

# APA CALIFORNIA

CELEBRATING  
75 YEARS OF  
PLANNING HISTORY



This 75th Anniversary history of APA California is dedicated  
IN MEMORY OF  
J. LAURENCE MINTIER, FAICP  
For more than 50 years of distinguished contributions to California planning

**Cover photo:**

Classic San Francisco street scene demonstrates why, despite recent challenges, San Francisco remains one of the nation's most beautiful cities. *Source: Depositphotos.*

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American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*





# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## *Welcome to Our 75th Anniversary*

**O**n January 1, 1948, the California Planners' Institute merged with a small East Coast organization, the American Institute of Planners (AIP). AIP, which had established small chapters in Washington, D.C., and Chicago only 11 months before, sought to present itself as a truly national organization.

California's decision to join them was essential to create a national voice for the planning movement.

As we begin this 75th anniversary year, I am proud to APA California and look forward to joining you as we reflect on and celebrate the past, present and future of California planning. As we begin this 75th anniversary year, I am proud to serve as President of the California Chapter of APA and look forward to joining you as we reflect on and celebrate the past, present and future of California planning. The year-long festivities begin this month, with the first in a series of historical posts to be included in the Chapter's eNews and on our social media channels, and will culminate at our annual APA California Conference, "Planning at the Crossroads", from September 16-19, 2023 in Fresno. It will be a great party – we hope you can join us!

Throughout our history, APA California has embraced innovations and faced challenges, including a bruising battle over planner licensing in 1960, the increasing threat of climate change and its impacts on vulnerable communities, and the struggle to house our state's ever-increasing population. Perhaps our profession's most profound challenge, however, has been and will remain how to effectively mitigate the systemic and structural racism and resulting societal inequities at the center of civil unrest in the 1960s, 1990s, and most recently in the late 2010s.

We have also been at the forefront, most often as a trusted voice in the State legislature for the perspective of planners on matters including environmental law, land use, transportation, air quality, redevelopment, sustainability, and a



host of other issues. APA California was the source for legislation (AB 857) enacted in 2002, that mandated sustainable, integrated thinking throughout State government and promoted infill development and equity while protecting resources and efficient development patterns. This legislation was quickly surpassed by even more dramatic efforts to reshape California planning, while continually strengthening APA California's resolve to equity and diversity.

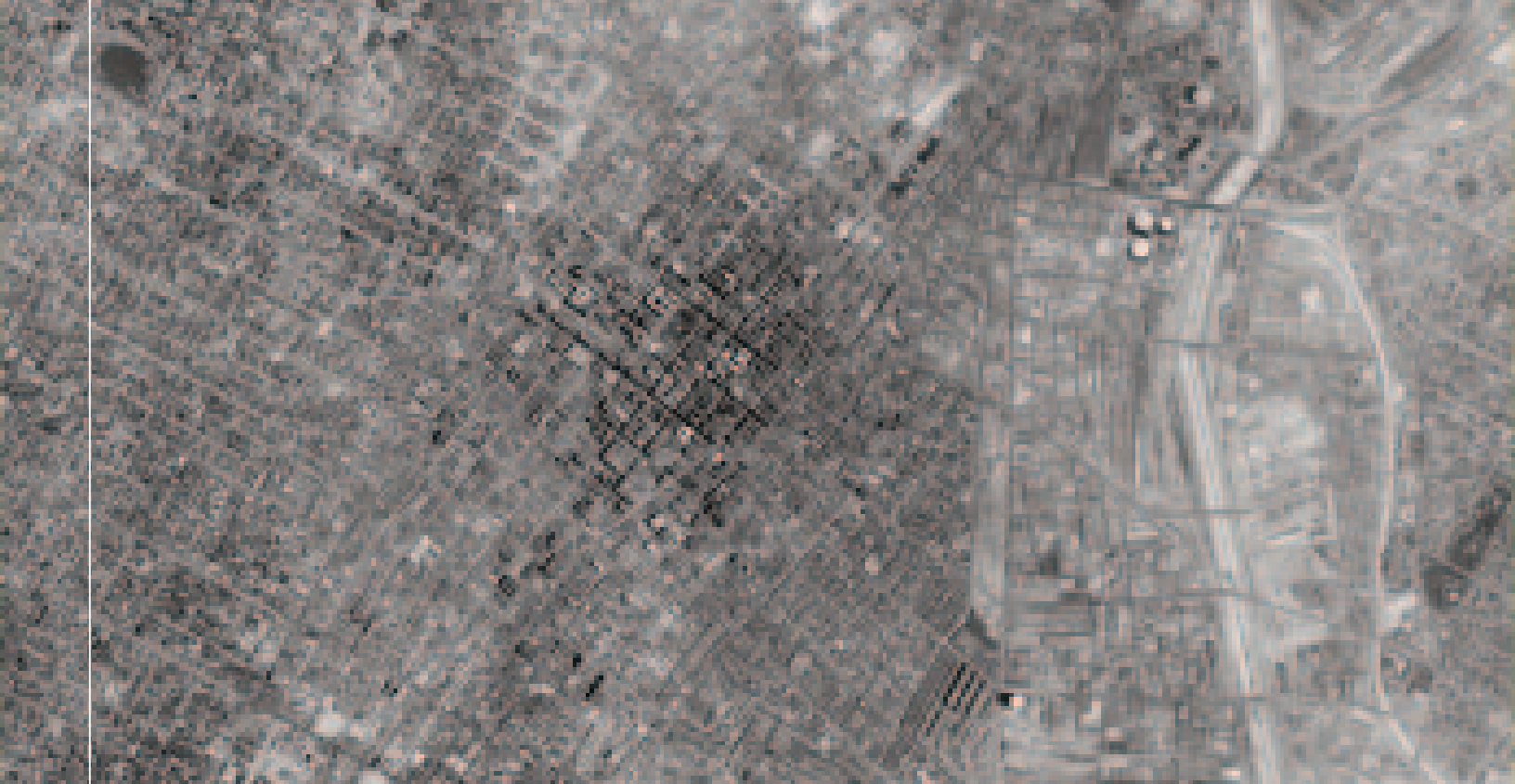
With more than 5,000 members, APA California is the largest APA chapter in the nation. Many of our innovations have been followed by other chapters, and occasionally by our national organization. Let's take our 75th anniversary year to study our successes, learn from our mistakes, and rededicate ourselves to building inclusive and resilient communities that will serve our communities for generations to come.

As a member of the Coast Miwok tribal community, I recognize the Indigenous peoples who have been dispossessed from ancestral homelands and territories throughout the state. I honor, with gratitude and respect to my ancestors and elders, the land, communities, and commitment to honoring the earth and all her gifts. We have a responsibility to understand our place within the past, present and future of these lands by continually reflecting on our relationships with all beings with whom these lands are shared. As we celebrate our achievements this year, let's also seek out efforts to deepen allyship through listening, showing up and speaking up.

I want to thank my predecessor, Past President Ashley Atkinson, AICP; our Chapter Board and executive staff; our Sections and affiliates; and the Anniversary Steering Committee that has been planning this recognition for the past two years. Join me in enjoying a once in a lifetime celebration!

Andrea Ouse, AICP  
President, APA California





High over Los Angeles, 1948. Source: APA California 60th Anniversary presentation; original source unknown.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR HISTORIANS

## *To Our Members*

**L**ike most Californians, we occasionally fall into quiet reverie over our romanticized visions of the past. And many of you have spent an hour of your life that you'll

never get back hearing the good citizens of your community lament the changes that have taken place, as though the California of *their* youth was a celestial paradise.

But one of the joys of being your Chapter Historians is that we get to see, through documents and images, exactly how our state and profession have changed – sometimes better, sometimes worse – and in the process,

we've had the joy of seeing how the work we do has helped to change our communities for the better. If you question whether planning was needed in 1948, when APA California was newly founded, enjoy the image on page 7 drawn from the November 5, 1953 *Los Angeles Daily News*, not long after our founding. Crime, drugs, air pollution, climate and more...it's all there on page one, and in that postwar period housing was then, as today, a dominant planning concern.

Television was new, with the first commercial station in the West, KTLA, signing on in 1948 – and shortly thereafter dispatching its crews to cover nuclear testing in the Nevada desert. And while the term “sprawl” had not reached the pejorative currency that it has achieved in later decades, there's no doubt that large parts of California were already suffering its damage.

While the planning profession was already well established in California, most Californians didn't know who planners were or what they did. The creation of California Chapter of the American Institute of Planners on January 1, 1948 marked a first tentative step toward an organized profession with nationwide reach.



The 1950s weren't all poodle skirts and suburban bliss. In 1952 Los Angeles television station KTLA carried the first live nationwide telecast of a nuclear test from the Nevada proving ground, evidence of the Cold War's grip on society. Source: KTLA/Twitter

The establishment of a new city and regional planning program at UC Berkeley in 1948 marked another touchstone of the profession's evolution. It created a uniquely Californian planning program addressing urban growth. Its founders established Tesis, the "first volunteer group to bring multiple fields together successfully in a comprehensive approach to environmental development in a regional context."

That's why it's helpful to go back and take a look at where we have come from over our first 75 years of existence. There's plenty to celebrate, some things to regret, and much to improve on – but you can't know where you're going until you know where you've been. We hope to take you there.

We hope you enjoy this commemorative booklet, which aims to capture APA California's 75-year history with images from our archives. We also help it will spur you to help tell our story in new and more compelling ways that address longstanding issues of race, social justice and equity, stories we are still working to uncover.

We would like to thank the APA California board, our members, and the extraordinary efforts of our 75th Anniversary Steering Committee for helping make this celebration one for the record. Come join us this September 16-19 in Fresno for "Planning at the Crossroads," where we'll explore all facets of the past, present and future of California planning.

Happy Anniversary!

Steve Preston, FAICP  
J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP  
Co-Historians, APA California



APA California's President, Andrea Ouse, and APA California's Vice President for Policy and Legislation, Erik de Kok attended the presentation on the Senate Floor to accept the Resolution and were joined by Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (SD-39), in addition to Senator Caballero, for a photo to commemorate the day. Source: Senate photographer.



By the Honorable Anna M. Caballero, 14th Senatorial District;  
and the Honorable Cecilia M. Aguilar-Curry, 4th Assembly District;  
Relative to Commending the

## American Planning Association, California Chapter

**WHEREAS**, The American Planning Association (APA), California Chapter, is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary, and it is appropriate at this time to highlight its many achievements and underscore the positive impact it has made in the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, With its roots in important social reform efforts designed to ensure that communities fulfill their obligation to protect public health, safety, and general welfare, the American city planning movement has evolved over the past century to embrace a much broader vision of communities that includes equity, diversity, economic and social justice, and sustainability in a variety of issues, including housing, transportation, and environmental protection, and since the beginning of the American city planning movement, Californians have played a prominent role in advancing the practice of planning in cities, towns and regions throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Founded on January 1, 1948, APA California was established following the merger between the California Planning Institute and the American Institute of Planners, which formed one of the first national planning organizations spanning from the East Coast to the West Coast, and over the past 75 years, APA California has played a critical role as a leading voice for urban and regional planning in California and expanded to become the largest of APA's 46 chapters, earning multiple honors for excellence in its programs and services; and

**WHEREAS**, A network of practicing planners, residents, and elected officials committed to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning, APA California boasts more than 5,000 individual members from throughout the State's 58 counties and operates in eight semi-autonomous sections, each of which offers a wide spectrum of member benefits, including information, services, and support to advance planning throughout the State, and over the years, APA California has provided professional guidance concerning the art and science of city planning, values and principles of the American city planning movement, and the latest conventions in design, policy technology, and professional practice to policy makers at all levels of California government; and

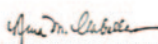
**WHEREAS**, Having upheld its core values of inclusion, leadership, integrity, community sustainability, and commitment to public service, APA California continues to work toward its vision to lead, innovate, and advocate for a future in which all people have an equitable opportunity to participate, contribute, and share in their communities' environmental, social, and economic well-being while promoting its mission to serve as a resource and voice of professional planning in California, empowering planning professionals to best serve their communities by facilitating professional growth and advocating for excellence in planning; and

**WHEREAS**, Kicking off its seventy-fifth anniversary celebration on January 1, 2023, APA California will conclude the commemoration during the State Planning conference, which, with the theme *Planning at the Crossroads*, will be held from September 16 through 19, 2023, in Fresno; and

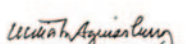
**WHEREAS**, The contributions APA California has made to the State are invaluable and reflect an organization devoted to the highest ideals of community service; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY SENATOR ANNA M. CABALLERO AND ASSEMBLY MEMBER CECILIA M. AGUILAR-CURRY**, That the American Planning Association, California Chapter, be congratulated on the celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary, commended for the vital role it has played in improving the quality of life in communities throughout California, and extended best wishes for continued success in the future.

Joint Members Resolution No. 113  
Dated this 1st day of January 2023.

