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Thanks for being here. I mean it. I know you’re busy and that time is a valuable resource.

In the following pages the Chapter Board, Committees, and staff have provided a summary of all the great work they are doing to advance the Chapter’s Mission and to raise the profile of planning and planners throughout Colorado.

As you read our 2019 Annual Report, please take a moment to reflect on your personal contribution to the Chapter and the profession. Are you attending events? Are you volunteering? Are you taking our surveys? Are you talking to your neighbors, politicians, and co-workers about the important role planners play in making and keeping our communities thriving and joyful?

If not, could you? What’s stopping you? I’d like to know, and if it’s not apathy, I’d like to help get YOU involved.

Our Chapter is committed to being a resource to you - to providing education, networking, training, and career enhancement opportunities. We are focused on continuing to improve our services and events and reaching broader and more diverse audiences.

We need your help to achieve our goals. Little things, like sharing our social media posts, as well as big things, like running for a Board position, or nominating a project or great place for an award are all important to ensure the success of the Chapter.

Please consider this your invitation to get involved in 2020. I welcome your ideas on how the Chapter can continue to improve our service to you, and how we can continue to raise the profile of planning and planners. You’re doing important work! Let’s make sure everyone knows!

Take Care,
APA Colorado provides leadership in the development of resilient, inclusive, sustainable and equitable communities.

We advocate for excellence in planning and public policy, provide education and citizen empowerment, and promote professional development for those working to protect and enhance the natural and built environment.

Resilient. Inclusive. Sustainable. Equitable

OUR VISION

APA strives to be the preeminent authority on innovative planning that rises to today’s challenges and meets emerging needs with energy and resolve.

We see planning as the best way of using public resources to create vital communities.

APA and its members are leading the way toward a stronger economy, a better environment, and a more equitable society.

We want to give communities confidence that good planning will help them make wise decisions and sound investments to reach their goals.

NEW BYLAWS

In August 2019, the Chapter members voted to approve the overhaul of the Chapter’s Bylaws. Over the past two years, the Board worked to research, review, and draft a new document to address discrepancies, conflicts and to provide more standardized guidelines for the Chapter.

2019 CONFERENCE

The Chapter’s annual conference was held September 18-20, in Snowmass Village Colorado. The event brought in almost 500 attendees and offered 40 breakout sessions, three workshops and 12 mobile tours. A total of 19 AICP Continuing Maintenance (CM) credits were available - the most ever offered at the Chapter conference.

Survey results show that attendees were pleased with the venue, speakers and networking opportunities. Most notably, they were inspired by the keynote speakers, Bryan C Lee, Jr with Coloquate and Joseph Minicozzi with Urban 3 Corp. Both speakers educated and motivated attendees to seek inclusivity in everyday planning.

Unlike prior years, the state conference did not meet its revenue target and instead was a Chapter expense. We are working to ensure this does not happen again.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2020 Colorado Planning Conference in Vail, Colorado, September 30th - October 2nd!
'To effectively execute the Chapter’s policies, programs, and initiatives by providing leadership, oversight, fundraising, communications, planning, marketing, and other duties to assist the Chapter Board and serve the Chapter membership.'

It’s the end of the decade and we’re ending on good and bad notes.

First the good. Membership continues to hold steady at 1,500 and conference attendance is also holding steady at 500. Area Representatives and Committees are holding more events and our CM offerings have steadily increased as well. We continue to build on our partnerships with allied groups and we look forward to continued growth in all these areas with help from our members in the next decade.

Through the dedication of volunteers, our Board, and the diligent leadership of Michelle Stephens, the Chapter has become 100% compliant with the APA Chapter Presidents Council’s Chapter Criteria. The Chapter has completed its 3rd annual report, modified the bi-annual strategic plan into a 5-year Development Plan and Action Program, and created a Great Places in Colorado program, just to name a few accomplishments.

Now, to the bad. No one likes to admit failures or mistakes, but this marks the year that I must step up and do just that. I made financial miscalculations on this year’s conference budget that resulted in a heavy hit to the Chapter’s budget and reserves. By missing two expenses in the venue contract and making an error in the conference budget, the conference became a $30,000 expense instead of generating the $40,000 in profit that we had forecasted. Because the Board has been diligent over the last several years placing revenue into reserves, we had the funds to cover this expense. The Board and I have since established procedures and added additional oversight to mitigate a mistake like this from happening again. Its my charge to help recover those lost reserves over the next few years and use those funds to expand our initiatives, programming and offerings. You can keep me accountable and help your chapter by keeping your membership current, as well as working with the Board and Committees to host and attend events.

Sincerely,

Sheila Booth, AICP
Chapter Administrator
Our goal is to actively disseminate relevant information to members, establish partnerships with other organizations, provide forums to connect members to each other, and to enhance the visibility of the planning profession throughout the state.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

This year, we adopted a new communications plan, drafted guidelines for social media, ushered in new Outreach + Communications Committee (OCC) members, supported efforts to enhance our social media presence, and begun brainstorming how to ensure all of our members are informed and connected to the Chapter in 2020 and beyond.

2020 GOALS

2020 is a new decade and our goal is to put the Chapter’s best foot forward! With a new website, bi-monthly newsletter format, and our renewed focus on social media, we want communications to be a two-way street. We encourage everyone to follow our social media accounts so we can connect with one another and generate new ideas.

In addition, we are looking to better represent the Chapter and planning profession on the whole in the media and to allied professions. We will be ensuring our existing partnerships are solid and beneficial to our members. If you have ideas on how we can make an impact or groups we should be looking to build relationships with, please reach out!

