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A Publication of the American Planning Association Washington Chapter

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Ivan highlights the great things that our chapter does, from places and plans to conferences and meetings.

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These fun figures show that our latest gathering was a big success.

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Paula updates everyone on the successful Youth Summit for Climate, recently held in Bellevue.

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Learn more about the many awards that were handed out at the recent conference luncheon in Bellevue.

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Our Chapter lobbyist looks ahead to the 2014 session in Olympia.

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The transformation of the Pacific Northwest's first public square has been central to downtown revitalization.

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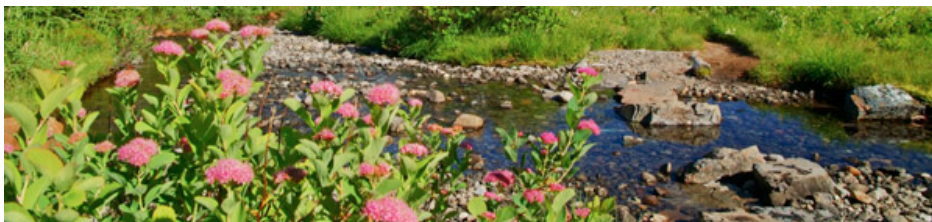
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Laura Hudson recaps recent meetings in Washington, DC.

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Start the Conversation about the GMA Comp Plan Update with Your Community

|washington-apa.org/newsletters/article/elsewhere_nov2013;



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November President's Message

By Ivan Miller, AICP



Ivan Miller, AICP—President, APA Washington

The November issue of *The Washington Planner* is the “pat ourselves on the back because we do great things” edition. We're fortunate to be part of a chapter that can claim great places, a great conference and youth summit, great projects and plans, great planners, and great board meetings.

WASHINGTON HAS GREAT PLACES

The American Planning Association National Office in Chicago has once again recognized Washington State for its great places. This year, the wonderful **Esther Short Park** in **Vancouver** won a Great Public Space award.

Esther Short Park earned recognition for a design that honors the city's history and culture, for amenities that allow for participation and contemplation, and for the park's catalytic role in the city's long-range downtown mixed-use plan.

Launched in 2007, *Great Places in America* recognizes unique and exemplary streets, neighborhoods and public spaces — three essential components of all communities. These authentic places have been shaped by forward thinking planning that showcases diverse architectural styles, promotes community involvement and accessibility, and fosters economic opportunity.

You can read more about Esther Short Park in this month's edition. Congratulations to the planners and leadership in Vancouver!

WASHINGTON HAS GREAT CONFERENCES AND DEVELOPS GREAT PLANS

You can learn all about some recent chapter successes in:

- [Deborah Munkberg's article on the 2013 Annual Statewide](#)

[Conference](#)

- [Paula Reeve's article on the Youth Summit on Climate Change](#)
- [George Steirer's article on the Project and Planning Awards](#)

These efforts represent an enormous amount of volunteer work. If you see any of these planners (or members of their committees), please give them a hug and consider buying them a strong cup of coffee.

WASHINGTON HAS GREAT PLANNERS!

The chapter distributed its Presidential Awards to **Leonard Bauer**, **Susan Winchell** and **Michael**



The American Planning Association celebrates excellence in planning

Cardwell at the 2013 conference in Bellevue. Congratulations to our winners.

These three planners hail from the far corners of the state and represent some of the best attributes of our profession — fairness, commitment, inclusiveness and integrity. We thank them for their service in making the chapter strong and in making Washington State a great place to be a planner!



Cardwell, Winchell and Bauer

🐼 **Myer Wolfe Award for**

Professional Achievement:

Leonard Bauer has been making significant contributions to planning in the State of Washington since the Growth Management Act (GMA) was enacted in 1990. He learned GMA from the ground up, serving as a planning manager and planning director for two south Sound cities. He helped them adopt their first GMA plans and zoning codes, adopted subarea plans, and conducted Sounder train station planning.

