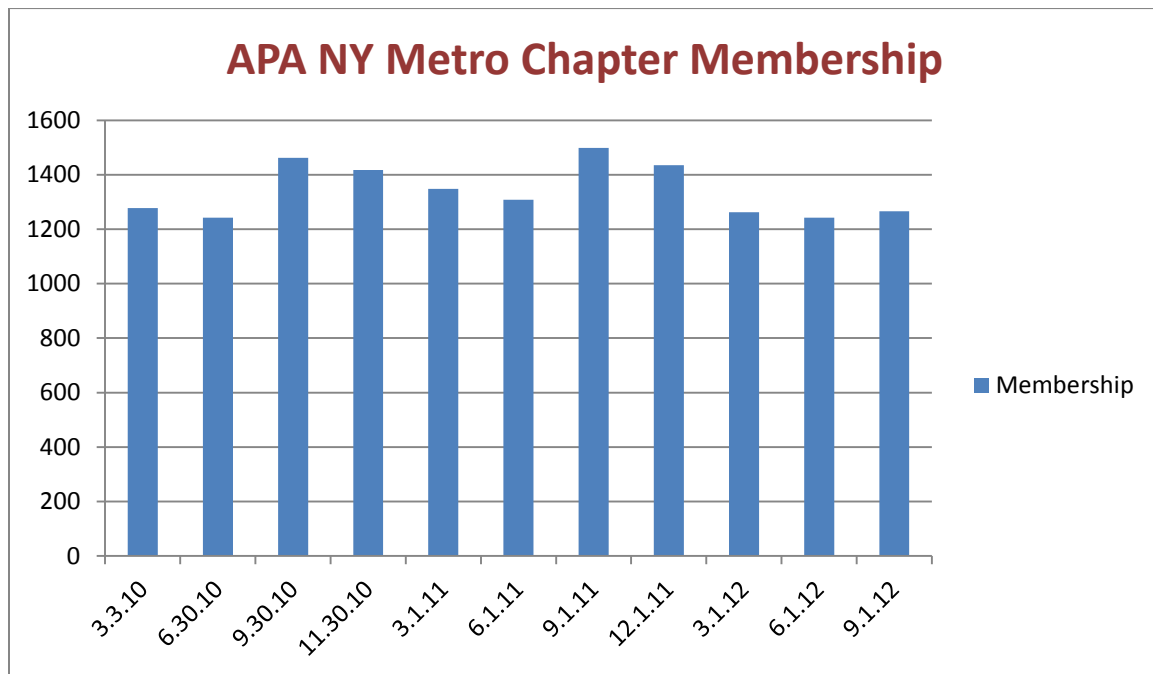
Also in March 2012, APA NY Metro Chapter submitted its comments on the Tappan Zee Bridge draft Environmental Impact Statement. Many of our Chapter officers including myself recused ourselves from commenting on the project because of potential conflicts at work.

The 2012 APA Conference in Los Angeles (April 14-17) was a great event where we experienced wonderful weather, sessions/mobile workshops, and networking opportunities. Congratulations to our Chapter awards winners: Leonardo Vazquez, AICP on receiving the National Planning Leadership Award for Advancing Diversity & Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff; the NYC Department of City Planning on receiving the Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan for the Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan; David Fields, AICP on receiving the Achievement for Best Practices for his work with the Transportation Planning Division; and our Ethel Sheffer, FAICP who was inducted as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

We have continued to establish relationships with affiliate organizations such as the American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Historic Districts Council (HDC), and Fine Arts Federation. New York Metro Chapter has also joined the Empire State Future coalition to participate that that group of New York State affiliate organizations that includes the APA NY Upstate Chapter. The APA Region 1 Chapters (from Pennsylvania to Maine) are considering having a joint conference.

Membership

The table below shows the chapter membership over the last seven quarters where our membership has ranged from a low of 1,242 in June 2010 to a high of 1,498 in September 2011. As of September 2012, our membership is 1,266.



