

# THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

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## ANNOUNCING THE 2017 *Great Places in Pennsylvania*

The PA Chapter of APA kicked-off the “Great Places in Pennsylvania” Program in 2014 to recognize places with exemplary character, quality, identity, cultural interest, and community involvement. Great Places are unique and have a sustainable vision for tomorrow. They not only demonstrate the rewarding results that occur through community partnerships, planning, and dedication, but also serve as a model that other communities want to emulate.

For 2017, the Great Places categories were **Great Public Spaces** and **Great Streets**. Sixteen nominations from across the Commonwealth were submitted. A panel of eight judges reviewed and rated the nominations. The outcome was the designation of five Great Places in Pennsylvania: three in the category of Great Public Spaces and two in the category of Great Streets.



The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association celebrates excellence in planning.

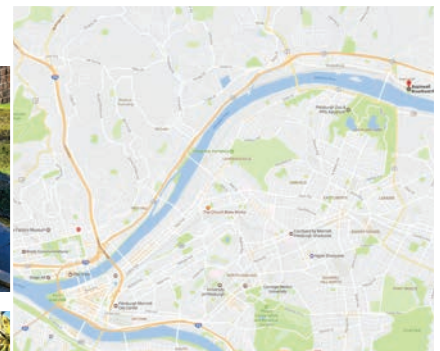
*Congratulations to the 2017 Great Places in Pennsylvania!*

### GREAT PUBLIC SPACES

**Aspinwall Riverfront Park:** Aspinwall Borough residents led a grassroots effort to reconnect their community with its Allegheny riverfront and to link it to Western Pennsylvania’s expanding trail system. The result was a master plan for Aspinwall Riverfront Park, which opened in 2015. The Park exemplifies sustainability through brownfield redevelopment, green infrastructure, a hierarchy of material palettes, and reuse of demolished building materials and old curb stones. It offers many distinctive amenities and has captured the public’s imagination as one of the most memorable greenspaces in the Pittsburgh region.



ASPINWALL RIVERFRONT PARK



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## FOUNTAIN PARK AND BANDSTAND PARK



### GREAT PUBLIC SPACES (CONT.)

**Fountain Park and Bandstand Park:** The 1795 urban plan for Franklin City included an extra-wide main street bordered by two spacious parks in the heart of the City. Fountain Park and Bandstand Park are historic treasures and form the downtown cornerstone. Franklin's Silver Cornet Band has been playing in Bandstand Park for over 160 years. The Parks are a popular place for people watching, strolling, chess matches, and picnicking, as well as for many celebrations, festivals, and events that attract 175,000 visitors annually.



## KARL STIRNER ARTS TRAIL

**Karl Stirner Arts Trail:** The 2.5 mile Karl Stirner Arts Trail (KSAT), in the City of Easton, follows the Bushkill Creek and connects a variety of community assets. This unique hiking and biking Trail, developed through a community partnership, showcases works by internationally and nationally acclaimed artists, as well as local and regional artists. The KSAT presents educational and inspirational possibilities for residents, visitors, and students, including workshops/classes with artists and environmentalists. People of all ages frequent the Trail, which encourages the entire community to find resonance and meaning in art and nature.



## NORTH BEAVER STREET

### GREAT STREETS

**North Beaver Street:** The unit block of North Beaver Street, in York City, serves as the bustling hub of the downtown. It is home to Central Market, an eclectic mix of gift shops and boutiques, a “Creative York” art gallery, bars, and restaurants. During monthly First Friday and other community events, the street is closed to traffic and becomes a pedestrian concourse for family friendly activities. Brightly colored parking meters and other unique pieces of public art adorn the street.

**State Street:** Media Borough has a pedestrian friendly downtown with a thriving commercial district and one of the few remaining main street trolley lines in the country. State Street is the primary downtown street and is a hub of activity year-round. By offering small, one-of-a-kind shops, sophisticated-casual restaurants, grocery stores, and a professional music theater, it is able to compete with nearby malls and strip shopping centers. A variety of social activities and festivities bolster community spirit and enthusiasm for sustainability.

