



American Planning Association
New York Metro Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen



2014 Annual Report

APA NY Metro Chapter

Striving to provide excellent services to our members while addressing planning issues that concern the physical, social, and economic environment in the metropolitan region
www.nyplanning.org



New York City

Long Island

Hudson Valley East

Hudson Valley West



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NY Metro Chapter President's Message

James J. Rausse, AICP

It has been an honor to serve as the American Planning Association—New York Metro Chapter President the last two years, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve for another two! A lot of great developments have occurred since our last annual report. The Chapter continues to expand its strategic partnerships with government agencies and other professional organizations, co-host a number of Certification Maintenance-eligible events, and strengthen the organization of our Chapter as a whole. Below are some of the activities we planned and implemented, and you helped make happen.

>> Hiring of a Chapter Administrator

In February 2014, Angela (Angie) Witkowski began her tenure as Chapter Administrator. A resident of Mount Vernon, Angie worked as Director of Planning in Hastings-on-Hudson, a Senior Planner & Project Manager at Buckhurst Fish Hutton Katz, Inc (now BFJ Planning), and as a consultant. Angie brings to the table not only a wealth of planning knowledge, but a strong administrative background with grant-writing experience.

>> Chapter-Only Membership

Recognizing cost restraints for many planners just out of school, just starting a new job, still out of work, or non-traditional community-based planners, we will be streamlining our Chapter-Only Membership process. Many members (and non-members) are unaware that APA Chapters offer Chapter-Only Membership. The application process so far has not been standardized nationwide, so the New York Metro Chapter is building on the efforts of some other Chapters and will create an online form to help process applications. Chapter-Only Membership allows applicants to receive discounts, newsletters and networking opportunities related to the New York Metro Chapter. While Chapter-Only members are able to complete their Certification Maintenance as if they were full members, they will not receive discounts at APA-National events or events held by other Chapters. Chapter-Only members will also not receive national publications, such as Planning magazine. We are happy to extend this opportunity to help build camaraderie and membership!

>> Consolidated Election

This year saw a major transformation in the administration of the APA as a whole in the consolidation of National and Chapter elections. Chapters had their own policy as to when elections were held and when terms were to begin. As many of you saw, voting took place mid-to-late Summer, as opposed to late Spring/early Summer for past elections. Chapter terms will now begin January 1st, instead of October 1st. This transition resulted in a three-month extension for Executive Committee members to assure the transition goes smoothly. The New York Metro Chapter participated in the first round pilot of the consolidation. Most Chapters will follow suit next election cycle, with less than a handful not currently choosing to participate in the consolidation. The consolidation allows for a simpler, streamlined transition between administrations, and creates continuity in developing organizational policy. Two aspects that have not been addressed as of yet are Chapter Executive Committee term length and term limits. This may be addressed in the future, but for now APA will focus on finalizing the consolidation process in the next couple of years.



- >> Thank you for taking time to review the American Planning Association—New York Metro Chapter 2013-14 Annual Report. Welcome to our new format! We hope you find the report more engaging and readable.
- >> The Chapter is always looking for opportunities to adapt and improve the quality of our products and services to better address your needs. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to admin@nyplanning.org. Enjoy!
- >> The New York Metro Chapter wishes to thank Kurt Christiansen, AICP and the APA California Chapter for assisting us with the redesign of our Annual Report.
- >> The Chapter also wishes to thank our own Ela Dokonal, AICP CUD, LEED AP for her time spent designing and formatting this report.

>> New Executive Committee Members

With a new election cycle comes new Executive Committee members who will begin January 2015! Please welcome:

- Fiona Atkins, AICP—Vice President for Professional Development
- Gina D'Agrosa, AICP—Lower Hudson Valley East Section Representative
- Sean Sallie, AICP—Long Island Section Representative

I also would like to congratulate the following Executive Committee members in their move to new Executive Committee positions. Please congratulate:

- Maxwell Sokol, AICP—Vice President for Committees
- Paul Lozito—New York City Section Representative

Sadly, this also means some of our members are moving on. I would like to thank Tina Lund, AICP; Sarah Yackel, AICP; Ela Dokonal, AICP CUD, LEED AP; and Lukas Herbert, AICP for their years of dedication, guidance and friendship. I have worked with them in one form or another over my last six years as part of the Executive Committee and it has been an honor and pleasure that I hope continues outside of the Executive Committee.

>> Partnership Development

Over the last year we have strengthened our partnerships with like-minded professional organizations and government agencies. Acting collaboratively not only helps the Chapter's position in the region as a whole, it gives individual professional organizations a stronger voice on issues we care about collectively. This past year, the Chapter became a member of the New York Planning Federation and a number of County Planning Federations in lower New York State. Doing so not only keeps us informed of activities in different counties, but also lets these counties know we are here to assist, discuss and collaborate on crucial planning issues in their area.

>> Events

This past year we held a number of great events outside of our usual Annual Conference, Holiday Party, and Arthur Kunz Breakfast. Continuing our partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), we co-hosted Design as a Catalyst for Social Change, along with the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and DesignNYC. This successful all day event in The Bronx drew over 100 planners, architects, landscape architects and other professionals to showcase how well-planned, high-quality, cost-effective, sustainable design can have a real impact on the quality-of-life in neighborhoods.

We also held a welcome back event for Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and former APA National and New York Metro Chapter President, Mitchell Silver, FAICP. Held in partnership with the Pratt Institute, Hunter College, NYU, and Columbia University, almost 100 of you came out to greet Mitch, and get some free food and drink while you networked!

In representing the Chapter, I had the honor of speaking at the opening event for the PrepCom Meetings of the UN HABITAT III Conference that will take place two years from now. The Role of Design was focused on the need for design to be part of the regular paradigm for cities throughout the world to develop sustainably. I would like to thank UN HABITAT Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos, the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanism and the Center for Architecture for inviting the Chapter to participate.

The Chapter also put together lots of events through our Sections and committees, which are described throughout this report.



>> Position Papers, Letters and Testimonies

The first new mayoral administration in twelve years came to power in New York City this past January. Mayor Bill de Blasio promised a radical and progressive departure from the policies of the preceding Bloomberg Administration. In order to help shape the new administration's policy agenda, the Chapter sent the de Blasio Administration a letter with our planning priorities. Thank you to all who participated with your input. And a special thank you to Michael, Levine, AICP; Kovid Saxena, AICP; Robert Balder, AICP; Hilary Papineau, AICP; and Larisa Ortiz; as well as ASLA, Legal Services-NYC, and New Yorkers for Parks, for their review and input. The letter garnered a response from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development, meetings with New York City Planning Commission Chairman Carl Weisbrod and New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mitchell Silver, FAICP, and outreach from the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and New York City Economic Development Corporation.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the continued effort to rebuild after Superstorm Sandy. While many activities have run their course, a number of our planning firms and schools successfully won bids as partners to help plan and rebuild sustainably. We congratulate them on their efforts. As a Chapter, we testified before the New York State Assembly in November on Hurricanes Sandy, Irene and Lee. The marathon to rebuild resilient communities continues.

Last October, the Chapter testified before the New York City Council on the East Midtown rezoning. The Chapter had opposed the East Midtown rezoning in the presented form given concerns over the impact on future development of Hudson Yards and secondary business districts such as Downtown Brooklyn, Long Island City, Jamaica Center, and Bronx Center. The Chapter will be in dialogue with the new administration as it considers new plans for East Midtown, including the development of the Vanderbilt Corridor.