Source: APA Metro Chapter Rosters

Effective October 1, 2011, the APA NY Metro Chapter has waived its \$30 donation fee to list jobs on our website to encourage more employers to list with us, thus providing a better service to members. Job advertisements can now be input directly on our website on the Jobs page and will be uploaded within 24 to 48 hours upon approval.

Ethel Sheffer, FAICP

Congratulations to Metro Chapter Past President Ethel Sheffer on her election as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Fellowship is granted to planners who have been members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership. As stated in her FAICP application package Ethel, "has made a measurable difference in community planning, and in making citizen participation a political reality. Her skills as a negotiator among public, private and community interests, and as a professional dedicated to making the planning and public processes work better, have been shown in multiple arenas, from successful rezoning and preservation plans to the shaping of some of the largest mega projects in midtown and the Upper West Side of Manhattan, and to many community plans and studies around the city. She led the NY Metro Chapter for six years, fostering collaborations among diverse civic and professional organizations. She has also been a teacher and mentor to scores of graduate planning students at Columbia University." A well-deserved honor to a great planner!

Final Thoughts

In June 2012, American Planning Association released the report from its 2012 *National Poll Planning in America: Perceptions and Priorities*. The poll found that Americans want planners to focus most on creating jobs - followed by safety, schools, protecting neighborhoods, and water quality.

The poll found that community planning is perceived as an "essential" part of economic recovery by a large majority of every demographic group of Americans. Two-thirds of those polled believe that "community planning is important to economic recovery." Only fourteen percent of those polled believe that market forces alone, without community planning, will help the economy and create more jobs; two-thirds of those polled believe it takes both.

In closing, thank you all for the opportunity to represent you the last four years. I thank the numerous members that have assisted me personally over the last four years including the last two Executive Committees, Chapter Committees, Young Planners, students, and sponsors who have all worked to make the last four years memorable.

Best regards,

Donald Burns, AICP
November, 2012

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAMS

Kovid Saxena, AICP, was elected Vice President for Programs in October 2010, and is responsible for organizing the Chapter's Biennial Conference and Annual Meeting.

The 2011 Biennial Conference was held on October 20 at Columbia University, in collaboration with Columbia University's Urban Planning Program. Amanda M. Burden, Chair, City Planning Commission delivered the keynote address, which was followed by a panel discussion on the New York City Waterfront. FAICPs Richard Anderson, Dr. Floyd Lapp, and Jacqueline T. Robertson discussed Robert Moses' legacy. The remainder of the conference consisted of six breakout sessions and a mobile workshop. Volunteers from graduate planning programs at Columbia University, New York University, Hunter College, and the Pratt Institute contributed to the event.

The 2012 Annual Meeting was an all-day event held on October 19 at Scandinavia House, and featured five panels with participants from organizations including New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, New York City Department of City Planning, New York City Department of Transportation, The Trust for Governor's Island, Hudson River Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park, The Battery Conservancy, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, Delaware River Basin Commission, SUNY Albany, Robinson & Cole LLP, Sam Schwartz Engineering, and Cornell University. Plenary sessions were followed by a cocktail reception. Volunteers from graduate planning programs at Hunter College and New York University contributed to the event.

Chapter members are reminded that ideas for programs, recommendations for speakers, and discussion topics are always welcome and should be either submitted to the Vice President Programs, Committee Chairs, Section Directors of the Chapter, or the Executive Committee. Contact information is found at www.nyplanning.org. Volunteering to serve your professional organization is an excellent way to meet new people, learn about new topics, and know the inner workings of the organization—please get involved and volunteer.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It has been a pleasure to serve the Chapter for the past years. James Rausse, AICP, and I have been quite busy. From 2011 to 2012 year to date, the Vice-Presidents for Professional Development provided AICP preparation courses for 36 students, entered requests for 257.4 CM credit hours of education. We provided support for the annual meetings and conferences. We took part in the Professional Development Office (PDO) meeting at the National Conference and have been actively involved in expanding our Chapter's partnerships with others in the Region, including the New Jersey and Upstate Chapters through new programs such as the Planner's Book Group. In addition, we have created and maintained a Chapter Facebook page (feel free to LIKE us!).

