



APA Washington

2015-2017 Biennial Report



JOIN APA WASHINGTON



American Planning Association
Washington Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen



The Washington State Chapter of the American Planning Association is an organization of people who make great communities happen through our engagement in public and private sector planning and decision making. We share our experience, knowledge and resources, stay current on planning issues and ideas, and contribute to great places.



The mission of our chapter is to build an effective constituency for planning our state's economic and human resources and its built and natural environment.

Our membership includes public and private sector professional planners, students, citizen planners, planning commissioners and government officials in the state of Washington. We welcome individuals in all other allied professions and citizens interested in planning. Allied professionals and engaged citizens who join APA enjoy the same benefits as members who are professional planners.

Join the more than 1,300 members of the Washington State Chapter of APA to connect with other

professional planners, enhance your career, and have a greater impact on planning in communities throughout your state while tapping in to the deep nationwide pool of resources offered by national APA.

Benefits to Membership:

- Tap into the Member Network
- Accelerate your Professional Development
- Search or Post in our Listings of Jobs, Internships, and RFPs/RFQs
- Advance the Planning Profession
- Support Local Community Planning
- Make Great Communities Happen

Join

To join, go to:
<http://www.washington-apa.org/join-apa>



Membership options include:

- Regular Membership
- Chapter-only Membership
- Planning Board Membership
- Student Membership
- Academic Membership

What we do:

- Section Activities & Services
- Conferences & Workshops
- Legislative Presence and Advocacy
- Professional Certification: American Institute of Certified Planners
- Planning Magazine
- PAS Reports & Image Library
- Additional Publications
- Job Services

Events:

Attend the annual Statewide Planning Conference, Planning and Law Conference, and others.

Sections:

Take advantage of local contacts, events, and leadership opportunities in your region.



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Cover Images, clockwise from top left: Public visioning workshop for the Olympia Downtown Strategy; public open house and preference exercise for the Olympia Downtown Strategy; street in Belltown, Seattle, courtesy of Ivan Miller and; concept sketch from recent CPAT workshop in Whatcom County.

REFLECTIONS LOOKING BACK

It has been my honor to serve this four year term, first as President Elect, then APA Washington Chapter President, and now Immediate Past President. I feel fortunate that I came into this role at a time when the Chapter was strong and the State Legislature was expressing a renewed interest in planning.

My first act was to institute a Strategic Plan that many of you helped to develop. It set several measurable goals in areas including membership, targeted advocacy, and partnerships.

This Biennial Report discusses in more detail all the work done by our Committees, Sections and Task Forces over the past two years. I will highlight just a few accomplishments:



- **Increased Member Access to Education and Services** – Through the creation of the South Sound Section, hosting the first Strong Towns Curbside Chat in Washington, and the Columbia River Regional Forum, we have reached new members and broadened the organization. These activities provide additional opportunities to tailor training content and offer continuing education credits for AICP planners closer to home.
- **Strong Financial Position** – The Chapter’s financial position is stronger than it has ever been thanks to careful management of expenses; maintenance of a prudent financial reserve; development of a three-year budget projection for the organization; *\$250k* in Plan4Health grant funding; strong conferences including the Joint WA-OR APA Conference in 2016 and events like the 25th Anniversary of the Growth Management Act; and increased sponsorship and continued membership growth. We are in a solid position to continue increasing services and programs in the coming years.
- **Strengthening and Expanding Partnerships** – Our partnerships are stronger than they have ever been. We have created the ‘Great Places in Washington’ Awards Program; continued our commitment to improve and increase the Planners Forums and Short Courses for Citizen Planners; created the Allied Professions Liaison that now sits on the APA Washington Chapter Board; and supported and sponsored events and conferences of new allied professional partners.
- **Membership Trending Upward** – Through educational events, Section development, and increased outreach to the newly accredited Planning Program at Western Washington University, the Chapter membership is trending upward. After the economic downturn of recent years, membership growth is the strongest sign of APA Washington’s health.
- **Improving Organization Efficiency and Effectiveness** – The APA Washington’s Board completed a thorough audit of our administrative and organizational management needs and services and we adjusted our contracts accordingly. We chose to continue to work with our top notch organizational management team and our conference planning team to ensure the great customer service APA Washington members expect.
- **Targeted Advocacy** – APA Washington has expanded its credibility and influence through our advocacy efforts including support of the Ruckelshaus Center’s work on “The Collaborative Road Map for Washington” to modernize the State’s Growth Management Act. We have been among the earliest supporters of this effort and continue to call for Washington’s Legislature to renew the commitment to the most effective growth management legislation in the nation. Our Legislative Committee has more member involvement and interest than ever. We have strengthened our presence in Olympia by testifying on proposed legislation with strong member interest and supporting Initiative-732, the revenue neutral carbon tax.
- **Expanding Student Programs** – We continue to support and work to expand our scholarships and travel subsidies for student planners. We have initiated a discussion with the newly created National APA Foundation to seek support and partnership on our changing Scholarship Program. That would include including existing accredited college planning programs as they grow and newly accredited programs in Washington.

- **Geographic Diversification and Inclusiveness**
 - The Chapter continues to focus on recruiting planners from across the state to move into leadership positions on the Board, in Sections, and on Committees. This is critical to the longevity and growth of our organization as well as our individual professional development. As Immediate Past President, I hope to continue to support President Elect, Rick Sepler, by completing an inclusiveness review of our programs in 2018.
- **Demonstrating Leadership at the National Level** – APA Washington Chapter has been a leader working at the National level developing the National Community Planning Assistance Program, expanding educational opportunities through the National Education Committee, and assisting other State Chapters through the Leadership Committee of the Chapter Presidents' Council.

During my term as Chapter President, I have been fortunate to work with such a dedicated and collaborative group of professionals. We all really believe in the work we do “making great communities happen”, and APA Washington Chapter continues to offer more and better support, education, and recognition to help us do our jobs.

I strongly encourage you to continue putting forward your ideas and sharing your experience and time with APA Washington.

Most Sincerely,



Paula Reeves, AICP CTP

APA Washington Chapter President



REFLECTIONS LOOKING AHEAD

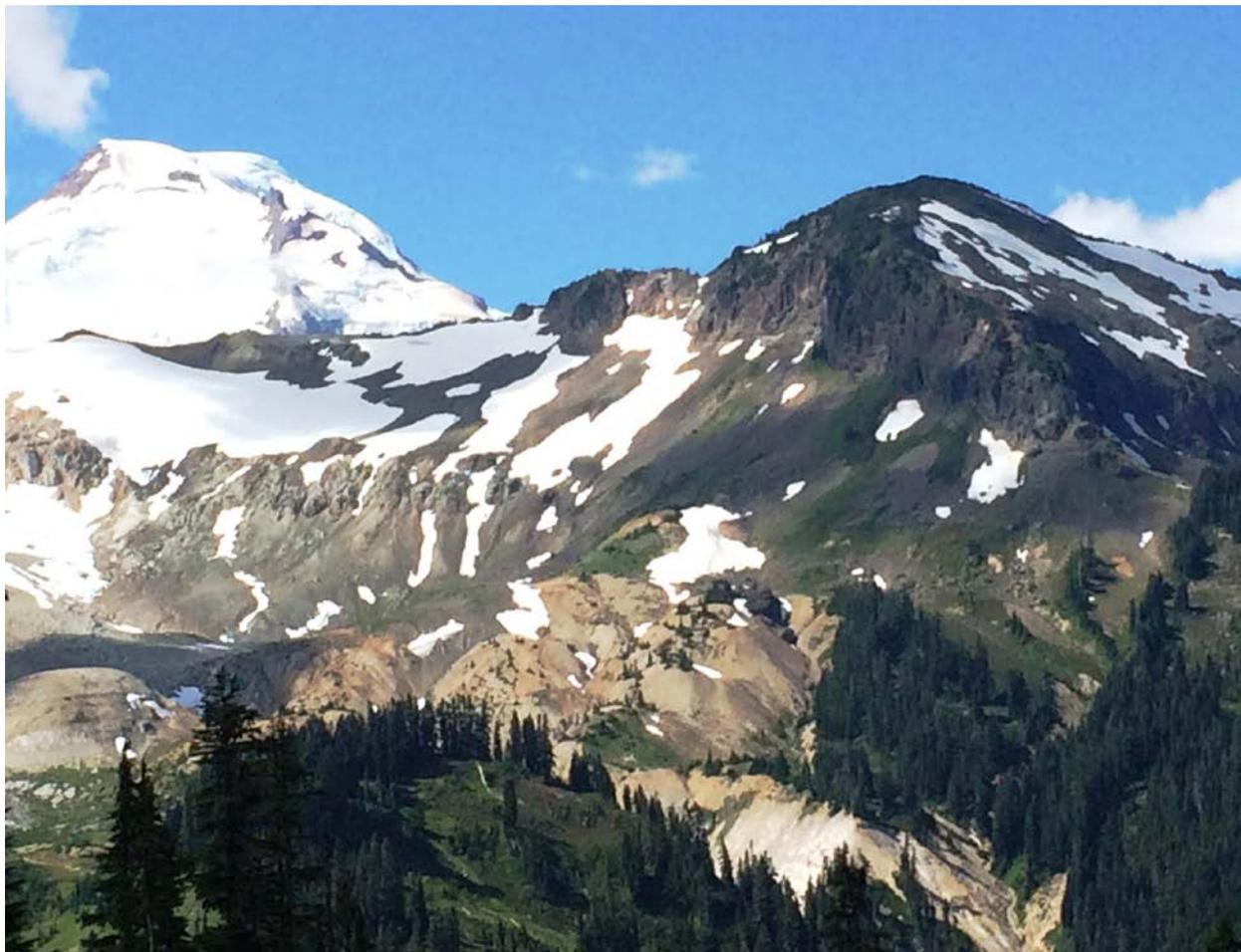
As incoming President, I am excited by the opportunity to work with my colleagues to serve our profession and community. I am also humbled by the trust placed in me by the membership to help guide our Chapter.

During my term as President-elect, it has become clear that I have much to learn, and I appreciate the time that Paula Reeves and others have spent bringing me up to speed. I am especially grateful that Paula will continue her active involvement during her term as Past-President by leading a Diversity Task Force to assess issues and strategies we should consider to help our Chapter become more inclusive. This process serves as a model of how our profession identifies a challenge, explores approaches, weighs the relative benefits, and ultimately crafts an implementable strategy that can make a difference.



I am constantly impressed by the focus of our planner colleagues to “go to the heat” on pressing issues (like inclusion and others) and bring our professional skills to bear. It is the art of what we do and it is the role of the Chapter to support our membership in becoming more proficient and effective. But how to do this? How can we provide support in a manner that is useful to our membership?

These questions were among those posed during a discussion held at our quarterly board meeting in June. The discussion revisited a number of issues that the Chapter had identified when preparing its current Strategic Plan. It is acknowledged that all strategic plans become outdated quickly, but that doesn’t necessarily mean we need to start over. This relatively short session helped identify important changes in circumstances and knowledge that can be used to refresh our strategy and keep it relevant. Our goal is to ensure that our strategic plan stays up-to-date with the current reality.



