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
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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.

Leo R. Asuncion, Jr., AICP, APA President

Leo Asuncion is a commissioner with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. Previously, he served as director and administrator of the state’s Office of Planning. He is a certified planner and holds an MBA from Hawaii Pacific University, and Master of Urban and Regional Planning and bachelor’s degrees from the University of Hawaii. Asuncion has served in a number of leadership roles within APA, including serving on the Board of Directors and the Chapter Presidents Council, and as APA Hawaii Chapter president. He is a member of Lambda Alpha International, a board member of McKinley High School (Honolulu) Business Academy, and past chair of the Coastal States Organization.

Scott D. Turner, AICP, PE, LEED AP

Director Elected from Region I

Scott Turner is the Director of Planning for Environmental Partners in Quincy, Massachusetts where he leads the firms planning and stormwater practices. His 30 years career has focused on private development, stormwater planning and design, sustainability, and climate change. He is the past chair of APA’s Sustainable Communities Division and was the local host subcommittee chair for the 2021 National Planning Conference. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and Environmental Studies and a Master of Science Degree in City Planning from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, AICP President

Mitchell Silver is the former commissioner of the NYC Department of Parks and a past president of the APA. He is an award-winning planner with 35 years of experience, internationally recognized for his leadership in the planning profession and his contributions to planning issues. Prior to returning to his native New York City, he served as the chief planning officer for Raleigh, North Carolina, where he led the comprehensive plan update process and a rewriting of the development code to create a vibrant 21st century city. As one of the nation’s most celebrated urban thinkers, Silver was elected to Planetizen’s list of the 100 Most Influential Urbanists in 2017.

Sarah Marchant, AICP, Commissioner Elected from Region I

Sarah Marchant joined the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund as Chief of Staff in 2021. From 2014 to 2021 she was the City of Nashua’s Director of Community Development, Sarah is the Professional Development Officer of the Northern New England Chapter of the APA (NNECAPA) representing NH, VT, and ME, after serving as President from 2015-2021. She has served on the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority Board of Directors since her appointment in 2019. She holds a BA from the University of New Hampshire and an MA from the University of Connecticut.
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
Tiffany-Anne Taylor

Immediate Past President
Maxwell Sokol, AICP

Chapter Secretary
James Rigert

Chapter Treasurer
Jackson Chabot

Professional Development Officer/
VP of Professional Development
Alex Wallach, AICP

VP Programs
Holly Chase, AICP

Long Island Section Representative
David Tepper, AICP

Lower Hudson Valley East Section Representative
Peter Feroe, AICP

Lower Hudson Valley West Section Representative
Maisha Tyler

New York City Section Representative
Emmily De Los Santos

Student Representative Committee (SRC) Chair
Madeline Schoenfeld

Young Planners Group (YPG) Chair
Caroline Peri

VP Committees
Sean Scott

VP Communications
Ela Dokonal, AICP CUD, LEED AP

VP Intergovernmental Affairs
Shachi Pandey, AICP, LEED AP
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. During his third year serving as Chapter Secretary, James Rigert worked closely with the Chapter President, Chapter Treasurer, 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 Chapter 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.

Jackson Chabot
Chapter Treasurer

Since March of 2020, nearly all events and programming have either been canceled or have been virtual. 2021 allowed for some small gatherings in person but large events, like our final Hindsight Conference, remained fully virtual. This significantly reduced expenditures and changed the way the Chapter operated. Due to the change in programming, the majority of our budget was dedicated to Chapter programs and Sections/Committees to support our members including the Chapter Conference and the Hindsight Conference.

Much of our revenue comes from sponsorship, and we are deeply grateful to all new and returning sponsors who are generously supporting the Chapter. Their support during the COVID-19 pandemic ensures the Chapter can provide valuable professional development and programming to the New York Metro planning community.

Deep gratitude and special thanks go to Ebony Wiggins, Nate Heffron, and Michelle Edwards for their time, energy, and efforts to fundraise and secure new sponsors.

Looking forward, the 2022 budget will be collaboratively developed with the Executive Committee to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our members. We continue to make progress on some of our larger goals and many ongoing projects such as our 501C3 status and having a Chapter CPA.
Certification Maintenance
Certification Maintenance
The APA New York Metro Chapter provides multiple opportunities throughout the year to earn certification maintenance (CM) credits to support our membership in their professional development. In light of the continued effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, CM sessions continued to be mostly virtual over the past year. In 2021 the Chapter offered 15 events and conferences, including the Chapter’s virtual conference as well as several on-demand offerings that can be accessed anytime! The Chapter’s programs have maintained a high level of quality, as evidenced by a high average reviewer rating of over 4 out of 5 stars.