I look forward to continuing to serve the Chapter. Looking ahead, we intend to expand our outreach efforts to our planning schools and other potential partners and provide additional services such as AICP application counseling, and volunteer placement.

Sincerely submitted, Tina Lund, AICP, Vice-President for Professional Development.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The past year has been especially active for the Chapter in terms of issue advocacy. Position Statements were issued on such topics as the elimination of a transit alternative for the Tappan Zee Hudson River Crossing, the practice of High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing in the Marcellus Shale formation that underlies much of Western NY, the City’s proposed revisions to the Waterfront Revitalization Program and the rezoning plan for the expansion of the New York University campus. As always, Michael A. Levine, AICP, the Chapter’s Legislative Liaison, attended the annual Federal Policy & Program Briefing in Washington D.C. where representatives from all APA chapters nationwide confer to formulate the organization’s policy positions and to meet with our congressional members. Of special concern this year were the upcoming federal elections and the looming “fiscal cliff” over deficit reductions. Mr. Levine also compiles the Chapter’s Legislative Activity Report. For the coming year, issues regarding sustainability and resiliency in the face of climate change and the likelihood of future storm events is sure to be a dominant theme.

TREASURER

The Chapter’s financial condition continued to be healthy in Fiscal Year 2011-2012, and our modest savings continue to grow. The Chapter held a successful annual conference, and we have sustained income from our membership and from our generous sponsors.

The following table summarizes our current financial performance and forecast for the fiscal year. Please review it and direct any questions to treasurer@nyplanning.com.

APA NY Metro Chapter FY 2011-2012 Budget

(Draft – December 3, 2012)

REVENUE	
Membership Reimbursement	\$35,000
Sponsorships	\$5,000
2012 Chapter Conference & Annual Meeting	\$12,000
Holiday Party	\$2,500
Metro Planner & Website	\$1,500
Other Sponsorships	\$0
Other Income	\$0
Grants	\$0
AICP Course Registrations	\$500
TOTAL	\$60,500

EXPENSES

Contracted Services		
	Webmaster	\$2,400
	Administrator	\$10,000
Subtotal		\$12,400
Administrative		
	Supplies	\$1,500
	Insurance	\$1,200
	Phone/Fax/Voicemail	\$250
	Email (Smartmail)	\$200
	Website (Crystaltech)	\$200
	Conference Call	\$500
	Constant Contact (eBlast and Event)	\$390
	SurveyMonkey	\$200
Subtotal		\$4,440
Travel Reimbursements		
	2012 APA Los Angeles Conference	\$4,250
	2012 Fall Leadership Meeting	\$2,000
	2011-2012 Chapter Retreats	\$2,000
Subtotal		\$8,250
Chapter Programs		
	Chapter Holiday Party	\$2,000
	2012 Chapter Conference and Annual Meeting	\$14,000
	Los Angeles Conference Social	\$500
Subtotal		\$16,500
AICP Training		
	Purchase CD's	\$500
	Utah Program	\$150
	AICP Training Sessions	\$2,000
	Register AICP CM Credits	\$995
Subtotal		\$3,645
Sections/Committees		
	Hudson Valley East	\$2,500
	Hudson Valley West	\$1,500
	Long Island	\$2,500
	New York City	\$4,500
	Committees	\$1,500
	Young Planners Group	\$1,500
	Includes \$750 CPC Grant Match	
	Students	\$1,000
Subtotal		\$15,000
TOTAL		\$60,235

SCHOOL RELATIONS

The Schools Relations Committee (SRC) had an eventful year, under the leadership of Josef Szende, as detailed below.

