



## CONFERENCE SPECIAL EDITION



*Ansley Park*



*Ansley Park*



*Midtown*

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## ***GREETINGS FROM PBCD CHAIR***



Patrice Dickerson, AICP

Greetings PBCD Members!

With the spring season upon us, PBCD have finalized preparations for the 2014 National Planning Conference in Atlanta. For those of you that will join us here in the City of Atlanta from April 26-30<sup>th</sup>, here are some of the things you can expect to see:

**2014 PBCD Elections Results** – At the Division’s Annual Business Meeting on Saturday of the conference, new officers will be installed in the Chair-Elect, Vice Chair for Programs, Vice Chair for Policy, Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Student Representative positions. Thanks to all of those that participated in the election process. Information on election results is included in this newsletter. We look forward to continuing the Division’s growth and efforts in the next year with the new Executive Committee members!

**Partnership with the [National Organization of Minority Architects \(NOMA\)](#)** – At this year’s conference, the Division will work to expand its burgeoning relationship with NOMA. The Division will be hosting several joint events with NOMA in Atlanta including a Mobile Workshop on Sunday of the conference titled “Preserving African American Historic Districts”, a joint leadership meeting between the Division’s Executive Committee and the NOMA national president and Atlanta chapter board, and a professional networking dinner/meet and greet on Monday. The goal of these events is to solidify the bond between our two organizations and create opportunities for the entire group to work on service and other projects together.

**Sessions & Other Events** – The Division’s by-right and facilitated discussion sessions will both focus on the creation of viable neighborhoods and both will be held on Monday along with APA’s Diversity Forum. For more details, please see our conference navigating schedule found in this newsletter. The schedule also includes details on other events of interest and great opportunities for members to connect with each other.

The planning community in Atlanta is excited about hosting APA’s 2014 National Planning Conference. We look forward to seeing you here!

### **For Better Communities,**

Patrice S. Dickerson, AICP - PBCD Chair  
[chair@planningandtheblackcommunity.org](mailto:chair@planningandtheblackcommunity.org)





## ***PBCD 2014 ELECTION RESULTS***

*Author: Derek Hull*

PBCD members elected new officers to serve on the division Executive Committee. During the 2014 National Planning Conference in Atlanta, GA, the Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD) will install its new slate of officers. The Nomination's Committee issued a *Call for Nominations* in October 2013 for seven positions: Chair Elect, Vice Chair of Programs, Vice Chair of Policies, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and Student Representative. Nominations were received for each office except for Secretary.

An official ballot was compiled and distributed to the membership on January 18, 2014. Members received the election ballot via e-mail through *Survey Monkey*. Seventy-eight (78) PBCD members casted votes during the election cycle which concluded on February 3, 2014. Voter representation was approximately 30 percent of the total Division membership. After calculations of each ballot, the Nomination's Committee is pleased to report the following election results:

Chair Elect:	<b>Zunilda Rodriguez, AICP</b>
Vice Chair of Programs:	<b>Fleming El-Amin II, AICP</b>
Vice Chair of Policy:	<b>Spencer Alan Williams, AICP</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Samantha Robinson, AICP</b>
Sergeant At Arms:	<b>Christopher Jackson</b>
Student Representative:	<b>Alan C. Peterson II</b>
Secretary:	<b>Lavon B. Williams</b> (Seven write in Candidates)



The Nomination's Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to all candidates. A formal report will be presented during the Division Business Meeting at the APA National Planning Conference in Atlanta. If there are any members interested in joining the Nomination's Committee, please contact Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore at [dinwidd@gmail.com](mailto:dinwidd@gmail.com).



## ***PBCD 2014 Scholarship Recipient***

***Authors: Gisla Bush and Zunilda Rodriguez, AICP***

The Robert A. Catlin/David W. Long Memorial Scholarship is named in honor after two committed planners and long-standing PBCD members. The award is designed to foster an increased interest in the profession of urban planning among African American graduate students, and to encourage those students to enter the urban planning profession. Our aim is to create a critical mass of planning professionals who support one another and provide new perspectives on issues facing the communities that they serve.

This year PBCD received many impressive applications from our up and coming generation of prospective planners. Several applicants expressed and demonstrated their passion and potential to have a positive impact on the urban and regional issues affecting our communities as we move further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Each candidate was judged by their academic merit, career potential, and an essay describing how planning can support African American communities. The PBCD scholarship review committee was compelled to select only one recipient despite the number outstanding applicants. Nonetheless, the review committee reached consensus by selecting an abundantly qualified representative of our next generation.



