



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*



THE MISSION OF THE APA CALIFORNIA IS  
TO PROVIDE VISION AND LEADERSHIP THAT  
FOSTERS PLANNING FOR CALIFORNIA.

## 2015 Annual Report

[www.apacalifornia.org](http://www.apacalifornia.org)

CENTRAL  
CENTRAL COAST  
INLAND EMPIRE  
LOS ANGELES  
NORTHERN  
ORANGE  
SACRAMENTO VALLEY  
SAN DIEGO

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American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

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## Chapter President

### Hing Wong, AICP

2015 was a year of building on past successes for APA California. After implementing the most recent Strategic Plan, the Board began developing the next Strategic Plan – which is still underway – to build upon our progress in better achieving APA California’s critical purpose: making great communities happen through good planning.

Some of the many past efforts that bore fruit and success this year were as follows:

#### » At the annual Chapter Conference:

- We held our tenth diversity summit. Over the decade, it has become one of the most popular sessions each year, with its topic aligning with an issue local to the host city.
- We created specialized training opportunities for young planners, mid-career planners, and planning commissioners.
- We continued to record conference sessions to make them available as webinars.

#### » We recognize great planning through our awards program:

- Dozens of awards are given each year through our Chapter and many more were recognized through the eight Sections.
- In 2015, we added Great Places in California and selected American River Parkway (Sacramento), Old Town Monrovia (Monrovia), and Balboa Park (San Diego) as our inaugural winners.

#### » By collaborating with advocates and related organizations, we were able to increase our presence in the statehouse and in the courts – preventing passage of bills negatively affecting planners and encouraging adoption of ones helping planners.

#### » The California Planning Foundation (CPF) raised more funds for student scholarships in 2015 than ever before.

#### » We reaped the benefits of our redesigned communication tools – APACalifornia.org and CalPlanner.

#### » We were able to adopt a balanced budget going into 2016.

While the Board develops the next Strategic Plan, some of the new efforts on the way are as follows:

#### » A leadership academy

#### » More collaboration:

- Within APA California: California Planning Foundation (CPF); California Planning Roundtable (CPR); Planner Emeritus Network (PEN); FAICP; young and emerging planners; students; etc.
- Within California: Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP); Urban Land Institute (ULI); League of California Cities; American Institute of Architects (AIA); etc.
- With APA (National): APA Ambassadors; APA Image Library; etc.

#### » A further improved website

APA California continues to make great progress helping planners and advocating for great planning. We are proud of what we have achieved so far, but recognize that there is much work to do to meet the challenges and threats to our profession before us. APA California has the capacity, and the will, to lead. We remain steadfastly dedicated to building on our countless past successes. I am confident that APA California will continue to forge new ground, grow, and advance.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hing Wong'.

## APA CALIFORNIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- » Hing Wong, AICP  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT
- » Kristen Asp, AICP  
VICE PRESIDENT -  
ADMINISTRATION
- » Betsy McCullough, AICP  
VICE PRESIDENT -  
CONFERENCES
- » Virginia M. Viado  
VICE PRESIDENT -  
MARKETING AND  
MEMBERSHIP
- » John C. Terell, AICP  
VICE PRESIDENT -  
POLICY AND LEGISLATION
- » Terry M. Blount, AICP  
VICE PRESIDENT -  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT
- » Marc Yeber, ASLA  
VICE PRESIDENT -  
PUBLIC INFORMATION
- » Brooke Peterson, AICP  
PAST PRESIDENT
- » Carol D. Barrett, FAICP  
CALIFORNIA PLANNING  
FOUNDATION PRESIDENT
- » Scott Lefaver, AICP  
COMMISSION AND BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVE
- » Shannon Baker  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

***“APA California continues to make great progress helping planners and advocating for great planning.”***



## 2015 Appointed Officers and Affiliate Organization Representatives (Non-voting Members)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| » Kimberly Brosseau, AICP<br>AICP EXAM COORDINATOR          | » Christopher Koontz, AICP<br>NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATION |
| » Gabriel Barreras<br>CALPLANNER ASSISTANT EDITOR           | » Scott Mende, AICP<br>SATEWIDE PROGRAM COORDINATOR           |
| » J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP<br>CHAPTER HISTORIAN, NORTHERN | » Diane Keena, AICP<br>CHAPTER AWARDS, NORTHERN               |
| » Steven A. Preston, FAICP<br>CHAPTER HISTORIAN, SOUTHERN   | » Mary P. Wright, AICP, LEED AP<br>CHAPTER AWARDS, SOUTHERN   |
| » David E. Miller, AICP<br>FAICP COORDINATOR                | » Aaron Pfannenstiel, AICP<br>TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR             |
| » Miroo Desai, AICP<br>MEMBERSHIP INCLUSION, NORTHERN       | » Julie Lave Johnston<br>UNIVERSITY LIAISON                   |
| » Anna M. Vidal<br>MEMBERSHIP INCLUSION, SOUTHERN           | » Nina Idemudia<br>YOUNG PLANNERS COORDINATOR                 |
- 
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| » Kurt Christiansen, AICP<br>APA BOARD DIRECTOR, REGION 6 | » Stanley R. Hoffman, FAICP<br>PRESIDENT, PLANNER EMERITUS NETWORK |
| » Marissa Aho, AICP<br>AICP COMMISSIONER, REGION 6        | » Woodie Tescher<br>PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA PLANNING ROUNDTABLE      |
| » Nick Chen<br>APA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE, REGION 6       |  |



## MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION AND CONTRACT STAFF

- » Sande George  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
& LOBBYIST
- » Tom Stefan  
DIRECTOR OF  
ADMINISTRATION
- » Lauren de Valencia y Sanchez  
EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT/LOBBYIST
- » Francine Farrell  
ASSOCIATION AND  
ACCOUNTING SERVICES,  
ATEGO RESOURCES
- » Laura Murphy  
ASSOCIATION AND  
CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE  
SERVICES, NEW HORIZON  
ENTERPRISE
- » Dorina Blythe  
GRAPHIC DESIGN,  
GRANDESIGNS
- » Marco A. Martinez  
BEST, BEST & KRIEGER, L.L.C.,  
APA CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY
- » Marsha Bastian  
PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY  
INSURANCE, HEFFMAN  
INSURANCE BROKERS
- » Dick Lemon  
INSURANCE AGENT,  
MCCLATCHY INSURANCE
- » Cristina Robinson  
Digital Gear, Inc.  
WEBSITE MANAGEMENT
- » Angie Spearman, CMP  
CONFERENCE CONSULTANT





**APA Executive Director**  
**James Drinan**



**APA President**  
**Carol Rhea**



## REGION VI REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

### Kurt Christiansen, AICP, APA Board of Directors, Elected by Region VI

Kurt Christiansen is the economic and community development director for the City of Azusa, California. Previously, he served as community development director for Yorba Linda and development services director for Sierra Madre. Kurt has served as president of APA's California Chapter, vice chair of the Chapter Presidents Council, and serves as a member of the APA Development Plan and Budget Committee, the APA Membership Committee, the APA Leadership Development Task Force, and Chairs the APA Governance Committee. He also served as the co-chair of the local host committee for the 2012 APA National Planning Conference in Los Angeles. He is a member of the California State University, Northridge, Urban Planning and Studies Department Alumni Council. He earned his bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge, and master's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

#### NATIONAL APA 2015 SUMMARY ACTIONS:

It is an honor and privilege to serve on the National APA Board of Directors as the representative elected by the members of Region VI. The Board of Directors meets 3-4 times a year. In 2015, the National APA Board and AICP Commission held a winter retreat in San Diego, CA. The bulk of the retreat was devoted to discussing the draft Development Plan. Other agenda topics included relaunching the APA Foundation, creation of a new Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division, and the Aging partnership with AARP.

In April, the APA Board of Directors met in Seattle in conjunction with the National Planning Conference. Topics on the Board agenda included an update on the Plan4Health CDC Grant Program, a proposal for a photo sharing site on the APA website, APA's role and participation in the 2016 United Nations Habitat III Conference in Ecuador, relaunching of the APA Ambassadors Program, sponsorship of the 2015 Brownfields Conference in Chicago, and a new partnership with the Association of Architecture Organizations. The Board also discussed future specialty conferences and partnerships, especially related to water.

In September, the APA Board of Directors met in Washington DC in conjunction with the Policy and Advocacy Conference. Topics on the Board Agenda included the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Budget and Action Plan, the Sustaining Places – Comprehensive Plan Standards (General Plans in CA) program, the Planning Accreditation Board update, a report out on the consolidated APA Election, and numerous committee reports. The Fall Leadership meetings were followed by the annual Policy and Advocacy Conference and Planners Day on the Hill. As part of Planners Day on the Hill, the California Delegation met with the Congress members, who had Great Places in America designations in their Districts, as well as with the staff of both California U.S. Senators, to present them with certificates



*Cynthia Bowen*



*Glenn Larson, AICP*

» **Elections:** National APA held Board and Commission election in the summer of 2015. The APA membership elected the following members to lead the National Board and the AICP Commission:

- APA President Elect - Cynthia Bowen, AICP from Indianapolis, IN.
- AICP Commission President Elect – Glenn Larson AICP from Richmond, VA

Other California Chapter members elected to National Leadership positions:

- Student Representative Council, Region VI Representative – Lance MacNiven from Los Angeles, CA (UCLA)
- Chapter Presidents Council, Chair – Shane Burkhardt from Huntington Beach, CA



*Shane Burkhardt*

#### » National APA Committees

I would also like to acknowledge and recognize California Chapter members who serve on National Committees and Task Forces:

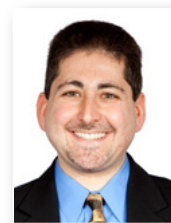
- **Leadership Development Task Force** - Robert Leiter, FAICP, San Diego
- **Education Task Force** - Richard W. Willson, FAICP, Los Angeles, Cal Poly Pomona
- **APA Election Committee** - John Bridges, FAICP, San Diego
- **Joint Enrollment Task Force** - Lois Takahashi, Los Angeles, UCLA
- **Emerging Issues Task Force** - Robert Cervero, Berkeley, UC Berkeley
- **Student and New Planner Task Force** - Shane Burkhardt, AICP, Huntington Beach, (Co-Chair) and



*Lisandro Orozco*

# National APA

- Tracey Ferguson, Roseville
- [Planning Officials Committee](#) - Janet Palma, AICP, San Leandro
- [APA Nominating Committee](#) - Kevin Keller, AICP, Los Angeles
- [Membership Committee](#) - Shane Burkhardt, AICP, Huntington Beach and Lisandro Orozco, Santa Ana
- [Legislative & Policy Committee](#) - Vivian Kahn, FAICP, San Francisco
- [Governance Committee](#) - Shane Burkhardt, AICP, Huntington Beach and David Fields, AICP, San Francisco
- [Diversity Task Force of Membership](#) - Miguel Angel Vazquez, AICP, Riverside and Jane Clough, San Diego
- [Amicus Curiae Committee](#) - Deborah M. Rosenthal, AICP, Irvine and Albert Herson, FAICP, Sacramento



David Fields

## » National Conference

The National Planning Conference was held in Seattle, Washington, April 18-22, 2014. The California Chapter sent a contingent of 603 members. During the National awards luncheon, several projects from California were recognized as follows:



Val Hubbard

- [National Planning Excellence Award](#)
  - Best Practices - First Last Mile Strategic Plan & Planning Guidelines, Los Angeles
  - Planning Advocate - Supervisor Greg Cox, San Diego County
  - Planning Firm - Perkins + Will, San Francisco
  - Emerging Planning & Design Firm - Raimi + Associates, Los Angeles, Berkeley, and Riverside
  - Planning Pioneer - Don Shoup, FAICP, Los Angeles
- [Student Project Award](#)
  - Honor Award - Urban Planning Visions for Milpitas: California Circle and Main at Serra, California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo
- [National Planning Achievement Awards](#)
  - Environmental Planning - Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan, Lake Tahoe CA and NV
  - Public Outreach - Pop-Up Outreach for Southeastern San Diego and Encanto Neighborhoods Community Plans, San Diego
  - Urban Design - Tongva Park & Ken Genser Square, Santa Monica



Nicholas Chen

» [Future Conferences](#): At the 2015 Fall National Leadership meetings, the APA Board of Directors selected San Diego, CA, as the site for the 2022 National Planning Conference. San Francisco, CA will be the site of the 2019 National Planning Conference.

» [2015-2035 APA Development Plan](#): During the summer of 2015 the APA Board of Directors adopted the 2015-2035 APA Development Plan. I had the honor of serving on the Development Plan and Budget Committee. The Development Plan is a living document that will be amended from time to time to reflect the current trends and values of planning. It frames our vision, articulates our goals, and identifies our strategies.