>> PR Pilot Project

Sensing a need to improve and hone our communication and public relations skills as a Chapter, the Executive Committee hired public relations firm Yaeger Public Relations on a two-month pilot basis to assist with the Design as a Catalyst for Social Change and Welcome Back Mitchell Silver events. While we received some press coverage, the partnership was not the right fit and the Chapter decided not to continue after the pilot. Although the Chapter decided not to continue the partnership, it was successful in that the Chapter has critically looked at ways to improve its outreach, partnerships and media capacity internally. This evaluation is an ongoing process and will evolve as the needs of the Chapter grow and change. We would like to thank Yaeger Public Relations for giving us the opportunity to explore this aspect of the organization.

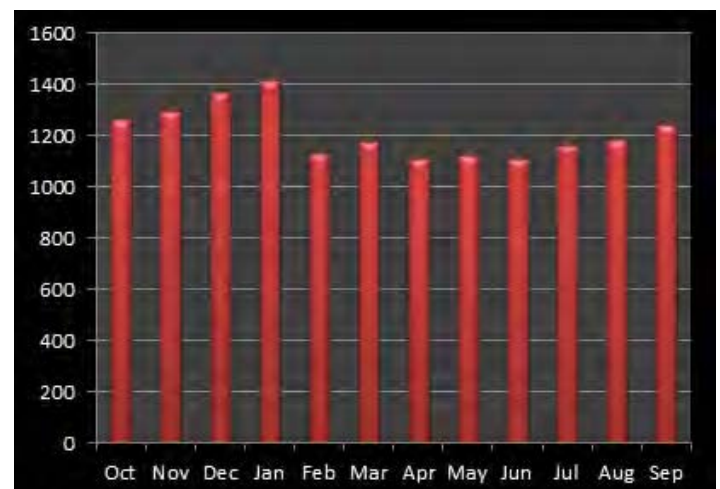
>> Education

In the educational aspect of our mission, we continued to offer a cavalcade of CM opportunities. This year we offered a total of 80.3 CM credits. Keep the workshops and panels coming!

Our Young Planners Group continued to be successful with our growing Mentorship Program, which expanded significantly this year. Our Youth in Planning program worked with students from Brooklyn and the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, and continues to garner interest from other Chapters and APA National. The Youth in Planning program was able to win a second Chapter President's Council grant in the amount of \$6,000. Excellent work!

>> Membership

Membership continues to hover around 1,200 members. The table below shows the chapter membership over the last year where our membership fluctuated from a low of 1,106 in June 2014 to a high of 1,414 in January 2014. There seems to be a consistent pattern from previous years where membership is higher at the end of the calendar year, around the holidays, then drops by the time Spring begins, and then creeps back upward. This pattern is likely due to the time of year when members renew their membership, with some possible lag time in renewing. As of September, membership stood at 1,243, only slightly below the 1,266 we had this time last year.



Source: APA New York Metro Chapter Rosters

NY Metro Chapter

Executive Committee & Staff

The APA New York Metro Chapter is served by an Executive Committee of 12 elected members, as well as the Immediate Past President, the APA Board Director for Region 1, the AICP Commissioner for Region 1, and the Immediate Past President. The Executive Committee is assisted by the director of the Young Planners Group (YPG) and the Chapter Administrator.

President

James J. Rausse, AICP

VP Professional Development

Tina C. Lund, AICP

VP Programs

Kovid Saxena, AICP, LEED AP

VP Committees

Sarah K. Yackel, AICP

VP Intergovernmental Affairs

Michael E. Levine, AICP

Long Island Section Representative

Ela Dokonal, AICP CUD, LEED AP

Lower Hudson East Section Representative

Lukas Herbert, AICP

Lower Hudson West Section Representative

David Gilmour, AICP

New York Section Representative

Maxwell L. Sokol, AICP

Student Representative

Paul Lozito

Treasurer

Ryan Harris, AICP

Secretary

Gregory Holisko, AICP

APA Board Director for Region 1

Courtenay D. Mercer, AICP

AICP Commissioner for Region 1

Deborah Alaimo Lawlor, AICP/PP

Immediate Past President

Donald Burns, AICP

Director Young Planners Group

Keri Ouellete, AICP

Chapter Administrator

Angie Witkowski



American Planning Association

New York Metro Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen



American Planning Association *Leadership*



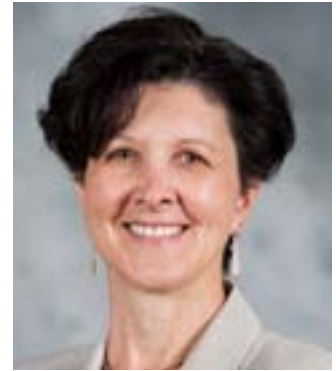
APA President William Anderson, FAICP

Bill Anderson, San Diego, California, integrates development economics and planning, having worked in 20 states and eight countries as a partner with Economics Research Associates (now AECOM). Anderson focuses on inner cities, community planning and regional planning. He headed up San Diego's oldest planning advocacy group and chaired San Diego's Planning Commission, helping formulate the "City of Villages" strategy. Anderson served as Director of San Diego's City Planning & Community Investment Department between 2006 and 2011, where he oversaw planning, economic development, urban form, and facilities financing. He was inducted into the AICP College of Fellows in 2006.



Director Elected from Region I Courtenay D. Mercer, AICP

Courtenay Mercer is the New Jersey Director of the Regional Plan Association, and the principal/owner of Mercer Planning Associates. Previously, she served as the director of planning and state Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) coordinator for the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth. She has held a number of leadership positions within APA, including Chapter President's Council Secretary/Treasurer and APA New Jersey Chapter President. She has also served on the NJ State Agriculture Development Committee, State TDR Bank Board and the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Plan Advisory Committee. She is the treasurer for the Jersey City Parents for Progress and chair of the PS#3 PTA Playground Committee.



Commissioner Elected from Region I Deborah Lawlor, FAICP

Debbie Lawlor has more than 29 years of planning experience. She has been the chief of sustainability and economic growth, chief planner, and supervisor of land use planning at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. She also worked in the private sector at Edwards and Kelcey, Inc., and PQA Engineering. She has been active in APA's New Jersey Chapter and the APA Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division. She received the chapter's Distinguished Service Award in 2009. She has participated in the New Jersey Governor's Smart Growth Task Force and Rutgers University Center for Green Building Advisory board. She has a BS in environmental planning and design and an MA in geography, both from Rutgers.

American Planning Association National 2014 Conference Highlights



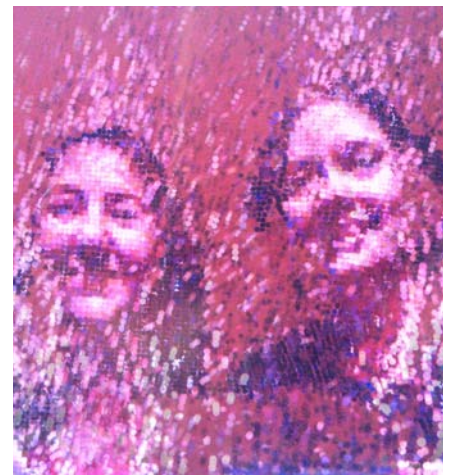
A strong contingent from the New York Metro Chapter attended the 2014 APA National Planning Conference, held from April 26-30 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA.