  
Honorable Anna M. Caballero  
14th Senatorial District



  
Honorable Cecilia M. Aguilar-Curry  
4th Assembly District



Even in 1950, California was not without its share of urban problems including crime, drugs, and air pollution. Source: Los Angeles Illustrated Daily News, 1950.





Members of the California Planners Institute (CPI), forerunner of APA California, attend its 1934 annual meeting at the Hotel Del Monte, Monterey. The largely white, male registrants represented both the state's planning-forward cities and prominent consulting firms. Source: AIP Cal Chapter Newsletter

# H U M B L E   O R I G I N S

## W H E R E   W E   C A M E   F R O M   1 9 3 3 - 1 9 4 8

### *California Planners Helped Forge National Planning Movement*

*p*lanners, it can be said, are generally better looking at the future than they are looking at the past. But when it comes to our own history as an organization, there are a few things we planners do know.

**We know, for example, that the California Chapter of the American Planning Association traces its history back more than 75 years;** the organization that pre-dates us, the California Planners Institute, existed at least as early as 1933. We also know that the organization that we today know as California Chapter of the American Planning Association is the result of a merger that occurred in 1947, and became effective January 1, 1948, between the California Planners Institute and the American Institute of Planners.

**With the merger, the fledgling organization known as the American Institute of Planners could, for the first time, be said to have a “national” reach.** Prior to that, the national organization itself had only about 250 members and a budget of \$5,000. So the addition of a “California Chapter,” adding

between 100 and 150 members, was a significant accomplishment indeed, creating a truly national planning organization. This is the story of how the California Chapter was born, and how it has become the nation's leading statewide organization for effective planning.

Long before APA California, there was the **California Planners Institute (CPI)**. Let's jump back to the year 1947, and get a snapshot of what the profession looked like that year. Most of our information comes from eight 1946 - 1947 issues of *Perspective*, a bi-monthly mimeographed newsletter “conceived, nurtured and matured” in 1946 by Si Eisner, the first Editor in Chief. There was no other chapter publication available until the 1950s. In the 1946-47 issues there were 102 planners listed, but it is not known if they were all members of CPI. Only five were women. A 1951 AIP roster of California members included 63 full members, 63 associates, 19 affiliates, 75 provisional and one honorary for a total of 221... compared to 5,071 in December, 2022.



# HUMBLE ORIGINS

**Dinner for \$2.50?** Sixty years ago, all day meetings were the order; meals were less expensive. In April, 1947 a CPI meeting was held at the Wolf Hotel in Stockton where luncheon was \$1.75 and dinner was \$2.50, including “a dip in the punchbowl.” Howard Bissell led a tour through the Stockton Port recently released by the Army, and a talk was given by a State Division of Highways engineer concerning its relations with city and county planners.

Si Eisner reported on the merger negotiations with National AIP, arguing that the proposed \$3 rebate per member would not support their work. The CPI treasury in 1946 had \$863.66, and expenses were \$482.49 (today, California Chapter APA's budget exceeds \$600,000.)

**The California tradition.** But California planning was distinct from planning as it was being practiced in other parts of the country; the California Planners Institute filled that need. The late Fran Violich, a founding faculty member of the planning program at UC Berkeley, wrote in 2001 that the evolution of a separate institution on the west coast was in fact a reflection of the fact that California planning was not an extension of planning practiced in the east, but a separately evolving, parallel movement that placed greater emphasis on design and the environment.

Even before the development of the “Sections” that California Chapter members know today, CPI meetings were held around the state, addressing a variety of important issues. In 1947 the San Francisco Bay Area Council called a meeting of Planning Directors of nine Bay Area counties and Oakland to prepare an action program.

At one of these meetings, a second San Francisco Bay crossing was proposed to ease congestion. It was noted that the Bay Bridge would be free of tolls by 1953. And Ladislav Segoe, consultant to the Tennessee Valley Authority, was hired to revise the 1921 San Francisco Zoning code, a law “as outmoded as an automobile of that vintage.” Jack Kent became the Director of Planning in San Francisco following the resignation of I. Deming Tilton.

In August, 1947, CPI met in Los Angeles to view the model and drawings for a new downtown Los Angeles prepared by students of USC's Arthur Gallion and Si Eisner. Burnett C. Turner, Civic Center Authority architect, presented the new, 600-acre civic center plan, bounded by freeways on all sides.

Were your dues ever this low? For the 1947 annual meeting at Yosemite, rooms at the Awahnee with three meals were \$14 single and \$12 double. CPI dues were \$12.50 for members, \$7.50 for associate members and \$5 for junior members. Salaries were also on a different scale: the position of Planning Engineer in Glendale was open for \$6,000 a year.

At the conference, Glenn Hall, Director of Planning, Sacramento, discussed the new Conservation and Planning

# BY THE NUMBERS

## Membership Selected Years

1948 . . . .100	1997 . . .4,256	2018 . . .5,493
1959 . . . .513	2006 . . .5,451	2022 . . .5,071
1989 . . .3,800	2008 . . .6,518	
1991 . . .4,700	2014 . . .4,842	

## Annual Budget Selected Years

1948 . . . . . \$863	1993 . . . . . 270,550
1958 . . . . . (est.) 4,500	1998 . . . . . 313,242
1968-69 . . . . . 24,034	2008 . . . . . 607,300
1981 . . . . . 83,350	2018 . . . . . 564,410
1992 . . . . . 362,362	2022 . . . . . 728,464



*California Chapter's efforts have received APA's coveted Karen B. Smith Award three times, including 1995 (top) and 2009 (bottom). Sources: Top: CalPlanner photo; Bottom: Kurt Christiansen, FAICP*

Act (passed to supersede the Planning Act). CPI President James M. Campbell sent a letter to Gov. Earl Warren expressing CPI's interest in the new agency for “Planning and Economic Research,” seeking appointments to the Physical Planning Council of staff “who have had some active part in planning, and a broad and sympathetic understanding of physical planning problems.”

These important developments framed the planning infrastructure that, modified, guides California to this day. But the real issue of the day was whether California should join forces with the emerging national organization, the American Institute of Planners, by merging with them. And that process, which took more than a year to negotiate and conclude, changed the course of California planning.

# FIRST STEPS 1948 - 1950

## *Joining Forces to Create 'A Truly National Organization'*

**t**he Merger Committee worked throughout 1947, chaired by Si Eisner with Frank Skillman, Glen Rick, Charles Eliot and Richard Whitehead. AIP's president wrote a month before the merger started: "As a result of persistent negotiations and numerous conferences, the (chances for) a merger of CIP and AIP are now brighter than at any time in the past." CPI's final president was James Campbell of Hahn and Campbell, Burlingame. Harry Bergh, Land Planner for Orange County, was Vice President; Mary Robinson Gilkey, Marin County Planning Director, was Secretary.

**A Star is born.** After months of preparation the AIP Board of Directors, meeting in Philadelphia in October, 1947, approved the merger, ordering it to become effective January 1, 1948. California was only the third chapter established - 11 months after the first, Washington, D.C., and seven months after the second, Chicago. Planning historian Eugenie L. Birch wrote, in a 1980 article for the *Journal of the American Planning Association*:

*Although differences in entrance requirements had prevented an earlier union, these problems were resolved by offering the westerners a grandfather clause. Nearly 150 Californians came into the AIP. With this merger the Institute became a truly national organization for the first time.*

The new organization became California Chapter, American Institute of Planners (CCAIP). Its first officer was John G. Marr, Planning Director of Oakland. The resolution establishing CCAIP as part of a national organization authorized AIP to explore holding its spring meeting in California.

## OUR MILESTONES 1948 - 1960

### 1948

- American Institute of Planners, California Planners Institute merge to create nationwide organization
- UC Berkeley planning program established

### 1950s

- First three sections emerge (Northern, Southern, Central); total membership 450

### 1953

- First Planning Commissioner handbook issued by California AIP

### 1958

- First scholarship program proposed. It took until 1967 for the first regular scholarship to be awarded.

## NEW FRONTIERS

## 1950 - 1960

**O**ver its first full decade, California Chapter (known then as CCAIP) saw its membership expand to 400, in three distinct "sections" – Northern, Central, and Southern – that ultimately evolved into the eight regional sections we know today.

Jack Kent, then the city's planning director, left San Francisco to establish a post-graduate program at UC Berkeley in 1948. That emergent program was the source of Telesis, which APA has lauded as the "first volunteer-based group to bring multiple fields together successfully in a comprehensive approach to environmental development in a regional context."

In 1953, CCAIP issued its first *Planning Commissioner's Handbook*, ancestor of the popular guides that have been published more recently by the League of California Cities.



Julia Porter, Dennis O'Harrow, and Roger Lapham, Jr., San Francisco Planning Commission chair, 1957. Source: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

# CHALLENGES OF GROWTH 1960 - 1970

**C**CAIP's membership topped 600, but in the early 1960s, a single *AIP CalChapter News* carried typed dispatches from all three regions (Northern, Central and Southern) in a single issue. By 1960 the San Diego Section was formed, formalizing the efforts of planners who had been meeting informally since at least 1957. Yet in a profession that was still predominantly male and white, the first signs of a more diverse presence would emerge over the decade.



Planners were still struggling for acceptance: a 1960 proposal to license planners ran into heavy opposition from professional architects and engineers, resulting in a bruising battle. APA California's archives contain correspondence from Governor Pat Brown, something that would seem almost unthinkable in today's larger, more complex legislative environment.

Noted author and urbanist Lewis Mumford guest lectured at UC Berkeley; Berkeley and USC became the first "recognized" planning schools in the State (today there are seven, with others expected to follow). At the practice level, the Chapter's 1960 conference focused on a new trend: the use of electronic data processing to support city planning. More critically, a range of urban issues including urban renewal, economic dislocation, racial and economic disparity slowly became part of the profession's discussions, with efforts in both the Bay Area and Los Angeles to address concerns that resulted in the 1965 Watts unrest.

The national organization took note of California, bringing its national planning conference to Los Angeles in 1962. *The AIP Cal Chapter Newsletter*, predecessor of today's *California Planner*, produced a special issue for the occasion (pictured).

As the state's growth created new

challenges, the Chapter formed new responses to deal with them. One of those was its first policy conference, held in Monterey in 1966. By 1967 the Chapter started its first legislative program; and in the wake of national civil unrest and urban decay, issued policy papers on both the "role of the planner in addressing social concerns" and regionalism.

Finally, the Chapter's newsletter editors undertook a redesign in the mid-1960s, as the organization sought to project a more polished image. An image from a 1968 newsletter appears below.



## OUR MILESTONES 1960 - 1970

### 1960s - 1970s

- Sacramento Valley, Orange and San Diego Sections formed; Central Coast Section created 1975.

### 1962

- Battle over planning registration results in an uneasy truce, taking the matter off the table for a generation to come. Today, only two states establish a specific legal authority for the planner: Michigan, which registers them, and New Jersey, which licenses them.

### 1965

- Civil unrest in Watts sparks discussions of social equity

### 1967

- First Chapter scholarship is issued





# GROWTH, CHANGE, NEW AFFILIATES AND A MERGED IDENTITY 1970 - 1980

California's rapid growth through the 1960s led to a fundamental re-examination in the 1970s, a blossoming of planning legislation from a newly empowered, "professionalized" Legislature, and a series of voter enactments including the landmark 1970 Coastal Act. This is the decade that brought an expanded general plan law, the California Environmental Quality Act, and court cases supporting planning as diverse as the Petaluma decision (upholding staged growth management) and the Mammoth decision (extending CEQA to all forms of development.)

As profound legislative activity recast the state's planning laws, CCAIP was actively engaged. By 1979 the demand for quick responses drove the chapter to hire its first professional lobbyist. CCAIP moved its offices to Sacramento, where APA California remains today.

**Scholarly pursuits.** Planning education grew as well: the planning programs at Cal Poly Pomona, Fresno State, UCLA and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo all were recognized during the decade. The California AIP Board first proposed student scholarships in 1958, but it wasn't until 1967 that

the organization had raised enough money to fund its first scholarship, a single grant to Frank A. Ducote of UC Berkeley, who was planning to practice in San Diego. (A firm associated with this name exists today in Vancouver, B. C.) The second-place finisher, a woman from USC, apparently received ... a nice certificate.

That's probably one reason why the Chapter created the **California Planning Foundation** in 1970 to provide a vehicle for training and scholarships. But the Chapter also saw its share of controversy when the Chapter's offices were briefly relocated from Northern California to Los Angeles' Bradbury Building in 1971-72. Meanwhile, to reach members in the coastal regions that were physically separated from much of California's Central Section, a new Central Coast Section was created in 1975.

**Women take the lead.** With the merger of the American Society of Planning Officials (ASPO) and the American Institute of Planners (AIP) in 1978, Cal Chapter became part of an even larger, more diverse organization, the new American Planning Association. Californians quickly made themselves heard, demanding stronger roles for women in the profession and helping elect the first APA president from California, **Dorothy Walker**. In 1977-78, California Chapter members also elected their first female president, **Gloria S. McGregor**.

