American Planning Association
New York Metro Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

2019
ANNUAL REPORT

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APA NY Metro Chapter

The American Planning Association's New York Metro Chapter (APA-NYM) supports our members, local communities, schools, and practicing professionals through advocating for good planning practice, hosting diverse events and facilitating professional development opportunities in the New York Metro Area.

www.nyplanning.org

New York City
Long Island
Hudson Valley East
Hudson Valley West
As we march ahead in 2020, there is much to celebrate in reflecting back on the Chapter's programs and accomplishments during 2019. This Annual Report features highlights from the Executive Committee and each of our subject matter Committees, who collectively comprise the extensive Chapter leadership team. A common theme throughout the Annual Report is a commitment to collaboration — among Committees, allied organizations, other APA Chapters, students, emerging professionals, and seasoned practitioners — and it is this spirit of partnership that enables us to most effectively serve our members.

As a testament to the strength of both our Chapter and the New York Metro Area more broadly, we were delighted to receive national commendations through two key APA initiatives:

- Our Chapter was selected as a recipient of the 2019 APA Chapter Presidents Council Karen B. Smith Award in the category of Outstanding Service to Members, and specifically in recognition of our Chapter’s Diversity Committee (DivComm). DivComm continues to be a source of pride and inspiration for our Chapter, and is increasingly serving as a leader for the entire nation. This Annual Report includes an executive summary of the award nomination, which demonstrates the ways in which DivComm has excelled in the areas of quality, relevance, originality, significance, resourcefulness, and transferability / lessons learned. To demonstrate my personal appreciation for the team’s extraordinary dedication and invaluable work, I was honored to present DivComm with the Floyd Lapp Award for Service to the NY Metro Chapter during our 2019 Chapter Awards Ceremony.

- APA National designated Governors Island and Downtown Patchogue Village as “Great Places in America” in 2019. Governors Island in New York Harbor was named a “Great Public Space,” and Downtown Patchogue Village on the south shore of Suffolk County, Long Island was named a “Great Neighborhood.” We honored both of these newly-designated Great Places during and following our 2019 Annual Chapter Conference through a combination of a rousing keynote speech from the President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island and a day-long celebration in Downtown Patchogue Village, including a local press event, neighborhood walking tour, and after-party. This Annual Report includes a spread about each of these regional destinations within our Chapter.

In addition to celebrating these notable designations from APA National, we continued offering a wide range of opportunities to engage in professional development, networking, and advocacy throughout the region, including conferences, panel discussions, and mobile workshops, to complement Chapter Committee meetings and informal social gatherings. With thanks to our NYC Section, this year we offered pre-paid event space at LMHQ to help Committees streamline event planning and in-person CM credit opportunities for our members.

- We launched a new Technology Committee that has quickly generated broad interest and momentum, including through an innovative Ethics session at our Annual Chapter Conference.

- Our inter-organizational partnership with the NY Chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) continued to thrive with the success of our annual joint conference, and this year’s theme focused on the past, present, and future of large-scale developments in New York City.

- We continued our tradition of collaborating with the New Jersey and NY Upstate Chapters to co-host a New York/New Jersey reception at the National Planning Conference in San Francisco that encouraged donations to the APA Foundation in lieu of a registration fee.

- We remained committed to advancing the philanthropic objectives of the APA Foundation, which provides student scholarships, disaster recovery / community assistance grants, and a research agenda for the future of the planning profession. To demonstrate your support, I encourage you to consider donating to the APA Foundation on behalf of the NY Metro Chapter in advance of April 3, 2020 using this link: https://give.planning.org/NYM

- We participated in Planners’ Day on Capitol Hill, which immediately followed the APA Policy and Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC and featured meetings with congressional officials and staff about legislative priorities for the APA as well as our newly-designated Great Places in America. We also issued a letter to key congressional committee and subcommittee representatives regarding the critical ongoing work related to federal surface transportation reauthorization.

- Our future focus in preparing the next generation of planning leaders remained a key priority for the Chapter through such initiatives as the Mentorship Program, Student Studio Showcase, AICP “What to Expect” sessions, youth planning education, and the Arthur Kunz Memorial Scholarships to attend the National Planning Conference.
None of this would be possible without the volunteer commitments of the Chapter leadership team. Building upon the success of similar events in recent years, the Chapter convened a Leadership Retreat for the Executive Committee and Co-Chairs of the subject matter Committees early in the year. We emerged from the day with a fruitful dialogue about near-term tactics and longer-term strategies to advance our Chapter’s mission, in addition to promoting team-building and collaboration. We were fortunate to be joined by James Rausse, AICP, Donald Burns, AICP, and Neal Stone, AICP, who shared their institutional knowledge and helped to broaden our Chapter leaders’ perspective on the role of our Chapter in the national organization.

In January 2020, as I started my final year as Chapter President, I also stepped into a new role as Vice Chair of the Chapter Presidents Council, which represents the 47 Chapters around the country that collectively include most of the 45,000 APA members from around the world. Over my three years as Chapter President to date, I have benefited greatly from the forum provided by the Chapter Presidents Council, and the Vice Chair role will create additional opportunities to share best practices and learn from my counterparts in support of the NY Metro Chapter and the organization at large.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to expand your involvement in the work of our Chapter. With the nomination process underway for the 2021-22 term, and countless other ways to get involved with one of our Chapter Committees or Sections, now is the time to think about how you can help the Chapter continue to evolve in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Max

Maxwell L. Sokol, AICP
President, APA New York Metro Chapter

Spotlight on DivComm: 2019 Karen B. Smith Award for Outstanding Service to Members

The NY Metro Chapter was selected as a recipient of the 2019 APA Chapter Presidents Council Karen B. Smith Award in the category of Outstanding Service to Members in recognition of our Chapter’s Diversity Committee (DivComm). Below is an executive summary of the award nomination, which demonstrates the breadth of DivComm’s accomplishments in earning this well-deserved recognition.

APA has recognized DivComm in a previous blog post as “one of the most active local chapter committees across the country.” DivComm is a coalition of nearly 20 multi-racial, multi-gender, intergenerational individuals in the New York Metro area actively promoting diversity and social equity in the planning profession through professional development, networking, and advocacy activities. DivComm’s recent contributions, achievements, and leadership characteristics provide noteworthy support for their Karen B. Smith Award nomination by meeting the following criteria:

Quality – In organizing the annual Hindsight Conference, our Diversity Committee issues a request for session proposals with detailed guidelines to ensure a diversity of panelists, topics, and a lens of equity in each session. In 2017, over 60 proposals were submitted from across the country covering a wide range of topics, thereby enabling the Diversity Committee to be particularly selective in establishing a CM-eligible conference program of the highest quality. This is but one of many examples of the quality of the Diversity Committee’s work.

Relevance – The local efforts undertaken by our Diversity Committee are directly aligned with APA National’s priorities, consistent with the adoption in April 2018 of the Diversity and Inclusion Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Strategy into APA’s Development Plan by the APA Board of Directors. Additionally, the 2018 Hindsight Conference, which honored the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, carried forward and built upon the momentum from National Community Planning Month (with the theme of Housing as Community Infrastructure) and showcased examples of the nation’s housing affordability crisis, in furtherance of APA’s Planning Home initiative.
Our Diversity Committee is laser-focused on building a strategic mindset of how to get there. A profound vision of where we need to be, and a nuanced understanding of where we are as a society and as a profession, are emblematic of New York City’s commitment to equitable planning, along with visionary leadership at the local, city, state and federal level. Today, Governors Island is a beloved place for New Yorkers and visitors alike, and a model for great public spaces across the country. We are thrilled to be selected as one of APA’s Great Places in 2019 and to be among great companies with this year’s honorees. We thank APA and its leadership for this recognition.

Governess Island is a wonderful example of what a city can do through a demonstrated commitment to expanding and enhancing waterfront access and reclaiming space for public use. Parkland and open space development on Governors Island—including the restoration of historic open spaces—was identified as a Waterfront Action Agenda Project in the Department of City Planning’s Vision 2020. New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, Released in 2011, Vision 2020 was the recipient of the 2012 Daniel Burnham Award from APA, and efforts focused on Governors Island are emblematic of New York City’s commitment to expanding public access to the waterfront.

Governess Island is a destination that offers a wide range of recreational as well as arts and cultural activities for New York City residents and tourists alike. As noted in the 2018 year in review, an astounding 750,000+ people visited Governors Island during the 2018 season, which corresponds to more than doubling of the number of visitors from five years ago. This is in part a testament to the work of the Trust for Governors Island, which is responsible for the operations and programming of 150 acres of the island. Additionally, educational tenants such as the New York Harbor School and the Billion Oyster Project complement the other uses and effectively make Governors Island a laboratory for environmental stewardship.

Often referenced as the “jewel of New York Harbor,” Governors Island is an extraordinary public space, and truly a Great Place in America.