***Gisla Bush***

The 2014 recipient of the memorial scholarship is Gisla Bush. Gisla is a 19 year old African-American graduate student. She is the youngest student enrolled in the Masters in Urban and Regional Planning Program at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), located in Boca Raton, FL. Gisla completed from undergraduate studies at FAU last summer at the age of 18 and received her Bachelor's Degree in Urban Design, with a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Gisla has the desire to pursue a career in Urban Planning/Design. She is committed to giving back to the community and plans to serve professionally in a capacity that will allow her to improve quality of life factors. Many minority communities have large percentages of its population suffering with poor health, excessive school dropout rates, widespread crime, and rampant unemployment. Gisla is gearing up to become an advocate and agent for change. She plans to use planning and design skills to revitalize poor and minority communities. Gisla also plans to attend law school to further enhance her professional tools. Beyond graduate school, Gisla attends various lectures, seminars and workshops about planning and design. In addition, Gisla is Chief of Staff of the Planning Society at FAU and works as an intern in the Planning and Zoning division with the City of Pompano Beach, FL.

Gisla impressed our scholarship award review committee with her above noted accomplishments, 4.0 grade point average, dedication and potential to positively impact communities. She will be utilizing the Robert A. Catlin/David W. Long Memorial Scholarship to in part fund her graduate school expenses in the College of Design and Social Inquiry's School of Urban and Regional Planning at FAU. Gisla is appreciative of the opportunity the scholarship offers towards meeting her academic goal of completing her master's degree.

***The 2014 Robert A. Catlin/David W. Long Memorial Scholarship is Gisla Bush, a 19 year old African American female, who is the youngest student enrolled in the Masters in Urban and Regional Planning program at Florida Atlanta University.***

## ***PBCD WELCOMES YOU TO ATLANTA***

*Author: Zunilda Rodriguez, AICP*

PBCD welcomes you to the 2014 APA National Planning Conference in the City of Atlanta! We are excited to help you navigate the many professional development and networking activities that APA and PBCD has to offer as well as provide you with the tools to build your career, enhance professional networks, and connect to essential resources. Whether you are a student, academic, or mid-level or experienced planning professional, there is something for everyone at the conference!

PBCD is excited to partner with local division members in the Atlanta metro area to help navigate local networking events and conference activities. In addition, we have partnered with the City of Atlanta Office of Planning and Atlanta Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Planners (NOMA) for a mobile tour on "Preservation of African American Historic Districts." Thank you in advance to our members and partners for your hard work and outreach to make our conference experience a success.

This conference special edition of the PBCD newsletter provides important details to help you navigate the 2014 APA National Planning Conference and our division activities. You will find a navigating itinerary and schedule, business meeting agenda, important tips, travel information and pertinent conference guides of valuable local information. Furthermore, this newsletter includes important links to the 2014 APA National Planning Conference final program to help you navigate the hundreds of sessions, events and mobile tours that are part of this conference. View the final program here: <http://www.planning.org/conference/program/final/>

Whether it's providing you transportation information, local recommendations, conference programming details or information on networking functions, PBCD has you covered in Atlanta. Please review the following pages, 4-19, for more details including hyperlinked resources. Make sure to stay connected during the conference. Use hashtag #APA14 or #PBCD and join the Twitter conversation with APA and PBCD conference attendees or visit PBCD Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you at the APA conference!

## **TRAVEL REMINDERS**

Remember to Pack:

- **APA Conference Badge & Tickets** (APA mailed to you in early April - Don't leave home without them)
- **PBCD Spring 2014 Conference Edition Newsletter** (connect with us!)
- **PBCD Final Navigating Schedule to 2014 APA Conference** (one page guide to highlighted events)
- **Business cards & Resumes** (tons for networking!)
- **Jacket & Umbrella** (be prepared for any weather event...)
- **Comfortable walking shoes or sneakers** (your feet will thank you!)
- **Camera** (capture those moments)
- **Tablet, Cell Phone and Laptop** (stay connected)
- **Travel and hotel information** (don't leave home without it!)

## ***PBCD NAVIGATING DETAILS TO 2014 APA CONFERENCE***

*Author: Zunilda Rodriguez, AICP*

### **2014 APA National Conference in Atlanta**

[www.planning.org/conference/](http://www.planning.org/conference/)

April 26-30, 2014

#### **Important Information**

**CONFERENCE:** Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd NW, Atlanta  
**HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:** Atlanta Marriott Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Ave NE, Atlanta  
**FACILITY MAPS:** Download the [facility maps](#) to navigate the APA conference.