Women increasingly assumed positions of power – from Berkeley, where **Marjorie Macris** served as planning director, to Claremont, where **Sharon Hightower** is credited as the first woman planning director in Southern California. In academia, **Margarita P. McCoy**, later a president of AICP, became the first woman to receive a full professorship in planning in the U. S., and became the first woman to chair a university planning program (at Cal Poly Pomona). McCoy went on to serve with distinction on the AICP Commission, where she was selected Chair. Other academic leaders of the period playing important roles included Jacqueline Leavitt of UCLA, whose research opened new doors; and **Sylvia White** of Cal Poly Pomona, another founder of the Planning and Women Division. For a fuller exploration of this topic, see page 19.



## OUR MILESTONES 1970 - 1980

### 1970

- California Planning Foundation established for scholarships, training

### 1978

- American Institute of Planners merges with American Society of Planning Officials, forms American Planning Association
- Californians push National APA to advance the role of women in the profession. Californian Dorothy Walker is elected the first President of the new APA

### 1979

- Chapter hires Winner Wagner Associates, professional lobbyist

# PROFESSIONAL EXECUTIVE, NEW INITIATIVES 1980-1990

*m*uch as the Chapter stepped out in front in the 1970s by creating a separate foundation to advance the charitable interests of the planning community, the Chapter advanced its interests in policy development when, under the leadership of President David Booher, the **California Planning Roundtable** was created to serve as the chapter's "think tank" concerning statewide planning and policy issues.



interviews. Meanwhile, California's conferences became popular not only with its own members, but individuals from other chapters who sought a coveted invitation to the Cal Chapter annual conference.

Under the leadership of President Frank Wein, the Chapter transformed its operations in 1984 by establishing professional contract staff to handle both administrative and legislative operations. Sande George came to be the face of the organization, representing APA California with equal facility in both the Legislature and the boardroom. A brief flirtation with magazine publishing even gave the chapter a new shape and form, but the product called *Westplan* only lasted for three issues.

The last of California's eight sections, Inland Empire, was created in 1981 to meet the rapid growth of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. New initiatives by President Janet Ruggiero established the chapter's first multi-year communications program; that program led to a greatly enhanced, color newsletter, op-eds in major newspapers, and a host of other programs. The Chapter's Legislative Review Teams created the *Action Agenda for the '90s* to carry its vision to the Legislature.

Under Vonnie Madigan, the first professional communications consultant hired by APA California, the newsletter and public relations became more polished and professional, featuring in-depth stories and

## OUR MILESTONES 1980 - 1990

### 1980

- California Planning Roundtable created to advance discussion of critical planning issues

### 1981

- Inland Empire section, California's 8th, created
- Southern Section renamed Los Angeles Section

### 1982

- APA California Chapter begins 2-year drive to reform state planning law; bill is gutted but parts became law as AB 2038 (1984)

### 1984

- Professional management starts: Sande George named Executive Director, a role she holds until December, 2022.

### 1985

- Chapter launches *Westplan Magazine*; the magazine folds a year later

### 1986

- Nation's planners gather in Los Angeles at APA conference

### 1989

- *CalPlanner* dramatically redesigned; first public relations plan adopted
- Chapter wins APA's Karen B. Smith Award



## OUR MILESTONES 1990 - 2000

### 1991

- Governor keynotes conference; Oakland Hills fire blunts impact
- Tom Stefan named Administrative Director

### 1992

- In wake of civil disturbances, APA California, CPF, CPR initiative leads to APA's agenda for America's Communities to address racial, social and economic inequity

### 1994

- National conference in San Francisco, record attendance

### 1995

- APA California wins 2nd Karen B. Smith Award
- Board appoints first Planning Officials Development Officer
- APA California becomes the first APA Chapter to have a presence on the Internet, featured in Planning magazine
- APA California forms Planners Emeritus Network to honor lifetime achievements

### 1997

- First full-color Cal Planner;
- National conference in San Diego

### 1998

- 50th Anniversary beach party raises \$2,600 to launch Archives
- California Planning Roundtable formally incorporates as a separate entity from APA California
- UC Irvine planning program accredited

## A 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 1990-2000

*a* PA California had become a respected source of information in the Legislature. Enhanced marketing, planning commissioner training, insurance, and other programs were added. And for the first time, a sitting California Governor addressed the state conference in 1991, just as a devastating fire scarred the Oakland hills. By 1999, the chapter's State Plan Task Force had produced reports to influence discussions concerning smart growth in California.

The Chapter began honoring long-time officers and renowned, retired professionals, forming the **Planners Emeritus Network**. It was the first such venture by any Chapter in the country to provide ongoing, sustained recognition of the efforts of longtime planners on behalf of the profession and chapter.

In addition, the Chapter acquired pro-bono legal counsel and became a key player in framing the national organization's planning policies, through the efforts of Californians such as Vivian Kahn.

The **California Planning Foundation** saw increased annual growth in the number and size of scholarships, with annual auction revenues growing to fund them.

Meanwhile, more diverse leadership began to emerge, as leaders in the Chapter including **Jeannette Dinwiddie-Moore, Dr. David Salazar, Bill Anderson, James Rojas, Miguel Vazquez, Linda Tatum** and many others worked to create a more diverse, just organization inclusive of its communities of color, women, and LGBTQX members. Many later developments, including programs like the diversity summit, a diversity plan, and strengthened outreach to communities and planners of color, can be credited to these and other leaders as the planning community became more cognizant of longstanding shortcomings.

Record-breaking national (San Francisco) and state conferences marked the decade. When the Chapter's 50th Anniversary arrived in 1998, the Chapter and Orange County conference committee hosted a celebration on the beach, topped with a huge cake. In an impromptu fundraiser that evening, the Chapter raised \$2,600 in pledges which, matched with a contribution from the APA California board, created the funding to open the APA California Archives at California State University, Northridge.

*Many later developments, including programs like the diversity summit, a diversity plan, and strengthened outreach to communities and planners of color, can be credited to these and other leaders as the planning community became more cognizant of longstanding shortcomings.*



# EDGE OF THE MILLENNIUM 2000-2010

*i*n 2000, with President Jeff Lambert at the helm, the Chapter launched initiatives to promote smart growth, taking positions on nearly 300 bills. Among these was its own successful measure, AB 857, which required State agencies to plan around broad principles of sustainability and equity. In 2005, the Board adopted a *Diversity and Inclusion Plan* to recognize and support planners of color, minorities, and underrepresented communities. Lambert was APA California's first openly gay president; in the years since his election, four other LGBTQX planners have served as APA California president, and Chapter members have played critical roles in the formation of a National APA division to address their concerns.

**National APA programs impacted California.** Creation of FAICP – Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners – honored many Californians for attaining the highest standards of professional excellence. And in 2008, APA California launched a Certification Maintenance (CM) program – hotly debated since 2001 – that ensures that planning professionals continue lifelong learning. Sacramento Valley Section's Young Planners Group, a local initiative launched to better meet the needs of young professionals, expanded throughout the state and across the country.

The **California Planning Roundtable** became a respected contributor to the discussion of planning issues in

California, having produced major projects including *Planning at the Edge of the Millennium*, *The Sierra at Risk*, *Tribal Gaming: A Primer for Local Government*, *Myths and Facts of Affordable Housing*, and others. The Roundtable's *California General Plan Glossary* has become a standard resource for planning agencies throughout the State. In 2005 on its 25th anniversary, the Roundtable received National APA's Distinguished Service Award.

The **California Planning Foundation** continued its remarkable growth generating more than \$30,000 per year for student scholarships through its popular auctions and programs.



Under the direction of Vice President for Public Information Marc Yeber and Editor Dorina Blythe, *CalPlanner* became a full-color, digital publication running as many as 36 pages per issue. Source: *CalPlanner*

## OUR MILESTONES 2000 - 2010

### 2002

- APA California's bill AB 857 passes with bi-partisan support; "the most important California land use law in 30 years"

### 2005

- Chapter adopts Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- New, enhanced web site launched;
- California Planning Roundtable wins APA Distinguished Service Award on its 25th Anniversary
- National conference returns to San Francisco

### 2007

- National APA launches 'Great Places in California'; California follows suit

### 2008

- Chapter celebrates 60th anniversary with luncheon, historical publication
- Young Planners Group (YPG) formed as affiliate of APA California
- APA California tops record 6,500 members but numbers rapidly fall during recession

### 2009

- APA California wins 3rd Karen B. Smith Award
- *CalPlanner* converts to digital publication

## OUR MILESTONES 2010 - 2020

### 2011

- Legislature repeals California's 50-year experiment with redevelopment

### 2012

- Los Angeles hosts National Planning Conference after 26-year absence

### 2014

- Bill Anderson becomes second APA President from California since 1980 consolidation of AIP and ASPO
- Chapter President Brooke Peterson launches initiative to consolidate and expand leadership development

### 2016

- Record attendance, revenue from the Chapter's Pasadena conference fund a variety of programs; Chapter donates \$10,000 toward archives

### 2017

- Chapter mobilizes to address record number of housing bills
- Kurt Christiansen becomes third Californian to be elected National APA president

### 2018

- APA California celebrates 70 years

### 2019

- National Planning Conference returns to San Francisco

### 2020

- A nationwide pandemic strikes California, impacting all facets of planning. For the first time in 75 years there was no physical conference as Chapter volunteers quickly worked to create a digital statewide conference, a practice which was repeated again in 2021.

## APA IN THE DIGITAL ERA 2010 - 2020

California began the decade in economic peril, affecting employment and membership alike. Faced by profound budget shortages, the Legislature eliminated redevelopment statewide, undercutting local economic development and housing programs.

Significant increases in the volume and complexity of land use legislation – including California's pioneering climate change laws, and the need for housing – continued to challenge the Chapter. Yet by 2012 APA California welcomed the nation's planners Los Angeles for the first time in 26 years. And in 2015 the Chapter adopted a Diversity and Inclusion Plan to ensure that diversity and equity are at the forefront of Chapter operations.

The Chapter also adopted a new strategic plan, recovering from the devastating 1990s recession that saw membership and revenues plunge. As it grew, APA California professionalized its conferences, hiring professional conference organizers to assist its volunteer conference committees.



*Significant increases in the volume and complexity of land use legislation – including California's pioneering climate change laws, and the need for housing – continued to challenge the Chapter.*



USC doctoral planning students celebrate with their professors, including David Sloane, Ph.D. and Dowell Myers, Ph.D. Source: Tridib Banerjee, PhD and David Sloane, PhD, University of Southern California.

# APA CALIFORNIA AT 75 2023

*a*PA California opened the current decade facing an extraordinary, 2-1/2 year pandemic that caused the Chapter to cancel planning for two live, in-person conferences. Chapter volunteers rose to the challenge, producing two virtual conferences in 2020 and 2021, before returning to a live, in-person conference (with optional virtual component) in 2022. In 2021 the Chapter continued to innovate, undertaking an extensive strategic planning effort under the leadership of President Ashley Atkinson, AICP – part of a host of initiatives to improve the Chapter's operations including new management software, a new website, and other programs.

2023 marked the completion of Sande George's successful tenure as the first true (and longest serving) executive director in APA California's history. This year under President Andrea Ouse, AICP, amendments to the by-laws clarified the roles of our complex, expanding volunteer board and advisors, and the Chapter hired a new management firm, Compass, to manage

the Chapter's affairs.

Today, with a robust membership and budget exceeding \$700,000, APA California can make many claims: Its conferences are larger and better, it has an enviable record of State and national awards, and an array of membership services available unmatched by other organizations. A more diverse leadership is emerging in which women, planners of color and the LGBTQX community all hold positions of power in the chapter, CPF, CPR and the Sections.

Take a look at the list of presidents below, a small sampling of the many talented and capable people who have served this organization since its 1948 founding. Without their labors, the resources and opportunities that California planners have available today might not have come to pass. We would like to thank the APA California Board, the 2018 Conference Committee, and our growing legions of history seekers that have been working so diligently on this celebration.



## APA CALIFORNIA PRESIDENTS 1947 - 2024



Seven current and former APA Region VI national leaders from California at a meeting in Los Angeles. Left to right: Jeff Lambert, Janet Ruggiero, Steve Preston, Kurt Christiansen, Vivian Kahn, Kristen Asp, Jeannette Dinwiddie-Moore.

