



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

President-Elect

Andrea J. Ouse, AICP

I have served the planning profession through active involvement in APA for approximately 26 years, including leadership roles at the Section and Chapter levels. I am routinely inspired by planners making a positive difference in California communities through a commitment to vision, values and good planning practices. We continue to learn that approaches used in the past must continually be evaluated, and we must adapt and evolve to successfully create opportunities for all. I am cognizant of the collective impact our actions have on the world around us, and promoting inclusive leadership that results in actionable strategies will allow those that we serve to thrive.

Our challenge remains in how to put our goal of amplifying the important voices of those historically marginalized in our communities into practice, and in shifting long-held paradigms that have produced negative impacts locally, regionally and statewide. Reversing the actions that created adverse outcomes and exacerbated inequalities must continue as a top priority for our profession, and APA California is essential in providing that leadership.

As President-Elect, I will support the mission of the Chapter Board while preparing to take on the role of Chapter President. As President, I will draw on my experience as a collaborative leader to engage directly with members and focus on the implementation of the Chapter's Specific Plan. The emphasis of my administration will build on efforts that further our profession as sustainable, equitable and supportive well into the future. The recalibration of our planning work is ongoing, and my commitment as President is to strengthen the effort to identify and address the intersectional issues of climate change, livability, public health, housing and equity.

Planning in California is at an inflection point. Growing up in Central California's rural environment and serving diverse communities in Central and Northern California has offered me a unique perspective on the challenges facing current and future residents. These challenges may not be solely ours to solve, but as planners we have a critical role to play in influencing the sustainability of the communities we serve. Shaping the future of planning and paving a clear path for an inclusive, healthy, resilient and sustainable California must remain our top priority, and I am prepared to lead this effort.

Let's plan a California for all!



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

Vice-President for Administration

Lisa Lind, AICP

The California Chapter Board carries out the strategic plan, keeps the chapter operations running smoothly and supports the professional development of members. The local sections and California APA thrive when we give time and energy to the board. I got involved with APA during my graduate program in planning, joined the board of the San Diego Section of APA, and continued my involvement through the section's annual awards event.

My work and board experience have prepared me for the step to the state level. I now ask for your support for the position of vice president of administration for the APA California Chapter for the 2022 term. As a planner, I work on teams focused on grant projects, community planning groups and long-range community plans for sustainable land use, environmental, and mobility solutions. I have experience as a project manager and was a team leader on the management team for a private consulting firm. While my graduate degree in planning and AICP provide a strong foundation, the professional network, training, and opportunities provided by APA have been invaluable in my growth and experience as a planner.

An important component of this role is working with the members of the APA California State Board of Directors, local section directors, and contractors to deliver on the programs and events that are important to members. My goal is to bring an organized approach to the administrative activities, provide regular communication and reports, and listen to members about their needs so that together we make APA California a strong and effective chapter.

Thank you for your vote!

Vice-President for Professional Development

Jerome Keene

My focus has always been on training the next group of planners, who will ultimately become my peers, to the best of my ability. By providing the tools, training, and mentoring, I have achieved my goal of sharing my knowledge to help advance other planners' understanding of the community landscape. Additionally, my experience has allowed me to share my knowledge further and provide professional guidance to students within the Department of Geography, Regional and City Planning Department at California State University, Fresno. The



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

chance to connect with soon-to-be young professionals and understand the struggles they face in the current workforce landscape while ensuring they are prepared with the proper skills and understanding of what makes a professional has been invaluable.

With the support of our peer network along with the resources of CalAPA, I will strive to provide the pertinent professional development opportunities that will prepare urban planners appropriately to face the challenges that the 21st century will present. I hope that we can collectively develop a wide-ranging curriculum, workshops, presentations, legislative sessions, and other related events that benefit the membership by providing a well-rounded view for planners of all experience levels.

Vice-President for Marketing and Membership

Krzysztof Sadlej, AICP

As societies change and progress, so do the cities they inhabit. Business as usual is out the window for American cities and APA California is poised to take a leadership role in supporting the planning profession's role in shaping the future of our built environments in California.