The five-day conference featured more than 300 conference sessions and nearly 60 mobile workshops that focused on topics such as comprehensive planning, food systems, health, transportation and hazards. The National Planning Conference is designed for planners, elected officials, business leaders, and citizens and addresses planning innovations and challenges in communities large and small.

Acting U.S. Surgeon General Rear Admiral Boris D. Lushniak was the opening keynote speaker. Additional keynote speakers included Shaun Donovan, U.S. Secretary for Hous-

ing and Urban Development (former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development); Atlanta resident Egbert L. Perry; and Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association. The closing keynote speaker was Candy Chang who uses public art installations to engage residents.

Thank you to all the members of the New York Metro Chapter who represented the Chapter at the National Planning Conference.





Brooklyn Bridge Park received the 2014 National Planning Excellence Award for Urban Design at APA's National Planning Conference in Atlanta during a special luncheon on Tuesday, April 29, 2014.

The Urban Design award honors efforts to create a sense of place, whether a street, public space, neighborhood, or campus effort. In 2014, the award recognized the remarkable transformation of 1.3 miles of Brook-

lyn's formerly inaccessible waterfront into a scenic and thriving public open space. Brooklyn Bridge Park is the result of extensive community planning and grassroots advocacy lasting more than 20 years. Designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc., the park was planned with several goals guiding its development, including: returning the waterfront to public use, creating a multi-use civic space, and reconnecting with adjacent neighborhoods.

To date, over 38 acres have been built, stretching from Atlantic Avenue in the

south up to Jay Street, north of the Manhattan Bridge in DUMBO. Brooklyn Bridge Park serves thousands of visitors on any given day, attracting 108,000 people during an average summer weekend.

The New York Metro Chapter wishes to congratulate everyone who worked to make Brooklyn Bridge Park a reality for winning this award, and to thank them for their efforts.

NY Metro Chapter Treasurer's Report

Ryan Harris, AICP



- >> Ryan Harris, AICP, Chapter Treasurer reports that Chapter accounts are in good standing and that balances have remained stable throughout the year. The Chapter currently has over \$30,000 in our active checking account and over \$75,000 in our savings account.
- >> While a number of Chapter events came in over budget, there were a number of budget line items that did not meet or exceed their projected amounts.
- >> The FY15 budget is being prepared with changes to reflect the experience of FY14 so that Chapter expenditures do not exceed budgeted amounts during the upcoming year. The Board also expects to revisit how we may use the large endowment currently in our savings account to better serve the membership with improved programs, scholarships and events.

FY14 OPENING BALANCE		\$116,825			
Checking	\$53,691				
Savings	\$63,134				
REVENUE (FY14 Actual)		\$74,125	REVENUE (FY14 Budget)		\$60,500
Membership Reimbursement	\$37,845		Membership Reimbursement	\$35,000	
2013 Chapter Conference/Income & Sponsors	\$31,934		2013 Chapter Conference/Income & Sponsors	\$20,000	
Holiday Party	\$380		Holiday Party	\$5,000	
Website Advertising	\$0		Website Advertising	\$0	
Other Sponsorships	\$0		Other Sponsorships	\$0	
Other Income	\$3,966		Other Income	\$0	
Grants	\$0		Grants	\$0	
AICP Course Registrations	\$0		AICP Course Registrations	\$500	
EXPENSES (FY14 Actual)		\$89,453	EXPENSES (FY14 Budget)		\$76,185
Contracted Services		\$13,850	Contracted Services		\$12,900
Webmaster	\$2,600		Webmaster	\$2,400	
Administrative Support	\$5,250		Administrative Support	\$5,000	
Accountant	\$0		Accountant	\$5,000	
Public Relations	\$6,000		Public Relations	\$0.00	
Board		\$4,147	Board		\$3,750
President	\$2,113		President	\$1,500	
Dues	\$205		Dues	\$250	
Events	\$1,829		Events	\$2,000	
Administrative		\$4,271	Administrative		\$4,740
Supplies	\$794		Supplies	\$1,500	
Insurance	\$1,358		Insurance	\$1,500	
Postage & P.O. Box	\$139		Postage & P.O. Box	\$0	
Phone/Fax/Voicemail	\$208		Phone/Fax/Voicemail	\$250	
Email (Smartmail)	\$200		Email (Smartmail)	\$200	
Website Hosting (Newtech)	\$54		Website (Crystaltech)	\$200	
Accuconference (Conference Call)	\$624		Accuconference (Conference Call)	\$500	
Constant Contact (eBlast and Event)	\$695		Constant Contact (eBlast and Event)	\$390	
SurveyMonkey	\$200		SurveyMonkey	\$200	
Travel Reimbursements		\$5,352	Travel Reimbursements		\$6,900
2014 APA National Conference	\$2,762		2014 APA National Conference	\$2,500	
2014 APA National Conference (Student)	\$900		2014 APA National Conference (Student)	\$400	
2013 Fall Leadership Meeting	\$1,690		2013 Fall Leadership Meeting	\$2,000	
2013-2014 Chapter Retreat	\$0		2013-2014 Chapter Retreat	\$2,000	
Chapter Programs		\$50,110	Chapter Programs		\$33,000
2014 Chapter Holiday Party	\$10,020		2014 Chapter Holiday Party	\$7,500	
2014 Annual Conference	\$39,090		2014 Annual Conference	\$25,000	
2014 National Conference Social	\$1,000		2014 National Conference Social	\$500	
Professional Development		\$1,290	Professional Development		\$3,645
Professional Training	\$0		Professional Training	\$500	
Utah Webinar Program	\$250		Utah Webinar Program	\$150	
AICP Training Sessions	\$0		AICP Training Sessions	\$2,000	
Register AICP CM Credits (net of Disbursement)	\$1,040		Register AICP CM Credits	\$1,000	
Sections/Committees		\$10,433	Sections/Committees		\$15,000
Hudson Valley East	\$883		Hudson Valley East	\$2,500	
Hudson Valley West	\$0		Hudson Valley West	\$1,500	
Long Island	\$2,500		Long Island	\$2,500	
New York City	\$675		New York City	\$4,500	
Committees	\$2,556		Committees	\$1,500	
Young Planners Group	\$2,833		Young Planners Group	\$1,500	
Students	\$986		Students	\$1,000	
FY14 ACTUAL CLOSING BALANCE		\$107,292	FY14 EXPECTED CLOSING BALANCE		\$116,825
Checking	\$32,291		Checking	\$53,691	
Savings	\$75,001		Savings	\$63,134	

Tina C. Lund, AICP

VP Professional Development

>> **Certification Maintenance**

Tina Lund, AICP, Vice President for Professional Development (aka Professional Development Officer or PDO), reports that 80 Certification Maintenance (CM) credit hours of education were entered over the past year. While this number is slightly more than the previous year, it is only one third of the number entered in 2011-2012. In an effort to better promote credit-worthy sessions, a meeting was held with the Chapter committee chairs to walk through the CM registration process for their events. While relatively few in number, our programs have maintained a high level of quality, as determined by an average reviewer rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

>> **AICP Exams**

Thirty-three (33) Chapter members took the AICP exam in the past year and the chapter saw pass rates of 82% for the November 2013 Exam and 100% for the May 2014 exam. While the chapter did not provide instruction on the exam topical areas due to declining interest in sessions of that nature, we have been providing a "What to Expect from the AICP Exam" session. In this session, we provide an overview of the structural aspects of the exam as well as study tips and technical advice. The September 2014 session had 20 attendees, and three new AICPs shared their experiences with those taking the May exam. Many thanks to our volunteers.

