



PLANNER EMERITUS NETWORK BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

Robert Paternoster, FAICP – Past President



Bob's 44-year career in managing public planning agencies has always been action-oriented and socially progressive. At age 30, he became Planning Director of Pittsburgh, PA, a fully built-out city with no general plan or capital program. He immediately designed a new approach, biannual six-year development programming, which incorporated long-range plans and goals, current policies, and a funding program of specific projects focused on neighborhood revitalization. A Community Planning Program, serving all of the City's neighborhoods, employed 40% young black planners, and was directed by Bob's female Deputy Director, likely the highest ranking woman in American planning at the time.

Bob also headed up planning programs in Sunnyvale, CA and Long Beach, CA. He created and chaired a 21-member stakeholders advisory committee to prepare Long Beach's Local Coastal program, and after 133 meetings delivered a plan which was adopted unanimously by City Council and the California Coastal Commission. He served as manager of the 300-acre, \$350 million Queensway Bay Project, which recreated the downtown waterfront into a great public place with a recreational harbor and world-class aquarium.

Bob received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Lehigh University and masters in city planning from Harvard. He served as President of the California Chapter of APA, was elected to the National APA Board. As President of PEN, he created the CPAT program to provide pro-bono planning assistance to underserved California communities.