1947 (CPI)	James M Campbell
1948 (CCAIP)	John G. Marr
1949-1957	No record
1958	J. Stanley Ott
1959	John Richardson
1960	Robert L. Williams
1961	George H. Smeath
1962	Edward A. Holden
1963	Karl J. Belser
1964	Robert Grunewald

1965, 1966	Louis B. "Bert" Muhly
1967	No record
1968	Larz T. Anderson
1969	Forest S. Dickason
1970	John E. Hirten
1971	Sherman W. Griselle
1972, 1973	Roy W. Potter
1974	Francis Hendricks
1975, 1976	Ralph G. Crouch
1977, 1978	Gloria S. McGregor

### APA California

1979, 1980	David Booher
1981, 1982	Robert Paternoster
1983 - 1986	Frank B. Wein
1987, 1988	Janet Ruggiero
1989, 1990	Ron Bass
1991, 1992	Albert I. Herson
1993, 1994	Steve Preston
1995, 1996	Reba Wright-Quastler
1997, 1998	John Bridges
1999, 2000	Tony Lettieri
2001, 2002	Jeffrey Lambert
2003, 2004	Collette Morse
2005, 2006	Jeri Ram
2007, 2008	Vince Bertoni
2009, 2010	Kurt Christiansen
2011, 2012	Kevin Keller
2013, 2014	Brooke Peterson
2015, 2016	Hing Wong
2017, 2018	Pete Parkinson
2019, 2020	Julia Lave Johnston
2021, 2022	Ashley Atkinson
2023, 2024	Andrea Ouse



# PLANNERS AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

*d*espite its economic and social ideals, planning was slow to become as diverse as its communities. Our research found no references to planners of color in CCAIP publications until the early 1960s, and then rarely. Yet we know there were pioneers of color in California.

As a young man, renowned architect **Paul Revere Williams** served briefly on the Los Angeles Planning Commission around 1920, but we have not found information to suggest that he identified himself as a planner.

## Samuel J. Cullers

Samuel J. Cullers, an MIT-trained planner who fought housing discrimination in Hartford, CN in the 1950s, later practiced in California, becoming one of the first Black planners leading what is now OPR. Cullers also helped establish the Sacramento Valley Section of APA California.



## Hing Wong, FAICP

Elected to a two-year term (2015-2016), Hing Wong was the first planner of color (and first member of the API community) to serve as APA California's president.



## Andrea Ouse, AICP

This year's 75th Anniversary marks another important milestone: Andrea Ouse, AICP became the Chapter's first president from the Indigenous community.

She writes, "As we celebrate our achievements this year, let's also seek out efforts to deepen allyship through listening, showing up and speaking up."



Los Angeles County planner **Frank Navarette's** 1962 travels to Chile to help form local planning commissions were featured in the CCAIP newsletter, a rare nod in those days to multi-culturalism. Meanwhile, a newsletter that year announced the hire of a young planner of color who later became prominent planning and management professional, **Clifford Graves**. Following 1965's devastating civil unrest in Watts, communities of color formed organizations – the Watts Community Labor Action Committee, United Neighborhoods Organization, TELACU, Spanish-Speaking Unity Council, community design centers and L. A.'s Barrio Planners to name a few – to represent their communities. Pioneering leaders of color include **Dr. Ed Blakely (formerly of the University of Southern California)**, **Alvin James (former planning director of Pasadena and Oakland)**, **Yukio Kawaratani (Los Angeles CRA)**, **Dr. Leo Estrada (UCLA)**, **Frank Villalobos (Barrio Planners)**, and others. And in the years that have followed, planners of color have assumed critical roles in some of the state's largest cities and firms.

Planners increasingly turned to questions of equity, although those early efforts often lacked the depth of understanding required to address racism and economic injustice. Only after the 1992 civil unrest in Los Angeles did a chapter initiative lead National APA to launch its Agenda for America's Communities, and a tradition of diversity summits continuing today. Even these steps are insufficient, as the established profession still does not yet reflect the great diversity of California's population.

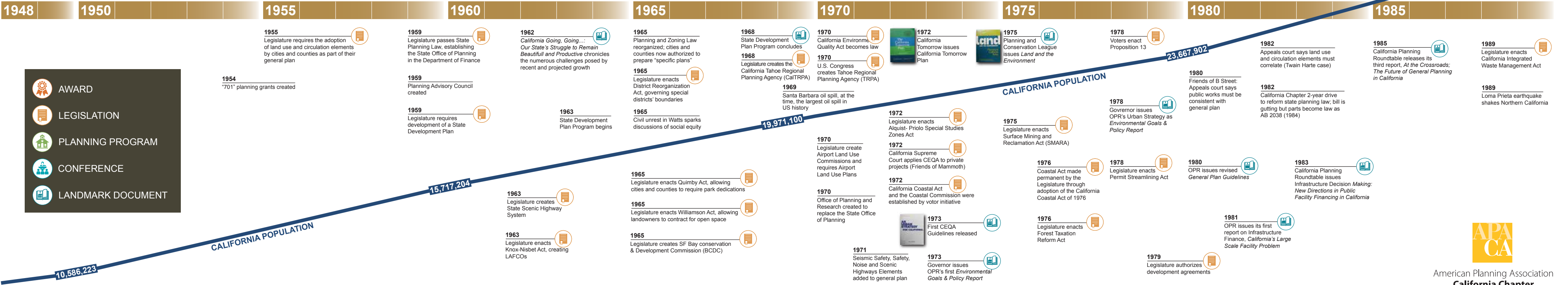
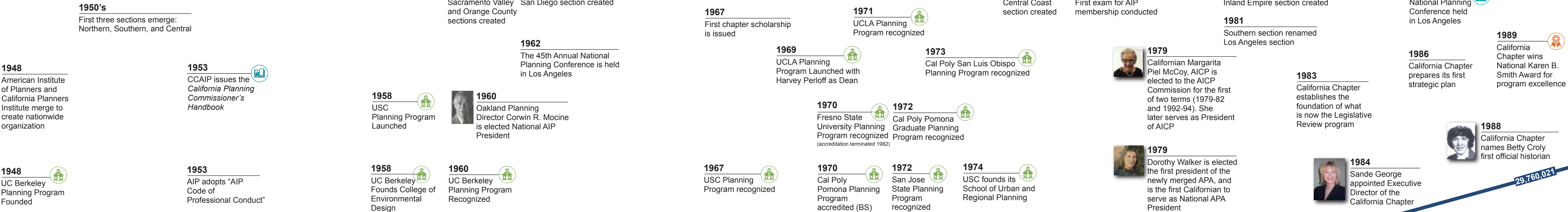
Over the past two decades, the Chapter has significantly increased its participation by planners of color, establishing a Vice President for Diversity, and building a series of initiatives under the leadership of individuals such as **Jeannette Dinwiddie-Moore, FAICP**, **David Salazar, FAICP**, **Linda Tatum, FAICP** and **Miguel Vazquez, AICP**. Both the California Planning Roundtable and the California Planning Foundation have elected planners of color to lead. And California marked another milestone when **William Anderson** became the second Californian to serve as National APA President.

**Learn More:** Listen to the **Los Angeles Planning History Group's** 2017 colloquium featuring the history of planners and communities of color; [recordings from this event may be listened to here](#). We also invite you to view the **California Planning Roundtable's** 2021 video series that uses oral history to explore issues at the intersection of race and planning. [You can find it here](#).

# APA California: Planning Milestones, 1948-2023



## BENCHMARKS



## CALIFORNIA AND THE NATION



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

Creating Great Communities for All



# APA California: Planning Milestones, 1948-2023





# APA CALIFORNIA'S PIONEERING WOMEN

California's women planners, relatively few in the 1940s and 1950s, had to fight harder to get their due.

As director of Marin County's planning department in the late 1940s and early 1950s, a young landscape architect

named **Mary Robinson**

**Gilkey** served on the negotiating committee that led to the merger of the California Planners Institute and the American Institute of Planners. She became the first female to serve as an officer of

California Chapter, AIP (1948). Later taking the name **Mary**

**Summers**, she retired as county planning director in 1962, stating in a later oral history that for much of that time, she was believed to be the only woman to helm a planning department in the United States. Even in retirement, Summers was a tireless fighter for environmental protection in Marin County, helping found and promote environmental organizations there. (Gilkey is shown presenting an oral history at the Marin County Free Library in 1988).

What many people may not have known was that she played an important role in helping attract legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright to Marin County, where he designed the spectacular civic center that serves as the seat of Marin County government today. For a fascinating audio oral history on Summers' years in Marin County, visit the Marin County Free Library at <http://contentdm.marinlibrary.org/digital/collection/ohp/id/1464/rec/14>.

Mary Robinson Gilke may have set the stage, but it took 30 years more for our members to elect their first female president, **Gloria S. McGregor** (1977-78). Here are a few of the many other female pioneers who helped shape what is now APA California:

**Minnie Ruth** established the Chapter's first regular office. She was elected to the board in 1961, the first woman to hold office since 1948. Minnie was a planning consultant with degrees in planning and in governmental administration; and married to another prominent planner, Herman Ruth.



*Summers is shown presenting an oral history at the Marin County Free Library in 1988.  
Source: Marin County Free Library*



*Minnie Ruth*

**Marilyn M. Pray** was elected to the APA California board in 1968, only the third female officer of CCAIP in its first 20 years.

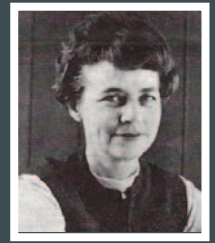
**Betty Croly** came here in the 1940s, rising to Assistant Director of Planning for Alameda County. She served on the National APA Board, the California Chapter Board, and later established the APA California archives at California State University Northridge as the Chapter's first appointed Historian. She served on the board throughout the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, before passing in 2010 at age 87.

**Women take the lead.** With the merger of the American Society of Planning Officials (ASPO) and the American Institute of Planners (AIP) in 1978, Cal Chapter became part of an even larger, more diverse organization, the new American Planning Association. Californians quickly made themselves heard, demanding stronger roles for women in the profession and helping elect the first APA president from California, **Dorothy Walker**. In 1977-78, California Chapter members also elected their first female president, **Gloria S. McGregor**.

Women increasingly assumed positions of power – from Berkeley, where **Marjorie Macris** served as planning director, to Claremont, where **Sharon Hightower** is credited as the first woman planning director in Southern California. In academia, **Margarita P. McCoy**, later a president of AICP, became the first woman to receive a full professorship in planning in the U. S., and became the first woman to chair a university planning program (at Cal Poly Pomona). McCoy went on to serve with distinction on the AICP Commission, where she was selected Chair. Other academic leaders of the period playing important roles included **Jacqueline Leavitt** and **Dolores Hayden** of UCLA, whose research opened new doors; and **Sylvia White** of Cal Poly Pomona, another founder of the Planning and Women Division.

These early leaders set the stage for women to take charge. Since then, APA California has elected nine women as president: **Gloria McGregor, Janet Ruggiero, Reba Wright-Quastler, Collette Morse, Jeri Ram, Brooke Peterson, Julia Lave Johnston, Ashley Atkinson, and Andrea Ouse.**

**Learn More:** For a compelling short account of the efforts by women to make themselves heard within APA and the profession nationally, see **Marjorie Macris, FAICP's history of the Planning and Women Division** [here](#).



*Marilyn Pray*



*Betty Croly*

# PLANNING AND LGBTQX COMMUNITIES

While gay and lesbian planners have played active roles in our profession for much of its history, their personal histories were often uncharted in an organization that often dismissed or rejected the interests and needs of LGBTQX communities, or caused gay and lesbian planners to shield their personal lives from public and employer scrutiny. Early California Chapter records contain almost no information concerning either its members or initiatives to better serve LGBTQX communities.

Despite that gap in our historical narrative, California Chapter's members can claim a legitimate role in advancing the interests of gay, lesbian, nonbinary and transgender communities through their high levels of engagement and California's progressive political culture. Several Californians were active in the 2016 formation of the Gays and Lesbians in Planning (GALIP) Division, which later emerged as a formal

APA division, LGBTQ and Planning, in 1998 at the APA National Planning Conference in Boston.

## **Jeffrey Lambert, FAICP**

By the year 2000, gay and lesbian planners were increasingly active, publicly engaged, and assuming leadership roles in APA California's sections and the chapters. That year, former Los Angeles Section Director Jeffrey Lambert, FAICP became the Chapter's first publicly out president, the first of several important milestones. Over the 23 years since Lambert's election, LGBTQX leaders have been regularly elected to leadership posts in APA California as well as at the National, Chapter, Section and affiliate levels.



Jeffrey Lambert, FAICP

## YOUNG AND EMERGING PLANNERS SACRAMENTO VALLEY LEADS THE WAY

In early 2008, the Sacramento Valley Section sought to prioritize its students and young planners. Around the same time, National APA commissioned the *APA National Young Planners Task Force* to investigate how APA could address their education and professional development needs. These conversations culminated at the 2008 National Conference with both recommendations to the APA Board and a session entitled, "The Next Generation of Planners."

Later that summer, Sacramento Valley began organizing its own YPG program, which would become the first in the nation. By October, 2008 the Section sponsored its first YPG event. More than 50 young professionals and students attended to socialize, network, and voice their support.

Another meeting followed in November 2008, communicating the goals of YPG and asking for input on activities. Subcommittees were launched addressing mentoring and professional development, technical programming, philanthropy, membership, networking, and planning for the 2009 APA California conference near Lake Tahoe.