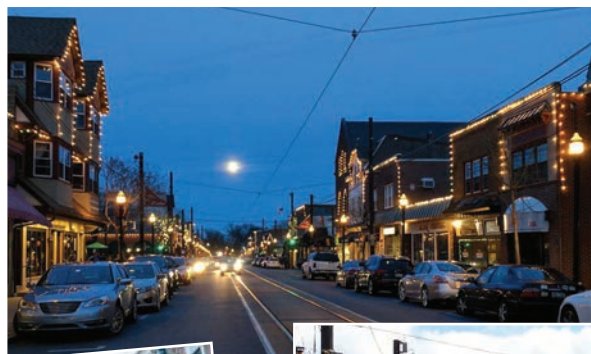
In recognizing the 2017 Great Places in Pennsylvania, PA-APA also celebrates the many community leaders and officials, professionals, and residents who contributed to making the Great Public Spaces and Streets.

When traveling or seeking a pleasurable adventure, consider visiting the “Great Places in Pennsylvania.” Information about the 2017 Great Places and previously designated Great Places is available on the Chapter website ([www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org)).

Stay tuned for the opportunity to nominate Great Places in 2018. It’s not too soon to start thinking about great places to nominate in your community. ♦



## STATE STREET





# INSIDER

A Message from President **James Cowhey, AICP**

Summer of 2017 has really seemed to have flown by despite the fact that the pace of life is (sometimes) slower during this season. Before too long we'll be approaching autumn and be looking forward to our annual conference. The conference host committee has put together a great program and I hope to see you in State College in October.

There was a **very significant Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision made in June** which has important relevance to planners. In *Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf* (20 June 2017), the court provided a clear interpretation of the meaning of the Environmental Rights Amendment passed by popular referendum in 1971. The strongly worded opinion provides a well-reasoned decision from the high court and makes for an interesting read. I recommend it. The decision sets aside tests previously used by the courts to interpret the Environmental Rights Amendment and indicates that the amendment essentially means what it says.

**The decision challenges the legislature's appropriation of Marcellus Shale funds for purposes other than protection of the environment or even its ability to simply move the funds to the state general fund and not the Oil and Gas Lease Fund.** These funds are to be viewed as part of the Commonwealth's trustee obligations for conservation and maintenance of Pennsylvania's natural resources. **The decision is also clear in its interpretation of the amendment that state agencies, including municipal governments, are required to act as trustees for the people of the Commonwealth in regards to natural resources and not as the proprietors of those resources.** This may be interpreted to mean that the people own the natural resources not state government and that the Commonwealth has a constitutional responsibility to act as a fiduciary to conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people including generations yet to come.

If any decision can truly be called "landmark" this is one. I'm sure we'll be learning much more about the decision in the future as it is applied to not only shale gas exploration and extraction, but to the many environmental issues we face as a Commonwealth.

Please enjoy the articles and features in this edition of *Vantage Point*. Enjoy the rest of the summer! ♦



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Making Great Communities Happen

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## PA Chapter Executive Committee

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Vacant

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Wyoming County Planning Commission

*Northwest*  
**Amy McKinney**  
Lawrence County Planning Department

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**Justin Dula, AICP**  
Delaware County Planning Department

*Southwest*  
**Katie Stringent**  
The Borough of Sewickley Heights

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**Susan Elks, AICP**

*Planning Officials Development Officer/Chair of the Planning Officials Development Committee*  
**Troy Truax, AICP**

*Communications/Membership Co-Chairs*  
**Amy Evans, AICP**  
**Amy McKinney**

*Education Committee Chair*  
vacant

*Legislative Committee Chair*  
**Ariam Ford**

Contact information is available at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) under "About Us"

# PDO *corner*

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

APA has introduced a new student membership program – any student can be a member of APA, their local chapter, and up to five divisions at no cost while the student is seeking a degree. Students can be seeking a planning degree or a degree in an allied program, such as geography or urban studies. After receiving their degree, the students can transition into a two-year membership program that provides a discounted rate for dues. This program is a great way for students to better understand the world of planning and potential careers in planning. Please encourage any students and recent graduates you know to join and participate in APA. More information is available at [planning.org/membership](http://planning.org/membership). Also see the article from APA on page 8.

The annual APA-PA conference will soon be taking place in State College – hopefully many members will take advantage of this great opportunity to learn the latest information and techniques, take a mobile workshop to see planning in action, and of course catch up with planners from all across Pennsylvania. State College is a great location to draw planners from every corner of our state, adding an important diversity to the conference. There are sessions for law and ethics for planners seeking those specific CM credits, and a diversity of topics covered overall. As always, the **Chapter's Professional Development Committee will be**

**offering a session on AICP exam prep, and will be discussing some of the takeaways from the May testing cycle**, which was the first under the revised content outline. Hopefully you'll attend and bring your perspective.