As quoted on the Governors Island blog, “Over the past decade, Governors Island has seen a remarkable transformation from an abandoned former military base, closed to the public, into a vibrant hub of open space, recreation and creativity in New York City,” said Clare Newman, President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island. “Thanks to proactive community planning, along with visionary leadership at the local, city, state and federal level, today Governors Island is a beloved resource for New Yorkers and visitors alike, and a model for great public spaces across the country. We are thrilled to be selected as one of APA’s Great Places in 2019 and to be among great companies with this year’s honorees. We thank APA and its leadership for this recognition.”
Downtown Patchogue Village

At the turn of the 20th Century, Downtown Patchogue Village was the bustling central business district of the Village of Patchogue on Long Island’s south shore, about 60 miles east of Manhattan. Favoring its convenient train access and proximity to the Great South Bay, Downtown Patchogue Village was known as a regional tourism and shopping destination as well as a hub of local manufacturing. However, like many traditional retail districts, Patchogue’s once-thriving downtown became a ghost-town with the advent of the indoor regional shopping mall. Due to changes in retail, tourism and manufacturing trends, by the mid-1980’s, the hotels had closed, most local manufacturing had been shuttered, and just a handful of stores were left in operation.

Through an ongoing revitalization effort, Downtown Patchogue Village embraced planning innovations like transit-oriented development, investments in local infrastructure, and early adoption of multifamily housing. Thanks to Mayor Pontieri’s efforts, Downtown Patchogue Village was known as a regional tourism and shopping destination as well as a hub of local manufacturing. However, at the turn of the 20th Century, Downtown Patchogue Village had reinvented itself as a regional dining, shopping and entertainment destination. The revival of Downtown Patchogue Village is regarded as one of the region’s best community improvement success stories, and serves as a model for transit-oriented development and smart growth throughout Long Island.

As quoted in the local Patch news, “The transformation that has occurred in Patchogue is nothing short of ground-breaking when you consider how much progress has been achieved in such a short amount of time,” said County Executive Steve Bellone. “This downtown revitalization was made possible by a community-driven approach from the ground up led by Mayor Pontieri.”

In turn, Mayor Paul V. Pontieri jr. is quoted in the same article, noting that “Being considered a Great Place in America tells the story of a community that embraced change. The strength of any community is driven by its diversity, its commitment to the future and residents’ willingness to volunteer to make their village a better place.”

In the words of APA President Kurt Christiansen, FAICP, “Patchogue Village is a national example of how innovative planning practices can fundamentally transform a community.”

American Planning Association Update on National Initiatives

It was another successful year for the APA Foundation, the only foundation exclusively dedicated to the planning profession, whose mission is to advance the art and science of planning through philanthropic activities. Since 2015, the APA Foundation has awarded $75,000 in scholarships to deserving planning students, and since 2017, awarded over $70,000 in disaster recovery grants in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Consider donating to the APA Foundation on behalf of the NY Metro Chapter in advance of April 3, 2020 using this link: https://give.planning.org/NYM.

In 2019, APA approved three new Policy Guides that arm planners with tools to sharpen their advocacy. APA’s Planning Policy Guide, Housing Policy Guide, and Surface Transportation Policy Guide reflect the association’s official positions on these timely issues. The Planning for Equity Policy Guide — APA’s first-ever public-policy position on equity in planning — presents valuable insights on how planners can apply the lens of equity to all of their work. Each guide is the product of a two-year, member-led process that elicited hundreds of comments from APA chapter and division leaders and rank-and-file members that influenced the final policy endorsements. Each was debated, amended, and approved by more than 100 APA chapter representatives at the NPC19 Delegate Assembly in April and ratified by APA’s Board of Directors in May. For more information, visit https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/.

APA’s new online education platform, APA Learn, launched in November 2018. APA Learn features almost 400 courses (offering approximately 4000 AICP CM credits) and seamless integration with CM logging, including enhanced search for CM-eligible courses and mobile-friendly bookmarking capabilities. For more information about this affordably-priced, top-quality education option, visit https://www.planning.org/apalearn/.

Following the 2019 National Planning Conference in San Francisco, planning is well underway for the 2020 National Planning Conference in Houston, scheduled for April 25-28, 2020. For more information, visit https://planning.org/conference/.

Over the course of 2019, APA also provided a wide range of additional benefits to members, building upon a combination of long-standing programs as well as relatively new initiatives. These offerings included—but were not limited to—the following:

- The annual Policy and Advocacy Conference, culminating in Planners’ Day on Capitol Hill, which offers attendees the unique opportunity to meet face-to-face with congressional representatives and staff in Washington, DC to discuss planning issues and funding for critical planning programs.
- Designation of Great Places in America, which kick starts the countdown to National Community Planning Month.
- Topic-based, geography-based, and population-based work led by APA’s 21 Divisions.
- The Planners Advocacy Network (PAN), which offers members an opportunity to shape APA’s policy and advocacy work, receive regular policy updates, and gain access to exclusive tips, training, and advocacy tools.
- An annual slate of legislative priorities—in conjunction with ongoing work to publish policy guides and issue policy statements—is an integral part of the mission to create stronger, more just communities.
- The Ambassador Program, which aims to advance the public understanding of planning and promote the planning profession through activities and events in local communities.
- The AICP Candidate Pilot Program, which offers planners the ability to take the AICP exam prior to earning the professional planning experience, thereby providing a path to start earlier to achieve the designation.
- New resources in the Research KnowledgeBase collection, new reports issued by the Planners Advisory Service (PAS), and free online access to the APA Library.
- Applied research work coming out of APA’s Green Communities Center, Hazards Planning Center, and Planning and Community Health Center.

Additionally, APA membership continues to be free for any student actively enrolled or matriculated in any university or college degree program, and new members can join the APA at a savings of up to 85 percent a year, for up to two years. For more information, visit https://www.planning.org/join/.

APA welcomed Joel Albizo, FASAE, CAE as the new Chief Executive Officer following the retirement of James Drinan. The New York Metro Chapter wishes Jim well in his future endeavors, and we look forward to great collaboration with Joel in building upon the Chapter’s strong longstanding relationship with the fantastic team of APA staff.
American Planning Association
2019 National Planning Conference (NPC19)

The 2019 National Planning Conference was filled with endless learning opportunities, connections new and old forged, all in the exciting city of San Francisco. From record breaking attendance to trending worldwide on social media on the first day, NPC19 was one for the books. Here are some of the high-level highlights of the conference, broken down by the numbers.

• More than 6,400 attendees joined their planning colleagues at NPC19.
• More than 1,300 of which were planning students.
• Attendees came from 30+ different countries.
• And all 50 states!

• Attendees had their pick of more than 60 mobile workshops.
• More than 330 resumes were reviewed.
• More than 560 headshots were taken.
• 5 Great Places in America were explored.
• 5 National Planning Excellence awards were given.
• Attendees posted their experiences all over social media, with over 6,500+ mentions of #NPC19 on Twitter alone, and 500+ posts on Instagram.
• More than 800 Snapchat filters were used. For more, check out the full #NPC19 Social Media Rewind.
• The APA Foundation raised more than $27,000 of Foundation donations!

Source of data and images: planning.org
NY Metro Chapter Executive Committee

The APA New York Metro Chapter is served by an Executive Committee of 13 voting members, as well as the Immediate Past President and Chair of the Young Planners Group as non-voting members.

President
Maxwell Sokol, AICP

Immediate Past President
James Rausse, AICP

Chapter Secretary
James Rigert

Chapter Treasurer
Kellie Radnis, AICP, LEED AP

Professional Development Officer/
VP Professional Development
Alex Wallach, AICP

VP Committees
Matthew Cunningham, AICP

VP Communications
Ela Dokonal, AICP CUD, LEED AP

VP Intergovernmental Affairs
Shachi Pandey, AICP, LEED AP

VP Programs
Holly Chase, AICP

Long Island Section Representative
Sean Sallie, AICP

Lower Hudson Valley East Section Representative
Peter Feroe, AICP

Lower Hudson Valley West Section Representative
Heather Jacksy, AICP

New York City Section Representative
Scott Grimm-Lyon, AICP

Student Representative Committee (SRC) Chair
Amber Nowak

Young Planners Group (YPG) Chair
Caroline Peri (Co-Chair)

Jackson Chabot (Co-Chair)

NY Metro Chapter Executive Committee / APA Leadership

American Planning Association Leadership

APA is governed by its Board of Directors, who are elected from among the membership of the Association. The Board is chaired by the APA President, and sets broad policy for the Association and governs its affairs.

The AICP Commission is the eight-member governing body of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Members include a President, a President-Elect or an Immediate Past President, and six Commissioners.

Kurt Christiansen, APA President

Kurt Christiansen is the former economic and community development director for Azusa, California. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners and holds a master’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a bachelor’s degree from California State University, Northridge. Christiansen has been an active member of APA, serving in various local and national leadership roles including as the Region VI Board director, Chapter Presidents Council vice chair, and president of the APA California Chapter. He also has encouraged new planners by serving as a mentor.