AICP Exams
The Chapter congratulates 71 members who successfully passed the AICP exam since our last report, including at least 37 new AICP members from the APA-NYM Chapter*. In May 2021, the Chapter had 26 members pass the exam, including 17 new AICP Planners, and 4 AICP Candidates. We are also pleased to report that in November 2021, the Chapter had 16 members pass the AICP exam, including 5 new AICP Members.

In May 2021, the most recent exam for which data was available, the Chapter had an annual average pass rate of 60.5%. New York Metro examinees for this exam period slightly outpaced the National annual average pass rate of 59.1%.

Prior to each exam period, the Chapter hosted the biannual “What to Expect from the AICP Exam” session hosted virtually. In the session, an overview of the format of the exam as well as study tips and technical advice for applicants were provided. The Spring 2021 session had 17 applicants registered with 5 new AICP planners signed-up to share their experiences with those planning to take the exam. The Fall 2021 session had 16 applicants registered with 2 new AICP planners scheduled to share their experiences. Many thanks to the session volunteers!

This year, the Chapter began to offer a new virtual information session for those considering AICP certification. These “Becoming AICP” sessions for prospective AICP members covered the benefits of becoming AICP certified, and contained an overview of the process. These sessions were very well received, and will be repeated prior to the 2022 exam windows. The inaugural session for the Spring 2021 session had 69 participants registered, and the Fall 2021 session had 32 participants registered. Look out for the next “Becoming AICP” session in 2022!

The next application window for the May 2022 exam opens April 4, 2022 at 9:00am CST and closes April 29, 2022 at 3:00pm CST. The May 2022 Exam will be offered May 2, 2022 – May 27, 2022

Online Testing
Online testing in your home or location of your choice is now available! If you prefer to not test in person or there are no locations open in your area, you may take the AICP exam online. Prometric proctors will oversee all AICP exams remotely. Online testing technical requirements are available at planning.org/certification/register/faq/. You may also review requirements in the ProProctor™ User Guide on the APA Website and run a system check with Prometric.

One Path to AICP
AICP Certification brings value to your career, the organization you work for, and the communities you serve. Do you want to demonstrate your expertise, show your commitment to professional ethics, distinguish yourself in the job market, and keep your planning skills in tip-top shape? Good news! The new One Path to AICP streamlines the certification process; it’s simple; all members pursuing the AICP credential will follow the same three-step sequence. By allowing members to take the AICP Certification Exam regardless of their progress toward earning professional planning experience, more students and professionals will be able to start their AICP journey earlier. Check out the new AICP Certification Guide at www.planning.org/certification/eligible/

Students and New Planners: Upon passing the exam, you can distinguish yourself to colleagues and potential employers by using the “AICP Candidate” designation on resumes and online as you gain required professional experience to complete the certification process.

Experienced Planners: Becoming AICP-certified is more streamlined than ever, and you may submit your education verification and experience assessment the month after passing the exam.

Are you eligible? Use the AICP Eligibility Pre-Check self assessment tools to answer eligibility questions before you start: www.planning.org/aicp

Does your experience qualify? Use the Planning Experience Worksheet to confirm that your experience qualifies: www.planning.org/aicp

*Note that some members who passed the AICP exam may still be working towards achieving full certification at the time of passing the exam.
Congratulations to our new AICP Members and AICP Candidates!

May 2021 AICP Members:

- Eileen Botti, AICP
- Hannah Brockhaus
- Joseph Buckley, AICP
- Denis de Verteuil, AICP
- Michael Devigne, AICP
- Julie Epstein, AICP
- Anastassia Fisyak, AICP
- Victoria Garvey
- Brent Ginsberg
- Ian Hartz, AICP
- Kyle Hatch, AICP
- Paul Lozito, AICP
- Rasheed Lucas, AICP
- Daniel McCombie
- Andrew Mitchell, AICP
- Marcy Monroe, AICP
- Delma Palma, AICP
- Jenin Shah, AICP
- Stephen Solecki, AICP
- Mikeala Sparks, AICP Candidate
- Nikhil Tangirala, AICP Candidate
- Paulina Urbanowicz-Pollock
- Michael Van Itallie, AICP Candidate
- Jade Watkins, AICP Candidate
- Daniel Zajackowski, AICP
- Jun Seong Ahn, AICP
- Matthew Pietrus
- Tinhung Tsui
- Timothy Frye
- Jonathan Keller
- Jonathan Landsman
- Mary Eveleigh
- James Francisco
- Steven Jacobs
- Constance Vavilis, AICP
- Andrew Schloss
- William Sklar
- Claire Dalby, AICP
- James Wade
- Emily Gallo, AICP
- Catherine Iannitto, AICP

Changes to the CM Program
Beginning January 1, 2022, AICP members will be able to start logging two new mandatory credits in addition to Law and Ethics. One of the new mandatory credits is Equity, which will help planners build their skillsets in an area that is of pressing and lasting concern to communities across the country.