If we get our wish, you’ll be able to tune your radio to Colorado Public Radio throughout the year to hear about some of our amazing planning professionals and impactful projects/plans throughout the state. Stay tuned!
'Our goal is to support learning and networking opportunities in the Denver Metro Region for planners and other allied professions while enhancing the profile of the planning profession and APA Colorado.'

In 2019, APA Colorado was heavily involved in the planning of the 16th Annual Spring Transportation Symposium. The Symposium has become the preeminent transportation event in the region. Committee members from the APA Board included Scott Bressler, Maureen Paz de Araujo, and Melanie Sloan. This event was just one of many joint educational and networking events hosted in the Denver Metro area. Your Denver Metro Area Representatives also:

- Hosted Short Term Rentals and the Sharing Economy Town Hall in April (over 50 in attendance).
- Co-Hosted Happy Hour and Spring Concert with DCl at the Emerson School in June (nearly 50 in attendance).
- Co-Hosted Happy Hours with the Emerging Planning Professionals (EPP) at Milk Market, Denver in January and Denver Beer Company, Arvada in August.
- Along with EPP, we participated in a tactical urbanism event that was associated with the 2019 Greater & Greener conference. A component of the conference was the transformation of parking spaces along Curtis Street into parklets that demonstrate the power of quality pedestrian space in
Downtown. The APA parklet showed how parks promote healthy lifestyles and create active family-friendly urban spaces.

- Hosted a Happy Hour in Old Town Arvada after the Great Places award was presented to Arvada City Council in October.

**METRO AREA - 2020 GOALS**

With so much accomplished in 2019, we look forward to 2020. Plans include:

- Assist with planning and hosting an event related to climate-change planning.
- Continue to partner with committees like Youth in Planning, Sustainability, Healthy Communities and EPP on joint educational and networking events.
- Explore the possibility of a webinar series in collaboration with the APA Colorado conference or other APA Divisions.
- Host a “get to know your board” happy hour.
- Plan a diversity and inclusion related symposium.
- Survey or analyze available information to ensure we are planning events and activities that appeal to members.

In 2020, we plan to continue previous efforts to connect younger planning professionals with more seasoned planners at learning and networking events throughout the year. We try to advertise our events on the EPP social media sites and Listserv, as well as to the CU Denver MURP Program social media site.

We love meeting our fellow Metro APA Colorado planners and members of other trade and allied professional organizations, and welcome any feedback/suggestions on events and gatherings for 2020.

Please contact us at DenverMetro1@APAColorado.org DenverMetro2@APAColorado.org.

..............

*The Western Slope is vast and diverse. The Northwest Area Representative should offer educations and networking events that meet the needs of this population. Although the numbers may be small, the opportunities are not.*

**NW AREA - 2019 HIGHLIGHTS**

Although no events were held in the Northwest area in 2019, there are plans to remedy this in 2020.

**NW AREA - 2020 GOALS**

The goal for 2020, is to follow the Chapter Board’s direction and priorities, providing consistency and strength and supporting for the previous Board’s ongoing mission.

There will be several events held throughout the year to bring the planners on the Western Slope together.
'The APA Southwest Area is large and sparsely populated, so providing opportunities for our APA planners to feel like they are an important part of the institution of planning is key.'

SW AREA - 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, the APA Southwest Area hosted a design professionals cocktail party for APA, AIA and ASLA members. I coordinated AICP credits for a URA symposium in Durango, and we are in the process of forming a URA for the first time. The URA symposium was a rare in-person opportunity to earn CM credits in the Southwest Area.

For the third year in a row we hosted an APA holiday party and trivia contest (although there is hardly three years worth of planning trivia out there).

We participated in a design professionals happy hour, which was a fun way to try to create some cross pollination for our local design community.

Architects, landscape architects and planners attended.

SW AREA - 2020 GOALS

Based on the popularity of the holiday party and the happy hour for designers, I plan to host both of these again in 2020.

Each of the last two years I have been able to assist in a professional development opportunity, such as the URA symposium. We plan on providing assistance for another opportunity in 2020.

Tour of redevelopment in downtown Colorado Springs.
S. CENTRAL AREA - 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, I continued the partnership I had forged with the WTS Southern Colorado branch, and the ASCE and ITE Southern Colorado organizations. We added SAME to this core, unified team to deliver a variety of joint South Central Area member networking and project showcasing opportunities. The 2019 activities we promoted and/or co-hosted included:

- WTS - Lattes and Leadership Series (Ongoing, Promoted for WTS)
- Joint (WTS) I-25 Gap Presentation/Lunch (May 21, 2019)
- Joint (APA CO, WTS, ASCE, ITE, SAME) Happy Hour/Social (June 6, 2019)
- Joint (ULI) COS South Downtown Redevelopment (November 2019)
- Joint (APA, WTS, ASCE, ITE, CFM) 2019 Holiday Party/Social (December 2019)

With ITE in the lead, we again lent a hand (in a big way) to help our partner organizations (ITE, ASCE, WTS, USDOT-OSDBU and Rocky Mountain ITS) pull off a fantastic 2019 Colorado Transportation Symposium event. This year (2020) WTS is the lead organization. Join us to make this year the best ever!

I worked with three Chapter-nominated FAICP candidates to mentor them and assist in the preparation of their nominations. We will learn in February how successful we were - they are all fabulous candidates and it was a rewarding experience. I also wrote questions for the AICP Exam archive and joined the National AICP Exam Committee in the role of question reviewer and assistant in revising and strengthening the quality of questions to be included in future exams. Finally, I volunteered to participate on the inaugural Colorado Great Places Award Committee.
S. CENTRAL AREA - 2020 GOALS

As part of the 2020 Transportation Symposium Committee, representing APA Colorado for the 4th year, I am overseeing speaker selection and supporting program development. I continue to work with partner organizations in Southern Colorado to enhance the profile of APA Colorado and provide greater diversity of continuing education and networking events for our membership. Finally, I have joined a subcommittee of the Board to explore the role of the Planners Institute of Colorado as a continued offering of the APA Colorado Chapter.