Many of the key takeaways from this exercise will help frame how we approach the future:

- **What have we accomplished?** President Paula Reeves' preceding summary (Reflections: Looking Back) shows that the Chapter has been successful in implementing key initiatives that were identified in the Strategic Plan. This momentum will help us to be better positioned as we adapt to meet emerging challenges and establish new goals.
- **What has changed?** Participants noted that the political environment we work in has become more polarized (both nationally and at the state level). National politics has shifted to "less government," which likely means that planning resources will be reduced or eliminated. Perhaps of greater concern is that housing affordability continues to erode and Homelessness is increasing. It is clear that we will need to address a community where the economic divide between rich and poor is growing.
- **How do we respond?** Now, more than ever, planning is needed to provide a forum. Planners need to be front and center in the community. Planners are both community thought leaders—fair and balanced—and experts in every community they serve. As a profession, we need to consistently message who we are, what we do, and what the issues are. As professionals we all signed on to work in the public interest—we need to find a positive bias in a conflictual environment. We need to stick to issues, not align with political parties.
- **What will hinder us in our response?** Unfortunately, participants noted that many planners are in denial, feel isolated, and at times believe that our profession works in an environment where communities want instant gratification. Moreover, many felt that we do not have a "champion" (think white horse) advocating for us in the public discussion and that we let others take the credit.
- **What are our aspirations?** Perhaps the most important takeaway from this exercise was that all of the participants felt that planning as a profession could overcome identified challenges and be able to use our unique set of technical skills to help our community and leave a legacy of sustainability. In short, there was an unwavering belief that we can still make great communities happen.

As I begin my term, I am buoyed by the inherent optimism of our profession. I am committed to helping implement the vision of our membership and help the Chapter provide service to those in our profession. In doing so, it must be in a manner that ensures inclusion in our organization and communities. We need to reach to those who don't traditionally participate in our processes.

APA Washington works, as does our profession. I look forward to what we can accomplish together!

Richard M. Sepler, AICP

APA Washington Chapter President-Elect

ABOUT APA WASHINGTON

Mission

We advocate for our members by facilitating networking and mentoring opportunities, offering inspiration and leadership opportunities, providing education and training opportunities, prioritizing members where appropriate in APA activities and services, and serving as an information resource.

We advance the planning profession by advocating for good planning, offering and publicizing awards that recognize good planning, cultivating diversity in the profession, educating the public, encouraging and recruiting future planners, supporting ethics in planning, and strengthening the professional certification program.

We make great communities by encouraging implementation of sustainability strategies, educating the public, facilitating meaningful dialogue on planning issues, influencing legislation, and inspiring planners and decision-makers.

Board of Directors

The Board manages the Chapter's affairs – adopts a chapter budget, reports all business to the membership, implements votes of the Chapter, authorizes expenditures consistent with the budget, and performs other functions as defined by the bylaws or requested by the members.

Executive Committee

President	Paula Reeves, AICP CTP <i>Mason County</i>
Vice President	Josh Peters, AICP <i>Washington State Department of Natural Resources</i>
President Elect	Rick Sepler, AICP <i>City of Bellingham</i>
Secretary	Laura Benjamin <i>Puget Sound Regional Council</i>
Treasurer	Matt Ransom, AICP <i>RTC (MPO)</i>
Columbia Section	Ardele Steele, AICP, CFM <i>City of Zillah</i>
Inland Empire Section	David Andersen <i>Washington State Department of Commerce</i>
Northwest Section	Chris Comeau, AICP <i>City of Bellingham</i>
Peninsula Section	Judy Surber <i>City of Port Townsend</i>
Puget Sound Section	Stephanie Young
Southwest Section	Amanda Smeller <i>City of Woodland</i>
South Sound Section	Rick Walk, AICP <i>City of Lacey</i>



Standing Committees

National Conference	Paul Inghram AICP <i>Puget Sound Regional Council</i> Deborah Munkberg AICP <i>Studio 3MW</i>
Awards	Paul Krauss <i>City of Lynnwood</i>
Communications	Nikole Coleman, AICP <i>City of Poulsbo</i> Kim Selby, AICP, NBBJ
Community Planning Assistance Team	Bob Bengford, AICP <i>MAKERS</i> Patrick Lynch, AICP <i>Transpo Group</i>
Continuing Education	Ferdouse Oneza, AICP <i>Oneza and Associates</i>
Legislative Action	Yorik Stevens-Wajda <i>Puget Sound Regional Council</i> Esther Larsen <i>Spokane County</i>
Membership	Geoff Appel <i>AECOM</i> Talia Tittelfitz, AICP <i>BHC Consulting</i>
Planning Official Development Officer	Ryan Windish, AICP <i>City of Sumner</i>
Professional Development Officer	Nancy Eklund, AICP <i>The Boeing Company</i>
Scholarship	Kirk Rappe <i>City of Edgewood</i> Wells Williams
Tribal Planning	Michael Cardwell, AICP <i>Quinault Indian Nation</i>
UW Student Representative	Sarah Wallace
EWU Student Representative	Anthony Taylor

Ad Hoc Committees

Youth in Planning	Steve Butler, FAICP <i>MRSC</i> Gwen Rousseau <i>City of Bellevue</i>
Climate and Sustainability Initiative	Justus Stewart <i>O'Brien and Co.</i>
Young Planners Group Committee	Katy Haima <i>City of Seattle</i>
FAICP Nominations Committee	Mark Kulaas, FAICP <i>Douglas County</i>
EWU Faculty Representative	Dick Winchell, FAICP <i>Eastern Washington University</i>
Allied Professions Liaison	Hiller West <i>Island County</i>
UW Faculty Representative	Branden Born <i>University of Washington</i>
Chapter Administrator	Michele Reeder <i>APA Washington</i>

Ex Officio

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American Planning Association
Washington Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen



Using the findings of a membership survey, the APA Washington Board of Directors formulated a vision through facilitated discussions for the next 10 years, short term strategic directions for the next 3 years, and immediately implementable objectives for the coming year.

Vision

Ten years from now APA Washington will have increased its influence and credibility throughout the state of Washington. Through effective legislative influence and policy development, the Chapter will see that sustainable planning is in effect statewide. Accessible, affordable, and effective AICP certification maintenance training will be available to planners through a comprehensive system of seminars, webinars, and conferences. Membership will have doubled and represent the diversity of our state and our planning backgrounds. Sections will be providing more resources to members and Section Boards will be better connected to the State Chapter Board. A complete administrative and executive staff will be in place to better support all of the Chapter and Section activities.

Goals and Objectives

Strengthen the chapter, sections, and increase connections

- Audit the Sections to find the needs
- Initiate a Professional Development program
- Increase exposure of the GMA 2015 event
- Add remaining counties to Sections – either redefining or forming
- Transition scholarship fund into internship fund
- Train the membership about the chapter
- Better platform for information sharing
- Develop feasibility plan for executive director

Expand planning and APA influence on local, regional, & statewide issues

- Collaborate with the Department of Commerce to implement the 10 Big Ideas
- Create state Great Places award
- Engage student planners in 2015 Planning Month (October)

Increase the membership and its diversity

- Diversity initiative
- Outreach to universities & employers

Expand advocacy

- Update legislative platform agenda
- Introduce packet of GMA reforms

Build partnerships

- Provide training across professions
- Expand PAW Liaison to Allied professions & local governments
- Outreach to other professions

Budget Report

Treasurer: Matt Ransom, AICP

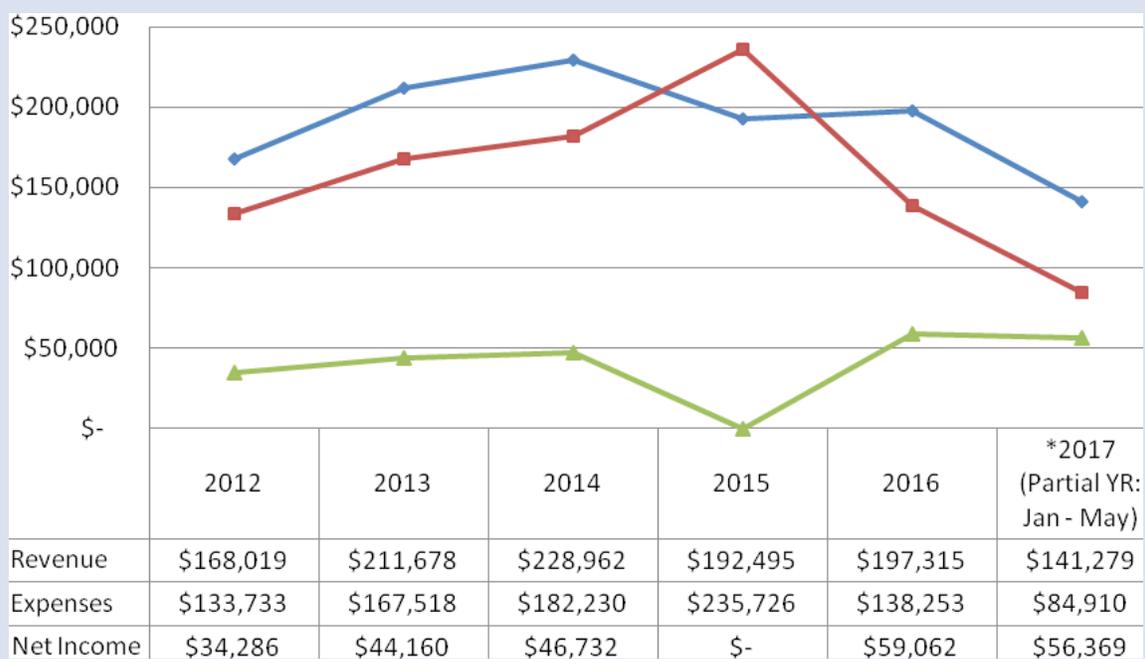
The Chapter's financial position is strong, and APA Washington has a consistent resource pool to spend on member services and innovative programs. Over the past two-years, the Chapter has adopted budgets which have contributed greater resources to delivering programs to members. With this expanded resource pool, the Chapter has been able to reach a growing membership and provide programs closer to home for more of our membership. While the most recent budgets and expense trends indicate greater expenses than revenues, this trend was approved by the Chapter Board in order to spend down revenues for the purpose of delivering expanded services to current membership. This financial strategy ensured the maintenance of the Chapter's prudent reserve funds, as a safeguard for ongoing stability.

Notable financial outcomes over the past 2 years have been the growth in membership, which has contributed to an increase in shared revenues with

APA-National. The Chapter has also been extremely successful in securing \$250,000 in national Planners-4-Health grant funds for innovative planning initiatives that focused on: active transportation planning advocacy in the greater Tacoma area and a multi-party outreach sponsorship initiative with the Collaborative Road Map for Washington's Future. Planners-4-Health funds are not considered an expense to the Chapter. APA Washington Chapter also hosted a mini bi-state regional conference in early 2017 for the Columbia Gorge region, a historically underserved region of the state.

At the close of this biennium, the leadership team is transitioning having overseen stability in the Chapter's finances, and continued prospects for ample resources in the immediate horizon for continuity in Chapter services and member programs.

**Note: 2015 Expenditures/Revenues impacted by National APA Conference*



Membership Report

Chair: Talia Tittelfitz, AICP and Geoff Appell, AICP

The chapter experienced growth in membership during the biennium adding 70 members in the newly chartered South Sound Section. This is APA Washington Chapters' new Section, created in 2016, that covers the Olympia area. South Sound Section's success continued the rebounding of membership from recession lows and came at a time when other chapters and national APA were stable but not growing. Total chapter membership in 2017 stands at 1275. The Puget Sound Section, the largest of the seven APA Sections, saw a slight decline this biennium, likely an adjustment after the National Conference held in Seattle in 2015.

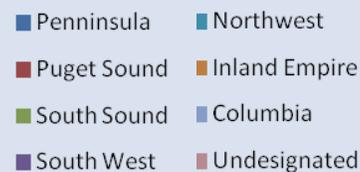
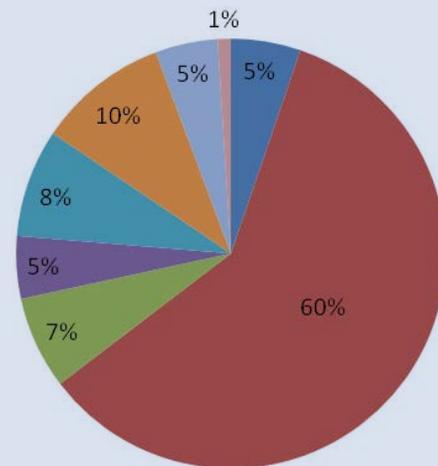
Strong membership over the biennium is a reflection of added education, regional meetings and conferences, networking opportunities and other membership benefits being offered closer to home for more planners throughout the state, a goal of the Chapter's Strategic Plan.