The other new credit is a targeted topic, which allows the AICP Commission to rotate the topic as they deem appropriate to reflect the professional development needs of planners in a rapidly changing world. The topic for this targeted credit beginning January 1, 2022, is Sustainability and Resilience, recognizing the growing need for planners to help their communities prepare for issues like climate change, sustainable development, and hazard resilience.

Share your ideas
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 (pdo@nyplanning.org).

1. REGISTER
   - Register for the certification program and schedule exam

2. TEST
   - Pass AICP exam and become AICP Candidate

3. APPLY
   - Provide educational and professional experience

SPRING CYCLE
- April
- May
- July

FALL CYCLE
- October
- November
- December
The APA NYM Chapter Committees had another productive year while staying safe during the ongoing pandemic. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the globe, the Chapter was not unaffected. Our committees continued to provide virtual meetings to primarily engage one another, and in-person events when safe to do so. Despite the ongoing challenges, our committees collaborated to host a number of events detailed below. I want to highlight in particular the cross committee collaboration that went into one of our larger chapter events.

We continued building upon our well-established partnership with the NY Chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and American Institute of Architects (AIA) to co-host the 2021 edition of the PlanScapeArch Conference. The 9th annual multi-disciplinary conference was virtual for the second time. This year’s theme was Re-Future NYC, which sought to examine the ways in which COVID-19 has fundamentally changed our society and investigate the ways our profession could learn from the challenges we faced collectively as a city and how we could reflect, redefine and reimagine the city to achieve a more healthy, connected, and equitable future. Professionals across the joint professions came together to engage in conversations about comprehensive planning’s place in the city and state, equity of access to the city at macro and micro scales; adaptive reuse in the face of shifting land use needs as a result of the pandemic; and lastly the importance of Third Spaces in our city that are accessible and equitable. The APA delegation consisted of members across many of our chapter’s committees, and I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the members who were critical to making this conference a reality:

- Emmily De Los Santos, NYC Section Representative
- Maisha Tyler, Lower Hudson Valley West Section Rep
- Martha Sickles, Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee (HNRC) Co-Chair
- Sera Tolgay, Young Planners Group Mentorship Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Max Scoppettone, Urban Design Arts & Culture Subcommittee 2021 Co-Chair

I want to thank all the Committee leaders and volunteers for the many hours of work they put in to foster collaborative and supportive spaces to investigate the many topics affecting our communities and profession. It is through their varied efforts that we are able to engage with so many members of the New York Metro planning community. Here’s to continuing to engage one another in 2022! 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/committees/.

2021 highlights:

Diversity Committee
The Diversity Committee (DivComm) entered another successful year, hosting its monthly meetings virtually to discuss current events in planning and hold safe space as we lived through the second year of the global pandemic.

As planners of color, many of us were drawn to the field because of a desire to serve our communities. But many of us are asking ourselves if true service is even possible in our current jobs. Is the alignment of purpose, joy, and work a reasonable goal? And if it is not, how can we use our skills and knowledge outside of the mainstream planning ecosystem?

Experience is the best teacher, so on June 30, 2021, DivComm hosted a "Planners in Purpose: Inside and Outside of the Industry" virtual panel. With participation from an all-star panel of speakers with varied backgrounds, attendees were able to gain insight from the experiences of folks who have found their purpose in and outside of the industry and are pursuing radically subversive careers.

Continued our work with youth
2021 saw the launch of the Youth Urban Leadership Program (YULP), a step towards formalizing our youth engagement work and partnership with the Mission Society and ELLIS Preparatory Academy. Early in the year, we created YULP’s logo and marketing materials to recruit students, gain buy-in from faculty and staff, and provide clear messaging on the program. The program was also revamped from its two-year internship format to a fellowship. DivComm also worked with Mission Society to expand the program to other schools in their network. Due to staffing turnover near the time of launch, the expansion had to be delayed until 2022. In spite of this, we have laid the groundwork to reach more students in the near future.