Each year an action plan will be developed, based on the Development Plan Goals and Strategies, that will guide the preparation of the organization's budget and priorities. The Goals set forth in the Development Plan are as follows:

- [APA will:](#)
  - **LEAD** the planning movement.
  - **COMMUNICATE and ENGAGE** to foster quality leadership and participation and to provide the best planning information.
  - **PARTNER** to leverage resources and build coalitions.
  - **ADVOCATE** for planning, planning leaders and good government.
  - **INSPIRE** building great communities.
  - **SERVE** its members.

The full text of the 2015-2035 APA Development Plan can be found on the APA website, [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).

## » Great Places in America

On October 1, 2014, the American Planning Association announced 30 recipients of the Great Places in America Designation. APA's Flagship program celebrates places of exemplary character, quality, and planning. Places are selected annually in 3 categories: Streets; Public Spaces; and Neighborhoods. These places represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for tomorrow. The California Chapter had two Great Places in America designations in 2015:

- Great Public Space - Balboa Park - San Diego
- Great Street - Olvera Street - Los Angeles

# National APA

These two Great Places in America join our 15 previously designated Great Places in America. I had the privilege of representing the APA Board of Directors at the Olvera Street Great Places in America Celebration and Bill Anderson, Past National APA President, represented the APA Board of Directors at the Balboa Park celebration.

## **MARISSA AHO, AICP, AICP COMMISSIONER, ELECTED BY REGION VI:**

Marissa Aho is the Chief Resilience Officer in the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. Previously, she served in senior associate positions at two planning and land use firms in the City of Los Angeles. Marissa completed four years as Section Director of APA California's Los Angeles Section in 2015. She continues to serve as Past Section Director. She previously served on APA California's Executive Committee, and as Vice Director of Professional Development and Vice Director of Membership for APA LA. She also served as the co-chair of the local host committee for the 2012 APA National Planning Conference in Los Angeles. She is a member of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's Alumni Board. She earned her bachelor's degree from American University and master's degree from the University of Southern California.



*Marissa Aho, AICP*

## **NATIONAL AICP 2015 SUMMARY ACTIONS:**

It is an honor and privilege to serve on the AICP Commission as the representative elected by the members of Region VI. The Commission meets monthly, inclusive of 3-4 times in person each year.

In 2015, the National APA Board and AICP Commission held a winter retreat in San Diego, CA. The AICP Commission participated in the development of the APA Development and Action plan. The AICP Commission actions that were also taken at this meeting included providing direction on the AICP in China Pilot, pre-qualification of CM providers, the Core Competencies, and expansion of the credentials used within APA/AICP controlled publications.

In April, the AICP Commission met in Seattle in conjunction with the National Planning Conference. The AICP Commission welcomed James Peters, FAICP as the new Ethics Officer. The Commission also approved the work program to conduct an update to the AICP Comprehensive Planning Exam.

In September, the AICP Commission met in Washington DC in conjunction with the Policy and Advocacy Conference. The AICP Commission provided direction to the Goals of Certification Task Force who is developing formal Goals of Certification. Additionally, the AICP Commission approved the work plan to develop a path to AICP certification.

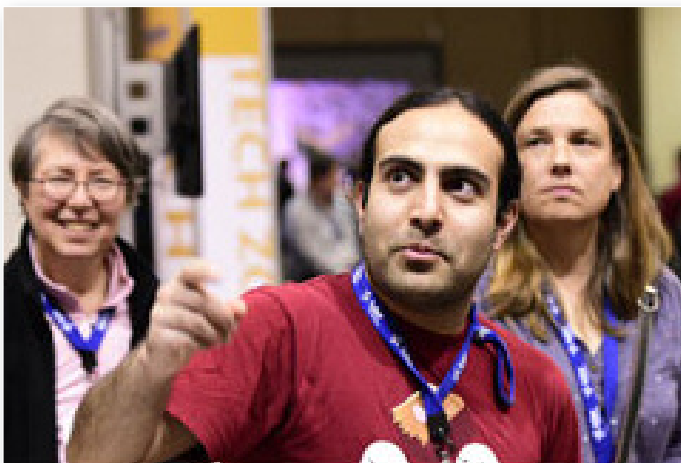


# 2015 National APA Conference Highlights - Seattle



The headline prior to the commencement of the APA National Conference on April 18 in Seattle, Washington was that the event would draw 6,200 attendees. By April 19, APA President Bill Anderson, FAIA, was on stage prior to the event's keynote address quoting an expanded attendance figure of 6,400. The 2015 version of the APA's premier event, in fact, had drawn the second-largest number of attendees in the event's history. Only Las Vegas, in 2008, drew more.

Theories are flying about why this year's event was so popular. Anderson followed the attendance statistic by speculating that it's proof of the profession's recovery from the recession. Surely, cities, counties, and states that only three or four years ago might have flirted with bankruptcy know have enough cash on hand to send planners on a flight to the upper left-hand corner of the country to get caught up on the state of the art and best practices of the field.



But it's impossible to ignore the evidence of a stronger economy at the conference. A strong economy inspires larger numbers of people to congregate, so lines at registration and on the Washington State Convention Center's escalators mimic freeways flush with commuters or shipping tankers queued up outside the nation's ports. Event planners (ahem) have redoubled their efforts and redistributed administrative duties in response to the demand for the conference's services.

As stated by keynote speaker Ron Sims, former secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to kick off the event this morning: "Do not tell me you are in a profession that is indifferent to consequence. There is no such thing as an innocent plan." Let's remember that message about the power of planning in the good times, as with the bad.



# Membership Information & Finances

## Vice President for Administration

### Kristen Asp, AICP

The Vice President for Administration is responsible for maintaining the general funds and accounts of the Chapter. This is done mainly with the assistance of the management firm comprised of APA California administrative staff and contractors, including Stefan/George Associates, ATEGO Resources, New Horizon and other support contract staff. The Vice President for Administration also functions as Chairperson of the Chapter's awards program, regularly evaluates and updates the Chapter Financial Policies, conducts long range forecasting and programming in cooperation with the management firm, coordinates and oversees the distribution of membership subvention funds and applicable reporting procedures of the Chapter's local Sections, and coordinates financial and administrative activities with the Chapter's Director of Administration.



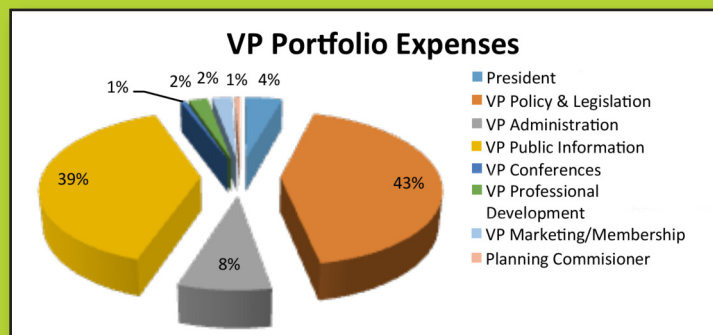
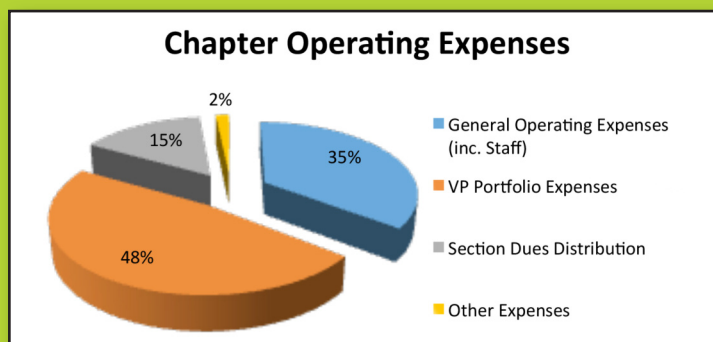
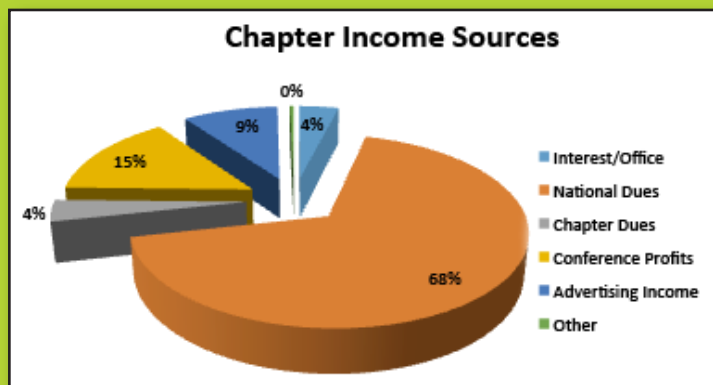
## 2015 Budget

The Board of Directors adopted a draft budget at its meeting held during the 2014 APA California Chapter Conference in Anaheim, with amendments adopted in January 2015 during the Board's annual retreat held in Oakland. A working budget of \$554,345 was adopted to cover operating expenses associated with general administration and Executive Board portfolio programs. Income was anticipated in the amount of \$526,650 coming from sources including funds received from National APA for California Chapter membership dues, 2014 Conference profits and other revenue sources such as AICP publications and advertisements. Actual budget breakdown for 2015 is shown on the pie charts on this page.

Chapter operating expenses include distribution of membership dues to each of the eight local Sections, payments to administrative staff, Board meetings and retreats, and general office-related expenses. Board portfolio expenses include travel and meeting-related costs, as well operating expenditures for member service programs managed under each Vice President.

The largest program costs for the Chapter are associated with those under the Vice President for Policy and Legislation (Legislative Review and Lobbying), Vice President for Public Information (Website maintenance and *CalPlanner* production), and Vice President for Administration (State Awards).

For detailed information about past and current Chapter budgets, including line-item breakdowns, please visit the APA California website at [www.apacalifornia.com](http://www.apacalifornia.com)



# Membership Information & Finances

## Membership Information

APA National is divided into 47 chapters which provide its membership with a local source for networking and professional development. California is currently the chapter with the largest number in membership.

The APA California Chapter is further divided into eight Local Sections, which serve to provide our members with a tangible local expression of APA purposes and objectives and as a vehicle for maximum membership involvement in the affairs of the Chapter.

### 2015 Membership Counts

The APA California Chapter includes a total of 5409 as of December 31, 2015. Breakdown of our membership by Section (including AICP, Student and Chapter-only members) is shown on the following chart:

Member Type	Section								Total Chapter
	Central	Central Coast	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Northern	Orange	Sacramento	San Diego	
Regular APA	60	119	122	439	554	182	118	169	1763
APA/AICP	81	126	117	376	758	188	228	265	2139
Government/Planning Board	32	11	36	62	83	29	15	17	285
APA/Student	6	59	71	433	268	118	14	91	1060
Chapter Only	5	11	6	22	43	9	45	21	162
<b>Totals</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>1706</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>5409</b>

Member Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Regular APA	2066	1786	1789	1681	1838
APA/AICP	2047	2050	2081	2063	2084
Government/Planning Board	283	252	264	263	3922
APA/Student	1052	1013	1196	1169	1039
Chapter Only	132	140	110	108	132
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5580</b>	<b>5241</b>	<b>5440</b>	<b>5284</b>	<b>5378</b>

### Comparison of Past Years

Membership has fluctuated in past years with decreases in 2011 and 2013, but small increases have occurred in 2014 and 2015.



# 2015 Awards

## Co-Director Diane Keena, AICP, (North) Mary P. Wright, AICP (South)

The APA California Awards Program encourages quality in planning and increases the public's awareness of the planning profession by recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field. The program honors innovative plans and projects, distinguished APA members, lay contributors to planning and achievements of local APA California Sections. Awards are presents annually at the APA California Conference in two categories: Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit. Additionally, Scholastic Awards are given to students by the California Planning Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-deductible arm of APA California and Historic Planning Landmark Awards are given to historical projects.