In other activities, the Professional Development Committee is **busy assisting multiple PA Chapter members with their nomination packets for consideration for acceptance into the Fellows of AICP**. Following notification on the website and through the Sections, the Chapter was happy to hear from many members regarding the excellent work that our planners are doing and their qualifications for FAICP. Unfortunately there were too many to advance in one round – but there is always next time! The Chapter Board and Sections' leadership whittled down the list of potential nominees, and work is currently underway on resumes, support letters, and other materials. The nomination packets are due in October, and notification is typically received early in the following year. The Professional Development Committee, Sections, and nominees are working hard to prepare nomination packets that fully represent the high quality work and significant positive impacts that these planners are having in our communities. We look forward to sharing positive news on this front in 2018! ♦

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Congratulations to the new AICPs from Pennsylvania!

Congratulations to the newly certified planner who passed the November 2016 Comprehensive Planning Exam and have joined the AICP!

Stephen Buckley  
Andrew Chew  
William Clark  
Carolyn Conwell  
Jeffrey Doshna  
Andrea Lavin Kossis  
Brian Lawrence  
Kathryn McMahon  
Emily Mitchell  
Larry Newman  
Craig Peiffer  
Barbara Shaffer  
Robert Watts  
Hadley Yates

## PA STATE PLANNING BOARD

The State Planning Board report prepared in response to the Governor's recent charge has been released. It can be found on the PA Chapter website at <https://planningpa.org/advocacy/pa-state-planning-board/>.

The report is also posted on DCED's State Planning Board webpage: <http://dced.pa.gov/local-government/boards-committees/state-planning-board/>



## Southeast Section Update

**Principles to Which We Aspire:  
Social Justice & Public Health**  
(1.5 AICP CM Ethics Credits and  
0.5 AICP CM credits)

Wednesday, August 30, 2017  
from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Registration/Light breakfast  
at 8:30 a.m.

**Cost:** \$15 (includes light breakfast,  
1.5 AICP CM Ethics Credits, 0.5 CM credits)

**Register:** [apapase.eventbrite.com](http://apapase.eventbrite.com)

**Location:** Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
190 N. Independence Mall West  
8th Floor Main Conference Room  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Planners have a unique charge to make policy decisions with the welfare of citizens in mind. The “Principles to which we Aspire” section of the ethics code sets the standard for how planners to work toward a more just future. This lecture will cover how three planners have worked to:

- Seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons
- Recognize a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration and urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs.
- Provide citizens the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs that may affect them.
- Consider and incorporated the long-range consequences of present actions.
- Articulate the interrelatedness of decisions.

### Speakers:

- **Lisa Servon**, Professor and Department Chair, City Planning, University of Pennsylvania
- **Amanda Wagner**, MCP, MGA, Get Healthy Philly
- **Caroline Harries**, AICP, Associate Director, The Food Trust



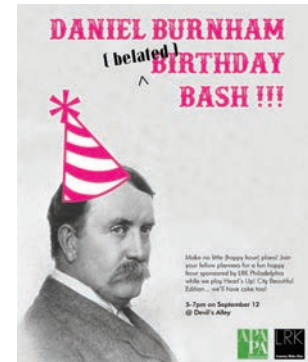
## Southeast Section Update (cont.)

**Daniel Burnham's Belated  
Birthday Bash!**

September 12, 2017  
from 5 - 7 p.m.

Devil's Alley Bar and Grill  
(1907 Chestnut Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19103)

\$8 if you register in advance  
[[apapase.eventbrite.com](http://apapase.eventbrite.com)];  
\$10 at the door



Make no little (happy hour) plans! Daniel Burnham--who co-authored the 1909 Plan of Chicago--would be 171 years old this year. We're celebrating the birthday of one of the founders of American city planning eight days late. Join APAPASE for Happy Hour at Devil's Alley Bar and Grill (1907 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103) on September 12, 2017 from 5-7pm. Tickets are \$8 in advance (\$10 at the door--cash only) and include your first drink and birthday cake. After your first drink, it's cash bar. Drink specials will be \$3 drafts, \$4 house wines, and \$5 sangrias. This event is open to Burnham-enthusiasts, professional planners, citizen planners, students (21+), urban designers, architects, landscape architects, professors, engineers, and anyone with an interest in the planning profession.