The 2021 cohort of YULP Fellows took on another ambitious project, this time focusing on improving school transportation options for students with long commutes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The group conducted a survey of students in their school and connected with the dedicated network of DivComm volunteers. We saw the return of some in-person workshops in July and some in-person field trips in the fall with NYC’s Department of Housing Preservation and Development and Urbane Development. While the group
faced unprecedented challenges with their full time return to in-person classes this year, they still gained tremendous exposure to the principles of planning for equity and have quality work that can be picked up by a future cohort.

We also caught up with the 2019 cohort of ELLIS YULP Fellows, now college students, who seized an opportunity to present their work to the MTA group responsible for the Bronx Bus Redesign Plan. The students presented their survey findings and plan to make improvements to the Bx9 bus route near their school.

DivComm has ambitious goals for 2022, including following through on the expansion of the YULP Fellowship with the Mission Society, reaching out to new organizations to create additional youth engagement opportunities, and developing new fun and engaging activities for future workshops. We hope to continue building on the momentum of the past few years in getting more BIPOC students interested in the urban planning profession, while also serving as a model for youth engagement for the Chapter and beyond.

Said goodbye to the Hindsight Conference
In the fifth and final year of Hindsight™ the conference was merged with the APA New York Metro Chapter Annual Conference with the theme Re-emergence Re-Imagined. DivComm and the Chapter aimed to create space to re-imagine what an equitable future could look like in hopes of guiding our re-emergence. The all-volunteer committee, which included many DivComm members, organized the conference to feature different sessions selected through a competitive Request for Session Proposals, all centralizing equity in planning and giving a platform to diverse and underrepresented voices. The 2021 conference was held virtually on November 4-5, and brought together attendees, presenters and speakers for the final official conference. Visit the Conference website (hindsightcon.com) for more info.

Cultivated safe space in person for the first time since the pandemic started
DivComm leadership have been striving to continue organizing and hosting educational events, fostering a safe space and building a community for planners that identify as people of color, women, LGBTQ, and other underrepresented identities as we navigate the new normal. While most of the monthly meetings were hosted online, we concluded 2021 with an in person gathering, bringing together folks who in some cases had yet to meet each other!
Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee built on its strong virtual presence in 2020 and hosted multiple events with consistent chapter meetings in between. The committee hosted a virtual event in February that analyzed and promoted the expansion of public space in New York City as a solution to gathering during the pandemic era. Later that spring, the committee organized an exclusive tour of New York’s newest public space, Little Island, about a week before it opened to the public. Going forward, the committee aims to host another virtual event in the first quarter of 2022 focused on the future of commercial real estate in New York City.

Virtual event hosted on February 25, 2021

**Improving Business through Open Space: The role of open space in generating business activity at New York City’s Business Improvement Districts.**

New York City has been grappling with empty storefronts as businesses struggle to stay afloat due to rent and wage increases as well as consumers’ shift towards online shopping. The prevalence of the current COVID-19 pandemic has further made this issue visible. The purpose of this event was to discuss the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on NYC’s Business Improvements Districts (BIDs).

The discussion centered on New York City’s Open Space recovery initiatives and whether utilizing open space has helped improve business activity within BIDs. Additionally, the discussion highlighted experiences of BID leaders prior and during the pandemic, explored changes in the real estate market, examined the continuing financial challenges that businesses face, and touched upon the role of urban planning in mitigating these challenges.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to weigh heavily on the economy of the United States, state and local jurisdictions are challenged to deal with the economic consequences. New York City’s BIDs deployed creative strategies to help businesses stay afloat during this period by utilizing open space to promote business activity. While the City explores long-term borrowing options to fund critical government operations and projects, the Economic Development Committee brought together a range of experts to provide insight.

Walking tour of Little Island, May 12, 2021

The Committee hosted a walking tour of a recently opened privately owned public space along the Hudson Waterfront. The Economic Development Committee invited planners to tour the recently constructed Little Island Park, located on the west side of Manhattan along the Hudson Greenway. The walking tour showcased the park’s impressive landscape architectural elements and provided a narrative of its development over the past several years.

Those who are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Chisato Shimada, LEED AP or Maryam Yaghoubi (economicdevelopment@nyplanning.org)

Urban Design Committee

The Urban Design Committee was mostly inactive for 2021 and hopes to kick-start back up during 2022 as new-chairs are confirmed.