>> **PDO Meeting**

Ms. Lund also took part in the PDO meeting at the APA National Conference in Atlanta, where the discussion centered on the presentation of the new AICP test prep materials.

>> **Partnering**

Ms. Lund took part in several information sessions on non-traditional paths to planning as well as the importance of and preparation for AICP at both Hunter College and NYU. The Chapter has partnered with other Sections as well as National Divisions for programs and forums, including the New Jersey Chapter, the Upstate New York Chapter, the APA Transportation Division, and Gays and Lesbians in Planning (GALIP).

>> **Final Word**

Ms. Lund wishes Fiona Atkins all the best as she takes over the role of Vice President for Professional Development in January, 2015.

Kovid Saxena, AICP VP Programs

Kovid Saxena, AICP, was re-elected Vice President for Programs in October 2012, and is responsible for organizing the Chapter's Biennial Conference and Annual Meeting.

>> 2013 Biennial Conference

The 2013 Biennial Conference was an all-day event held on November 8, 2013 at Columbia University. Seth Diamond, New York State Director for Storm Recovery, delivered the keynote address. The conference featured 12 sessions with participants from organizations including: New York City Department of City Planning, Town of Islip, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation, New York City Comptroller's Office, Regional Plan Association, Sustainable Long Island, NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination, NYC Mayor's Office of Envi-

ronmental Remediation, NYC Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, WHEDCo, Pratt Institute, NYC Department of Design & Construction, Project for Public Spaces, New York University, The Nature Conservancy, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, Real Estate Board OF New York, Westchester County, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Thruway Authority, New York State Governor's Office, Town of Southampton, Town of Greenburgh, New South Wales Department of Planning & Infrastructure, Planning for the 2014 Annual Meeting on October 17 at Scandinavia House has been underway for more than a year. This collaborative effort has involved Executive Committee members, committee chairs, and, most

importantly, chapter members who enthusiastically responded to the call for session proposals—thank you!

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 for Programs, Committee Chairs, Section Directors, or the Executive Committee. Contact information is available 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.*

Sarah K. Yackel, AICP

VP Committees

The New York Metro Chapter is proud to continue to offer numerous opportunities for engagement with planning issues through participation in our committees. Sarah K. Yackel, AICP, served as Vice President for Committees over the past year.

>> Awards Committee

The Awards Committee, made up of Sarah K. Yackel, AICP, Chair, Linda Cooper, and Wes Sternberg, AICP, solicited nominees for the seven categories of awards for which it is responsible. These are the Lawrence Orton, the Paul Davidoff, the Andrew Haswell Green, the Meritorious Service, the Meritorious Achievement, the William H. Whyte, and the Journalism Awards. In addition, the Ponte Committee is tasked with selecting the winner of the prestigious Ponte Award, named after Robert Ponte, which is bestowed on a professional whose focus is on economics and urbanism. The Awards Committee considered a broad array of distinguished nominees from across the Chapter's twelve counties for the six categories and sought to recognize the best projects, initiatives, organizations and individuals in the field of planning.

This year's awards, bestowed at the Chapter's October 17th Awards Ceremony, are as follows:

- **Lawrence M. Orton Award:** Steven Bellone
- **Paul Davidoff Award:** Arbor House, Blue Sea Development
- **Andrew Haswell Green Award:** Ted Orosz
- **Meritorious Service Award:** Sheridan Expressway-Hunts Point Land Use and Transportation Study, New York City Department of City Planning and New York City Department of Transportation
- **Meritorious Achievement Award:** New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan for Staten Island's East and South Shores, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
- **Journalism Award:** Andrew Revkin
- **William H. White Award:** Rebuild by Design—The BIG U
- **Ponte Award:** Adam Freidman

>> Economic Development Committee

The 2013-2014 year has been a great year for the Economic Development Committee. This year the Committee has been preparing for forums and workshops in collaboration with other New York Metro Chapter committees. This fall, the committee is looking to host a workshop on Willets Points in conjunction with the Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee that will not only focus on the economic development potential of the development but also the housing component. The committee is also planning to put together several workshops focusing on economic development throughout the five boroughs and to partner with other Chapter committees that may share a similar interest. Going forward, we will continue to grow our Committee and membership while supporting the APA New York Metro Chapter in pursuing the Chapter's economic development initiatives. The committee continues to reach out for new members.

If you are interested please contact Anthony Drummond at anthonydrummond92@gmail.com or Chisato Shimada at chisatomori5963@gmail.com.

>> Environmental Committee

The Environmental Committee meets and coordinates to discuss planning issues, policies, and programs for Metro Chapter. In October 2014 the Committee will be sponsoring a tour of the Saw Mill River Daylighting Project which will be led by representatives from the Saw Mill River Coalition. In July 2014 the Committee supported the Chapter by participating in the Young Planners group review of environmental planning issues along the Gowanus Canal. The Committee is also collaborating with the Waterfront Committee on the Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines are being developed by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. Forthcoming Committee events include a panel discussion on the role of green infrastructures in urban stormwater management and its effects on water quality. The committee is always looking for members.

If you are interested please contact Robert White at Rwhite@akrf.com or Steve Whitehouse at sw@starrwhitehouse.com to become part of the Committee.

>> **Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee**

The APA New York Metro Chapter Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee is an educational and networking committee within the Chapter. Its goals are to increase diversity within the planning profession and to provide opportunities for planners of different backgrounds to network and share ideas. Over the 2013-2014 year the Committee conducted outreach to recruit more members and define a schedule of meetings and locations to attract and retain its members. The Committee has increased its membership to 14 persons over this time period and is building a network to increase diversity in the profession.

If you are interested in joining the Committee please contact L. Nicolas Ronderos, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee Chair, at nicolas@rpa.org.

>> **Food Systems Committee**

The Food Systems Committee, newly established in 2014, seeks to further an understanding among planners of the ways in which food is grown, produced, distributed, consumed, and discarded in New York City, and to connect issues surrounding food systems to the context of planning. The committee is actively recruiting members, and will hold its first networking event this fall. This will be followed by additional events and lectures in collaboration with the Urban Design Committee and the Waterfront Committee, as well as a tour of food production facilities in New York.

Over the next year, the Food Systems Committee will explore opportunities to comment on food-related policy for the city, and will pursue collaborations with other organizations working to further public knowledge surrounding food systems issues that affect New Yorkers.

If you are interested in joining the Committee please contact Jinny Khanduja at jinnyykk@gmail.com.

>> **Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee**

The Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee (HNRC) spent time in 2014 reviewing the De Blasio Administration's housing plan, Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten-Year Housing Plan, and formulated a detailed comment letter on the Plan that was sent to the administration on behalf of the Chapter. HNRC also is working with the Economic Development Committee on a panel discussion and walking tour of Willet's Point.

If you are interested in joining HNRC, please contact Gary Brown, Co-Chair at Drcnhrn@aol.com, Patrick Rodgers, Co-Chair at pr1984@aol.com, or Martha Sickles, Co-Chair at msickles2000@yahoo.com.

>> **Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee had a change in leadership this year. After an exciting and productive tenure by outgoing Committee Co-Chairs Amy Ford-Wagner and Pippa Brashear, the New York Metro Chapter is pleased to welcome Susan Poliwka and Jeffrey Peel as the Transportation Committee's new Co-Chairs. Under this new leadership, the Transportation Committee held a happy hour over the summer and participated in a fall new member recruitment event. The Transportation Committee is seeking new members as it works to formulate a policy agenda, and plan events for the 2014-2015 year.

