

**DATE: October 22, 2016**

**TO: APA California Board of Directors**

**FROM: Steven A. Preston, FAICP, Chapter Historian – South**

**Larry Mintier, FAICP, Chapter Historian - North**

**SUBJECT: CHAPTER HISTORIAN REPORT**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Authorize the Chapter Historians to prepare a nomination for Margarita McCoy, FAICP as a Planning Pioneer.
2. Authorize the Historians to investigate a relationship with CPF to help collect funds and provide tax letters for donations to the APACA Archives, the form of which would be subject to approval by CPF and APA California at their respective board meetings.
3. Begin active planning on a program to match donations made to the archives through some form of contribution by the Chapter.
4. Restore the budget line item for the Historian program to its previous level of $750 per year.
5. Authorize Historians, working with PEN, to begin planning for 70th anniversary of California Chapter in 2018, and present any recommendations at the next meeting.

We are pleased to provide you with an update on the Chapter Historian programs and activities over this past year.

**ARCHIVES**

**Archives Fundraising**

This year we implemented initiatives approved by the Board in our report last year. These included allowing registrants for the Chapter conference to make a modest donation ($5, $10, $20 or $40) as part of their conference registration. As of October 1, 21 registrants had made donations totaling $355.

We consider this a solid start, but note that the absence of means to easily advertise and explain the charge means that we may not have been able to capture as many potential donors as we would like. Early registrants were more likely to pay than later registrants. Some registrants may be uncomfortable having their organizations pay for a voluntary contribution. And, with no clear indication of whether the donation was tax deductible, some people may have chosen not to participate.

We believe there would be merit in establishing a fund with CPF for the archives that would allow us to more directly solicit donor dollars and provide a tax letter to donors for that purpose. We have not reached out to CPF yet, but if the Board is comfortable with us investigating the matter further we would like to do that.

We do believe that we will not be able to generate the level of support that we would like to generate for the archives without a commitment from the Chapter to establish a match program, so that donors may be assured that the organization is committed to getting the collection properly processed an accessible to users at a level that is not possible with current funding. The volume of materials being offered is far outstripping the level of support we are providing.

**Status of the Margarita McCoy, FAICP Collection**

We were pleased, thanks to the efforts of Carol Barrett, FAICP and the contributions of Margarita McCoy’s family, to receive her collection of personal papers spanning 40 years in practice. The collection consists of 14 boxes of material, although certain select materials may be more appropriate for inclusion in National APA’s archives at Cornell, and we are in discussions with National APA concerning those documents.

Earlier this month Steve Preston retrieved the boxes from Carol, and am making arrangements at present to deliver them to the California Chapter Archives at Northridge. We will also reach out to the family to determine their interest in making a direct financial contribution to the archives.

**Placeworks Collection Under Consideration**

Placeworks has contacted us to determine whether the Chapter would be interested in receiving a portion of the firm’s archives of documents. Larry Mintier is working with the firm and with Holli Teltoe at CSUN to determine whether the documents are appropriate for the archive and under what conditions they may be accepted. No decision has been made by either party yet, but if we are able to reach agreement, there is the potential for a significant collection of planning documents to be accessioned to the archives.

**PROGRAMS**

**Landmark and Pioneer Awards**

With relatively few nominations being made – no suitable nominations have been made the past two years – and yet a wide number of potential landmarks and pioneers are available that have not been submitted.

Following several discussions between the Historians and the members of the juries for the past two cycles, the Historians are returning to the historical process of both seeking outside nominations AND developing a list of potential nominations, asking the Board to regularly authorize the preparation of certain nominations.

With this report, we are proposing that the Board authorize us to prepare a nomination for submittal in the next cycle on behalf of Margarita McCoy, FAICP, one of the female pioneers of the profession: the first female to achieve full professor status in any urban and regional planning program in the U. S.; and the first to chair an urban and regional planning program anywhere in the country. ACSP has named an award in her honor, and because of her pioneering role in advancing women in the profession, her family has created an endowed scholarship program for female planning students at Cal Poly, Pomona, where she served as faculty and department chair over a 20-year tenure.