Arts and Culture Subcommittee

The Urban Design Committee continued to collaborate with the Arts & Culture Subcommittee, led by co-chairs: Sam Smouha, Max Scoppettone, and Jillian Pagano. With Urban Design member Charlie Cunningham, the Arts and Culture group focused on coordinating group bike rides through NYCDOT’s Open Streets program. In summer of 2021, the committee arranged for Robin Schatell, an event organizer and founder of Open Culture Works, and affiliate to NYCDOT’s Open Streets program, to speak with the Urban Design and Arts + Culture Committees. Her presentation acted as a springboard for the discussion of how people have programmed and organized art exhibits, dance performances, community gatherings, and more along newly closed roads throughout the five boroughs. Two bike rides, one in September and one in October brought members and volunteers together to explore Open Streets and explore the impact it's had on neighborhoods, their businesses, and other dynamics.
Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee (HNRC)

The HNRC holds monthly meetings and additional forums on topics of interest to the members. This year HNRC focused on the following issues.

1. COVID-19 has revealed substantial inadequacies in building ventilation and air flow systems. HNRC participated with several Chelsea community groups to present a forum of experts to discuss the health and technical issues to advocate for improved building ventilation. This forum, “The Importance of Ventilation in Residential Housing During Covid-9” was held on February 27, 2021. The forum consisted of a panel of five experts representing various disciplines: Monona Rossol, Expert in chemical safety John Twomey, Founder, Indoor Air Quality Champs, Amalia Cuadra, Engineer in Energy Efficiency, Diana Florence, Attorney and Former Chief of the Construction Task Force, and Zehra Siddiqui, Medical Director of Ryan Chelsea-Clinton.

2. HNRC conducted several discussion sessions over the years on the need for a comprehensive planning framework for New York City. NYC Council Speaker, Corey Johnson introduced a framework to the City Council in December 2020 as Intro 2186. HNRC invited Ms. Annie Levers of the Office of Strategic Initiatives New York City Council, who worked on this initiative to present the elements of the legislation described in the report, “Planning Together: A New Comprehensive Planning Framework for New York City at a virtual meeting on February 28 that was widely attended by APA members and other interested professionals.

3. HNRC held subsequent forums to discuss and make recommendations to improve the framework. There was discussion with the Executive Committee on participating with the Thriving Communities Coalition that advocated for a comprehensive planning framework. The Policy VP was to organize this collaboration. This topic was revisited throughout the year.

4. MAS, represented on the HNRC, held two exceptional panels bringing together diverse NYC professionals and then international experts from London and Vancouver.

5. London and Vancouver mandate comprehensive planning. HNRC intends to continue to advocate for this important tool.

6. HNRC participated in organizing the joint APA, AIA, ASLA conference, “Re-future NYC: Reflect, Redefine, Re-invent” held September 23-24th 2021 virtually. The committee contributed to planning and obtaining panelists for the session, Comprehensive Planning in NYC: Brad Lander and Michele de la Uz.

7. Martha Sickles, Committee Chair is a member of the APA National Legislative and Policy Committee that designated its priorities as: Recovery, Housing, Transportation and Broadband Infrastructure and Climate Change. She participated in the Policy and Advocacy Conference, September 29-30, 2021, moderating a panel on “New Fronts in Tackling the Climate Crisis with Deon Lovaas of NRDC and Kira Gould of Architecture 2030. She also participated in the congressional lobbying organized on Planner’s Day, meeting with Congressmember Adrian Espaillat’s office. The focus of the lobbying was for the Unlocking Possibilities funding that is based on the Housing Supply and Affordability Act. This act will provide $4.5 billion over 10 years to invest in planning, planning implementation and devising solutions for grants. Unfortunately, the program is part of the Build Back Better Bill so is stalled at the moment.

8. Richard Bearak, Director of Land Use for Eric Adams, former Brooklyn Borough President, gave an overview of Adam’s land use and housing policies that could inform his policies as mayor. He discussed policies and actions concerning residential zoning and MIH, commercial rent polices, industrial area rezoning and open space issues.

9. Craig Notte researched issues surrounding legalization of basement apartments and fire and flooding challenges. He wrote an article, “The New Normal for Below-Ground Apartment Since Hurricane Ida”, that will guide a forum of experts to speak about this topic in 2022.

10. In the last couple of months, HNCR focused on planning on future events and will seek collaboration with other committees to develop forums on the topics.
   - Housing: One topic of interest to the group is how rent stabilized units are taken off the market and warehoused and that newly constructed affordable units may be hard to rent and remain vacant. Second, challenges of converting hotels and commercial space to housing, and third, land trusts and land banks as mechanisms for community ownership and keeping housing affordable in perpetuity as well as
mechanisms such as non-profit ownership.
- Street/open space design and regulation.
- Walking tours.
- Moving the climate agenda in New York City.

