2015 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

The Best and Brightest recognized at the Annual Awards Luncheon in Pittsburgh!

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) held its Annual Awards Luncheon in Pittsburgh, PA where nearly 400 attendees celebrated the esteemed award winners of this year’s highly competitive program.

The following awards were presented:

**Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan**

Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan – Montco 2040: A Shared Vision
Montgomery County Planning Commission

The Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in January 2015 after a dynamic two-year community visioning process. All research, outreach, marketing, and plan preparation work was done by the county planning staff. The plan documents are creatively designed and easy to read. An attractive executive summary and marketing literature introduce the plan to a broader audience. The plan has three key themes – Connected Communities, Sustainable Places & Vibrant Economy – that provide clear goals and guidance for future growth and development in the county and its 62 municipalities.

**Planning Excellence Award – Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan**

Upper Lawrenceville Community Visioning and Targeted Development Strategy Study
evolveEA
Fourth Economy Consulting
The Design Center of Pittsburgh
Lawrenceville Corporation
Lawrenceville United

The upper part (10th Ward) of Pittsburgh’s Lawrenceville neighborhood is starting to get the development energy that transformed the central and lower parts now known for youthful culture within historic urban fabric. Through a series of community charrettes, participants created a neighborhood identity and series of development and livability principles. The neighborhood has been implementing the vision. Food-based projects and businesses have started, prompting a campaign called 10th Ward Fresh. One of the largest vacant properties is being redeveloped as mixed-income housing. Other activities include a green infrastructure demo project, a new park, an organic orchard, and an increase in renovation activity throughout the neighborhood.
Planning Excellence Award – Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan
Building on Strength: Economic Development Strategic Plan for the City of Lancaster
Lancaster City Alliance
City of Lancaster
Lancaster County Planning Commission
Mahan Rykiel Associates
Arnett Muldrow & Associates
RGS Associates

The Lancaster economic development plan does as the name suggests. It builds on the success of the city’s 1998 plan and sets new goals and builds new relationships to continue to attract economic development to a world class, mid-size city. The plan was primarily private-sector driven, supported by public sector and community involvement, and linked with traditional public planning issues. The plan addresses traditional economic development, and promotes entrepreneurialism, leveraging the city’s brand as a great place to live, work, and do business, and improving quality of life as an economic development attractor.

Planning Excellence Award – Public Outreach
Paoli Road Improvement Feasibility Study & Public Participation Project
McMahon Associates
Town Planning Partnership, LLC
Glackin Thomas Panzak, Inc.
Meliora Design, LLC
Stell Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
Greater Valley Forge TMA
Tredyffrin Township

The study of transportation solutions for Paoli Road in Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, involved a remarkable level of public involvement: a project website; five neighborhood meetings; five business stakeholder meetings; three open houses with total attendance of 724; survey with 244 responders; visual preference surveys from 520 participants; and seven property owner meetings. The public outreach program identified community vision and objectives early in the process, then drove the transportation solutions and related land use policy changes, including priorities for walkability and place-making.

Planning Excellence Award – Best Practice
PA Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Project
Montgomery County Planning Commission

The Turnpike corridor project holistically combined transportation design with economic development and land use planning to promote revitalization of 7 older suburban business parks located along the PA Turnpike but lacking good access. The project created a new land use vision for each park, reflecting emerging business opportunities and needs, and a design for new Turnpike interchange ramps at all 7 parks. The project made a persuasive business case, including cost and revenue projections, for the Turnpike to invest in the new access areas. The plan document provides clear and compelling maps, design concepts, and talking points supporting the proposals.
Planning Achievement Award – Advancing Diversity and Social Change

John C. Anderson Apartments
Wallace, Roberts & Todd
Pennrose Development
Dr. Magnus Hershfeld Fund

The John C. Anderson Apartments is the first project to be developed in the eastern United States focused on providing welcoming and safe senior housing for persons who identify as part of the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) community. Though it responds to prejudices often encountered by LGBT persons, its marketing as an “LGBT-friendly” facility aims to create a more broadly inclusive community that replicates the diversity found in its surrounding Washington Square West neighborhood. The development serves as a useful model for how to build urban-friendly, senior housing in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. The building is designed to respect the scale of nearby structures, welcome passers-by, encourage joint programming opportunities with a nearby community center and avoid the feel of generational segregation often associated with senior housing.

The award was presented during a Southeast Section event. See more on page 8.