Interest increased quickly nationwide. To address growing demand, in 2009 the Sacramento Valley YPG published the first "Guide to Young Planners Groups," under the leadership of Ted Holzem (YPG Director) and Jamie Cutlip (YPG Co-

Director), with support from Sacramento Valley Section Director Julia Lave Johnston.

At the 2009 APA National Conference in Minneapolis, the Young Planners task force and the Sacramento Valley Section YPG presented its second task force report, "Blueprint for Change" and provided the "Guide to Young Planners Groups" to the APA Board. It offered organizational recommendations and next steps to develop YPGs within APA's existing framework.

With more APA chapters and sections wanting to establish YPGs, an updated edition of the 2009 "Guide" was prepared by a Working Group, led by Tristan J. Osborn, AICP and Tracey Ferguson, AICP. The draft "Guide to Young Planners Groups 2.0" was shared with leadership at the 2014 National Conference in Atlanta; by September 2015, it was officially released by APA National.

For 15 years, the Sacramento Valley Section has been a pioneer, helping other APA chapters and sections create their own YPG programs. Roughly half of APA's 47 chapters have established YPGs, some going by names such as Young and Emerging Professionals (YEP), Emerging Planning Leaders (EPL), Emerging Planning Professionals (EPP), and Emerging Professionals Group (EPGs). All eight California Chapter sections have YEP and/or student groups.





UC Berkeley, Bauer Wurster Hall. In 1948, UC Berkeley founded a uniquely Californian planning program addressing urban growth. Its founders establish Telesis, the "first volunteer group to bring multiple fields together successfully in a comprehensive approach to environmental development in a regional context."  
Source: Chloe Carnes

# CALIFORNIA'S PLANNING SCHOOLS

*Planning Education Comes of Age in California*

By Linda C. Dalton, PhD, FAICP  
Professor Emerita, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

**t**he 75th anniversary of APA California also marks the 75th anniversary of formal planning education in California. The University of California established the Department of City and Regional Planning in 1948 – among the earliest planning degree programs in the US and the first on the west coast. Now, fourteen universities in California offer twenty-three planning degrees at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels, together enrolling over 1500 students each year from a wide range of backgrounds. California has more accredited professional planning programs than any other state; just as it has more APA members than any other state.

The number of planning programs in California has increased over the past 75 years, with most established during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Master's degree programs came first, followed by the undergraduate and doctoral levels. Urban riots in the 1960s (Watts 1965) and the Santa Barbara oil spill (1969) triggered public interest and student engagement in planning.

Initially, most planning programs were small, and most faculty and students were white males – with the notable exception of housing policy expert and public housing

advocate Catherine Bauer Wurster who was a lecturer at UC Berkeley in the 1950s. Student and faculty composition has changed dramatically since then. In 2021, 55 percent of the students in California's accredited planning programs were women; 42 percent White, 16 percent Asian-American, and nearly 9 percent International. Hispanic students of any of race constituted nearly one-third of all students. Women faculty comprised 49 percent of full-time faculty. About 70 percent of the faculty were White and 15 percent Asian – and nearly 11 percent Hispanic of any race. However, only 5 percent of the students and faculty were Black or African American.



The distinctive facade of Cal Poly Pomona's College of Environmental Design, built during a period of rapid growth in urban and regional planning programs. Source: Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Cal Poly Pomona.

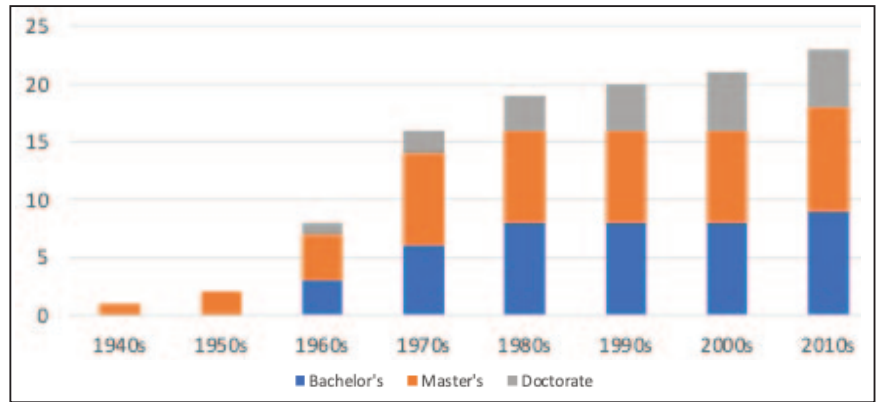
## CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROFESSION

Planning degree programs in California do a lot more than prepare students for professional practice and involvement in APA and AICP. First, they are part of a global planning education and research network, which enriches the profession in California just as it influences planning practice elsewhere. While

## TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Formal planning degrees, however, are only part of the story. Nationally, about half of the APA members have degrees in related fields, and California is similar. Many planning programs started as individual courses or concentrations in related disciplines, and these fields continue to contribute to the profession. Thirty-two public and private universities in California offer about fifty undergraduate and ten graduate programs in environmental studies, geography, urban studies, other social sciences, architecture, landscape architecture, and public policy. These programs often include planning courses (and occasionally areas of concentration) which expose students to planning and motivate some to attend a graduate program or enter the field directly.

**California Planning Programs by Founding Decade and Degree Level**



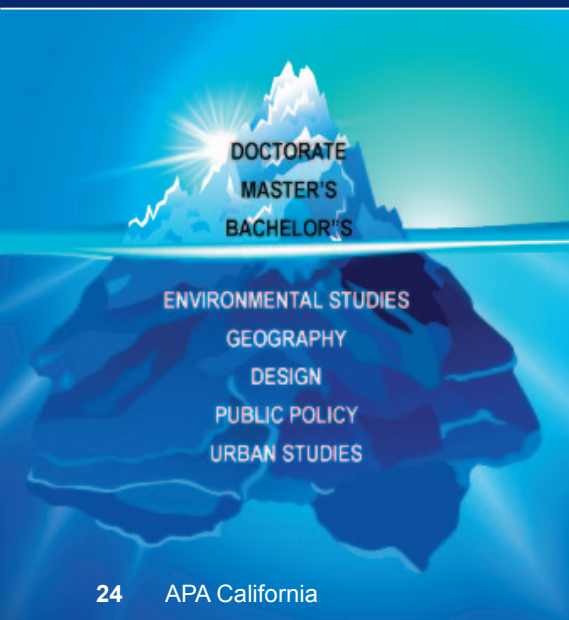
**California Planning Programs by Founding Decade and Degree Level\*\***

	Bachelor's		Master's		Doctorate		Totals
1940s			UC, Berkeley	MCP*			1
1950s			USC	MUP*			1
1960s	CP, Pomona CP, San Luis Obispo San Francisco State	BSURP* BSCR* BA, US&P	San Diego State UCLA	MCP* MURP*	UC, Berkeley	PhD	6
1970s	UC, Davis CSU, Northridge Sonoma State	BS, EPAP BA, US&P BA, ESGP	CP, Pomona San Jose State CP, San Luis Obispo CSU, Fresno	MURP* MUP* MCRP* MCRP**	UCLA	PhD	8
1980s	UC, San Diego USC	BA, US&P BS, PPD			USC	PhD	3
1990s			UC, Irvine	MURP*	UC, Irvine	PhD	2
2000s					USC	DPPD	1
2010s	CSU, Fresno	BSCR*	CSU, Northridge	MUP			2
Totals		9		10 (9)**		5	24 (23)**
Accredited*		2		8			10
Notes							
* Professional program accredited by Planning Accreditation Board (not relevant for PhD).							
** MCRP at CSU Fresno was discontinued in the early 1990s.							
*** This table includes programs with planning in the name of the degree, using the current abbreviation.							

some California planners are "home grown," the state draws students, faculty, and practitioners from this larger network, and students educated in California planning schools become planners and planning educators in other parts of the US and around the world.

Planning programs in California support the profession and the communities served by planners in additional ways:

- Offering professional development and civic education programs – e.g., extension programs, AICP preparation and planning commissioner workshops;
- Developing planning ideas and techniques – e.g., influential applied research by advanced students and planning school faculty;
- Archiving planning documents and other artifacts – e.g., CSU Northridge, APA California Archive;
- Providing leadership for planning organizations – e.g., serving as officers or board members in APA California, California Planning Foundation (CPF), California Planning Roundtable (CPR);
- Sponsoring internships, student projects, and studios that often serve communities that would not otherwise be able to afford planning assistance;
- Housing applied research and community assistance centers; and
- Spinning off policy research organizations – e.g., Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).







The atrium of the College of Environmental Design at Cal Poly Pomona, which houses planning, architecture, landscape architecture and art programs. Source: Cal Poly Pomona

## Distinct Patterns Woven from Common Threads

Each planning school has a distinct history and identity within a larger set of patterns or themes that draw from related disciplines as well as the field of planning itself. In all cases programs emerged incrementally, typically starting with a single course, then becoming an area of concentration – often years before the university approved a formal degree at the master's or bachelor's level. Organizational independence as an academic department or school usually came later, sometimes as a combined department with a closely related program.

### DESIGN TRADITION

Six of California's planning schools arose in universities with an architecture and/or landscape architecture program. Three of them continue to be housed in colleges of environmental design – UC Berkeley, Cal Poly Pomona, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

T.J. Kent, Jr. credits Lewis Mumford's book, *The Culture of Cities* (published in 1938), with stimulating interest in urban planning by then UC Berkeley president Robert Sproul and other Bay area leaders. He also recognizes Bay area architect William Wurster's support for establishing the UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning and the first master's degree in California in 1948. Kent, well-known as San Francisco planning director and author of *The Urban General Plan* (1964), was the founding director. In 1950 Wurster became dean of the School of Architecture, and the College of Environmental Design was established in 1959. UC Berkeley added the first PhD program in planning in California in 1968.

Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo initiated their planning programs at the undergraduate level in 1967 and 1968, respectively – the first (and only accredited) undergraduate planning degrees in the state. Pomona's program emerged from landscape architecture, and San Luis Obispo's from architecture and urban design. Both universities initiated their master's degree programs a few years later, and the curriculum at both levels emphasizes hands-on learning. In 1970, a planner, William Dale, became the founding dean of the School of Environmental Design at Cal Poly Pomona (renamed the College of Environmental Design in 1988). Professor Margarita McCoy at Cal Poly Pomona was the first woman to chair a university planning department in the United States (1977-83). Cal Poly San Luis Obispo appointed William Howard as the first full-time head of the City and Regional Planning Department in 1980.

The other three planning schools in universities with architecture and/or landscape architecture subsequently became affiliated with public policy – USC, UCLA, and UC Davis.



Cal Poly San Luis Obispo grad students sharing their ideas for the new campus master plan with President Jeff Armstrong, May 2015. Source: Linda Dalton

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The undergraduate program at Sonoma State is in a unique department encompassing geography, environmental studies, and planning in the School of Social Sciences. The program was founded by a biologist and a political scientist in 1972 who were apparently inspired by Ian McHarg's book, *Design with Nature* (published in 1969). Planning and environmental studies were linked in the name of the department from the outset. Even though the founders were not planners, they advocated for an applied degree that focused on the physical environment – a visionary perspective underscoring the importance of the environment to the field of planning.

UC Irvine offers a doctoral degree in planning (started in 1997) as well as a professional master's degree (first offered in 1992) with a strong interdisciplinary emphasis. The UCI Urban Planning and Public Policy Founders' Room plaque honors Danial Stokols and Luis Suarez-Villa as the Social Ecology faculty members who envisioned the MURP program in 1988-89. The planning department emerged as the School of Social Ecology was breaking into departments and became home to faculty who had research interests in environmental analysis and design. Subsequently, UCI brought in new faculty with more conventional planning backgrounds to build the professional master's program along with the PhD.

Both UC Irvine and San Francisco State embody the relationship between social science and public policy, as represented by the names of their departments and organizational setting. UC Irvine's Department of Urban Planning and Public Policy is part of the School of Social Ecology. San Francisco State's Urban Studies and Planning Program is in the School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement within the College of Health and Social Sciences.



University of California, Irvine, School of Social Ecology.

## PUBLIC POLICY

The University of Southern California offered planning courses starting in the 1920s – taught by Gordon Whitnall, who was also the first planning director for the City of Los Angeles. The USC schools of Public Administration and Architecture and Fine Arts initiated the master's degree in planning in 1955 (the second in California). In 1964 Ira Robinson became director of the program, and Jack Dyckman established the PhD in 1983. USC launched the first formal School of Planning in the US in 1974 (initially called the School of Planning and Urban Studies). In 1998 planning merged with public administration to form the Sol Price School of Public Policy. USC is the only California planning school to offer planning degrees at all levels – undergraduate, master's, PhD and professional doctorate (Doctor of Policy, Planning, and Development).