## 2015 APA California Awards Categories and Winners:

- » **Award of Excellence: Opportunity and Empowerment Award**  
Courtyard at La Brea  
West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation
- » **Award of Merit: Comprehensive Plan Award: Large Jurisdiction**  
Harbor Mixed Use Transit Corridor Specific Plan  
City of Santa Ana Planning Division
- » **Award of Excellence: Comprehensive Plan Award: Large Jurisdiction**  
Jordan Downs Urban Village Specific Plan  
City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning
- » **Award of Merit: Comprehensive Plan Award: Small Jurisdiction**  
National City SMART Foundation  
City of National City
- » **Award of Excellence: Comprehensive Plan Award: Small Jurisdiction**  
North Bayshore Precise Plan  
City of Mountain View
- » **Award of Merit: Implementation Award: Large Jurisdiction**  
Devil's Slide Coastal Trail  
San Mateo County



## 2015 APA California Awards Categories and Winners:

- » **Award of Excellence: Implementation Award: Large Jurisdiction**  
Glendale Downtown Specific Plan and Mobility Study  
City of Glendale Community Development Department
- » **Award of Merit: Implementation Award: Small Jurisdiction**  
City of Piedmont Rent-Restricted Second Unit Program  
City of Piedmont
- » **Award of Merit: Innovation in Green Community Planning Award**  
City Heights Urban Greening Plan  
City of San Diego Planning Department
- » **Award of Excellence: Innovation in Green Community Planning Award**  
CAPtivate Western Riverside County, WRCOG's Subregional Climate Action Plan  
Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)
- » **Award of Merit: Economic Planning and Development Award**  
Salinas Economic Development Element  
City of Salinas
- » **Award of Merit: Transportation Planning Award**  
North Coast Corridor Public Works Plan and Transportation and Resource Enhancement Program  
Caltrans District 11
- » **Award of Excellence: Transportation Planning Award**  
Measuring Mobility in Pasadena – Beyond Level of Service  
City of Pasadena
- » **Award of Merit: Best Practices Award**  
Climate Change and Extreme Weather Adaptation Options Pilot Project for Transportation Assets in the Bay Area  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- » **Award of Excellence: Best Practices Award**  
People St, a Program of LADOT  
City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT)
- » **Award of Merit: Public Outreach Award**  
At Home in Encinitas: Developing Housing Solutions  
City of Encinitas
- » **Award of Excellence: Public Outreach Award**  
Land Use Planning Awareness (LUPA) Project  
County of Riverside Department of Public Health
- » **Award of Excellence: Urban Design Award**  
Warm Springs/South Fremont Community Plan  
Perkins + Will





## 2015 APA California Awards Categories and Winners:

- » **Award of Excellence: Planning Advocate Award**  
James Rojas  
Place It!
- » **Award of Excellence: Planning Agency Award**  
City of West Hollywood Community Development Department
- » **Award of Merit: Advancing Diversity and Social Change Award in Honor of Paul Davidoff**  
Jurupa Valley Environmental Justice Element  
City of Jurupa Valley
- » **Award of Merit: Academic Award**  
Cultivating Economic Prosperity and Creating Identity along Historic South Main Street in Santa Ana  
Kristin Kaczmarek, University of California, Irvine, Planning Policy and Design
- » **Award of Excellence: Academic Award**  
Walking and Cycling in San Francisco: Identifying Underserved Locations that are Particularly Receptive to Non-Motorized Transport via the Pedestrian and Bicycling Survey  
Rebecca Walters, San Jose State University, Urban and Regional Planning



- » **Award of Excellence: Communications Initiative Award**  
“Visualizing the Code” Video Series  
City of Anaheim Planning Department
- » **Award of Excellence: Hard-Won Victory Award**  
Barrio Logan Gateway Sign  
City of San Diego Planning Department

## 2015 APA California Awards Jury

- » Carey Fernandes, AICP
- » Esmeralda Garcia
- » Kevin Gardiner, AICP
- » Jeff Henderson, AICP
- » Patrick Prescott, AICP







# 2015 Great Place California Winners

The California Chapter of the American Planning Association was pleased to announce the three inaugural winners of Great Places in California for 2015. A Great Place in California is one that exemplifies character, quality and excellent planning. It can be anywhere from the beach to the mountains, from a large city to a small community. It can be a vibrant downtown, a suburban gathering place, a historic small town, a public park, or preserved open space. Most important, it must be a place where people want to be!

## American River

The American River Parkway is the 'Crown Jewel of Sacramento'. The Parkway is a blueprint for preservation of a naturalized environment while providing recreational activities for more than 5 million visitors each year. The 23-mile, 4900 acre Parkway extends from Folsom Dam at the northeast to the American River's confluence with the Sacramento River at the southwest with easy access to recreational opportunities for over a million Sacramento residents. The Lower American River is the central focus of the American River Parkway and is classified as a 'Recreation' river within the State and Federal Wild and Scenic River System. This unique wildlife and recreation area lures joggers, cyclists, strollers, naturalists, horseback riders, birdwatchers, picnickers, and fishermen. It is the place to be in the Sacramento area for a serene getaway in the middle of urbanization and for healthy active recreation.

## Balboa Park

Balboa Park exemplifies the criteria of what a Great Place in California is. Originally envisioned in 1868, San Diego civic leaders set aside 1,400 acres, which was referred to simply as 'City Park.' Presently encompassing 1,200 acres, the entire region benefits from this regional focal point. The central portion of the park was constructed for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, which is why 2015 marked the park's centennial celebration. Balboa Park is a great place of contrasts: the core of the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and contains historic buildings from the first exposition, complemented by modern museum additions; while it is one of San Diego's top tourist attractions, it is utilized as a neighborhood park by surrounding residents; it is a place to come to rest and relax and provides numerous passive recreation opportunities.

## Old Town Monrovia

Safe Environment That is Welcoming for All Old Town Monrovia is a 10 square block area spanning from Olive Avenue on the south to Foothill Boulevard (formerly Route 66) on the north and Ivy Avenue on the east to Primrose Avenue on the west. Yet, within that small area resides the heart of the City of Monrovia. From historic preservation to environmental stewardship to public art to special events, Old Town Monrovia represents the values of the community in many important ways. Old Town Monrovia has achieved its status as a retail, dining, and entertainment destination for the San Gabriel Valley and beyond by providing a safe environment that is welcoming for all; it is truly a 100-year overnight success. Monrovia is the fourth oldest city in Los Angeles County, and the downtown area attracted businesses from surrounding communities.



# Policy and Legislation

## Vice President Policy and Legislation

**John C. Terell, AICP**



2015 was the first year of the 2015-16 Legislative Session. After legislators submitted initial drafts of legislation in February, a myriad of planning related bills were reviewed by the Chapter's Legislative Review Committee. Based on recommendations from the Committee, APA California lobbied the Legislature on priority bills as they made their way through committees and floor votes. A number of bills were not resolved this year and may reprise in the second year of the session for further discussion and review (two year bills). This year, APA was able to influence the text of several bills and provide active support for those consistent with the APA California legislative priorities.

Early in 2015, the Board of Directors adopted revised legislative priorities for the 2015-16 Legislative Session. The revised priorities included more emphasis on affordable housing and water conservation. Other priorities were largely unchanged from the last document.

» The priority planning related measures and their status at the end of the year are listed below.

- **AB 2 (Alejo) Community Revitalization Authorities**  
APA California Position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor
- **AB 313 (Atkins) Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Law Clean Up**  
APA California Position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor
- **AB 35 (Chiu/Atkins) Affordable Housing Funding**  
APA California Position: Support. Status: Vetoed by the Governor
- **AB 57 (Quirk) Cellular Communications Tower Permitting**  
APA California Position: Oppose. Status: Signed by the Governor
- **AB 266 (Bonta)/AB 243 (Wood)/SB 643 (McGuire) Local Regulation of Medical Marijuana**  
APA California Position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor
- **AB 718 (Chu) Right to Use Vehicles for Human Habitation**  
APA California Position: Oppose. Status: Two-Year Bill
- **AB 744 (Chau) Parking Minimums**  
APA California Position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor
- **1164 (Gatto) Artificial Grass Ordinances**  
APA California Position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor
- **AB 1303 (Gray) Map Act Extension for Disadvantaged Jurisdictions**  
APA California Position: Neutral. Status: Signed by the Governor
- **AB 1335 (Atkins) Permanent Source of Funding for Housing**  
APA California Position: Support. Status: Failed to proceed
- **AB 1344 (Jones) Charter School Ordinance Override**  
APA California Position: Oppose. Status: Two Year Bill
- **SB 32 (Pavley) 2030 & 2050 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets**  
APA California Position: Support if Amended. Status: Two Year Bill
- **SB 107 (Leno/Governor) Redevelopment Closeout Process Changes**  
APA California Position: Watch. Status: Signed by the Governor
- **SB 122 (Jackson/Hill): CEQA Reform**  
APA California Position: Support if Amended. Status: Two Year Bill
- **SB 246 (Wiekowski) State & Local Climate Adaptation Coordination**  
APA California Position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor

For the complete list of priority bills including detailed information on all bills as well as information on other activities of the Legislative Review Team, please visit the Legislation page on the APA California website at: [www.apa-california.org/legislation/](http://www.apa-california.org/legislation/)

# Policy and Legislation

- [SB 350 \(De Leon\) Clean Energy & Pollution Reduction Act 2015](#)  
APA California Position: Watch. Status: Signed by Governor
- [SB 379 \(Jackson\) Climate Adaptation in Safety Element](#)  
APA California Position: Support if Amended. Status: Signed by Governor
- [SB 608 \(Liu\) Right to Rest Act](#)  
APA California Position: Watch. Status: Two Year Bill

APA California continued to expand its presence and influence in the State Capital by serving as a resource to legislators who sought our input and expertise on planning related legislation. We were approached to review and comment on preliminary drafts of legislation to address issues before the bills were made public, and our support was requested by other organizations on legislation they proposed. The level of engagement by APA produced tangible results, with bill revisions to address APA's comments and most APA-supported bills that passed the Legislature were signed by the Governor.

## Member Outreach Efforts

In 2015, expanded efforts were implemented to share the important work, and results of that work, more broadly with the APA California membership. In addition to the *CalPlanner* legislative updates, posting legislative information on the Chapter website, and the annual legislative update session at the State conference in Oakland, on-site sessions with concurrent webinars were coordinated as yet another avenue to share legislative information. Kudos to the Sacramento and Los Angeles sections for coordinating this additional outreach, which allowed approximately 100 members access to the legislative update information as well as AICP credits required for continuing education.

## APA California Op-Ed Published

APA California highlighted its role in the legislative arena this year with the publication of an editorial in the Sacramento Bee defending AB 2. The editorial, jointly authored with the League of California Cities, made a strong case for signing the bill to give local agencies new tools to address the blight and economic development issues they face in the post-redevelopment era. The editorial also laid out the case for the need for additional State-wide resources and initiatives to support local economic and community development efforts. The Governor signed the bill. The editorial further solidified APA California's presence in the dialogue regarding these important issues.

## Amicus Committee Activities

The Amicus Committee is composed of attorneys that review requests for APA California's participation in planning related litigation as a friend of the court for one side of a pending case. The members of the Committee and preparers of the briefs provide their services at no cost to APA. In 2015, APA California filed an amicus curiae briefs in the three cases listed below. The submitted briefs are posted on the Legislation page on the APA California website.

- [Barbara Lynch and Thomas Frick vs. California Coastal Commission](#)  
Brief submitted by Fran M. Layton of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger
- [Cleveland National Forest Foundation vs. San Diego Association of Governments](#)  
Brief submitted by Whitman F. Manley of Remy Moose Manley
- [Sierra Club vs. Fresno County](#)  
Brief prepared by Jason Ackerman of Best, Best & Krieger

## Closing Comments

In my first year as the Vice President of Policy and Legislation, I would like to express my gratitude to all of those who have contributed to the success of APA California's legislative program over the past year, including all of those who participate in the legislative review teams, the ever supportive APA California Board of Directors, and the amazing Stefan George staff without which our success in Sacramento would not be possible. It is a pleasure and personally rewarding to serve APA California in this capacity. And finally, an expression of gratitude to my predecessor David Snow, for providing a strong base and structure for the APA California legislative efforts.



# Public Information

## Vice President Public Information

Marc Yeber, ASLA

The Vice President for Public Information is responsible for the Chapter's communications by delivering information via the different digital and traditional platforms to keep APA California members updated and informed on the latest Chapter news, programs, and activities as well as planning efforts statewide. From the APA California website and our bi-monthly member-only newsletter, *CalPlanner*, to our email alerts and discussion boards, a broad range of topics were offered with the goal of assisting our members to stay engaged and up-to-date on a regular basis. Assisting in these efforts during the past year were APA California members, **Gabriel Barreras**, *CalPlanner* Assistant Editor and **Aaron Pfannenstiel**, AICP, Technology Director. Also APA California staff members, **Dorina Blythe**, *CalPlanner* Managing Editor, and **Francine Farrell**, Web Manager, help to make our communications efforts possible.

With the ever evolving communications environment, navigating today's digital sphere has resulted in the APA California's Board to continually reassess how we communicate with our members and to the public about planning in California. In early 2015, we recognized that the APA California website should be the linchpin of those efforts. This has resulted in the in-depth discussion and analysis of the website's current capabilities and deficiencies as well as the drafting of a comprehensive list of new functional goals and related implementation measures. This includes the primary goal of designing "responsive" architecture to be compatible with mobile devices. It also placed emphasis on a site that not only is a portal for APA California news and events, but a repository for all things planning in California. The migration and update will commence in early 2016. Other communication efforts include creating materials that define the roles APA National, APA California, and the eight local Sections each plays towards your APA membership. We also continued with APA California's topic specific newsletter, *CalPlanner*, which included themes related to mobility and resiliency. Thank you to all the contributors in 2015.

As we look ahead and in addition to the APA California website, we are engaged in drafting a comprehensive communications strategy to recalibrate our communication efforts to meet the needs of our members now and into the future. Of course this will require feedback from our members and as such, a communications survey will help us determine Chapter program priorities, which social media are preferred, and how the Chapter can better utilize these platforms. So we hope you look forward to these proposed changes in the year ahead so that APA California continues to be your first stop when it comes to getting planning information and staying engaged in the profession.