**Changes in National Awards Policies**

National APA has made some minor changes to its policies for administering the National Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Awards programs. The most notable change was to explicitly allow firms and organizations, not just individuals, to be nominated for the Pioneer Award. Several suggestions offered by the Chapter were not incorporated into the changes, although we continue in discussions with APA staff concerning future improvements.

**Chapter Historian Programs Nationwide**

It has been many years since we have seen data concerning the number of Chapters having Historian Awards programs, which makes it difficult for us to tell who is running such programs and whether their interests and ours might be similar. We have reached out to Kurt Christiansen and Marissa Aho, and have been given a contact on the Chapter Presidents’ Council so that we might reach out through the CPC and conduct a survey. We hope to have some support there, and will report the results if we are successful.

**Los Angeles Region Planning History Group**. We have been assisting the LARPHG with two upcoming colloquia (Steve Preston serves as a board member of the LARPHG). The first, “Complete Street: Wrongs and Rights of Way,” documented the history and evolution of streets in the U. S., and was held at the Huntington Library in September before an appreciative audience of more than 70 people.

This year’s Chapter Historian exhibit features images and materials from that colloquium. Please stop by and visit it.

The next colloquium in this series is being organized by Todd Gish of USC, Ken Bernstein of the City of Los Angeles, and myself with the help of several APA members. “Planning from the Outside” will focus on the stories of minority, women, and LGBTQ planners and the roles they have played in advancing the profession, while also focusing on the communities those individuals have served and their efforts to gain access for communities outside the corridors of power. It will be held in March at the Huntington Library.

**Communications.** We continue to promote the Chapter Historian programs and archives on the website; through articles in nearly every California Planner; through e-mail blasts to the Board and leadership; and by working with local, regional and statewide planning history groups such as the Planner Emeritus Network.

**Section Historians.** Our Section Historian programs continue to develop:

* **Orange:** Orange Section has now launches its Section Historian program with Gus Gonzales, formerly Inland Empire Historian, now working in Orange County. His first project focuses on the evolution of downtown Anaheim, including battles over redevelopment, historic preservation, and housing. The event will be held Friday, November 4, 11:00 – 2:30, at the Muzeo in Anaheim.   The $25 price for APA members includes lunch; students get in for $15.
* **Inland Empire:** Jerry Aguirre, the historian for Inland Empire Section, has stepped down. I understand that the Section may reappoint former Historian Miguel Vasquez, but we have not received confirmation at the date of this report.

We continue to be interested in establishing and fostering Chapter Historian programs. If any Section would like to participate by creating their own Section Historian, please contact Larry or Steve.

**CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES**

**2017: Cal Chapter Conference to Feature History Track.** In part to commemorate the 1917 founding of the American City Planning Institute, the 2017 California Chapter conference in Sacramento will include a history-related track, with the following preliminary description:

**Lessons Learned: A Diverse Past**

*How has planning changed in the last 100 years? How can we integrate what we’ve learned to meet the current and future challenges that face our profession and our communities?*

A Call for Presentation proposals will be issued soon, with proposals due in early February.

**2018: Chapter Anniversary.** The year 2018 will mark the 70th anniversary of California Chapter’s creation. The Chapter’s 60th anniversary, celebrated in 2008, featured a gala luncheon at the conference, an audio/video presentation on the Chapter’s history, and the release of a commemorative booklet. These were produced in a very short time and without adequate time to properly research and prepare, and so we recommend that the Chapter start planning early. If the Board concurs, we would bring recommendations forth at an upcoming meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

We recommend that the Board:

1. Authorize the Chapter Historians to prepare a nomination for Margarita McCoy, FAICP as a Planning Pioneer.
2. Authorize the Historians to investigate a relationship with CPF to help collect funds and provide tax letters for donations to the APACA Archives, the form of which would be subject to approval by CPF and APA California at their respective board meetings.
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4. Restore the budget line item for the Historian Program to its previous level of $750/year.
5. Authorize Historians, working with PEN, to begin planning for 70th anniversary of California Chapter in 2018, and present any recommendations at the next meeting. (You may also wish to assign a committee for this purpose if you prefer.)

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