An updated membership brochure was created in 2017 with a streamlined format, added content relating to membership benefits and membership options, and added an array of high quality photos representing the diversity of great Washington places.

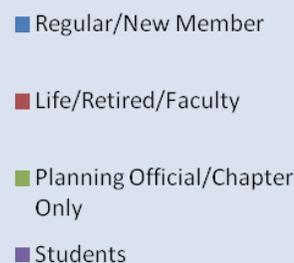
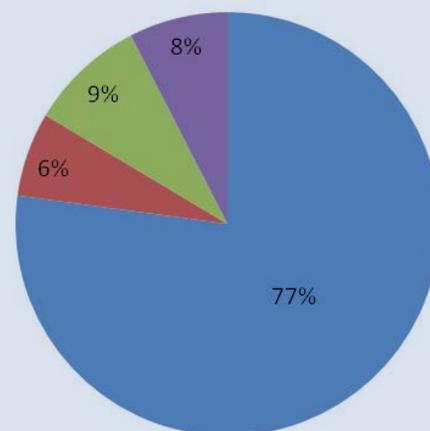
The Membership Committee organized the Chapter booths at the State Planning Conferences in Portland in 2016 and in Seatac in 2017. Membership recruitment drives associated with these conferences offered discounts on conference registration to planners who recruited new members – this initiative generated modest increases in membership.

The Membership Committee continued ongoing recruitment and retention activities, including welcome phone calls to new chapter members and email reminders to planners whose memberships have lapsed. They were also able to contact those planners who's memberships lapsed during the recession to offer a special re-joining rate.

Current 2017 Membership by Section 2017



Current Membership Composition





EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2017 Columbia River Regional Forum

The Forum was a continuation of the Columbia Connection theme of our 2016 Bi-State Conference and was co-hosted by APA Washington and Oregon Chapters on March 17th, 2017, in Hood River, Oregon.

The Forum was made possible by a generous grant from the APA National Chapter Presidents' Council. It was part of an ongoing effort by APA Washington to serve a growing number of Chapter members and elevate the professional practice of planning across the state through partnerships.

Speakers at the one day Forum including the Governor's Office, Columbia River Gorge Commission, and Dr. Robert A. Jacobs, along with many other public and private sector planning, policy making and resource management experts and attendees made this a memorable meeting. A Final Report was produced summarizing the key findings and next steps that will be used in regional planning efforts going forward.



Images from the Columbia River Forum. Clockwise from top right: Forum attendees; Columbia River Gorge Commission Executive Director Krystyna U. Wolniakowski; Keynote speaker Dr. Robert A. Jacobs, Hiroshima City University; and the Columbia River Gorge Commission Energy Panel.

2016 Bi-State Conference in Portland

Co-Chairs: Amanda Smeller and Josh Peters, AICP

The 2016 annual conference was jointly hosted with Oregon APA Chapter and held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. The theme of Columbia Connection took an in depth look at topics of interest in the Pacific Northwest including: Equitable Communities, Healthy People and Places, Innovation and Partnerships, Strong Professionals, and Planning the Great Beyond..

Spokane proved again to be a desirable conference location, drawing a record attendance of over 800 planners from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and points beyond.

The conference included the following highlights:

- Five learning tracks and over 40 breakout sessions,
- Mobile workshops in the Portland area, the Vancouver waterfront, and out to the Columbia River Gorge
- Keynote talks by, Hazel Borys, discussing “Urbanism in the Columbia Region: The Paybacks of Beloved Places” and Joe Minicozzi speaking about downtown development, with a presentation titled “The Dollars and \$ense of Downtown Development.”
- An updated Short Course on Local Planning format, hosted by APA Washington,
- An epic pub crawl and scavenger hunt, and
- PAW/APA Planning Award winners (described below).

The Joint Conference Planning Committee thanks the 29 sponsors who provided valuable financial support. Their logos are shown on the final page of this report.



Keynote speakers Haze Borys (left) and Joe Minicozzi (right.)



2015 – 25th Anniversary of Washington’s Growth Management Act

Washington’s Growth Management Act (GMA) was adopted in 1990 by a coalition of dedicated state legislators and citizen groups that were determined to do something about the rapid, unplanned, disconnected, and unsustainable growth that took place in our state during the 1970s and 80s.

The 25th anniversary of this game-changing legislation presented an opportunity to evaluate the impact of GMA, applaud our successes and leaders, and ask ourselves some tough questions:

- How well have we achieved the goals of GMA?
- What could we have done differently?
- What are the success stories?

It was also an opportunity to look forward to the next 25 years and discuss the challenges ahead – climate change, public health, social equity – and what changes are needed now for us to successfully address them.

Several highlights from this one day event held at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma included:

- Opening remarks from Tacoma’s Mayor Strickland
- A keynote address from one of the founders of GMA in Washington, Larry Phillips, Chair of the King County Council
- A panel of prominent planners in Washington discussing “GMA Linkages: Water, Transportation, Urbanism”
- A session with Yoram Bauman, the world’s only stand up economist.
- Lifetime of GMA Achievement Awards
- A Looking Forward to the Next 25 Years discussion that lead to APA’s support in 2017 of development of the “Collaborative Road Map for Washington”, a review of GMA funded by the Washington State Legislature and lead by the Ruckleshaus Center.



2015 National APA Conference in Seattle

Co-chairs: Paul Inghram, AICP and Deborah Munkberg, AICP

In April 2015, over 6,400 planners from around the world came to Seattle for the 2015 National APA Conference. Extending from April 17 through 21, the conference offered a wealth of possibilities. Over 50 mobile workshops and a dozen orientation tours provided a great overview and a closer look at planning issues throughout the Puget Sound region.

In preparing for this conference, the Washington Chapter worked in collaboration with National APA. National was responsible for leading conference planning and management, logistics and the overall program. Our chapter took the lead on mobile workshops, orientation tours, receptions and special host events, the planner's guide, local sessions, and marketing. In addition, in order to pay for some of local events while still leaving the chapter in healthy financial condition, we also undertook a significant sponsorship and fundraising effort. Needless to say, this was a major undertaking for the chapter!

Special recognition goes to the local host committee chairs, including Kendra Breiland and Lisa Grueter for local programs, Bob Bengford and Paula Reeves for CPAT, Joe Scorscio and Quanlin Hu for mobile workshops, Ben Bakkena and David Goldberg for orientation tours, Marj Press for receptions, Anna Nelson and Leonard Bauer for special events, Kevin Gifford and Marty Curry for the Planners Guide, Laura Hudson for the logo and publicity, and Kendra Breiland, Chuck Wolfe and Shane Hope for sponsorships. This group, supported by many other volunteers, put in countless hours toward a successful conference. Thanks to everyone who gave their time, talent and good energy to the conference!

Special thanks go to our local host sponsors for their generous support: Bullitt Foundation, Puget Sound Regional Council, City of Bellevue, City of Seattle, Community Attributes, Transpo Group, CDM Smith, ESA, Fehr & Peers, Kimley-Horn, Otak, SvR Design Company, BERK Consulting, MAKERS Architecture & Urban Design, Mithun, NBBJ, Perkins+Will, Studio Cascade, Van Ness Feldman LLP and the Washington State Department of Transportation.



From the National APA conference blog:

If you were with us in Seattle, you know how amazing it was. Four sunny (!) days packed — did we say packed? — with programs, people, and places that represent the best of what planning is all about. We had our second-highest attendance ever — north of 6,400 people — and the buzz was incredible. It's hard — no, impossible — to name all the standouts of a conference that just blew our socks off. So we'll start with ...The Seattle Seven

1. **The weather.** Kudos to the Local Host Committee for arranging four sunny days in Seattle.
2. **Ron Sims's kickoff.** "Planners are charged not with the present but with guiding us into our future." Go!
3. **The Lake Union Extravaganza.** good food, good tunes, good friends, good times!
4. **HUD Secretary Julian Castro at the Awards Luncheon.** His message is one every planner should hear.
5. **The debut of AARP's Livability Index.** This powerful new tool can help communities plan for aging populations. Try it today.
6. **Stewart Brand's closing keynote.** The legendary futurist and environmentalist told us why he's a big fan of cities (and planners).
7. **The global conversation.** To see who's talking, read the Sustainable Seattle blog, and join in on social media using #APA15.

Professional Development & AICP Exams

Co-Chairs: Nancy E. Eklund, AICP

Chapter Study Session

In March of 2016 and 2017, the Washington Chapter provided an all-day training sessions to prepare planners interested in taking the AICP Exam. The Exam Prep Session was attended by 17 planners in 2016, and 21 planners in 2017.

The sessions, held at the South Seattle Community College, were led by volunteer in instructors who addressed the various topical areas of the exam. The training was provided with assistance from the following planners who donated their time to share their expertise with class members:

- **2016 and 2017:** John Doan, AICP; Kevin O'Neill, AICP; Tim Trohimovich, AICP; and Nancy Eklund, AICP
- **2017:** Ariel Davis, AICP; Mike Martin, AICP; Aaron Gooze, AICP; and Doug McIntyre, AICP,
- **2016:** Andrea Flowers, AICP; Angela San Filippo, AICP; Kristina Cerise, AICP; and Kendra Breiland, AICP

Both events were underwritten by generous donations from the consulting community. The 2016 event was supported by AHBL, and the 2017 event was supported by contributions from BergerAbam and Otak.

AICP Reduced Fee Exam Scholarships

In 2016 and 2017, the Chapter was offered a total of six reduced rate scholarships for members taking the AICP exam. Unfortunately, not all recipients were approved to take the exam, so the some scholarships had to be turned back to APA National.

Changes to the AICP Program

APA/AICP developed a new "AICP Candidate Pilot Program," which goes into effect in November 2017. Preliminary work to implement and to support planners entering the program has been developed and will continue into the next biennium.

AICP Exam Successes

The Washington Chapter continued to have a high exam success rate, averaging an 83% pass rate, versus a 67% pass rate for all chapters nationally. Starting in May 2017, APA was offering a substantially rewritten exam, and the Washington Chapter continued to have a high pass rate for that exam (81%).

Group	AICP Exam Success			
	Nov. 2015	May 2016	Nov. 2016	May 2017
WA Chapter	81%	NA*	88%	81%
All Chapters	68%	69%	65%	65%

* National did not have data to provide for this year

Between the November 2015 and the May 2017 exam, 66 Washington planners passed the AICP exam. The Chapter is happy to welcome the following new AICP members for the four exams offered between November 2015 and May 2017.

