# 2019-20 Annual Report











## Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

# **2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Friends and Colleagues:

I think it's fair to say that 2020 has thrown plenty at us. Back at the start of the year, none of us thought that we'd find ourselves in October simultaneously navigating a pandemic, a recession, the aftermath of devastating wildfires, sustained civil protest against racial injustice, and a political season like no other. In any event, I hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and well.

Before continuing with the state of the Chapter, I want to first thank everyone on our team who played a part in delivering our programming over the past year, from our fantastic Board of Directors, to our standing committees, our event volunteers, and our excellent Chapter staff. For all the challenges we've faced this year, we've seen many successes, due to the tenacity and creativity of our team. I can't thank everyone enough.

### Wildfire Response

On behalf of the Board, our hearts go out to everyone in communities that were impacted by the devastating wildfires in September. As we work our way through response and onto recovery, the Chapter is investigating the best way to support local communities in their efforts to recover and rebuild. Planners play a key role in helping communities respond to disasters, and we're investigating the best ways to support our colleagues in these efforts, drawing from resources here in Oregon and across the U.S.

### COVID-19

The ongoing pandemic has had a significant impact on the Chapter's operations. As the pandemic unfolded, we quickly pivoted to online programming, including this year's virtual Joint Conference with APA Washington. Owing to the uncertainty that the pandemic brought, the Board approved a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget with substantial reductions on both the revenue and expense sides of the ledger. Although the current budget runs at a deficit, we have more than adequate reserves to cover the shortfall. The good news is that we were able to retain staff, we avoided cancelling major Chapter programs, and early signs indicate that we are tracking to, and some cases beating, our reduced budget.

My expectation is that we will continue with our virtual-only offerings through at least Summer 2021. Despite the lack of in-person events since the pandemic arrived, our event participation this past fiscal year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) was robust – we engaged more than 1,500 participants in 29 events, 12 of which were online and available to members around Oregon and the U.S. We're learning that even without the pandemic, leveraging Zoom helps to make our programming easily accessible across the state, and we envision using it even more as a primary tool.

# Anti-Racism and Our Approach to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

If there is any silver lining to 2020, it's that we have an opportunity to examine long-held structures and practices that yield racism, exclusion, and disenfranchisement across our communities. We are at the beginning of a long, important, and sometimes uncomfortable conversation about the role that planners play in building communities that are anti-racist, diverse, and inclusive. The AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct instructs us to actively promote anti-racist and socially just outcomes in our work and to actively oppose systems and structures that perpetuate historic inequities. Our record on this as a profession, frankly, is not good... and it is well past time to change that.

The Chapter intends to help do just that, through a continued emphasis on addressing anti-racism in our professional development programs, our legislative priorities, and our interactions with allied professions and organizations. We know that there are a variety of perspectives out there when it comes to equity and race: our intent is to help everyone learn more and work toward meeting the call of the AICP Code of Ethics, in ways that are relevant to the work that we all do. Much more to come here.

### **Looking Ahead: Strategic Plan Refresh**

Finally, I want to quickly highlight work coming up in 2021 as we look to refresh our Strategic Plan. It's hard to believe that our shiny new plan is already three years old! It's served us well, and in 2021 we will have a look to make sure it's upto-date to guide us through the next three years. We hope to have your input and ideas!

In closing, I want to say what an honor it is to lead such an exceptional group of professionals. Oregon is in many ways the model of what an effective planning system can be, and that's absolutely through the hard work and dedication of all of our members. The work that you do for our communities is critically important, absolutely complex, and often unseen. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank all of our members for the great work that you do for all Oregonians, and I look forward to continuing to lead OAPA to support you and the profession across the state.

Very sincerely yours,

Aaron Ray, AICP President, OAPA Board of Directors president@oregonapa.org

# **OAPA BY THE NUMBERS**

**Members Served** 960 (-7% from '19-'20)

**Board Members** 20

Committees 10

Volunteers 116

**Staff** 2 (part-time)

**Revenue** \$177,756

**Expenses** \$167,268

Events\* 29

**Event Attendees** 1,167

\*Five events cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19, including one in Southern Oregon.