I have identified the following specific strategies for 2020 to support the overarching goal to engage the South Central Area membership and to increase both membership numbers and levels of participation:

1.) Continue to leverage and support events with multiple partner organizations, enhancing the profile of the APA Colorado Chapter.

2.) Provide enhanced South Central Area member networking opportunities.

3.) Work with the Youth in Planning Committee to provide youth STEM outreach and mentoring and support.

4.) Identify potential new members and services to attract members using a survey-based approach.

'\textbf{To be the representative, voice, and resource for APA Colorado members within the North Center Region.}’

N. CENTRAL AREA - 2020 GOALS

I will continue to help with the AICP Exam Prep workshops. The overall goal for 2020 is to offer a minimum of one CM credit event per quarter. It would be ideal to have events that address issues specific to the North Central Area. Plans are underway for a mid-year get-together and I look forward to hosting a fun, meet and greet event at a time other than the holidays.

I hope to get out and get to know the North Central Region a bit more, as well as to provide some events and activities that will bring North Central planners together more often.

N. CENTRAL AREA - 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The North Central Area is lucky to have engaged members who have often planned and hosted their own educational and networking events. This year was no exception. Working with Melanie Sloan, the previous area representative, the planners in Longmont organized a Bike Ride to the town’s summer concert series and a new urbanism panel discussion earlier in the year.

Loveland planners helped organize a public art walking tour and workshop, and we held a joint happy hour with WTS Colorado in Boulder.

Partnerships with allied organizations and efforts from local planners helped us keep opportunities available in all parts of the North Central Area.

Only 16% of members vote in elections!
To represent the Central Mountain Area by providing connections to the Chapter Board, and offering educational and networking events, focusing on topics specific to mountain planners.

CENTRAL MTN. AREA - 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Central Mountain Area is large in both membership number and area. Coordinating events has been challenging over the past four years. Luckily, the Chapter’s annual conference continues to be held in this part of the state to provide members access to education and networking.

CENTRAL MTN. AREA - 2020 GOALS

Since there haven’t been any area specific events in the Central Mountain Area the last few years, besides the annual conference, my goal will be to first seek input from members on events, topics and programs they are interested in. Once that information is available, the next step will be to plan at least two events focusing on “hot topics” and networking.

The overarching goal for 2020 is to reinvigorate this position and its purpose and to establish a strong voice for the mountain planners. Ideally, over the next year I can establish a baseline for professional and social interaction in our region. Since our area of the state is segregated by miles and geography, I’m looking forward to establishing a network of planners and allied professionals to help host events in different sections of the Central Mountain Area.

Conference Locations

2019: Snowmass Village, CO
2020: Vail, CO
2021: Keystone, CO
2022: Vail, CO
2023: TBD
2024: TBD
2025: National Planning Conference DENVER

Note: Due to the size of the annual conference, locations are limited to Breckenridge, Colorado Springs, Denver, Keystone, and Vail. Other locations will be considered if available space is increased to accommodate our needs.
Western Planner (WP) was established in 1979, fostering a network of planners and resources across the west. WP publishes a free digital journal written by planners in the west, with content relevant to small towns and rural communities. WP holds an annual conference every fall in a different town. Typically our conferences attract 200 to 400 hundred attendees from across the intermountain west and beyond. Proceeds from the annual conference and donations fund the Western Planner.

In 2019, the WP Conference was in beautiful and historic Santa Fe, New Mexico. Top-notch speakers from across the United States provided tremendous value for attendees. A terrific venue to spend time with fellow planners.

As the liaison between the WP and Colorado APA, I am a non-voting member of the Colorado APA Board and a voting member of the WP Board. I attend board meetings and conferences for both organizations throughout the year.

In 2020 we will be in Bismarck, North Dakota, August 26-29.

https://www.westernplanner.org/2020-conference

Western Planner endeavors to work with Colorado APA to help communities and planners in small towns in rural areas across the west.

'BAdvocate planning in the west by coordinating efforts between the Western Planner Journal and Colorado APA.'

Brandon Cammarata, AICP
Western Planner Representative

Bike mobile tour in Santa Fe during the Western Planner Conference.
'The Public Official Representative serves as the voice of elected and appointed public officials in Colorado and the link between our communities, citizens and planners.'

Anita Seitz
Public Official Representative

'Representing the planning faculty, connecting practicing planners to students, scholars and the latest research highlights the valuable relationship between academia and practitioners, expanding the Chapter’s connections to the art of planning.'

Manish Shigmaokar, Ph.D AICP
Planning Faculty Representative

Above & Below: Attendees at the annual conference Thursday night reception in Aspen.

EPP Park-let event.

UC Denver MURP students work conference registration.
2019 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019 the Committee received 24 applications, well above the average 18 applications received in years prior. Categories include sustainability and environmental planning, community engagement, general planning project, projects with a small budget, innovative/creative partnerships, community resiliency, individual leadership, and student projects. The Committee members convened to review the applications that exemplify excellence in innovation, transferability, quality of the images and writing, promoting community progress, effectiveness, and implementation. The Committee ultimately awarded eight Merit and five Honor recipients, and one Planning Leadership Award, which were celebrated at the annual conference in Snowmass Village this past September.