HNRC is interested in reaching out for new members. To get involved in the work of the HNRC, please email housing@nyplanning.org for more information.

Technology Committee
In 2021, the Technology Committee embraced a year of remote programming and connecting over Zoom. We started our year with a virtual brainstorming session, where we focused on setting goals for the committee to pursue. After nearly a year of virtual meetings, we hosted a socially distanced summer social and book swap in Prospect Park (topics related to technology, design, and planning were the themes of the swap).

As part of the Technology Committee's ongoing "Tech Talk" series, we hosted several virtual conversations in 2021. In March we spoke with Daniel Lattorre, Founder of The Wise City, on ‘Smart City Versus Wise City: Tech Politics & Digital Peacemaking’. In September we spoke with Lauren Smith, Senior Research Analyst at Center City District, on ‘Recentering the Lens: Understanding Recovery Through Pedestrian Activity in Center City Philadelphia.’

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

Transportation Committee
The Transportation Committee had another successful year hosting AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) events and informal events, as well as partnering with other transportation-related organizations. Committee leadership consisted of Dorottya Miketa, AICP, PP and Katerina Radin, AICP (Co-Chairs), Caitlin Toner (Events Coordinator), Gloria Campbell (Communications Lead), Katie Shepard (Secretary), and Christopher Lee, AICP (Researcher).

2021 highlights include:
- **Salary Negotiation for Planners:** Partnered with the Greater New York Chapter of Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS-GNY) and the Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT), to host a salary negotiation workshop for transportation professionals in early February. The workshop was facilitated by the American Association of University Women’s Work Smart program, and covered strategies that participants need to make the strongest possible case for a new job, a raise, a promotion, or better benefits.
• **Committee Open Meeting:** Held a virtual open committee meeting in March to advertise open positions on the committee and discuss ideas for future panels, social, and volunteer events. The meeting served as an introduction to the committee for several new members and several of the events.

• **The Future of NYC Streets:** The Transportation Committee co-sponsored a CM panel with the nonprofit Open Plans in July that explored public space management and street design in a post-pandemic world.

• **PARK(ing) Day:** Supported the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA NY) as a co-sponsor of Park(ing) Day 2021 on September 17th in Washington Heights on 182nd Street. This year, ASLA teamed up with the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS) to highlight the school’s community building and sustainability efforts. At this event, the committee provided educational materials about the permanent bicycle corral application process and raffled off a bicycle to one lucky WHEELS student, Jeremy!

• **Transportation Trivia:** Partnered with WTS-GNY and YPT, to hold the 12th annual Transportation Trivia Night in September. For the second year in a row, this year’s Trivia Night was hosted virtually and the recommended registration fee for the event was donated to local transportation related nonprofits chosen by the winning teams. This year’s first place team was the VHB Trivia Titans.

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.
Shachi Pandey, AICP, LEED AP
VP of 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.

Holly Chase
VP of Programs

In 2021, the fifth and final year of Hindsight merged with the Chapter’s Annual Conference. It was held virtually on November 4-5, with the theme Re-emergence Re-Imagined. The conference called on attendees to acknowledge collective resistance and ingenuity sprouted in the midst of grief, shatter failed systems that perpetuate racism and ableism, and build the foundation needed to collectively thrive. Conference programming included a keynote fireside chat and over twenty-five sessions.

Though Hindsight is retiring, the Chapter intends to carry forth and apply its equity principles to all future conferences, events, and work in planning and community development. Thank you to all the speakers, sponsors, vendors, and volunteers that made this year's conference (an all past years) such a success. The magic over the last five years has only been possible with the creativity, sweat, and grit of DivComm volunteers, mostly Black and brown womxn. Visit the Conference website (hindsightcon.com) for more information and check out the #LetterstoHindsight jamboard to read attendees’ reflections. Email the VP of Programs at 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.
Hindsight 2021 Keynote Fireside Chat

Hindsight 2021 Staten Island Walking Tour

Hindsight 2021 “Policy as Protest” Session

Why Design As Protest? Our BIPOC-Led Initiative

Hindsight 2021 Closing Remarks
2021 continued with unprecedented challenges, and our Chapter shifted in real-time to provide messaging, content and a wide range of virtual programs and opportunities for our members.

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.

Ela Dokonal, VP of Communications works with fellow Executive Committee leaders, Sections and the Committees, members and partner-organizations, to support the communication needs, and managing the Chapter's communication outlets.

The major efforts are placed in the Chapter's bi-weekly newsletter, with an audience close to 4,000 subscribers, and 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 the partner-organizations demonstrates an increasing value of our newsletter and allows us to offer more programming for our members throughout the region.