The contribution for which Leonard is best known, however, is that of managing director for Growth Management Services at the Washington State Department of Commerce. For the past dozen years, he has been the recognized expert on GMA, trusted by both sides of the political aisle and in all corners of the state. He has established the Smart Growth Award, participated in governor-initiated legislative programs, spent quality time with the legislature and a diverse set of planning directors around the state, and developed strong technical assistance programs. And he has never stopped smiling in all that time. Congratulations, Leonard, on winning the chapter's 2013 Myer Wolfe Award!

🐼 **Robert "Bob" Burke Award for Distinguished Service to the Chapter:** APA Washington

renamed this award this year to honor the chapter's first president. **Susan Winchell** is the well-deserved inaugural award winner. Susan has been a member of APA since its inception in 1978 and has played an active role therein for over 25 years. She has served in leadership positions at the chapter level, including chairing the Nominations Committee for 11 years; chairing annual chapter conferences in 1999, 2001 and 2003; serving on the local host committee for chapter conferences in Spokane; and chairing the FAICP Nominations Committee.

She has made some of her greatest contributions at the section level, where she was instrumental in shaping the Inland Empire Section in Spokane. She was elected to the Section Board in 1988 and served as president, secretary, and professional development officer. She was the chair of the Section's Nominating Committee for 10 years, newsletter editor for 10 years, and chaired the section's annual conference at Priest Lake for 18 years. Section members refer to her as the Inland Empire Den Mother, the most dedicated planner in the Inland Northwest, and the person most likely to coerce you into earning your AICP credentials. Congratulations, Susan, on winning the chapter's 2013 Robert "Bob" Burke Award!

🐼 **Planning Advocate Award:** This award recognizes public figures or planners who have advocated for a wide range of planning issues. If you are part of the chapter Board, you will agree that **Michael Cardwell** is a planning advocate. If you've had the 2015 National Conference on your mind, you're in good company with this award winner & Michael has advocated on the theme, the locations, the opening party, the transportation modes, and other matters. Over the years, he has also printed chapter sweatshirts, held fundraisers, secured multiple donations for scholarships, and talked up APA at Mariners games.

Most important, he has been a planning advocate on tribal issues and in tribal country for many years. Thank you, Michael, and congratulations on winning the chapter's 2013 Planning Advocate Award!

GREAT MEETINGS? (I.E., WHAT REALLY HAPPENS AT AN APA WASHINGTON BOARD MEETING)

Wondering what the Board talked about at our meeting in October? After receiving a variety of committee updates, we adopted a policy about the level of membership needed to serve on the Board. This action followed a robust debate during the past two months. We also formed a task force focused on increasing options for participation in decisionmaking by committee chairs and section officers who can't attend the Board meeting. We also talked briefly about a future policy on the conditions and criteria by which the chapter can partner on a training event so that our AICP Certificate Maintenance provider status can be used.

The Board also established a schedule for committees and sections to publish their respective activities and

accomplishments in *The Washington Planner* so that members will more fully know what we are doing on their behalf. Finally, we adopted minutes from the last meeting and established a tentative date for our next meeting: December 12, before the Puget Sound Section's Holiday Party.

Please contact me at ivanmillerseattle@hotmail.com or at 206-464-7549 if you have comments, suggestions or have an interest in volunteering for one of our great programs.

American Planning Association **Washington Chapter**

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2013 APA Washington conference by the numbers



On October 2 and 3, over 450 planners came together at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue to share experiences, listen to inspiring speakers, congratulate Chapter award winners, explore downtown Bellevue, and drink a little coffee. While the conference addressed many serious issues, we thought you might enjoy this lighted-heart 'summary' of the outcomes.

- APA Washington welcomed 457 registrants from Washington State and points beyond, including Arizona, Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Ohio, Oregon, New York and Virginia;
- Affiliations included 274 attendees from local and regional government, 17 from state government, 6 from the federal government, and 80 planners from private consultancies. We also registered 28 students, 13 representatives from non-profits, and 12 affiliated with colleges and universities;
- 9 PAW/APA Planning Award winners and Honorable Mention selections were recognized by their Chapter colleagues;
- 31 new AICP members, 3 new AICP specialized certification recipients, and 1 new AICP Fellow were congratulated;
- 40 informative breakout sessions offered a total of 63.25 CM credits;
- \$2,500 in scholarship funds were raised at the silent auction;
- 19 generous sponsors helped underwrite the conference event;
- 2 thought-provoking keynote speakers, and 2 excellent mobile workshops gave us a lot to think about; and finally,
- 1 tuneup band (composed of 3 planners); and over 95 gallons of coffee sipped helped to keep spirits light and our minds focused.