Explore  
**California**  
PLANNING

### 3 WAYS TO NETWORK» MASTER» ENGAGE

**1. NATIONALLY**  
47 Chapters

Community Assistance Program >  
Great Places in America > Sustaining  
Communities Initiative > City Parks  
Forum > National Planning Conference  
> National Planning Awards

**2. STATEWIDE**  
8 Local Sections

Logos for CPF, PEN, CPR, and YPG.

**3. LOCALLY**  
Infinite Opportunities

SACRAMENTO VALLEY  
NORTHERN  
CENTRAL  
CENTRAL COAST  
LOS ANGELES  
ORANGE  
INLAND EMPIRE  
SAN DIEGO

Programs: Legislative Review > Plan California > State Planning Awards > Membership Inclusion > Great Places in California  
Groups: Young Planners Group > University Liaison > Commission & Board Members > Planning Students > Mentors > Historians  
Specialties: Community > Transportation > Historic Preservation > Environment > Urban Design > Parks > Resiliency > Housing

[www.apacalifornia.org](http://www.apacalifornia.org)

# Conferences

## Vice President Conferences

**Betsy McCullough, AICP**



The Vice President of Conferences is responsible for coordinating the annual Chapter conference. The primary function of this position is to ensure that there is a good line of communication between the conference contractors, the conference host committee, and the Chapter Board. The goal is to provide the membership with a conference program that is consistent and of high quality. The conference is the Chapter's platform to present the best planning practices from around the State in the conference sessions, and highlight the local area by offering mobile workshops to explore the region. The Chapter conference also provides networking opportunities and allows AICP members to gain continuing education credits. Consulting firms from around the State take the opportunity to exhibit their qualifications and planning successes to our attendees who include Planning Directors and managers. The annual conference is also APA California's, and the eight Sections', main source of revenue; therefore attracting and growing conference sponsorships and attendance are equally important.

The Chapter's new Conference Management Contractor, HPN Global, was fully engaged with APA this year, providing both Registration services as well as overall conference management. HPN, along with other Chapter contractors, Chapter representatives, and the Conference Host Committee, worked together all year to make attendees' registration and on-site experiences as positive as possible.

The California Chapter's annual conference is the largest in the country, attracting attendees from outside the state for its thought-provoking content. The program sessions presented vary change from year to year, based on members' input and on trending planning topics. Often the conference's Host Section members are doing work that is cutting edge, and hosting a Chapter conference is a great way for them to share with others around California. Fundamental planning knowledge important to every practicing planner is part of the program.



## 2016 Conference – Pasadena

The conference planning that is underway "in high gear" is for the 2016 conference is Pasadena, October 22-25, hosted by the Los Angeles Section, and titled "Crafting our Future: The Art of Planning".



## UPCOMING CONFERENCE LOCATIONS:

- » 2017 Hosted by the Sacramento Valley Section September 22-26, Sheraton Grand Sacramento
- » 2018 Hosted by the San Diego Section October 7-10, Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina
- » 2019 Hosted by the Central Coast Section

*The California Chapter's annual conference is the largest in the country...*



## Conferences

Typically, there is a “Free Student Day” on the first weekend day of the conference while the Chapter Board meets and Pre-Conference Sessions are held. This allows students to participate in sessions geared toward their professional development without causing them to miss classes. The California Planning Foundation Student Scholarship Luncheon is also held this day. Conference educational sessions begin with the Diversity Summit followed by the evening Opening Reception.

The Chapter has now presented in-depth full-day educational sessions on the opening day of the conference three years in a row. Sessions have included management and advanced management, as well as Real Estate Pro-Forma Analysis, Urban Design, and planning for natural hazards and climate change. To fulfill membership session expectations, the Board requires a series of mandatory sessions including a legislative update, Planning Commissioner sessions, an AICP exam preparation session, and Ethics CM training. In addition, our affiliate groups, the California Planning Foundation, the Planner Emeritus Network, and the California Planning Roundtable, sponsor sessions each year, showcasing the talent within these groups.

### 2015 Chapter Conference is Oakland CA – Hosted by the Northern Section

“Rooted in AuthenticITY” was the 2015 conference theme in Oakland this year. The conference was held at the Oakland Marriott and the Conference Host Committee Co-Chairs were Erik Balsley, AICP; Hanson Hom, AICP; and Darcy Kremin, AICP.

APA guests included: Carol Rhea, FAICP, APA National President; Angela Brooks, AICP, APA Director-at-Large; Kurt Christiansen, AICP, APA Board Member, Region VI, Marissa Aho, AICP, AICP Commission Member, Region VI, and Nick Chen, Student Representative, Region VI.



Carol Rhea

The attendance totaled to 1900 students, professionals, guests, members, and non-members taking advantage of 3½ days of learning and fun. Over 125 sessions and 16 mobile workshops were held. All of the sessions, pre-conference sessions, plenary luncheons, and mobile workshops received Certification Maintenance credit approvals prior to the conference. The annual Diversity Summit offered yet another unique and thought-provoking Ethics CM session entitled “Gentrification Mosaic: Conversations on Displacement of Economic and Social Capital”. The Saturday evening Opening Reception at the Oakland Museum featured fun, food and drink along with a chance to learn by strolling the Gallery of California History. Plenary speakers Egon Terplan, Angela Brooks, and a panel of prominent workforce innovators spoke to and motivated the attendees. The APA California Awards Luncheon celebrated the best of planning projects and people in the state. The California Planning Foundation annual auction on Sunday evening raised money to support our student scholarship program. Monday evening closed the last full day of the conference with the Consultants’ Reception – the Chapter’s chance to highlight the firms and organizations that support our organizational and educational goals all year long.



# Professional Development



## Vice President Professional Development

### Terry M. Blount, AICP

The Professional Development team works to assist Chapter members in their pursuit of professional development opportunities and information.

The 2015 team consisted of Chapter representatives: Vice President Terry Blount; AICP Coordinator Kimberly Brosseau; FAICP Coordinator David Miller; Programs Coordinator Scot Mende and Carol Barrett; Region VI AICP Commissioner Marissa Aho; and the Section PDOs: Rob Terry – Central; Lilly Rudolph – Central Coast; Julie Rynerson Rock – Inland Empire; Jonathan Nettler and Christopher Palmer – Los Angeles; Jonathan Schuppert and Don Bradley – Northern; Starla Barker and Belinda Deines – Orange; Scot Mende and Sharon Grewal – Sacramento Valley; Matthew Gelbman, Asha Bleier, and Darin Neufeld – San Diego. A key factor in the success of the team was APA California staff member Laura Murphy who worked closely with the Vice President on matters related to AICP, FAICP, the state conference, the Chapter website, web postings, member assistance, research, general professional development, and creative solutions. Significant contributions to the Professional Development team were made on an ongoing basis by staff members Francine Farrell and Dorina Blythe.

The Professional Development team assisted Chapter members in many ways including: disseminating information regarding local and national CM credit sessions; producing local CM credit sessions; providing AICP exam training and scholarship opportunities; and coaching and supporting potential FAICP members.

## Some 2015 Highlights

- » Five Chapter members, after being mentored by Chapter FAICP members and with assistance from the FAICP Coordinator, Chapter President, and Vice President, were nominated for the 2016 Class of Fellows of FAICP.
- » 104 Chapter members passed the AICP exam in 2015. Congratulations to the individuals who became AICP members following the May and November 2015 exams. See our new AICP members at: [www.apacalifornia.org/professional-development/aicp/](http://www.apacalifornia.org/professional-development/aicp/)
- » Sections offered prep sessions for the May and November 2015 AICP exams.
- » 291 CM credits at 138 live and Distance Education events, plus the Chapter Conference (with 254.75 additional CM credits within the conference program), were offered by the Sections and the Chapter to our members.

## Major Initiatives

A number of major efforts or dialogues were undertaken by the Professional Development team in 2015:

- » **Successful AICP Exam Prep Session Presented at the Annual Conference:** Kimberly Brosseau, assisted by an able panel - including Asha Bleier, Stan Donn, Darin Neufeld, Rob Terry, and Jonathan Schuppert - conducted a well-attended AICP exam introductory session at the Chapter conference in Oakland, invigorating many members to think about becoming AICP members.
- » **Pre-Conference Session Offerings:** two successful pre-conference sessions were held at the Chapter conference in Oakland, entitled Management Institute 2015 and Future Land Use Planning for Safe, Smart, and Sustainable Communities. Pre-conference sessions are opportunities for Chapter members, whether attending the conference or not, to attend an in-depth training session, conducted by experts, on a particular topic for CM credit at a reasonable price.

## Ongoing Efforts

The Professional Development team has done the following:

- » Sections have been providing AICP exam training sessions and reference materials to exam candidates.
- » Section PDO calls were regularly conducted during the year to share information and have discussions on topics of interest to PDOs for use in their Sections; distribution of detailed call notes for all including those unable to join the call.
- » Summary of all CM events offered by the Chapter and Sections was again prepared.
- » AICP exam scholarships from the Chapter and from the Sections continue to be awarded for each exam period after advertising availability of scholarships to AICP applicants and evaluation of those requests by Chapter committee.
- » Successful AICP candidates continue to be recognized in *CalPlanner* articles while Section PDOs acknowledged their successes locally.
- » The Vice President of Professional Development continues to be an ex officio member of the California Planning Foundation.

***...291 CM credits at 138 live events were provided throughout the Chapter.***



# Professional Development

- » **Pilot Program Undertaken to Create Distance Education Sessions Originally Presented at Conferences:** the Chapter moved forward with capturing key sessions presented at the most recent Chapter annual conferences (Disneyland and Oakland) to make them available at a later date for those unable to attend the conferences. Several law and ethics sessions were selected, recorded, and registered as Distance Education opportunities available at a very reasonable cost to APA California members.
- » **Healthy Planning Leadership Series:** Webinars: the Chapter and the Health Officers Association of California collaborated on the Healthy Planning Leadership Series, “What’s New, What Matters, What’s Next”: a series to bring together professionals interested in moving ideas forward to action to support healthy communities. The series features pragmatic examples provided by local innovators in California and beyond. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research hosts the webinars and offers credit for planners, as well as continuing medical educational credit. Each series has different learning objectives.
- » **AICP Commission’s Draft Strategic Plan:** the Chapter commented on this highly-ambitious, very comprehensive plan for a proactive AICP Commission and energetic and supportive staff. The Chapter communicated that the document feels like a long-term plan that would be of benefit as top strategies are identified and prioritized.

These are all CM events by Sections, the Chapter, or co-sponsored by a Section or the Chapter. No conference sessions are included.

CM Provider or Co-Sponsor	Total CM Credits Offered	Total CM Events Offered
Central Coast	40.75	12
Inland Empire	33.75	14
Los Angeles	15.25	9
Northern	76.75	48
Orange	32.5	7
Sacramento Valley	41.5	26
San Diego	35.75	11
Chapter	14.75	11

## Marketing and Membership

## Vice President Marketing and Membership

## Virginia M. Viado

## 2015 in Review

In 2015, the Public Relations Committee supported the outreach program and assisted with enhancing APA California's profile and visibility. APA California continues to work towards become THE authority on planning to our members, as well as nonmembers we want to recruit and other related professionals/opinion leaders we want to familiarize with APA and the California Chapter. The Committee further developed elements of Public Relations Program for targeted outreach to the media, current members, potential new members and the Legislature. The Media Toolkit was updated with new material for use and distribution at the Annual Conference in Oakland, which included the following items:

- » **APA California Wordle.** This 'word cloud' graphic was created with APA California, including Chapter programs, affiliate groups and the eight local sections comprising the California Chapter.
- » **Promotional magnets and postcards.** Magnets and postcards with the APA California Wordle were printed and distributed at the APA California booth in Anaheim. The postcards listed current dues amounts and membership options to join APA including Chapter Only membership and the ability to pay the dues by making monthly payments.
- » **Programs/Services Banner.** A new banner was created to highlight the various services and programs available to our members, and was successful in attracting visitors to our booth at the Oakland conference.

The Committee will be focusing next on the discussion and promotion of planning related legislation, as well as articles educating the public on various planning related projects and topics.



## Marketing and Membership Programs

**Julia Lave  
Johnston,  
UC Davis  
UNIVERSITY LIAISON**



Julia continued efforts on formulating a work plan to better integrate university programs, instructors and students into APA California section activities, support students as emerging planning professionals, develop best practices for working with students and faculty for the Chapter and Sections, and increase professional development opportunities for practicing planners. She collaborated with our Student Representative and YPG Coordinator to increase student participation in Section and YPG events, and to identify ways to increase student members in APA, increase the number of young professional identifying themselves as planners, and strengthen relationships with California university planning and related programs to increase the collaboration between research and practice.

Look for new activities  
and events for the University  
Liaison program in 2016!