October 2011

Chapter Conference

3:15pm to 4:45 PM, Thursday, October 20th

Columbia University, Room 569 in Lerner Hall

The SRC put together a panel of Young Professionals including:

- 1) Daniel Scorse from the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Project;
- 2) Stephanie Servetz, New York City Economic Development Corporation
- 3) Catherine Kim, New York City Housing Authority
- 4) Matthew Bernstein, Sam Schwartz Engineering
- 5) Maricha Friedman, The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, Brazil
- 6) Kathleen d'Erizans, YPG moderator

A happy hour followed the conference from 5pm to 7pm at Havana Central, 2911 Broadway.

December 2012

Holiday Party

5:00 PM, Friday December 9

Radegast Hall and Biergarten, 113 N. 3rd St. in Williamsburg

The SRC collaborated with the Young Planners Group and New York University to host a holiday party with over 100 people in attendance. The SRC and YPG purchased approximately \$450 in food. People bought their own drinks.

January 2012

New SRC members came in starting in January 2012:

- 1) Hunter: Jeff Peel and Paul Lozito
- 2) Pratt: Anastassia Fisyak and Stephen Miller
- 3) NYU: Sumaila Palla and Matthew Tschabold
- 4) Columbia: Jinny Khanduja and Ayo Onikute

April - May 2012

The SRC hosted a series of Open Houses to expose planning students to different professional in the field. Those open houses included:

- 1) New York State Association for Affordable Housing, 242 W 36th Street 3rd Floor, New York, NY; April 19th.
- 2) New York City Department of Transportation 55 Water Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY; April 20th.
- 3) H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture, 902 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, NY; April 27.
- 4) Local Initiatives Support Corporation 501 Seventh Avenue, Seventh Floor New York, NY; May 2nd.
- 5) The Design and Social Change Open House featuring Hester Street Collaborative and the Center for Urban Pedagogy, 113 Hester Street (downstairs) New York, NY; May 11th.

May 2012

SRC Studio Symposium
6:00 PM Friday, May 4th, 2012,
Hunter College's Silberman School of Social Work, 2180 Third Avenue in Manhattan

Presentation and presenters were as follows:

“Bedford-Union Armory Revitalization Project” – New York University

Professor: Kei Hayashi | Project team: Patrick Hess, Aaron Meyerson, Emily Osgood, Joanna Reynolds, Lisa Roberts

Brownsville Works! - Hunter College Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

Professor: Ralph Blessing, Ph.D., AICP | Project team: Andrea Katz, Colin Dillon, Israel Cruz, John Caulfield, Monica Lorza, Rachel Mullon, Randolph Hunt, Rosana Morganti, Sarah Fields, Sarit Platkin, Spencer Edwards

The Easton Avenue Corridor: The Street Where Town and Gown Meet - Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University

Professors: Jim Constantine and Wolfram Hofer | Presenting team: Erica Maurer, Jarrod Grim, Michael Lawson, Nega Lakew, and Tiffany Pryce.

Gowanus Works: Preserving Place and Production – Pratt Institute, Program in Sustainable Development and Planning

Professors: Beth Bingham, Michael Haggerty, Laura Hansen, Ben Margolis, John Shapiro, Jaime Stein |

Project team: Lora Barnhill, Edith Bellinghausen, Joe Blankenship, Amy Bzdak, Jose J. Lim Cardenas, Kim Daileader, Roxanne Earley, Jennifer Gardner, Lauren Gellatly, Inna Guzenfeld, Victoria Hagman, Krista Leahy, Sara Margolis, Mawuena Quarcoo, John Reclosado, Kristina Sansotta, Naomi Seixas, Laura Senkevitch, Felicia Smuts, Lauren Standke, Laura Stinger, Adrian Torres, Jenn Zagaja

Porto Maravilha: Planning Strategies for the Revitalization of Rio de Janeiro's Port Area – Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

Professor: Clara Irazabal | Project team: Rosemary Bolich, Millay Kogan, Max Podemski, Daleen Saah, Jordan Salinger, Sarah Welton, May Yu

YOUNG PLANNERS GROUP

This year Young Planners Group (YPG) continued to strive to serve planners under the age of 35. In addition to having three active subcommittees, the Events Committee, the Outreach Committee, and the Mentorship Committee, the YPG Leadership also participated in two National APA webinars on instructing other chapters on how to start YPG chapters and how they can serve chapter members. Below is a summary of the YPG's activities in the past year.

