

Welcome to the Fall Updates from the APA Board of Directors, AICP Commission and SRC Representatives

Summer is almost over, fall is upon us and there's so much going on in the planning community! Your representatives from APA Board of Directors, AICP Commission and Student Representatives Board have compiled some great updates and resources to help you transition into fall and take advantage of all of the great events and opportunities available to planners. Without further ado, here are the updates from your representatives for this Fall Update:

From Angela Vincent, Region 1 Director, Board of Directors

Summer Leadership Retreat

The APA Board of Directors and AICP Commissioners met in Chicago in July for an APA Leadership Retreat. This retreat, which only happens every two years, brought together new and existing Board members and Commissioners for an action-packed weekend of updates, brainstorming and teambuilding. Some of the highlights from this retreat, and things to look forward to, include:

- The APA Development Plan – with a new President-Elect on board (congratulations Mitchell Silver), comes the creation of a new Development Plan for APA. The purpose of this biennial Development Plan is to outline new initiatives and leading priorities for the American Planning Association. The Development Plan is a tool to ensure that our operations and activities relate directly to our mission, vision, and goals. It serves as a guide to assist APA's leaders, the Professional Institute, and all components, including Chapters and Divisions, in formulating the association's budget. We hold ourselves and the organization accountable as we work to achieve the goals of this Development Plan. The Development Plan will be devised over the next six - eight months, reviewed by the Board of Directors and voted on by the APA Board at the National Conference in Boston in 2011. Stay tuned for more information about this instrumental Plan.
- Sustaining Places Initiative – in March 2010, APA President Bruce Knight, FAICP formally announced the Sustaining Places Initiative. This Initiative is a multi-year, multi-faceted program to define the role of planning in addressing all human settlement issues relating to sustainability. President Knight emphasizes that this role is recognized as not being “limited to a building or a site, but encompasses all scales and all forms of organization of human settlements, from rural areas and small towns to cities and metropolitan regions. We look forward to providing more details on this Initiative. For highlights about the launch of this Initiative and updates about its progress, please visit:

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

Great Places in America

Now in its second year, APA's flagship program celebrates places of exemplary character, quality, and planning. Places are selected annually and represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for tomorrow.

APA Great Places offer better choices for where and how people work and live. They are enjoyable, safe, and desirable. They are places where people want to be — not only to visit, but to live and work every day. America's truly great streets, neighborhoods and public spaces are defined by many criteria, including architectural features, accessibility, functionality, and community involvement.

Know of a Great Street, Neighborhood or Public Space that you think merits designation as a Great Place? Start planning now to designate this great place! To date, there have not been any great places in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island or Vermont. Let's show America how great the Northeast is! For more information, please visit: <http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/>

October is National Community Planning Month

Each year APA, its members, chapters, divisions, and professional institute sponsor National Community Planning Month to raise the visibility of the important role of planners and planning in communities across the U.S. There are a number of ways to elevate the role and importance of planning in your community:

- Host a planning department or planning commission open house
- Schedule a talk with students about a career in planning
- Present a library display about planning and planners
- Sponsor a neighborhood tour to highlight how planning helps the community
- If you're having your annual chapter conference in October, put up a special display or celebrate the month in your own unique way!

Plan ahead for this great opportunity to educate about and promote planning in your community. For more information and promotional materials to plan your event, visit:

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

APA Assistance for Planners

In these tough economic times, it is even more important that planners can stay connected and have access to planning tools, resources and support. APA has created two ways to stay connected:

- Unemployment Membership Category: Active (current and continuous) paid APA membership for the past 3 or more years entitles you to 1 year of membership dues at the unemployment rate for a maximum of 5 years (15 years of active service). This is not a billable rate, so you will have to request the unemployment rate every year upon renewal.

Unemployment rates: APA dues \$50, Chapter dues \$10, AICP (if applicable) \$25. All publications and divisions are at regular price. Call 312-431-9100 or e-mail customerservice@planning.org.

- Jobs Online: Looking for the next perfect planning job or internship? Search APA's extensive database of jobs in planning: <http://www.planning.org/jobs/>

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or ideas for future reports from the Board, Commission or SRC.

Happy Fall!

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