Please contact Susan at spoliwka@gmail.com or Jeffrey at jef-frypeel@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this exciting and important Committee.

>> **Urban Design Committee**

In 2014, the Urban Design Committee, chaired by Katie Theis, engaged in a number of Metro area activities and events. The Committee helped organize a discussion panel for CM credits: Design as a Catalyst for Social Change. The event investigated the importance of design as a key factor in the social and economic development of the city. This full day conference was held in the Bronx with morning presentations at the New York Botanical Garden and afternoon tours of project sites embracing this concept.

If you are interested in joining the Committee please contact Katie Theis, Urban Design Committee Chair, at katiwava@gmail.com.

>> **Waterfront Committee**

Over the past year, the Waterfront Committee of the APA New York Metro Chapter has organized its efforts into four core areas: (1) Engagement in post-Sandy Planning, especially through its participation in forums organized as part of HUD's Rebuild By Design, and New York State's NY Rising Program; (2) Discussion of new Policies and Tools for Waterfront Planning, specifically providing critique and comment to the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance's (MWA) Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG); and (3) Special site tours to inspect and assess recently completed NYC-based waterfront redevelopment projects, in particular, new segments of Brooklyn Bridge Park designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh (Piers 2 and 5), and the expansion of Hunter's Point South in Queens and designed by Thomas Balsley and Associates, and (4) Facilitating Special Events, and other activities requested by James Rausse, APA New York Metro President (e.g. meetings with APA National, local advocacy organizations like the Regional Plan Association, as well as delegations from abroad that come to learn about rebuilding and resilience). An on-going priority is the outreach and recruitment of new committee members, especially within local urban planning schools and of young professionals, in some cases, new arrivals looking to establish their careers in NYC. While the committee has a ros-

ter of approximately twenty members, only about a dozen are active on a monthly basis.

The current leadership team of the Waterfront Committee consists of Robert Balder, Chair; Josh Schneider and Patrick Hewes are Co-Secretaries. Long-standing members of the Committee include: Bonnie Harken, Kathleen d'Erizans, Paul Willen, Elizabeth Demetriou, Nicholas Quennell, and Tom Panno.

The Waterfront Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis, typically the second Monday of every month at Cornell University's NYC Studio, 50 West 17th Street, 2nd Floor.

The committee maintains an "open door" policy to interested members across multiple professional backgrounds, thereby reflecting the diverse interests of our urban waterfront. We have also built strong ties and held joint meetings with other Metro Chapter committees, especially the Urban Design Committee (Katie Theis) and Environmental Committee (Bob White). For further information, please contact: Robert Balder, Chair, 212-497-7597.



Michael A. Levine, AICP

VP Intergovernmental Affairs

Michael E. Levine, AICP, Vice President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Legislative Liaison, began the year by coordinating the Chapter's letter to Mayor-elect De Blasio outlining our priorities and policy objectives for the new administration. This was followed by a position statement on the Mayor's ambitious plan for affordable housing and a meeting with incoming City Planning Commissioner Carl Weisbrod to discuss areas in which the Department and the Chapter can collaborate on common goals. Mr. Levine also drafted the Chapter's support letter for NYS Senate Bill S.06617.A, which directs State agencies to incorporate climate risk and resiliency into their planning functions. He is presently working on a position statement concerning proposals to modify the City's Industrial Business Zones.

As a member of APA's Legislative & Policy Committee, Mr. Levine is working with planners from around the country on an update to the Sustainability Policy Guide which will hopefully be adopted at the 2015 National Conference in Seattle.

And, as always, he represented the Chapter at the annual Policy & Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. and the associated Planner's Day on Capitol Hill where he met with our congressional representatives on pending bills for funding housing, infrastructure, transportation projects and environmental protection.

Ela Dokonal, AICP CUD, LEED AP

Long Island

Section Representative

Ela Dokonal AICP CUD, LEED AP has served as the Section Representative since 2010. Long Island Section members are private and municipal planners, public officials, and concerned citizens that work or reside in Nassau or Suffolk Counties. The Section offers educational events focused on current planning issues, organized by the Steering Committee.

>> **Arthur H. Kunz Scholarships**

Since 1994, the Long Island Section has been awarding planning scholarships in Arthur H. Kunz's memory. Arthur was a Long Island planner who was committed to preserving and enhancing Suffolk County by balancing its growth and development with environmental protection. He played an integral part in Suffolk County's development for almost 30 years and worked for the Nassau County Planning Commission from 1958 to 1969. In 1969, he became Assistant Planning Director for the Suffolk County Department of Planning, and Director in 1989.

Every year, eligible applicants are chosen among Long Island entry-level planners or students in a planning-related major. This year the Section had ability to issue three scholarships of \$1,500.00 to two new planners and one planning student, Ryan Soule, David Viana, and Alex Wallach, for their attendance to the APA National Plan-

ning Conference that was held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 26 -April 30, 2014. The scholarship covers the majority of expenses related to the conference registration, APA membership for one year for non-members, and some additional expenses. Mr. Kunz spent most APA conferences attending as many mobile workshops as possible and believed in the value of seeing planning in action in other parts of the country. Therefore, the scholarship stipulates participation in at least one mobile workshop and a short presentation at the Annual Memorial Breakfast event.

>> **Walking Tours Series**

The Walking Tours Series has been a very popular initiative, with relatively high interest and attendance. On a very frosty but sunny February 9th, there was a well attended walking tour of the Village of Farmingdale lead by Village Administrator Brian Harty, and followed by a networking session at the Library Café. The event offered 1 CM credit. On June 25th, as an introduction to the East End Conference, the "behind the scenes" tour of LI Aquarium lead by Joseph Yaiullo, Curator/Co-Founder LI Aquarium started the day by emphasizing the importance of marine life and environmental conservation and preservation. Atlantis Marine World's mission is to provide visitors with an interactive and exciting educational experience,

despite the biggest challenge facing any aquarium – water quality. The tour offered 1 CM credit. On October 3rd, a special "behind the scenes" tour of the Brookhaven Rail Terminal was held, led by Andrew Kaufman from Brookhaven Rail Terminal, and Judy White of CJ2 Communication Strategies. The tour was attended by 20 people and presented the movement of freight in our region. Tours of Baldwin, Valley Stream, Port Jefferson and Riverhead are in planning stages.

>> **Annual Arthur Kunz Memorial Scholarship Breakfast**

On May 16th, the Section held its annual Scholarship Breakfast and Panel Discussion at Molloy College's Suffolk Center at Republic Airport, themed "How to pay for: Transportation and Parking Improvements". Jocelyn Wenk, Associate Director of Long Island Index gave an overview of the Parking-PLUS Design Challenge, solicited to seek innovative designs for parking structures needed to free-up Long Island's 6.5 square miles solely dedicated to parking for better uses. A panel discussion on exploring strategies to overcome issues associated with high cost transportation and parking improvements was moderated by Jean Celender, Mayor, Great Neck Plaza. The panelists were Gerry Giosa of Level G Associates, Scott Howell, LIRR Senior

Planning Analyst- Parking, and Larry McAuliffe of NYMTC. Two young planners and one planning student, the winners of the Section's Arthur Kunz Scholarship, reflected on their experience from the 2014 APA National Conference in Atlanta. The Breakfast was attended by 80 planners, zoning and planning board members. The program offered 1 CM credits.