The APA-NYM website, with over 75,000 page views, provides a go-to-platform for planning jobs. Relying on 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 with weekly postings, and we have an increased interest from municipalities to advertise RFPs and RFQs. The Consultant Directory page promotes our sponsors, and is the second most visited page.

The Chapter’s switch to Eventbrite ticket for ticket purchases decreased Chapter website visits but improved the user experience. In 2022, the focus will shift towards more focused integration of the website with our social media platforms.

As a member of the Chapter leadership, Ela will continue to discuss action-oriented next steps to maintain the momentum in 2022.

The website provides links to social media platforms, and subscriptions to the Chapter's newsletter.

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

Traffic stats for example Campaign performance, with open rate of over 40% and click-through at approximately 4%.
David Tepper, AICP
Long Island
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.

The Section was largely inactive during the 2021, and is looking forward to continue to offer a wide range of events and programs to our members in 2022.

Peter Feroe, AICP
Lower Hudson Valley East
Section Representative

The Lower Hudson Valley East Section was not active in 2021, but the Section recognizes the need to broaden the geographic reach of its programs.

The Section's members should reach out (hudsonvalleyeast@nyplanning.org) to discuss the thoughts on how the Chapter could play a role in the training, collaboration, and networking functions within your local and regional areas of practice. The goal is to annually support events in, or catering to, the various geographies and practices within our Section.
The Hudson Valley West section encompasses the counties of Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster. Despite its vast, sprawling topography—and the continuing challenges with in-person gathering presented by the COVID-19 pandemic—the section was pleased to present, sponsor, and collaborate in both chapter-wide and interagency events.

“Simplify That Code!” Virtual Training with Randall Arendt

On March 29, the section hosted “Simplify That Code” Virtual Training (1.5 credit), a CM Event sponsored jointly by the APA-NYM Chapter and the Sullivan County Division of Planning. Featuring acclaimed town planner Randall Arendt (Rural by Design), it provided baseline training and guidance for implementing a form-based land use code. Event organizers included past and present Hudson Valley West Representatives, Heather Jacksy, AICP (2019-21) and Maisha Tyler (2021-2023), and Sullivan County planner, Kassondra Johnstone.

The event had over sixty attendees—including professional planners, students, and those in planning-related fields.

Arendt discussed strategies on everything from planting and maintaining shade trees, to stormwater infiltration, to designing to preserve the rural character of towns. This training was particularly helpful for smaller departments with limited staff and/or resources.
PLANSCAPEARCH ‘21: AIA-APA-ASLA REIMAGINES NYC’S FUTURE!

Collaboration was the theme of the 2021 AIA-APA-ASLA conference where architects, landscape architects, and Planners (and students) explored topics related to (re)designing New York City, post-COVID. The two-day conference included sessions on the city’s comprehensive planning process, designing for health and accessibility, Third Space, and reimagining a more just and equitable city (and region). The speakers were amazing—and reflected the myriad of diverse perspectives, skill sets, and approaches within the profession(s). Due to interrelatedness within the topics, sessions flowed effortlessly into one another. The section was pleased to be on the organizing committee (as well as participate in) the amazing sessions offered!

During the tour, we were introduced to each other and to the recently redesigned Broadway corridor. Residents shared their experiences and spoke of the historical importance (of the neighborhood) to the development of the city. In turn, the consultants explained the differences between the traditional zoning code and a form-based code.

The walking tour was the culmination (and physical manifestation) of a year-and-a-half (Zoom) odyssey navigating the planning process. It also highlighted the importance of good community engagement for accessibility and inclusivity. Effective planning depends on a successful community engagement, which now requires a hybrid of traditional and non-traditional methods to reach people where they are.

APA Planning Advocacy Day

September 29 was the 2021 APA Planning and Advocacy Conference, and we were pleased to participate in the annual Planner’s Day on the Hill with Shachi Pandey (APA-NYM Chapter, VP of Intergovernmental Affairs) and Jessica Wallen (City of Hudson, Arts’ Master Plan). Our contingent spoke with representatives from the offices of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY, and Congressman Antonio Delgado, NY-19. We successfully lobbied for their continued support of the BuildBackBetter legislation and keeping the Housing Supply and Affordability Act/S.902 and H.R.2126 in reconciliation.

