Western Planner Conference Coming to Santa Fe this September!

After a successful 2011 Santa Fe conference, the Western Planner Conference is returning to the City Different this September 8th-11th, 2019. The local host committee is made up of several area planners and is working hard to create an exemplary conference experience for planners from throughout the Western United States. Santa Fe has proven to be a popular destination for the conference.

The 2019 event will be the third time New Mexico’s historic capital city hosts the conference this century, the first time was in 2001. The second time, in 2011, saw 400 planners converge on Santa Fe and featured a social at the Scottish Rite Temple, the annual Wyoming vs. the World Softball game at Ft. Marcy Park (won by Wyoming, of course), as well as a program of sessions highlighted by Mitch Silver’s keynote. The 2011 conference remains the largest planning conference ever held in our state.

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Western Planner Conference, Continued

The 2019 edition promises similar enticements. For any New Mexico planner who has not attended this event in the past, you are in for a treat. The conference sessions are crafted to present regional and local issues of significant relevance to planners working in New Mexico and many of our surrounding states. The presenters are coming from all over the Intermountain states plus Alaska and Canada. Most sessions are CM accredited allowing AICP members to obtain continuing ed credits close to home. There is also plenty of time to network with your fellow planners, particularly at the aforementioned Wyoming vs. the World Softball game, which will be followed by a BBQ. On behalf of Western Planner and APA-NM, we look forward to seeing you in Santa Fe!

For more information and to register, please visit: www.westernplanner.org

ABOUT WESTERN PLANNER

If you are new to New Mexico or the planning profession, you may not be familiar with our 2019 conference partner, Western Planner. Western Planner is an online, and donor based organization that seeks to share vital and relevant information regarding many of the unique planning issues we find in the West. It aims to unite planners working in the west under a shared vision so that we, as planners, can continue to improve our urban and rural communities. Western Planner is affiliated with 14 state planning chapters throughout the west, including APA-New Mexico.

Recently, Western Planner went from being a subscription-based journal to an online journal available to everyone. One can find current articles by planners on issues impacting our western landscapes without, having to pay subscription fees. One of the greatest features of the online journal is the expansive archive containing every article the journal has published dating back to 1980. This archive is a tremendous resource for anyone doing research, studying for the AICP exam, or wanting more insight into some of the early planning issues planners faced over the past 39 years. Another feature of interest to planners or planning students is the jobs board, which advertises jobs from all 14 of its affiliated members. If you’re looking for a job in Montana, Washington, or Colorado, this is the place for you. Be sure to visit the online journal at www.westernplanner.org.
JUNE AICP CERTIFICATION EXAM WINDOW OPEN!

Get excited! The next AICP Certification Application Window will be open from June 3 – 27. Approved applicants will be eligible to register for the November 2019 AICP Certification Exam.

Be sure to direct interested applicants to the AICP Guide Part 1: Certification Application for the most up-to-date information and guidance about preparing a successful application. AICP Certification Exam info is available in AICP Guide Part 2: Taking the Exam.

APA EQUITY, HOUSING, AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY GUIDES

APA has released the Planning for Equity, Housing, and Surface Transportation Policy Guides. The guide on equity, housing, and surface transportation was released to all APA members in the Interact newsletter, and will arm planners with powerful tools to advocate for:

- Equity in all planning;
- Accessible, affordable, and available housing; and
- Transportation policies that mitigate the effects of climate change, improve safety, and broaden accessibility at local through federal levels.

The Housing Policy Guide, Surface Transportation Policy Guide, and APA’s first-ever Planning for Equity Policy Guide reflect APA’s official positions on these timely issues. Each guide is the product of a two-year, member-led process that elicited hundreds of comments from APA chapter and division leaders and members that influenced the final policy endorsements. Each was debated, amended, and approved by more than 100 APA chapter representatives at the NPC19 Delegate Assembly in April and ratified by APA’s Board of Directors in May.

2019-2020 ETHICS CASE OF THE YEAR

A new “Ethics Case of the Year” is now available on the APA website for use in planning ethics training sessions. The Ethics Case of the Year, which made its debut in April at NPC19, was developed by the AICP Ethics Committee, with the assistance of Ethics Officer Jim Peters, FAICP.