>> Annual East End Conference

On June 25th, the APA Long Island Section organized an Annual East End Conference, at Atlantis Marine World conference center at Riverhead's Aquarium. Two sessions started after an introductory walking tour of the aquarium.

The first session was "Art=Business ; Dynamic Roles of Arts in Successful Downtowns", concentrating on the fact that the most successful downtowns are destinations with a variety and choice of activities and experiences. Art, with its captivating and mysterious allure, allows viewers or participants to feel emotionally charged, offering fun and new ideas. Art is a draw for people, a great catalyst in creating a unique environment and a great driver for increasing tourism. It is "play" in the "live and work" setting. Those who are working on transformations of struggling downtowns are trying to understand the role the arts play in the success of a downtown, and the planning that goes into a successful program. The panelists (Theresa Statz Smith of LI Arts Alliance; Susan Dingle of Poetry Street ; Marian Russo, Exec Director of Patchogue CDA; and Pat Snyder of East End Arts) discussed how this is being accomplished in local towns and how this translates to success for local businesses and in recreating vibrancy.

The second session was "Getting to Clean Water- Planning and Implementation". Seventy percent of Suffolk County's households rely on onsite systems (septic systems and cesspools) for their wastewater disposal. Those 350,000+ systems provide minimal treatment and little nitrogen removal. The high nitrogen effluent from these systems discharges to groundwater which flows to surface waters and contributes to water quality degradation. Suffolk County has committed to addressing this problem by sewerage high priority areas, developing communal systems, and updating onsite systems with advanced technology. The panel discussed the effectiveness of conventional onsite technology and addressed the complexities of prioritizing areas for sewerage, managing multiple onsite wastewater systems, and paying the capital and maintenance costs of upgrades. The panelists were Dorian Dale, LEED AP, Dir of Sustainability and Chief Recovery Officer, Suffolk County; Kristina Heinemann, Regional EPA; Sarah Lansdale, AICP, Director of Planning, Suffolk County; Sean McLean, VP Planning & Development, Renaissance Downtowns; Maggie Theroux, US EPA's Office of R&D; Mark Wagner, C.E.P., LEED AP, Principal, Water & Wastewater, Cameron Engineering. 3 CM credits were offered.

>> SC Autumn Planning Federation Conference

On October 21st, the Suffolk County Autumn Planning Federation Conference was co-sponsored by the APA LI Section, Suffolk County Planning Commission, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the NYDOS. The LIS APA organized the session "Town Planning Directors Roundtable",

>> LI Section Officers

- Kathy Eiseman, AICP; Treasurer
- Ann Fangmann, AICP; Secretary
- Denise Harrington, AICP; PDO

>> 2014 Steering Committee Members

- Core Group: David Berg, AICP, LEED AP; Patti Bourne, AICP; Julie Hargrave, AICP; Tom Isles, AICP; Alexandra Sabatino; Sean Sallie, AICP
- Other Members: Kyle Collins, AICP; Marwa Fawaz, AICP; Andy Freleng, AICP; Janice Jijina, AICP; Sarah Lansdale, AICP; Richard Murdocco; Valerie M. Scopaz, AICP; Maxwell Sokol, AICP; Wes Sternberg; Lowell F Wolf, AICP

>> 2014 LI Section's sponsors



Individual sponsor: A. Freleng, AICP

It has been a pleasure to serve the Chapter and its member for the past 4 years. The Section is strong, and I am proud of all the bonds created and accomplishments achieved with constant support of the Officers and the Steering Committee.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their hard work and dedication, Section's Officers, entire Steering Committee, all of our members, and loyal sponsors. I wishes Sean Sallie all the best as he takes over the role of Long Island Section Representative in January, 2015.

Ela Dokonal, AICPCUD, LEED AP

Lukas Herbert, AICP
Lower Hudson Valley East
Section Representative

The Lower Hudson Valley East Section includes Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties on the east side of the Hudson River. Section members work in a diverse environment that ranges from large urban cities, such as Yonkers, to small rural villages and towns. Lukas Herbert, AICP, has served as the Section Representative for Lower Hudson Valley East since 2008.

Last year, Mr. Herbert noted in the Chapter's Annual Report that participation at Lower Hudson Valley East section had been declining. This has been an ongoing trend, particularly

since more CM credits can be obtained online, reducing the need to meet in person for individual CM courses. Such courses had been a mainstay for the Lower Hudson Valley East since they were often combined with social activities. Without the incentive of CM credits, the Section was not able to get together during this past year. A lot of this has to do with the long distances between communities and the fact that a lot of Section members have night meetings. The solution for this may be to have more daytime activities such as the lunchtime Meet N' Greet we had with James Rausse in late 2013, which was well attended.



David Gilmour, AICP

Lower Hudson Valley West

Section Representative

The Lower Hudson Valley West Section includes Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster Counties. The Section offers a planning network that arranges gatherings of interested APA members, students and professional planners. Dave Gilmour, AICP, served as the Section Representative for Lower Hudson Valley West over the past year.

Mr. Gilmour's initiatives over the past year included: assisting with the update to Chapter Bylaws, efforts to advance organizational promotions and design annual events, involvement in legislative advocacy, providing input for award nominations for noteworthy plans and outstanding individual achievements from the Lower Hudson Valley West Section and adjacent sections. Mr. Gilmour also participated in the National Delegates Assembly at the APA National Conference in April. One CM-session organized by Mr. Gilmour directly had 20 planners convening in Newburgh to discuss development and advancement of the Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan. Presenters at this event included the Orange County Planning Director, David Church, AICP. Another event that aimed to offer spring skiing in the Catskills and CMs credits on the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and Belleayre did not go forward due to lack of interest. The Section also worked to advance area training by the Form-Based Codes Institute, provided an input session

on the regional estuary plan, designed a CM-session with the Audubon International and Hudson Valley Regional Council, and delivered a Hudson River Watershed Alliance's 'Watershed Omelet' presentation.

Organizations most active with CM credit registration and publicity that were provided some assistance were:

- Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance;
- Orange County Citizens Foundation;
- Rockland County Planning Federation; and the
- US Green Building Council and Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) regional chapters.

Ongoing Section efforts that must continue include bolstering area networking and communications, and organizing a Section steering group that can help design and execute more activities offering CM credits as well as opportunities for planners to socialize.

It will be beneficial to have multiple planners involved from every county within the region; therefore, if you are interested in this effort please reach out to Mr. Gilmour.

Maxwell L. Sokol, AICP

New York City

Representative

In his second year as New York City Section Representative, Maxwell Sokol, AICP, coordinated a number of events and programs in New York City for Chapter members. As discussed below, the New York City Section sponsored a range of social and programmatic events over the past year, in partnership with the Executive Committee, other Chapter Committees, and related professional associations.

>> Annual Holiday Party

At the end of 2013, Mr. Sokol planned the Chapter's annual holiday party in collaboration with other members of the Chapter's Executive Committee. The holiday party was held on December 16th at Scandinavia House in Manhattan (58 Park Avenue), and provided an informal setting for Chapter members to celebrate the holiday season with planners from across the region.

>> Yearly Section Events

In April 2014, Mr. Sokol participated in a NY Metro Chapter Committees Forum, coordinated by Student Relations Committee Chair Paul Lozito. At the Forum, held on April 4th at Pratt Manhattan (144 West 14th Street), Max presented an overview of New York City Section activities—complementing the presentations by Committee Chairs—and engaged in informal dis-

cussions with the graduate students and young professionals in attendance about ways to increase their involvement in the Chapter.

