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Congratulations to this year's National Planning Award recipients whose achievements highlight planners' best efforts to create stronger healthier and more just communities Read more about these exemplary planning projects. Awards Jury The jury is tasked with reviewing all of the award nominations and identifying the ones worthy of receiving national honor and recognition. Emily Liu FAICP is a distinguished urban planner boasting nearly three decades of experience across Kentucky Illinois and Ohio Notably she served over a decade as Planning Director for the Louisville Metro Government overseeing various planning facets and spearheading the acclaimed Zoning Reform initiative Her expertise spans long-range planning zoning housing transportation urban design and historic preservation Emily holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from George Washington University complemented by master's and bachelor's degrees in Geography from Peking University solidifying her status as a national leader in the field. Amy Brooks AICP is the Executive Director of Knoxville-Knox County Planning bringing over two decades of planning expertise to her role Leading diverse teams and projects across the U.S. she has spearheaded comprehensive planning initiatives in the Knoxville area for the past seventeen years covering the City Knox County and the wider region Amy plays a pivotal role in shaping the region's development trajectory and is actively engaged in local and state planning associations dedicating her time to community service initiatives. Meg Bower AICP is the founder and principal planner at Trunk Branch Twig Bud LLC With 27 years of experience specializing in bridging the gap between public sector agencies and traditional A&E services particularly within the justice system She is passionate about collaboration and creative problem-solving solutions that align capital facilities to current processes while reaching forward to deepen access Meg received her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and her master's in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Bob Duffly FAICP has led a distinguished planning practice marked by a unique and diversified journey focused on public service and strategic leadership within planning organizations Throughout his career he has remained steadfast in ensuring that planning plays a lasting role in fostering sustainable and equitable futures for communities With experience as a planning director and commissioner across various regions including the Midwest Northeast New England and Florida Bob most recently held the position of Planning Director for Arlington County Virginia. Ivan Wesley Holloway serves as the Executive Director of Urban Impact Inc. based in Birmingham Alabama He holds a BS and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville AL Before his tenure at Urban Impact he led A Step Forward in Baltimore and served as the past vice president and managing director of Seedco Financial Alabama TruFund Financial pioneering the state's inaugural CDFI loan fund Additionally he contributed as an assistant city planner for the City of Athens Alabama. Beneetta Mary Jose LEED Green Associate is a recent planning graduate from the University of South Florida and is working as a transportation planner at Fehr and Peers Orlando office She graduated with a bachelor's degree in architecture from India Beneatta has a keen interest in resilience and transportation She has been awarded various scholarships and awards She also serves as the American Planning Association Student Representative Council Region 3 representative At the 2023 APA National Student Design Competition held in Philadelphia the team led by Beneatta was placed third This is her second year volunteering at the Awards Jury. Yogesh Saoji AICP is the Global Planning Leader at DLR Group a prominent integrated design firm in the US and abroad With a career spanning over three decades Yogesh is a seasoned senior planner urban designer and architectPlanners play a pivotal role in shaping and advancing the discipline within organizations, with experts like Yogesh having diverse expertise across projects such as campus planning and transportation initiatives. He is deeply committed to socially responsive planning, as seen in his involvement with various organizations addressing social justice issues. Recognized for his leadership, Yogesh embodies inclusive and sustainable urban development. Rameen Sherazi, an urban planner, focuses on preserving historical sites while promoting sustainability and inclusivity. He serves on the APA Awards jury, recognizing outstanding achievements in urban planning. Ranu Singh is a renowned architect, urban designer, and planner with research-based design solutions that harmonize sustainability and equity. Michelle R. Stearns has extensive experience in planning and development, working with public agencies and private developers on various projects in Washington and Alaska. She has facilitated preservation