Courtenay Mercer, Director Elected from Region I

Courtenay Mercer is serving her second four-year term on the board and is the board’s secretary. She is principal of Mercer Planning Association in Jersey City, New Jersey, and formerly served as the director of planning at the NJ Office of Smart Growth. She holds master’s and bachelor’s degrees from Rutgers University. Within APA, Mercer has served as a member on the Budget and Development Plan Committee, Legislative and Policy Committee, and chair of the Membership Committee. She also previously served as the APA New Jersey Chapter president and as treasurer of the APA Chapter Presidents Council.

Deborah Alaimo Lawlor, AICP, PP

Debbie Alaimo Lawlor has over 35 years of experience, specializing in land use and environmental planning. She is discipline leader for planning services for Maser Consulting, PA, where she manages a team of 10 planners. Previously, she worked for the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. Lawlor has held leadership positions in APA’s Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division and APK’s New Jersey Chapter, which honored her in 2009 with its distinguished service award. She holds a BS in environmental planning and design and an MA in geography, both from Rutgers University.

Justin Garrett Moore, AICP, Commissioner Elected from Region I

Justin Garrett Moore, AICP, is an urban designer and the executive director of the NYC Public Design Commission. He has extensive experience in urban planning, design and arts initiatives, and is focused on prioritizing quality and excellence for the public realm, and fostering accessibility, diversity, and inclusion in public buildings, spaces, and art. Moore is also a member of the Urban Design Forum and Next City’s Vanguard, and teaches at Columbia University GSAPP’s urban design and planning programs. He is also the co-founder of Urban Patch, a social enterprise that focuses on community revitalization and design in American inner cities.

The NY Metro Chapter congratulates Leo Asuncion, AICP and Mitchell Silver, FAICP on their election to the roles of APA President-Elect and AICP President-Elect, respectively, and we also extend our congratulations to all our newly elected leaders.

The NY Metro Chapter congratulates Courtenay Mercer, AICP and Mitchell Silver, FAICP on their election to the roles of APA President-Elect and AICP President-Elect, respectively, and we also extend our congratulations to all our newly elected leaders.
James Rigert  
**Chapter Secretary**

The Chapter Secretary position plays a critical role in fostering communication within the Chapter as well as diligence through proper management and utilization of important records. In his first year serving as Chapter Secretary (formerly held by Olivia Jovine, current Chair of the Technology Committee), James Rigert worked closely with the VP of Communications and other members of the Executive Committee to ensure the Chapter stayed organized and had a clear vision of what the Chapter wanted to achieve.

Over the past year, Mr. Rigert’s duties included:
- Preparing accurate meeting minutes and documenting Executive Committee decisions;
- Managing the Chapter’s lists of Committees, Committee members and Chapter members;
- Maintaining and managing the Chapter’s records and archives;
- Assisting with organizing Chapter meetings, events and conferences; and
- Facilitating the preparation of the Chapter’s Annual Report.

For the upcoming year, Mr. Rigert would like to continue making strides towards organizing the Chapter’s archives, build upon the Chapter’s current file management system to handle documents, and continue working closely with the Chapter President and the VP of Communications to make advancements to the NYM Chapter website.

Kellie Radnis, AICP, LEED AP  
**Chapter Treasurer**

The Chapter built upon its success from 2018 over the course of 2019. Consistent with our approach from recent years, we developed a goals-based budget to maximize spending that aligns with our Chapter mission. The Chapter’s budget and expenditures in 2019 are summarized in the charts on the next page, and we are very happy to report that the vast majority of our budget was dedicated to Chapter programs and Sections/Committees, in furtherance of the Chapter’s mission. The updates provided by our Vice Presidents and Section Representatives in this Annual Report highlight the Chapter’s initiatives, events, and professional development activities throughout this past year.

We thank all of our returning and new sponsors for generously supporting our programs and mission. Our sponsorship drive for Chapter programming brought in about $34,000, which closely approached our ambitious fundraising goal for the year and was dedicated to supporting professional development and programs in line with our mission. We ended the year on a strong note to set us up for continued success in 2020 and beyond. Similar to the past couple of years, our Chapter operations and administrative functions were significantly supported by volunteer time, and we greatly appreciate the hard work of all of our volunteers!

The NY Metro Chapter thanks Kellie Radnis for her efforts as Chapter Treasurer during 2019 and wishes her well in the Interim Treasurer for the balance of the 2019-20 term.

**The 2019 APA-NYM Financial Statement Table**

Actuals for Financial Year 2019 are projected for closing date 31 December 2019

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**The 2019 APA-NYM Expense Report**

Diagram of percentile allocations for areas of administration & operation vs. spending dedicated to furthering the Chapter Mission.
Alex J. Wallach, AICP  
VP Professional Development/PDO

Certification Maintenance
The APA New York Chapter provides multiple opportuni-
ties throughout the year to earn certification maintenance (CM) credits to support our membership in their professional development. In 2019, the Chapter offered many events and conferences with over 50 CM hours of planning education, in-
cluding law and ethics credits. The Chapter’s programs have maintained a high level of quality, as evidenced by high aver-
age reviewer rating of around 5 out of 5 stars.

AICP Exams

The Chapter had an annual average pass rate of 77 percent (86 percent for the November 2018 exam and 68 percent for the May 2019 exam). New York Metro examinees for these two exams exceeded the National average annual pass rate of 65 percent.

In Spring 2019 the Chapter hosted the biannual “What to Expect from the AICP Exam” session. In the session, an overview of the format of the exam as well as study tips and technical advice for applicants was provided. The Spring 2019 session had 32 applicants registered with 4 new AICP planners sharing their experiences with those planning to take the exam. The session was well-received with record attendance.

APA National Conference
VP of Professional Development, Alex Wallach, AICP took part in the Professional Development Officer meeting at the APA National Conference in San Francisco, which discussed plans to update the certification maintenance program for candidates with excellence in the planning profession.

The year kicked off with the many members of the New York Metro Chapter provided consolidated feedback from our members on these changes, and the APA is considering input from all chapters. For more information, please check the updates at https://www.planning.org/cm/cmc/updates/.

The minimum length for activities eligible for CM credit has been reduced to 15 minutes, equaling 0.25 CM credits. This allows the chapter as an educational provider the flexibility to design and enter 15-minute live online, live-in-person, and on-demand CM activities.

AICP Candidate Program
Under the AICP Candidate Program, eligible students and recent graduates of accredited planning schools can now start early on the path to AICP by taking the AICP exam fresh out of school while they’re still in the academic mind frame. Passing the exam as a recent grad distinguishes an individual with the necessary skills to enter the planning profession.

If you have ideas for how the Chapter can support emerging and practicing professionals through certification and education development, please reach out to Alex J. Wallach at pdo@nyplanning.org.

Future AICP Exams

VP Professional Development/PDO & VP Committees
The APA-NYM Chapter Committees enjoyed another productive year with much to be proud of. Particularly noteworthy in 2019 was the Diversity Committee winning a national APA award and the successful launch of the Chapter’s newest Committee, the Technology Committee.

As seen in the recaps below the Committees have been quite busy, and I want to thank all the Committee leaders and volunteers for the many hours of work they put in. It is through their varied efforts that we are able to engage with so many members of the New York Metro planning community. If you are interested in getting involved with or learning more about the Chapter Committees, please visit our website for more information: www.nyplanning.org/communities/.

Matthew Cunningham, AICP  
VP Committees

Congratulations to our new AICP Members and AICP Candidates!

November 2018 AICP Members:
- Melissa Alagha, AICP
- Michael Amoroso, AICP
- Bradley Brashears, AICP
- Jeff Byer, AICP
- Veronica Chua, AICP
- Garyson Clark, AICP
- Alexandra Derian, AICP
- Trina Danz, AICP

November 2018 AICP Candidates:
- Andrew Buck, AICP Candidate
- Taylor Garner, AICP Candidate
- Dija Chen, AICP Candidate
- Charles Romanow, AICP Candidate
- Nur Avi, AICP Candidate
- Matthew Gray, AICP Candidate

November 2019 AICP Members:
- Jason Brody, AICP
- Maryam Khadjirian, AICP
- Elad Mokady, AICP
- Michael O’Neill, AICP
- Robert Saurina, AICP
- Carolyn Worstell, AICP
- Max Mazzola, AICP
- Jeremy Sagen, AICP
- Brooke Wcinacek, AICP

November 2019 AICP Candidates:
- Sarah Brown, AICP
- Fangjuan Dong, AICP
- Andrew Erich, AICP
- Gilbert Grabinowski, AICP
- Ayantithi Gunawardana, AICP
- Olivia Justine, AICP

VP Professional Development/PDO & VP Committees

VP Professional Development/PDO & VP Committees

Matthew Cunningham, AICP  
VP Committees

The APA-NYM Chapter Committees enjoyed another productive year with much to be proud of. Particularly noteworthy in 2019 was the Diversity Committee winning a national APA award and the successful launch of the Chapter’s newest Committee, the Technology Committee.