- **2015:** November AICP Exam
 - Adam P. Amrhein, AICP
 - Sean M. Anderson, AICP
 - Rebecca Brown, AICP
 - Doug Cox, AICP
 - Andrea Flower, AICP
 - Aaron Gooze, AICP
 - Kristy Hollinger, AICP
 - Andrew Stephen Lofstedt, AICP
 - Douglas D. McIntyre, AICP
 - Stacie J. Pratschner, AICP
 - Angela San Filippo, AICP
 - Michelle Swanson, AICP
 - Elliot S. Weiss, AICP

- **2016:** May AICP Exams
 - Casey Bradfield, AICP
 - Alex Campbell, AICP
 - Vince Caristo, AICP
 - Elizabeth Court, AICP
 - Darby Cowles, AICP
 - Ron Cubellis, AICP
 - Lisa Enns, AICP
 - Melissa Fanucci, AICP
 - Kirsten Larsen, AICP
 - Lesley Maurer, AICP
 - Matthew Parsons, AICP
 - Brittany Port, AICP
 - Tara Satushek, AICP
 - Elizabeth Schultz, AICP
 - William Simpson, AICP
 - Elizabeth Stenning, AICP
 - Sharon Swan, AICP
 - Carter Timmerman, AICP
- **2016:** November AICP Exam
 - Hayley Bonsteel, AICP
 - Tess Brandon, AICP
 - Nicole Campbell, AICP
 - Ariel Davis, AICP
 - Zam DeShields, AICP
 - Tessa Gardner-Brown, AICP
 - Darlene Gaziano, AICP
 - Michael Houston, AICP
 - Erin Ishizaki, AICP
 - William Lisska, AICP
 - Michael Martin, AICP
 - Samuel Rubin, AICP
 - Gisela Sassen, AICP
 - Lacey Jane Wolfe, AICP

- **2017:** May AICP Exams
 - Laura Benjamin, AICP
 - Susan Bergen, AICP
 - Jeremy Borrego, AICP
 - Benjamin Braudrick, AICP
 - Bradley Calvert, AICP
 - Christina Ghan, AICP
 - Scott Guter, AICP
 - Kathryn Haima, AICP
 - Bryan Hill, AICP
 - Magdalena Hogness, AICP
 - Austin Johnson, AICP
 - Christopher Larson, AICP
 - Jo Ming Lau, AICP
 - Dustin Lawrence, AICP
 - Carl Leighty, AICP
 - Melissa Mohr, AICP
 - Katie O'Lone, AICP
 - Miranda Redinger, AICP
 - Justin Resnick, AICP
 - Joshua Steiner, AICP
 - Allison Zike, AICP

AICP Advance Specialty Certification Exam (ASC) Successes

In 2015 and 2017, two Washington planners passed their advanced specialty certification exams for transportation and urban design:

- **2015 ASC:** Kimberly Selby, AICP Certified Urban Designer (AICP CUD)
- **2017 ASC:** Lethal Coe, AICP Certified Transportation Planner (AICP CTP)

CMs Offered by the Chapter

During the 2016, the Chapter offered separate 23 sessions, plus the joint conference with Oregon. Up to August 2017 (prior to the Fall Chapter conference), the Chapter had offered 16 separate training opportunities. Among these were numerous Law and Ethics sessions. Consistently, reviewers granted these presentations between 4 and 5 stars, on average.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS

Newsletter, social media, and online calendar

Co-Chairs: Kim Selby, AICP CUD and Nikole Coleman, AICP

The Communication Committee implements APA-Washington's goal to "communication strategically to educate, advocate, and connect" with its members and the constituents they serve about the choices and benefits available through planning. The committee manages the chapters bi-monthly newsletter, ADVISE emails, social media presence, and some aspects of the website.

- **Social Media:** In 2017, the Communication Committee developed a strategy for expanding the chapters social media presence and purpose. The goals included sparking additional dialogue on Facebook, recruiting Young Planners Group members to assist in social media, connecting with other organizations on social media platforms, and increasing the online presence of APA-WA during conferences with the use of hashtags. The chapter has increased the number of followers on Facebook and focused content on relevant planning related news regionally and throughout the country, in addition to the promotion of trainings opportunities.
- **Online Calendar:** The chapters online calendar has become the place to go for upcoming forums, conferences, trainings, and social events. The Communication Committee sends quarterly updates to the webmaster to update the calendar. These updates include opportunities for CM credits and the promotion of allied organizations events. The chapter aims to provide members with a variety of opportunities to learn and grow as planners.
- **Newsletter:** The Washington Planner is sent directly to subscribers bi-monthly, posted in the website, and distributed via social media. The newsletter tends to focus on distributing new information about planning in Washington, upcoming training opportunities, legislative updates, and chapter president updates. There is also a recurring article titled the "Planner Spotlight" which features an interview with a planner. The purpose of the Planner Spotlight is to highlight the unique perspectives of planners throughout the state, provide emerging planners with invaluable insight, and provide the opportunity for, often behind the scenes, planners to have a voice.



Community Planning Assistance Team

Co-Chairs: Bob Bengford, AICP and Patrick Lynch, AICP

The Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) provides expert professional pro bono planning assistance to small Washington towns with limited planning resources.

Community Planning Assistance Teams (CPAT), a program of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association since 2005, are groups of volunteer planners. In partnership with the state Department of Commerce, CPAT provides communities (cities, towns or neighborhoods) professional assistance in articulating visions, solving problems or resolving issues.

The CPAT overall objectives are to connect plans and actions, identify local and regional resources for sustainable planning, and advance the principles of APA for a Livable Washington. We focus on communities that lack planning resources. Typically, CPAT teams include volunteer planners from all over

the state with expertise in land use, transportation, economic development, urban design, natural resources, parks and recreation, historic preservation, and other areas. In addition, CPAT is affiliated with the planning schools at Eastern Washington University and the University of Washington.

During the biennium, CPAT conducted workshops for Mt Baker Chamber of Commerce in Whatcom County (October 2016) and Benton City (August 2017).

In addition, Bob and Patrick participated in a CPAT webinar (October 2016) with National APA and CPAT chairs in other states.



Mt Baker Chamber of Commerce CPAT Workshop (October 2016)

Approximately 30 community members and APA volunteers participated in the Mt. Baker Chamber of Commerce event that focused on the Visitor Center site layout and building design, WTA Park and Ride operations, site access and circulation. The goals identified for this CPAT event were the following:

- Develop a Strategy to Fund the Welcome Center
 - Identify strategies to help fund site and building improvements associated with the welcome center.
- Prepare Design Concepts for the Welcome Center
 - Update existing concepts for access and the park and ride facility plus sketching concepts for the building, landscaping, and other site elements that meet the goals for the center and fit within the chamber's modest budget. Concepts to include supporting policies about the design of the facility.
- Create an Action Plan to Fund, Construct, and Operate/Maintain the Welcome Center - Include a list of recommended steps, implementing parties, and supporting concepts and policies associated with funding, constructing, and maintaining the welcome center.

The workshop included the following elements:

- Welcome and group introductions – Introductions and a description of the day's agenda and goals.
- Round robin discussion to identify big picture goals – Group discussion on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats related to the welcome center goals.
- Break out group working sessions – Small groups discussed key project elements and issues that included site and building design, site access and park-and-ride function, as well as funding and operations strategies.
- Working lunch – Over lunch, the breakout groups appointed a spokesperson and reported their observations and findings.
- Combined Work Session - Each breakout group reported out to the larger group and identified their priority action steps and ideas about resources and implementing strategies for each goal.

- Develop action plan that assigns tasks, timeline and resources - CPAT team prepared a presentation for the public open house.
- Public open house – CPAT team presented the action plan and discussed the day's work and next steps related to the Mt. Baker Chamber of Commerce, Whatcom County, and CPAT team.



Benton City CPAT Workshop (August 2017)

Approximately 20 community members and APA volunteers participated in the Benton City event that focused on the developing a staged approach for supporting economic development within Benton City's commercial core and identifying improvement strategies for its "Main Street". The goals identified for this CPAT event were to provide Benton City with a framework for an economically stable and vibrant town that can cumulatively improve with time.

The workshop was a two day process that included the following elements:

- A tour of main street with City staff and stakeholders.
- Interviews with Red Mountain and Benton City vintners and other business owners to discuss issues and opportunities for Benton City
- A team dinner with CPAT volunteers and core stakeholder group to discuss issues and strategize for activities on the next day.
- Introductions, process and open-house engagement – Introductions and description of the agenda and goals. Stakeholders shared their respective points of view.
- Closed session: Round Table discussion identifying issues of consensus - The core team identified and discussed issues, vision, and strategies for improving downtown Benton City.
- Working lunch - Group discussed the observations from previous exercises.
- Closed session: Strategy refinement - Participants broke out outcomes into phased development efforts that are cumulative and with milestones. These development milestones were oriented towards specific outcomes at pre-determined increments (3, 5 and 7 years).
- Refinement of the closed session findings - Participants developed a summary of the workshop for presentation to the open house.
- Public open house - Shared the findings of the day's deliberations including caveats for success and limitations of the effort will underscore the steps and collective commitment that must follow.

The core CPAT team is currently in the process of summarizing the workshop discussions, outcomes, and recommendations in a final report.

- Skykomish CPAT Workshop (tentatively planned for Spring 2018)
- Coordinating with City of Skykomish community leaders and Roger Wagoner on potential CPAT event in early spring 2018.
- Potential Eastern Washington CPAT workshop (Fall 2018)
- Exploring options for an eastern WA event in fall 2018 (coordinating with Ryan Hughes from Inland Empire section).



Legislative Action

Co-Chairs: Esther Larsen, J.D. and Yorik Stevens-Wajda

The legislative committee prepares a legislative agenda, reviews legislative bills, gives testimony on legislative matters of concern to the chapter, works to get APA bills sponsored, engages strategically with other stakeholders to achieve common goals, provides presentations to various audiences and forums, coordinates with National APA on advocacy and policy issues and informs the Board and chapter membership about pertinent legislative issues.

The legislative committee meets weekly via conference call during the state legislative session to review and discuss proposed legislation, receive updates from our chapter lobbyist and provide direction for commenting on legislation (see the legislative committee website). The chapter also has a bill proposal subcommittee through which chapter members can propose legislation for the chapter to consider sponsoring.

The legislative committee publishes electronic articles (LEAD: Legislative Education, Advocacy and Direction – Close to the Ledge) to provide chapter members and others with succinct and timely information regarding bills, status updates, action alerts, and other legislative news. During the 2016 legislative session, the committee published ten LEAD articles, and in the 2017 legislative session, the committee published seven LEAD articles. The legislative committee also publishes occasional longer newsletter articles, generally as a preview before (e.g. 2017 session preview), and a recap after (e.g. 2016 session recap), each session.

The legislative committee continued to participate in national APA events and initiatives. Three committee members represented the chapter as delegates at the 2016 National Planning Conference and Delegate Assembly in Phoenix, at which the APA policy guides on Freight and Water were refined and adopted. Three committee members also participated in the 2017 National Planning Conference and initial Delegate Assembly in New York City, at which APA policy guides on Planning and Health, Housing, and Social Equity and Inclusive Growth were discussed and refined, with adoption scheduled for the September 2017 Policy & Advocacy Conference. A number of committee members also participate in the Planners Advocacy Network, which coordinates grassroots advocacy on issues of national importance, such as supporting the Community Development Block Grant program with case studies of its successful implementation from around the country.

2016 Legislative Session Summary

The 2016 session started with little energy, after a historically protracted and quarrelsome 2015 session. Many were looking forward to the 2017 session, and many legislators had campaigns to attend to, and some legislative committee even struggled to find enough bills to fill their agendas at times. The legislative committee reviewed dozens of bills and crafted several letters, and chapter president Paula Reeves testified before the legislature several times on particularly important bills. See the 2016 legislative session recap newsletter article and bill table for more details.



2017 Legislative Session Summary

The legislative committee worked between sessions to reach out to chapter membership and work with the chapter board of directors to develop a new legislative agenda document. Once adopted by the board at its December meeting, the legislative agenda was shared with key legislators, peer organizations, and others at the outset of the session, and served as a guiding document for committee reviews of proposed legislation.