Planning Leadership Award – Professional Planner

James W. Pashek, Pashek Associates

Jim Pashek is the chief officer of Pashek Associates, a planning and design firm in Pittsburgh. Over a 40-year career, he acquired a lot of letters after his name — MBA, RLA, CEO, LEED GA, BSLA, NCI — but his favorite designation is “planner.” Jim excels at getting multiple municipalities to work together in comprehensive plans and at involving the public in planning. He is one of Pennsylvania’s foremost practitioners and proponents of the “implementable comprehensive plan.” He has provided training on that and other planning and public involvement practices throughout Pennsylvania and at the national APA conference and, via Heinz Endowments sponsorship, across the ocean in the Czech Republic.

Planning Leadership Award – Elected Official

Elizabeth Rogan, Lower Merion Township

Elizabeth Rogan, AICP, has been an elected commissioner in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, since 2004. Prior to that she was a planner for the township. As an elected official, she has applied planning principles to the diverse challenges of a first-generation suburb, promoting infill and redevelopment, revitalization of older commercial centers, preservation of historic structures and natural areas, and community engagement for many projects. Her leadership and advocacy have led to accomplishments for the township, large and small, including innovative zoning revisions, an official map ordinance for public spaces and pedestrian paths, adaptive reuse of historic buildings, and redevelopment of key properties.
Planning Leadership Award – Citizen Planner
Roy E. Brant, PhD
Roy Brant began as a citizen planner in 1978 with the Crawford County Planning Commission. In 37 years he actively promoted planning in his home county and statewide. At Crawford County, Roy used his skills as a political scientist (he taught political science at Edinboro University) to set up the committee structure that endures to this day and is the principal interface of the planning commission with the community. Roy tirelessly promoted planning at municipal meetings, and promoted county interests at PennDOT regional meetings, DEP hearings, and the like. He was instrumental in creating a county airport authority to take over the struggling Meadville airport. Statewide, Roy sat on the APA-PA Board of Directors 1980-2014 and on the State Transportation Advisory Committee 2004-2015.

The nomination was submitted and this award is given posthumously.

Planning Leadership Award – Distinguished Service
Richard Bickel, FAICP
In over 40 years as a professional planner, Rich Bickel made significant contributions on the regional, state, and national planning stage. He has been described as thoughtful, innovative, and practical, with an understanding of political dynamics and stakeholder interests needed to advance major initiatives. His diverse career included being Chief of Community Planning at Montgomery County Planning Commission, Director of Long Range Planning at SEPTA, and two terms at Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, retiring in 2014 as Director of the Planning Division. Work included innovative zoning regulations, comprehensive plans, long-range regional plans, and technical studies on issues including environmental justice, transit-oriented development, and community revitalization. Statewide, he has been an active committee member and leader for APA-PA and predecessor organizations. He served on the state task force that led to comprehensive amendments to the Municipalities Planning Code in 1988. He drafted the initial language for and promoted enactment of the TRID Act in 2004. Service at the national level includes the Site Visitor Planning Accreditation Board, APA legislative and policy committees, and the Transportation Research Board. Throughout, Rich performed at the highest level as a planner, and provided innovation, leadership, and mentoring.

Thanks TO THE MEMBERS of the Awards Committee for the time and hard work they contributed to carefully review the awards submissions, and especially to Denny Puko for chairing the committee and presenting the Awards Program.

Denny Puko, Chair
Planner
PA Department of Community & Economic Development

Robert M. Behling
Chairman
South Heidelberg Township Planning Commission

Graciela Cavicchia, AICP, PP
Principal/Partner
Applied Urban Solutions

Jonathan Heilman, AICP
Transportation Planner
Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Brian O’Leary, AICP
Executive Director
Chester County Planning Commission

Brandi Rosselli, AICP
Manager, Planning Services
Mackin Engineering Company

Eric Vorwald, AICP
Senior Planner
Centre Regional Planning Agency
The following Certificates of Merit were presented:

**2015 Planning Excellence for Best Practice**

The Indiana County Student Planner Program is more than an internship. College planning students work right beside paid county planners, fulfilling both the students’ need for experience and the county’s need for capacity to implement a variety of improvements for the county and its communities.

**2015 Planning Excellence for Best Practice**

The Sewickley Heights Pattern Book is an inspiring and easy-to-use design guide that promotes to property renovators and new developers preservation of the keen sense of place and rich architectural heritage that makes the borough unique.

**Irving Hand Excellence in Planning Professional Development awarded by Delta Development**

Recipient: Amy Liu

**Jerry S. Walls Planning Professional Development Award**

Recipient: Mark Huber

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Chester County Planning Commission

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Andrew Hartwell, AICP
County of Allegheny Department of Economic Development

**PAST PRESIDENT**
Alexander J. Graziani, AICP
Penn Township Westmoreland County

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**
vacant

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STEP, Inc.