**AIRPORT:** Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, 6000 North Terminal Parkway, Suite 4000, Atlanta, GA 30320

**FIRST TIME GUIDE:** Check out this [handy guide](#) from APA on how to navigate the national conference.

**PLANNERS GUIDE TO ATL:** [Planners Guide to Atlanta](#) was prepared as a service to those attending the APA 2014 National Planning Conference in Atlanta. Find information on local spots and facts!

**SAVING IN THE CITY:** Print your ["Saving in the City Savings Card"](#) for exclusive discounts around ATL!

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** APA Twitter: #APA14      [PBCD Facebook](#)

**FREE Wi-Fi:** Free Wi-Fi available throughout the Georgia World Congress Center courtesy of APA.  
Network ID: APA14      Password: planning

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#### **Ground Transportation**

**Hartsfield-Jackson Airport Travel Options:** [www.atlanta-airport.com/Passenger/GroundTransportation/](http://www.atlanta-airport.com/Passenger/GroundTransportation/)

**Public Transit:** Atlanta's mass transit system, [MARTA](#), has trains and buses that connect many of the city's neighborhoods. Coming in spring 2014, the Atlanta Streetcar will connect the city's downtown with popular sites like the Georgia Aquarium and Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. A MARTA rapid transit station adjoins Hartsfield-Jackson airport, just off baggage claim. Trains stop at two stations serving the Georgia World Congress Center. The one-way fare is \$2.50. [A Rookie's Guide to Riding MARTA \(pdf\)](#)

**Taxi:** Taxi stands are located outside each airport terminal. Fares to the conference center from the airport average \$30 to \$35. The ride takes about 25 to 30 minutes, depending on traffic.

**Shuttle:** [www.atlanta-airport.com/groundtransportation/shuttles.aspx](http://www.atlanta-airport.com/groundtransportation/shuttles.aspx)

**Car Rental:** Avis is offering discounted car rental APA conference attendees. [Reserve online](#) or call 800-331-1600 and use Discount code **96625**.

[www.planning.org/conference](http://www.planning.org/conference)