As seen in the recaps below the Committees have been quite busy, and I want to thank all the Committee leaders and volunteers for the many hours of work they put in. It is through their varied efforts that we are able to engage with so many members of the New York Metro planning community.

If you are interested in getting involved with or learning more about the Chapter Committees, please visit our website for more information: www.nyplanning.org/communities/.

Chapter Committees often partner on events that cut across individual topics and are likely to generate interest among a wide cross-section of the Chapter members. One of several such examples in 2019 was the Sustainability Among the Silos workshop. This and other Chapter programs aim to engage our members in interdisciplinary, thought-provoking, and action-oriented discussions about the timely issues in the planning profession.

Matthew Cunningham, AICP  
VP Committees

The APA-NYM Chapter Committees enjoyed another productive year with much to be proud of. Particularly noteworthy in 2019 was the Diversity Committee winning a national APA award and the successful launch of the Chapter’s newest Committee, the Technology Committee.

As seen in the recaps below the Committees have been quite busy, and I want to thank all the Committee leaders and volunteers for the many hours of work they put in. It is through their varied efforts that we are able to engage with so many members of the New York Metro planning community. If you are interested in getting involved with or learning more about the Chapter Committees, please visit our website for more information: www.nyplanning.org/communities/.

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VP Professional Development/PDO & VP Committees

November 2019 AICP Members:
- Sarah Brown, AICP
- Fangjuan Dong, AICP
- Andrew Erich, AICP
- Gilbert Grabinowski, AICP
- Ayantithi Gunawardana, AICP
- Olivia Justine, AICP

November 2019 AICP Candidates:
- John Askew, AICP Candidate
- Colin Brown, AICP Candidate
- Ushabha Eswaran, AICP Candidate
- Jackson McNeil, AICP Candidate
- Sarah Murphy, AICP Candidate
- Zach Postone, AICP Candidate

2019 highlights:

Awards Committee
The Awards Committee identifies Annual Chapter Award recipients, and looks for candidates with excellence in the practice of planning in the New York Metro area. The full list of 2018 and 2019 award recipients at the end of this report, which were announced and celebrated at the Annual Chapter Conference.

Diversity Committee
The Diversity Committee (DivComm) entered yet another busy and successful year since its revival in April 2015, now averaging 25-30 active members at each monthly meeting.

Promoting more equitable planning practice
The year kicked off in November 2018 with the launch of the Second Annual Hindsight Conference, an all-day conference centralizing social equity in planning, which gathered over 400 participants from across the country for 25 dynamic sessions. The 2018 conference was held in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and encouraged participants to reflect on the nation’s history of neighborhood segregation and move forward to more equitable policies and practices.
In the spring of 2019, the Committee began planning for the 2019 Hindsight Conference, whose theme was Erasure, Remembrance, and Healing, commemorating multiple anniversaries including 400 years of slavery in the U.S., 100 years since the Red Summer, and 50 years since the Stonewall Riots. This nationally-recognized conference, which featured a day of workshops, performances, panels, and a walking tour, was held on December 6, 2019 with a record 600+ registrants. For more information, visit www.hindsightcon.com

Supporting the professional development of underrepresented planners

In August 2019, DivComm held another professional development event for its members and the greater public. DivComm hosted a panel discussion, “The Political and Social Capital Costs of Advancing Equity,” with some of NYC’s leaders in equity in different planning sectors. The event attracted over 60 participants, and included a moderated panel where speakers reflected on their personal and professional experiences in advancing equity, including the challenges, the rewards, and the lessons learned.

DivComm also launched the pilot issue of PREFACES: Identity, Planning, and Practice—a creative and practical guide that prepares young and underrepresented planners, particularly planners of color, for their entry into the reality of the planning profession. DivComm members collected video interviews, essays, poems, artwork, and other reflections from underrepresented planners providing insight on some of the hardships, successes, and advice. Digital compilations are available at http://prefacesguide.com.

Training the next generation of planners

Throughout the year, the Committee continues to be active with youth in planning workshops, leading interactive activities with middle and high schools exploring urban planning and their impact on communities. In March 2019, the youth and planning education team held a series of workshops to train professionals in youth engagement strategies through gameplay. These series of trainings was the kickoff to a multi-week program with high schoolers at the Brooklyn Collaborative School in Carroll Gardens. Over the course of several weeks, students learned a myriad of planning concepts such as neighborhood planning, environmental justice, and budget decision-making through a series of workshops and games led by DivComm members.

In June 2019, the youth education team launched another multi-week workshop partnership with Ellis Academy in the Bronx. Over the course of the summer, high school students were introduced to planning concepts through workshops, conversations with industry advisors, and field trips where they learned about the work of planners in the public and private sector. The work of the students has culminated into a study that was showcased at the 2019 Hindsight Conference. In late June, youth education leaders Kate Selden and Daphne Lundi were awarded a grant through the Taconic Fellowship at the Pratt Center for Community Development to create a new urban planning curriculum for young people. The Octavia Project, a science-fiction based summer program for girls and gender non-conforming teens is a partner on the fellowship. Through this fellowship, Kate and Daphne will be working with past participants of the Octavia Project to create new urban planning curricula that are grounded in the experience of young people in New York City. The new curricula will be used in future summer programs at the Octavia Project and at other educational institutions.

Also in 2019, the youth education team led another introductory urban planning workshop with grade schoolers at the Brooklyn Friends School in Downtown Brooklyn. Using found objects, students shared their vision of a future city.

Advancing gender and racial diversity in the profession

Starting in summer 2019, DivComm’s Co-Chair Giovania Tiarachristi, in partnership with Daniel Lim Consulting, are working together with the Pratt Center For Community Development, co-sponsored by the APA New York Metro Chapter, to plan a convening for private-sector planning firms in New York City to convene and strategize on how to collectively advance racial and gender equity in the profession and field. In the fall of 2019, an initial convening was held for firms to learn and reflect on the findings from the Elephant in the Planning Room study, share their current strategies and challenges around advancing equity, and strategize on collective next steps.

Cultivating safe space and community

Continuing to meet monthly, DivComm leadership have been striving to be more intentional in the balance of organizing and hosting educational events, while fostering a safe space and building a community for planners that identify as people of color, women, LGBTQ, and other underrepresented identities. This year, members have convened for an annual holiday pot luck and gift exchange, community service day, a game night, a beach trip to Coney Island, a group excursion to the Queens Night Market, informal happy hours, and safe space hours in monthly meetings.

The 2019 National APA Chapter Presidents Council presented the APA New York Metro Chapter with the Karen B. Smith Award in the category of Outstanding Service to Members, specifically in recognition of DivComm. Read more about this recognition in the “Spotlight on DivComm” section of this Annual Report.

To express your interest in supporting DivComm’s initiatives, please email diversity@nypco.org for more information.

Economic Development Committee

Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Chisato Shimada and recently appointed Co-Chair Jo-Sar Davis-Oacio, the mission of the Committee is to promote and increase the understanding of economic development, as it is a critical element of planning.

One of the key events for the Committee in 2019 was a movie-night to discuss how to transform the adverse effects of the housing bubble crisis in rust belt cities, as well as new sustainable economic models that could foster public land ownership, ultimately building a sense of social equity for all members of the community.

For the upcoming year, the Committee intends to continue our topical events by hosting professional forums and tours throughout the New York Metro region. In addition, the Committee holds monthly meetings to discuss new economic development topics and potential events that will attract new members and spur interest in topics related to the NY Metro area, no matter how large or small the potential economic impact. In the past, the Committee has also provided suggestions to policymakers when members convey passion in a particular topic.

Last year, the Committee held the first Economic Development Roundtable, which was envisioned to be a recurring event featuring conversations about projects, timely issues, and
trends in economic development – so stay tuned for our next round table event!

Chapter members who are interested in participating in assessing the relationship between planning and economic development are encouraged to join the Committee. Please email us at economicdevelopment@nyplanning.org for more information.

Environmental Committee
The core group of the Metro Chapter Environmental Committee meets and coordinates semi-regularly to discuss issues, policies, and programs related to environmental planning. In June 2019 an interest survey was launched to envision the future of the Committee, getting feedback about the most pressing environmental planning challenges in the NY Metro area.

In July 2019 the Committee organized the Saw Mill Creek Pilot Mobile Workshop, which gave attendees the opportunity to

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The third fall tour featured Southern Boulevard with a Business Improvement District and vibrant business corridor in the southern portion, but the northern portion of the corridor has had challenges. The tour included the Sheridan Expressway, which is being reimagined with a community-friendly ground-level boulevard and Crotona Park; a visit to the legendary Charlotte Street single-family homes on the western edge of the rezoning area built by Jimmy Carter; and townhouses built by the Housing Partnership in the 90s.