The 2017 legislative session was dominated by negotiations and intrigue surrounding the operating budget and the legislature's response to the state supreme court's McCleary decision. Several significant policy bills were also debated throughout the session, and much attention was also paid to another supreme court decision, *Hirst v Whatcom County*, which was released a few months before the beginning of the session. The session was notable for a number of important, but unrelated, issues that were bundled together (e.g. renewal of the document recording fee for homeless services was bundled with buildable lands reforms, and a legislative response to *Hirst* was bundled with the capital budget) and negotiated behind closed doors rather than discussed and considered separately in committees and on the Senate and House floor as is normally the case. This strategy did lead to some important compromises and resolution to some long-standing issues of concern, but it also hampered the ability of the legislative committee to track and influence legislation. Nevertheless, the committee did review, track, and weigh in on dozens of bills, especially during the early part of the session. The committee also lobbied on behalf of the chapter for initial funding for the Road Map to Washington's Future project, an effort that has been supported by the chapter since its inception.

In the end, the legislature adopted an operating budget that addressed McCleary, did not adopt a capital budget due to an inability to agree on a legislative response to *Hirst*, and passed several bills of interest to the chapter. Major policy bills of interest to the chapter that passed included HB 2243, which facilitates the siting of schools for primarily urban students in the rural area in certain cases, SB 5254 which amends the buildable lands analysis process to explore incorporating additional information that may impact developable land capacity. The legislature also appropriated \$600,000 for the Road Map project.

More information about the Legislative Action Committee can be found at:

<https://apawa.memberclicks.net/legislative-committee>



SECTIONS

Peninsula Section

President: Judy Surber



Quarterly Forum Highlights

The Section continues to partner with the Department of Commerce to provide quarterly planners forums. In addition to offering informative speakers and AICP credits the forums provide a great opportunity for networking with fellow planners.

- **Summer 2016 Sequim:** Topics included GMHB update, Renewable Energy, Sign Code updates and a tour of Sequim's new Development Services.
- **Fall 2016 City of Bainbridge:** A panel of speakers presented on the history of local food and urban planning; food policy and preservation of farmland and its importance for both local economies and food security.
- **Winter 2017 City of Port Angeles:** We heard from Climate change experts from UW, EcoAdapt and Foresight Partners Consulting. Rounding out the afternoon was a presentation by WSDOT entitled "Statewide Vulnerability Assessment: Working toward a more resilient Washington".
- **Spring 2017 Mason County:** Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Priority Habitats & Species Program; Puget Sound Integrated Zoning Map Project; Shorelines in Kitsap County Understanding, planning for, Restoring and Protecting.
- **Summer 2017 Jefferson County:** Affordable housing was the focus with speakers from Housing Opportunities of SW Washington, Growth Management Services and Peninsula Housing Authority. And what would summer be without a walking tour? Guests were guided on a tour of Chimacum corners with a presentation by the owner of Finn River Farm and Cidery.

Strengthening the Board

2016 began with several vacant positions on the Board. With the help of APA Washington, we filled the gaps and were back to business with the following Board: Judy Surber, President; Suzanne Wassmer, Secretary; Susan Bergen, Treasurer; Christy Carr, Kitsap County Rep; Joel Peterson, Jefferson County Rep. and David Windham, Mason County Rep. To improve transitions in future, we have drafted a handbook and in future, we may revise our bylaws to stagger terms. We are pleased to report that we have nearly a full slate for the 2017 election. Shout out to Mason County planners, we need you!

Strengthening Partnerships

2017 goals include strengthening relationships with higher education. We reached out to Western Washington University's Huxley on the Peninsula and had a good response with attendance at our Winter Forum. Soon after, we were asked to present to Huxley students on Science and Policy Interface in the Planning World. We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate and possible internships.

Puget Sound Section

President: Stefanie Young



A lot has happened in 2016 and 2017 for the Puget Sound Section; here are the highlights:

- We have a steady board and chapter membership. Board Members include: Stefanie Young, President; Cristina Barone, President Elect; Sonja Burseth, Treasurer; Elisabeth Schuck, Secretary; Juan Higuera, King County Rep (resigned later 2016); Eric Goodman, Snohomish County Rep; and Erin George; Pierce County Rep
- Communication with Chapter and Section Members: One of the challenges we face is making sure that our members hear about our events. We are now using Mailchimp, which is a subscriber based notification tool to send information to our members. We still utilize the ADVISE notification through APA as needed; however, the Mailchimp platform allows the section to control the content and timely delivery of information.
- 2016 Holiday Party: We have continued to have great success working with El Gaucho for our annual holiday. The 2016 party was a great success and many people walked away with great prizes and wine. The location in downtown Seattle continues to increase attendance.
- 2016 EPIC Conference: Puget Sound Section held their 3rd Biannual EPIC conference on June 8, 2016 at SeaTac Conference Center. The theme was “Collaboration in Planning” focusing on public participation and planning issues that impact the Pacific Northwest. The event was well attended and the speakers were phenomenal. The conference had various speakers that provided an insight on issues focusing on the Pacific Northwest, like Sea-level Rise and how to deal with Administrative Appeals. We wrapped up the session with a presentation on how the views of cannabis industry regulations through the view of a Land Use Planner turned Cannabis Farmer. The conference was followed by a networking mingle event.
- Planning Activity & Continuing Education Series (PLACES): PLACES are an interactive way for members to obtain CM credits. PLACES events showcase planning throughout the Puget Sound Section, either through tours or speaking events.
- Some of the highlighted tours included: SnoPUD Energy, Tacoma Old City Hall, Chinatown-International District Public Spaces, SR 99, North Transfer Station, and King Street Station.
- Puget Sound Law Conference: On Hold in 2017. The Puget Sound Section generally holds the annual law conference in the odd year. The law conference is an education expense for the section that also produces an income that helps to supplement the sections base budget for up to 2 years. The Puget Sound Section decided not to hold a Law Conference in 2017 but rather partner with WA APA to hold a joint state conference. The 2017 APA Washington Annual Conference features five tracks intended to highlight current trends, tools, and practices at the forefront of planning:
 - Nuts & Bolts: Planning tips, tools, methods, and career development
 - Resiliency: Building capacity meet new challenges
 - Land Use Law: Updates, assessments, and trends
 - Connections: Collaborative solutions that connect people and places
 - Growth Management Act: Emerging issues and best practices
- Above all we want to recognize and thank our section sponsors over the last year: BHC consultants, Robert Thorpe Associates, Fehr and Peers, and Berk Associates.

Northwest Section

President: Chris Comeau
(2015-2017)



In 2015, the Northwest Section created new bylaws, elected a full Board of Officers, and established an annual work plan for the upcoming year. The Board meets at least once in advance of each quarterly Planner's Forum and works to bring important issues to the attention and benefit of Section members. Information and resources for the Northwest Section of APA are available at <http://www.washington-apa.org/northwest-section>

The Board offers AICP certification maintenance credits at each quarterly Planner's Forum and has administered membership polls to prioritize and facilitate use of the Section revenue, which has led to supplemental opportunities for AICP certification maintenance credits through a partnership with the Whatcom & Skagit Councils of Government to jointly subscribe to the APA AICP webinars series. The Board also partnered with several community organizations to bring StrongTowns founder Charles Marohn to the October 2016 Planner's Forum in Bellingham.

Prior to 2017, the quarterly Northwest Section Planner's Forums had alternated primarily between Burlington and Bellingham/Ferndale on Interstate 5. In 2017, the Planner's Forums have been held in other Northwest Section communities, such as Sedro-Woolley, Ferndale, and Anacortes. A special Autumn Planner's Forum will be held on the campus of Western Washington University that will focus on APA Washington's and the Northwest Section's efforts to integrate WWU's nationally accredited planning program into our work programs. The Northwest Section was instrumental in helping WWU through the accreditation interview process.

The Northwest Section will strive to grow its membership, provide value to members, and integrate its work with APA Washington.

South Sound Section

President: Rick Walk



It is with great pleasure to report the highlights of the newly founded South Sound Section of Washington Chapter APA. Below are the key highlights of 2016-2017:

- **Chapter Formation:** In July of 2016 the WA-APA Chapter Board established the South Sound Section with the adoption of the Section By-laws and appointment of the initial slate of section officers, which include: Rick Walk-President, Grant Beck-Vice President, Ryan Andrews- Secretary, and Mike McCormick- Treasurer. The formation of the Section was led by many local APA members and initiated by Chapter President Paula Reeves and WA Chapter APA through the Charles Marohn - Strong Towns Forum held in January of 2016 on the Lacey Campus of South Puget Sound Community College.
- **2016 South Sound Section Planner's Forum and Social:** On October 6, 2016 the Section held the first South Sound Section Planners Forum and Social. This was an educational event featuring a presentation on the history and economics of the Olympia Brewery and the process the City of Tumwater has taken to facilitate the redevelopment of the Brewery District into a vibrant mixed-use, commercial and employment center. The speakers were Brad Medrud and Heidi Bherends-Cerniway from the City of Tumwater. There was also a networking mingle event following the forum. The event was well attended by 38 people and create more interest in the newly founded Section.
- **Monthly business and networking meetings:** The Section officers meet every month on the 2nd Monday. This meeting is open to all Section membership. This is a meeting to touch base on Section business topics and more importantly, an opportunity to network and get to know our peer planning professionals. We have about 15 to 20 members that regularly attend and are active throughout the year.
- **First Elections:** With the early success and local interest in the Section formation, we have very happy that we are able to offer a full slate of candidates for the Section Board in the 2017 elections. Three of the candidates will be new to the board and replacing three of the originally appointed officers. We are excited to see where these officers will be able to lead and develop the section in the coming year.
- **2016 South Sound Section Planners Forum:** The Section has been working over the summer in the planning and coordination of our next planner's forum to be held on October 11th. The topic will be on housing affordability. We are busy working on event details so stay tune for more information.

Inland Empire Section

President: Dave Andersen, AICP

The Inland Empire Section provides education, networking and public outreach in Eastern Washington. The section held its annual conference and meeting at Elkins Resort in June. 43 participants came to the conference from throughout Washington and elsewhere in the intermountain west. The conference also constituted the section's annual meeting. The section continued the quarterly hot topic series with opportunities to network and discuss current planning and community development topics in eastern Washington. The section continued its scholarship program with Eastern Washington University. The Section also partnered with the Washington County and Regional Planning Director's association to provide new AV equipment for the studio space at EWU. The Section is looking forward to continuing these activities and is looking forward to hosting the APA Chapter conference in 2018.



Columbia Section

President: Ardele Steele,
AICP, CFM

The Columbia Section covers the largest area of all the Sections including Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Yakima Counties. Our goals are to

- Promote ongoing professional education and awareness of community planning and related community issues by convening conferences, workshops, and discussion groups;
- Advocate proactive community planning for issues of local and regional importance;
- Encourage opportunities for networking and social gatherings within the region to improve professional communications;
- Be actively involved in community service and coordinate with governmental entities, allied professions and other concerned groups; and
- Provide input to city, county, state or regional level private or public entities on planning issues of unique interest to Columbia Section membership.

Looking forward, the Columbia Section goals moving forward include re-establishing the biannual Newsletter and providing training based on regional needs.

Southwest Section

President:
Amanda Smeller



Over the past year, the Southwest Section has partnered with the Department of Commerce to offer quarterly Planners Forums. Topics have included Critical Areas Ordinances, economic development, and SEPA Rule updates and integration. The Growth Management Hearings Board regularly attends the forums to provide an update on recent decisions and there is always an opportunity for networking with fellow planners to discuss goings on at the local level.

In the 2016 Winter newsletter, Sam Rubin and Lisa Brosnan provided an informative article on the Fire and Ice Scenic Loop.

“...Thirty-five years after the dramatic eruption of Mount St. Helens, the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments will release a much-anticipated corridor management plan for the Fire and Ice Scenic Loop, identified in 2009 by the Mount St. Helens Advisory Committee as a key opportunity to expand tourism opportunities and promote economic development in the region’s communities. The plan is a blueprint for the establishment, promotion, and management of a scenic loop that interprets the region’s geological, historical, and cultural history...”

Southwest Section members tend to come out in high numbers to attend the spring social, bowling at Big Al’s in Vancouver.