of farmland in the San Juan Islands. Scott Turner is a Director of Planning at Environmental Partners, with expertise in planning, design, and permitting of private development sites and stormwater management projects. The Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration aims to bring planners together across regions to address shared issues and share effective planning tools. MAPC Webinar Series APA Virginia is excited to collaborate on hosting webinars in the MAPC Webinar Series, with upcoming events in 2025. Viewers can also access previous presentations on the Collaboration's YouTube page. Some webinars may offer CM credits; check the comments section for details. The American Planning Association's AICP Certification: Elevating Professionalism and Community Impact AICP certification signifies a commitment to professionalism and ethics, setting certified planners apart from non-certified professionals. Demonstrating value and equality with credentialed peers, AICP boosts status among colleagues and enhances the planner's role within organizations. By fostering community growth and development, AICP plays a pivotal part in creating beneficial land use decisions through education programs that equip new officials with skills to effectively fulfill their roles. APA Arizona Chapter supports the organization's mission and vision by providing sponsorship opportunities and promoting statewide best practices in urban planning. The Board of Directors guides APA strategy while partnering with AICP leaders, working towards common goals. A large network of volunteer leaders collaborates to advance APA's objectives. As a guide for ethical conduct among planners, advisors, and decision-makers, this statement serves as a resource rather than a code for accountability. APA strives to establish an inclusive environment where members can connect, learn, and thrive in a culture of mutual respect. The association's executive team delivers value to members by managing programs and services effectively, presenting quarterly financial data to inform organizational performance. Through its involvement worldwide, APA has been instrumental in shaping the planning movement since its inception in 1909. AICP certification is a testament to the organization's commitment to advancing professional development and promoting community growth.The exchange of ideas is a network in support of planning professionals, serving Colorado's communities through education and awareness. As a member organization, we unite planners, allied professionals, and the public. Our 1500+ members are divided into Areas and served by an Executive Board, with elections held annually for approximately half of the Board. You can join APA Colorado through APA National or with a Chapter Only Membership. Passport subscribers enjoy unlimited access to our extensive online learning library, which equips you for a lifetime of growth and learning. Learn more about Passport. As the world changes rapidly, planners must adapt and learn new skills to create great communities for all. This involves adjusting planning processes, approaches, and committing to continuous learning. We have launched the Upskilling Planners Initiative to equip planners with essential skillsets to excel in dynamic environments. Our goal is to ensure that planners are fully prepared for the future. We want to equip them with knowledge, insights, and skills necessary to navigate changing environments effectively. If you would like to be involved in developing skills-based resources and training, reach out to Sagar Shah or Amanda Acevedo. The Upskilling Planners Initiative offers a portfolio of resources tailored to address the essential skills planners need to thrive. These resources cover topics such as technology for planning, conflict resolution, and more. They are designed to equip planners with practical methods and best practices that can be applied immediately for enhanced effectiveness at work. Looking forward to the upcoming planning conference, communities are coming together to address this politically polarizing issue. From cost-benefit analyses to "climate ambassadors," communities are working together to transcend this politically polarizing issue. This webinar will focus on key skills needed to manage conflicts in planning work. It will explore how to manage relationships and find the best ways to design meetings for better planning outcomes. Explore how EDI — an essential element in ensuring fair access to resources — can provoke debate in conservative areas. We'll discuss what happens when these terms become contentious and how planners can navigate these challenges using alternative language to build trust and foster collaboration. Samantha Castro, AICP Caleb Knutson Daniel Besinaiz Laura Everitt, AICP 7 takeaways to help you anticipate challenges, use emotional intelligence, and problem-solve with critical thinking. ChatGPT is taking the world by storm. How can you use this tool effectively and responsibly? Experience generative AI's potential for planning practice and