Our Year In Review

On behalf of the Board of the American Planning Association—New Mexico Chapter, it is our pleasure to present this Annual Report and Winter Newsletter to our Membership.

The Chapter capped off a busy year by co-hosting the annual conference together with our partner Western Planner (please see article on page 6 for more details on the conference).

At the end of the year, the Chapter supported the nomination of three distinguished members to the College of Fellows of the AICP: Dale Dekker, AICP; Phyllis Taylor, AICP; and Kizito Wijenje, AICP.

Behind the scenes, our Treasurer has been working hard on taxes and working on our non-profit incorporation, which will facilitate easier chapter management in the future. Also, look for us to roll out a new Chapter website by mid-February, 2020, once we deal with some ransom-ware issues.

In between, we also participated in UNM-APA’s annual Meet the Planners Event, which allows future planners to network with practicing planning professionals. In addition, last spring, we partnered with our allied professionals in architecture, engineering, and landscape architecture for a multi-disciplinary professional mixer.

We have divided the rest of this Annual Report/Newsletter into two sections: the first three pages provide an overview of the Chapter’s demographics, financials, and 2019-2020 Strategic Plan. The second part of this newsletter has information on recent Chapter activities, showcasing some of the exemplary planning going on in New Mexico.

We always welcome involvement from our members and feedback.
APA-New Mexico: Who We Are—Chapter Overview

- Our Chapter is comprised of 334 diverse members working in a variety of settings, including all levels of government, private consultation, and non-profits;

- Our members are located throughout New Mexico in urban and rural settings;

- We take pride in serving future planners, with several members from UNM, NMSU, and other institutes of higher education among our ranks. With your service, we strive to ensure that this chapter continuously serves their professional needs and development;

- We boast 91 members of the American Institute of Certified Planners or AICP candidates;

- AICP has accepted six of our members into the distinguished College of Fellows of AICP.

- As shown in the lovely charts on the next page, our membership represents all corners of our state. Our goal as a board is to represent and serve planners working in every community and in every setting.
APA-NM MEMBER WORKPLACE SETTING*

*Only includes members who self-identified.

APA-NM MEMBER LOCATION (FALL 2019)

ABQ Metro (ABQ, RR, Valencia Cty) 170
Santa Fe 37
NW NM 36
Las Cruces 38
SE NM 19
Out of State 16
Northern NM (Non Santa Fe) 14
SW NM 4
Chapter Financial Overview

CHAPTER ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 2019

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<tr>
<th>ACCOUNT</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Checking Balance</td>
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<td>Market Rate Savings</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$41,550.83</strong>*</td>
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*Real Data. The APA-NM Board has put $15,000 of this amount into reserve in order to fund expenses related to the 2020 State Conference.

CHAPTER REVENUES 2018-2019

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<th>REVENUE BY SOURCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Dues (distributed by National )</td>
<td>$6,606.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting 2018 (revenue split with ASLA)</td>
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<td>Reimbursable Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
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CHAPTER EXPENDITURES 2018-19

<table>
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<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Attendance</td>
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<td>State Conference and Operations*</td>
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<td>Administration/Other</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,212.16</strong></td>
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Expenditures Includes CM credit maintenance, Western Planner Donation, Support for UNM-APA conference attendance, AICP exam scholarship, inter-disciplinary happy hour, APA conference support for Board Officers.
Summary of APA-NM Strategic Work Plan 2019-2020

Our Board has approved the Chapter Strategic Plan for 2019-2020. Below is a summary. Please go to our website to view full plan including specific objectives and actions for each of our five strategies.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS:

• Engage professional planners and communities to improve and promote the quality and standards of planning in New Mexico.

OUR VISION IS:

• We better all communities of New Mexico by:
  • Increasing awareness of all aspects of the profession of planning;
  • Training leaders to use proven and effective planning processes;
  • Engaging communities to promoting equitable and inclusive outcomes for all; and
  • Offer professional development opportunities for all members that promote the use of credible planning principles.

OUR GOALS ARE:

• Increase the impact and visibility of planning.
• Increase the planning expertise of professional planners.
• Increase expertise of elected officials, citizen planners, and students.
• Integrate relationships with affiliated groups and organizations to strengthen our capacity as a professional planning organization.
• Build fairness and inclusivity in our planning process by inviting all members of society to participate.