For the future, the Southwest Section will also continue to explore networking opportunities with neighboring Oregon APA sections and planners, continue work on our strategic plan, and strive to get more planners involved in the section.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Individual Awards

Each year, the chapter president presents awards to individual planners and officials that have made significant contributions to the chapter and/or profession. There are three presidential award categories including the Robert “Bob” Burke Award for Distinguished Service to the Chapter, the Myer Wolfe Award for Professional Achievement, and the Barbara Grace Award for a Mid-Level Planner. In addition, the chapter has given a Legislator of the Year Award to honor a legislator’s support for planning issues, as well as the Planning Advocate Award to recognize public figures or planners that have advocated for planning issues. Award recipients for this period included:



Clockwise from top left: Ivan Miller, AICP; John Owen, AIA, AICP; Anne Vernez Moudon, PhD; and Legislator of the year, Representative Sherry Appleton of the 23rd District, with APA President Paula Reeves, and Joe Tovar of The William D. Ruckelshaus Center.

Robert “Bob” Burke Award for Distinguished Service to the Chapter

2016	Ivan Miller, AICP
2015	Laura Hudson

Myer Wolfe Award for Professional Achievement

2016	Anne Vernez Moudon
2015	John Owen, AIA, AICP

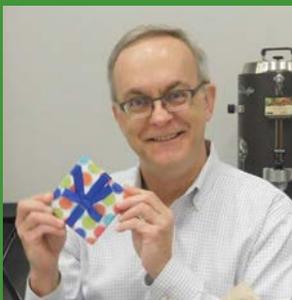
Barbara Grace Award for a Mid-Level Planner

2016	Gwen Rousseau
2015	Samra Seymour, AICP and Sarah Schelling, AICP

Legislator of the Year Award (nominated by the Legislative Committee)

2016	Representative Sherry Appleton
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Member Special Recognition



Several WA APA members and volunteers were recognized at the Fall 2016 board meeting. From left above: Steve Butler, volunteer for the nominations Committee; Matt Ransom and Laura Benjamin for helping secure over \$250k in grants for APA from Planners4Health and national APA.

Council of Fellows Inductee: Karen Wolf, FAICP



A leader in her profession and community, Karen Wolf has helped make King County a healthy, diverse and environmentally responsible place to live and work. Karen's collaborations include a groundbreaking effort to focus growth to urban areas and

preserve environmentally sensitive rural areas, to the application of social justice in regional planning, and to her advocacy for walkable, transit-oriented community development. She led a citizen panel that successfully balanced a major hospital's expansion plan with neighborhood interests. Skilled both in sound planning practice and political dynamics, Karen plays a key role in shaping a sustainable future for King County. Inducted 2016.

Student Scholarship Committee

Congratulations to the recent student scholarship winners

- **Jennyfer Mesa** - Eastern Washington University, College of Business and Public Administration
- **Katie Poppel** - University of Washington, College of Built Environments
- **Rose Atkinson** - University of Washington, College of Built Environments

The Scholarship Committee is being restructured to include all accredited Planning Programs in Washington and new partnerships.



Plan and Project Awards

Co-Chairs: Steve Pilcher, APA Washington and Lloyd Skinner, Planning Association of Washington (PAW)

Joint Awards Presented by APA and PAW

For 30 years, Washington’s two state-wide planning organizations, APA Washington and the Planning Association of Washington, have collaborated on the Annual Washington State Planning Awards Program.

Each year, the awards showcase the state’s most outstanding planning projects and programs.

Planning in Washington is amazingly diverse, and the Planning Awards program recognizes that diversity. From small towns to large cities, from the state’s growing urban centers to its resource-rich rural and agricultural regions, the Awards program highlights how great planning helps make Great Places.

This biennium, the Joint Awards Committee has had a diverse set of submittals, from categories such as transportation planning, public involvement, and

The Awards Committee conducts the Chapter’s annual awards program, soliciting applications, judging, and selecting winners. The Committee also organizes the ceremony at our annual conference and presents the awards to winning jurisdictions.

comprehensive planning. We saw a surge in submittals from the Small Cities and Counties category, illustrating how our profession is helping communities face the challenges of growth and change.

Category	2016 Award Plan	2016 Award Recipients
Planning - Large Cities	<i>City of Kent Park & Open Space Plan 2016</i>	City of Kent; Berger Partnership
Planning - Small Cities	<i>Monroe 2015-2035 Comprehensive Plan</i>	City of Monroe, Studio Cascade, Fehr & Peers, Leland Consulting Group, EA Associates, My Sidewalk
Planning - Small Cities	<i>East Sumner Subarea Plan</i>	City of Sumner, MAKERS, Weidner and Associates, Property Councilors, The Transpo Group, Berk
Planning - Small Cities and Counties	<i>Subarea Plan and Planned Action EIS: Center for Innovation and Technology (AKA - Northern State Hospital)</i>	Skagit County and City of Sedro-Woolley, Port of Skagit, Washington Department of Enterprise Services, Maul Foster and Alongi, Inc.
Sustainability	<i>Sunshine Alley Design Plan</i>	Town of Friday Harbor, Beckwith Consulting Group, San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild
Transportation Planning	<i>Alabama Street Multimodal Safety Improvements</i>	City of Bellingham Public Works
Student Planning Project	<i>Seattle’s Public Stairways</i>	Seattle University Bachelor of Public Affairs Program

First Annual Great Places Awards

In 2017 APA Washington launched a Great Places Pilot program to highlight planning excellence in communities throughout the state of Washington. The program is modeled after a National APA program, and recognizes downtown, urban, suburban, exurban, town, or small village neighborhoods that exemplify the following characteristics

- Has a variety of functional attributes that contribute to a resident's day-to-day living (i.e. residential, commercial, or mixed-uses).
- Accommodates multi-modal transportation (i.e. pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers).
- Has design and architectural features that are visually interesting.
- Encourages human contact and social activities.

The call for nominations was widely distributed, and winners will be announced at the 2017 APA conference.

*We congratulate all of the
award winners!*



Young Planners Group Puget Sound

Co-Chairs: Katy Haima, AICP and Joming Lau, AICP

The Young Planners Group Puget Sound (YPG) helps to build a community of emerging planning professionals by providing networking, mentoring, and leadership opportunities.

The mission of the YPG Puget Sound includes the following mission:

- Build and develop a community of emerging planning professionals in the Puget Sound region
- Promote career development of members by providing networking, mentoring, leadership, and educational opportunities.
- Engage with the larger community within Puget Sound and Washington through volunteerism, outreach, and cross-discipline activities.

YPG Puget Sound is open to all members of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association as long as they meet one of the following three criteria: 1) are under thirty-five years of age, 2) have less than five years of experience in the planning field, or 3) are currently enrolled in a planning or planning-related educational program.

Over the past two years YPG Puget Sound has been primarily active in the Puget Sound region, holding a variety of social networking events (bi-monthly happy hours, annual bbq/picnics) and organizing a variety of tours, lectures, and other educational opportunities (public art tours in Tacoma and at Seattle Center, Tiny House Village tour). Young Planners Group Puget Sound has also been organizing group volunteer opportunities to not just build a sense of camaraderie, but also to give back to the community. This past May in New York at the National Planning Conference, YPG Puget Sound met up with other Young Planner Groups across the country to share best practices from their organizations, and sharing ways to approach challenges and opportunities.

YPG has been running a mentorship program for the past three years, and is excited this year to be collaborating with the Seattle Chapter of Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT), to provide additional opportunities for program participants. The most recent cohort of the program saw 15 mentees paired up with mentors with experience in the planning field.

Additionally, YPG Puget Sound has continued its tradition of organizing an annual planning themed photo-based scavenger hunt and happy hour. This scavenger hunt provided the participants with the opportunity learning a little bit about Seattle's history and urban form.

APA National Update

APA Board, District V Director: Brian Campbell, FAICP



This July marks the third anniversary of my term on the Board of Directors, and I'm happy to report that the potential which I saw three years ago for the organization to make significant strides in improving member services has been largely

fulfilled. The staff under the leadership of Executive Director Jim Drinan has moved forward aggressively on a number of initiatives which have made a big difference in how the organization behaves. Jim has taken an organization that was very hierarchical and freed up staff to work creatively with the Board and Commission on a wide range of projects that have helped make APA much more member-focused. The Board is now oriented toward making strategic and policy decisions that give the staff general direction while giving them much wider latitude to propose new programs and modify existing ones in ways that better serve the membership.

Of course not all of these initiatives are unqualified successes at the outset, but the direction and attitude are very positive and there is a solid commitment to continuous improvement throughout the leadership of the organization. A few examples: the completely revised and updated web presence; new and robust legislative and policy initiatives, including the Planners Advocacy Network and a set of Infrastructure Principles for use in APA's national and state advocacy programs; free access to the APA image bank and all PAS reports; a new membership program for students and young planners to encourage long term commitment to APA; and a greatly improved working relationship among the Board, Commission, Chapters, Divisions and Students, including making their representatives full voting members of the Board of Directors.

At the Board and Commission retreat in July there were a number of good strategic discussions around this idea of continuous improvement for the organization. Among the topics discussed:

- Development Plan/Mission/Vision: The leadership group will gather information from a number of sources in the process of reviewing the effectiveness of APA's mission statement and tagline, which were last updated in the 1990s.
- Membership Discussion: Board and Commission leaders discussed new approaches to an APA membership strategy that emphasizes the delivery of value based on member needs. While acknowledging recent initiatives that demonstrate progress in that direction, we outlined a process for reviewing best practices and policy gaps as the association develops a new approach for recruitment and retention of members in the future.
- International Programs: The Board and Commission reviewed an early draft of a strategic governance document about potential options for APA's International Programs in the future. A working group of members and staff will be appointed to further work on the paper, and identify and evaluate options.
- Advocacy/Communications: The group received an update from government affairs staff on APA's legislative priorities: infrastructure, social equity and access to data. A set of revised communications protocols were reviewed that when finalized will significantly update how APA engages its members and their constituents in more agile responses to federal policy issues.
- Great Places in America: The APA Board reviewed recommendations from the Great Places in America Task Force to revise the criteria and make other improvements to the program, which is currently celebrating its 10th anniversary.
- National Community Planning Month (NCPM): The board had a discussion around NCPM outreach, which we are working to integrate better with Great Places this year. A refreshed graphical identity and expanded tools for use by members and organizational components are planned for this year and next.
- Chapter/Division Partnerships: The Board reviewed a list of APA chapter and division partnerships, both formal and informal, with other organizations in order to determine how these may inform other national, state and local efforts to form alliances and coalitions of mutual benefit.
- Leading Change: The board and commission spent some time on a case-driven discussion of governance and leadership challenges, and examples of leading in the face of opposition.

APA National Update

Commission, District V Commissioner: Karen Wolf, FAICP



The Northwest is well represented in APA Leadership with Brian Campbell, FAICP, coming from Oregon and me, hailing from Washington. We work together to make sure our corner of the country is part of the strategic decision making

at the national level. Of course, we know we groom the best planners in the country, but we remain very humble about our roots.

I have been on the AICP Commission for just over three years and have observed so much progress in our organization in that short time. APA and AICP leadership are working hard to improve member access and member value throughout the organization. As a member of the AICP Commission, I have been most focused on expanding the reach and value of the AICP credential. Among the programs that have been advanced by the Commission in the past few years are:

- Updating the AICP Certification Exam to make it more relevant to what planners do today on the job and what they need to know to be successful;
- Establishing the AICP Candidate Program to provide an option for recent graduates of masters in planning programs from Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) certified universities to take the exam earlier as they start their careers;
- Improving the Ethics Program by hiring an independent Ethics Officer, increasing access to ethics advice, updating the case-of-the-year annually to be used at chapter conferences, clarifying the code of ethics to better support planners on the job, and establishing an embattled planners support initiative to provide informal advice to planners facing workplace challenges;
- Involving chapter members by appointing planners from Region V to various task forces and committees including various Exam Update Task Forces and the Ethics Committee;
- Marketing the AICP credential to employers, to planners and to the community at-large. This program is just getting underway but will ultimately establish a greater understanding and appreciation for the rigor and experience of AICP planners; and
- Partnering with APA Foundation as a one of a handful of chapters that will participate in a pilot program to increase resources at both the chapter and national levels to expand access to scholarships and research.