UCLA recruited Harvey Perloff, a prominent national figure in planning education in Chicago, as founding dean of the College of Architecture and Planning at UCLA in 1968. UCLA introduced its master's degree in 1969 (initially a Master of Arts in Urban Planning, later Master of Urban and Regional Planning) with planning theorist, John Friedmann, as head of the program. UCLA added the PhD program in 1970. In 1994 the UCLA Urban Planning Department became part of the separate School of Public Affairs, which was named for donors Meyer and Renee Luskin in 2011.



The Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA, home to its urban planning program. Source: Roberto Gudino

The undergraduate program at UC Davis emerged from the university's landscape architecture program, then became part of a separate Department of Environmental Science and Policy, while continuing to be housed in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. With the passage of the California Environmental Policy Act in 1970, environmental analysis became one of the program's strengths. In addition, UC Davis is known for its professional development courses and professional certificate in Land Use and Environmental Planning founded by Michael McCoy in 1982 and offered through the university's continuing and professional education program.

San Diego State University began offering courses in public administration in 1948 as a certificate program which became an undergraduate degree in the 1950s. In the late 1960s the university formed the School of Public Administration and Urban Studies (later renamed as the School of Public Affairs) to house public administration,



an undergraduate program in criminal justice, and the Master of City Planning degree. James Clapp was hired as the founding coordinator of the MCP program in 1968. The university's undergraduate major in urban studies is in the College of Arts and Letters.

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF PLANNING EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

Most of the universities with planning and related programs are clustered in the state's urban areas along the coast:

- Los Angeles and Orange counties – 5 universities with planning degrees and 6 with related programs
- San Francisco Bay area – 4 universities with planning degrees and 5 with related programs
- San Diego County – 2 universities with planning degrees and 1 with a related program

In contrast, the entire Sacramento Valley area has only one university with a planning degree and two with related programs; the Central Coast, one university with planning degrees and one with a related program; the Inland Empire, two universities with related programs; the Central Valley, one with a planning degree, and the northern coast, one with a related program. Relatively more of the geography, public policy, and design-related planning programs are in the Los Angeles area while relatively more environmental and urban studies programs are in northern California.

The programs in less populated and inland areas tend to be represented by planning concentrations in related disciplines rather than full degrees, except for the long-standing programs at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and UC Davis. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is the only university outside an urban area to offer accredited professional bachelor's and master's degrees in planning.

In addition, planning programs in inland areas have not been consistently available over time. For example, CSU Fresno's MCRP was in an independent department in the 1980s, then moved into the political science department before being discontinued in the 1990s. Then, urban studies became a minor in geography at CSU Fresno. The university added its BSCR program in 2017 and renamed the department to Geography and City and Regional Planning. CSU Bakersfield discontinued its urban studies program in the sociology department in 2016.

Of course, students interested in planning are not necessarily bound by their regional origin, and inland planning agencies and firms can recruit widely. However, CSU campuses draw heavily from their local areas and many agencies hire local talent without a planning background. As a result, regions with fewer planning and related programs are under-served by planning education and experience fewer of the benefits that other contributions that planning programs make to the profession – particularly student internships, projects and studios, and community service programs that tend to be located near host universities.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

Planning degree programs in universities without architecture or landscape architecture programs emerged from the social sciences and continue to be affiliated with programs in geography, urban studies or urban affairs, and/or environmental studies. Many of them are in combined departments in social science colleges, and some of them struggle with defending the integrity and identity of an multi-disciplinary applied field among more traditional disciplines. The undergraduate program at CSU Fresno and the graduate program at San Jose State are in geography and planning departments. The undergraduate programs at CSU Northridge, San Francisco State, and UC San Diego are in urban studies and planning departments, along with the master's degree program at CSU Northridge.

The master's degree program at San Jose State is the only accredited planning program in a traditional social science college in California. Its founding director was William Spangle, a former member of the AIP Board of Directors and National Planning Pioneer. Donald Rothblatt was the first faculty chair. The program takes pride in its urban location in Silicon Valley and in providing education for a diverse student population. The San Jose State planning faculty collaborate with the university's Mineta Transportation Institute.



UC San Diego Urban Studies and Planning 2020 graduates.  
Source: Melanie Monroe Photography

### A Note on Sources

*The primary sources of information about planning education in California include the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Planning Accreditation Board, university websites and catalogs, planning schools' anniversary publications, and email correspondence and interviews with representatives of planning and related degree programs.*



APA California 2018 Conference, San Diego. Source: Dudek

# 60 YEARS OF CONFERENCES

## *California Conferences Set the Pace for APA California's Growth*

California's APA Conferences have long been highly regarded, offering a variety of experiences second only to the National Planning Conference itself. But if you're joining for the first time, you might be surprised to know how far our conferences have come in the 75 years since APA California was founded as California Chapter of the American Institute of Planners in 1948.

### **Early 'Annual Meetings' Reflect a New and Growing Organization**

The first evidence we have of a statewide planning conference comes to us from 1934, when a photo of the State's leading planners was taken during a meeting of the California Planners Institute at the Hotel Del Monte in Monterey, a structure that became the Naval Postgraduate School in 1952. An image, reprinted in a 1960s newsletter, features about 50 older males, all white, in baggy suits, posed for a "class photo" on the hotel lawn.

We don't have any other record until 1947, when the organizers of the newly forming California Chapter of AIP conducted their annual meeting at the Wolf Hotel in Stockton, an event which included a tour of the port and a talk by the Division of Highways. There were only around 100 members in all of California, and undoubtedly many fewer in attendance at the meeting; these were modest, low-budget affairs.

We also know there was a 1959 annual meeting in Santa Cruz. Early newsletters often carried summaries of what was discussed at these events. These were much smaller, more intimate affairs that could often be accommodated in California's mid-size cities.

### **Annual Meetings Become 'Conferences' in the 1960s**

The rapid growth of the profession is apparent by 1960. Nationally, the American Institute of Planners had grown to 17 chapters and a \$100,000 budget. (Adjusted for inflation over time, that national organization's 1960 budget would be worth \$727,000 today – about equal to APA California's current budget alone.) That year appears to have been about the time that the tradition of "annual meetings" morphed into our modern conception of a conference, with the 1960 event being held February 4-7 at the Hotel Claremont in Berkeley. California AIP had roughly 500 members at the time.

On June 9, 1960 the Chapter hosted a special conference – "The Future of Development in California" – with state associations, cities, counties, and Chambers of Commerce throughout California. That conference was held at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

These conferences were time capsules reflecting the values of their time. The Chapter's February, 1961 event, held at the Lafayette Hotel in Long Beach Feb. 10-12, included a slide show on European planning by the late Si Eisner; a



transportation seminar by Larry Wilson; and discussions of the nuclear age, performance standards, public relations, planning commissions, and urban renewal. A separate "ladies' program" included a visit to a luxury liner, a harbor tour on the Shearwater, breakfast at the Captain's Inn, a champagne luncheon and fashion show, and a farewell breakfast at the hotel.

By 1962, both membership and conference attendance were growing. "Change, Challenge and response," the 1962 conference, drew between 200 and 300 attendees, an amazing number given the fact that total California Chapter membership that year was only 540 members. Organizers were pleased with the turnout despite pouring rain. A focus of discussions was a panel exploring how to reverse racial segregation, the first time this topic appears in our documents.

1963 marked the conference's first appearance at the Disneyland Hotel. The conference, held February 7-9, was titled, "Planning '63: Fact or Fantasy?" Planners must have loved it: we've had two conferences there since, in 1982, 2014, and another in Anaheim in 2022.

As the years progressed, conferences became more focused and the issues have become more controversial. The year 1964 brought planners to Sacramento February 13-15 for an event themed, "The Environment: Whose Responsibility?"

### San Diego Proves Popular over the Years

The first State conference hosted in San Diego appears to have been in 1965 (February 10-13), five years after the San Diego Section was formed. The conference featured tours of Sea World and the Tijuana Club, as well as a cruise and dinner on San Diego Bay. San Diego has proved a popular destination, with the conference returning here in 1970, 1979, 1994 and 2002 (which gets my vote for best marketing slogan: "Plan Diego... Because It's a Zoo Out There.")

1967 marked the 50th anniversary of AIP, and with it the Chapter held "The Next 50 Years: Growth and the California Environment," with a 97-page booklet of conference proceedings issued that year. But the cost and complexity of issuing annual conference proceedings has caused that practice to subside, and new technologies have allowed downloadable, digital versions to emerge.

The state conference moved to Riverside the following year, where "Social Issues in Planning" was the focus of an event at the historic Mission Inn March 27-30.

In 1970 the conference returned to San Diego, held March 19-22 at the Ramada Inn harbor Island and tied to San Diego's bicentennial; Los Angeles followed a similar design when it hosted the 1981 conference in recognition of Los Angeles' bicentennial.

"In the Midst of Great Change, a New Spirit" was the theme of a meeting held at the old Senator Hotel in Sacramento, April 21-24.

We didn't find a record of a conference in 1980, which was the year that the National APA Conference was held in San Francisco. Perhaps because that conference was held at the same time that the Chapter's event would otherwise have occurred, 1981 may have marked the first year that the Chapter's conference moved to a fall date, October 21-24.

1982 marked the conference's second visit to Anaheim, and an early hint at a trend that is new once again: "Public Private Partnerships, Planning's Wave of the Future," September 19-22 at the Disneyland Hotel.

## 1966 THE FUTURE OF THE CENTRAL CITY

In 1966, California AIP hosted its first ever midyear Policy Conference in Monterey, September 30 - October 1. But the Chapter's big show that year was February 10-12 in Fresno, titled "The Future of the Central City," and neatly timed to the development of Fresno's landmark downtown mall (which opened in 1964). That year the Chapter issued a 59-page book of conference proceedings edited by Robert R. Bolt.



*Fulton Mall in Fresno, California, ca. 1966. This pedestrian mall and urban park in downtown Fresno was created by excluding vehicles from six blocks of Fulton Street as well as some segments of streets that transected Fulton. The mall was designed by Garrett Eckbo as the centerpiece of the plan by Victor Gruen and Associates to transform Fresno's downtown area.*

*Source: Victor Gruen Papers (5809), American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming*



APA California 2022 Conference, Anaheim. Source: APA California

# 60 YEARS OF CONFERENCES

## Conference Evolves to Meet Challenges, Expand Horizons

The changing spirit of the profession in the challenging years after Prop 13 is evident in the evolving themes and locations of the conference, as the conference moved out of traditional hotels into settings consistent with new understandings about the environment:

- The 1983 conference theme, "Planning in the '80s: Survival or Opportunity," jointly conducted with the Nevada Chapter at Stanford Camp, Lake Tahoe. While too small for today's large APA conferences, a smaller regional "Sierra Retreat" conference initiated by Central Section in 1991 drew many planners over the years to its more intimate, manageable event.
- In 1985, in a new twist, the Chapter went "Back to School" with a conference held on campus at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Attendees had the option of staying in student dorms, and meals were served in the university's student dining room.
- The 1986 conference marked the first Chapter conference held at Yosemite National Park ("Come to the Park," October 2-5).

Returning to more familiar urban settings, San Diego hosted the 1987

conference at the InterContinental Hotel, August 19-21.

Representing this period of uncertainty, the 1987 theme was "Who's Doing the Planning?" Likewise, the 1988 conference asked attendees to focus on "Hard Choices," which may have seemed a misnomer for a conference held in Palm Springs (October 23-26).

But looking ahead, the 1989 conference took planners to San Jose for the first time (September 12-15) experience "The Pacific Rim: The Next 20 Years," held at the then-new Fairmont

Hotel. In a year where the Chapter's membership had reached 3,800, the chapter celebrated a conference that had more than 800 attendees.

The year 1991 brought "On the Edge" (October 20-23), to the Sacramento Convention Center. With Chapter membership approaching 5,000 for the first time, the 1991 conference would have marked the first ever keynote appearance by a California Governor. And Governor Pete Wilson did attend the conference, but his planned announcement of a statewide growth strategy was overshadowed by the Oakland Hills Fire, causing the keynote address to become a media appearance as the Governor sought instead to reassure a worried State and Bay Area as the devastating fire blazed through the Oakland Hills.



*Generations of planners have enjoyed conferences like this one in Newport Beach in 1990. The annual conference photo essay was a staple of CalPlanner in the 1980s and early 1990s. Source: CalPlanner, Zebra Communications.*



## 2007 PROFESSIONAL SHEEN COMES TO CONFERENCES



APA California 2009 Conference, Lake Tahoe

### New Cities Become Conference Hosts

As more and more mid-size cities saw the development of larger hotels, the Chapter's conference had new flexibility to visit smaller communities. Pasadena hosted the state conference for the first time in 1992 with "Celebrate the Spirit of Planning," held at the Doubletree Hotel and boosting attendance to more than 900.

Modesto hosted its first conference in 1993, choosing "Going for the Gold: Maintaining California's Competitive Edge." The reunion was held at the Red Lion Inn October 3-6. And San Diego once again delivered a memorable conference in 1994 when it hosted "Edges, Borders and New Frontiers" at the Princess Resort in San Diego; attendees particularly liked the conference program, which was designed to resemble a passport cover.