City of Kingston/Dover Kohl & Partners Hosts Community Walking Tour

The section was also pleased to participate in several local community engagement activities: In late fall 2021, the City of Kingston hosted a series of walking tours with consultants from Dover, Kohl & Partners and the LaBerge Group. The city is embarking on replacing the existing zone code (which hasn’t been updated since 1961) with a form-based land use plan. We’re pleased to be able to attend the walking tour (socially-distanced, and masked) along with community leaders, activists, planners, and other stakeholders.

As such, the Section aims to improve more outreach to members, to promote both communication and collaboration with membership. All ideas for future planning-related events and opportunities are welcome and can be submitted to hudsonvalleywest@nyplanning.org.
Emmily De Los Santos

New York City

Section Representative

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

Network and Collaboration with Other Professional Organizations
In October 2020, the NYC Section was invited by APA Representative for the Master of Urban Planning program at NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service to attend an APA information session. The NYC Section discussed the resources and services offered by the Chapter and National organization. The NYC Section specifically highlighted the various committee focused on specific areas of the planning field that students can engage with.

In partnership with the VP of Committees, the NYC Section helped with the planning of the annual PlanScapeArch Conference, co-hosted by the Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) NY Chapter, and American Institute of Architects (AIA) NY Chapter.

The NYC Section also supported the VP of Programs and the Diversity Committee in the planning of the Chapter’s annual conference, which this year was the Hindsight Conference.

Annual Chapter Holiday Party & Future Networking Opportunities
Given COVID-19, the Chapter was not able to host an in-person holiday party in 2021. The NYC Section plans to host an event in Spring/Summer 2022. The event will bring together local Chapter members, professionals, and students to create ongoing networking opportunities.

To get more involved in the efforts of the NYC Section please contact nyc@nyplanning.org.

Alek Miletic

Student Representative Committee

The Student Representative Committee (SRC) fosters an ongoing relationship among students at New York Metro area planning schools and the local Chapters.

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. SRC also partners with student organizations from their respective planning schools. In addition to hosting events for APA, SRC’s unique position with schools allows for greater opportunities to engage with planning students not necessarily involved with APA.

In 2021, the Student Representative Committee hosted several virtual events for students, including Q&As with companies like Open Plans and Numina.

The Chapter wishes to thank Alek Miletic for his service, and welcome Madeline Schoenfeld who will chair the SRC committee in 2022.

2020-2021 Academic Year Representatives
Chair: Alek Miletic
Columbia University: Regina Joy Alcazar and Sebastian Salas
CUNY Hunter College: Larissa Ho, Madeline Schoenfeld
New York University: Rachel Brown, Mayelly Moreno
Pratt Institute: Brit Byrd and Yuri Chang
Rutgers University: Justin Alexander and Noah Harper
The Young Planners Group (YPG) works to support young and emerging planning professionals in the region and connect these new professionals with the New York Metro Chapter and its Committees and Sections. Particularly during this challenging time for cities and connection, YPG welcomes new member voices and ideas for virtual engagement. In the year ahead, YPG 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.

Mentorship
The YPG Mentorship Subcommittee celebrated its 12th year of the program and led another round of the Chapter Mentorship Program. This year’s Committee was chaired by Brenna Hemmings and Sera Tolgay. For the 2021 Mentorship Program, 10 mentor-mentee matches were made.

As in previous rounds of the program, the mentorship pairings were made based on the results of a brief but focused application process, including responses to a multiple choice and short answer-format survey as well as submittal of an updated resume. In forming the partnerships, the Subcommittee considered several factors, including areas of interest in the planning profession as well as preferred frequency and format of communication. The mentors comprised a wide range of senior and mid-level planners across a variety of specializations, and the mentees included mid-level and entry-level planners, as well as graduate students.

The Subcommittee hosted three events during the six-month program. These events included a kickoff event in April, a midpoint event in June, and a final event in September. The Committee also posted in the LinkedIn group and emailed the cohort about several upcoming events that participants were encouraged to attend together virtually.

The kickoff event was delayed one month due to the COVID-19 outbreak and took place virtually on Zoom in April. During the kickoff event, an overview of the program was given, mentors and mentees introduced themselves to one another, and resources were shared about how to develop a strong mentoring relationship.

The midpoint event featured a great discussion on COVID response and recovery, presentations from a few program participants showcasing some of their planning work, and a discussion about equity in planning over Zoom. The wrap-up event featured a discussion about the program and ways to improve it next year from a virtual perspective. David Burgy spoke about ways to get involved in APA policy programs and groups. Caroline Ann Peri spoke about the Chapter’s YPG and how to get involved. Additionally, an overview was given of opportunities to get involved in other Committees in the Chapter.
Thank you

2020-21 Chapter Sponsors