HNRC continued participation in discussions with community advocates who need for a comprehensive planning framework for New York City. HNRC reviewed the Thriving Communities Coalition's proposal for changes to the City Charter to create a comprehensive planning process. HNRC will organize panel discussions on this topic using the toured neighborhoods as case studies.

HNRC held several meetings about the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) as the Federal government intervened. Victor Bach from the Community Service Society spoke to the group about the history, tenant associations and his recent monitoring of NYCHA. The HNRC reviewed the Citizen’s Housing and Planning Council study of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. The group discussed ways to generate revenues and new apartment units with better land use and considerable new construction, HNRC will be holding a seminar on this topic early next year.

HNRC reviewed the newly passed State Climate Leadership and Community Preservation Act and the City’s Climate Mobilization Act. The Committee will be monitoring the implementation of these laws. HNRC will focus this year on concepts to better integrate energy planning into our urban planning processes.

HNRC members also contributed to the APA National Housing Policy Guide that was published mid-year.

To get involved in the work of the HNRC, please email housing@nyplanning.org for more information.

Technology Committee
The first official year of the Technology Committee (or “Tech Committee”) has been both busy and productive. The Technology Committee kicked off in March at F2 019 with a successful happy hour launch event, bringing together planners and technologists to discuss goals for the newly formed Committee, topics of interest, and potential future events.

Much of the first year of the Technology Committee has been devoted to developing a mission and goals for the Committee. With over 20 core members, each of the Committee meetings has brought new members and bold new ideas for the future of the Technology Committee. Meetings and events have produced many fruitful discussions around the role of technology in planning.

The Committee hosted its first event offering 1.5 CE credits in August 2019. Titled ‘Computer Vision and Community Vision,’ participants listened and engaged in a lively discussion (in person and virtually!) around the many and varied uses, benefits, and drawbacks of utilizing machine learning in a planning context.

Reinforcing the Committee’s commitment to exploring equity through the lens of technology, the Committee produced a panel discussion for the 2019 Annual Chapter Conference. The panel, titled ‘Techquity: Expanding Opportunity Through Technology,’ explored how planners can use technology to make the planning process more accessible, equitable, and effective.

The Technology Committee also participated in the Diversity Committee’s 2019 Hindsight Conference in December, with a session focused on exploring physical and digital spaces in the LGBTQ community. The session aimed to initiate a multifaceted conversation about online and real spaces, the opportunity for empowering members of the queer community, and the equity challenges inherent in digital communities.

To get involved in the Technology Committee, please email us at technology@nyplanning.org.

Above: Technology Committee Below: Transportation Committee
Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee had another successful year hosting informal events and partnering with other transportation-related organizations. Committee leadership consisted of Dorothy Miketa, AICP and Katerina Radin, AICP (Co-Chairs), Stephanie Shelloo, AICP (Events Coordinator), Lindsay Levine (Communications Lead), Gloria Campbell (Communications Lead), and Christopher Lee (Researcher).

2019 highlights include:
- **Winter Happy Hour & Open Meeting:** Held a happy hour and open meeting in February to discuss the Committee’s objectives and engage new and returning members.
- **Reycle-a-Bicycle Volunteer Event:** Hosted a volunteer event at Bike New York’s Recycle-A-Bicycle shop, Long Island City, in March, where volunteers refurbished children’s bikes to support Bike New York education programs and divert waste from NYC’s landfills.
- **Transportation Trivia:** Partnered with the Greater New York Chapter of WTS and the Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT), in addition to our APA Chapter’s NYC Section, to put on the annual Transportation Trivia Night in April.
- **L-Train Panel Discussion:** Hosted a CM panel, “Alt-L: Exploring Alternatives to the Shutdown for L-Tunnel Repair” in early May that brought together transportation experts to discuss the various L-Tunnel repair plans and the implications of proposed mitigation strategies.
- **City of New York’s Cycling in the City Museum Tour:** Partnered with the Arts & Culture Subcommittee in June to host a privately-guided CM museum tour of the Museum of the City of New York’s newest exhibit: Cycling in the City, which explores the historic transformation of the bicycle in urban transportation and leisure.
- **ITE/APA Summer Happy Hour:** Partnered with the Institute of Transportation Engineers Met Section Young Members Group for an informal happy hour in July to bring together members of both organizations.
- **WTS/APA/DOT Bike Tour:** Partnered with WTS and the NYCDOT Bicycle Program for a bike tour of the new protected bike lanes on 29th Street in September. The tour explored new and innovative bike infrastructure and ended with networking over food and drinks.
- **PARK(ing) Day:** Supported ASLA NY to promote the Parking(ing) Day 2019 (September 20th) setup at Broadway & 108th Street.
- **Transportation Scavenger Hunt:** Partnered with YPT on the annual Transportation Scavenger Hunt in late October.

To get involved with the Transportation Committee or hear more about our upcoming activities, join our Facebook group, or email us at transportation@nyplanning.org. We are always looking for feedback and ideas to expand our range of events, increase participation, and bring in new and diverse voices to continue the conversation around transportation in the New York Metro region.

Urban Design Committee

The Urban Design Committee, led by Co-Chairs Greg Haley and Emory Grace Lee, has had a productive year, continuing to advance its mission of elevating the role of the planning profession in urban design. In addition to organizing several events throughout the year, the Committee established internal working groups to broaden advocacy initiatives around youth education, emerging firms and providing planning/urban design technical assistance.

The following working groups were established within the Committee in 2018, and have continued their work over the last year:
- **Youth Education** – Intended to raise awareness and understanding about the planning and urban design profession among NYC’s youth.
- **Emerging Firms** – Intended to highlight emerging planning and urban design practices and commend project innovation and ingenuity in urban design.
- **Technical Assistance** – Intended to provide a framework for offering short-term, pro-bono consulting services to local clients, by Chapter members.

As of March 2019, Cristina Ungureanu stepped down from her post as Co-Chair with Greg Haley, as she has relocated to the Los Angeles area. While Cristina will be missed, the Committee was happy to welcome Emory Grace Lee as Co-Chair, joining Greg to help steer and facilitate the Committee. Over the last year, the Committee welcomed Jennifer Gardner as a new member, and the Committee is currently looking to select a new communications lead from within the group.

The Urban Design Committee is open to all and convenes a regular cohort of approximately a half dozen regular attendees to discuss a diverse array of NYC waterfront issues and themes. Attendees include a mixture of planners, students, landscape architects, and lawyers all coalescing over shared passions for waterfront planning, users and project implementation in NY.

A goal for this year’s Committee was to organize guest speakers to give mini-presentations to spark Committee discussion and education at each of the monthly meetings. A few of the presenters over the year were representatives from the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) speaking about the 2019 Shared Harbor Survey and the RISE NYC program; the Newtown Creek Alliance presenting their master plan proposal for the waterfront and surrounding shorelines; and the Waterfront Alliance presenting their Maritime Activation Plan for Governors Island.

Waterfront Committee

The APA NY Metro Chapter Waterfront Committee met Monday evenings throughout 2019 at the Cornell Art Architecture and Planning Studio in Lower Manhattan. The Committee is open to all and convenes a regular cohort of approximately a half dozen regular attendees to discuss various waterfront-related topics such as the City’s Waterfront Comprehensive Plan as well as the City’s Waterfront Comprehensive Plan that will be released toward the end of 2020 as required by the City Charter.

The Committee is always welcoming of new members and/or anyone who just wants to take in the amazing view of the harbor from the meeting location on the 20th Floor of 26 Broadway. Please get involved and email Committee Co-Chair Max Taffet with any questions at waterfront@nyplanning.org.
In the fast-paced world of today, where the news and notifications are flashing in front of our eyes, on our phones or vibrating on our wrists, it is crucial to develop and constantly improve the strategy that is designed to meet the content and message delivery as effortlessly and interestingly as possible.

Communications represents a crucial area for the Chapter’s operating procedures and finances, with an objective to define quantifiable metrics to evaluate our progress as we move forward. Our organization is uniquely positioned to promote the value of planning in consensus-building and decision-making, especially regarding vital socio-economic and environmental issues; our Chapter is in one of the most dynamic regions of the country.

Daily, Ela is working with the Committees, Sections and fellow Executive Committee leaders to support their communication needs, managing communication outlets and supporting Chapter members and partnering organizations.

The major efforts are focused on the Chapter’s website updates and bi-weekly release of the Chapter’s newsletter featuring an increased audience of 3,200+ recipients, and an open-rate that exceeds expectations. The newsletter allows us to promote Chapter activities beyond our membership and therefore promote our organization and planning as a profession. Regular requests to promote partnering organizations’ events demonstrates the value of our newsletter and allows us to increase programming for our members.