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2013 APA Washington conference by the numbers — APA Washington

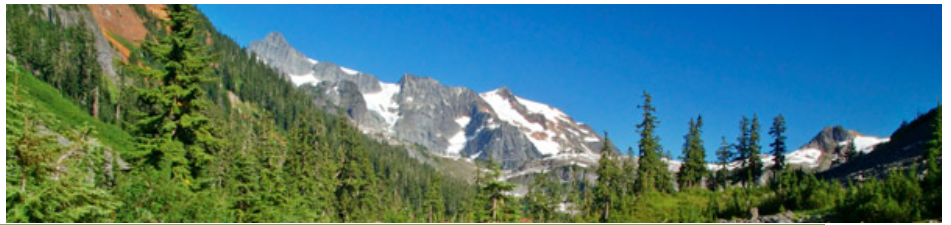
We hope you had a wonderful, informative and inspiring time. See you next October at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane!

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2013 Youth Summit for Climate

By Paula Reeves, AICP CTP



The 2013 Washington Youth Summit for Climate was held on October 1 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue and webcast across the state. APA Washington's goal for the Youth Summit was to bring together students, business leaders, policy makers, educators, and others to provide a voice for college and high school students in climate action planning and give them an opportunity to discuss how climate change is affecting them and their future.

An estimated 100 students participated in the Summit, either in

person or via webcast, which continues to educate viewers with over 100 hits since posted. At the Summit, speakers included amazing and inspirational students working on climate related projects: Carolyn Edwards from the Swinomish Tribe, Pablo Gomez from the Alliance for Climate Education in Los Angeles, and Anna Iglitzin from Climate Solutions. A number of policy makers, business leaders, and educators doing climate-related work in Washington State were eager to engage with students during the meeting. To view a recording of the Youth Summit webcast, visit: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/washington-youth-summit>

APA Washington also held a webinar on September 17 titled A Primer: Climate in the Pacific Northwest, which provided background information and helped publicize the Youth Summit. Over 100 students attended along with professionals, educators, and policy makers - for a total of 170 registrants. A recording of the webinar will be soon be posted on the APA Washington website at <http://washington-apa.org/programs/kidsinplanning/>

Special thanks go out to the agencies and organizations that partnered to make the webinar and Youth Summit possible, including the American Planning Association, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, American Society of Landscape Architects, Bellevue College, Bicycle Alliance of Washington, Municipal Research Services Center, Microgreen Polymers, Inc., Bainbridge Graduate Institute, Climate Solutions, Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Washington State Department of Ecology, University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, Washington State Department of Commerce, The Suquamish Tribe, and The S'Klallam Nation.

Please like and share the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WAYouthSummit> where you will find information about upcoming events related to the Youth Summit on Climate and ongoing discussion and articles of interest.



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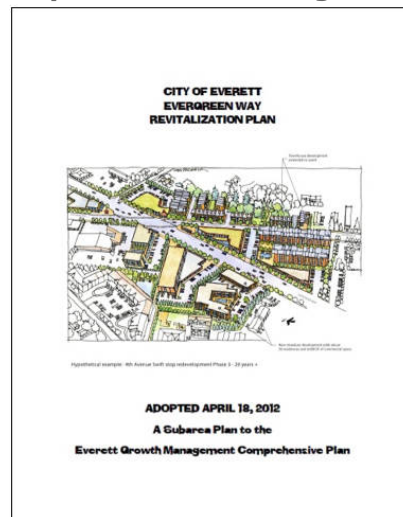
APA Washington and PAW Honor Outstanding Planning Work

By George Steirer

Each year, the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Planning Association of Washington (PAW) team up to honor outstanding planning work in our state. The awards program, now in its 27th year, recognizes Washington's finest public and private sector planning work and student projects. The nominations for 2013 represented a wide variety of projects. Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination, and to the members of the nominating committee who evaluated the submittals: Richard Hart, Brian Frampton, Greg Griffith, Kelly Larimer, Heather McCartney, Brian Ross, Lloyd Skinner, Joe Tovar, and Richard Weinman. The award recipients, listed below, were recognized during the APA Washington Annual Conference Awards luncheon on October 3.

