

## MEETING NOTES • URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE • APA NY METRO CHAPTER

**MEETING DATE:** March 21, 2016

**ATTENDEES:** Chris Riale (Co-Chair), Katie Theis (Co-Chair), Chris Rhie, Victoria Hallas, Vanessa Smith, Naomi Ringskog, Cristina Ungunerau, Renee Schoonbeek

### AGENDA:

1. Meeting Notes February
2. 2016 Committee Goals & Objectives
3. Updates
4. Policy / Public Review
5. Social Media Strategy
6. Upcoming Events
7. Potential Programming
8. Interact / Engage with other professional organizations
9. Next steps / Action items

#### 1. Meeting Notes

Vanessa Smith, Principal and Co-founder of 3x3 Design, and Naomi Ringskog, Co-founder and Executive Director of No Longer Empty, are present to discuss their ideas for a new Arts & Culture committee.

#### 2. 2016 Goals

*Mission Statement:* the committee agrees that the mission statement still represents the committee's overarching goal to promote an integrated approach of planning and urban design.

*Arts & Culture:* Vanessa explains why it is opportune to emphasize the role of art & culture in planning and urban design. Arts & culture can help to make planning more inclusive and explicitly incorporate the cultural identity of local communities in plans. NYC recognizes this and the Department of Cultural Affairs is working on a policy document to ensure inclusion of art & culture in the city's planning documents. This is an opportunity for the APA to assume a pro-active role and engage in the conversation. Naomi points out that an Art & Culture committee could also fulfill an educational role and share examples of how art & culture can be integrated in planning. The committee agrees to host the Art & Culture subcommittee and Vanessa, Naomi and Caroline Bauer will join the Urban Design Committee.

*CM- and other events:* last year the committee organized 4 events, 3 of which were CM-events. This year the committee is aiming to host 4 events, of which at least one with a focus on Arts & Culture.

Renee will prepare a proposal for a Williamsburg walking tour in June with a focus of urban transformation of the waterfront. She thinks there is an opportunity to incorporate art & culture as a theme and will further explore this with Naomi, Vanessa and Caroline. Naomi suggests that the tour could coincide with the upcoming 'Jane Walks' as it would help promote the event beyond the planning

community. Other proposed events concerns new development in Staten Island (Victoria) and urban design (Greg). Another idea is to propose an discussion of art & culture at APA NYM Chapter's annual meeting in October. Chris Rhie will look in to who is developing the program of the annual meeting and what the process is for submitting proposals.

*Blogposts and other social media:* The committee has achieved its goal of a 100(!) followers on LinkedIn and has successfully posted blogs and shared newsworthy articles and interesting events. We will continue to do what we have been doing. Victoria will keep a running list of planned blog posts. Each committee member will contribute two posts this year. We will continue to post around announcements of committee events and a recap of each event. Vanessa, Naomi and Carline will draft a blog discussing the relationship between art & culture and planning and announcing the formation of the subcommittee to be posted in April.

*Policy and position papers:* Last year the committee took the lead in developing an APA policy position on: (a) pedestrian plazas and (b) zoning for affordability and design quality. The committee is looking for more effective ways to take a position on current matters and make use of its social media platform. Chris Riale would like the committee to develop position papers on current events. He suggests that re-imagining Riker's Island is an urban design challenge and be taken on y the committee could be an interesting case. He feels APA should take a position on the 'new growth frontier' about how to guide the growth of the city long-term. Riker's Island could be compared to the way Governor's Island is being transformed into an amenity for the city with a mix of park space, art and culture. Maybe we could organize design charrette with a couple of other committees (waterfront, others?). The committee agrees to further develop this idea (scope, deliverables and schedule). Katie suggests that the opening of the new transit hub in Lower Manhattan (with the Oculus designed by Calatrava) could be an opportunity to address another current topic: the cost of design excellence in public works. Katie and Chris Riale will take a first stab at a discussion of the pros and cons.

### 3. Updates

Renee has joined the FAF on behalf of APA and will report to the Urban Design Committee. FAF met March 9<sup>th</sup>. FAF is looking for nominations for the replacement of the architect member of the PDC (Public Design Committee). FAF is preparing a report on affordable housing and the public realm.

Chris Rhie updates committee on the status of the new APA NYM chapter website. We can customize the committee page and suggest photos. New site will be launched in April.

### 4. Policy / Public Review

See above.

### 5. Social Media Strategy

See above.

### 6. Events

Victoria shared an upcoming event that might interest committee members at the APA/Center for Architecture: “Art, Culture, Urban Design & Capital: Shaping Cities for the Future” March 31, 6:00-8:00PM.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> the APA NYM Diversity Committee is holding an event at Columbia. No further details available.

The annual cross-sectional event of APA, ASLA and AIA will be held in June. Max Sokol is in charge of organizing this event. Katie/Chris Riale will check in with him.

6. Potential Programming

See above.

7. Interact / Engage with other professional organizations

No actions taken.

8. Next Steps / Action Items

Chris Rhie was kind enough to host tonight’s meeting at Buro Happold. Moving forward, we will rotate the meeting locations. Upcoming meetings will be held at:

April: Parsons Brinkerhoff (Chris Riale)

May: WYX (Cristina)

June: Langan (Victoria)

**ACTION ITEMS:**

#	Action:	Who:	When:
1	Blog Post Art & Culture	Vanessa, Naomi, Caroline	4/18/16
2	Check w/Kovid Saxena re: APA NYM annual meeting	Chris Rhie	4/18/16
3	Outline position paper re cost design excellence public works	Katie/Chris Rhie	4/18/16
4	Contact chair student relations committee about blog post by student	Katie	4/18/16
5	Develop program for Williamsburg walking tour	Renee	June 2016
6	Develop idea for event about industrial & urban design	Greg	Summer/Fall 2016
7	Develop idea for event focused on community engagement	Cristina	Summer /Fall 2016
8	Develop idea for committee CM-event about new developments Staten Island	Victoria	Summer/Fall 2016
9	Check w/Max Sokol re: joint APA, ASLA and AIA event in June	Katie/Chris Riale	4/18/2016
10	Further discuss idea for design charrette re: future Riker’s Island	All	4/18/2016
11	Develop offering technical assistance to non-profits	Cristina	TBD

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday April 18, 6PM at Parsons Brinkerhoff offices at One Plaza