Starting with the 1995 conference, Santa Barbara's then-new Fess Parker Resort became a popular conference destination, hosting "Redefining Paradise: California's Challenge," September 30 - October 3. As the largest available facility in Central Coast section, it's been the site of conferences in 2003 and 2011 as well.

For the Millennium, California hosted APA's national leadership, as well as the Nevada Chapter of APA, at a "Region VI" conference held at the Long Beach Hilton. Themed "Reaching Out, Building Bridges," the conference capitalized on the events of the year 2000. A spectacular opening reception at the Aquarium of the Pacific featured a Polynesian village manufactured by Chapter volunteers from palm tree clippings supplied by a local city. And since the conference also served as a fall leadership meeting for National APA, special arrangements were made to provide dignitaries a tour of the new Getty Museum in Brentwood.

With growing attendance, larger venues and increased complexity, APA California began the slow process of moving from a conference staged fully by volunteers to one assisted by professionals. Modern conference committees form two years before a conference launch, and professional conference organizers now manage certain aspects of conference preparation.

The 2007 conference (September 30 – October 3) marked another notable year, as the annual conference at San Jose's Fairmont broke all attendance records to that time, reaching 1400 attendees.

Over the past 15 years, California's conferences today have grown to feature a wide array of activities – including an annual diversity summit and events uniquely tailored to students and commissioners – never contemplated in the organization's early years.

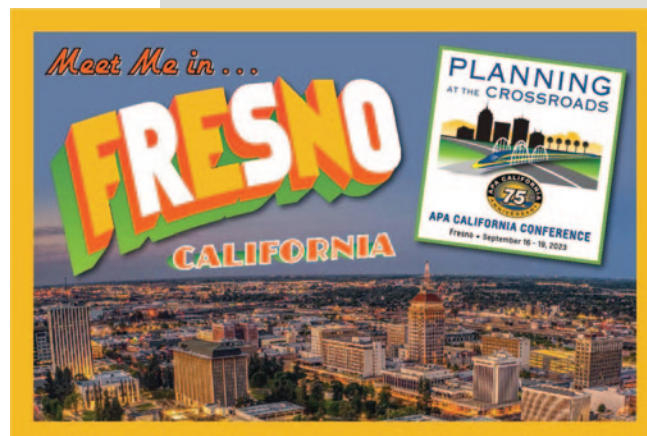
APA California marked its 60th anniversary in 2008 with "Lights, Planning, Action," its first visit to Hollywood. Among its firsts: a giant illuminated APA logo that sprouted over Hollywood Boulevard. The closing plenary took conferees to the spectacularly restored El Capitan Theatre for a closing address that featured a popcorn cart and an organ salute on the house's Mighty Wurlitzer. And an anniversary luncheon saluted the organization's success.

APA's 2017 Conference returned to Pasadena, this time at the Convention Center, for an event that featured an opening reception in the shadow of Pasadena's Rococo City Hall building for a street fair. The conference generated record profits of nearly \$350,000.

San Diego hosted a stunning conference in 2018 for APA California's 70th anniversary, an event which included the unveiling of a 16-foot long timeline of our history. But these successful conferences were soon eclipsed by the 2020-2022 pandemic, which resulted in two live conferences being canceled and virtual conferences being developed to replace them. The 2022 conference in Anaheim was hybrid with both live and virtual schedules.

This year, we return to our roots in Fresno for our fifth visit (1955, 1956, 1966, 1975 and 2023), a location at the heart of California's vast agricultural wealth, and a growing metropolitan area that faces the opportunities and challenges common to cities throughout the

State. "At the Crossroads" will include special activities focusing on the arrival of high-speed rail to the Valley, as well as an opening reception at the famous Fresno Zoo, and a host of activities marking APA California's 75th anniversary.



# HOW PLANNING BECAME LAW

For more than 40 years, APA California has had a presence in Sacramento. California was among the first chapters to engage a professional lobbyist to support the planning movement, and today it has the most advanced statewide legislative program of APA's 47 chapters.

Today, more than 2,500 bills may be introduced each year in the State Legislature, and often 350 or more of them deal with some aspect of planning or land use. The work of carrying APA California's position forth is today carried out by Erik de Kok, Vice President for Legislation and Policy and our lobbyist, Lauren de Valencia y Sanchez.



Lauren De Valencia

But before 1984, when Sande George became the Chapter's lobbyist and executive director, it wasn't always that way.

California enacted laws governing land use many years before modern conceptions of planning were understood. According to Peter Detwiler and Larry Mintier's research, the first California land use law occurred in 1863, when the Legislature authorized San Francisco to regulate land use for public health & safety.

While today we can be proud of our impact on important bills in Sacramento, we haven't always been successful. In 1960 the Chapter supported an effort to license planners – an initiative that ran astray when engineers opposed any such bill, introducing their own bill that would allow only those professionals to be involved in land subdivision and related planning activities. Even today, only one state – New Jersey – licenses planners, and one other – Michigan – has a statewide planner registration law.

Even in the heyday of planning legislation, the 1970s, California Chapter AIP's all-volunteer State and Local Affairs program would not have been able to keep up with the explosion in planning laws. By establishing the California Planning Roundtable in 1980, the Chapter sought to create a think tank to address statewide planning issues in a way that the Chapter, driven by membership needs and immediate lobbying demands, could not. But more was needed, and that led to the acquisition of professional lobbying services to make sure that the voices of the planning movement are heard.

In the mid-1980s, Cal Chapter supported a bill that would restructure California general plan law, only to see it battered over two years to pass as a greatly diminished act to eliminate two previously required general plan elements. That battle, told by former Staff Director of the Assembly Local Government Committee Peter Detwiler, was serialized in a *CalPlanner* series entitled, "The Tree in the Windstorm."

For three decades starting in the 1990s, APA California's legislative review teams – open to all interested members – received and debated stacks of planning bills to establish APA

California's policies, with the board weighing in when the state's two legislative review teams (one in Northern California, one in Southern) failed to reach agreement or identified a bill as requiring full board action.



VP for State and Local Affairs Janet Ruggiero and Executive Director Sande George ponder bills in 1981. Source: *CalPlanner* photo

That decade also marked the "Action Agenda for the '90s," the first of a series of legislative platforms now appearing as "Plan California." Today those same activities are often carried out over Zoom conferences, but the result is the same: useful guidance from planners on the ground, informing our lobbyist how to respond to legislation that could help or hurt the cause of good planning.

Over the years APA California members have served on multiple task forces to reform CEQA, address housing needs, improve transportation and infrastructure, and address a host of other initiatives. A big victory occurred in 2002, when APA's AB 857 (Wiggins/Sher, 2003), which established and integrated statewide planning and sustainability goals, was signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis. Writing in *The Planning Report* at the time, Nick Bollman of the California Center for Regional Leadership wrote:

*... It's my judgment that AB 857 is the culmination and the capstone of a growing movement toward better planning and investment in California. AB 857 really captures the best ideas of a movement that has grown very strong across the public and private sectors. (The Planning Report, 12-16-03)*

Legislators had generated an array of new bills that quickly surpassed AB 857, leading to the SB 375 (2006), the Sustainable Communities Act and its broad array of sustainability and climate goals. APA California was on the ground for each new initiative, ensuring that the interests of planners and communities were at the table.

The Chapter also plays an important role in forming National APA's positions on planning policy, participating in the annual delegate assembly, policy conference, Planner's Day on the Hill, and APA's "policy guides."

And we're still there today, tracking more than 350 planning-related bills each year and actively lobbying more than 50, collaborating with other interests to craft good bills and improve or reject poor legislation.



# TELLING THE PLANNING STORY

## *The Many Faces of California Planner*

For more than two generations, California planners turned to *CalPlanner* for everything from legislative updates to colorful conference previews. But the Chapter's longtime publication of record did not start with such an auspicious beginning.

As the California Chapter of AIP took shape in 1947, the Chapter's newsletter, called *Perspective*, was a modest, stencil-cut and mimeographed document stapled and mailed to the Chapter's small mailing list of perhaps 100 individuals. These earliest records of our existence were typewritten, lacked graphics or photography, and never contained the longer, feature pieces that most people would associate with the publication today.

For parts of the 1950s we have little record of the newsletter, but by 1960 the Chapter's newsletter – now called, with occasional variation, *AIP CalChapter News* – was beginning to stretch its wings. The printed newsletter occasionally featured a fold-out graphic with a map of the state and various officers, committees or initiatives displayed graphically. Photos were few and far between in these early issues, and much of the news that would today be contained in Section newsletters appeared as brief entries submitted by the three Sections then existing (Northern, Central and Southern). Over the next decade that would change as the number of planners grew, new Sections were formed, and sections began publishing their own newsletters.

By the mid 1960s, the publication had taken on a more polished appearance, and photos occasionally appeared. A 1962 "Special Conference Issue," produced for the arrival of the National Planning Conference in Los Angeles, featured a photo of Chapter President Ed Holden. But images were relatively few, and except for the addition of occasional highlight color, all issues were in black and white.

The 1970s brought a period when the newsletter assumed a modest, streamlined character, but in the 1980s under new leadership that sought to strengthen communication, professional editing and design were introduced. From the mid 1980s to the mid 1990s under the eye of Vonnie Madigan, *CalPlanner* became a stylish publication on coated stock, with increasing numbers of thoughtful articles.

Popular features included interviews with candidates for California governor, and an annual post-conference photo spread highlighting the state's successful conferences. One of the most highly regarded pieces was written by Peter Detwiler, then consultant to the Assembly Local Government Committee, whose serialized account of the doomed effort to reform California's general plan law, "A Tree in the Windstorm," confronted planners with the challenges they face when trying to reform planning laws.

With the appointment of Dorina Blythe in the 1990s, *CalPlanner* further developed its emphasis on design and photography, increased its use of accent color, and developed full color content for conferences. With a conversion to digital publication in 2009 that greatly virtually eliminated mailing and printing costs, *CalPlanner* grew in sophistication and size, with issues growing to as much as 36 pages – and full color issues.

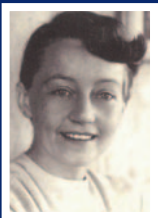
As social media have grown to dominate the landscape, the utility of publications like *California Planner* – which takes substantial time to write, edit, design and publish – has decreased, and the organization is moving increasingly to electronic newsletters and social media to provide immediate, user-friendly communications. Today, *CalPlanner* is being phased out, replaced by our e-News and social media ... a far way from the days when *CalPlanner* arrived monthly in member mailboxes, often routed around the office for consumption. But the spirit of the publication remains a memorable part of our history.



# APA CALIFORNIA'S PLANNING PIONEERS

Karl Belzer  
Charles H Cheney \*  
Paul Crawford  
Daniel Curtin  
Simon Eisner \*  
T J Kent Jr. \*  
Jack and Laura Dangermond  
Corwin Mocine \*  
Margarita Piel McCoy\*  
John Nolen\*  
Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr.\*  
Harvey Perloff\*  
Save San Francisco Bay  
Ladislav Sego\*  
Mel Scott \*  
Donald Shoup\*  
William Spangle\*  
Telesis\*  
Francis Violich \*  
Martin Wachs  
Sidney Williams  
Michael Woo  
Gordon Whitnall\*  
Catherine Bauer Wurster\*

\* California Planning Pioneers who were also recognized as National Planning Pioneers.



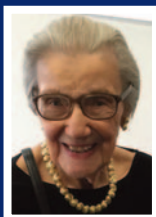
Catherine Bauer Wurster



Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr.



Donald Shoup



Margarita Piel McCoy

# CALIFORNIA PLANNING LANDMARKS

- 1988** | *Formation of the East Bay Regional Park District and Master Plan (1934)*
- 1989** | *San Francisco Zoning Ordinance (1867)*  
*Master Plan of the City of Riverside (1928-1929)*
- 1990** | *Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission Master Plans for Highways and Freeways (1940, 1943)*
- 1992** | *Rancho Santa Fe Association and Rancho Santa Fe Protective Covenant*
- 1994** | *Napa County/Cities First Comprehensive Plan, Implementation and Agricultural Preserve*
- 1996** | *City of Petaluma's Environmental Design Plan (1971)*  
*Village Green (Historic Name: Baldwin Hills Village), (1943)*
- 1997** | *Nevada City Historic Preservation Ordinance; St. Francis Woods Plan - San Francisco (1912)*
- 1998** | *Establishment of the Bay Conservation Commission and Creation of the San Francisco Bay Plan (1965-1969); California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) (1985)*
- 1999** | *Founding of the Department of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley (1948-49)*
- 2000** | *Telesis (1939-1950s)*
- 2003** | *City of Lakewood Plan (1950)*
- 2005** | *Save San Francisco Bay*
- 2012** | *Bennett Plan, Pasadena (1924)*
- 2012** | *California Coastal Program*
- 2014** | *San Francisco Bay Trail*
- 2019** | *Los Angeles Centers Concept (1970)*
- 2020** | *50th Anniversary of the UCLA Urban Planning Program*



UC Berkeley received the 1999 Planning Landmark Award, 50 years after the founding of its program.