OUR STRATEGIES ARE:

Strategy 1: Increase APA-NM Participation and Membership Engagement.
Strategy 2: Become a Catalyst for Effective and Sound Planning In NM and Across All Areas in All Communities.
Strategy 4: Re-invest in the Membership Through Professional Development.
Strategy 5: Responsible Chapter Management.
Western Planner Conference Recap

You should have come out, man! For the 3rd time this century, Santa Fe played host to the joint APA-NM/Western Planner Conference, held in the City Different from September 8-11, 2019. There were 41 concurrent panel sessions, including four legal and four ethics sessions. Four lunchtime plenaries and an opening plenary provided further learning opportunities. In total, it was possible to log 20 CM credits. There were nine mobile workshops in-town and into Northern New Mexico.

Special events included:

- The requisite Wyoming vs the World Softball Game (played at Fort Marcy stadium); and won by Wyoming (of course).
- The annual awards ceremony combined for APA New Mexico and for the Western Planner, along with a BBQ dinner.
- An opening reception held atop the Drury Plaza Hotel at Bar Alto.
- A Downtown Santa Fe pub crawl that was super amazing.
- A meeting of the Indigenous Planning Interest Group.

WESTERN PLANNER 2019 CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

- 41 Concurrent Panel Sessions
- 20 CM Credits Available
- 9 Mobile Workshops
- 240 Attendees
- 20 Member Host Committee
- 12 Sponsors
- 5,000 Drink Tickets
Suffice to say that both APA New Mexico and the Western Planner supported their respective goals of offering an accessible, dynamic, entertaining annual conference. Conference attendance was approximately 240 which was comprised equally of New Mexico planners and registrants from other states.

The local host committee met monthly for eight months before the conference. This core group of about 20 people is largely responsible for the logistical and programming success of the conference. Santa Fe County, the City of Santa Fe, APS, and the NMDOT were very supportive of these efforts, allowing staff to participate. The conference’s theme “Planning Our Places for a Changing Future” was more than appropriate as sessions addressed several issues in a changing west. Resiliency, tribal planning, growth management, and multi-modal transportation were hot topics for the panel sessions. Mobile workshops centered on historic Santa Fe landscapes, Santa Fe River bike tour, co-housing, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, and Santa Fe art collaborative Meow Wolf. Sessions of particular interest to Western Planners focused on building fire-adapted communities, long-term water sustainability, and the “You Know You’re a Western Planner When…” session.

The opening Plenary was truly dynamic as the Tesuque Warriors performed a traditional dance of Tesuque Pueblo to start the program followed by several speakers and culminated with Steven Michael Quezada’s opening keynote. In his keynote, he discussed growing up in Albuquerque’s South Valley and the importance of getting involved in the planning process.

The majority of the conference took place at the Drury Plaza Hotel, an adaptive reuse of the old St. Vincent Hospital in historic downtown, giving attendees the opportunity to walk around the state capital. Bar Alto’s rooftop patio provided the perfect setting for the opening reception as attendees were able to network in a relaxing setting overlooking a magnificent Santa Fe sunset.

APA-NM would like to thank everyone who made this conference possible, from the local host committee to our sponsors and all the speakers who have generously donated their time to present and host mobile workshops. We plan on hosting another Western Planner Conference in the future.
2019 APA-NM Award Winners!

APA-NM held its 2019 awards ceremony at the Western Planner Conference in Santa Fe on a beautiful September evening. The Chapter awards recognizes outstanding planning projects occurring throughout our state in several categories. This year’s winners were:

AWARD FOR BEST COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Plan 2040: Doña Ana County Comprehensive Plan
• Awarded to Doña Ana County Community Development and Placemakers.
• Sets 25-Year policy framework for future County Planning and Development.

AWARD FOR INNOVATIONS IN PLANNING (3 AWARDS)

Thornton Ranch Open Space
• Awarded to Santa Fe County Open Space and Design Office.
• Preservation of 2,340 acres of open space in the Galisteo Basin in Santa Fe County.

Rio Fernando Park Master Plan
• Awarded to Taos Land Trust and Groundwork Studio.
• Revival of 20 acres of land into a community resource with trails, education, and agriculture.