2020 GOALS

The Awards Committee looks forward to hosting the Awards Ceremony at the Annual APA Colorado Chapter in Vail 2020.

The Awards Committee looks forward to receiving new applications in March 2020 to continue the tradition of recognizing exceptional planning in Colorado. The Committee will also publish the Award recipients in the Chapter newsletter and other potential Chapter media outlets.

"To recognize outstanding Colorado projects, plans and people in the planning profession."

Daniel Murray, AICP
Awards Committee Co-Chair

Julia Puestor, AICP
Awards Committee Co-Chair

Julia Puestor, congratulates an award winner at the 2019 Awards Ceremony.
To educate, advocate and promote the importance of diversity in Colorado through planning.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS
The Diversity Committee was formed in 2019 and has spent the past year working to establish leadership and membership to move the Chapter’s charge.

2020 GOALS
In 2020 the Committee looks to complete its Charter and draft plans for educational materials and events.

The Emerging Planning Professionals (EPP) committee provides young professionals and students in planning-related fields the opportunity to engage socially and professionally with other planners throughout Colorado. We seek to cultivate young professionals through career building programs, social networking events, and mentoring opportunities.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS
In the last year, EPP hosted mainly networking and social events throughout the Denver-Metro region, such as Bourbon Sprawls and Rockies Games.

The Committee was active in assisting with the Chapter Bylaws update, which included a change to add an EPP Representative as a voting member of the Board.

2020 GOALS
EPP plans to host more interactive events in 2020, in addition to the reoccurring events like Bourbon Sprawl.

Some plans include: (1) Partnering with community organizations on service events with the Chapter or other committees; (2) Tour opportunities for young planning professionals visiting development projects, and (3) A new mentorship program for recent graduates and/or current planning students to get hands-on advice from professionals in the field.

In 2020, EPP also seeks to: (1) Engage members with opportunities to understand important planning issues within the front range, and statewide, (2) Provide networking events to learn about different communities.
and projects in the state, (3) Support and sponsor diversity events such as Colorado Pride events, Minorities in the Planning field, and other identifiable diversity programs, and (4) Develop mentoring opportunities for graduates and/or current planning students to learn from field experts.

'E The APA Colorado Healthy Communities Committee is a group of planning professionals that advocates for healthy communities in Colorado. The committee promotes equitable access to healthy food and active living.'

Bradyn Nicholson
Healthy Communities Committee Co-Chair

Elizabeth Young Winne
Healthy Communities Committee Co-Chair

Chapter Committees

APAS
Awards
Bylaws
Equity, Diversity & Inclusive (EDI)
Emerging Planning Professionals
FAICP Advisory
Great Places Program
Healthy Communities
Legislative
Membership
Nominating
Outreach & Communication
Professional Development
Sustainability
Youth In Planning

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Healthy Communities committee meets every 6 weeks to discuss trends in healthy community planning efforts around the state. In 2019, there were presentations about the dockless bicycle system in Denver, affordable housing, a speaker on early childhood outdoor programs focusing on park design and development, and information about Eagle County’s Neighborhood Partnership Program that creates community-led initiatives to improve health using planning tools and solutions. The committee helped sponsor and emcee the

APA CO
Healthy Communities
COMMITTEE

Healthy Communities Symposium in May, which unveiled the Colorado Healthy Places Collaborative’s work in developing their Guidebook and Meeting in a Box materials.

In 2019, the committee had several successes. The committee participated in the creation of a “Meeting in a Box” in partnership with the Colorado Healthy Places Collaborative. The committee supported the University of Colorado Denver’s Masters in Urban and Regional Planning Alumni Association by helping to find panelists for an event titled “New Approaches in Street Safety.” Additionally, in 2019 Q3, the committee started to form around developing an APA CO Health and Housing position statement. The committee continues to support its
partners and members by promoting their events and supporting healthy community planning efforts locally.

2020 GOALS

In 2020, the Healthy Communities Committee members will continue to participate in statewide conferences like the APA State Conference, Parks and Public Health, and Public Health in the Rockies (hosted by the Colorado Public Health Association). Some committee members are also interested in supporting local efforts that encourage using active modes.

In 2020 we will continue to host online meetings for our members, and virtual meetings are scheduled every six weeks starting January 13, 2020. Some topics of interest include learning about promoting and/or implementing transportation equity and accessibility, walkability and bikeability; learning how to do more robust community engagement; and learning how to build multi-sector collaboratives to promote healthy community goals in planning processes. We are interested in growing our presence and recruiting more members.

Chapter Committees are the "boots on the ground" for outreach, education and networking with citizens, youth, elected officials and partner organizations.

Join Today and Amplify Planning in Colorado!
'The Legislative Committee is the voice of APA Colorado to policymakers and the public on planning law and regulations. Each year, both during the State of Colorado Legislative Session, which runs from January until May, and during the off-session, the Committee is engaged in efforts to advocate for good planning and good planning law. While the Chapter emphasis is primarily at the State level, advocacy at the Federal level is also a focus.'
This year the Committee plans to increase leadership to include two committee co-chairs with the intent of engaging more Committee members; providing better communications; and conducting better outreach to legislators. The Committee also plans to encourage more member enlistment in the Planners Advocacy Network so that this platform can be used to further, and more broadly, educate members, legislators, and decision makers on the principles of good planning and legislation that will lead creating great communities for all.

The Membership Committee has focused on promoting the benefits of membership, improving services, and increasing membership diversity

2020 GOALS

A key outcome of the membership survey analysis was identification of a need to identify non-member planners/potential APA Colorado Chapter members in Colorado. The Membership Committee plans to work with the CU Denver faculty liaison Board Member and CU Denver students to conduct an outreach survey in 2020. Based on the results of the survey we will develop and action plan to increase membership and ensure increased membership diversity. In 2020 we will:

1) Expand membership (number of members).