CATEGORY: PHYSICAL PLANS FOR LARGE CITIES & COUNTIES

City of Everett — Evergreen Way Revitalization Plan



This subarea plan is designed to revitalize and transform the Evergreen Way corridor with mixed-use commercial and residential redevelopment focused around the corridor's seven Swift bus rapid transit stations. The final plan, new land use code, rezone, housing incentives, and regulatory reforms were adopted on April 18, 2012.

CATEGORY: TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

City of SeaTac — Draft Safe & Complete Streets Plan

This pedestrian and bicycle plan seeks to enhance safety for all street users and increase opportunities for active transportation in SeaTac. The plan was developed from September 2011 through January 2012 with input from a cross-section of SeaTac's diverse communities.

CATEGORY: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

City of Bellingham — Fairhaven Neighborhood and Urban Village Plan

Between December 2010 and August 2012, Planning and Community Development staff completed an extensive and innovative citizen involvement process that successfully engaged disparate stakeholder groups to create the Fairhaven Neighborhood and Urban Village Plan (FNUVP), development regulations, and design standards.

CATEGORY: IMPLEMENTATION (TWO AWARDS)

City of Redmond — Digital Plan and Development Suite

This suite of digital tools is made up of three integrated components: the City of Redmond's Digital Comprehensive Plan, e-Zoning Code Property Viewer, and e-Track, an online permit review portal.

City of Kirkland — Transit Oriented Development Project at South Kirkland Park and Ride

This TOD project is located on a seven acre property straddling the Kirkland/Bellevue boundary at Kirkland's southernmost end. The new King County Metro Transit park and ride garage opened in September 2013. Affordable housing and market rate housing and commercial buildings are being constructed by project partners Imagine Housing and Polygon Northwest.

CATEGORY: PHYSICAL PLANS — SMALL CITIES & COUNTIES

City of Normandy Park — Subarea Plan & Implementation Suite

This subarea plan and implementation suite includes subarea conditions and economic analysis, a detailed policy and implementation matrix, and integrated EIS, Planned Action Ordinance, design standards, zoning amendments, and a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. It is based on an extensive public and stakeholder involvement process that began in March 2011. The plan was adopted in December 2013.

CATEGORY: RURAL & SMALL TOWN PLANNING



Town of Wilkeson — Rural Town Center Corridor Plan

This corridor plan for SR 165 addresses multimodal transportation through Wilkeson's downtown core. The plan is designed to increase safety and enhance the commercial town center while preserving Wilkeson's unique heritage. Steering committee members included representatives from the City Council, National Park Service, WSDOT, Eagles, residents and local business owners.

CATEGORY: SUSTAINABILITY

City of Tacoma — Transfer of Development Rights Program Market Study



The City of Tacoma teamed up with King and Pierce counties and the Planning Center|DC&E consulting team to complete the Transfer of Development Rights Program Market Study. TDR will stimulate growth in Tacoma's mixed-use centers while preserving open space.



TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS PROGRAM MARKET STUDY
FOR THE CITY OF TACOMA

CATEGORY: STUDENT HONORABLE MENTION

University of Washington — Back to the Future: A History of Transit Planning in the Puget Sound Region

Back to the Future presents the history of Puget Sound's most important transportation projects in the post-World War II era: I-5, the bus tunnel, Sound Transit's Central Link light rail and Sounder commuter rail, and the Waterfront Streetcar. Each chapter is authored by a student in the University of Washington's fall 2011 and winter 2012 Build Environment

seminars. *Back to the Future* is available on Lulu.

For more information, contact the Awards Committee Co-Chairs: Kelly Larimer (PAW) at klarime@gcpud.org or 509-260-0151, or George Steirer (APA Washington) at George.steirer@mercergov.org or 206-275-7719.