Achieving a future where cities in California genuinely foster social & environmental justice will require honest reflection that shifts priorities, funds and policy frameworks across the state. As Vice President for Marketing and Programs I aim to bring a progressive voice to the Board that always advances the values of the organization and the planning profession in California.

To support our members and the vision of APA California I will accomplish the following:

- Deepen the diversity of our membership through targeted outreach and coordination with sections
- Increase engagement with underrepresented stakeholders
- Align communications and voice of the organization with stated goals and values
- Develop marketing campaigns that engage young planners and underrepresented communities
- Provide platform to exchange best practices across sections
- Identify opportunities to pool marketing resources and technology solutions where appropriate for the benefit of section activates



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

Katie Witherspoon, AICP

I'm a huge proponent of APA California. Our membership makes decisions that shape our state at every level of government, both as public sector and private sector planners. We are value-driven and committed to lifelong learning and service. If given the opportunity, I plan to bring this same perspective to the role of Vice President for Marketing and Membership. Marketing of APA is truly about building awareness of an organization that is committed to providing resources for planners to create great communities. But our profession struggles, as many professions do, with a lack of inclusion and diversity. As a planner who voluntarily taught 3rd and 4th graders about planning in a Chicago neighborhood school, I understand the importance of engaging future planners at a young age. If elected to serve in this role, I would prioritize the development of membership programs that create pathways for diverse young planners to become the future of our profession and learn from the experience of tenured planners.

As a public sector planner, I wholeheartedly understand the financial barriers to membership. Many public agencies don't have the ability to fund membership for their planners. My goal is to develop innovative ways to bring awareness to APA California while also providing low-to-no-cost benefits to professionals. Recently, in my role as the City of San Diego's Planning Department Lunch & Learn lead, I partnered with APA's Women & Planning Division to host a department presentation on Gender Mainstreaming in Planning. This educational event was held in honor of Women's History Month, presented to the entire department, and offered an opportunity for the WPD to promote the Division and membership simply by volunteering their time. I believe that there are many opportunities for this type of engagement across the State of California.

A responsibility of this position is to serve as a liaison to other strategic professional organizations. I strongly believe that developing relationships with community and professional organizations will expand our resources, opportunities, and knowledge as planners. But I also believe that coordination and collaboration with other state chapters can lead to great success. For example, the APA New York Metro Chapter hosts the annual Hindsight Conference, "A Conference on Urban Planning through the Equity Lens," which is a replicable model for any state chapter. The APA California Chapter could partner with APA New York to build on this great work and develop a West Coast conference on equity.

In conclusion, I believe that a more diverse and inclusive profession is a more sustainable and vibrant profession and that it's critical to reduce the barriers to membership. If elected to serve, I will continue to challenge myself and my colleagues to achieve these goals. Thank you for your consideration and I humbly ask for your vote.



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

Vice-President for Diversity and Equity

Juan F. Borrelli, AICP

A key goal of APA California is to promote and grow diversity and inclusion within the profession, the membership, and the leadership of the organization. In fact, the Chapter's Strategic Plan has "Inclusion and Diversity" and "Social and Environmental Justice" as two of its guiding values and core principles, which have helped to establish a strong foundation for the ongoing work associated with this elected position. I believe planners have a responsibility to serve the public interest and to expand choices and opportunity for all persons. One way we can do that is to compassionately amplify the voices of traditionally disenfranchised populations, people of color, the disadvantaged, and other culturally underrepresented groups. If elected to serve, I will:

- Work with the Chapter Board to promote the recruitment, support, and retention of planners of color and other underrepresented groups in the profession;
- Provide leadership and mentorship that increases the visibility of the Board's core values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice in APA activities, publications, and communications;
- Organize a Diversity Summit and Mixer at the Chapter's planning conference, and work with Section Inclusion Directors, to facilitate new programming and events that develop relationships with non-traditional partners with whom to have planning-focused conversations highlighting issues such as equity, inclusion, diversity, race/anti-racism, housing, social justice, law enforcement/police reform, accessibility/health issues, planning history/historical context, cultural/implicit biases, and other emerging topics concerning to communities of color, the LGBTQIA community, and other underrepresented groups; and
- Coordinate with APA national's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee on initiatives and policies that further goals to grow diversity and promote inclusiveness within the profession, the membership, and the organization.