Explore

California

PLANNING

3 WAYS TO NETWORK » MASTER » ENGAGE

1. NATIONALLY

47 Chapters

21

APA

DEVELOPMENT

Community Assistance Program »

Great Places in America »

Sustaining Communities Initiative »

City Parks Forum »

National Planning Conference »

National Planning Awards

2. STATEWIDE

8 Local Sections

SACRAMENTO VALLEY

NORTHERN

CENTRAL

CENTRAL COAST

LOS ANGELES

ORANGE

WLAND EMPIRE

SAN DIEGO

3. LOCALLY

Infinite Opportunities

Programs: Legislative Review » Plan California » State Planning Awards » Membership Inclusion » Great Places in California

Groups: Young Planners Group » University Liaison » Commission & Board Members » Planning Students » Mentors » Histori

Specialties: Community » Transportation » Historic Preservation » Environment » Urban Design » Parks » Resiliency » Housi

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# Marketing and Membership Portfolio Programs

## Young Planners Group

### Nina Idemudia, YPG Coordinator

Greetings! In 2015, I was excited to serve in my second year as an APA California Board Member and first year as the Board's Young Planners Group Coordinator! Looking back on 2015, our Young Planners Group was able to reach some new goals and will continue to reach new heights as we go into 2016.



### 2015-16 Goals

#### » Short-Term

- Formalize the leadership structure throughout the state by holding bi-monthly conference calls with YPG leadership at the Local Section level.
- Develop common programming goals and initiatives among the Local Sections for YPG members throughout the state.
  - Facilitate the growth of YPG mentor programs around the state.

#### » Mid-Term

- Increase YPG participation at the APA California conferences.
  - Have fellowshiping opportunities for YPG members at the conference.
  - Have conference sessions geared toward YPG membership.
  - Work with the APA California Student Representative, University Liaison and Vice President of Professional Development to help educate student membership about the long term benefits of APA and AICP membership.
- Generate feedback from APA California YEP members about their APA experience.

#### » Long-Term

- Increase APA student membership retention and YPG membership.

» **Progress on Short & Mid-term Goals:** During the month of October, the YPG, in collaboration with EIG Group, launched the #IAmPlanning Social Media Campaign. This campaign gave young planners, both APA members and non-members, the opportunity to share the reasons they chose the planning profession. The purpose of the campaign was to highlight the different faces and backgrounds of young planners across the nation.

Any participant in the campaign took a picture with an "I am planning because \_\_\_\_\_" sign. They filled in the blank with what they felt reflects why they embody "planning" or a planner. For example, a sign read "I am planning because I fight for communities". That person then posted the picture using the hashtag and tagged a friend to take part in the campaign.

#IAmPlanning was a great way to engage a new generation of planners in APA at the local, state, and national level. Those who participated were featured on APA affiliated social networks, including APA Los Angeles' Instagram account (@apa\_losangeles) and the APA Sacramento Valley YPG account (@sacvalleyypg)

In addition to helping facilitate the campaign, APA Los Angeles hosted an event of the same name. #IAmPlanning: Bridging the Gap Between Planning and Activism offered Planners within the Los Angeles Section a chance to dialogue about how we can use our place in Planning (public, private, non-profit etc.) and as an organization to help push forward social change. This program was a discussion lead by program participants with the help of group facilitators. The event had an amazing turn out with over 40 participants.

## YPG and #IAmPlanning go to Oakland!

During the state conference, the YPG had a mixer at Luka's Taproom and Lounge in Downtown Oakland. This event was made possible because a sponsorship between YPG California and the Northern Section YPG. This mixer was the first of its kind for the State Conference and we had an amazing turnout. Over 60 people attended the event, including PLANNING Magazine Executive Editor, Meghan Stromberg and Managing Editor of Planetizen, James Brasuell. We plan to continue with APA sponsored YPG mixers at future conferences.



## 2016 and Beyond

Going into 2016, YPG California will continue to build connections between the Local Sections and find new opportunities for young planners across the state to have access to APA resources. YPG Bi-Monthly Conference Calls start in February! We will also work on new ways to recognize outstanding young planners doing great work in the advancement of Planning within the state.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please email me at [ninaidemudia@gmail.com](mailto:ninaidemudia@gmail.com)



# Marketing and Membership Portfolio Programs

## Membership Inclusion

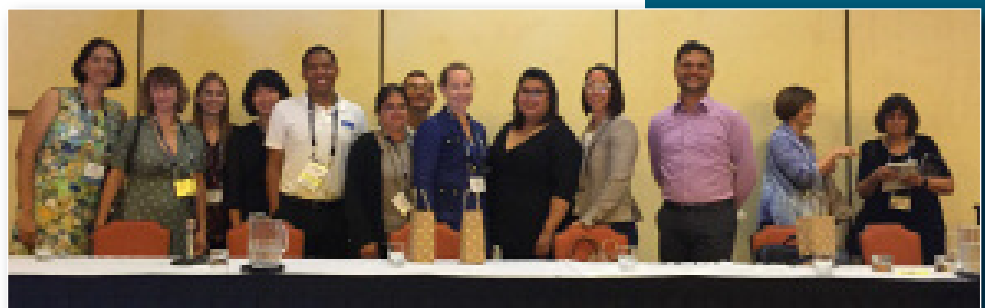
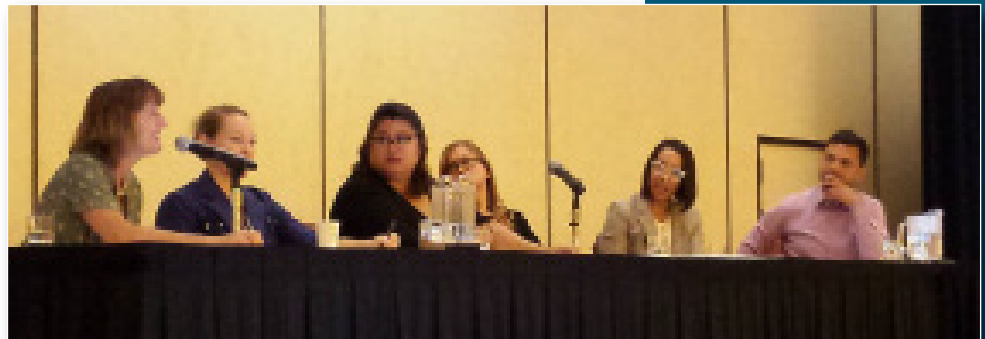
**Membership Inclusion Director - North: Miroo Desai, AICP**

**Membership Inclusion Director - South: Anna M. Vidal**

APA California continues to encourage a diverse membership and to provide support to all who would like to participate in APA and work in the planning field. The Membership Inclusion program does this through activities and events such as the Diversity Summit held at the annual conference, which provides an excellent networking opportunity for members as well as a forum to discuss how members can get involved in Chapter activities.

The topic of the 2015 Diversity Summit was “Gentrification Mosaic: Understanding Displacement and Dealing with its Impacts”. The panel consisted of a diverse group of professionals from the academia, public sector, elected representative and non-profit community. Vikrant Sood, a regional planner at Metropolitan Transportation Commission served as the moderator to Karen Chappelle, Professor at University of California, Berkeley; Laura Simpson, Planning Manager, City of Concord; Cindy Chavez, Board of Supervisor, Santa Clara County; Remy de La Peza, Director of Planning and Policy Counsel for the Little Tokyo Service Center; and Pilar Campo, Policy Director with the SV@Home. A Planners of Color social mixer was also organized at the conference to provide additional network opportunities.

This year the Membership Inclusion Directors also sponsored James Rojas’ nomination for the Planning Advocate award at the state and the national level. It will continue to sponsor a planner of color for this award moving forward. The Membership Inclusion program has support from the local sections with each having a representative that participates in monthly calls with the Chapter Membership Inclusion Directors. The group will again be working hard in 2016 to plan the Diversity Summit at the 2016 conference in Pasadena and other sponsor other activities.



# Commission and Board Representative

**Scott Lefaver, AICP**



This year emphasize was placed on continuing education for Commissioners and Board members as well as urging member to directly participate in APA California, its seminars and conferences. APA California has co-sponsor events with several organizations that promote planning commission education and participation including Sonoma State College's annual Planning Commissioner Conference and San Jose University's Annual Urban Planning Coalition program focusing on affordable housing. APA California, through the Commission and Board Representative will continue to support and co-sponsor educational and topical events of interests to planning commissioners, particularly at the local level. On-going outreach to planning commissioners and seminars that reflecting their interest is key to that participation.

A network of Planning Commission Representatives from each of the APA California Chapter Sections has been started. Contacting Commissions and Boards directly through e-mail and Planning Directors has also started. Representatives are now helping Section Directors in the San Diego, Central and Sacramento Sections. They are suggesting educational sessions for commissioners at the APA California Conferences and specifically helped with sessions at the APA California Conference in Oakland.

At the 2015 APA California Conference in Oakland a breakfast meeting of fellow commissioners and board members attending the conference was held. The commissioners talked about issues of interest and what they would like to see at the 2016 conference. One topic of great interest and much discussion was standards for ex-parte communications for applications and public hearings. There was a wide variety of local requirements and commissioner thoughts. It was strongly urged a conference session be held on the topic. A special thanks to Chris Pattillo, City of Oakland Planning Commissioner, who lead the breakfast discussion.

For 2016 e-mails will be sent out to members explaining how their entire commission or board can join APA as a group and enjoy lower dues as well as gain the benefits of on-line seminars and attendance at State and National conferences at the membership rate.

## Planning Commission and Board Representative Highlights

- » Planning Commission and Board Representative Breakfast held at APA California Conference in Oakland
- » Several sessions and mobile workshops at the APA California Conference designated "of special interest" to Planning Commission and Board members
- » Special e-mails directed to over 250 Planning Commission and Board members of APA California Chapter
- » APA California co-sponsoring seminars and educational opportunities directed toward commissioners and public agency board members.
- » A network of commissioners and board members participating at the Section level.

# Student Representative

## Student Representative (2014-15) Shannon Baker



The goals for the 2014-2015 were to build on the work the previous student representative had begun.

### 2014 - 15 Goals

The following goals were established by the previous student representative and were continued throughout my 2014-2015 term. Some of the progress written in this section is in conjunction with the goals my predecessor accomplished.

#### Short-Term

- » Formalize the student leadership structure throughout the state by holding monthly Student Representative conference calls with APA California section student liaisons.
- » Develop common programming goals and initiatives among sections for student APA members throughout the state.

#### Mid-Term

- » Increase Student participation in the APA California conference.
- » Generate feedback from APA California student members about their APA experience.

#### Long-Term

- » Increase APA student membership retention rates after graduation.

### Progress on Short and Mid-Term Goals

**Goal 1:** The student representatives had conferences calls throughout the year. We had very productive talks about what we would like to focus on for the upcoming year. The sections that were represented were Central Coast, Northern, Orange, LA, and San Diego.

**Goal 2:** As decided during our meetings, the Student Representative goals for the year are as follows:

- » Increase Professional Development Programming
- » Increase Network Opportunities for students
- » Increase student participation at the state conference

**Goal 3:** Student Representatives proposed a Student Mixer at the APA California Conference. This goal was met at the 2014 State Conference in Anaheim and was received well by all of those involved. This is something students expressed interest in continuing. Student attendance at this particular conference was higher than previous conferences which showed that it is possible to increase student participation through outreach.

**Goal 4:** I recommend we include student-friendly questions within the APA California membership survey every year. These questions can be developed through collaboration between the Student Representatives and the Membership Chair.



# Student Representative

## Other Goals and Recommendations

Another goal is to work with the university liaison to create a database with information across section and schools that outlines the various types of planning organizations and resources students are utilizing. I was able to begin this but will pass it over to the new student representative to continue.

Student leaders also expressed interest communicating with different sections to gather new ideas of student involvement. Through our conference calls, leaders would share the different events they would hold with their planning organizations. I think creating an online community group through Facebook or social media for student leaders could be a useful tool to discuss ideas or ask other sections for help.

Further, I would like to see students have a greater involvement in *CalPlanner* with a regular student column or submission.

Lastly, I was able to speak with section leaders about the 2014 Chapter Conference in Anaheim and was able to gather their comments regarding future improvements for students. These included the following:

- » A desire for more vendor booths set up on student day for students to have the opportunity to mingle with professionals. Saturday is a big travel day for most people attending and gives students only attending Student Day less of a chance to network.
- » To have more opportunities to mingle with students from other schools.
- » A better balance of career sessions and relevant topical ones on student day.
- » Students also expressed a strong desire to have the volunteer hour requirements be changed from eight hours for a \$50 compensation for four hours or increase the compensation. They felt that eight hours was a large commitment and reduces the time students are able to spend attending conference sessions. However, the Board provided a statement on this issue and I received no further comments once it was distributed for review by student leaders.

It was a successful year in garnering student feedback and encouraging students to be involved with APA while in school and to continue their memberships as they enter their careers.