### ■ PDC Events Membership Revenue Communications Conference ■ EPG Gen. Admin ■ EOC IPAC Expenses Membership Outreach Other-Grants & Mission Officers and Board 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

### **Aaron Ray, AICP**

Port of Portland President president@oregonapa.org

### John David (JD) Tovey III, AICP

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Vice President

### Kirsten Tilleman, AICP

WSP USA Immediate Past President

### **Matthew Davis, AICP**

Architectural Resources Group Secretary

### Serah Breakstone, AICP

Otak Treasurer

### Nancy Ferber, AICP

CREST

Board Member-At-Large

### Maria Harris, AICP

City of Ashland Board Member-At-Large

### Karl Lisle, AICP

City of Portland Board Member-At-Large/ Membership Chair

### **Dana Nichols**

City of Bandon Board Member-At-Large

### **Brad Bennington**

Jackson County, County Planning Commission Representative

### **Brent Bybee**

City of The Dalles, City Planning Commission Representative

### Li Alligood, AICP

Otak, Inc.

Professional Development Officer pdo@oregonapa.org

### **Brian Campbell, FAICP**

Planning Consultant Education and Outreach Chair

### **Dani Schulte**

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Emerging Planners Group Chair

### Damian Syrnyk, AICP

City of Bend Legislative and Policy Affairs Chair

### Josh Williams, AICP

City of Gresham Communication Chair

### Rebecca Lewis, PhD

University of Oregon Faculty Liaison

### Greg Schrock, PhD

Portland State University Faculty Liaison

### **Genevieve Middleton**

University of Oregon Student Rep

### **Kenny Werth**

Portland State University Student Rep

### **STAFF**

### **Stephanie Kennedy**

Chapter Administrator oapa@oregonapa.org

### Susan Millhauser

Program and Policy Coordinator susan@oregonapa.org

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

11 Committee members • 6 Events • 4 Webinars • 4 Book groups • 523 Participants • 2 Event scholarships • 29.25 AICP CM credits, including 4.25 Law and 1.5 Ethics • 14 AICP Members • 3 AICP Candidates • 1 AICP exam fee scholarship

Events included the Legal Issues Workshop, December 2019, Portland; Planners Network Meetings with evening Planning Commission Trainings, in cooperation with Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development; a mobile workshop; book group discussions; AICP exam prep offerings; and webinars.

PDC members organized a webinar for the Planning Webcast Consortium Series: Making Room for Middle Housing: HB 2001 and Lessons from Oregon, with 432 attendees from across the U.S. (not included in the above participant count). OAPA's participation in the Consortium afforded members free access to 30 webinars offering 45 AICP CM credits.



### **Planners Network Meetings** Central Oregon

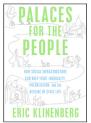
September 2019, The Dalles

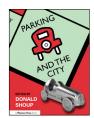
### Willamette Valley

January 2020, Mid-Willamette Valley COG, Salem

Two PNMs, Southern Oregon and Portland Metro, were cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19.

**Book Group Discussions** July 2019, February & April 2020; October 2019, Eugene







The Willamette Valley PNM included a downtown Salem walking tour highlighting new development, housing, and redevelopment.

Webinars Making Room for Middle Housing November 2019



Planning for Pollinators in the Pacific Northwest February 2020

Parking Reform-The How and Why May 2020

Virtual Planning Tools with APA NorCal Chapter June 2020

### **Campus Planning Workshop**

September 2019, Portland This multi-modal mobile workshop focused on the unique urban environments of OHSU's and PSU's campuses, including ADA accessibility, transportation demand management, institutional partnerships, new construction, public spaces, and pop-up interventions.