It would truly be my honor to build on the important work that APA California has made over the past several years to ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion continue to be integrated into the profession and the organization in a meaningful and purposeful way. As such, I humbly ask for your vote.



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

Derek R. Hull

In a time when America is becoming a more diverse country, the values and work of planners must reflect intentional thought on how we transform communities. To effectuate change, we must first acknowledge the important role that systemic racism has created in communities of color. We need not look too far to understand the role that Planners have played to devalue, diminish, and disenfranchise these communities. Land use regulations and public policies are rooted in discriminatory actions and yet we question why certain communities cannot progress. It will take decades to dismantle these types of provisions, but Planners must learn to use their platforms to address issues of inequity.

I have spent an entire professional planning career doing just that, using my platform to advocate for equity. I have explained to my peers why diversity and equity matters and why it matters as a Black planner. In the role of Vice President of Diversity and Equity, I want to expand the conversation by sharing our experiences, unveiling our differences, and charting new paths of inclusivity. These are not going to be easy discussions to have. Policy discussions about “overpolicing” in Black communities, granting citizenship to refugees, and honoring America’s indigenous populations are not conversations just for the BIPOC sphere. These are conversations that should be led and championed by White planners to fully move the needle of progress in the planning discipline.

APA California Chapter has been on the forefront of advancing the discussion of diversity. Let us continue to reimagine how we elevate discussions on diversity and equity to benefit those most impacted by planning policies.

Ali Mir

Equity requires recognizing harm (systemic racism, bigotry, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, etc.), by identifying:

- Contemporaneous and historic causes
- Who is adversely affected (disproportionately BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals/communities)
- Who benefits

Equity requires proactively eliminating harm:

- Short-term: faced by vulnerable individuals and communities immediately
- Long-term: planning for a future that avoids harm being faced by vulnerable individuals and communities



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

Specific APA-CA actions I would like to lead using these principles:

- Recruit BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals to join APA-CA, participate in APA-CA committees, and run for APA-CA leadership positions
- Networking opportunities through APA-CA for job seekers that are BIPOC and LGBTQ+ to diversify the planning workforce to better reflect the diversity of California
- Host programming through APA-CA about topics that are key to understanding how and why inequity exists, and what role planning plays in establishing benchmarks for providing equity
- Ensure equity and justice inform the lens through which APA-CA approaches all its efforts

California Planning Foundation (CPF)

Kim L. Prillhart, AICP

The mission of APA California is “Making great communities happen through good planning”. It is a simple - yet profound, mission. Well in order to continue to fulfill that mission what do we need? Students – and importantly, students that are interested in a career in planning related fields. That’s where the California Planning Foundation (CPF) comes in. The purpose of CPF is to further the professional practice of planning in California through both scholarship support for students preparing for careers in the planning profession and also to focus on the professional development of practicing planners. As a member of APA California you are automatically a member of the CPF and have a critical role to play in the future of our profession by ensuring these upcoming students have the funds needed to secure their education and that our young planners have the support needed to take their career to the next level.

If elected, I would continue to build upon CPF’s strong foundations by working alongside our board and general membership in doing the hard work of implementing the Strategic Plan. I am especially focused on ensuring our Board works to increase the diversity of the planning profession, that we award scholarships to those who desire to become educators and innovators for social and environmental justice issues, and engage our student membership and university affiliations to ensure that the planning skills and knowledge of our students and members can be expanded in easily accessible and affordable ways.

I understand the value of an education and the struggle of having the heavy burden to fund it. In my career, I’ve also hired dozens of students from California Colleges and Universities and



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

have mentored many young professions. I have a passion for great planning and for our higher education system in California and so it would be my great privilege to serve on the Board of the California Planning Foundation.