Events Committee

The Events Committee organized approximately one event per month, including happy hour mixers throughout the city and a trivia night, as well as a screening of the film "Urbanized". The Annual joint

Holiday Party with the Student Relations Council will be December 7th. The Events Committee plans to continue to plan one event per month in order to promote networking and professional development among its members.

Outreach Committee

The Chapter's "Youth in Planning Program" is an educational program designed to engage high school students in a series of community planning activities to develop and present a professional plan. The curriculum is modeled after past YPG programming and is being developed in collaboration with community planning partners, local schools, and seasoned planners from the Metro Chapter. The overall goal of the Youth in Planning Program is to act as a job development and exploration program and to expose students to a range of careers, volunteer opportunities, and special interests that student interns can pursue in life.

Youth in Planning has now completed 4 successful programs and is now looking to share their expertise by developing a curriculum that can be applied nationwide and will be facilitating a workshop on youth planning engagement at the 2013 National APA conference in Chicago.

Additionally, after receiving a Chapter President's Council grant, the independent monitoring report was submitted to APA National in September 2012.

Mentorship Committee

The mentorship committee was able to create 9 mentee and mentor pairings in third iteration of the YPG mentorship program. The five-month program kicked off in February 2012 at an event hosted in the midtown offices of AKRF. The event provided a relaxed forum for mentors and mentees to have their initial meetings and enabled the new partnerships to hit the ground running. NY metro chapter funds were crucial for this event, allowing the committee to provide light snacks and refreshments to attendees. Pairings were based on a review of participants' resumes as well as their responses to a brief multiple choice and short answer-format survey. In forming the partnerships, the committee considered several variables, with particular emphasis on shared areas of planning interest and preferred frequency and format of communication to address more interested mentees than available mentors. The next round of mentoring relationships will kick off in early 2013.

SECRETARY

Neal A. Stone, MCIP, AICP, served as chapter secretary and has attended monthly Executive Committee meetings to record minutes, as well as set up online registrations for several chapter-wide events.

AREA REPRESENTATION

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

New York City

The New York City Section Representative Ryan Harris, AICP, produced a number of programs over the past year focused on enriching the understanding and enjoyment of life in New York City. Key events this year included two panel discussions and a tour of the Greatest Grid exhibit.

The first panel discussion entitled *Green Infrastructure: Actions and Possibilities for NYC* was held on November 16, 2011 and was co-sponsored with the Urban Design Committee. It included presenters from NYC DEP, DOT and Parks to talk about the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan released in 2010, benchmarks and goals in regards to stormwater runoff and the Infrastructure Tool Box. The presentation discussed Interagency coordination and how the agencies are working together to implement green infrastructure through the Green Streets Program.

All twenty available spaces were filled for the Curator led tour of *The Greatest Grid: The Master Plan of Manhattan, 1811-2011* exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York on Thursday, May 17, 2012. Featuring an original hand-drawn map of New York's planned streets and avenues prepared by the Commission in 1811, as well as other rare historic maps, photographs and prints of the evolution of the city's streets, and original manuscripts and publications that document the city's physical growth, the exhibition examined the grid's initial design, implementation, and evolution. The Greatest Grid traces the enduring influence of the 1811 plan as the grid has become a defining feature of the city, shaping its institutions and public life.