The New York City Section co-sponsored a Transportation Trivia event on the evening of April 8th at Amity Hall in Manhattan (80 West 3rd Street), which Max planned in collaboration with the Chapter's Transportation Committee, the Young Professionals in Transportation New York City Chapter (YPT-NYC), and the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Greater New York Chapter. This was the fifth annual Transportation Trivia event, and nearly 100 participants split into teams to showcase their transportation trivia knowledge and compete for prizes.

As in years past, the New York City Section sponsored the Chapter's annual scavenger hunt. This year's event, held on May 18th, was the eighth annual scavenger hunt, and the second year in which the event was co-sponsored by YPT-NYC and focused on the theme of transportation in New York City. The three-hour scavenger hunt featured nearly 40 clues that led teams of four to traverse the city in search of a range of transit facilities, bridges, roadways, and non-motorized transportation infrastructure. The event ended at Break Bar in Astoria (32-04 Broadway) where the winning teams were awarded priz-

es and all participants shared their experiences over snacks and drinks.

During the summer, the New York City Section—in collaboration with Chapter President James Rausse, AICP, and the Chapter's Urban Design Committee—jointly sponsored an interdisciplinary event with the American Society of Landscape Architects-New York Chapter (ASLA-NY), the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY), and DesigNYC. The June 12th event, called "Design as a Catalyst for Social Change: Learning from the Bronx," focused on the role of design as a key factor in New York's evolving social and economic development, using the Bronx as an example. The morning session, which featured multiple presentations and a panel discussion, in addition to remarks by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., was held at the New York Botanical Garden, and afternoon tours offered an inside look at five innovative Bronx projects—Starlight Park & Concrete Plant Park, Arbor House, Via Verde, La Central/Bronxchester, and the Harlem River Waterfront—using the built environment to promote greater social justice. The event ended with a happy hour at Billy's Bar in the Bronx (856 River Avenue).

>> Welcome Mitch Silver, FAICP event

Also during the summer, Mr. Sokol helped to plan a reception to welcome back Mitchell Silver, FAICP, to New York, in collaboration with Chapter President James Rausse, AICP, Vice President of Programs Kovid Saxena, AICP, Student Relations Committee Chair Paul Lozito, the New York City graduate planning programs, and Eugenie Birch, FAICP, from the University of Pennsylvania. The event, held on June 18th at All Souls Unitarian Church in Manhattan (1157 Lexington Avenue), featured introductions from some of the event organizers and the guest of honor, as well as an opportunity to meet and mingle with the former APA National President as he begins his tenure as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.



>> Young Planners Group

On September 17th, the New York City Section partnered with the Young Planners Group and Sarah Yackel, AICP, Vice President of Committees, to coordinate an event to celebrate the end of the Chapter's 2014 Mentorship Program. At the event, which was held at Linen Hall in Manhattan (101 3rd Avenue), the mentors and mentees from the Mentorship Program were joined by Chapter Committee Chairs and other Chapter members who were interested in increasing their involvement in the Chapter. The event offered an opportunity for the mentors and mentees to mingle and learn about the Committees as another possible avenue to get involved in the Chapter outside of the Mentorship Program, and also provided an informal social setting for the Committee Chairs to recruit new members. The New York City Section will close out the 2014 calendar year with the Chapter's annual holiday party on December 16, 2014 at Landmark on the Park on Central Park West.



Paul Lozito

Student

Representative

The Student Relations Committee (SRC) represents the graduate programs of the four American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)-accredited planning schools in the New York Metropolitan Region: Columbia University, the City University of New York—Hunter College, New York University, and the Pratt Institute. Paul Onyx Lozito serves as the current chair of the SRC and as the student representative to the Chapter's Executive Committee. In August 2014, representatives of the four planning schools selected Jocelyn Dupre to serve as the next chairperson. Ms. Dupre will take office for the 2014-2015 Executive Committee term.

The committee convenes monthly meetings to plan events between the planning schools and other planning groups in the region. The 2013-2014 SRC comprises Tallant Burley of NYU, Jocelyn Dupre and Chris Roberts of Hunter College, Amy Yang and Jet Richardson of Columbia University, and Elaine Mahoney and Johane Clermont of the Pratt Institute. The SRC regularly partners with the Young Planners Group, Chapter Sections, and specific academic institutions to carry out events. To extend the reach of the committee to the wider region, the SRC also partners with other schools, including Rutgers University and Cornell University.

The SRC's annual signature event, the Student Studio Presentations, was held this year at Columbia University on May 9th and attracted hundreds of students from across the region. Every year, each of the Chapter's planning schools select a marquee presentation to showcase the work of their students, including participation from Rutgers University.

Throughout this past year the committee partnered with the New York City Department of City Planning and other key organizations and academic institutions to expand the committee's reach and provide new networking opportunities for students and professionals. The SRC leveraged its \$1,000 budget to yield thousands of additional dollars in programming from partnerships on these events.

Events

December 2013—Holiday Party: Approximately 80 students and young planners attended the joint SRC-YPG annual holiday party in December 2013. A great time was had by all. Currently, planning is underway for the 2014 holiday party, for a date to be announced in mid-December.

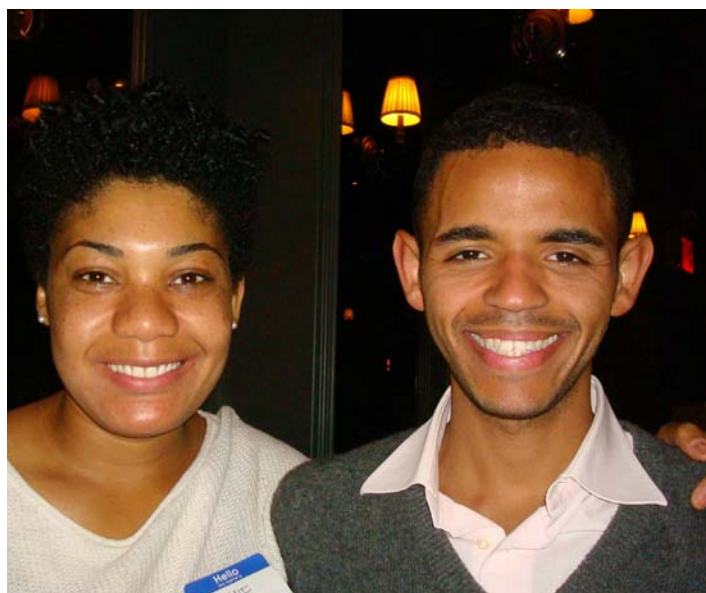
- >> **February 2014**—Skyscraper Museum Tour: The SRC cohosted a curated private tour of the Skyscraper Museum with NYU. Over 70 students attended the event, which documented the history of skyward development in New York City. The event was followed by an evening social at a local pub in lower Manhattan.
- >> **April 2014**—Student Symposium: Cohosted with the Pratt Institute, the evening forum provided opportunities for students to meet professionals who lead APA special-interest committees that range from Aviation to Land use, Transportation, and Food Systems. The goal of this event was to introduce students to leaders in different aspects of planning, and create avenues for students to participate in the planning dialogue.

- >> **May 2014**—Studio Presentation: Columbia, NYU, Hunter, Pratt, and Rutgers presented their best studios at the SRC Studio Presentations at Columbia University. A panel of judges who represented leaders in the planning profession critiqued each student presentation. The event was moderated by the Chapter's Immediate Past President, Donald Burns.