## APPOINTED DIRECTORS & AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

### Chapter Historians

**Northern California: J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP**

**Southern California: Steven A. Preston, FAICP**

The Chapter Historians are responsible for the preservation of the Chapter's history, as well as documentation and dissemination of the rich history of planning in California.

### Accomplishments

- » **Archives:** The California Chapter archives, housed in the Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge, comprises one of the State's largest collections of documents exclusively drawn from the history of California planning. This year the Board adopted a preliminary plan of action designed to advance the archives into the digital age. Funding has not been secured for implementation, but the other components of the plan – including education, fundraising, and ultimate digitizing of the extensive collection to make it more accessible to members and researchers – is on the horizon. The Board will receive a tour and presentation concerning the archives at its January, 2016 meeting in Los Angeles, at which time two new boxes of material will be delivered to the Archives.
- » **Annual Awards:** The Chapter Historians convened the jury process for the *2015 Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Awards*, but no award was given this cycle. One nomination was referred to the Planner Emeritus Network (PEN) for consideration, and PEN recognized that individual, Leo Estrada of the University of California, Los Angeles, with an award. Under Larry Mintier's direction, a subcommittee submitted a report with proposed improvements and clarifications to the awards process, which was approved by the Board in October.
- » **Collaborations:** We continued our collaboration with the Los Angeles Region Planning History Group, sponsored by the Huntington Library's Institute of the West and the University of Southern California. Steve Preston moderated the LARPHG's April Colloquium, "Black Gold in Paradise: The Role of Oil in the Development of Los Angeles," resulting in a special focus issue of the Southern California Quarterly, journal of the Historical Society of Southern California, in which the presentations at that colloquium were widely publicized in the history community. We also expanding our collaboration with the Planner Emeritus Network (PEN), which is growing its interest and role in the collection and dissemination of California planning history.
- » **Documentation:** The Chapter Historians continued gathering biographies of significant figures in California planning, and updated existing databases that were originally created for the Chapter's 60th anniversary in 2008.
- » **Education:** In addition to preparing several columns and feature stories for *CalPlanner*, Northern Section volunteers prepared an exhibit of rare examples of planning reports from the East Bay dating back to the 1920s. Notably, the conference in Oakland was held exactly 100 years after the Second Annual California Conference on City Planning was held in that same city.
- » **SACRPH:** For the first time in its history, the Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) held its biennial conference in Los Angeles, where a record turnout of more than 400 practicing planners, students, and academicians experienced planning history in all its many forms. Steve Preston represented APA California on the conference's Local Arrangements Committee, and participated throughout the four-day event.



### Upcoming Programs

- » **Sections:** Historian programs are now underway in three of the State's eight sections: Northern Section (Juan Borelli); Inland Empire Section (Gus Gonzalez); and Los Angeles Section (Alicen Bartle). The Inland Empire Section conducted its seventh annual Historical Symposium in Redlands, and the Northern Section provided us with more than 10 years of bound Northern News issues for the Archives. Northern Section is notable as the only section which has digitized an extensive collection of its newsletters going back decades, and made then available on the Section's website. We hope to add a Historian in the Orange Section in 2016; and starting January, 2016 Jerry Aguirre will take the reins as Inland Empire Historian from Gus Gonzalez.
- » **Video** A video telling the story of California planning, originally envisioned in 2008 as a means to help document both the state's planning history and the role of planners and communities of color in that evolution, remains in the development stage and is on hold pending an agreement between the proposed producer and the Board. Action is expected in early 2016.

## APPOINTED DIRECTORS & AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS



### California Planning Foundation

#### Carol D. Barrett, FAICP, President

The California Planning Foundation (CPF) is a nonprofit, charitable corporation established to further the professional practice of planning California through several activities including awarding scholarships to planning students in financial need, who have demonstrated academic excellence at eligible planning programs in California.

Some of the work of the Foundation focuses on fundraising, much of which occurs at the California Chapter Annual Conference. In October, planners opened their hearts and wallets to benefit planning students during the California Planning Foundation's (CPF) annual auction and fundraiser in Oakland. This year we raised over **\$20,000** for CPF's Student Scholarship program.

This year \$53,000 was awarded in scholarships. The CPF Board shifted funds into more \$3,000 scholarships rather than \$1,000 scholarships. The amount had not been adjusted for more than a decade and the Board wanted to have the financial support to really make a difference.

During the Oakland conference, the Foundation presented the scholarships at a Saturday luncheon which provided an opportunity for students to mingle with practitioners. The Foundation presented several sessions during the "Student Day" designed to help students and young practitioners sort through career issues. Of course, behind the scenes, tremendous effort goes into the process of notifying students about the scholarship opportunities, reviewing candidate applications, and interviewing finalists.

Administratively, the Board has broadened eligibility for the major scholarships to include non-accredited planning schools and this was a year of innovation in our scholarships. First, the major scholarship money is now awarded to students without regard to whether their academic program is accredited. And one of the major scholarships was awarded to a non-accredited school. Second, the application process was streamlined and more screening is being done on-line. Third, some interviews were conducted via Skype which saved money and travel time for the applicants.

The inclusion of all planning students in activities carried through to the Student Poster Session which this year, for the first time, accepted projects from non-accredited schools and their work was on display at the conference Opening Reception.

This year another \$1000 annual scholarship was endowed by Richard Weaver who made a \$20,000 donation to the Foundation. The Richard H. Weaver scholarship was funded by a generous donation of \$20,000 by Mr. Weaver. Mr. Weaver had a distinguished career in planning and provided outstanding leadership for many years as the Director in Santa Fe Springs.

Perhaps **you** have a donation for the scholarship program as well. There's always time for you to help.



### CPF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- » Carol D. Barrett, FAICP  
PRESIDENT
- » Juan Borrelli, AICP  
VICE-PRESIDENT
- » Laurie Gartrell  
TREASURER
- » George Osner, AICP  
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CHAPTER PRESIDENT
- » Linda F. Tatum, AICP  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

*Please go to [www.californiapanningfoundation.org/donations.html](http://www.californiapanningfoundation.org/donations.html) to donate to CPF, and we look forward to seeing everyone in Pasadena.*

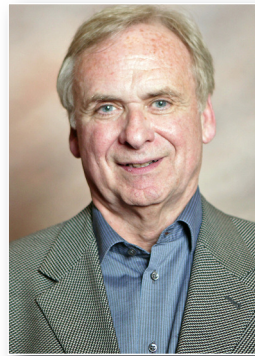


## APPOINTED DIRECTORS & AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS



### California Planning Roundtable

#### Woodie Tescher, President



The California Planning Roundtable completed another year of success. Working on various fronts, CPR members have made a difference towards advancing the planning practice and profession through leadership and foresight.

### Membership Update

CPR is pleased to announce the appointment of three stellar planners who in 2015 joined CPR's ranks to fill three important vacancies:

- » **Private-North:** Alice Chen, Principal Planner with Kittelson & Associates, Inc.
- » **South-Public:** Fred Dock, Director of the Department of Transportation for the City of Pasadena
- » **Academic:** Liz Falletta teaches architectural and urban design at USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy



Alice Chen



Fred Dock



Liz Falletta

- » **CPR Emeriti:** CPR wishes to thank the following members for their tireless work contributions over the years to the planning profession and to the organization as they have now transitions to CPR Emeritus membership:

T Keith Gurnee, Private-North

Linda Dalton, Academic

Michael Moore, Public-North

### Member Highlights

Bill Anderson, FAICP conclude his successful APA Presidency. One of his major accomplishments includes strengthening collaboration between the American Planning Association and the American Public Health Association, which is now flourishing through the Plan4Health Initiative.

During his tenure, Mr. Anderson appointed CPR member Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP to serve in the Diversity Task Force who is now re-energizing the APA's Ambassador Program.



APA Diversity Taskforce showing CPR members Bill Anderson, FAICP on the left, Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP, second from left and Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore, FAICP, second from the right.

### CPR ELECTED OFFICERS

- » Woodie Tescher  
PRESIDENT
- » Hanson Hom, AICP  
VICE-PRESIDENT PROGRAMS
- » Simran Malhotra, AICP, AAIA  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
OPERATIONS
- » Carol Barrett, FAICP  
SECRETARY
- » Laura Stetson, AICP  
TREASURER
- » Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
COMMUNICATIONS
- » T. Keith Gurnee  
PAST PRESIDENT



## California Planning Roundtable

On January 4, 2016 Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the nomination of CPR member and Pasadena Planning Director Vince Bertoni. AICP as the new head of the Los Angeles Department of City Planning (LADCP).

## CPR Members Recognition

- » Linda Dalton, FAICP was awarded in 2014 the Margarita McCoy Award for the Advancement of Women in Planning (from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning and in 2015 the Lifetime Impact Citation from Planning Accreditation Board.
- » James Rojas was awarded the 2015 American Planning Association California Chapter Planning Advocate Award of excellence for his extensive work on community engagement and Latino Urbanism.
- » Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP received the 2015 American Planning Association California Chapter Community Outreach Award of Excellence on behalf of the County of Riverside Department of Public Health and the California Endowment for their work on the Land Use Planning Awareness Project (LUPA).



Vince Bertoni

## Convenings

This year, CPR members convened in Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, Oakland and Palm Springs. During these events, members learned about current planning trends, met with local planners, toured communities and strategized ways to continue to make contributions to the planning profession. The Sacramento meeting was particularly important as the majority of members in attendance had an opportunity to meet with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and provide feedback on the General Plan Guidelines Update.

## Projects

- » **Infill Development:** Through a series of articles, the infill development workgroup has begun an examination of the principal hurdles to infill development across major arenas: cultural, political, financial, and legal. The project will identify chief impediments to infill development, and recommend promising policies, practices and tools.
- » **Healthy Communities:** The Social Determinants of Health for Planners paper has been published and various trainings on the subject for a varied audience are taking place throughout the State. In addition, the workgroup is working on a toolkit that planners can access to educate stakeholders on this important healthy communities concept.
- » **Reinventing the General Plan:** In 2015, the Reinventing the General Plan project's team dedicated their efforts exclusively on advising OPR's staff on matters related to the General Plan Guidelines. The entire CPR membership was included to ensure that full breath of the members' expertise was consulted for checks and balances.



CPR Healthy Community Work Group members, from the left Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP, Tom Jacobson, FAICP and Coleen Clementson at right with invited guest speakers Dr. Elizabeth Baca and Michael Osur after a panel session on the Social Determinants of Health for Planners during the 2015 APA California Conference in Oakland.

## APPOINTED DIRECTORS & AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS



### Planner Emeritus Network

#### Stanley R. Hoffman, FAICP, President



The following report highlights the ongoing activities and accomplishments of the Planner Emeritus Network (PEN). In summary, we had a very successful year sponsoring our annual PEN panel at the Statewide APA California Chapter Conference in Oakland, and honoring five accomplished planners from California Chapter. We also have other ongoing activities that will be reported below:

### PEN Activities

- » **Annual PEN Honorees:** One of PEN's very important responsibilities is to annually honor distinguished planners in APA California that have made significant contributions to the betterment of our communities in California and to the planning profession. In 2015, we honored the following five planners at the annual statewide conference:
- 1) Bruce C. Baracco, AICP, Sacramento Valley Section;
  - 2) David Fey, AICP, Central Section;
  - 3) Hanson Hom, AICP, Northern Section;
  - 4) Professor Leobardo F. Estrada, PhD, Los Angeles Section;
  - and 5) Robert A. Leiter, FAICP, San Diego Section.



Bruce Baracco



David Fey



Hanson Hom



Leobardo Estrada



Bob Leiter

- » **Annual PEN Panel:** In 2015, our Statewide Cal Chapter conference panel topic was Transit Oriented Development Implementation Strategy: A Case Study of the SANDAG Regional Challenge. The Regional Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Implementation Strategy prepared by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) was featured. The SANDAG Regional Plan identifies how residential and commercial development projects can help meet the region's projected population and employment growth, and create a more sustainable development pattern. The speakers were: Stan Hoffman, Stanley R. Hoffman Associates and PEN Board President, Coleen Clementson, SANDAG Principal Regional Planner, William Anderson, Principal/Vice-President, AECOM, and Dena Belzer, President, Strategic Economics.
- » **PEN Board Members:** The current members and officers that were approved at our October 4, 2015 Board meeting at the Statewide conference in Oakland were: Stan Hoffman, FAICP, President, Robert Paternoster, FAICP, Vice-President South, Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore, FAICP, Vice-President North, Gina Natoli, AICP, Secretary/Treasurer; other non-executive board members include: Dr. Don Bradley, AICP, Brian Smith, AICP, Carol Barrett, FAICP, Linda Tatum, AICP, Brian Mooney, AICP, and Mike Moore; and non-voting members include: George Osner, AICP, Immediate Past President and the two APA California co-Chapter Historians, Steve Preston, FAICP (south) and Larry Mintier, FAICP (north).
- » **Community Assistance Planning Team (CPAT) Program:** In 2015, the PEN Board proposed a Community Assistance Planning Team (CPAT) program under the auspices of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association to provide volunteer professional planning assistance to financially constrained municipalities and community groups throughout California and Baja California. By pairing expert planning professionals from throughout the State with staff, decision-makers, residents and other stakeholders from communities with limited resources, the CPAT program seeks to foster community education, engagement, planning and empowerment.