Of course, no birthday party is complete without fun and games. We'll be playing HEADS UP! URBANIST: City Beautiful Edition. You will get three HEADS UP! cards on which there is a person, place, or thing with importance to urbanism and the planning profession. Hold them up to your forehead so you can't see them and other happy hour attendees will give you clues so you guess what card you're holding up.

This happy hour is sponsored by LRK Philadelphia, which focuses on creating a strong sense of place that is executed with passion and at a range of scales – the region, city, district, neighborhood and block. Our national team of planners, urban designers and architects bring experience in municipal planning, mixed-use district and walkable neighborhoods. LRK's planning and architecture has been recognized by awards from APA, ULI, CNU, and NHBA; and includes local plans as diverse of as the Together North Jersey – HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Plan – and Waterside – Bucks County's new riverfront neighborhood. ♦



## Lehigh Valley/Berks Section Update

The Lehigh Valley/Berks section meeting in July 21 included a tour of the Madison Farm mixed use and mixed density project in Bethlehem Township. We plan a second Section meeting/Tour of Easton's latest downtown projects on September 8. ♦



## Central Section Update

The APA – PA Central Section is in the initial planning phases of offering a train excursion to members and their families in late Fall. More information to come, but please know, this will be a popular event, so be sure to register as soon as you see the announcement. Volunteers to assist with events are always appreciated.

Central Section is excited to be hosting the 2017 APA – PA Chapter conference in State College, PA October 22nd – 24th. Conference registration is now open. *Experience, Adapt, Innovate!* will be a conference you won't want to miss! Central Section will not be holding its Fall CM Workshop Session due to the conference, but will be offering a Spring CM Workshop in 2018.

APA – PA Central Section is continuing to take applications for the Professional Development Scholarship Program. **If interested in applying for a scholarship, visit the APA-PA Chapter website Central Section page** for the overview and application. The scholarship is available for the education and training of planners, public officials, and students in the Central Section, including, but not limited to, Section workshops, Chapter conferences, and AICP exam. Scholarship amounts will be awarded based on eligibility, benefit to planning knowledge or career goals, and financial need, with a maximum award of \$500.00.

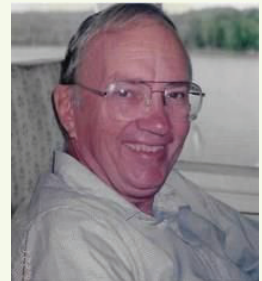
Do you want to be more involved? The APA – PA Central Section welcomes guests to our upcoming meetings. Also, elections for Central Section Council are quickly approaching, if you are interested in a position, please reach out to Stan Lembeck at [slembeck34@gmail.com](mailto:slembeck34@gmail.com), who is on the Nominations Committee. If you are interested in attending or have information to provide, please email the APA – PA Central Section Chair, Rachele Abbott, AICP at [raabbott@stepcorp.org](mailto:raabbott@stepcorp.org). ♦

## In Memory of

### Stephen Henderson Pitkin

July 21, 1935 - August 7, 2017

Stephen (Steve) Henderson Pitkin, 82, of Stuart FL, died suddenly on August 7 after a long illness in Stuart, FL. Born in Harrisburg, PA 1935, he was the son of Francis Alexander and Ruth Mason Pitkin. He leaves his wife of 54 years, Marcy Trembath Pitkin; two children, Douglas Alexander Pitkin (Patricia Cain) and Laura Pitkin Delany (Bill Delany); and a granddaughter, Caroline Marcy Delany.



A graduate of William Penn High School (Harrisburg, PA) and Swarthmore College, he had a Master's in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design. Steve served in the US Army and National Guard from 1960 to 1963.

Steve pursued a distinguished 40-year career devoted to effective local government and community engagement. After teaching at Penn's Fels Institute of Government and serving as a planning consultant for nearby communities, he served as Director of Planning and later Commissioner of Community Development for Springfield, MA; Director of Planning for Caddo Parish, LA; and Director of Planning, Zoning and Community Development for Escambia County, FL. He also taught as an adjunct faculty member with Springfield College and LSU-Shreveport, and held positions with Keith and Schnarrs, Ft. Lauderdale, and as President of Robert Swarthout Inc. in Boca Raton. After moving to Martin County he was affiliated with Walter Keller, Inc. in Sewell's Point.