Chelsea Richer, AICP

Through the tumultuous past year, as a liaison to the California Planning Foundation Board from the Los Angeles Section, I've been overwhelmed by the commitment of those around me, by the responsiveness to immediate crises and the creativity in adjusting how we conduct our work so that we can continue to perform the most critical parts of our work as an organization.

For the California Planning Foundation, that meant getting scholarship dollars into the hands of students whose lives had been upended, their momentum interrupted, and their trajectories potentially swung off-course. I joined virtual meetings for both the CPF Board and the LA Section Board to ensure information flowed between them, secured additional scholarship funds from the Section to support even more students, and organized a local event to honor LA Section scholarship winners, which provided a meaningful opportunity to congratulate the scholars in person and offer connection to our Section's Board members.

I'm running for the opportunity to continue to serve on the CPF Board as a full Board member rather than a Section liaison. In this role, I anticipate having more capacity to serve on the committees of the CPF Board, as my time commitment to the Los Angeles Section will be smaller. I am eager to contribute to these highly focused and effective committees. I also have a few ideas for additional ways the CPF Board can support local Sections and students, creating stronger connections across our field:

- Comprehensive review of past scholarship winners to understand the historical impact CPF has had on the field, including through the lens of racial, ethnic, gender, and other forms of diversity
- Direct, personal re-engagement with past scholarship winners as a way to fundraise for additional scholarship dollars and encourage continued engagement with local Sections
- Periodic CPF Board member participation in local Sections' student-focused events to promote the CPF and the connection between scholarships and success in the planning field



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

- CPF-organized programming in collaboration with the local sections to provide better connection to the more tenured, statewide presence that the CPF Board represents

If elected, I would be honored to continue to serve on the CPF Board in an expanded capacity, and I appreciate the opportunity to run for this position.

Christopher Williamson, AICP, PhD

I am not happy with the direction of planning in California. Our profession is being taken over by a handful of legislators who, well intentioned and all, are inadvertently undermining the 'social contract' between our residents and their local planners going back 50 or more years. Our predecessors were good people planning with what was then best planning practice and information, and giving our residents what they desired: the single-family home with freeways. We asked them to participate in planning and environmental mitigation (CEQA) and promised them we would implement their vision. Yes, there were abuses and mistakes. Let's learn from the past, not condemn all single-family zoning.

Where is state-level planning of any kind except to mandate housing to match population projections which are based on a long list of assumptions that may, or may not, bear out? What are the planning programs teaching? Demographic trends? We have to seriously look at a no-population-growth future and make it work. Maybe some areas need to be de-populated due to climate change?

I'm seeking your vote for CPF not to just raise funds and distribute scholarships. I would like to see a joint effort by APA and the American Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) to revisit accredited planning programs and related activities in light of the new reality of what I will label 'new critical planning' that challenges the state government and ourselves as to what is our collective purpose? I think it's more than following state law. CPF has a unique perspective, having one foot in planning practice and one foot in academia. I also have that perspective after working for 40 years in planning practice, research, and teaching. Thanks.

Questa Gleason

Coming out of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at Cal Poly Pomona, I'm eager to find ways both to integrate myself into and serve my planning community. I believe that the California Planning Foundation helps to level the playing field for disadvantaged and nontraditional students like myself, thereby promoting equity in the field of planning.



APA California 2021 Election Candidate Position Statements

When I won the CPF Outstanding Student scholarship, it was an honor to be asked to join the board and since September of 2020, I've served as the student representative. The scholarship monies helped me to stay in school at a time when it was unclear if I would be financially able to do so. As such, I'm very grateful to CPF and would like to continue to serve. I would take it as an honor to participate in aiding the next generation of planners as I have been aided and encouraged in my scholastic endeavors.

As a board member, I feel that I've been able to contribute in board conversations and in the form of testimonials and on the CPF scholarship committee. As the student representative, I was able to speak from the perspective of a current student who has navigated the scholarship process recently. I would carry this perspective over into at-large board membership as I enter into my early career. If elected, I would like to take a greater involvement in the CPF finance committee under the incredible leadership of Lisa Wise, and, of course, continue to work with the scholarship committee under the exceptional leadership of Hilary Nixon.