The second panel discussion *Creating Innovative & Affordable Workspace Solutions* was held on Thursday March 29th, 2012 at the Alliance for Downtown New York's Hive at 55 business incubator in Lower Manhattan. It highlighted the significant and growing role that incubators play in cultivating business success in the City. Representatives from NYC EDC, Alliance for Downtown and active incubator entrepreneurs discussed how finding affordable workspace and navigating red tape are common obstacles for most small business owners and entrepreneurs across the country. When it comes to New York City, these challenges can be substantially greater due to higher rents and start-up costs. Public and privately-run business incubators help ease this burden by providing inventive physical spaces conducive to resource sharing, as well as supportive business services for their clients. New York City is home to a number of business incubators covering a range of industries from technology, to fashion, to food.

The New York City Section was also responsible for conducting the seventh annual *Planner's Scavenger Hunt*, held on Saturday June 9th, 2012, challenging our members to show how much they know about New York City. The scavenger hunt was well attended and closely contested.

In passing the reigns to the incoming representative Max Sokol, Mr. Harris suggested that a potential goal for the next fiscal year could be to focus on conducting a number of outer-borough events to expand the understanding of these vital areas of the city.

Long Island

The Long Island Section, directed by Ela Dokonal, AICP, LEED AP, and Jefferson Murphree, AICP, met the Section's 2011-2012 goals:

1. Maintained Section's website APALongIsland.org, launched in 2010 to better serve our Section's members by increasing visibility and promotion of the APA events and activities. The website is by providing information, notifications and marketing of Section's activities, events and sponsors. In addition, we have recently started posting planning related local jobs.
2. Maintained Section's Twitter account with the purpose of quick provision of information, notifications and marketing of Section's activities, events and sponsors.
3. Offered audio/web and CD-based training programs to members for professional training and AICP certification maintenance in both Nassau and Suffolk County.
4. Provided our members with a variety of programs in including the following:
 - Co-sponsored AIA Peconic Chapter Conference "New Solutions for Community Waste Water Treatment", April 6, 2011.
 - Hosted "Arthur Kunz Memorial Breakfast", May 2011, with panel discussion on "Retrofitting Suburban Downtowns" lead and moderated June Williamson, Mayor Margot Garant, legislator Tom Cilmi and Don Monti. The Breakfast organized at Molly College was attended by 50 planners, zoning and planning board members. Two young planners, winners of the Arthur Kunz Scholarship, reflected on their experience after they were awarded scholarships to attend the 2011 national APA planning conference in Boston.
 - Hosted Fourth Annual East End Conference at Suffolk Community College's Riverhead campus, June 2011, with two sessions: Carmans River Watershed Protection Plan and Social Media and Planning. The Conference was well attended and reviewed.
 - Assisted in organization of the Suffolk County Planning Commission Autumn Planning Conference 2011, in Brookhaven National Lab. APA session was focused on the use of Social Media in Community Outreach, and had examined ways in which Social Media is influencing a shift in communication strategies and the community participation process. The session was moderated by Jaci Clement of Fair Media Council and the panelists presented an overview of new technologies and methodologies they have been utilizing and will present new strategies for engaging the community and developing relationships. While social media helps to build community, improve government transparency, and develop connection with citizens, it brings some new challenges. The session examined new community outreach strategies and presented an overview of the new planning practitioner's tool kit.
 - Hosted "2012 Arthur Kunz Memorial Breakfast", titled "How Planning Can Lead Economic Development", moderated by Donald Burns, AICP, APA NY Metro Chapter president. The panelists were Chris Jones, AICP, Vice President, RPA, Sarah Lansdale, AICP, Director of Planning, Suffolk County, Cara Longworth, AICP, Executive Director, LIRPC, Satish Sood, AICP, Deputy Commissioner of Planning, Nassau County DPW, Mayor George Starkie, Village of Farmingdale. The Breakfast, held at Molly College, was attended by 60 planners,

zoning and planning board members. Three young planners were awarded the Arthur Kunz Scholarship to attend APA National Conference.