### **AICP Exam Prep**

Trivia Night and Live Q&A Sessions, with EPG October 2019

Demystifying the AICP Exam, with PSU Planning Club February 2020

### College of Fellows of AICP (FAICP) & American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Congratulations to the following FAICP Inductee, AICP Members, and AICP Candidates:

Scot Siegel, FAICP John Arroyo, AICP Erik Bertram, AICP Brian Davis, AICP Jennifer Dimsho, AICP Gwendolyn FarleyCampbell, AICP Zechariah Heck, AICP Dylan Huber-Heidorn, AICP Candidate Laurie Oliver, AICP Jamin Kimmell, AICP Elizabeth Lafleur, AICP Anais Mathez, AICP Caroline Mellor, AICP Candidate

Eric Mongan, AICP Candidate Mark Raggett, AICP Daniel Rutzick, AICP lan Sisson, AICP Melissa Slotemaker, AICP

FAICP recognizes planners for the extraordinary work they do in service of the profession and the communities they serve. AICP Candidates are AICP Candidate Pilot Program participants who passed the AICP Certification Exam and are eligible to apply for AICP Certification after completing the required number of CM credits and years of professional planning experience.

# **EMERGING PLANNERS GROUP**

11 Committee members • 13 Events • 242 Participants • 25 Mentorship matches

EPG kept busy with its successful Mentorship Program and a variety of in-person and virtual gatherings, including

networking opportunities, educational events, and AICP exam prep.

**Eastern Oregon Main Street 2nd Story Tour** 

August 2019

**EPG and PSU MURP Happy Hour** September 2019

Lunch and Learn: 1000 Friends of Oregon

November 2019

First Tuesday Happy Hour February & March 2020

**Lunch and Learn: Metro Habitat Connectivity Group** 

February 2020

Eastern Oregon Wine Country Planning with Wine!

March 2020

Virtual Happy Hour & Podcast Discussion

April & May 2020

AICP Exam Prep Trivia Night via Zoom!

June 2020

Mentorship Kick-Off Event

January 2020

Mentorship Mid-Program Event: Speed Informational Interviewing

May 2020

Mentorship Finale: Virtual Trivia Night

June 2020



2020 Mentorship Program Kick-Off and Speed Informational Interviewing



# **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION GROUP**

20 Committee members • 1 Charter • 4 Committee liaisons • 1 retreat • 1 Survey • 1 Training program proposal DEIG, formed in 2019, works across the organization to integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies into OAPA's offerings, advocacy, and operations. Successes in 2019-2020 included:

- Developing a charter, identifying co-chairs and committee liaisons, and crafting a work plan.
- Organizing equity focused sessions at the 2019 Annual Planning Conference and coordinating the Legal Issues Workshop ethics session.
- Developing a facilitated anti-racism listening session for Board and Committee volunteers, in conjunction with Board leadership.

Additionally, the Board and Committees continued to integrate and address equity, inclusion, and racial justice, and members participated in training via the Nonprofit Association of Oregon's Equity and Inclusion Leaders Network.

# **COMMUNICATING, CONNECTING, PLANNING**

OAPA communicates with members and the public through a twice a month email newsletter, webpage and blog, the Oregon Planners Network listserve, and social media. Follow @OR\_APA on Twitter, @APAOregon on Facebook and Instagram, and @OregonAPA on LinkedIn!

At the **Annual Business Meeting**, during the October 2019 Planning Conference, members received an update on the past year, including an overview of diversity, equity, and inclusion activities and plans, and provided feedback on what's going well, what we can do better, and what's missing.

At its January 2020 **Annual Retreat**, the Board heard updates from Committees, checked in on the Strategic Plan, and held a round-table discussion on programming.

A spring 2020 **Member Survey** focused on COVID-19 to help understand how the daily work of planners in Oregon changed, what that meant for OAPA membership and events, and what content respondents were interested in.



Board and staff plan for 2020 - 2021 at the Annual Retreat, January 2020

# **LEGISLATIVE & POLICY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

30 Members • 1 Retreat • 1 Legislative Priorities document • 1 Policy Priorities & Strategies document • 9 Bills tracked • 8 Letters • 1 Webinar with 52 participants • 1 AICP CM credit • 3 Newsletter articles

LPAC tracks and comments on legislation, policy discussions, and State rulemaking. In 2020 the Oregon Legislature met for a short session and LPAC submitted testimony on bills related to greenhouse gas emissions and urban growth boundary expansion.