2) Expand membership diversity (promote inclusive, diverse membership composition).

3) Improve services and outreach to members.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

1) The Membership Committee created two brochures - Volunteer Opportunities, Benefits of Membership and distributed the brochures at the Annual Conference.

2) The Membership Committee completed a regional analysis of the Membership Survey and developed strategies to support achieving goals of increasing participation and diversity of membership.
'The Outreach + Communications Committee (OCC) focuses on the facilitation and dissemination of information relevant to our members as well as building and maintain strong relationships with our allied professionals.

Our mission is to serve as ambassadors for the planning profession by improving the visibility, understanding, and appreciation of the planning profession through education, outreach, and facilitating collaboration.'

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

This year the OCC implemented a new format for our quarterly newsletter. In an effort to adjust to the fast-paced lifestyles of our membership and to improve our readership, we crafted the mini newsletter format in which a select number of targeted articles and highlights of happenings in the state, the nation and beyond are provided to members in an easy to read, email format. Chapter members continue to receive a weekly Friday e-blast including highlights of upcoming Chapter and allied professional events and a planner profile showcasing one of our members. Bi-annually we sent out a full, multi-page Planning Matters newsletter including one highlighting our Annual Awards.

In 2019, the OCC also drafted and adopted a new Chapter Communications Plan as well as a Social Media Plan to ensure future Committee leaders and members have a solid foundation on which to rely, ensuring consistency and reliability. While the Committee is hopeful that one day there will be resources to support a paid part-time staffer to manage our social media presence, at the end of this year we decided as a cost-saving measure for the Chapter to take this on as a Committee. We encourage all members who enjoy graphic design, read a lot of interesting planning or planning-related articles, and like to write in 140 characters or less, to reach out and get involved!

On behalf of all our membership, the Committee would like to personally thank Maureen Paz de Araujo, FAICP CTP CEP for her time, energy, and financial contributions that went towards creating colorful and engaging brochures in time for this year’s state conference - thank you, Maureen!

2020 GOALS

2020 is a new decade and with it the OCC is renewing our enthusiasm and commitment to bringing quality content and clear, concise communication to our members! The first half of this year the Committee will be supporting our Chapter Administrator as we migrate from our currently outdated website format to a new, more interactive and visual website similar to APA National’s. If you’re interested in helping guide this transition, love building
Websites, or just enjoy graphic design, please reach out to get involved!

Building off of our success with revamping the newsletter, the OCC has identified our Chapter’s social media as one of the focuses of 2020. In an effort to curb unnecessary expenses, a small group of volunteers will be tasked with sharing relevant information with our members through LinkedIn (American Planning Association Colorado Chapter), Facebook (@APAColorado), Twitter (@APAColorado), and Instagram (@APAColorado). If you aren’t already, make sure you’re following our accounts so that you can benefit from the relevant content we will be sharing and creating. If you’re following and haven’t seen our latest posts, make sure you go to our accounts and “like” a few things so the algorithm knows you’re interested!

Another area the OCC identified in late 2019 as needing improvement is our fanfare and participation in National Community Planning Month. In October 2020, the Committee intends to bring a higher level of visibility throughout the state to the planning profession, planning-related projects, and initiatives that are supporting our varied communities, and educate the public on planners’ role in our built environment. It’s an exciting time to get involved and we look forward to working with all of our members to put our best foot forward!

The OCC is looking for new members - reach out to VPCommunications@apacolorado.org to get involved!

Celebrate National Community Planning Month in your community!
October 2020
The Professional Development Officer is responsible for providing opportunities for continuing education of Colorado APA members and to promote AICP membership. In addition to approving and providing CM sessions throughout the year, I lead the Professional Development Committee.

The PDC assists in providing opportunities for continuing education, to promote AICP membership and its value, and to further support planner education in Colorado.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

In order to provide support to those planners aspiring to become AICP, the PDO, with the assistance of the PDC, hosted two AICP prep sessions. The first workshop is held in March in the Denver metro area and the second in the fall during the annual state conference.

These prep sessions supported over 70 exam takers in 2019 and Colorado boasts an AICP pass rate hovering around 85% above the national pass rate of 65%.

The PDC reviewed nearly 100 session applications for the state conference, selecting the top submissions for the conference program.

Throughout the year, the PDO or PDC Volunteers review and approve dozens of CM applications for events throughout the state that allow our members to meet their continuing education credits.

The PDO hosted an ethics session at the Rocky Mountain Land Use conference in March.
2020 GOALS

The PDO & PDC will continue to oversee the session selection for the annual state planning conference and offer AICP Exam prep in 2020. We are committed to providing diverse points of view on the trending topics that interest planners in Colorado, not just at the conference but throughout the year, and hope to continue to increase the number of AICP Certified planners in Colorado and the pass rate.

If you’re a recent grad, be sure to check out APA National’s new AICP Candidate program - it’s a great way to build off your coursework, and enter the profession out on the right foot!

Member’s of the Sustainability Committee

'To promote the integration of sustainability principles into planning policy and practice through relevant education and outreach. We seek to connect the APA membership with opportunities for networking and professional development to further sustainability for their clients and communities.'

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Committee hosted an "Introduction to EcoDistricts" Lecture with Julie Edwards, EcoDistrict AP, Director of Sustainability at Oz Architecture, in February.

At this event, Ms. Edwards gave an introduction and overview on the EcoDistrict Protocol, including what EcoDistricts are, what the registration requirements are, and how they are formed.