 American Planning Association Planning and the Black Community Division Making Great Communities Happen		PBCD Main Networking Event	PBCD Suggested Networking Event	APA Conference Event			Questions: <a href="mailto:zuniz89@hotmail.com">zuniz89@hotmail.com</a> - (347) 463-2330 <a href="http://www.planning.org/divisions/blackcommunity/">www.planning.org/divisions/blackcommunity/</a> <a href="http://www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org">www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org</a>						
		PBCD Sponsored Conference Event			APA Conference Networking Event								
		PBCD Member Conference Related Event											
<b>PBCD Final Navigating Schedule - 2014 APA National Planning Conference</b> April 26 - 30, Atlanta, GA <a href="http://www.planning.org/conference">www.planning.org/conference</a>													
Sat., April 26, 2014	WELCOME TO ATLANTA (Georgia World Congress Center)	AICP Exam Prep (W409) 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cost: \$25	Diversity in Big-City Planning (S412) 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Find Your Inner Peace, Part 2 (S417) 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Martin Luther King Jr. Center Outing 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM <i>Meet at 1:30 PM from Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel lobby for group travel</i> Cost: FREE Admission (+ travel cost - Marta public transit)	Improving Housing, Transportation and the Environment through Sustainable Partnerships (S903) 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	STUDENT / EMERGING PROFESSIONALS FOCUSED:			PBCD Business Meeting Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel - Room ML508/507 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (Featuring Food & Beverage Service)			
						APA Student Case Competition (P002) 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	How Are Millennials Changing Planning? (S438) 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Mentor Match Meet-Up 5:15 PM - 7:00 PM					
Association of Collegiate of Schools Governing Body Meeting (X001) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM													
Sun., April 27, 2014	Opening Keynote (S900) 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Bettman Symposium: Evolution of Affordable Housing Law (S451) 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Stabilizing and Adapting in Diverse Neighborhoods (S480) 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	AIA, ASLA, APA Presidents Forum (S485) 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Preserving African American Historic Districts (W008) - Mobile Tour Departs from Hall C Lobby - GWCC 1:15 PM - 6:15 PM Cost: \$85	Career Reality Speed Dating 2 (S839) 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	FAICP Induction Ceremony (P003) 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	FAICP Induction Reception (P005) 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM	Urban Design and Planning and the Black Community Divisions Cocktail Reception 191 Peachtree Street, NE Suite 2400, Atlanta 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Cost: \$5 - PBCD / \$10 all others Host: Cooper Carry Light food & beverages served	A Georgia Hoedown (P101) Georgia Depot, 65 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SE, Atlanta 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Cost: \$45			
Mon., April 28, 2014	Smart Growth for Poor Urban Communities (S537) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Division Facilitated Discussion: Creating Neighborhoods of Opportunity (S818) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Confronting Poverty (S538) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Planning for Ethnically Diverse Communities (W023) Mobile Tour 10:45 AM - 4:15 PM Cost: \$85	Planning Expo Lunch (P012) Noon - 1:00 PM	Neighborhood Plans Into Strategic Implementation (S569) 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM (Byright Session)	Equitable Development and Urban Ethnography (S559) 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Health Equity and the Built Environment (S577) 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Cincinnati, Re-Urbanization, and Economic Prosperity (S578) 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Diversity Forum (S574) 2:30 PM - 5:15 PM	Jobs, Transit, Housing and Dispersing Poverty (S816) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Environmental Justice on Federal Projects (S597) 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Networking Dinner Soiree Pascal's Restaurant 170 Northside Drive, Atlanta 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Cost: \$40 Buffet Dinner
Tues., April 29, 2014	Plenary: The Partnership for Sustainable Communities (S439) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Immigration / Migration Facilitated Discussion with APA Divisions (S837) 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	APA Awards Luncheon (P011) 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	APA / AICP Annual Meeting and Leadership Honors (X060) 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Diverse Approaches to Community Development (S860) 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Housing, Equity and Health (S869) 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	The Other Side of Ethics (S410) 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint 200 Peachtree Street, Suite L05, Atlanta 7:00 PM - Until Cost: Dutch <a href="http://www.sweetgeorgiasjukejoint.com">www.sweetgeorgiasjukejoint.com</a>	Planning Accreditation Board General Meeting and Schools Review (X008) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM				
Wed., April 30, 2014	Give Change A Chance (S878) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Planning for Shrinking and Slow Growth Regions (S883) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	The Kinsley Collection Atlanta History Center, 130 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM <a href="http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com">www.atlantahistorycenter.com</a>	Save the Date: SEATTLE 2015 APA National Planning Conference, April 18 - 22, 2015!									

## ***PBCD NETWORKING***

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014**

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Center Tour**

Time: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel lobby for travel

Location: 449 Auburn Avenue, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30312

Cost: Free Admission (+ travel cost via Marta public transit/taxi)

**EDUCATIONAL**

[www.thekingcenter.org](http://www.thekingcenter.org)

Join PBCD for a casual outing and self-guided tour of the nationally revered Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Change in Atlanta. Established in 1968, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change ("The King Center") has been a global destination, resource center and community institution for over a quarter century. Nearly a million people each year make the pilgrimage to the National Historic Site to learn, be inspired and pay their respects to Dr. King's legacy. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the history and leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. **Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis Atlanta Hotel at 265 Peachtree Center Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30303 for group travel to The King Center.**



### **PBCD Business Meeting (X142)**

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

CM: N/A

**NETWORKING**

Location: Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel - Room ML506/507

Food: Food and beverage service to be provided.

Join PBCD at our annual division business meeting on Saturday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis Atlanta Hotel. The meeting will feature an induction of a new Executive Committee, PBCD 2014 scholarship recipient ceremony, discussion of division business, upcoming information, and casual networking. Non-members and students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Food and beverage service to be provided.

Business meeting agenda is located on page 18 with additional details.

## ***PBCD NETWORKING***

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014**

### **Urban Design and Planning & the Planning and Black Community Divisions Cocktail Reception (P006)**

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$5 - PBCD members/\$10 others **NETWORKING**  
Location: Cooper Carry, 191 Peachtree Street, NE Suite 2400, Atlanta, GA 30303  
Food: Enjoy light food, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages

Network with like-minded professionals from around the country; take in the lights of downtown Atlanta from the 24th floor of Cooper Carry's building. Learn more about the Urban Design and Preservation Division, PBCD programs and see highlights of Cooper Carry's work in and around Atlanta. All are welcome to attend. Reception to be held at the offices of Cooper Carry located at 191 Peachtree Street, NE Suite 2400, Atlanta, GA 30303. The event is a short walking distance from the conference. All are welcome. Tickets are \$5 for PBCD/UD members and \$10 for others. Purchase tickets at the APA conference registration area. We look forward to seeing you there; invite others!