Las Cruces Arts and Cultural District
• Awarded to City of Las Cruces Planning Department and SVPratt Creative Strategies.
• Creation of vibrant arts and cultural district in downtown Las Cruces.
AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNER

Lucy Foma, Planner, Santa Fe County
- Serves on Santa Fe County Sustainability Team and works on community plans.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TECHNOLOGY

Sandia National Laboratories Long-Range Development Plan
- Awarded to Sandia National Laboratories and Dekker Perich Sabatini.
- Facilities, infrastructure, and land use for Sandia’s main campus in Albuquerque.

AWARD FOR STUDENT PROJECTS (2 AWARDS)

Los Lunas Route 66 Museum and Visitor’s Center
- Awarded to UNM/MCRP Capstone Planning Studio and Village of Los Lunas.
- Development of Site Plan for the facility with options for transportation and infrastructure.

The Bus Stops Here: Transit Shelters and Amenities in Roswell (Equity and Social Justice)
- Awarded to Merideth Hildreth, AICP and Tufts University Urban and Environmental Planning.
- Addresses the need for more, equitably distributed bus shelters with amenities.

HONORABLE MENTION
This year’s awards submittals were extremely competitive and scoring was very close. The APA-NM Awards Jury would like to acknowledge the following nominations.

- Gallup Land Development Standards, City of Gallup/Dekker Perich Sabatini
- Lake Farmington and Berg Park Aerial Adventures Market Analysis, City of Farmington/Groundwork Studio, Bonsai Design
- Sunport Commerce Center Design Overlay Zone, Bernalillo County

These projects demonstrate effective planning is occurring throughout New Mexico and should be celebrated.
Lucy Foma grew up in Santa Fe, NM. She attended university at Smith College in Massachusetts, where she majored in economics. During college, she had the opportunity to travel to Africa to work for a microloan program in Cameroon (where she met her husband) and later in Brazil, where she studied Portuguese. She also received a Fulbright Fellowship in Senegal to study dance. These experiences later inspired her to write ‘Funded!’ which outlines how students (and others!) can apply for and receive fellowships and travel grants.

In 2016, Lucy joined the Santa Fe County Planning Division as a Community Planner. Since then, Lucy has taken the lead in developing critical community planning policies, programs and plans including facilitating the Galisteo Community Economic Development Plan, developing and expanding the Community Organization and Registered Organization Program, developing the San Marcos Community Plan with residents of the San Marcos area, and coordinating the Village of Tesuque Community Plan in Santa Fe County.

1. When did you realize you wanted to become a planner and was there an instance, situation, or issue that made you realize that planning was the profession for you?

I’ve always been a planner, making checklists and organizing activities for all my fellow 5-year olds on playdates, but I didn’t even know planning was a profession until I graduated from college and moved back home to Santa Fe. Ken Hughes is a family friend and would send out emails about biking opportunities and solar panels and so I asked him what kinds of masters degrees I should look at to do “sustainability stuff” and he said, “Planning!” Since I try to see the interconnect-ness of all things, and I like facilitating meetings, planning turned out to be a great fit for me.

2. What is the most challenging aspect of being a planner to you?

I do a lot of comprehensive long-range planning and I work hard to build a rapport and trust with the communities I work in. Bringing groups to appreciate the value of planning takes

Meet Our Professional Planner of the Year—Lucy Foma!

*Interview by John Valdez, APA-NM President*
a lot of well thought out exercises, discussions and demonstrations. I also need to listen to what the people want and then synthesize their information and translate it into an actionable plan. One of the hardest things about being a planner is that I don’t want to let these people down after they have grown to trust me with their ideas. After a plan is written, the implementation is somewhat out of my hands, but I worry that these often-times skeptical people will completely lose faith in the process if the plan does not work out as we hoped. The other challenge is bringing new possibilities to a group, expanding opportunities of what could be when their experience has been defined by the past.

3. What area or planning issue are you most passionate about and why?

The reason I became a planner is because I want to address the climate emergency. I have a very optimistic outlook, seeing that the future could be so much better than the past, serving all people more equitably, restoring native knowledge about how to live with the Earth, and enabling local economies to flourish. I am really excited about local food systems and soil health at the moment. At Santa Fe County, we launched the AgriGate, an online platform to connect local food producers with local food buyers.