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Legislative Update

By Michael Shaw



It is still early in the build-up to the 2014 legislative session. The hangover from the last session is still keenly felt. There is one thing regarding the next session, however, that all seem to agree upon: no one expects the 2014 session to go longer than the constitutionally mandated 60 days. Half the Senate and the entire House membership will be up for election next year, and they do not want to spend more time than necessary in Olympia.

This interim between legislative sessions has focused primarily on a potential transportation package. During the second special session of 2013, the House passed a transportation

funding package, but the Senate did not take up the matter in the three days that remained of the special session. The Senate's Majority Coalition Caucus (MCC) leaders have indicated their willingness to discuss the transportation revenue issue during the interim. They have published a list of reforms that they want to see implemented prior to voting to increase transportation revenue. That list can be found here:

<http://src.wastateleg.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/MCC-Transpo-Reforms.pdf>

Over the last weeks of September and the first weeks of October, the Senate Transportation Committee organized a listening tour and held meetings throughout the state to hear from the public about transportation needs and a potential funding package. I attended several of these meetings, and heard many local government officials, chamber organizations, and citizens voice their support for a new package. In smaller numbers, others expressed opposition to raising taxes and fees to pay for infrastructure. The House and Senate could reach an agreement and perhaps pass a revenue package before the end of the year during a special session. The Governor has said that he will not call back the Legislature unless such an agreement is in place. There are many moving parts to this conversation and none of the MCC reforms are easy lifts. Thus, the odds are not terribly high that a special session will happen. Still, the continuing discussions provide some cause for optimism.

Here are updates on a few other areas of interest to our members:

Pursuant to SB 5802, the Climate Legislative and Executive Workgroup has held several meetings since May 2013. Workgroup members include Governor Jay Inslee, Sen. Doug Ericksen, Sen. Kevin Ranker, Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon, and Rep. Shelly Short. Several public hearings were held in October, and another is set for December 6 in Olympia. The meeting agendas and updated work plan are available at:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/economy/climateWorkgroup/default.aspx>

Regarding land use issues, the House Local Government Committee held a work session to discuss the Growth Management Act, and what changes or issues related to the GMA should be addressed. APA Washington was ably represented at this session by Michael McCormack. His remarks were summarized in the official meeting notes as follows:

The planning community has been involved with growth management initiatives since before enactment of the GMA. The APA believes it is time to do a comprehensive examination of the GMA. The issues that were important in the late 80s differ from those of today. The Act should be recalibrated to reflect these differences. The

Legislature should make it easier for cities to provide urban services in UGAs - a process that can be financially harmful to counties. Jurisdictions need to have better coordination and consistency with state actions (with respect to local actions). There are still frustrations with special purpose districts, as they are not subject to the GMA. An additional growing concern is coordination with federally recognized tribes. Also, vesting needs to be addressed, as real damage has been done by permitting vesting during appeals. The APA would like to see the GMA's goals clarified to provide a clear linkage with climate change and state initiatives on climate change. Provisions relating to planning tools and economic recovery could be improved, and new revenues would be helpful. The APA has promoted using general fund monies for a significant GMA examination (with stakeholder input) by a reputable, independent body. A jointly-developed stakeholder recommendation would be the desired outcome from this process.

Although a second work session on GMA was cancelled, APA Washington remains poised to contribute to a review of the Act, and to recommend targeted reforms.

Finally, revenue forecasts indicate that the State will have roughly \$350 million more than anticipated. However, the budget chairs have indicated to their respective members that this money will be added to the end-fund balance. They do not expect to fund new initiatives in 2014. Rather, they expect to need that spending capacity to address court decisions with unanticipated budget impacts, or to offset earlier budget assumptions that were incorrect. There has been some discussion about using the money to replenish the public works assistance account sweep that helped balance the State's general fund budget, but that outcome is unlikely. Some legislators have told me that they would not be surprised if the Legislature fails to pass a supplemental budget if doing so threatens to keep them in Olympia beyond the 60-day session.

Michael Shaw is the APA Washington lobbyist.

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Vancouver's Esther Short Park Named a Top 10 Great Public Space

By Chad Eiken



West's Duvall Street.

The Pacific Northwest's oldest public square—a thriving “outdoor living room” in the heart of downtown Vancouver, Washington—has earned a new distinction: one of the American Planning Association's Ten Great Public Spaces in America for 2013.