The APA-NYM website, scheduled for some minor redesign in the near future, has increased the views with an average of over 9,000 visits/day, with over 100,000 page views in the last year. Driven by the user-provided content, it allows our members and leadership to post events, advertise meetings, and post messages. Our job-posting board is the most visited page, and we have an increased interest from municipalities to advertise RFIs and RFQs.

The Chapter’s switch to Eventbrite ticket-purchase has affected the webpage visit-stats but improved user experience. In 2020, the focus will shift towards other social media platforms.

Please email Ela at communications@nyplanning.org if you would like to get involved, or have any suggestions and questions.

Shachi Pandey, AICP, LEED AP
VP Intergovernmental Affairs

The Vice President of Intergovernmental Affairs is primarily responsible for advancing the planning agenda, policy action and priorities of the NY Metro area at the local, state and national level. The VP works closely with the entire Chapter Leadership Team—including the Executive Committee and the Chairs of the Chapter’s topical committees—to coordinate and build consensus on policy issues.

Under the leadership of Shachi Pandey, the Chapter’s accomplishments in the policy arena in 2019 included but were not limited to the following:

- Convened and facilitated a breakout session on legislative advocacy at our 2019 Chapter Leadership Retreat;
- Defined a set of near-term and longer-term recommendations to inform the Chapter’s Development Plan, with the goals of improving visibility and communication, creating value for our members, and encouraging partnerships both within the Chapter and with external organizations;
- Coordinated the Chapter’s participation in the National Delegation Assembly at the 2019 National Planning Conference in San Francisco;
- Attended the 2019 APA Policy & Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC, which included participation in Planners’ Day on Capitol Hill and attendance at the national press event for the designation of 2019 Great Places in America; and
- Represented the Chapter at the 2019 APA State Legislative Forum in Virginia.

In 2020, the Chapter looks to continue building upon the momentum from last year.

Holly Chase, AICP
VP Programs

The 2019 Annual Conference was an all-day event held on October 18, at 58 Park Avenue (Scandinavia House) in Manhattan. It featured sessions on biophilic urbanism, expanding opportunity through technology, the Hudson Square business improvement district, zoning for cannabis, and the “pink tax” on transportation. Photos from the conference are included on page 37 of this report.

The collaborative effort of planning for and hosting the conference involved Executive Committee members, Committee Chairs, Chapter members, student volunteers, and distinguished speakers. The Chapter was thrilled to feature both of the region’s newly designated “Great Places” during the conference: Clare Newman, President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island, served as the keynote speaker, and a mobile walking tour of Downtown Patchogue Village was held the next day on October 19.

Special thanks to Chapter President Max Sokol, VP of Communications Ela Dokonal, Chapter Treasurer Kellie Radnis, Chapter Secretary James Rigert, Professional Development Officer Alex Wallach, and Student Representative Benn Hemmings. Chapter members are reminded that ideas for programs, recommendations for speakers, and discussion topics are always welcome and should be sent to programs@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.
Sean Sallie, AICP
Long Island

Section Representative

Sean Sallie, AICP is currently serving in his third term as Section Representative. Long Island Section members are private and municipal planners, public officials, and concerned citizens that work or reside in Nassau or Suffolk Counties. Through the work of the Steering Committee, the Section offers professional development and networking events focused on topical planning issues and spotlighting great places throughout Long Island.

Arthur H. Kunz Scholarship Program & Annual Memorial Scholarship Breakfast

Since 1995, 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. The scholarship covers the majority of expenses related to the National Conference registration, APA membership for one year for non-members, and some additional expenses. Mr. Kunz spent many 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 Section’s Annual Memorial Breakfast event. Next year, the Long Island Section will recognize the 25th anniversary of the scholarship program.

On May 10th, 2019, the Long Island Section held its annual Arthur Kunz Memorial Scholarship Breakfast at the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College in Farmingdale. The event was attended by more than 50 public and private sector planners, engineers and economic development professionals. The event kicked off with inspiring words from Max Sokol, AICP; APA NY Metro Chapter President, and Stuart Turner, FAICP; President at Nelson, Pope & Vorhow, LLC. The event then transitioned to reports from each of the 2019 Arthur Kunz Memorial Scholarship recipients on their experience and perspectives from the APA National Planning Conference. A special congratulations to the 2019 Scholarship recipients: Wachelangelo Lieberman, Nick Shearman, Rebecca Steiner and Simone Torre. The Breakfast concluded with two exciting presentations. The first presentation highlighted the New York City Department of City Planning’s recently released report entitled “The Geography of Jobs: NYC Metro Region Economic Snapshots.” The second presentation included panelists speaking on the topic of downtown economic development and business investment. Thank you to all our speakers and panelists! The program offered 2.25 CM credits.

Annual Summer Field Trip

On August 9th, members of the NY Metro Chapter met on the Long Beach Boardwalk for a morning of touring the City of Long Beach. Patti Bourne, Director of Economic Development and Planning, greeted attendees and introduced the first of many speakers, DPW Commissioner John Miranda. Commissioner Miranda discussed Long Beach’s resiliency projects such as the Army Corps Dunes Project, the Northshore Bulkheading, new Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Command Center, pump stations, and other flood mitigation strategies. Gordon Tepper, Senior Policy Advisor and Director of Communications, discussed the marketing of Long Beach, especially after Hurricane Sandy devastated the coastal community. Patti Bourne talked about the importance of the boardwalk and its quick rebuild after Sandy.

The group then checked out the Skudin Surf Camp where Will Skudin discussed the uniqueness of Long Beach as a surfing destination. Will Skudin is an internationally renowned professional surfer who resides in Long Beach and teaches surfing lessons with his brother Cliff Skudin.

The group then hopped aboard an open-air trolley to explore more of Long Beach. The tour was able to visit the West End, which is a tight-knit community that features many unique local businesses and restaurants. The trolley route included Pennsylvania Ave, a block displaying a number of raised beach homes which were once beach bungalows. Many of these projects were funded by HUD CDBG-DR funds administered by the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery. The trolley then visited North Shore Bulkheading, a project to install new and replaced substandard bulkheads along the Bayfront of Long Beach utilizing FEMA and CDBG-DR funding. The group then passed by the Long Beach Sewer Treatment Plant (STP). The STP is in the preliminary stages of a project to decrease nitrogen pollution and improve the water quality of Reynolds Channel. This is a collaborative project between Nassau County and the City of Long Beach. The tour ended at Long Beach City Hall where the group took a tour of the new OEM Command Center (still under construction).

The morning concluded with lunch at a local restaurant where guest speaker, Leah Tozer, realtor and partner at Engel & Volkers, discussed the current real estate market on the barrier island, and the many challenges homeowners face due to sea level rise and new flood insurance requirements.

The Long Island Section would like to thank Patti Bourne, Rebecca Steiner and the City of Long Beach for organizing and hosting an informative and fun morning by the sea. We look forward to announcing next year’s field trip!

NYS DOS Training for Planning and Zoning Board Officials

On April 16 and 17, 2019, the LI Section, in partnership with the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS), offered free training sessions in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Topics covered at the Suffolk event included: Community Resiliency, Public Meetings and Hearings, Adaptive Reuse for White Elephants and Aging in Place. In Nassau, topics included: Hot Button Land Uses, Land Use Moratorium and Aging in Place. The training was provided by NYS DOS staff and training hours fulfilled the State requirement for 4 hours of training each year for planning and zoning board members. Thank you to NYS DOS, Nassau County, Suffolk County and the APA LI Section Steering Committee for your partnership and collaboration in planning and hosting both events. The Section looks forward to hosting a follow up training event in 2020.

Annual East End Conference

On October 15, 2019, the Section held its Annual East End Planning Conference at Hotel Indigo East End located in Riverhead. The Conference kicked off with a mobile workshop at several coastal erosion control projects throughout the Town of Southampton. The afternoon included two exciting panel discussions. The first panel session, titled “Erosion Control Districts,” included representatives working with the Town of Southampton on addressing the impacts of climate change on coastal and ocean-facing properties.

The second session, titled “Recreational Initiatives in Suffolk County,” discussed recent initiatives promoting recreation in Suffolk County, including the Suffolk County Hike/Bike Master Plan and bike-share program, Town of Southold’s Bay to Sound Integrated Trails Initiative and, the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan Initiative. The program offered 5 CM credits.

Co-sponsors & Section Collaboration

The Section Steering Committee continues to reach out to other organizations on Long Island, including Hofstra University and Vision Long Island, in an effort to provide a range of CM credit-offering programs and networking opportunities.

LI Section Officers

Sean Sallie, AICP: Section Director
Kathy Eisenman, AICP: Treasurer
David Tepper, AICP: Secretary
Wes Sternberg, AICP: PDD

2018 Steering Committee Members

Patti Bourne, AICP; Kyle Collins, AICP; Ela Dokonal, AICP
CU, LEED AP; Marwa Fawaz; Taylor Garner; Emily Humes; Tom Isles, AICP; Janice Jijina, AICP, PE, LEED AP; Sarah Lansdale, AICP; Areyh Lembarber, AICP; Jefferson Murphree, AICP; Maxwell Sokol, AICP; Wes Sternberg, AICP; David Viana, Alex Wallach, AICP; and Elissa Ward.