Check it out at www.agrigatesfc.org. Soil is the other way we can invest in carbon capture and a healthier ecosystem (which means healthier people). Did you know one teaspoon of healthy soil has more microorganisms than all humans on the planet?? (https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/secret-life-soil) Healthy soil holds water, supports plan diversity and captures carbon. I’m excited about the work Santa Fe County is doing on open space properties and on our demonstration projects to support regenerative agriculture.

4. What is your proudest achievement as a planner thus far in your career?

As a planner, I consider all of my work to be team-led. I think my proudest achievement is to be part of the Santa Fe County team of planners, a group of amazingly intelligent, worldly and passionate people who want to make the world a better place. I am amazed by my “work family” every day because we are trying to push the bounds in environmental planning, capital planning, agriculture planning, community-based economic development, and quality of life. They push me to keep learning and applying myself in new ways and I am proud that I was good enough to join their ranks three and a half years ago.

5. What do you do to unwind from the rigors of your career?

I grew up dancing with my family, my mom has taught West African and Haitian dance in Santa Fe for 33 years. I dance with my mom and her students of all ages to rebalance and reconnect.

6. What is your advice for people considering planning as a profession?

Planning is more than just land use, so planners don’t need to just think about zoning. We need to think about how all disciplines relate and benefit from a planner’s perspective. Don’t be afraid to use your planning skills and knowledge outside of the planning bounds. Everyone can benefit from a planner’s education.
With a scope that extends over 500 miles, the Rio Grande Trail Master Plan identifies a trail alignment to link Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas border-to-border. This cross-state trail will be unique, connecting Colorado to Texas and linking New Mexico communities to the Rio Grande Bosque, canyon lands, high desert and so many of the state’s natural, cultural, and historic assets. Stretching through New Mexico’s cities and rural areas, the trail will provide an opportunity to bike, hike, and horseback ride to access nature and other communities statewide. It will connect three national wildlife refuges, six national monuments, one national heritage area, six state parks, nine counties, and 22 cities and towns. For much of its length, the trail alignment takes advantage of existing rights of way and locations within the Rio Grande Bosque. In other areas, the trail will become part of an intermodal system of local trail networks.

As with many complex planning projects, the Rio Grande Trail Master Plan team was multidisciplinary, including land use planners, parks and recreation planners, transportation and mobility planners, environmental planners, engineers, and public engagement specialists. The State of New Mexico State Parks Division worked closely with Sites Southwest, Alta Planning + Design, Rosemary Romero Consulting, and Wilson & Associates to bring the long-envisioned Rio Grande Trail closer to being built. The master plan builds off earlier work that identified potential trail alignments through the southern two-thirds of the state. The plan evaluates and numerically ranks previous alignment alternatives, explores new potential routes through the northern third of the state and recommends trail types for diverse geographic conditions, describes how the preferred trail alignment was selected, delineates the alignment throughout each of the nine counties it passes through, and identifies new trail connections to existing trails. Recommendations for user amenities, such as water access, shelters, parking, and restrooms, wayfinding implementation, and long-term management strategies are addressed. In December 2018, the Rio Grande Trail Commission adopted the plan. The Rio Grande Trail Commission is anticipated to resume in the new year.

Given the length of the trail and the number of jurisdictions that will have a stake in its implementation, the planning process included extensive coordination with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, International Boundary Water Commission, US Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, All-Indian Pueblo Council, and local
governmental agencies, landowners and other stakeholders from the communities through which the trail will pass. Six Rio Grande Trail Working Groups volunteered their time and talent throughout the process. In addition to the involvement of government and institutional stakeholders, close to 2,000 New Mexican residents participated in meetings and provided feedback on the online surveys. The importance of local collaboration required flexibility in figuring out alternative routes without compromising the functionality of the trail, even when that resulted in more difficult or longer connections.

The Rio Grande Master Plan acknowledges the complexity of implementing 500 miles of trail through so many jurisdictions and communities. It addresses how the trail will be developed incrementally with multiple landowners, federal agencies participation, funding and long-term support.

The plan outlines the step to pursue national trail designation (one of the keys to support the above-mentioned complexities) and describes the need to establish a Rio Grande Trail non-profit governance body, its role, staff, and board. Steps to address trail use, emergency access, wayfinding, stewardship/fundraising, and maintenance are included. The plan is meant to be a guiding framework; the trail’s implementation will need champions from the local entities through which it passes.