Kids in Planning Task Force

Chair: Gwen Rousseau

During the first half of 2017, members of the Youth in Planning taskforce participated in four youth engagement activities – the annual Building Leaders of Change (BLOC) party at Rainier Beach High School, a visioning event for Bellevue’s Grand Connection at Bellevue Big Picture, a weeklong planning workshop with 5th graders at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School, and the University of Washington’s Next City class for middle schoolers. Two presentations were given to planners providing examples of how to go about engaging youth in planning initiatives, and a third presentation will be given at this year’s state conference. Finally, the YIP taskforce has grown to include two planners from eastern Washington and has drawn on the energies and ideas of other for unique projects.

Youth Engagement

The topic for this year’s BLOC party workshop at Rainier Beach High School was “Art as a way of building community.” About 15 students participated in the workshop. Planners started off with a PowerPoint illustrating how art has been used in cities for different purposes, and then the group broke into teams to explore different issues in which art could be used to generate excitement.

At Bellevue Big Picture, the entire high school took part in a visioning exercise for Bellevue’s Grand Connection, a corridor that will connect the waterfront of Meydenbauer Bay to downtown and ultimately to the regional Eastside Rail Corridor east of I-405. Students came up with inventive ideas to make the corridor a place people would want to be including zip lines, a nature maze, a fountain one can swim in, an animatronic Dragon, an outdoor stage or amphitheater, squishy sidewalks, a multicultural market, a paint wall, a giant waterwall that lights up at night, outdoor cafes, murals, a giant glass dome, a monument with flags and many more.

At Bailey Gatzert Elementary, planners met with fifth graders over the course of a week to introduce key concepts of city planning, urban design and park design. Students developed their own land use plans for the Yesler Terrace neighborhood next door and their own designs for a signature park within the neighborhood. On the last day, students presented their designs to staff from the Seattle Housing Authority and members of the citizen review committee.

In July, YIP member Stephanie Velasco helped run the University of Washington’s Next City classes, a three-week program for middle schoolers, offered through the University of Washington’s Summer Challenge camp. Students took on the roles of urban planners, architects, and landscape architects, as they answered planning questions, played city-related games, and honed their drawing, modeling, and group discussion skills. Weekly field trips took students out into Seattle to observe the city up close. Finally, students drew inspiration from cities around the world as they planned, designed, and built their very own Next City from scratch.

Contacts were also made with teachers in classrooms in Spokane and Seattle for future youth engagement activities.

Building Planner Capacity

YIP members gave presentations on engaging youth in planning at the Northwest regional forum in January and at the Planning Association of Washington conference in early May. Members will also be taking part in a workshop at this year’s WA-APA Conference in September, and a workshop proposal on youth engagement has been submitted for next year’s national APA conference.

Members have begun discussing the possibility of producing a graphic novel on planning similar to Chicago Architecture Foundation’s No Small Plans, but geared toward planning issues pertinent to Washington state. The novel would serve as an excellent tool that planners and teachers could use to begin discussions with youth about planning issues occurring in their own communities.

Expanding YIP Taskforce

Three new members joined the taskforce this year, Donna DeBit from the City of Spokane, Nicole Campbell from the Chelan-Douglass Transportation Council and Emma Argiroff, a Masters of Planning student at the University of Washington. We have also benefitted from the energy of other planners including Diana Sugimura, Shane Hope and Eric Rhett who have joined in on projects of interest.

Next Steps

We are looking forward to expanding our connections with teachers and building effective tools to teach the concepts of city planning to youth during the second half of 2017.

Short Course on Local Planning Partnership - Regional Planner's Forums

Lead Staff: Anne Fritzel, Department of Commerce

In partnership with the Department of Commerce and the Planning Association of Washington, the APA holds quarterly Regional Planner's Forums in four regions of the state. Together the forums (Northwest, Peninsula, Southwest, and Eastern) provide an opportunity for planners, elected and appointed officials, nonprofits, and other organizations to discuss local issues, share thoughts, and receive updates on topics relevant to their communities. In 2016, 14 regional forums were held, attracting 415 attendees, and providing a total of 49.25 AICP Certification Maintenance Credits. Topics included legal updates, clean energy development, tribal land development, aquaculture, stormwater management, sign codes, affordable housing, critical areas, local food planning, and others. Free American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification maintenance (CM) credits are offered to planners, including the required legal and ethics trainings. Visit the website to get the latest agenda and download the handouts.

For more details, including contact information, visit: www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/growth-management/regional-planners-forums/

Southwest Forum

Matt Ojennus, Senior Planner	Washington State Department of Commerce
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NW Planner's Forum

Valerie Smith, Senior Planner	Washington State Department of Commerce
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Olympic Peninsula Forum

Gary Idleburg, Senior Planner	Washington State Department of Commerce
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Eastern Washington Forum

Ben Serr, Senior Planner	Washington State Department of Commerce
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Planning Officials Development Officer

Chair: Ryan Windish, AICP

There were three main initiatives for the biennium:

- Improving information and training for planning commissioners throughout the state to provide educational material and promote APA.
- Updating the Chapter website with new material to benefit planning commissioners and the public
- Continuing the Planners Forums and Short Course in partnership with other agencies and organizations

The Planning Commission Quarterly is a newsletter sent out 4 times a year that provides announcement for upcoming events, profiles of planning commission projects and activities throughout the state, and provides tips and insights on running an effective planning commission. This is the first such newsletter that is sent directly to planning commissioners from Washington APA. To date, there have been 3 issues distributed to 445 recipients. The Quarterly will continue to be refined and improved over the next 2 years.

The Washington APA website was recently updated and improved to be more engaging and user-friendly. As part of this effort the PODO will have an updated section that pertains to educational material, announcements for training opportunities, and other resources for planning commissioners and public officials.

The role of the Public Officials Development Officer (PODO) is to: 1) promote the value of planning with elected officials, commissions, and the broader community; 2) serve as a resource for members seeking timely and educational material on various planning topics; and 3) to organize and administer a Speakers Bureau that would coordinate speakers for communities on specific topics and also be a repository for presentations that would then be available for others to use



Tribal Committee

Chair: Michael Cardwell, AICP

In 1999, the American Planning Association held its National Conference in Seattle, tribal communities within a tribal tract said that gaming would change everything. In 2015, the host committee did its best to show that it did in Indian Country. There were two sessions the host committee presented: Pacific Northwest Tribal Planning [S553] and the mobile workshop Magical History Tour [W049].

The first was presented to an over capacity room by a blue ribbon panel: Robert Eloffson (Lower Elwha Klallam), Antone Minthorn (Umatilla), and Dr. Dick Winchell, FAICP. Chair Cardwell facilitated the session (Quinault). The presenters talked about environmental restoration, community engagement, and economic empowerment while creating new alliances under the over arching umbrella of enhanced Native Sovereignty. A quick overview of the Elwha dam(s) removal, the creation of win-win environmental situations at Umatilla and the changing dynamic within tribal communities told the story of tribes becoming the largest employers within rural counties and using their newly found clout to create the communities we want. That is the mission of planning. The engagement of tribal planners with statewide, regional and local planning agencies was directly tied to the empowerment that Tribal gaming has generated through revenue enhancements to Tribes. In Washington State, Tribes are the fourth largest employer statewide, as well as the Number 1 employer in many rural counties where federally recognized Indian Reservations are and tribal economic development properties are located. Think casino, resort hotel, buffet, entertainment and convention facilities and you get the picture.

It is one thing to talk about gaming and its impacts. It is another to see it. The Magical History Tour went by bus and ferry to the Port Madison Indian Reservation, home of the Suquamish People and burial site of Chief Sealth for whom Seattle was named after. As the tour guide, Chair Cardwell quickly highlighted the changes that Seattle has experienced since 1999, such as: the ever changing skyline, the transportation and physical woes (tunnel digging machine Bertha that way / Seawall replacement project that way) and the development of economic engines in Indian Country that have not only created jobs, but have better fostered working relationships. We were greeted by Suquamish Chairman Leonard Forsman, who told us of the strides that they have taken to turn

This committee focuses on addressing statewide tribal planning issues. The committee is active in the board, conference planning, scholarship fundraising, and other chapter activities. The Tribal Planning Committee has provided a link between APA Washington and an active group of tribal planners — the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO). It has also informed the Board and chapter membership about tribal planning issues.

gaming dollars into LEED Certified Gold and Silver community buildings, support for Tribal Journeys / cultural awareness, and the connections to the political world. Money buys clout, which you have to plan for and execute as well. I hope that the planners left with a better understanding of Indian Country and the Pacific Northwest.

In 2017 the Washington and Oregon state chapters of the APA held a joint Columbia River Regional Forum on Planning within this multijurisdictional setting. Being 5 miles away from an oil train derailment (Hood River to Mosier OR) the transport of fossil fuels in the corridor was discussed. In fact, the development of export facilities within the Ports and aquatic lands had a session. Antone Minthorn in his role of Columbia Gorge Commissioner spoke and brought a tribal perspective to the table. He spoke of irrigation projects, land use rights, and working through the system for the betterment of all. The conference concluded with the statement that federal permitting agencies were taking into account the treaty rights of Native Sovereign Nations when they review project applications. It is better to plan with Indians ahead of time instead of being forced to take into consideration impacts to tribal treaty rights via a lawsuit.

Also in 2017, Native Sovereign Nations are partnering with the Ruckleshaus Center on the Road Map to Washington's Future. This project will be presented to the WA Legislature and will recommend changes to existing land use law so that we all stay out of court.



Road Map to Washington's Future

APA WA is contributing \$10,000 to support the Road Map process that leveraged much more support from the State Legislature in the 2016-17 Legislative Session.

Background

In Washington state, there are a number of laws in place to manage growth and land use. The Growth Management Act (GMA) is the overarching statute that governs how local governments manage growth in their respective jurisdictions. Although the GMA occupies a central place within the State's planning framework, it is just one of many laws that affect the State's economic, environmental and human health. Other planning statutes such as the Planning Enabling Act, Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) support many of the goals listed in the GMA. These planning statutes affect a wide range of interests and have been contentious with multiple parties. GMA has been in place for over 25 years, SMA, SEPA and other laws for even longer. No formal government-sponsored assessment has been done to see how well these 20th century laws align or how the overall planning framework enables Washington to meet the emerging challenges of growth and change in this century.

Phase I: Pre-Assessment Process

In response to queries from the Washington State Legislature and others, the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (the Center) recommended conducting an assessment that would examine Washington's framework for managing growth including a process to articulate a statewide vision and collaboratively map a path to that future. The process for creating a collaborative road map would involve participants across the state to: (1) articulate a vision of Washington's desired future; (2) identify opportunities and current successes of state laws, institutions, and policies; and (3) build agreement for needed course corrections and future implementation.

To gauge support for this effort, the Center conducted a Pre-Assessment from October 2016 through June 2017. The Pre-Assessment consisted of a series of conversations with individuals from the following groups, organizations, and governments involved in various growth management efforts. Seven entities became sponsors of the Pre-Assessment and provided a total of \$100,000 to support it.

These Phase I sponsors are shown below.