Lehigh Valley
Sara Pandl, AICP/RLA
Lower Macungie Township

Northeast
Steve Pitoniak
Lackawanna County Planning

Northwest
Amy McKinney
Lawrence County Planning Department

Southeast
Martha Cross, AICP, PP, LEED AP
The Reinvestment Fund – Development Partners

Southwest
Andrew Hartwell, AICP
County of Allegheny Department of Economic Development

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Brian Traylor, AICP, ASLA

Contact information is available at www.planningpa.org under “About Us.”
Hello Fellow Planners. For those of you who weren’t able to attend, the conference in Pittsburgh was excellent, showcasing the city’s many attractions and incredible improvements. If you haven’t been to Pittsburgh or haven’t seen it in a couple of decades, I recommend that you visit. Pittsburgh, located in hills surrounding the three rivers, is beautiful, as noted by one of the conference’s keynote speakers, James Brasuell, the editor of Planetizen. But the city is much more than that; it is also a leader in waterfront development, trail construction, green buildings, bike planning, neighborhood revitalization, and brownfield redevelopment.

The conference was full of compelling sessions, interesting mobile workshops, and fun events. This is the first conference I remember featuring a comedian.

Two sessions stood out for me: Gil Penalosa, Sunday morning’s keynote speaker, gave an inspiring presentation on making our communities vibrant and healthy. He posed the 8 to 80 question – would this community be a good place for an 8-year old child or an 80-year old adult. If not, then planners and community policymakers should determine how it can support all citizens from 8 to 80 years old.

One of the mobile workshops was a bike tour of the bike lanes and bike paths in downtown Pittsburgh, using the city’s excellent bike share bikes. The trails built along the rivers manage to fit into incredibly tight spaces along with highways, rail lines, and buildings. My understanding is that it’s possible to bicycle on a trail from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

Overall, the conference was great. Next year is Allentown, another Pennsylvania city experiencing a renaissance. In 2017, we’ll be in State College, followed by a conference in Erie and then Reading.

This is my last message as president. It has been an honor to serve the Chapter membership over the past four years, and I feel the Chapter is in good condition, with a strong online presence, excellent conferences and educational events, and new programs, like the Great Places in Pennsylvania. I encourage members to volunteer and get more involved with the Chapter, and I would like to see our membership grow. If you work in an office with many non-member planners, ask them to join. The Chapter offers great opportunities to network and helps planners keep their fingers on the pulse of what’s happening in Pennsylvania’s planning world.

I’m happy to report that there’s a dedicated group of new officers coming on board. James Cowhey, the incoming president, is the executive director for the Lancaster County Planning Commission, and has been vice-president, secretary, and conference co-chair for the Lancaster Conference. Amy McKinney, the incoming vice-president, has been secretary, chair of the Northwest section, and conference co-chair in Erie. Amy is the director for the Lawrence County Planning Department. Justin Dula, the incoming treasurer, is the Southeast section chair-elect, has held a variety of offices in the southeast section, and has been conference co-chair in Philadelphia. He is the county and regional manager for Delaware County Planning Department. Leah Eppinger, the incoming secretary, is the Dauphin County planning coordinator for Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and is heavily involved with the Central Section, and serves on the Chapter PDC.

Welcome to the new team, and I’m looking forward to the great work they’ll do on behalf of the Chapter and planning in Pennsylvania.

I encourage members to volunteer and get more involved with the Chapter, and I would like to see our membership grow.
I am happy to report that APA-PA was able to submit nominations for induction into the AICP College of Fellows for three deserving APA-PA members, and that one additional APA-PA member was nominated by an APA Division. This cycle’s nominees include Toby Fauver (PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation), Carol Collier (former Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission and currently a Senior Advisor at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University), Tom Comitta (President and Founder of Thomas Comitta Associates), and David Rouse (former principal at Wallace Roberts and Todd and currently the Director of Research and Advisory Services for APA).

FAICP recognizes those planners who have made significant contributions to planning and society. Nomination packets from across the country will be reviewed by the FAICP Selection Committee this winter and notification will be made in late winter. Members selected into the College of Fellows will be formally inducted during the 2016 National Planning Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in April 2016.

The Professional Development Committee is already thinking of the spring AICP exam prep session; mark your calendars for March 5. If you are planning on testing in 2016, keep an eye on the website for registration information. Remember there is only one full-day prep session annually – the spring session. Also, keep an eye on the website for information on the reduced-fee AICP exam scholarship. These scholarships are provided to the Chapter by APA, and information is distributed at the end of the calendar year for the upcoming year’s test cycles.