Thank you to the entire Steering Committee for your collaboration and volunteerism which allows the LI Section to continue to offer a wide range of events and programs to our members!
Peter Feroe, AICP
Lower Hudson Valley East

Section Representative

The Lower Hudson Valley East Section continued its partnership with the Westchester County Planning Department, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), and Westchester Municipal Planning Federation (WMPF) curating training sessions of interest to our members.

In October, the Section co-sponsored a WMPF seminar that discussed implementation issues associated with alternative energy solutions, a topic of increasing importance given the natural gas moratorium that is in place for new customers in many parts of our region. Local land use practitioners, representatives from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and representatives from ConEd discussed the physical and practical barriers to alternative energy implementation, as well as the changing regulatory landscape on the state level. Both existing and contemplated zoning regulations identified as critical to facilitating the responsible growth of alternative energy solutions were discussed.

In November, the Section co-sponsored an event with NYMTC, the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum, and the Westchester County Departments of Planning and Transportation on bike sharing. Part of a larger series on shared mobility, this workshop included presentations by four Westchester municipalities that have implemented bike share programs. The program focused on the lessons learned and best practices from these “early adopters” at all phases of the programs’ development. Common and localized issues were identified. This workshop also served as part of the outreach ahead of the next NYMTC Long Range Plan (2050).

Looking forward, the Section recognizes the need to broaden the geographic reach of its programs. In the year ahead, Section Representative Peter Feroe, AICP, plans to proactively reach out to municipal planning departments and planning organizations in each of the Section’s counties to offer the Metro Chapter’s assistance in developing quality training programs throughout the Section’s geography. Similarly, Mr. Feroe encourages the Section’s members to reach out to him directly to discuss their thoughts on how the Chapter could play a role in the training, collaboration, and networking functions within your local and regional areas of practice.

Heather Jacksy, AICP
Lower Hudson Valley West

Section Representative

The geography of the Hudson Valley West Section spans a range of development densities, natural environments, political identities and planning issues. The main goal of the Section’s work done for the APA is to increase the opportunities for education about planning-related issues and partner with other entities providing this content to offer CM credits. This approach brings sound planning practices into communities where professional resources are not built into the local boards. It also provides exposure for the APA and edification of planning as a professional field.

This year the Hudson Valley-West Section helped develop and coordinate an event at the NYF Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association Conference (FSMAC). With a focus on climate change and resiliency, this event provided a great opportunity to engage planners in the work of the NYS FSMAC. Additionally, we co-sponsored another event addressing climate change: Community Forestry in a Rapidly Changing World.

Additionally, with the help of the NY Metro Chapter outreach resources, we helped promote area programs, one of which featured speaker Ben Winchester who lectures about how rural areas can benefit from “brain gain” instead of “brain drain.”

Scott Grimm-Lyon
New York City

Section Representative

The New York City Section coordinates events to APA-NYM Chapter membership within the 5 boroughs of New York City.

Annual Chapter Holiday Party

The NYC Section partnered with SRC and YPG to co-host the Annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 on the rooftop (enclosed deck) at The Beer Authority NYC, near 40th St. and 8th Ave. in Manhattan. The festive event was attended by over 100 planners from across the region and included food, drinks, laughter, conversation, networking opportunities and even some skee ball.

The NYC Section organized the 2019 Holiday Party on December 10 at Turntable LP Bar. About 100 planners joined together over the holiday season for networking opportunities, great food, and an open bar, plus karaoke for those who were so inclined!

Event Space

In 2019 APA-NYM began offering free event space in Lower Manhattan to Chapter Committees and Chapter members who wish to host CM credit events. The NYC Section acts as the liaison between the venue and our members to make sure events are properly organized and run smoothly. Eight events have been hosted in the space since the program began in June. Seven committees have participated, and the space has facilitated 9 CM credit hours to be available to our members. Events have included lectures, webinars, networking opportunities, a movie night, and a book club.

The event space is provided through LMHQ, a not-for-profit co-working space owned by the Alliance for Downtown New York. LMHQ is located at 150 Broadway in Manhattan, across the street from Zuccotti park, Isamu Noguchi’s Red Cube sculpture and only one block from the Fulton Street subway and PATH station complex.

The Chapter provides two rooms for use, a flexible meeting room with a view of the Hudson River for up to 40 people; and a large and versatile event space that can be configured for café seating that will hold up to 60, or a lecture hall that can hold 120 participants. Both spaces offer AV equipment for event hosts and walls that you can write on. APA-NYM is providing this space to help Committees and members streamline event planning and help guarantee to our members that the Chapter will provide a breadth of CM credit opportunities each year.

APA-NYM hopes to host an additional 8 events in the space this winter and Spring. APA-NYM has a limited amount of credits to apply toward rental space, and event space will be reserved on a first come first served basis. Events can only be held on Monday-Friday and may not go past 9:00 pm. All events hosted in the space must be open to all APA members, publicized in the APA-NYM newsletter, and must offer CM credits. Committee leaders and APA-NYM members interested in hosting events can reach out to Scott Grimm-Lyon at nyc@nyplanning.org.

Parking Day

On September 21st, the NYC Section participated in PARK(ing) Day, an annual event that encourages planners, landscape architects, community members, and students to transform metered parking spaces into temporary parklets. The Section provided t-shirts and funds for the event and members set up a temporary park installation in a high visibility/high media attention area across from Rockefeller Center from 7am-4pm.

Networking with Other Professional Organizations

The NYC Section was instrumental in organizing a conference titled “The Big Picture: Large Scale Developments in NYC” on Friday Sept. 13, 2019. The event was a joint conference co-hosted by the APA-NYM, American Society of Landscape Architects, and the American Institute of Architects. The event explored the history and future of how large scale developments - from Battery Park to Hudson Yards - have shaped the physical fabric and development approaches of New York City. The event was a great opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas among our professions and helped offer new perspectives on how we can build and plan for the future of the City.

To get more involved in the efforts of the NYC Section please contact Scott Grimm-Lyon at nyc@nyplanning.org.
Amber Nowak and Jackson Chabot
Student Representative Committee

The Student Representative Committee fosters an ongoing relationship among students at New York Metro Area planning schools and the local Chapter and national organization of the APA. To fulfill that mission, the Committee acts as a liaison between students and the APA and coordinates events such as the annual Studio Presentations and inter-school conferences.

2018-2019 Academic Year Representatives:
Chair: Amber Nowak
Vice Chair: Jackson Chabot
Columbia University: Camille Esquivel and Lorraine Liao
CUNY Hunter College: Brenn Hemmings
New York University: Ignacio Aravena and Nicolas Garcia
Pratt Institute: Jackson Chabot and Jay Sandus
Rutgers University: Katie Shepard (2018) and Teun Deulimming (2019)

Lattes with Leaders
As part of a running tradition, this past year the SRC organized a series of events called “Lattes with Leaders” during the spring semester that provided a forum for students to talk with leaders in the planning field in informal, small-group settings. This year, groups of three to twelve students shared coffee and conversation with Suzanne Neinaber and Bryan Ross from the Center for Active Design, Matthew Cunningham of WSP, Danny Yoder of New York City Department of Transportation, Ilseoma Ebo of the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, Matt Finelli of PJ Global Management, Gregory Frances of the City of Hoboken, and Dr. David Himmelstein and Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, public health and planning professionals. Each conversation offered a unique perspective to different parts of the planning field and the SRC is deeply grateful for the time and knowledge each person shared.

AICP Informational Session
Alex Wallich, AICP, the NYM Chapter’s Professional Development Officer graciously hosted AICP information sessions at each of the participating schools for interested students. These well-attended events provided students with information about the different routes they can take, how they might prepare for the certification test, and possible next steps.

Studio Presentations
The Annual Student Studio Presentations were held at Columbia’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation this year and featured student presentations and faculty judges from Columbia, Hunter, NYU, Pratt, and Rutgers. More than 75 students, planning professionals, and community members attended to watch the presentations.

Topics this year included:

- **Columbia** presented the Future of Pier 76; Pier 76 currently serves as a New York City Police Department tow pound. Under the Hudson River Park Act, the city is required to use “best efforts” to relocate the tow pound so that the pier can be made available for development. The Act requires redevelopment that devotes at least 50% of the pier footprint to public park use, while the balance may be used for commercial purposes that are permitted under the Act. The Studio produced a set of strategic recommendations that advance the Trust’s reuse plans by addressing key questions such as how to relocate a major municipal facility and what is the best use of the pier.

- **Hunter** presented on the studio NYCHA RAD: Under The Radar: Community Development & The Future of NYCHA. The members of this two-semester studio focused on NYCHA, particularly how its increasing use of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program to mitigate its capital deficit not only excludes its residents and community development corporations (CDCs) from participating in the conversion process, but also frames affordable housing solely as a monetary matter.