The Rio Grande Trail won’t stop at the New Mexico border. The consultant team was also hired by Paso del Norte Health Foundation and El Paso County to assist with their county-wide trail planning, which links to the Rio Grande Trail and winds through cities and rural communities in El Paso County and into Mexico. The planning consultants were able to share lessons learned when identifying and planning for new trail alignments that connect to existing trail segments. Colorado has also shown interest in extending the trail north from New Mexico; however the big hurdle there (literally) is crossing the gorge due to private property.

As the outdoor recreation industry grows and awareness of the connection between healthy lifestyles and recreation becomes more prevalent, demand for regional trails that provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to access nature and cultural and community destinations is increasing. With this momentum and the State’s new Outdoor Recreation Division, it especially important to plan for outdoor opportunities that offer communities potential connections to the trail system, overnight accommodations, and amenities to expand the experience for all trail users.
Join Us In Roswell—APA-NM State Conference 2020!

For the 1st time, New Mexico’s 4th largest city will host the APA-NM State Conference and we promise it will be out of this world!

Roswell is a dynamic city in the southeastern part of the state with a strong planning background. True, Roswell is synonymous with little green men and UFOs, which have shaped much of the city’s modern identity, but the City offers much more as well. Whether it is the trendy, super hipster downtown, the beautiful campus of New Mexico Military Institute, or outdoor recreation, Roswell is a vibrant community on the Pecos River. The City has a rich history of agriculture and transportation-related manufacturing, much of which is located in the former Walker Army Airbase (now called the Roswell Industrial Air Center).

The City adopted its Comprehensive Plan in 2016 and with it produced a Wayfinding Plan, Railroad District Metropolitan Redevelopment Plan, and Affordable Housing Plan. The City has truly shown that planning is important to its future.

This year’s conference will be held in October with events coordinated around the Roswell Jazz Festival. The City recently completed a renovation of its Convention Center, which will host some of the conference activities. Planning for mobile workshops and other events is in full swing. Look for more details on the Roswell 2020 State Conference in the coming weeks and plan on joining us in October!

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

WHERE: Roswell (event location TBD)
WHEN: October 14th-16th, 2020
WHO: Hopefully You!
WHY: Because You’re a Planning Nerd!
2020 Chapter Election Year—Leaders Wanted

You too can run for office in 2020 without having to go through messy primaries or the need to raise millions! 2020 represents an election year for the APA-NM Board’s elected positions! Play a role in leading our chapter! The following positions are open for this election cycle:

- **President** *(comes with secret perks, but also email)*
- **Vice President** *(less email, fewer perks)*
- **Treasurer** *(manage a cool spreadsheet and flash the APA-NM credit card at bars)*
- **Secretary** *(if you couldn’t decide between becoming a librarian or a planner)*
- **Professional Development Officer** *(hang out at breweries by yourself and claim you’re hosting a professional development event)*

Board members are active in administering our chapter, coming up with ideas for supporting sound planning policy, professional development *(those coveted CM credits)*, networking, and promoting planners and their work throughout New Mexico!

No experience is necessary! Seriously. We want your ideas, enthusiasm, and passion for moving our chapter and profession forward. Keep an eye out for emails in the new year for information on how to get involved! If you want to run for a position or know a planner who would be good, please consider a nomination!
Meet Your APA-NM Board!

CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PRESIDENT**
JOHN VALDEZ, AICP

**VICE-PRESIDENT**
MARIA LOHMANN

**TREASURER**
TOM MENICUCCI, AICP

**SECRETARY**
RACHEL HERTZMAN, AICP

**PROFESSIONAL DEV. OFFICER**
JAMES FOTY, AICP

**UNM STUDENT REP**
RUSSELL KANIM

**OFFICER AT LARGE**
MICHAEL VOS, AICP

**OFFICER AT LARGE**
JESSICA JOHNSON

**OFFICER AT LARGE**
MERIDETH HILDRETH, AICP

**WESTERN PLANNER REP**
DAN PAVA, FAICP

**PAST PRESIDENT**
ERICK AUNE, AICP

AT-LARGE & NON-ELECTED POSITIONS