- >> **June 2014**—City Planning Job Fair: The SRC co-hosted an event with the New York City Department of City Planning, to provide a forum for students to explore a number of newly available entry-level positions. Over 100 students attended the event, which featured representatives from each of the City-planning borough offices and many special units. The event yielded many students full-time positions with city planning.

- >> **September 2014**—Welcome-Back Social: SRC students welcomed students (new and old) to a cross school event in Brooklyn. The gathering served as an informal welcome to new planning students as well as a chance for some to reconnect after the summer hiatus. The event was co-hosted with the Young Planners Group, and was attended by approximately 70 people.

- >> **September 2014**—Land Use Summit: The SRC co-sponsored a land use summit with the four New York City planning schools, bringing together prominent speakers and panelists to discuss pressing land use issues in the 21st century, including the future of manufacturing and affordable housing. Over 182 guests attended the event on Friday, September 26th.



Young Planners Group

In its sixth year, the Young Planners Group (YPG) continues to strive to serve young professional planners and planners new to the field. The Chapter's YPG continues to be recognized at the National level. YPG members have made contributions to the YPG Guidebook, which was issued by APA National this past spring to provide guidance to existing YPGs and other APA Chapters in serving the new professionals cohort. Gregory Holisko, AICP, the Chapter Secretary, represented the Chapter's YPG at a working session on YPG best practices at the APA National Conference in Atlanta. Below are reports from our separate subcommittees on their efforts this year.

>> Mentorship Subcommittee

The YPG Mentorship Program celebrated its fifth year in 2014. The Mentorship Subcommittee has been led by Max Sokol since its inception, and this year, included three additional volunteer members: Nicole Aimone, Koren Manning, and Renata Silberblatt. In this year's round of the annual Mentorship Program, the Mentorship Subcommittee formed 19 partnerships of mentors and mentees. As in previous rounds of the Program, the mentorship pairings were made based on the results of a brief but focused application process, including responses to a multiple choice and short answer-format survey as well as submittal of an updated resume. In forming the partnerships, the Subcommittee considered several factors, including areas of interest in the planning profession as well as preferred frequency and format of communication. The mentors comprised a wide range of senior and mid-level planners across a variety of specializations, and the mentees included mid-level and entry-level planners, as well as graduate students.

This year's Mentorship Program continued best practices from prior rounds, while also adding new features to enhance the experience for all participants. The six-month program began with a kick-off event in January, hosted at the offices of Parsons Brinckerhoff. The kick-off event offered participants in the Program the opportunity to meet and mingle with their peers, as well as time for mentor/mentee pairs to begin developing informal mentorship plans for the six-month program. The Subcommittee circulated a Mentorship Program Guide Book, updated from previous years, and also shared a list of planning-related events in the New York City area in an effort to suggest ideas for possible activities for the mentor/mentee pairs.

Following the kick-off event, the Subcommittee coordinated a mid-point check-in event in May. This second event included an open discussion among the mentors and mentees about

their status to date, reflections on their mentorship plans, and their intentions going forward in the Program. The mid-point event also included welcome remarks by NY Metro Chapter President James Rausse, AICP, as well as a guest lecture by Dr. Kristina Ford, Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and former Director of City Planning in New Orleans.

For the first time, the Subcommittee also planned a closing event for the mentor/mentee pairs. The third and final event was held in collaboration with Sarah Yackel, the NY Metro Chapter Vice President of Committees, and all of the Committee Chairs were invited to attend. The event served as a celebration of the end of the Mentorship Program and also offered an opportunity for mentors and mentees to learn about and get involved in the Chapter's Committees.

At the conclusion of the Program, the Subcommittee circulated an anonymous exit survey by email to be filled out by the participants, the results of which are used by the Subcommittee to inform subsequent rounds of the Program. The next round of the Mentorship Program is currently in the early planning stages, and the Subcommittee intends to host the kick-off event in early 2015.

>> Events Subcommittee

Alex Lieber became Chair of the YPG Events Subcommittee in April 2013 and has helped to expand the event offerings for YPG members. In addition to YPG's regular social events, the Events Subcommittee has held two successful volunteer events in collaboration with Riverkeeper (one in West Harlem and one on Randall's Island), and is seeking other opportunities for YPG to volunteer with community organizations. In March, YPG was proud to host a group of visiting planning students from the Université de Montréal and conduct a walking tour of the Highline. The Highline Tour followed a presentation, arranged by the Chapter Administration, about Tarrytown's Waterfront Redevelopment and the Tappan Zee Bridge Replacement by Frank Fish, FAICP and Jeff Rausch ASLA. The presentation was held in BFJ's conference room where the students enjoyed coffee and croissants. The visiting students were so impressed with the New York Metro chapter and YPG that they plan to start a Young Planners Group in Montréal. Other events during the year included a distillery tour in Brooklyn and several successful happy hour networking sessions. YPG has also partnered with other professional organizations in planning-related fields (such as Young Professionals in Transportation [YPT]), to expand networking opportunities for YPG members.

In the coming year, YPG hopes to continue to provide young planners with a variety of opportunities for professional development, including networking with senior APA members and cross-discipline networking. YPG is also looking to collaborate with other Chapter committees and Chapter Sections to host both social and professional development events.

>> Youth in Planning/Outreach Subcommittee

Youth in Planning (YIP) had a very successful program year in 2014. This year's program conducted a week-long session in July, in collaboration with the Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC). The program was assisted by four YPG coordinators (Lucien Allen, Alex Lieber, Rachel Perera, and Erin Thoresen) and an undergraduate intern (Raka Sen), who together planned the curriculum, recruited students and speakers, and lead the program's July session in coordination with GCC, with several other YPG volunteers providing support during the week-long session. Seven students from Brooklyn high schools participated in the program. The program was greatly helped by a funding grant from the Chapter Presidents' Council, which provided for the hiring of a program intern to assist with student outreach and program coordination (in particular logistical support in arranging for facilities, food, and transportation).

In partnership with GCC, the YIP team developed a program focusing on the area around the Gowanus Canal and the planning and environmental issues related to its ongoing cleanup and redevelopment. The program was centered on a project that asked the students to conduct field surveys to identify locations for new public open space around the canal. Program sessions focused on issues relating to environmental justice, stormwater management, urban design, and zoning. The students developed recommendations for improvement of specific sites as public space, which were presented to a group that included GCC staff and YPG volunteers, Chapter President James Rausse, and guest Chapter members. The YIP team considered a hands-on project that resulted in a feasible set of recommendations as a valuable teaching tool that provided the students with an experience in real-world planning issues. Both the YIP team and GCC were greatly encouraged by the students' responsiveness and thoughtful participation. The GCC will keep the students' recommendations in consideration for incorporation into future

GCC development projects. The YIP team was pleased to learn that the participating students enjoyed the program and are interested in continuing to learn about planning and environmental issues.

YIP is working with the Chapter and APA National to expand the program and share program materials to assist in replicating the program in other Chapters. Through planning this year's program, the team has found that the week-long summer session format is the most practical for both students and volunteers. Planning for a similar program, likely to be held in July 2015, is currently underway.



Fun Sharing Chapter events

The New York Metro Chapter wishes to thank everyone who made our events a success this year, including the organizers who did the hard work to make them happen, and everyone who attended. Highlights of the past year included our usual Annual Conference, Holiday Party, Arthur Kunz Breakfast, Design as a Catalyst for Social Change event, and Welcome Back Mitch event.