- Hosted Fifth Annual East End Conference in June 2012, at Riverhead Culinary Center, titled “Emerging Trends: Economic Development and Water Management”. The conference was overwhelmingly successful, with over 80 attendees.
- Assisted in organizing Suffolk County Planning Commission Autumn Planning Conference 2012, to be held on November 29, 201 at Brookhaven National Lab. APA LI Section had sponsored and organized the session “Successful Projects; Directors Roundtable”, bringing together Commissioners and Directors of Suffolk County local municipal planning offices to discuss the successful projects in their respective towns and how these projects demonstrate the latest principals of planning including, TOD, TDR and smart growth.

5. Initiated categorization to catalogue the existing materials with the goal to organize and provide access to planning data and documents belonging to Arthur Kunz Planning Library, currently located at Suffolk County.

Hudson Valley East

The Lower Hudson Valley East section has continued to focus on bringing CM credit opportunities and networking events to Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties. During 2011 and early 2012, we had a monthly CM credit happy hour series, which combined both learning and networking. These events were held in a different location in Westchester each month, with re-runs of each course held in Poughkeepsie.

Unfortunately, as we moved into the middle of 2012, the CD’s we had been using to run the programs were discontinued by APA National, so we ended up just having the happy hours, without the CM. But we are looking to find new ways to expand the educational opportunities for those who cannot travel down to NYC for events, or who cannot travel to the national conference. We are also continuing the tradition of having a holiday party in White Plains every December, to allow for another chance to get together as a planning community.

Hudson Valley West

Dear Upper Hudson Valley Section Members of NY Metro APA:

As publicized, besides the Chapter holiday party this Monday in Manhattan, there is a Hudson Valley APA get together on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 in White Plains – with ethics credits available from 4-5:30 and social festivities until 9:00. Hope you will join in. Cars appear to be heading down from both sides of the River, so please contact me with interest in carpooling. Also, remember to RSVP beforehand to save.

In other news, the Chapter's and APA National's support and response to the recent hurricane are substantial. While the impacts in our area were significant, rightfully, there is more focus further south. Still, there are opportunities for individuals to participate as APA members in assistance efforts. It is beneficial to know whether there are noteworthy issues or developments within the Upper Hudson Valley. There are also considerable disaster recovery resources on the Chapter and National web pages. More broadly, there appear to be changes in the ways that communities perceive and respond to climate change. We serve a vital role planning lasting value and well-reasoned community development. On that note, the regional sustainability plan is available for review and comment (see www.EngageMidHudson.com) and look for a discussion on the plan and its implementation in January.

COMMITTEES

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 Service and 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 October 19th Annual Meeting, are as follows:

- *Lawrence M. Orton Award:* Lee Koppelman, Ph.D.
- *Paul Davidoff Award:* Common Ground
- *Andrew Haswell Green Award:* Ethel Sheffer, FAICP
- *Meritorious Service Award:* Active Design Guidelines - NYC departments of Design and Construction (DDC), Health and Mental Hygiene, Transportation (DOT) and City Planning; in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY).
- *Meritorious Achievement Award:* Newtown Creek Brownfield Opportunity Area Step 2 Nomination Report, Greenpoint Manufacturing & Design Center, Riverkeeper, and Newtown Creek Alliance
- *Journalism Award:* Michael Kimmelman, New York Times
- *William H. White Award:* Zone Green – New York City Department of City Planning
- *Ponte Award:* Michael D'Angelo, Director of Research, Rockland County Planning Department
Dr. Pearl M. Kamer
- *Robert C. Weinberg Award:* Jeffrey Yuen, Columbia
Andrea Katz, Hunter
Nell Selander, NYU
Kimisha Sellers, NYU
Melissa Umberger, Pratt
- *Floyd Lapp Award:* Lisa Lau, AICP
Kathleen d'Erizans, AICP

Environmental Committee

The core group of the Chapter's Environmental Committee meets and coordinates to discuss planning issues, plans and programs for the Chapter. In November 2011 the Committee sponsored a tour of the Gowanus Canal Superfund site that was led by the Environmental Protection Agency. That tour was attended by a group of about 15. In May 2012 the committee supported the Chapter by participating in the preparation of a position statement that was submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on the Marcellus shale gas hydraulic fracturing SEIS. Forthcoming scheduled Committee events include a panel discussion on the role of landscaping in the urban coastal zone that will be developed in conjunction with the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The committee continues to reach out for new members. The contacts are Robert White Rwhite@akrf.com or Steve Whitehouse at sw@starrwhitehouse.com if you are interested in becoming part of the committee.