Later in July, we hosted an EcoDistrict Tour with the River North Arts District Business Improvement District (BID), lead by RiNo Founder Tracy Weil, who presented along with Robin Kerns, Planner at Commerce City, on the background of EcoDistricts and the efforts of the RiNo BID to become a certified EcoDistrict. Following the presentation was a walking tour of key sites within RiNo that also included a presentation from Denver Parks on the new RiNo park. Following the tour was a happy hour at Ironoon Distillery.

EcoDistrict Tour

Be sure you’re following our Chapter social media accounts for free webinars and in-person events that will be CM certified.
It’s incumbent on all of us to support our profession, by not only being members of APA, but by also being active in our Chapter.

The year concluded with a Holiday / End of Year Party co-hosted with the AIA Regional + Urban Design Knowledge Committee and the Colorado Chapter of the Congress for New Urbanism in December.

To celebrate a year of coordination with AIA and CNU, (they assisted with the EcoDistrict Tour), the groups joined to co-host this event at The Coloradoan. There was plenty of food and drinks for all who attended, along with a brief presentation from each organization on their accomplishments for the year.

The Committee continues to meet monthly (3rd Tuesday of the month at 8:30 AM) and recently transitioned to a new meeting space at Spirit Environmental (1626 Wazee, Suite 2A) that has video conferencing capabilities and really good coffee. Please join us!

2019 GOALS

For 2020, the Committee plans to host a series of events, three to four, around a chosen sustainability topic, one happy hour social event, and to continue monthly meetings. Our goal is to increase the number of people attending Committee meetings and hope the new video conferencing capabilities will make attending easier and more appealing.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Youth in Planning (YIP) Committee worked on development of a K-12 curriculum by applying for and receiving a UC Denver MURP student Capstone project. Thanks to this effort, the Committee has an RFP ready to seek a consultant for curriculum development.

The Committee also continues to work on establishing an APA Colorado Youth Summit and gave out two YIP Committee awards.

2020 GOALS

We will have a goals and planning Session in Winter/Spring 2020. We intend to have a mixer and a sponsored speaker or training in 2020.
The American Planning Association Colorado
Student Chapter of the University of Colorado Denver, also known as the American Planning Association for Students (APAS) is the Colorado-based branch of APAS, affiliated with both APA Colorado and the UC Denver’s Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program. APAS receives financial and organizational support from both entities.

APAS would like to thank faculty advisor, Assistant Professor Ken Schroeppe, for his support, guidance, and leadership and the MURP faculty and APA Colorado for their support as APAS continues to strengthen its connections throughout the University and the planning community at large.

APAS-CO held one chapter meeting in fall 2019 and 35 students attended. In the 2019 calendar year, APAS-CO hosted a variety of events focused on increasing student engagement and planning education. Highlights include a walking tour of Downtown Denver where students learned about the history of Denver; an Ecodistricts event where attendees learned how communities can become an ecodistrict; a panel called “Zoning for our Future,” hosted by Don Elliott and Peter Park, to explore issues related to form-based zoning, gentrification, affordable housing, and implementing the updated Denveright plans; an End of Summer picnic at Washington Park to connect new and existing MURP students; a Rockies game networking event; and a panel on Street Safety where experts discussed how we can plan for safer, active transportation options and improve the overall health and sustainability of our neighborhoods. APAS-CO also continued its fourth annual job shadowing program, connecting students with over 40 local planners, municipalities, and consultants to expand their professional network, skills, and hands-on job experience.

In addition to these events, APAS-CO focused on increasing collaboration with other local student organizations, to expose MURP students to a wide array of events and networking opportunities with other local professionals. APAS-CO was proud to partner with the EPP, Sustainability and Healthy Communities Committees, the UC Denver Chapter of Women’s Transportation Seminar, and the MURP Alumni Association. APAS-CO thanks these organizations for their support, collaboration, and great work advancing planning in Colorado.

Additionally, APAS had 31 students attend, and volunteer for, the 2019 APA Colorado State Conference in Snowmass, Village Colorado. Students participated in a wide variety of sessions at the conference, networked with professionals, and learned from nationally renowned speakers and urban planners.

APAS-CO is in the process of planning 2020 events. Stay tuned!

**APAS-CO BOARD**

President: Dana Sparks Dana.sparks@ucdenver.edu

Vice President: Ben Gellman Benjamin.gellman@ucdenver.edu

Secretary: Samantha Lasher Samantha.lasher@ucdenver.edu

Treasurer: Alex Sterling Alex.sterling@ucdenver.edu

Student Representative: Julia Wcislo Julia.wcislo@ucdenver.edu
'As president elect, the focus of my role for 2020 will be to ensure a smooth transition for the Chapter into 2021 and continue to support the great work occurring both on the board and by committees supporting the mission of APA CO.'

In 2020 I anticipate supporting the President and Chapter Administrator in bolstering initiatives in place and attending events to support area representatives. As the current Planning Section chair for the Colorado Municipal League (CML), I will continue to represent APA Colorado and support the Chapter’s Legislative Committee in their efforts through the 2020 legislative session, including the introduction of the water bill.

As President Elect I am looking to continue the success of the state conference, transportation symposium and other major training endeavors to support our members. Focusing equally on education, partnerships and equity as a profession is critical in our continually evolving world. Our membership is a critical component of our success as an organization and continuing to outreach through area representatives to the whole state is key with the goal of increasing engagement state wide. Looking at more local planning and getting out into communities to see what is happening on the ground would be preferred to webinars and distance learning in support of certification maintenance.

Joni Marsh, AICP
President Elect 2020
'As Treasurer, I look forward to working with the Board and staff in maintaining the health of our financial operations by preparing an annual budget and quarterly/annual financial reports to present to the Board.'