Steve's numerous achievements including reaching Eagle Scout, resuming active support for scouting after retirement; membership in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity; past president of both the Louisiana and Florida Planning Associations; active in the American Planning Association; service with Florida's Capital Center Planning Commission; past president of Habitat for Humanity, Martin County; and past president of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Treasure Coast and the Boca Raton UU Church. Steve had a lifelong love for tennis, exploring new cities, classical music, and birding, with a lifetime count of 200 birds.

A memorial service will be held on Friday September 22nd at 2:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Treasure Coast, 21 Central Parkway, Stuart. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Habitat for Humanity of Martin County, FL ([www.habitatmartin.org](http://www.habitatmartin.org)) or Audubon of Martin County, FL ([www.audubonmartincounty.org](http://www.audubonmartincounty.org)). ♦

# Updated APA Membership Welcomes the Next Generation of Planners

By Monica Grob, APA Director of Emerging Professionals

*Big changes are coming to the American Planning Association! Beginning on July 11, APA student membership will be free to any full- or part-time student actively matriculated in any university or college degree program. APA also will offer two years of reduced dues to help bridge the gap between university and professional life. First-time members will enjoy discounted introductory rates as well.*

## STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Under the new student membership program<sup>1</sup>, any student can be a member of APA, a local chapter, and up to five divisions at no cost. This applies to all students, regardless of current or previous APA membership, seeking a degree at any level (undergraduate, masters, PhD), who are actively matriculated in a college or university degree program.<sup>2</sup> Students do not have to be in a planning program and we welcome individuals in allied programs like geography and urban studies who are interested in planning. After completing their studies, students can transition into a two-year membership program that offers discounted introductory dues.

You may be thinking to yourself, “Great! This will make it easier for more students to join APA and strengthen the student community!” You also might be asking, “What will keep them once they join?”

We think our expanded set of benefits will persuade them. Students have told us that they need tools and resources to network, explore career paths and opportunities, and build real-world skills. They also want opportunities to showcase their work and creativity. Finally, they seek a community that shares their passion for making vibrant communities and a better future.

Here are some of the ways APA's new student membership programs responds to their needs:

- Free digital access to the latest industry research and trends as reported in *Planning* magazine, the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Zoning Practice*, a new E-book Collection and Research KnowledgeBase, e-newsletters, as well as by APA's renowned Planning Advisory Service.
- Career services and support through mentoring, Career Reality Webinars, and skills training.
- Awards, scholarships, and competitions recognizing student excellence.
- Financial support for conference attendance and student organization activities.
- Leadership and volunteer opportunities at the national, chapter, division, and university levels.
- Free membership in up to five APA divisions – communities of planning specialties, populations, and interest areas.
- Out-of-classroom learning at the National Planning Conference and other in-person and online sessions, webinars, and events.

There is more! Later this year, APA will launch the AICP Candidate Pilot Program, including a dedicated mentoring component, aimed at helping qualified participants become certified by the American Institute of

Certified Planners. Ambitious students who attain certification while seeking a degree will benefit from free AICP membership until they complete their studies.

## TWO-YEAR INTRODUCTORY RATES

New members<sup>3</sup> will benefit from an introductory rate of \$95/year (\$75 APA/\$20 chapter) for two consecutive years, before entering APA's salary based dues structure. In addition to all benefits of APA membership, this introductory period includes discounts on AICP and division memberships, and savings on *Zoning Practice* and *JAPA*.

We look forward to working with the entire APA community — including leaders, chapters, divisions, and student groups — as well as key partners like the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, the Planning Accreditation Board, and individual colleges and universities, to continue exploring ways to make APA a stronger and more inclusive community for the next generation. Please encourage students, recent graduates, and other colleagues you know to join, renew, and participate in APA, and let us know how we can support your efforts.

Visit [planning.org/membership](http://planning.org/membership) for more information. ♦



Monica Grob is APA's Director of Emerging Professionals.

<sup>1</sup> These changes replace APA's 5-Year Early Career Membership Program. Did you join the ECMP as a student member on October 1, 2012 or later? APA will help you transition into the new structure. Email [studentmembership@planning.org](mailto:studentmembership@planning.org) if you have questions.