\* California Planning Landmarks that are also recognized as National Planning Landmarks are italicized.



*Bennett Plan, Pasadena (1924), Source: APA Planning Landmark Award Nomination.*

# FAICP MEMBERS

Issued by American Institute of Certified Planners, the Fellows of AICP (FAICP) are nominated and selected by their peers to recognize and honor their outstanding contributions as professional planners. We are proud to honor and recognize the California members of the Fellows.

## Central Coast

Paul Crawford\*  
Jeffrey Lambert  
Carl Morehouse  
Ken Topping

## Inland Empire

Al Zelinka

## Los Angeles

Kurt Christianson  
Julianna Delgado  
Joseph Edmiston  
Stanley R. Hoffman\*  
Alan Kreditor\*  
Clement K. H. Lau  
Margarita Piel McCoy\*  
Larry Morrison  
Robert Paternoster  
Steve Preston  
Richard Pruetz  
Marsha Rood  
David Salazar  
Donald Shoup  
Linda Tatum  
Brian Taylor  
Ken Topping\*  
Frank Wein\*  
Richard Willson\*  
Mark Winogrand

## Northern

Karen Alschuler  
David Bess  
Fred Collignon  
Elaine Costello  
Betty Croly\*  
Linda Dalton  
Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore  
John Dugan  
David Early  
Ellen Greenberg  
Daniel Iacofano  
Thomas Jacobson

Laurie Johnson  
Vivian Kahn  
Barbara Kautz  
Naphtali Knox  
Dean Macris  
George Mader\*  
Barry Miller  
Kathrin Moore  
Robert Olshansky  
Gary Schoennauer  
Paul Sedway  
Susan Stoddard  
Elizabeth Tyler  
Hing Wong

## Orange

Robert Dannenbrink  
Susan Harden  
Margo Wheeler  
Anna Pehoushek

## Sacramento

Al Herson  
Celia McAdam  
J. Laurence (Larry) Mintier\*  
Janet Ruggiero  
Heidi Tschudin

## San Diego

William Anderson  
Jeff Bridges  
S. Gail Goldberg  
Robert Leiter  
Cary Lowe  
Betsy McCullough  
Brian Mooney  
Susan R. "Sue" Peerson  
Celeste Carmela Werner  
Paul Zucker\*

## \*In Memoriam

*This list was as complete as our records would allow, as AICP does not maintain AICP members on their website after death. If you know of an FAICP member not included on this list, please contact the Chapter Historians, [historians@apacalifornia.org](mailto:historians@apacalifornia.org).*

# APA CALIFORNIA'S GREAT PLACES IN CALIFORNIA



Following the success of a 2007 program established by National APA, APA California launched its first "Great Places in California" program to recognize unique places that reflect the contributions of planners and good planning.

## Azusa

Azusa Civic Center

## Bakersfield

Mill Creek Linear Park

## Berkeley

Northbrae

## Clovis

Dry Creek Trailhead

## Concord

Todos Santos Plaza "150  
Years at the Heart of  
Concord"

## Lafayette

City of Lafayette

## Los Angeles

Echo Park  
Grand Park  
Olvera Street  
Pueblo de Los Angeles

## Monrovia

Old Town Monrovia

## Oakland

Lake Merritt  
Uptown

## Orange

Old Towne Plaza  
The Plaza

## Pasadena

Bungalow Heaven

## Riverside

Fairmount Park

## Sacramento

American River Parkway  
Cesar Chavez Park and  
Plaza

## Santa Monica

Downtown Santa Monica  
Santa Monica Beach  
Santa Monica Boulevard

## San Diego

5th Avenue  
Balboa Park  
Hillcrest

## San Luis Obispo

Mission Plaza

## San Francisco

Chinatown  
Ferry Building  
North Beach

## Santa Clara County

Mount Umunhum

## Santa Ana

Downtown Santa Ana

## Santa Barbara

State Street

## Truckee

Downtown Truckee



# PLANNER EMERITUS NETWORK HONOREES

Founded in 1994, the Planner Emeritus Network (PEN) recognizes the contributions of long-time planners, including those who have played prominent roles in the profession and others whose significant contributions may otherwise have been overlooked. PEN sponsors sessions at

the state conference, and works with the Chapter Historians to document the history of planning in California. Since 1998, PEN has annually awarded honors to individuals at the annual conference. Here is the list of PEN Honor Award recipients:

<b>1998</b> Robert Grunewald Roy Potter Ruth Potter Betty Croly	<b>2005</b> Frank Wein	<b>2011</b> John Anderson Alec Bash Elaine Costello Alex Hinds Donald Lamm Bob Paternoster Paul Wack	<b>2016</b> Donald R. Spivack Greg Collins Matthew Winegar Julie Rynerson Rock Robert Sherry Tricia Stevens Charles Smith Steve Piasecki	<b>2020</b> Christ Stephens Marvin D. Roos Michael Woo Claudia Stuart
<b>1999</b> John Hirten Robert Peterson Richard Weaver	<b>2006</b> Sharon Hightower Marsha Rood Al Bell Terry Rivasplata Ray Watson	<b>2012</b> Earl G. Bossard Barbara Kautz Anne Cronin Moore Leon Pirofalo	<b>2017</b> Carol Barrett Ken Gutierrez Dwight Kroll Tony Lashbrook Sheri Vander Deusen Rick Willson Hing Wong	<b>2021</b> Terry Hayes John Hildebrand III Bob Lagomarsino Rick Rust Elizabeth Tyler Martin Wachs
<b>2000</b> Larry Wilson Ken Norwood Steve Preston	<b>2007</b> Vivian Kahn Paul Zucker Larry Mintier	<b>2013</b> Barry Miller Linda C. Dalton Pete Parkinson Donald Weden Jane Blumenfeld Susan Healy Keene Betsy McCullough	<b>2018</b> Dan Marks Tom Jacobson Elaine Carbrey Nelson Miller Al Herson Charles Stevenson Susan Baldwin	<b>2022</b> Gayle Ackerman Stephen Avis Dave Bobart Bill Figge Steve Gerhardt Clifford Graves Chris Gray Samuel Hertzberg Steve Mitchell Leighann Moffitt Susan Peerson Victoria Walker
<b>2001</b> Phil Simpson Nadya Andrews Larz Anderson Howard Nies Sherman Griselle Ed Holden	<b>2008</b> Donald Bradley Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore Wayne Goldberg Janet Ruggiero Dr Robert Young Ned Rogoway	<b>2014</b> Barbara Steck Brian F. Mooney Dana Privitt Eileen Whitty Joseph Horwedel Linda Tatum Mike Moore	<b>2019</b> David Early Tim Snellings David Mieger Thomas Davis	
<b>2002</b> No Awards	<b>2009</b> Barry Eaton Stanley Hoffman Dean Macris Marjorie Macris Donald Rothblatt	<b>2015</b> Hanson Hom Robert A. Leiter Leobardo F. Estrada David Fey Bruce C. Baracco		
<b>2003</b> William Claire Bruce O'Neal Margarita McCoy George Osner Woodie Tescher Dev Vrat	<b>2010</b> Don Cotton Janet Fairbanks Dan Iacafano Naphali Knox Joan Lamphier Paul Sedway Brian Smith			
<b>2004</b> Linda Dalton James McCarthy				



# SUPPORT PLANNING HISTORY

## National Planning Pioneer and

### National Planning Landmark Programs

As a member of the AICP Commission, Betty Croly, FAICP proposed the National Pioneer/Landmark Program in 1988 and developed its initial protocols, which were subsequently enacted by APA.

### APA California's Chapter Historian Program

In 1988, Betty Croly, FAICP was appointed Chapter Historian to receive Pioneer and Landmark applications. Over her 20-plus years in that role, she expanded the range of work of the historian, initiating a proposal to develop a Chapter archive. After a frustrating search, California State University Northridge (CSUN) offered space in its new library, built with the assistance of a FEMA grant following the 1994 Northridge earthquake. This state-of-the-art facility today houses the Chapter's expanding collection. In this 75th anniversary year, we honor Betty for her contributions to APA California.

To date there have been thousands of documents sent to the archive including board records, minutes, reports from many California cities, counties and consultants, as well as APA California staff and affiliates.

Initial funding was donated by Chapter members (more than \$2400 initially, later supplemented) at a beach party during the 1998 conference in Costa Mesa. The Chapter Board donated a \$5,000 match. The first donation was \$10 from the late Earl Fraser AICP, Sacramento. Today, the Chapter funds both an annual budget for two Historians and an annual contribution to the archive. In 2017, the Board appropriated \$10,000 to fund ongoing processing of the rapidly growing collection, with additional support from the California Planning Roundtable, the Cal State Northridge University Library, and individual members.

Today Mallory Furnier, Special Collections and Archives Librarian, oversees the APA California collection at the University Library, California State University, Northridge in collaboration with the Chapter Historians.

### Today's Historian Programs

Today, two Chapter Historians manage the Historian program, including research into the history of the profession and APA California; preparation of exhibits and panels for chapter conferences; collaboration with sister organizations such as the Planner Emeritus Network; working with local planning historians; and the development of additional resources for both researchers and interested APA members.

### Help Find Our Pioneers

If you know of a California planning landmark or pioneer, including women, planners of color and LGBTQX, or have archival information to preserve, we want to hear from you. Please contact us by email.

### Join Us. Support Planning History!

If you would like to learn more about these programs or participate in the collection of planning history, either by volunteering or donating materials or resources, [historians@apacalifornia.org](mailto:historians@apacalifornia.org).

### Want More History?

If you're looking for more on the history of planning in California, later this fall APA California will post updated databases and timelines with additional detail. [Find these and more here.](#)

## CONTRIBUTORS TO APA CALIFORNIA ARCHIVES

### Individuals

Carol Barrett, FAICP  
Glenn Blossom, AICP  
Melville Branch, FAICP  
David E. Bess, FAICP  
Kurt Christiansen, FAICP  
Betty Croly, FAICP  
Lauren de Valencia y Sanchez  
Douglas Duncan, AICP  
William H. Fraley, AICP  
Sande George

Tom Jacobson, Ph.D, FAICP  
Naphtali Knox, FAICP  
Yvonne Koshland  
Norman Lind, AICP  
Family of Margarita Piel McCoy, FAICP  
J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP  
Betsy McCullough, FAICP  
Stan Ott, AICP  
Steven Preston, FAICP  
Janet Ruggiero, FAICP  
Josh Stephens

### Organizational

APA California Board of Directors  
APA California Sections  
California Planning Foundation  
California Planning Roundtable  
Huntington Library, Alan Jutzi  
Placeworks/DCE  
Planner Emeritus Network  
Young and Emerging Planners Group



# A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

## A P A C A L I F O R N I A

### **Co-Chairs | Co-Historians, APA California**

Steven Preston, FAICP

J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP

## 7 5 T H A N N I V E R S A R Y S T E E R I N G C O M M I T T E E

Enrique Arcilla, Student Representative (2022)

Ashley Atkinson, AICP, Past President (2023)

Laura C. Black, AICP, Vice President for Public Information (2023)

Juan Borrelli, AICP, Vice President for Marketing and Membership (2022-2023)

Jennifer Clark, AICP, Section Director Representative/Central Section Director (2021)

Miroo Desai, AICP, Vice President for Diversity and Equity (2021)

Ellie Fiore, AICP, Vice President for Public Information (2021-2022)

Hanson Hom, AICP, PEN and California Planning Roundtable Representative (2021-2023)

Derek Hull, AICP, Vice President for Diversity and Equity (2022)

Allison Joe, AICP, Vice President for Diversity and Equity (2023)

Julia Lave Johnston, Past President (2021-2023)

David Kwong, AICP, Digital Timeline Project Manager (2021-2023)

Bob Lagomarsino, AICP, Vice President for Conferences (2021-2023)

Jonnie Lan, AICP, Section Directors Representative/Central Section Director (2022-2023)

Andrea Ouse, AICP, President (2023)

Elizabeth Owen, Student Representative (2021)

Brooke Peterson, AICP, Vice President for Conferences (2023)

Janet Ruggiero, FAICP, Celebration Event Manager (2023)

Mark Staples, AICP, 2023 Conference Host Committee Liaison (2021-2023)

Marc Yeber, AICP, Vice President for Marketing and Membership (2021)

## S P E C I A L A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

Sande George, former Executive Director, APA California

Lauren de Valencia y Sanchez, Stefan George Associates

Cher Ekasala, Executive Director, and the Staff at Compass Management

Dorina Blythe, GranDesigns, Inc.

Linda Dalton, Ph.D., FAICP, Professor Emerita, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Tracey Ferguson, AICP, Planning Director, County of Plumas

Ryan Lester, Mintier Harnish

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