Urban Design Committee

The Urban Design Committee organized two discussion panels over the past year for CM credits. The first was "Green Infrastructure: Actions and Possibilities for New York City" held at NYCEDC in November 2011. The panel included presenters from NYC DEP, DOT and Parks to talk about the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan released in 2010, benchmarks and goals in regards to stormwater runoff and the Agencies' Infrastructure Tool Box. The presentation also discussed Interagency coordination and how NYC DOT, NYC DEP and NYC Parks work together to implement green infrastructure through the Green Streets Program and on our City's roadways. NYC Green Infrastructure Capital and Grant Programs, Community-Based Green Infrastructure Program Projects that have received funding under these grants, and Pilot Projects were also presented.

The second discussion panel was "Implementing Context Sensitive Bike Lane Design" held at the Annual Conference in October 2012. This session explored the implementation and post-evaluation of context-sensitive bike infrastructure design in NYC, Chicago, and Philadelphia. Case studies included the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway's design based solutions, building a cohesive citywide network throughout NYC, and Spring Garden, Philadelphia, where the community weighed in on the final design of the bike lane.

A key role of the Committee Chair is to represent the NY APA in bi-monthly FAFNY meetings, which provide a forum between the Metro Chapter, the AIA, the ASLA, the Van Alen Institute, the Historic District Commission and other organizations concerned with the future development of New York City. In the upcoming year, we will continue our collaboration with the FAFNY to organize two events, a Mayoral Forum and a round table discussion on the Midtown Rezoning Plan.

Please contact Chair Katie Theis (katiwava@gmail.com) for more information.

Waterfront Committee

Highlight event: Panel presentations and and public discussion on Goal #1 (increasing access to the city's waterfront) of the Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan (Jan 18th, 2012)

- Michael Marrella, Director of Waterfront and Open Space Planning, NYC Department of City Planning
- Joshua Laird, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Natural Resources, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
- Kellie Terry-Sepulveda, Executive Director, The Point Community Development Corporation
- George Trakas, Waterfront Artist
- Carter Craft, Principal, Outside New York

Monthly committee meetings discussions:

- Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan
- Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Comprehensive Restoration Plan under New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program
- Field visits
- Dynamic/portable/seasonal water-uses (floating pools,..)
- Impacts from Hurricane Sandy

Field visits / event participation:

- West Harlem Piers and Park
- Hudson River Park and Pier 66
- Brooklyn Bridge Park Piers 1-6
- East River Esplanade and the recently completed Pier 15 due South of the South Street Seaport
- Tour of the steamship Lilac (1933) berthed at Hudson River Park's Pier 25 at West Street and North Moore Street http://www.portsidenewyork.org/PortSide_Maritime_9-11_exhibit.htm .
- Governors Island for City of Water Day

Some personnel changes:

- Beatrice Ammann Priest stepped down as a secretary in December 2011.
- Him Mistry (himist@gmail.com) and Josh Schneider (joshschneider2@aim.com) stepped up as co-secretaries.
- Our youngest Waterfront Committee member - Evelyn Solaia Priest! - Congrats to Beatrice.

Membership: Robert Balder (Chair, NYC APA Waterfront Committee), Him Mistry (Co-Secretary, NYC APA Waterfront Committee), Josh Schneider (Co-Secretary, NYC APA Waterfront Committee), Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, Ayodele Yusuf, Beatrice Priest, Bonnie Harken, Edward Weinstein, Elizabeth Demetriou, Kathleen d'Erizans, Lindsey Langenburg, Nicholas Quennell, Patrick Hewes, Paul Willen, Tom Piano