<sup>2</sup> Active degree status is defined by each university or college.

<sup>3</sup> This offer applies to first-time individual members and students transitioning out of student status. It excludes international and group membership programs.



# Community Heart & Soul: *Engaging Residents through the Humanities to Find What Matters Most*

## DESCRIPTION:

What role can the humanities play in community development?  
*A powerful one!*

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council and the Orton Family Foundation are working with communities across the commonwealth to incorporate the humanities into planning processes. Pennsylvania residents are using Orton's nationally successful Community Heart & Soul® model to create a shared sense of belonging that improves local decision-making and ultimately strengthens social, cultural and economic vibrancy.

During this free talk, you'll hear from two planners who are using the Heart & Soul® model to drive positive change in their communities.

*This talk will preview a more extensive session to be presented on October 24 during the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association 2017 Annual Conference in State College.*

## SPEAKERS:

**James Cowhey** is Executive Director at Lancaster County Planning Commission and President of the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association.

**Mimi Iijima** serves as Director of Programs and Special Projects at the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and has been leading PHC's work to bring the Community Heart & Soul model to Pennsylvania cities and towns.

**Zach Norwood** is Planning Director, Crawford County Planning Office. He is also a member of the leadership team for a Community Heart & Soul project ("My Meadville") in Meadville.

**Kirsten Sackett** is Community Development Director for the city of Ellensburg, Washington. From 2012 to 2014, Kirsten led a Community Heart & Soul project that transformed her community of Cortez, Colorado and she is now spearheading a Heart & Soul project in Ellensburg.

**Fran Stoddard**, moderator, is a Communications Consultant with the Orton Family Foundation. Fran produced and hosted Vermont Public Television's weekly "Profile" interview program for more than a decade. She frequently serves as moderator for community events and has served on numerous non-profit boards.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

This talk is the first in a series of Fall 2017 events produced by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and the Orton Family Foundation in conjunction with the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association. Learn more about these events and their connection to future funding opportunities at [pahamanities.org/fall2017](http://pahamanities.org/fall2017). ♦



## *Scholarships Awarded* to Planning Students

### PA Chapter Scholarships

The PA Chapter of APA awarded scholarships from the **Francis Pitkin Scholarship Fund**, the **Richard P. Byler Charitable Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation**, the **Richard G. Bickel Planning Education** and the **Leslie and Greta Spaulding Education Fund** for the 2017-2018 academic year. Four Students benefited from the generosity of these funds and donations from Chapter members. The following students were recipients:

<b>Ronique Bishop</b>	Temple University
<b>Laura Culp</b>	University of Pennsylvania
<b>Colin Brown</b>	University of Michigan
<b>Elizabeth Volchok</b>	University of Pennsylvania

# We Can Make a Healthier PA!

By Justin Dula, AICP and Kevin Sheridan

When it comes to health, there is no downside to improving! Whether it's eating healthier food, being more physically active, or trying to cut out other unhealthy habits there is always a way we can be healthier. Although the decision to make healthier choices is ultimately up to each individual, there are ways that planners can make these choices easier for people to make. That is why planning and health professionals are working together more than ever before to encourage healthy community design!

The **Healthy Communities in PA** task force envisions that every resident of Pennsylvania lives in a community designed for healthy living, where the healthy choice is the easy choice. This vision is achieved through volunteer efforts by planning and health advocates creating tools and resources to assist partners in promoting healthy community design. The tools and resources are created by working groups of task force topic experts that collect the best practices needed by Pennsylvania's healthy community design partners. The American Planning Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (APA PA) is committed to sharing these resources and facilitating discussion around healthy community design in Pennsylvania.

## COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTORS SURVEY ON HEALTHY COMMUNITY DESIGN

We recently sent out a survey to the planning directors of each county in Pennsylvania. The survey was designed so that the Healthy Communities in PA task force could establish working groups on pressing issues and find a direction in which to begin working. The survey asked how each county regarded themselves demographically and examined how involved these counties were in building healthy communities as well as what tools what be most helpful in learning about healthy communities. The main issues across the state of Pennsylvania include substance abuse, obesity, care for the elderly, and increasing physical activity. In order to learn more about healthy communities, planners believed that online training sessions would be the most helpful accompanied by model resolutions or ordinances and white papers or research documents.