- Association of Washington Business
- Association of Washington Cities
- Building Industry Association of Washington
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Citizens Alliance for Property Rights
- Futurewise
- The Master Builders of King & Snohomish Counties
- Northwest Open Access Network
- Suquamish Indian Tribe
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- The Tulalip Tribes
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Washington Association of Realtors
- Washington City Planning Directors Association
- Washington Farm Bureau
- Washington Research Council
- Washington Public Health Association
- Washington Public Ports Association
- Washington Sewer and Water Districts Association
- Washington State Association of Boundary Review Boards
- Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors
- Washington State Association of Counties
- Washington State Department of Commerce
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Transportation Commission
- Washington State Conservation Commission
- Puget Sound Partnership

This committee focuses on addressing statewide tribal planning issues. The committee is active in the board, conference planning, scholarship fundraising, and other chapter activities. The Tribal Planning Committee has provided a link between APA Washington and an active group of tribal planners — the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO). It has also informed the Board and chapter membership about tribal planning issues.

1 *Is now the right time for an assessment that would examine Washington's growth management framework, including a process to identify a desired statewide vision for Washington's future?*

There was broad support for conducting an assessment of Washington's growth management framework and a process to identify a desired statewide vision for Washington's future. Several parties pointed out that while the GMA has been the focus of calls for revisions, such efforts have typically been prompted by anecdotal experiences rather than comprehensive or empirical evidence. Many observed that, in addition to the GMA, there are other state laws that affect land use, transportation, economic development, resource conservation, environmental protection, service delivery and governance. There was also strong support for an assessment that included the entire planning framework.

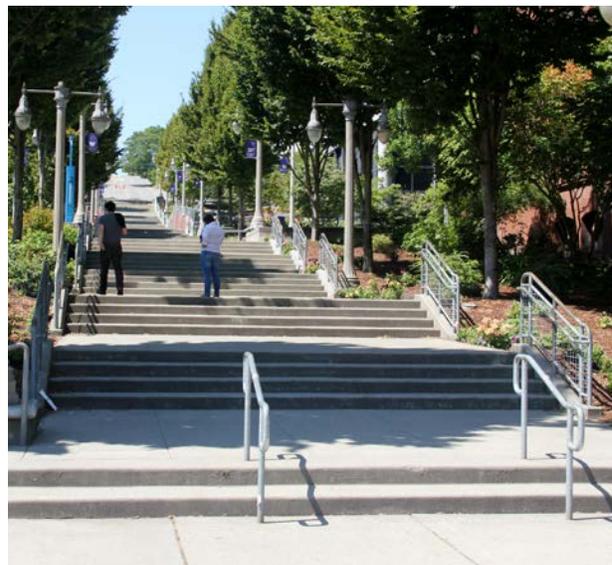
During the pre-assessment, a number of parties brought up issues that were of interest or concern to them, to illustrate why a process examining Washington's growth management framework was both timely and important. A list of those issues is provided in Appendix A. Many expressed a sense of urgency due to decreasing housing affordability, increasing transportation congestion, continued loss of productive farmland and viable marine habitat, uneven distribution of economic prosperity and human health across the state, and a lack of fiscal tools to keep pace with infrastructure and service delivery demands.

2 *Is the Ruckelshaus Center an appropriate neutral convener to facilitate an assessment?*

Virtually all of the parties were familiar with the mission and the history of the Center as a neutral facilitator in collaborative efforts to address public policy challenges. Many had direct experiences with prior Center-facilitated processes such as the Voluntary Stewardship Program, Chehalis Basin Strategy, Joint SR 530 Landslide Commission, Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Assessment, Tri-Cities Governance, and Coastal Resilience. There was confidence that the Ruckelshaus Team had both the process and subject matter expertise to conduct this type of project.

3 *Would you be interested in participating*

All of the parties expressed strong interest in participating in the project going forward. Center staff explained to all parties the general outline of the process contemplated and the amount of time or other resources that they would be asked to commit. None indicated a lack of desire to participate.



Update on Initiative 732 - Carbon Tax

Prepared by Justus Stewart for the APA-WA Board Meeting - October 26, 2016

Background

The APA-WA Board voted in March to take a 'support' position on Initiative 732, which would impose a revenue-neutral carbon tax in Washington State. The tax would apply to fossil fuel sources only, and electricity generated with fossil fuels, with the revenue to be offset by a decrease in the state sales tax, the B&O tax for certain businesses, and a few other tax relief programs.

Current Status

The initiative currently seems poised to pass, but the polling margin is slim enough that it could go either way. The most recent polls we are aware of show a little over 50% voting yes, almost 40% voting no, and the remainder unsure.

The initiative has been endorsed by a numerous politicians, think tanks, and environmental groups, listed on the campaign's endorsement page. Earlier this month a group of more than 50 climate scientists and researchers from UW signed an open letter in support of I-732.

Controversy

However, this initiative has been controversial, and not because of the expected opponents (e.g. fossil fuel interests or anti-tax voters). The state's most prominent environmental groups have quite publicly withheld their support, with most taking a 'do not support' position rather than actively opposing it. This includes the Sierra Club, Climate Solutions, and the Washington Environmental Council. The Sierra Club's position statement on their decision can be read here (the position of other similar groups is essentially the same).

This rift in the environmental community was a large enough story to be picked up by national media, including Vox and the Washington Post. Fuse came out against the initiative in their voter's guide, and the Stranger newspaper in Seattle came out both for and against (split vote).

For those interested in learning more about these arguments, especially in the context of our support position, we recommend the Sightline Institute's excellent overview: [Weighing the Critiques of I-732](#).

Recent/Current APA-WA Actions

Other than taking a support position, APA-WA has not actively supported the campaign with financial or in-kind contributions. This initiative has significant potential to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions, which is an issue of direct concern to APA national and to the WA Chapter. However, these reductions are not considered globally meaningful by themselves; the hope for this initiative - and potentially its greatest impact - is as a demonstration of leadership that inspires other states to develop carbon pricing schemes of their own.

How I-732 Works

I-732 creates a new tax on fossil fuels consumed in-state, initially priced at \$25/ton. It is designed to be revenue neutral by offsetting that tax revenue with two tax cuts and one tax rebate:

- Reduce the state sales tax by 1%
- Mostly eliminate the B&O business tax for manufacturers
- Fund the Working Families Rebate* to provide up to \$1500 a year for 400,000 low-income working households.

*the Working Families Rebate is an existing program established by Governor Gregoire, which has never been funded.

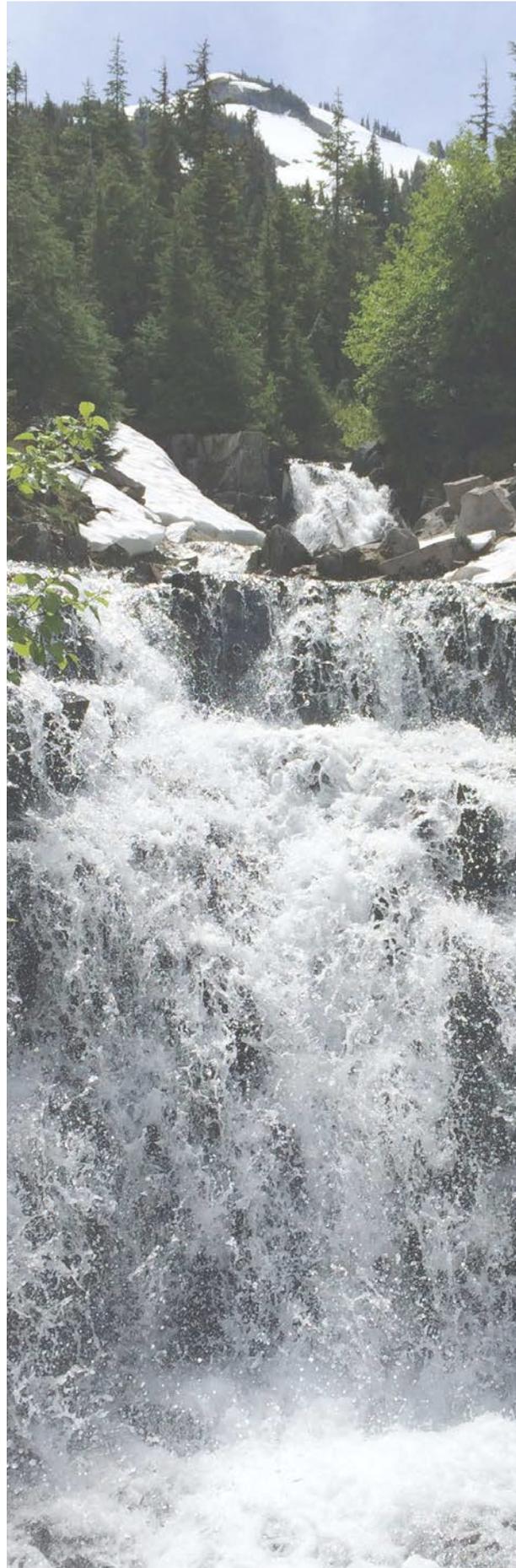
Decision to Support/Not Support - Context

APA-WA has an established history of leadership in promoting action to reduce carbon emissions. Carbon pricing is broadly supported as an essential mechanism for addressing climate change, by international organizations such as the UN and World Bank, by Governor Inslee in Washington, and by an uncommonly bipartisan group of policy experts such as the Brookings and Cato institutions.

This is also a priority for APA national, which has supported efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change since at least 2008. The 2011 policy brief on planning and climate change, which establishes advocacy policy for APA, its Chapters and Divisions, supports the following (edited for length):

- Encourage and prioritize through policy, regulation and investment decisions, the use of energy sources that emit less greenhouse gases through their production, distribution and consumption...
- Adopt state, regional, and national policies that accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources.
- Support plans, standards, regulation, incentives, and investments to reduce the impacts of climate change on those populations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change...
- Federal legislation should achieve at least an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2050 through carbon pricing or incentives...

More information is available at: <https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/climatechange.htm>



Questions & Answers on whether to Support Initiative 732 - Carbon Tax

Q: is this related to planning?

A: action to reduce climate change - including policy action - is a stated priority of both APA-WA and APA national. Pricing carbon is an effective and possibly necessary component of successfully addressing climate change.

Q: why I-732 specifically?

A: this initiative is the only carbon pricing legislation currently under consideration in WA state. All other potential approaches remain theoretical.

Q: is there political risk in supporting?

A: there is internal discussion in climate / environmental policy circles of whether I-732 is the best mechanism for pricing carbon in WA. However, it is currently the only carbon pricing legislation up for a vote.

The concept of reducing harmful environmental impacts--such as GHG emissions--through a market mechanism rather than through regulation is itself a conservative idea, dating all the way back to the extremely successful Montreal Protocol for phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals.

For this reason, I-732 as a carbon neutral tax does have some bipartisan support, notably including the WA Policy Center.

Q: why not wait and see how this discussion settles out?

A: action is urgently needed on climate. Passing this legislation sends a signal to the rest of the country that legislative action is possible and that the time to act is now. It has taken years of education, advocacy, and cultural change to reach a point where this is even up for a vote. To take a "wait and see" approach now signals that climate is not an urgent threat and that APA WA has not made up its mind about its position -- both untrue.

Q: who is likely to be most impacted by this is it passes?

A: (this is probably way too far in the weeds, but...) Everyone who depends on fossil fuels for their daily lives will see a cost increase from gas/diesel costs. Everyone who purchases products would see a cost decrease (from the sales tax reduction). How it plays out will depend heavily on location, industry, and lifestyle.

Q: what's to stop manufacturers from leaving the state for a less expensive state (the "leakage" question)

A: the authors of I-732 anticipated this and attempted to resolve it through the virtual elimination of the state B&O tax for manufacturers.

Q: would this prevent WA from passing a cap & trade bill or other pricing policy in the future?

A: from a political standpoint, possibly, but not from a purely policy standpoint. It's possible to have both of these systems operating together.



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