LPAC also weighed in on State policy and rulemaking, including letters to:

- Land Conservation and Development Commission and the Department of Land Conservation and Development relating to greenhouse gas emissions reduction;
- Oregon Housing and Community Services relating to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment Scope of Work; and
- State Chief Building Official about single-family dwelling conversions and Building Codes Division Rulemaking.

Representative Peter DeFazio, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Bills tracked, testimony and letters submitted, and the Chapter's Legislative and Policy Priorities are available on the OAPA website.

An LPAC member attended the annual APA State Legislative Summit in Richmond, VA, in December 2019.

Newsletter articles provided a 2020 legislative preview, an overview of Governor Brown's Executive order to address climate pollution in Oregon, and COVID-19 information for planners at the city, county, state, and federal level.

# **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

7 Committee members • 6 Awards

**Distinguished Leadership: Lifetime Achievement** Bob Parker, AICP; Lidwien Rahman

**Betty Niven Award for Distinguished Leadership** czbLLC and the Housing Action Team (HAT) – Coos (in Affordable Housing Advocacy)

**Professional Achievement in Planning** City of Hillsboro – Comprehensive Plan

**Student Achievement in Planning** 

Bob Parker, AICP (top); Lidwien Rahman (right)





Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

APA OR



The 2019 webinar included presenters from OAPA, League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties, and DLCD

At the federal level, the Chapter advocated for the Transportation Infrastructure Act Reauthorization, with a letter to

County Housing Analysis & Action Plan

**Public Involvement and Participation** Cornelius Town Center Plan and Urban Renewal Plan

Thread Community Planning, Portland State University, Toulan School of Urban Studies and

Planning – Reside Vancouver: An Anti-Displacement Plan



Members of Thread Community Planning

# **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

13 Members • 2 Podcasts with 201 total downloads • Urban Design Panel presentations

### Pints with Planners podcasts included:

- Urbanism Next New Mobility and Emerging Technologies, with Becky Steckler, AICP; April 2020
- Perspectives on Planning from a 50 Year Career, with Adrian Freund, FAICP, May 2020. Downloads included listeners from the UK, Canada, Singapore, and Australia.



UDP is a collaboration of OAPA, AIA Oregon, and ASLA Oregon with monthly presentations from the planning and design community on major development projects or public policy issues with significant urban design implications. UDP is coordinated by an Executive Committee composed of two members from each organization's Oregon chapter.

The annual NW Youth Careers Expo was cancelled due to COVID-19.



### In Memoriam: Adrian Freund, FAICP

Adrian Freund passed away in May 2020. Known to many members, Adrian was an engaged and thoughtful volunteer on several committees and will be greatly missed. He served on the Education and Outreach and Legislative and Policy Affairs Committees and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group. Adrian spearheaded Community Planning Month recognition of communities doing great planning, engaged youth at the NW Youth Career Expo, attended APA's first annual Policy and Advocacy Conference on OAPA's behalf, tracked federal policy making, and organized conference sessions, among other activities. Prior to his passing, he was interviewed for a Pints with Planners podcast.

# **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

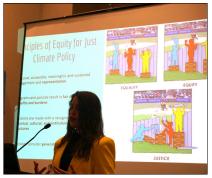
12 Committee members • 350 Attendees • 33 Sessions • 3 Mobile workshops • 1 Opening general session • 1 Keynote speaker • 1 Reception • 1 Pub crawl • 50.75 AICP CM credits • Student exhibits





The 2019 Annual Planning Conference was held in Eugene. The Future of Oregon: Leaders Share Their Vision for the Next Generation opening general session set the tone (top left); conference sessions engaged and informed (bottom left and right); and poster exhibits provided an opportunity for University of Oregon and Portland State University students to showcase their work (top right).









Creating Great Communities for All



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