Based on the 32 counties that responded to the survey the most pressing concern related to healthy communities was considered to be substance abuse. Other aspects that are of concern include obesity, elderly care, and increasing physical activity. Meanwhile, the issues planners thought they could have the most effect on were traffic safety, improving physical fitness, ability to grow local food, and access to healthy food. Online training sessions was the tool directors thought would best help encourage or teach about healthy communities followed by model resolutions or ordinances, white papers or research documents, adaptable presentation materials, talking points with partners, and in person roundtable discussions. When asked how familiar counties were with the concept of healthy communities most answered that they were somewhat familiar with the idea, meaning they are familiar with the notion but they do not regularly promote the concept. Many others said that they actively promote the idea of healthy

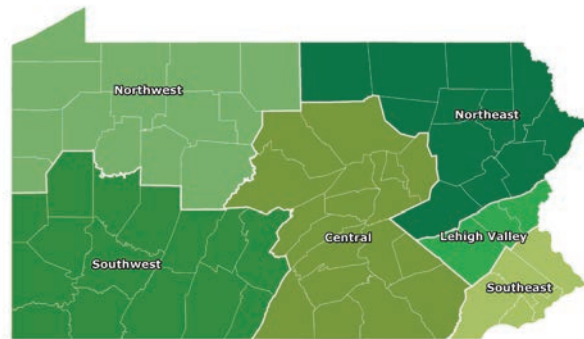


Figure 1: APA Pennsylvania is organized into six geographic sections.

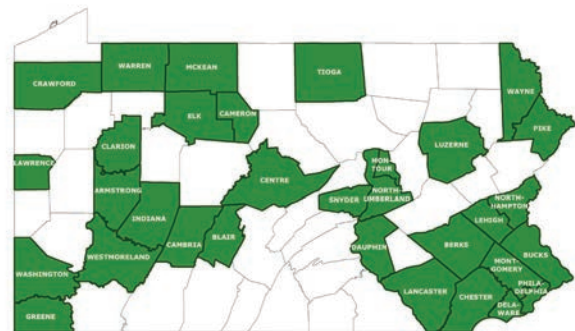


Figure 2: County planning directors survey responses are from those counties in green.

communities, while very few are planning to implement healthy community ideas, are unfamiliar with the concept, or found that healthy communities do not relate to their goals.

The survey began by asking counties how they viewed their community in respect to character. Counties were able to select multiple choices, but the majority (93.5%) of counties described their county as rural at least in part. Most counties also described their population as growing or shrinking (both 38.7%) but not many view their community as stable. Similarly, most counties described their geographic size as either large or medium, and population was split almost evenly between large, medium, and small. Capacity of resources in terms of budget or staff time were almost equal as well between a medium and small amount of capacity.

## CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES IN PA

Through the survey of County Planning Directors, the Healthy Communities in PA task force of APA PA is working to provide tools to planners to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in Pennsylvania's communities. Through our website, we are providing the resources that county planning directors identified as most useful in encouraging healthy community design, with highlighting upcoming webinars, training, and in person meetings around Pennsylvania.

Healthy Communities in PA task force has also created working groups to dive into the top issues related to

healthy community design in Pennsylvania. If you or your organization has a particular interest in one aspect of healthy community design, you can join a working group to help further improvement on that particular topic. The working groups are designed to be adaptable to member needs while calling on the resources of the full Healthy Communities in PA task force for additional resources or expertise.

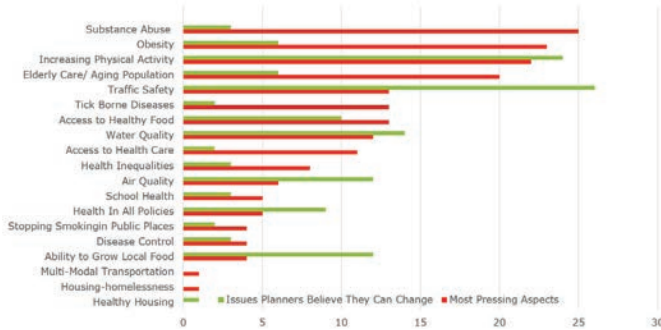


Figure 3: A chart showing which issues are most pressing to counties compared to which issues planners believe they can change

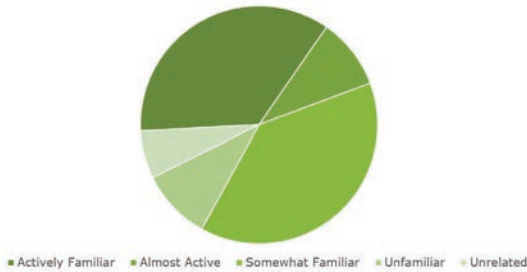


Figure 4: A graph displaying the counties' general familiarity with healthy community design.