*Thanks for supporting PEN...*





## Planner Emeritus Network

The CPAT program is being established by the California Chapter to benefit both the municipalities and community organizations it serves, and to provide a venue for creative community service for its members. The California Chapter CPAT program would be administered by the PEN Board and is based upon a similar program which has been operated nationally by APA since 1995. Each team is selected for the specific expertise needed to address the local community's planning problem(s). The team members engage the community representatives in a short, but intensive planning process which can develop a vision for the community's future, a strategy for achieving specific planning goals, a conceptual site plan for a developing area, a transportation plan or parking program, an economic development strategy, or a collaborative planning process for resolving on-going local planning issues.

- » **Visiting the CSUN California Planning History Archives:** The California Chapter's co-historians, Steve Preston, FAICP, Chapter Historian – South, and Larry Mintier, FAICP, Chapter Historian – North led an arranged tour of the APA California Archives for PEN president Stan Hoffman and PEN vice-president Robert Paternoster and other interested Cal Chapter members. We met with Holly Lovich of the CSUN Oviatt Library's urban archives staff, and then met with Dr. Robert Kent and Dr. Craig Olwert of the CSUN Urban Studies faculty. We were all very encouraged by CSUN's Archive staff's progress in assembling and curating the collection, with the majority of the collection now catalogued, sorted and archived. Since that meeting, Ms. Lovich has provided the co-historians and the recently approved California Chapter Board History Program committee with an assessment of the collection, provided a Finding Guide and a series of recommendations for next steps. The committee will study these recommendations and make additional recommendations in the months ahead to the full California Chapter Board regarding how best to continue to implement and make the Archives' accessible to the benefit of the Chapter members.
- » **Bringing PEN Member's Shared Wealth of Experience to the APA California Chapter:** PEN has been honoring experienced and well distinguished planners from California since 1998. In 2016, PEN will be coordinating with selected Chapter sections to arrange for past PEN honorees to share their perspectives about how the practice of planning and the planning profession has changed over their years of experience, and what they see as the challenges ahead. We hope that this will stimulate instructive dialogue among interested planners not only from those new to the field, but those who have a wealth of history to tell. Our first PEN program of this kind will be with the Sacramento Section in the Spring of 2016.
- » **Looking Ahead:** PEN is continuing to enhance its outreach to California planners through a more visible, informative and interactive presence on the APA California website: [www.apacalifornia.org/apa-organizations/planner-emeritus-network/](http://www.apacalifornia.org/apa-organizations/planner-emeritus-network/). We will also prepare timely articles for the California Chapter Newsletter to continue to inform members of PEN's activities and to highlight new programs that are being offered. As a result of Chapter past-president Brook Peterson, PEN has a more active presence at Chapter Board meetings and coordinating with the other affiliate organizations, such as the California Planning Roundtable and the California Planning Foundation. This coordination will continue with the outreach at the section level in 2016.



## Local Sections

### Central

**Benjamin A. Kimball, Director**



The Central Section covers eleven counties in the central interior of California and serves nearly 200 planning professionals and students in a wide variety of backgrounds and settings, including urban, suburban, small town and rural. Some call this area the Final Frontier for growth in California. To keep up with member needs, the Central Section has expanded its program, offering more services and events, as well as reach out to students to build a relationship and member base in the area's universities.

### Section Membership Activities

- » **City and Regional Planning Program at California State University Fresno:** The Section has been at the forefront this past year in the University's efforts to establish an undergraduate degree program in planning as well as re-establishing the former graduate degree program in City and Regional Planning. A graduate level certificate program through the University's Extension program was introduced earlier this Fall. Three of our board members continued to serve on the advisory committees for these academic planning programs through the University's Community and Regional Planning Center. The Section has also been meeting with University representatives on other efforts to better connect the academic field with the professional planners and has met with the Geography Club on campus to introduce students to APA and encourage membership.
- » **Section Planning Awards:** For 2015, three public agencies were recognized for outstanding achievements in land use planning and best practices:
  - Innovation in Green Community Planning (Inyo County Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment and PEIR) - Planning Award of Merit
  - Excellence and Achievement in Planning - Small Jurisdiction Comprehensive Planning (City of Merced - Bellevue Community Plan) - Outstanding Planning Award
  - Innovation in Green Community Planning (Mono County Resource Efficiency Plan) - Outstanding Planning Award
- » **Planner's Lunches:** In 2015 The Section kicked off a new effort to establish quarterly lunch meetings with members to receive training, share best practices and network. The first of these meetings took place in Fresno and in Visalia. The Fresno lunch was done in partnership with the City and Regional Planning Office of Fresno State and a presentation was made by one of the professors on the economic value of parks. Attendees of the first Visalia lunch were treated with an update on the State's water issues by the Latino Water Coalition and the second lunch was a presentation on the newly adopted, and innovative, Visalia General Plan. Efforts are being made to continue this new program and expand it into Bakersfield and Modesto in the year to come.
- » **Sierra Retreat:** The much beloved and long-standing Central Section Sierra Retreat had to be canceled at the last minute this year as the devastating Rough Fire in Kings Canyon National park came within eyesight of the Sequoia Lake facilities. This fire was extensive in its scope and destruction. Fortunately, the camp facilities around the lake were saved from being destroyed. We'll pick it back up next year and provide, again, this unique experience of professional development and fun.

## Local Sections

### Central

- » **Eastern Slope Conference:** This year, the Section sponsored the Eastern Slope (of the Sierra Nevada Mountains) Conference put on by the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP). Our Board represented the Section and used the venue to provide outreach and service to our membership in that region. We continue to build on our relationship with the AEP Central Chapter as many of their membership are also APA members and we maintain common goals and interests.
- » **Fall Policy Conference:** For the second year in a row, the Section was a sponsor of the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council's Fall Policy Conference, this time at the Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite National Park. In addition to providing funding for the conference and conducting outreach, the Section provided moderators and presenters and partnered in other ways for the continued success of this event.
- » **Events/Mixers:** The Section put on two holiday parties in December this year. The first was a gathering at former Board Member Barbara Steck's home who conveniently lives adjacent to the street where the annual Fresno Christmas Tree Lane Celebration is held each year. Attendees were able to enjoy the company of fellow members and take some time to stroll the amazing holiday displays along the pedestrian only route. A week later, the Section also joined AEP for a Holiday Mixer at Peeve's Public House in downtown Fresno for an evening of socializing, food and drinks. These holiday events continue to be a beloved tradition of the members who attend.

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### Orange

**Dana C. Privitt, AICP, Director**





## Local Sections

### Central Coast

David Ward, AICP, Director



The Board has had a busy year of focused efforts on the development of our website, a new sustainable funding program, and reinvigorating our student involvement from San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties while expanding into Ventura County with tangible results.

A Board subcommittee, lead by PIO Officer Bret McNulty and including Section Director-Elect Chris Williams and Finance Officer Steve Welton, spent significant effort reviewing and selecting a website designer, Great Matters, to revamp the Section website, our first upgrade in 10 years. The new website is specifically designed to spotlight the importance of our sponsors that provide for many of our Section activities, contains a new jobs board function, and allows for the first time mobile device interface. The new site is expected to go live during January 2016.

Another Board subcommittee, Section Awards Officer Hollee King, Santa Barbara County Subsection Director Jay Higgins, and San Luis Obispo County Tammy Seale, developed an Annual Sponsorship program which will help fund the Section Awards program, but for networking and professional development events in the three Central Coast subsections. The goal of a new annual tiered sponsorship program is for member, firms and agencies to help the Section achieve and sustain revenue neutrality. This will be the Section's only sponsorship program from now on, ending our fundraising efforts for the planning awards program, and beginning an annual campaign for sponsors. The official launch date is January 1, 2016. By participating, firms and agencies will receive a number of great sponsor benefits including high level of exposure to professional peers as well as appointed and elected officials and policymakers. Benefits include website exposure, name/logo on awards program and newsletter e-blasts, verbal recognition at Central Coast APA events, and passes to the Awards Program. Board members are personally calling firms and public agencies soliciting their participation in the program.

CSU Channel Islands, which opened in 2002, is continuing to grow with about 6,000 students. The Environmental Science and Resource Management (ESRM) Bachelor's degree program is also growing, with about 150 majors. During 2015, Section Director-Elect Chris Williamson, taught the Land Use Planning and Open Space Management classes and highlighted with his students what APA is about and our local Section activities. Working with the ESRM facility and student body, Chris hopes to invite one or more ESRM students to join the Section as student representatives. In November, YPG Officer Kristina Boero and Membership Inclusion Officer Tess Harris, along with Section Member Clay Downing visited a group of students currently enrolled in California Lutheran University's Master of Public Policy & Administration (MPPA) program to introduce planning as a concept and profession as well as provide examples of what they do within their roles at the County of Ventura. The class of students, instructed by Dr. Andrew Pattison, was one focused on implementation and analysis of public policy and the presentation of planning concepts provided an opportunity for students and presenters to discuss the framework of local land use policy, stakeholder participation in decision making, and unique land use policies found in Ventura County.



## Local Sections

### Central Coast

#### Section Membership Activities

- » **Annual Awards Event:** The 2015 Central Coast Planning Awards were a success! Hosted in San Luis Obispo County this year at the Sycamore Mineral Hot Springs Resort in Avila Beach, CA. This year, we had seven planning awards, with three projects taking Awards of Excellence and moved forward to the State Awards. Everyone enjoyed plentiful wine provided by Santa Barbara Winery and the dinner was fabulous. We also had a photo booth this year for people to take fun photos or professional headshots for their LinkedIn or other social media accounts. If you joined us this year, you know how much the event was (based on many positive emails and comments) and if weren't able to make it, the 2016 Section Awards will be held during April in Ventura.
- » **Professional Development and Section Activities:** Professional Development and Section Activities: Various Board members hosted several professional events this year on the topics of transportation, impact of infill development, and state/regional air quality planning programs. Our *Movies in My BackYard (MiMBY)* remains a Central Coast section-sponsored series of film screenings and discussions on all things related to sustainability and community development. This effort continues to be a regular event in Ventura, drawing strong turnout of both APA members and a broader audience of public interested in community, placemaking and planning issues. Coordination effort is also well underway for our next Planning Academy in Santa Barbara County for February 2016, which is expanding this session with specific course work designed for planners, not just education for community members. Finally, the newly elected Young Planners Group (YPG) Section Officers continue to be busy, hosting networking events, tours of local agencies and firms, and focused mentoring events.
- » **Community Engagement:** In April, Michelle D'Anna, Ventura Subsection Director and Tess Harris, Membership Inclusion Officer, met with about 25 middle school and high school students at the Boys and Girls Club in Ventura. During the after school event, students learned about the planning process, city zoning, and what constitutes a site plan. Students presented their plans for their dream neighborhood to the group, discussed why they placed certain buildings or open space areas in particular locations, and evaluated the benefits, impacts, and tradeoffs of different development in their neighborhood. The event provided an opportunity for the kids to ask questions about the planning process, learn about local government, and become more aware of planning as a profession.

In October, Kristina Phung, Section appointed Secretary, and Tess Harris, Membership Inclusion Officer, represented APA at the third annual SB Open Streets event. Over 2 miles of Cabrillo Blvd. were closed off to cars. Cabrillo Boulevard came alive as Santa Barbara's longest park, from Stern's Wharf to the Bird Refuge. We passed out information on becoming an APA member, the Ambassador Program, Young Planners Group, and general zoning information for the City of Santa Barbara. Those that passed by the booth participated in a bilingual activity by placing stickers on a poster board next to the issues that were most important to them. Hundreds of people stopped at our booth, and by the end of the day, some of the winning issues were: water, housing, pedestrian and bike trails, and jobs.





## Local Sections

### Inland Empire

**Christopher J. Gray, AICP, Director**

2015 was another successful year for the Inland Empire Section with the significant activity in our efforts to provide continuing education opportunities to our members. The section held monthly workshops on key issues of importance to our local planners covering topics such as:

- Best Practices for Managing Storm Water
- Wind Energy
- AB 52 Tribal Consultation
- CV Link
- Historical Preservation

The Section also held their 8th annual Historical Symposium entitled “Urbanism and Walkability In the Inland Empire”. Panelists included Ron Loveridge, the former Mayor of Riverside, Laura Roughton, the Mayor Pro Tem of Jurupa Valley, Dr. Juliann Allison from UC Riverside, Larry Burgess from the City of Redlands, and Mario Suarez from the City of Colton.

» In May of 2015, the Section held its annual Award Program, where 10 awards as listed below.