Josh Olhava, AICP
Treasurer 2020

I am excited to start working with the Board, our Committees, staff, and stakeholders in developing an annual mentorship and resume workshop to be kicked off with the 2020 Colorado Planning Conference. As part of my duties, I will assist the President and staff on completing a financial audit to ensure the long-term health of APA Colorado’s finances. I look forward to a great year with opportunities to work with the Board, Committees, and staff on ways to improve conference sessions by creating diversity in sessions and presenters, as well as helping to make the sessions truly interactive and beneficial for all members (beyond traditional lecture sessions).

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'As the incoming VP of External Affairs, I look forward to acting as coordinator of public relations for the Chapter and working to build relationships with other related professional organizations to benefit the Chapter.'

As we progress into 2020, I look forward to strengthening our relationships with our existing partner organizations and adding new beneficial partnerships with more organizations. As Co-Chair of the Outreach and Communications Committee (OCC), we will be looking for new engaging ways to reach out and inform our Chapter members through various forms of media. And lastly, as Co-Chair of the Awards Committee, we are anxiously awaiting 2020 award submittals for great projects and people to be recognized at our Annual APA Colorado Conference in Vail.

In 2020, I would like to work on enhancing our planning profession's relationships with those related but outside of our direct field. I would also like to provide more opportunities that encourage and support planners to engage outside organizations and people such as our future planning youth, social and environmental non-profits, and other professional organizations.
Great Places in Colorado

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Great Places Committee was formed in 2019 to establish and oversee the Great Places in Colorado Program for APA Colorado. In 2019, the Committee worked diligently to establish program protocol, processes and templates, and drafted nomination forms, marketing materials, and scheduled celebration events for the award recipient.

In the inaugural year, the program received five nominations. Through a jury process, that included FAICP, AICP and out of state jurors, the program awarded its first Great Places in Colorado designation to Olde Town Arvada, a Great Neighborhood.
Olde Town was honored during the Chapter Awards Ceremony at the annual conference and again during an Arvada City Council meeting during National Community Planning Month (October). The Committee also highlighted the program and Olde Town in a Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) webinar.

2020 GOALS

In 2020 we hope to receive even more nominations and want to expand our program’s exposure to media outlets, allied professional organizations and other groups.

We hope to highlight the 2020 award recipient(s) during the Chapter’s annual conference again, not only at the awards ceremony, but in a session focused on Great Places and the good planning that makes them great.

It was a great start to the program’s first year and we look forward to our continued efforts to recognize and celebrate the many Great Places in Colorado. We can’t wait to see who is awarded in 2020!

Great Places in America

2008 Greater Park Hill, Neighborhood
2010 Lower Downtown, Neighborhood
2011 Garden of the Gods Park, Public Space
2012 Washington Park, Public Place
2014 La Alma/Lincoln Park, Neighborhood
2015 Pearl Street Mall, Great Neighborhood
2018 Aspen Pedestrian Mall, Public Spaces

Olde Town Arvada
2019 Great Neighborhood

Characteristic’s include:

- Accessible multi modal transit options

- Mixed land use patterns that are walkable and bikeable

- Smart design choices to encourage density, reduce energy use and increase resiliency

- Conserves and reuses historic resources that capture both the character and sense of place of the community
Scott Bressler, Shelia Booth, a Mammoth, Sarah R. Davis, Nick Vanderwak, and Leah Dawson at the 2019 State Planning Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administravie</td>
<td>68,115</td>
<td>66,411</td>
<td>63,552</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>757</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td>4,775</td>
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<td>State Conference</td>
<td>165,905</td>
<td>159,670</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>237,976</td>
<td>234,049</td>
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<table>
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<th>Expenses</th>
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<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>21,240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td>7,455</td>
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<td>Legislative</td>
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<td>25,157</td>
<td>27,015</td>
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<td>Member Services</td>
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<td>1,513</td>
<td>3,038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>42,321</td>
<td>51,059</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Conference</td>
<td>121,330</td>
<td>119,085</td>
<td>197,615</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>230,653</td>
<td>236,410</td>
<td>317,692</td>
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**TOTAL** | 6,923 | -2,362 | -81,469

Every year the APA Colorado Board approves an annual budget. The purpose of the budget in the operation of the Chapter is to set financial parameters to fulfill APA Colorado's mission and to ensure consistency with board-approved priorities and the Chapter’s Development Plan in the most effective and efficient manner, while remaining accountable to the membership.

Typically, the approved annual budget is balanced with little to no anticipated income; however, over the past several years, the Chapter has benefited from successful conferences, increased membership and fiscally conservative spending. As such, the Chapter was able to accumulate over $100,000 in reserves, well
above the required amount. The adopted financial polices dictate that the Chapter maintain a minimum 50% of operating expenses in reserve.

The 2019 Budget was approved with a $25,000 deficit. The Board’s decision was to provide additional funding for targeted programs, utilizing the existing excess reserves. Although the goal was to use these funds for programs, they eventually were used to reconcile the large deficit created by the annual conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking</td>
<td>70,535</td>
<td>58,280</td>
<td>30,665</td>
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<td>Savings</td>
<td>68,378</td>
<td>100,073</td>
<td>50,126</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>158,913</strong></td>
<td><strong>158,353</strong></td>
<td><strong>81,792</strong></td>
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The 2019 conference in Snowmass Village was well attended and brought in the highest sponsorship ever recorded, over $40,000. Unfortunately, the venue was expensive, there were missed fees in the venue contract, and there were errors in the conference budgeting that resulted in an overall loss of $30,000 on an event that had a budgeted revenue of $47,000. This resulted in a cumulative impact to the Chapter’s finances and a year-end loss of $81,469. Thankfully, previous years had provided the buffer needed to cover the financial loss and new oversight measures were put into place to prevent this from happening again.

