

**Date:**  October 5, 2018

**To:** APA California Board of Directors

**From:**  Steven A. Preston, FAICP, Chapter Historian | South

J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP, Chapter Historian | North

**Subject: Chapter Historian Update; 70th Anniversary Activities, Archives Update**

**70th Anniversary Plans**

On January 1, 1948 the California Planners Institute (CPI) merged with the fledgling American Institute of Planners to create the organization that we now know as APA California. California became only the third chapter in AIP, and over the past 70 years has grown to become one of its largest and most progressive chapters.

To celebrate the anniversary, the Chapter Historians have been working closely with the Conference Committee to acknowledge the anniversary. With the Chapter’s 75th anniversary only five years away, this has been scheduled as a modest celebration, leaving the grand show for 2023.

We hope that you will be able to enjoy one or more of these projects that have been completed in connection with the anniversary:

* **Update and revise the Chapter’s 60th anniversary publication** (2008) to reflect the past 10 years’ accomplishments, increase content covering planners of color, women, and LGBTQ issues, and expand historical content based on new research.
* **Update and revise the research document** that we have been building since 2018, a large spreadsheet (now nearing 80 pages) of data drawn from dozens of sources to help create a continuous history of the Chapter.
* **Create a large-format timeline of our history for display in the conference facility**. That project, under Larry Mintier’s direction with the support of Mintier Harnish, will be featured at the Historian’s exhibit in the main hallway just outside the exhibit hall. We invite you to come by and see it.
* **Create a display of California’s Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Award winners**, available for viewing at the Historians’ exhibit in the main hallway outside the exhibit hall.
* **A historical focus panel** being arranged by Brian Mooney, highlighting the 1915 Panama-California exposition in San Diego, and its influence on early California planning.
* **A brief salute at the opening plenary session**, along with references in conference program welcome and other products.

We hope that you will enjoy these. Thanks to the Conference Committee, Betsy McCullough, Brian Mooney and others who have helped support the anniversary planning.

**Archives Update**

With the adoption of this year’s budget, the Chapter graciously set aside $10,000 to facilitate processing of the archives collection at California State University, Northridge.

Late this spring we learned that CSUN has decided to add an additional grant of $5,000 in support of this project.

Special Collections and Archives Coordinator Holli Teltoe has since been preparing a plan for processing the collection. Part of this work has involved creating an estimate of how many pages of Chapter publications, one of the most valuable sources of information, should be scanned. We estimate that this task alone will require the scanning of more than 3.600 pages of newsletters dating back to 1958.

As this report was being written, we were awaiting a memo outlining the processing strategy. If that memo arrives prior to the Board meeting, we will provide it to the Board.

**Awards**

The Landmarks and Pioneers awards jury was convened this year, consisting of Linda Dalton, Professor Emerita of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Hing Wong, former APA California President; Bob Lagomarsino, Sacramento Valley planning consultant; and Betsy McCullough, former APA California Director of Conferences. We received a single nomination, but regret that we were unable to make an award. **When the Board next discusses awards policy, we may want to discuss how to strengthen the quality of these nominations.**

**Other Historian Activities**

Although the largest part of our activity this year has been in connection with the anniversary, we have also participated in a number of other projects:

* Review of a proposed planning history online timeline that is expected to have launched on the National APA website by the time we meet.
* Further development of a master list of potential nominees for Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards.
* Participation in the Los Angeles Region Planning History Group.
* Successful completion of a national APA nomination for Margarita Piel McCoy, FAICP as a Planning Pioneer.