- **NYU** presented a comprehensive transit corridor study that addressed the economic or mobility considerations of extending the 4 train along Utica Avenue, which is relevant given the Utica Avenue Transit Improvement Study by the MTA. The NYU effort looked at the long term zoning and development impacts in addition to evaluating different ranges of transit needs.

- **Pratt’s** studio presented on their planning and placemaking recommendations for the Los Sitios neighborhood of La Habana, Cuba in collaboration with students from CUIAE’s School of Architecture. The studio included a 10-day site visit to La Habana, interviews with community residents and activists, and resulted in a comprehensive set of recommendations for housing, mobility and public space.

- **The Rutgers, Bloustein School** studio team, in partnership with the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (NORTA), developed transit-oriented community (TOC) guidelines specific to the City of New Orleans, Louisiana. The guidelines serve as a framework for encouraging future transit-oriented communities in New Orleans by promoting greater transit ridership and mixed-use development around stations. In developing these guidelines, the studio team produced TOC typologies applied to existing stations, comparable examples of TOC in other cities, and a TOC implementation plan. Establishing TOC typologies was essential for understanding how areas around transit stations exist today, and how they can become TOCs in the future.

High Line Tour
To kick off the fall semester and explore part of Manhattan, the SRC hosted a guided tour of the High Line. This event drew about 20 participants, featured lively conversation, connections, and helped start the year on the right note.

Volunteering at Chapter Annual Conference
At the end of October, SRC members helped recruit volunteers for the Metro Chapter’s Annual Conference at Scandinavia House. Graduate student volunteers assisted in making sure the Conference ran smoothly and provided support for organizers while also participating in the sessions and networking opportunities available throughout the day.

Spring Meet and Greet
As the weather warmed up, the SRC hosted a Spring Meet and Greet at The Park to continue building relationships between students at participating schools. The event, which drew more than 30 participants, was a tremendous social opportunity and helped gather input from participants who responded to a survey about how the group could best meet their needs going forward.
The Young Planners Group (YPG) continues to work to support emerging planning professionals in the region and connect these new professionals with the New York Metro Chapter and its Committees and Sections. YPG welcomes new members and ideas for engagement, and in the year ahead looks forward to developing new programming and ways to connect members to one another and to the broader planning field, as well as strengthening the pipeline between student members and emerging professionals who engage with the Chapter prior to or immediately following enrollment in planning school.

YPG fulfills its mission through three main efforts: networking and social events, the Mentorship Program, and the Youth in Planning outreach program.

Events

Over the past year, YPG has supported, collaborated, and hosted several events to help young planners and recent graduates forge connections with colleagues and expand participation with the New York Metro Chapter. In July, YPG hosted a Meet & Greet event at The Crooked Knife to generate interest and create a vision for how YPG can best serve emerging planning professionals in the region. Attendee feedback included requests for career support, professional development for soft skills, and volunteering. YPG followed this event with a kickoff meeting in late summer to explore how to meet these needs in the coming year. Plans are in the works for upcoming events-including training sessions and social/professional networking opportunities - and, looking ahead, YPG is excited to broaden the range of programming offered, develop deeper partnerships, and further involve emerging professionals in the Chapter.

Mentorship

The New York Metro Chapter’s Mentorship Program provides valuable opportunities for connection, learning, and enrichment between early career professionals and planners with greater experience in the field. The YPG Mentorship Subcommittee celebrated its tenth year of the program and led another successful round of the APA NY Metro Chapter Mentorship Program. This year’s Subcommittee was chaired by Katie Shepard and Jack Nieman with Elizabeth Bertan and Rachel Van Metre serving as Subcommittee members. This year, 19 mentor-mentee matches were made. There were a record number of 44 mentee applicants, making the program more competitive than in previous years.

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 submission 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.

The Subcommittee hosted five events during the sixth month program. These events included a kickoff event in March, a spring event in April, a midpoint event in June, a behind the scenes tour of the Manhattanville Columbia Campus in July, and a wrap-up event in September. Almost all mentor/mentee pairs were present at the kickoff, midpoint, and wrap-up events. About half of the cohort attended the Manhattanville event. The Subcommittee also posted in the LinkedIn group page an email about upcoming events that mentors and mentees were able to further network with each other. Additionally, participants were encouraged to attend together. The kickoff event was hosted at the WSP office in New York and introduced the cohort to each other as well as the structure and expectations of the program. Mentors and mentees went around the room and introduced themselves and why they joined the planning profession. Following introductions, mentor/mentee pairs met together to begin outlining their goals for the program. In addition, mentees were asked to sign an informal contract outlining that they understood that group events were mandatory. This contract was created to instill a sense of structure and formal obligation to attend program events - whenever possible.

The midpoint event focused on networking within the group and was also held at the WSP NYC office. A speed networking program was held so that all program participants had a chance to get to know each other. Additionally, participants were encouraged to share if they had any significant professional updates. A large majority of participants had exciting updates to share - further illustrating the power of mentoring and networking within the group.

The Manhattanville event was co-planned by a mentor-mentee pair, and the tour was led by Maxine Griffith, FAICP. Attendees were given a tour of three of the new buildings on the campus while learning about all the political, financial, and community-related challenges that went into building a new Columbia Campus. The tour included talks by Columbia University faculty members who oversee the daily management and operations of the new state-of-the-art facilities at the Manhattanville campus. The event concluded with a post-tour happy hour at a nearby bar where mentees and mentors were able to further network with each other.

The wrap-up event took place on September 25th at LMHQ, and APA Committee Co-Chairs were invited to give a pitch about their respective committees. The goal of this event was to celebrate the program’s end and to help program participants find new ways to get involved in the Chapter. We want to thank all program participants for a successful round of the APA-NYM Mentorship Program as we proceed to launch the 2020 program! If you have any questions, please email ypgmentoship@gmail.com.

Youth in Planning

The Youth in Planning program introduces local students to the planning field and supports their engagement with critical, topical issues as members of the community. This work includes outreach to schools and coordination with community events. Over the past year, the goals of the Youth in Planning program have been advanced by the Chapter’s Diversity Committee and the Urban Design Committee, both of which have led initiatives to engage youth at area schools around topics related to urban planning, the planning process, and interactions with neighborhoods and communities.

YPG is exploring opportunities to collaborate with these committees to build upon lessons learned and the strong partnerships formed with educators and community leaders to date.
APA-NYM

2018 Chapter Awards

Each year, the APA-NYM Chapter bestows recognition on individuals, organizations, and projects that exemplify the best of the metropolitan region’s planning work. The awards are meant to highlight excellence in the field and inspire planners of the next generation. See below to learn about the awardees in the following categories:

Lawrence M. Orton Award
Award for leadership in City and Regional Planning
New York City Department of Education, D15 Diversity Plan

Andrew Haswell Green Award
Award to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions for a period of at least 15 years
Barry Dinerstein

Meritorious Service or Achievement Award
Award to recognize work of unusual merit
The Greater Nyack Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Paul Davidoff Award
Award for Leadership in Housing or Equal Opportunity
The Bushwick Community Plan

Robert Ponte Award
Award for contribution of significant value to the vitality of the New York Area
Vicki Been

William H Whyte Award
Award for creativity and ingenuity in planning
La Marqueta Concept Plan

Floyd Lapp Award
Award for service to the APA NY Metro Chapter
Kovid Saxena AICP, LEED AP, ENV SP

APA-NYM

2019 Chapter Awards

Lawrence M. Orton Award
Award for leadership in City and Regional Planning
East Midtown Planning and Rezoning

Andrew Haswell Green Award
Award to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions for a period of at least 15 years
Eva Hanhardt

Meritorious Service or Achievement Award
Award to recognize work of unusual merit
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation – Community Parks Initiative

Paul Davidoff Award
Award for Leadership in Housing or Equal Opportunity
New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development - Where We Live NYC

Robert Ponte Award
Award for contribution of significant value to the vitality of the New York Area
Jonathan Bowles

William H Whyte Award
Award for creativity and ingenuity in planning
Urban Design Forum – The Need for Public Bathrooms

Floyd Lapp Award
Award for service to the APA NY Metro Chapter
Diversity Committee (DivComm)
Additional Photos from Chapter Events

Photos from 2019 Annual APA-NYM Conference

Sustainability Among the Silos Workshop
2019 NYM-Chapter Leadership Retreat

Happy hour after 2019 NYM-Chapter Leadership Retreat

APA-ASLA AIA NY Conference 2019
LMHQ Events

2019 Great Places Designation, Patchogue Downtown Event

Welcome remarks: Holly Chase, AICP, VP Programs
Conference Audience

Conference Session
Award recipients with APA-NYM Awards Committee

Award ceremony
Scandinavia House

Conference Session

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