Vancouver's historic Esther Short Park, named for an entrepreneurial 19th century resident, was recognized alongside these prior winners of the Great Places in America award: New York's Wall Street, West Hollywood's Santa Monica Boulevard, Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Seattle's Pike Place Market, and Key

The designation represents “the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for tomorrow,” said APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer, FAICP. “Esther Short Park illustrates the power of a public space to transform its surrounding environs,” he said.

APA singled out Esther Short Park for a design that honors the Vancouver's culture and history as the birthplace of the Pacific Northwest. APA also praised the park's catalytic role in the city's long-range, \$800-million downtown mixed-use plan that has attracted some \$250 million in reinvestment since 2002.

The city initially received the 5.4 acres of land for the park from Esther Short in 1853. Part Algonquin Indian, she was a widowed restaurateur who raised 10 children and opened the city's first hotel. By the 1980s, the park had become run down and was an eye sore. The Vancouver community rallied around revitalizing this historic space, and did so thanks to generous donations from Burgerville founder George Propstra, other private donors, and city funding.

Today, the space fulfills Esther Short's desire for the park to be a public plaza—with a location surrounded by residences, city hall, and a convention center. Visitors come in droves to visit the park's Farmer's Market, and enjoy special events such as the city's free summer concert series. Kids play in the park's water feature on warm northwest days. The park's 69-foot tall Salmon Run Bell Tower with a Glockenspiel diorama emerges regularly to tell the story of the Chinook Indians via audio recordings and three-dimensional animated components.

Vancouver Mayor Timothy D. Leavitt said he was “thrilled” with the award. “This park has gone through a wonderful transformation over the past 15 years, and has truly become our city’s outdoor living room,” he said. “It is a sparkling green jewel in the heart of downtown Vancouver.”

For more information about all of this year's award winners, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces.

*Chad Eiken is the City of Vancouver's Community and
Economic Development Director*



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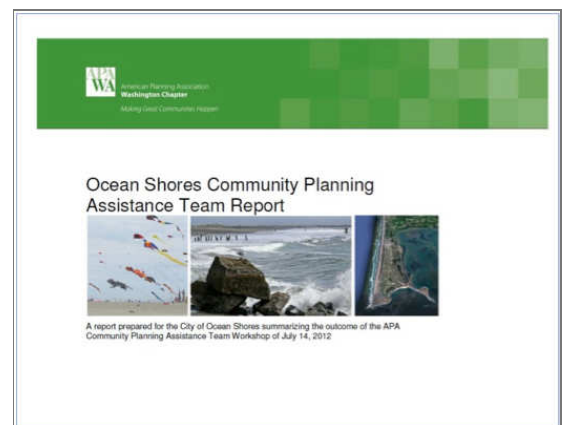
By Bob Bengford, AICP

The CPAT program is conducting an outreach campaign directed to communities around Washington to solicit applications for community based events and other community assistance-eligible activities in 2014. As a part of this outreach effort, CPAT is teaming with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to share information about the program, and to join resources for the benefit of communities in need. Learn more by visiting the AWC website at <http://www.awcnet.org/>. The deadline for applications is January 31, 2014. Our goal is to conduct a community-based event in the spring of next year, and perhaps a second event or series of activities in the fall.

WHAT IS CPAT?

CPAT is both a committee and a program of APA Washington. The objectives of CPAT are to connect plans and actions, identify local and regional resources for sustainable planning, and advance the principles of APA for a Livable Washington. CPAT assistance is targeted to communities that lack planning resources. CPAT members include planners 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. These resource enable CPAT volunteers to work effectively with diverse community groups, and to find progressive solutions to local planning issues.



DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE

CPAT offers varying levels of assistance. Upon submission of a completed CPAT Request for Assistance form (<http://washington-apa.org/documents/CPATRequestForm.pdf>), the Technical Advisory Committee will determine whether the applicant qualifies for assistance, and if so, what level of assistance is appropriate. CPAT levels of assistance range from consultation to full day planning workshops or charrettes in the host community. For example, last year's CPAT-aided event in Ocean Shores included (1) Mayor's Welcome, (2) a round robin discussion of issues with break out groups, (3) a community tour, (4) working lunch, (5) action planning (to develop priorities and implementation strategies, (6) CPAT team work session (to develop an action plan), and (7) a presentation/open house. As you see in the photo at left, one of the outcomes of the Oceans Shore CPAT collaboration was a detailed summary report for community members and leaders to use for future reference.