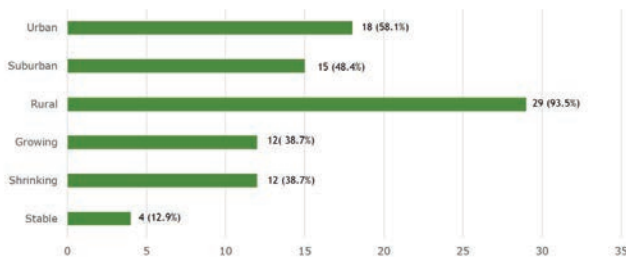


Figure 5: A graph that shows how counties view their community. (The counties were able to select multiple answers)

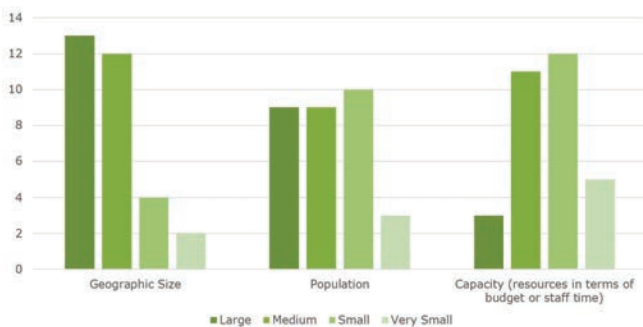


Figure 6: A chart that shows how counties view their own size

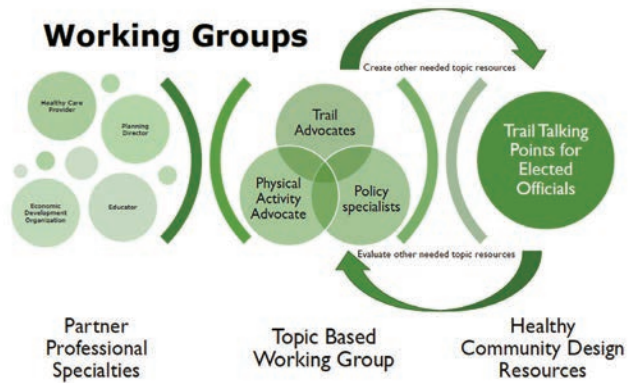


Figure 7: Working groups focus on a topic of concern to further healthy community design while avoiding volunteer burn out.

Healthy Community in PA task force is also coordinating with Pennsylvania agencies and departments to further healthy community design. We held a joint round table with the Pennsylvania Interagency Health Equity Team on August 22, 2017 where agencies shared the work they were doing and collected additional input from health and planning partners. Additionally, the task force will be assisting the PA Department of Health's *Live Healthy PA* database to add more healthy community design related projects and programs.

### HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

Our website is a way to find out how you can help make communities around Pennsylvania healthier by design. Check out our website by searching "Healthy Communities in PA" and use the resources provided to use healthy design concepts in your projects and work, give a presentation or training at a local level, or join or start a working group on a topic of interest to you.

We are conducting a survey on what you think would make Pennsylvania communities healthier at <http://bit.ly/HealthyComPA>. This quick (10 min) survey lets us know your healthy community design priorities to help identify resources for Pennsylvania's communities. If you are involved with a program or project related to healthy community design, including it in this survey can help you advertise your program as a resource to other Pennsylvania communities. Want to help get the word out to your networks? Our social media share kit makes it easy!

It can be intimidating to join a new group, so the Healthy Communities in PA task force has an orientation session to help members get familiar with the group and plugged into their area of interest. These calls are generally held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2pm, but check our website for the next call information as they are sometimes moved due to conflicts. The website also includes information on how to join - welcome to join this google group listserv or submit your information in the contact us section of our website with the request "Join Healthy Communities in PA."

We will report on identifying assessment results and completing activities at the APA PA 2017 conference and plan to meet regularly at future APA PA conferences. Please join us in State College in October! ♦