Although the loss was significant, the Board feels that the ability for the Chapter to move forward with programs and initiatives has not been greatly hindered. In effect, the 2019 financial pitfall provided motivation for the Board to actively seek revenue sources, promote Chapter events and educational offerings and to diligently review all expenditures in 2020.

We will continue to offer a high-quality conference, encourage more regional events, and partner with our allied professional organizations to increase the profile of planning and the APA Colorado Chapter in 2020.
2019 Board Officers

Michelle Stephens, AICP
Chapter President
Michelle has been involved in the development community for over 18 years. She has a broad array of land use and community development experiences in both the public and private sectors.

Nick VanderKwaak, AICP
VP External Affairs
Nick is a Transportation Planner at AECOM where he works on a variety of planning projects throughout Colorado. He obtained his Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the UC Denver in 2010.

Sarah R. Davis, AICP
VP Communications
Founder & CEO of S.R.D. Consulting, LLC, an energy technology-focused land use planning firm, Sarah guides development, entitlements and permitting for renewable energy, battery storage, & electric vehicle infrastructure throughout the country.

Leah Dawson, AICP
Secretary/Treasurer
Currently a Senior City Planner with the City of Denver, Leah has over 15 years of experience in municipal government planning. She spent 8 years working as a planner for the Town of Parker before working in Thornton and Denver.

Allison Crump, AICP
Professional Development Officer
Allison is a transportation planner for the City of Boulder, focusing on transportation demand management and community engagement. She enjoys supporting Colorado’s planners as the PDO.

Scott Bressler, AICP
Denver Metro Area Representative
Scott is a Senior Transportation Planner at AECOM with over 15 years experience. Primarily working on transit projects, he evaluates a variety of modes including light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit, demand response, & traditional bus service.

Anne Miller, AICP
Denver Metro Area Representative
With over 20 years experience, Anne currently serves as the Director of the CO Resiliency Office, helping local governments to build stronger, safer, & more resilient communities in the face of natural disasters and other major challenges.
Maureen Paz de Araujo, FAicp CTP CEP
South Central Area Representative

Maureen has over 30 years experience, specializing in travel demand forecasting, micro-simulation based traffic operations analysis and transportation air and noise impact modeling/analysis.

Anna Laybourn, AICP
Central Mountain Area Representative

Anna has enjoyed providing planning consulting services for communities throughout the West with the firm Design Workshop for ten years.

Ethan Mobley, AICP
Northwest Area Representative

Ethan has over 17 years experience working for local, state, & federal clients. He has managed projects specializing in data visualization, urban design, hazard mitigation, construction management, & capital improvements planning.

Mark Williams
Southwest Area Representative

Having worked for the City of Durango since 2005, Mark is thoroughly enjoying the mountains, desert and Durango culture. Before moving to Southwest Colorado he worked for the Cities of Denver and Atlanta.

Anita Seitz
Public Official Representative

Anita has served on Westminster City Council since December 2013. She has an undergraduate degree in Earth Science from the University of Northern Colorado and an MBA from Regis University.

Manish Shirgaokar
Faculty Representative

Serving as a transportation policy researcher and consultant, Manish earned his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in 2012 and has taught at the University of Colorado Denver since 2019.

Brandon Cammarata, AICP
Western Planner Representative

With over 15 years experience, Brandon is currently a Senior Planner for the City of Aurora. His professional experience includes project management, economic development and leadership roles in the public sector.

Susan A Wood, AICP
Legislative Committee Chair

Susan is a Planning Project Manager in the FasTracks Environmental Resource Group of the Regional Transportation District and serves as the Planning Project Mgr. for the Southeast and Southwest Rail extensions.
2019 Committee Chairs

Daniel Murray, AICP
Awards Committee Co-Chair

A Principal Planner for La Plata County living in Durango, Daniel enjoys rural planning where the western spirit is alive and well. He stays connected to great planning in Colorado by serving on the Awards Committee.

Julia Pueste, AICP
Awards Committee Co-Chair

Julia is the Assistant Community Development Director for the Town of Breckenridge. She has over twenty years of planning experience, all within mountain communities and spends her downtime with her husband and two sons.

Elizabeth Winne Young
Healthy Communities Committee Co-Chair

As the Built Environment Planner at Larimer County Dept. of Health & Environment’s Built Environment team, Elizabeth uses her land use and transportation planning knowledge to promote health equity in plans and policies in northern Colorado.

Brady Nicholson
Healthy Communities Committee Co-Chair

Brady is a planner with Bohannan Huston, Inc. where she primarily works on bicycle and pedestrian transportation planning projects. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health and MURP.

Conor Merigan, AICP
Sustainability Committee Co-Chair

Conor has served in a variety of roles throughout his career, with the common thread among them being sustainability.

Karl Barton
Sustainability Committee Co-Chair

Karl is a Senior Planner with Sanderson Stewart in their Placemaking Studio. He has 13 years of professional planning experience and holds Masters degrees from the UC Denver and the University of Denver.

Wade Broadhead, AICP
Youth in Planning Committee Chair

Wade is the Florence Planning Director and a National Alliance of Preservation Commission historic preservation trainer. He loves mid-century design & architecture, social history, and restoring historic schools.
Urban planning is a technical and political process concerned with the development and design of land use and the built environment, including air, water, and the infrastructure passing into and out of urban areas, such as transportation, communications, and distribution networks. Urban planning deals with physical layout of human settlements.

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