- Van Buren Boulevard/I-215 Overcrossing (Urban Design Award)
- Jurupa Valley Environmental Justice Element (Best Practices Award)
- Section 14 Specific Plan- Complete Streets Plan (Transportation Planning Award)
- Jim Sullivan (Distinguished Service Award)
- La Plaza East TOD Study (Economic Planning & Development Award)
- CAPtivate Western Riverside County (Innovation in Green Community Planning Award)
- Practical Guide to Planning Healthy Communities (Communications Initiative Award)
- James Rojas (Planning Advocate Award)
- Land Use Planning Awareness Project (Planning Outreach Award)
- Healthy Montclair Initiative (Advancing Diversity and Social Change Award)





## Local Sections

### Los Angeles

**Marissa Aho, AICP, Director**



This year has been another great year for APA Los Angeles. Each January, like many of you, the APA Los Angeles board sets goals for ourselves. This January one of our goals was to help empower our young and emerging members to lead – by providing them with more tools, information, and encouragement. We also set a Social Media challenge to have 1,000 “likes” on our Facebook page by the end of this year. Well I am happy to report that we hit this milestone in June thanks to the dedicated effort of Social Media Director Amalia Merino and the rest of our team.

We also brought back our very successful Summer in the City program this year, kicking off the Summer in the City of Hawthorne in June, West Hollywood in July, San Gabriel in August and Beverly Hills in September.

Planning is in full force for the 2016 California Planning Conference spearheaded by conference co-chairs Melani Smith, AICP, Kevin Keller, AICP, and Meghna Khanna, AICP and their talented team of committee co-chairs. A large volunteer recruitment event was held earlier in 2015.

It is a very special time in Los Angeles and in our profession. Members of our community – and even the Pope – are looking to us to help make communities healthy, resilient, sustainable, equitable, and prosperous. This future is in very good hands with Ashley Atkinson, our Section Director Elect. Ashley has also been working diligently behind the scenes to create tools for the board to be more efficient and board position transitions to be seamless and has been the force behind many of our innovative programs, partnerships.



## Local Sections

### Northern

**Andrea Ouse, AICP, Director**



2015 was a notable year for the Northern Section as our primary focus and challenge was the California Chapter Conference, which was held on October 3-6, 2015 at the Oakland Convention Center. Although the local Conference Host Committee (CHC) was established in July 2013, our efforts kicked into high gear shortly after the start of 2015.

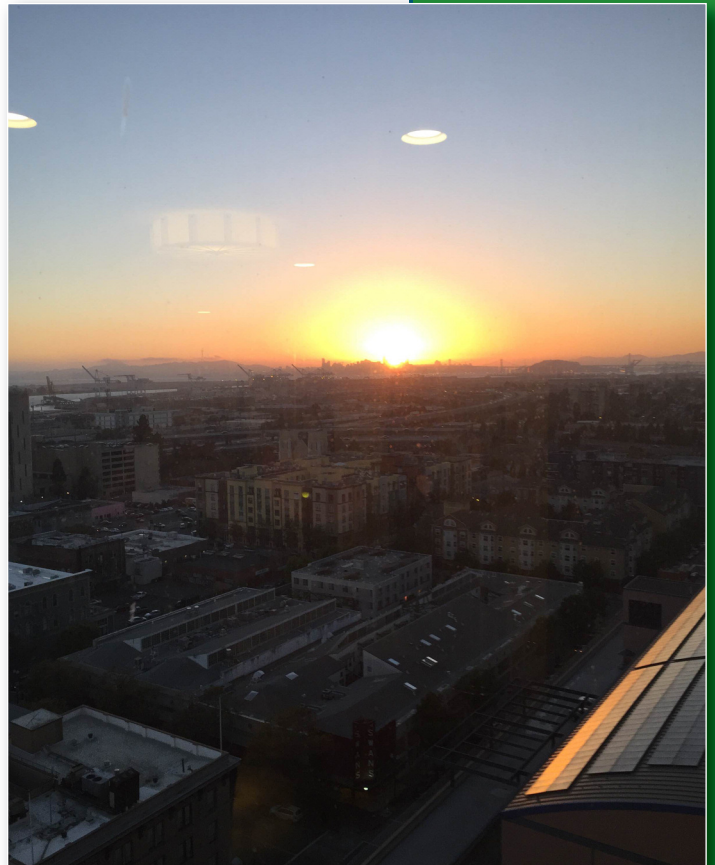
The programs and mobile workshop committees worked tirelessly to promote the conference and seek submissions for the conference. As a result, we had a record setting number of session (346) and mobile workshop (50) proposals submitted. In the end 133 sessions and 16 mobile workshops were offered. In addition, the planner's guide committee drafted a 60 page guide to Oakland's neighborhoods, surrounding cities, the Bay Area, and the Northern Section that provided conference participants an overview of the Section.

The roughly 100 volunteers put in countless hours between January and October to ensure the conference that drew 1,900 participants was a success. The combination of local resources, section volunteers, and chapter support ensured that the 2015 conference continued to advance the planning profession while being firmly associated with the vibrant, revitalizing energy of Oakland.

### Section Membership Activities

- » **Communications:** Northern Section continued to grow its online presence on Facebook and Twitter. Throughout the year, Section members received 24 electronic newsletters (eNews) that provided information on upcoming events and Chapter/Section activities. As usual, our flagship publication, Northern News, was published 10 times and received by over 4,000 readers throughout the world!
- » **Professional Development:** Northern Section offered 48 events that provided 75.25 credits to our members. Most of these events were free, or of nominal cost, to ensure that members could continue to advance their knowledge in a cost-effective manner. Green infrastructure, cannabis, microbreweries, distilleries, and low-impact development were among the many topics addressed by these events. A particular highlight was the Section's annual Law and Ethics workshops that were held on same Saturday to ensure that our members could obtain these necessary credits.

Given the Section's geographic reach, many of these workshops, site visits, walking tours, and brown bag lunches were organized by the Section's eight Regional Activity Coordinators (RACs). In addition, several events were co-sponsored or supported by SPUR, a local urban planning and policy think tank. The Section continues to pursue such partnerships with other local organizations to promote planning and expand our reach.





## Local Sections

### Northern

- » **Awards Banquet:** An annual highlight was the Northern Section Awards Gala, held on Friday May 15, 2015 at Scott's Seafood in Oakland. Two Awards of Merit and nine Awards of Excellence were given out to recognize the excellent planning work with Northern Section. The event also helped raise funds for California Planning Foundation (CPF) scholarships, and scholarship recipients attending school in the Northern Section were acknowledged and provided certificates of recognition.
- » **Holiday Party:** After a very busy year, the Northern Section celebrated our accomplishments at our annual Holiday Party on November 20, 2015. The event was held in San Francisco at the historic City Club, located in the Financial District. It was an excellent event that included a raffle to benefit the California Planning Foundation (CPF) that allowed local planners to meet and kick off a season of celebrations.





## Local Sections

### Sacramento Valley

Tricia Stevens, AICP, Director

The Sacramento Valley Section had an exciting year serving our 400+ members from a very diverse geographic area that extends from Sacramento to Lake Tahoe and from Stockton to the California-Oregon border. We seek to provide a full-range of educational and networking events for our membership to enhance their professional careers.



#### 2015 Speaker Series

» The Speaker Series is our signature educational program and the 2015 series theme was **“Back to the Future: Reflecting on Past Planning, Examining the Present, and Predicting What’s Yet to Come”**. Sponsored by SVSAPA in collaboration with other professional organizations and agencies, including ULI, AEP, Caltrans, OPR, HCD, SACOG and others, this year’s series was held May through October and included:

- Rebooting the 'Burbs - Sustainable Suburban Communities of the Future
- Water Planning for the Future – the Role of Recycled Water
- CivicSpark: Tackling Climate Change with AmeriCorps in Sacramento
- Looking Back for a More Equitable Future
- ULI Building Healthy Places Initiative & Healthy Communities
- Roads? Where we’re going, we don’t need roads!

#### Membership Events

Other programs and events to benefit our members included:

- » Ethics Session – Diversity focus: March, 2015
- » 5th Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser honoring 2014 Legacy Award Recipient Curtis Alling, AICP: August, 2015
- » Membership Appreciation Events:
  - Summer Mixer: July, 2015
  - 2nd Annual Bat Tour: September, 2015
  - Holiday Mixer: December, 2015
- » Lessons Learned from across the Pond: London’s Housing Challenges (APA International Exchange): October, 2015
- » Legislation Session: November, 2015

SVSAPA celebrated “October is Community Planning Month” in a big way with an event every week during the month!

#### Division Activities

This year, SVSAPA expanded our membership programs to outlying areas in our Section with the leadership of new Division Directors in the North Valley, Cascade, and Sierra areas. The North Valley Division (Chico area) held a patio mixer in the summer and a holiday mixer, and the Sierra Division (Tahoe area) sponsored a Climate Planning session and a Film Fest – “Water, the Essential.”

#### 2017 Conference

Sacramento Valley is pleased to host the 2017 State Conference in downtown Sacramento and we are in the initial stages of organizing for this event! Bob Lagomarsino, AICP, David Kwong, AICP, and Jeannie Lee, AICP, have been appointed as co-chairs.

### Scot Mende, AICP, Memorial Fund



In April, we were saddened by the loss of Scot Mende, AICP. Scot was instrumental in creating and leading the SVSAPA’s PLAN Sac Valley mentorship program, professional development activities, and AICP training. The Section recognized Scot’s outstanding contributions to the profession by establishing a memorial scholarship fund in his honor. This fund supports mentoring, professional development, and training for planners of all generations in the Sacramento Valley Section.



# Local Sections

## Sacramento Valley

### Section Board and Professional Development Activities

The SVS Board provides a monthly e-newsletter, AICP exam preparation sessions, membership surveys, and sponsorship fundraising. We enhanced our membership drive by contacting all the Planning Directors in the Section. We had a banner year for sponsorship support with 15 Section sponsors. The Board holds an annual retreat in January and a luncheon in June. We sponsored or co-sponsored 41.5 Certificate Maintenance credits for 2015.

### PLAN Sac Valley Mentoring Program

This The APA State and National award-winning PLAN Sac Valley Mentoring Program (PLAN = Planning + Leadership + Advancement + Networking) completed its 4th year and started up the 5th PLAN Class in October 2015. The program teams up planners who are starting their careers with seasoned planners and includes monthly educational sessions, networking and teambuilding events, a professional development book, one-on-one mentoring, a community service project, and culminates with a “Catapult Party” recognizing the mentors and mentees.

*The mission of PLAN is to provide the next generation of professional planners a dynamic and challenging one-on-one and group mentoring forum for personal and professional growth and development.*

### Young Planners Group

The YPG is very active with many events; including monthly third Thursday Planners Pint Night with influential keynote planners, YPG/student and social media mixers, Sacramento Rapid Transit light rail crawl to Folsom’s historic Sutter Street, bike and walking tours of exciting new projects in Sacramento and Chico, and networking events with young professionals from other land use organizations.

### Awards

The Sacramento Valley Section holds its Awards Ceremony annually in January. For 2015, the Section honored our 2014 Section and Merit Award recipients and our 2014 Legacy and Local Vision Awards. In January 2016, we will honor several types of exemplary planning activities and individuals at our Awards ceremony:

#### » Section Awards:

- East Bidwell Street Complete Streets Corridor Plan, City of Folsom – Award of Excellence in Transportation Planning
- Southeast Policy Area Strategic Plan, City of Elk Grove – Award of Merit in Best Practices
- Cold Stream Specific Plan, Town of Truckee – Award of Excellence in Comprehensive Planning, Small Jurisdiction

#### » Legacy Award: 2015 Recipient: Scot Mende, AICP (posthumously)

#### » Local Vision Awards:

- Truckee Tahoe Airport District
- Center for Land-Based Learning
- City of Isleton’s Bing Kong Tong project

#### » Bruce Baracco, AICP, was inducted into the Planner’s Emeritus Network and will be honored locally in addition to his recognition at the APA State Conference in October, 2015

#### » The American River Parkway received one of the “Great Places in California” awards in 2015 from APA California and will be honored locally

#### » Peter Detwiler will be honored in retirement after 39 years of public service with San Diego LAFCO, OPR, and as staff to the California State Senate





## Local Sections

### San Diego

Gary Halbert, AICP, Director

The San Diego section has had a very busy and fun 2015.

#### Section Membership Highlights

The Section's awards event was held at the Prado in Balboa Park, one of the inaugural Great Places in California. Awards were presented in twelve categories and a number of those were recognized at the APA California conference in Oakland. Also recognized was Supervisor Greg Cox a 2015 National APA award winner.

There have been a number of excellent programs offered in 2015 including sessions on renewable energy, foodsheds and bioregionalism, Border transportation and Balboa Park assets and history. In October, the Section hosted an evening with Gil Penalosa, an international leader and advocate for the creation of great public spaces.

Also, this year's AICP training resulted in San Diego having seven new Certified Planners. And, the Young Planners Group has completed another excellent Mentorship Program. Last, but not least, the Section held several Planners Night Out events that were wildly successful!