Congratulations to the Pittsburgh Conference Committee on a fun and informative conference in October. The conference is always a great way to earn CMs, and this year was no different. Speaking of CMs, the deadline for the current cycle is approaching. While there is an automatic grace period that extends to April 30th of the next year, there are also many opportunities, both in-person and online, to fulfill those requirements within the regular reporting cycle. Please see the website for details on upcoming and online options. If you find yourself in need of credits early next year though, look for the Chapter’s spring series or forum – details to come on both of those training opportunities.

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**Penn State Extension LAND USE Webinar Series**

*By Peter Wulfhorst, AICP*

**PENN STATE EXTENSION** will be conducting their seventh Land Use Webinar series starting in January 2016 and continuing until May 2016. The webinars will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12 noon – 1:15 pm. Recordings of the webinars will also be made available to registrants.

The cost of the webinar series is $40 for all 5 webinars and $75 for all 5 webinars for those who want to get CM credits. In addition, we will be offering continuing credits for Registered Landscape Architects.

Registration information can be found at [http://agsci.psu.edu/land-use-webinar](http://agsci.psu.edu/land-use-webinar) starting on January 4, 2016 including complete topic descriptions.

The dates of the webinars are:
January 20, February 17, March 16, April 13 & May 18, 2016.

Topics include: Land Banks, Sign regulations including Reeds vs. Town of Gilbert, MS4 stormwater issues, Complete Streets & Dealing with conflicts over land uses.

For registration information, please contact Extension Educator Peter Wulfhorst at 570-296-3400 or e-mail at ptw3@psu.edu
Central Section Update  
By Rachelle A. Abbott, AICP, Section Chair

On November 6, 2015, the Central Section hosted a full day workshop on **Rethinking Healthy Community Planning** at the Linglestown Giant Community Center. The day started and ended with Michelle Brummer, AICP of Gannett Fleming, Inc., discussing the connection between planners and public health. Janet Bargh, Director of the Division of Plan Development for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, followed with an update of the state's 5-year Health Improvement Plan and its priorities for physical fitness, primary care and preventive services, and mental health services. A panel from Carlisle presented the great efforts within the Borough that has resulted in multiple recognitions, including Money Magazine's the fifth best place for walking and biking compared to 1,900 towns in the United States. Speakers were James Mader, Cumberland Valley Rail Trail; Jeff Kelly, Cumberland County Planning; Becca Raley, Partnership for Better Health; and Shireen Farr, Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau. After lunch, participants were able to get outside for a walkability audit led by Patrick Wright of Pennoni Associates. He discussed the good and bad aspects of the pedestrian infrastructure in the parking lot and at the PA Route 39 intersection with Giant’s access drive. Alice Yoder, Director of Community Health at Lancaster General Health and Lancaster County Planning Commission member, discussed the need for public health to be incorporated in all policies of a municipality, county, region, or the state. Debra Thompson, founder of Strategy Solutions, Inc., discussed why planners should be involved – by invitation or by volunteering – in Community Health Needs Assessments required of non-profit hospitals (and other non-profit organizations) by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Central Section welcomes guests to our **next meeting on December 10, 2015**, at 10 a.m. at the Ranch House Restaurant in Watts, PA. The Board will be discussing the 2016 Section budget, reviewing the fall workshop and proposing ideas for the spring 2016 workshop. Should you have any thoughts and can’t make the meeting, please email Central Section Chair, Rachelle Abbott, AICP at raabbott@stepcorp.org. ✚

Northeast Section Update  
By Cindy Campbell

The Northeast Section will hold its **annual Holiday Meeting and Luncheon** on **Friday, December 4** at Armetta’s Restaurant in Clarks Summit, PA. We will meet at 11:30 for a Section meeting, followed by the luncheon and a presentation by George Kelly, Director of the Lackawanna County Department of Planning & Economic Development.

Mr. Kelly will discuss the restructuring of the County Planning Commission and some of the programs the Department is pursuing, including land bank, community reinvestment grants and small business loan assistance.

The cost will be $20 per person and the menu will be a catered buffet style. Cookies will be served for dessert. Please make checks payable to NE Section APA-PA.