The session begins with a planning ethics refresher, which includes a review of the AICP Ethics Code and APA’s Ethical Principles in Planning. The remainder of the session presents eight ethical scenarios—all drawn from real-life case studies from the previous year. This year’s planning ethics topics are: discrimination, expert witness testimony, gifts, inadequate information, political contributions, professional comments, taking improper credit, and workplace harassment.
A violin and inspirational speech kicked off National Planning Conference 19 in San Francisco on a beautiful Bay Area Saturday morning. Approximately 6,000+ planners filled auditorium at Moscone Center West, listening intently as APA Board of Director’s President Kurt Christiansen and new CEO Joel Albizo outlined their vision for the National Chapter for the upcoming year. The real treat began however, when keynote speaker Vijay Gupta, strolled out on stage with his violin and began to play Hallelujah. Mr. Gupta joined the LA Philharmonic at age 19 making him the youngest member in the history of this esteemed organization. After playing, Gupta discussed his Symphony in the Streets project, which took classical music to the people living on the streets in the skid row area of Los Angeles. He was motivated to start Symphony in the Streets after realizing that people affected by homelessness can become invisible to others as they go about their everyday lives or can become the object of scorn. Taking music to people without homes provided a device to show they were not forgotten but still valuable members of society. Throughout his talk, he played videos showing scenes from midnight concerts as well as interviews with people talking about how much Symphony in the Streets meant to them. For planners, there were several themes from Mr. Gupta’s talk. First, are we focusing on all members of society when developing our plans? Do we include those living in middle class neighborhoods and those whose belongings fit in a shopping cart? Another theme focuses on outreach: how we reach those who might not traditionally participate in our planning processes. Finally, there is the theme of equality, and more specifically, are planners doing enough to ensure that we are building equality in transportation, education, economic development into our planning work so that it benefits all members of our society. Mr. Gupta challenged the planners in attendance to take steps to focus outward everyday when we go to work. It was a powerful message from a young man and his violin.
Preserving Our Urban Trees: The Statewide Community Forest Inventory

By Amy Bell

This multi-staged, multi-year inventory and management planning project is the first effort of its kind to gather statewide empirical data on New Mexico’s urban forests, document the history of NM urban trees’ arrival and distribution, and provide relevant and actionable recommendations for transitioning our urban forests from the past into the future. The project was conducted by Groundwork Studio for the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department Forestry Division and was initiated in January of 2016. The project will conclude in December 2019 with four statewide management plans focused on specific issues and strategies to help municipalities manage the urban forest.

Funded by a United States Forest Service (USFS) Landscape Scale Restoration Grant, and administered by the NM State Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Program, the project began with historic research and tree inventory in each of the state’s 33 county seats. Historic research resulted in a compelling narrative of how trees arrived in New Mexico by the Camino Real, Santa Fe Trail, railroads and interstates, fueled by desire for comfort and shade and supported by New Deal funding and other government supported tree giveaway programs. Read more about the story of New Mexican urban trees by checking out the project storymap (tinyurl.com/urbantreesnm).

Inventories engaged municipal staff, local tree boards, and community members at large and collected information on tree species, size, health, and risk potential for at least 200 trees in each community. The Tree Plotter application was used to inventory, layering tree data with the location of the tree in the field, and allowing municipalities to continue to use the data collected in active tree management planning and practices. Individual inventory reports were provided to each community, and included observations, and management recommendations. A statewide report further identified major issues and trends in urban forest condition and care. Click here to view a copy of the full statewide report.
2019 APA-NM Planning Awards

APA-NM is seeking nominations for its 2019 Planning Awards. Presentation of this year’s awards will be made during the 2019 APA-NM Annual Conference (in conjunction with the Western Planner Conference), Santa Fe, NM, Sept. 8th - 11th. The purpose of the APA-NM Awards program is to recognize outstanding planners and planning projects throughout New Mexico, and to encourage outstanding achievements in the application of planning principles and techniques to solve problems and improve our quality of life. Please contact John Valdez (jvaldez@nmpsfa.org) or visit the APA-NM website for more info or to submit a project.

DATES
Submittal Deadline: July 15th, 2019
Winners Notified: August 15th, 2019
Awards Presented: September 8-11 2019 at Western Planner Conference

AWARD CATEGORIES

Comprehensive Planning: to a comprehensive plan, program, and/or process of unusually high merit.

Professional Planner: to a planner who has made noteworthy contributions to the field of planning over a sustained period.

Student Project Award: to a person enrolled at a New Mexico university (or other college) who has completed a project of high merit within the past year. A group student project is eligible.

Excellence in Technology: for best practices with the use of GIS, Database Management, Software Applications, use of internet tools, Remote Sensing, and/or other related work.

Innovation in Planning: for practices, projects, plans, and ordinances in any of the following or related areas:

• Zoning/land use
• Economic development.
• Urban design
• Education/outreach
• Communication initiatives
• Transportation
• Historic preservation
• Implementation
• Environmental planning
Meet Your APA-NM Board!

2019-2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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We would also be remiss not to acknowledge the 2018 Board who worked extremely hard on behalf of the chapter. We appreciate all the work they did to make their tenure successful. Outgoing board members include: President: Erick Aune (2017-2018); Vice-President: Andy Hume (2017-2018); Treasurer: Tom Menicucci/Richard Meadows – (2017-2018); Secretary: John Valdez – (2017-2018); PDO: Petra Morris – (2017-2018); Immediate Past President – Sandy Gaiser.