

## **APA Region 1 Leadership Communications**

### **Great Places Awards Announced – 5 Northeast Cities Recognized!**

In October, APA recognized the third round of Great Places in America Awards. Through Great Places in America, APA recognizes unique and authentic characteristics found in three essential components of all communities – streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces. APA Great Places offer better choices for where and how people work and live and are defined by many things including planning, architectural styles, accessibility and community involvement. Since APA began Great Places in America in 2007, 40 neighborhoods, 40 streets and 30 public spaces have been designated in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

This year, five cities in the Northeast were recognized for their great neighborhoods, great streets and great public spaces including:

1. Back Bay, Boston, MA – Great Neighborhood
2. Washington Street in Hoboken, NJ – Great Street
3. Liberty Street in Franklin, PA – Great Street
4. The Emerald Necklace in Boston, MA – Great Public Space
5. Bryant Park in New York City – Great Public Space
6. Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, PA – Great Public Space

Angela Vincent, Board Director elected from Region 1, was asked to speak at the press event held to celebrate the designation of Back Bay as a Great Neighborhood. APA's National Conference will be held in the middle of Back Bay in Boston in 2011. "It was an honor to be asked to recognize this historic neighborhood in Boston. It truly is a Great Neighborhood and I'm excited to welcome planners from all over the country to experience this example of great planning."

Start thinking now! Has your city or town been recognized for a great neighborhood, street or public space? It's never too early to start putting together an application. Nominations are due February 24, 2011. For more information and designation materials, visit: <http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/suggestion/suggestiondetails.htm>

### **APA Sustainable Community Planning Interest Group**

Did you know that a sustainability interest group for planners was launched in 2010 at the APA National Conference in New Orleans? Over 400 planners have joined this interest group to bring sustainability to forefront of planner's work. We all know that sustainability has gone mainstream in the last few years. Individual planners, localities and universities have shown remarkable leadership on climate change, renewable energy, water management and other urgent sustainability issues that challenge all of our communities. But the planning profession is lagging behind.

More than any other profession, planners work with the combined economic, social and ecological factors that shape our communities. Up until now, however, leadership in community sustainability has tended to come from architects, local elected officials, and business leaders.

We think planners should be leading the charge for sustainability in their communities. From city halls to the halls of Congress APA should be developing and promoting a

comprehensive sustainability agenda that supports professionals and students who are innovating around issues of sustainable community planning. If you're interested in joining this group, please visit the Linked in site:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=2754890>

Also, stay tuned for details about a reception to be held in Boston in 2011!

### **Sustainable Community Planning Gets a Boost!**

Planners Day on the Hill 2010 sent a sea of planners out to speak to their delegates in Washington, DC about the merits of the Livable Communities Act (LCA). Briefly, the LCA will help local communities and regions plan for and create better and more affordable places to live, work, and raise families. The bill provides resources for communities to coordinate transportation, housing, environmental and land use planning in a comprehensive framework and implement innovative projects to create jobs, a stronger economy, and more livable communities. For the first time, USHUD, USDOT and USEPA are working together to create one program to address sustainable communities following the same set of guidelines and providing funding as a team.

On October 20, 2010 HUD awarded \$40 million in new *Sustainable Community Challenge Grants*. DOT awarded close to \$28 million in TIGER (*Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery*) II *Planning Grants*. This funding includes significant planning dollars. As discussed at the APA Policy Conference, this is our chance for planners step up on the team of design professionals and demonstrate our project management skills, as well as our planning skills. We can provide the leadership to see these projects through in a way where they can become the example for other communities on how to become more sustainable.

For details on the locations that have received the grants and the HUD/DOT press release, see:

[http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-242](http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2010/HUDNo.10-242)

### **Communication to and about Students**

#### **PURR-fect Resource**

For students, the Planning and University Research Registry (PURR) may be an extremely valuable resource to take advantage of. PURR is designed to allow registered users to post search for urban planning research areas in the U.S. and around the world. As a user, you can search for specific projects, researchers, keywords, or institutions. Non-members may access the PURR database by creating a login name. The following link takes you to the site: <http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/purr/>

#### **Student Project Awards**

As a student, the deadline for submitting projects for award considerations is fast approaching. Both the AICP Student Project Awards and SRC Outstanding PSO Awards deadlines are December 14<sup>th</sup>. The AICP Outstanding Student Award, however, will be accepting submissions between March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> of 2011. The following link takes you to the student section of APA's website for further details:

<http://www.planning.org/students/>

## **Career Roundtable**

The career roundtable can be one that will cover various issues this year. Environmentally speaking, areas of concern can be hydraulic fracturing, carbon sequestration, and continued efforts to mitigate climate change impacts. Another topic of interest is energy independence. Recently students at the University at Buffalo visited a landfill operation that is generating electricity using the methane given off by the landfills. Waste management and energy production is a field that should be given more attention with the hope of creating a movement towards cleaner practices. A list of questions is being developed to give to the panelists as available topics of interest. Once the panelists have been picked, a conference call will take place regarding goals and learning objectives for the session.