For more information about the CPAT program, please visit our Chapter website at <http://www.washington-apa.org/>

apa.org/programs/cpat/

American Planning Association **Washington Chapter**

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National APA leadership council considers initiatives to strengthen the planning profession

By Laura Hudson



Laura Hudson, Vice-President, APA
Washington

The APA Chapter Presidents Council, as well as presidents of all the national American Planning Association divisions and AICP leaders, met in Washington, DC, during the weekend before the federal government shutdown to discuss new initiatives that aim to strengthen the planning profession and our organization. (As a side note, APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer reminded us that APA was the first group to hold their conference and legislative meetings after 9/11. We were praised in 2001 for continuing with our conference in the face of the paranoia at the time—I'm not sure how we will be seen in 2013.)

The meetings began with a speech from Bill Anderson, our new APA National president, about the things he wants APA to accomplish during his term. Each of these goals presents many opportunities for state chapter members to get involved. The major points, also covered during the APA Washington Chapter conference's opening plenary session, include:

- Increasing the diversity of members of the planning profession at all levels
- Planning for sustainability, with an emphasis on water supply and water conservation
- Conducting outreach to the consumers of planning (i.e., the public) to build trust and respect and counter the image of planners as nay-sayers or worse, tools of the Agenda 21 conspiracy
- Preparing for the planning office of the future (i.e., what changes in technology and demographics will mean for planners)
- Preparing for the retirement of baby-boomers and how to keep them involved and productive
- Planning for economic prosperity

In addition to Bill Anderson's initiatives, Paul Farmer has begun efforts to revitalize the national conference—here in Seattle in 2015—to make it more relevant to the specific issues planners face, and to improve the experience of attendees. (We urge you to reply to the recent email from National APA asking for feedback on which focus topics you'd suggest.) Expect to see more in-depth forums and daylong symposia as well as tracks directed at young professionals just starting their careers and those planning for retirement. APA also wants to take advantage of technology to improve sessions.

APA staff plan to review the Planners Advisory Service to make it a more nimble and relevant service to members. They envision having it operate more like a filtered Google search, with some assurance of the quality of the results of the search. This approach fits well with Jill Sterrett's initiative as a part of the Emerging Issues Committee of the CPC—to create a web-based planning tool to share research, plans,

ordinances, and other relevant content among planners across the country. The CPC endorsed the proposal to do a feasibility study of creating such a tool, and the APA board adopted the proposal.

APA will also continue to study:

- Whether APA should set minimum standards for comprehensive plans and possibly establish a system to certify local plans as meeting best professional standards;
- Ways to better link faculty and students at universities with APA and improve the transition from student to professional; and,
- Adjustments to current membership requirements for APA and AICP to encourage retiring planners to continue to participate in the organization and share their knowledge and skills.

In addition, AICP is working on adding an advanced certification in urban design in 2014, and is reviewing the outcomes of the current environmental and transportation certifications. They are also reviewing the AICP exam content and will issue a new exam-preparation tool soon.

Finally, the Chapter President Council's Governance committee announced that consolidated national, chapter and section elections will be implemented in 2015, with a transition period in 2014. This change to consolidated elections will require bylaws changes at all levels of the organization, and national staff is working on prototype wording that chapters like ours can use. As a result of the change, members will receive only one officer election ballot, voting will be electronic, and national APA will tabulate the results for all elections, improving efficiency for all.

Most impressive at the CPC meetings was the energy and creativity of the attendees when proposing and vetting potential solutions to the issues we face, and their commitment to the profession. These efforts highlight the value of being part of national APA—a lot of resources and a lot of opportunities to get involved and make an impact.

This meeting was followed by the Federal Policy and Program Briefing (FPPB) and a day in which planners met with their legislators about local planning issues. I will discuss these meetings in more detail in the December issue of The Washington Planner.

Laura Hudson is Vice-President of APA Washington.