Reservations are required. Please RSVP to Peter Wulforst ptw3@psu.edu, 570-296-3400 ext 1445 OR Cindy Campbell, ccampbell@pa.gov, 570-963-4574 no later than November 30. Hope you can join us! ✚

Southeast Section Update  
By Martha Cross, AICP

On the evening of Wednesday, October 28, 2015, the Southeast Section held their Annual Event and Awards Presentation at the Mural Arts Open Source HUB in Center City, Philadelphia. The event, titled “Exploring Mural Arts’ Open Source & Its Pop-Up Impact” looked at the month-long Open Source program that featured installations throughout the City by 14 international artists from around the world. Mural Arts’ Chief of Staff, Brian Campbell, gave an engaging talk about the history of the organization and the work to implement Open Source, including creating the pop-up living lab space, the HUB.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
New PA Chapter Members!

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS who joined the PA Chapter over the past few months. The PA Chapter membership includes nearly 2,600 planning officials, professional planners, and others who care about how Pennsylvania continues to grow the places where we live, work, and enjoy recreation. The Board and staff are available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact the Chapter Office at 717-671-4510. Board member contact information is available at www.planningpa.org under About Us.

Individual Members:
- Andrea Lavin Kossis, Southwest Section
- Tom Swisher, Southwest Section
- Christopher Strohler, Lehigh Valley/Berks Section

Organizational Member:
- County of Sullivan, Northeast Section

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

After the presentation, Martha Cross, Chair of the Southeast Section, had the privilege of presenting one of the PA State Chapter’s annual awards to a local firm, WRT. WRT’s project, the John C. Anderson Apartments, won the Chapter’s Planning Achievement Award for Advancing Diversity and Social Change. Joe Salerno was on hand to accept the award and give a few remarks. The John C. Anderson Apartments is the first project to be developed in the eastern United States focused on providing welcoming and safe senior housing for persons who identify as part of the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) community. Martha noted that while the building itself fit beautifully in its context, its true measure of acceptance and celebration by the community was seen before the building was complete. Seniors lined up down the block from the William Way Center to get on the waiting list for units before the building was finished, camping out in chairs and on blankets. Joe Salerno added that what we didn’t see was that LGBT youth, from William Way’s Attic Youth Center, had taken the overnight shift, camping out to help seniors keep their spots in line. Joe noted that residents are exceptionally proud of the building and their apartments and that the first floor, outdoor courtyard space has helped to continue to foster a sense of community in the building.

Following the State Award presentation, the Section’s Education Committee presented three scholarship awards to students from Temple and West Chester Universities.
APA-PA2015 annual conference recap

Making **GREAT COMMUNITIES Happen**

47 Concurrent Sessions

5 Mobile Workshops

3 main sessions and our State of the Chapter and Annual Awards luncheon

Conference photos by Pattie Guttenplan
The 2015 conference was successful due in large part to the tireless efforts of the local conference committee. Many thanks to the committee for their hard work!

Kay Pierce, Allegheny County Economic Development, Chair
Bruce Betty, AICP, Town of McCandless
Bill Campbell, Marshall Township
Allen Cohen, AICP, Cohen Municipal Planning
Trisha Crowe, Allegheny County Economic Development
Andrew Dash, AICP, City of Pittsburgh
Whitney Finnstrom, AICP, Mullin & Lonergan Assoc Inc.
Patty Folan, AICP, GAI Consultants
Chris Goswick, Allegheny County Economic Development
Andrew Hartwell, AICP, Allegheny County Economic Development
Ron Henshaw, AICP, Cranberry Township
Ethan Imhoff, AICP, Cambria County Planning Commission
Kevin Kunak, AICP, Rothschild Doyno Collaborative
Brian Kurtz, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Dennis Martinak, AICP, Mackin Engineering Company
William McClain, Allegheny County Economic Development
Amanda Miller, AICP, PNC Bank
Ann M. Ogoreuc, AICP, Allegheny County Economic Development
Denny Puko, PA DECD
Chris Rearick, AICP, Jackson Township
Brandi Roselli, AICP, Mackin Engineering
Katie Stringent, Township of Upper St. Clair
Brian Temple, AICP, Imperial Land Corporation
John K. Trant, Jr., AICP, Strategic Solutions LLC
Nicole Zimsky, AICP, Marshall Township

The Scholarship subcommittee raised over $3000 this year through a 50/50, a silent auction and a raffle, plus an evening with a comedian.
Thank you! With deep appreciation, we thank the sponsors, exhibitors and advertisers. Their support makes the conference possible. Thanks, too, to the student volunteers from IUP and University of Pittsburgh.

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PITTSBURGH 2015

“Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers Heritage Trail” Bike Workshop
PITTSBURGH 2015

“Over the River & Up The Hill” Mobile Workshop

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HOLD THE DATE!

APA-PA2016
annual conference

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