hear how one U.S. city is already exploring its use. Thomas Sanchez, AICP Lian Plass, AICP Santiago Garces Unlock your ability to create the future of urban planning in this webinar. Learn how to wield AI for image creation from simple text prompts, expanding your toolkit and transforming your ideas into visual realities. David Wasserman, AICP Lian Plass, AICP Katherine Perrott Ann Dilleuth, AICP Sagar Shah, PhD, AICP In an age of disruptors, planners are constantly called on to learn new skills. Here's how APA can help. Don't get bulldozed. Learn ways to navigate conflicts to achieve shared goals with stakeholders. This interactive, self-paced training will equip planners with essential skills to navigate change and understand how future uncertainties may impact communities. Learn to use strategic foresight in planning to effectively imagine the future and plan for change. Amy Cotter Brett Fusco Alessandra Gomez Robert Goodspeed, AICP Heather Saucedo Hannon, AICP Petra Hurtado, PhD Sagar Shah, PhD, AICP Benjamin Zellers, AICP Bridging Connections: Laying the Foundation for the Future Bridging Connections: Laying the Foundation for the Future focuses on the interconnections of various planning disciplines and their role in shaping communities of tomorrow. From mobility and housing to public health and the environment, this conference will explore how planners can create forward-thinking, collaborative, and cohesive strategies that pave the way for resilient, thriving communities. Conference Registration Register online for the conference today!Mail-In Registration Form Date and timeSeptember 11 · 7:30am - September 12 · 3pm CDTLocationLa Crosse Center300 Harborview Plaza La Crosse, WI 54601Refund PolicyRefunds up to 7 days before the event. Conference Agenda & Session Descriptions Plan your time at the Conference. Use the links below to learn more about each conference session, and see the tentative Conference agenda.Session Descriptions (Updated 9/8/2025)Agenda (Updated 9/8/2025) Tour Descriptions and Registration (required) Registration for tours on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday is on the ONLINE REGISTRATION and the MAIL-IN REGISTRATION forms. Tours are free, but due to space limitations, you must register. To register a guest for the Special Wednesday Scenic Bluff Hike and Awards Presentation Lunch, go to "Add Ons" at the bottom of the online registration or the "Checks Payable" section of the mail-in form.NEW TOUR ADDED! Friday, 9/12, 1:15-2:45 PM - Tour the La Crosse Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade and its Cutting-Edge Treatment Processes. (see below) Scenic Bluff Hike (Wednesday, 9/10, 5:30-7:30 pm)The hike offers a medium-difficulty loop with a moderate incline through scenic bluff trails.Along the way, participants will enjoy panoramic views of the city as the sun sets. This guided tour is a great way to experience the natural beauty surrounding the city while connecting with fellow attendees. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended! Bus Tour of the La Crosse River Point DistrictThe City of La Crosse is set to unveil its most significant development, the River Point District, a 65-acre site transformed into 900 new housing units and 30 acres of trail and recreation space. The project has been decades in the making, with the city working closely with the Redevelopment Authority of La Crosse to acquire property, conduct brownfield clean-up, and implement floodplain remediation. #####ARTICLEWe are thrilled to announce that the Wisconsin Chapter of the Planning Association will be hosting its annual conference, "Bridging Connections: Laying the Foundation for the Future", at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse on September 11 and 12, 2025. We would be delighted if you could join us and consider sponsoring the event. Your contribution is extremely valuable and greatly enhances our ability to create a memorable experience for attendees. To learn more and sign up, please follow these links.PrioritiesThis year's conference focus will explore the interconnectedness of different planning disciplines and their impact on shaping communities in the future. The program will feature various break-out tracks such as Housing for All, Transportation & Mobility, Public Health & Environment, Economic Development, Tourism, Recreation, and Back to Basics: Planning Collaboration & Implementation. A key emphasis will be placed on equity diversity & justice. If your organization wishes to present a proposal, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.We look forward to your participation in the 2025 conference as it provides a fantastic opportunity for networking with like-minded professionals. By supporting our event, you will not only gain recognition but also receive conference registrations and an exhibit table. Please take some time to review the sponsorship levels & all that is included with each level.Sponsor early so your logo appears on all promotional materials!!!!

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