*Photo Source: Cooper Carry*

**MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014**

### **Networking Dinner Soiree**

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Cost: \$40 at event - VIP **NETWORKING**  
Location: Paschal's Restaurant, 170 Northside Drive, Atlanta, GA 30313  
[www.paschalsatlanta.com](http://www.paschalsatlanta.com)



*Photo Source: Paschal's Restaurant*

Enjoy a unique night of professional connections, social networking, music, and fine **Southern Cuisine Buffet Dinner Reception at Paschal's Restaurant in Atlanta!**

Business casual attire is requested.

**Event Website & Purchase Tickets in Advance:**

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1512108>

## ***PBCD NETWORKING***

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014**

#### **Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint**

Time: 7:00 p.m. - Until Cost: Dutch  
Location: 200 Peachtree Street, Suite L05, Atlanta GA

**DINNER / ENTERTAINMENT**

[www.sweetgeorgiasjukejoint.com/index.html](http://www.sweetgeorgiasjukejoint.com/index.html)

Take a journey with PBCD through the Deep South via Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint that offers a dining and musical entertainment experience in downtown Atlanta, representing diverse culture, featuring music across all genres and popular hits throughout American history. Relax with PBCD over dinner while enjoying live entertainment featuring **The Cooper Tisdale Trio** and exceptional cuisine.

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014**

#### **The Kinsey Collection Exhibit – Atlanta History Center**

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Cost: Dutch – Adult Admission: \$16.50  
Location: Atlanta History Center, 130 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30305

**ARTS / CULTURE**

[www.atlantahistorycenter.com](http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com)



*Photo Source: Atlanta History Center*

Wells Fargo presents The Kinsey Collection featuring artifacts and works of art commemorating the artistic, historic, and cultural contributions and progress of African Americans. A stunning collection of African-American history and art has been unfurled at the Atlanta History Center's opening of the nationally acclaimed exhibit, "The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey, Where Art and History Intersect." More than 130 breathtaking items from the private stash of African-American collectors Bernard and Shirley Kinsey are laid out in the halls of the History Center in Buckhead, displaying incredibly important and moving artifacts from across the breadth of centuries that Africans have graced these shores. Members are encouraged to visit this exhibit collection.



## PBCD SPONSORED EVENTS

### SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014

#### Stabilizing and Adapting in Diverse Neighborhoods (S480)

Time: 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-A402/A403

DeKalb County is Georgia's most diverse county. In recent years it has welcomed a large number of Asian, African, Korean, and Latino immigrants. How has the county's planners maintained code compliance while embracing a range of lifestyles and cultures?

#### Preserving African American Historic Districts - Mobile Tour (W008)

Time: 1:15 - 6:15 p.m. Cost: \$85 Type: Mobile Tour CM: 4.5  
Location: Departs from Hall C Lobby - Georgia World Congress Center

On this exciting and unique mobile tour, "Impacts of Preservation & Reinvestments: African American Historic Districts," attendees will visit three African-American historic districts in the City of Atlanta associated with the Civil Rights Movement - Sunset Avenue; Collier Heights; and Sweet Auburn. Learn about the history, leveraged resources, and impacts of reinvestment to preserving the heritage of African-American communities. By motorcoach and walking, view first-hand historic architecture, preserved homes, infill development projects, urban farming, new transit corridor, Main Street initiatives, community development revitalization efforts and so much more! This mobile tour is sponsored by PBCD, Atlanta Chapter of National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) and the City of Atlanta Office of Planning.

### MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014

#### Division Facilitated Discussion: Creating Neighborhoods of Opportunity (S816)

Time: 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-Hall C1, Divisions 1

How can revitalizing neighborhoods best help the low-income communities that call them home? See how social impact investment can be an agent of positive change. Learn to use social capital.

#### Neighborhood Plans into Strategic Implementation (S569)

Time: 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Byright CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-C206

Two once-thriving historic African American neighborhoods in downtown Atlanta now struggle with disinvestment. Learn strategies to preserve the residential character of historic areas and keep them affordable while creating vibrant growth sectors.

## RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE EVENTS

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

#### **AICP Exam Prep (W409)**

Time: 8:00 a.m. – Noon Cost: \$40; \$25 Conference Attendees Type: Workshop  
Location: GWCC-C302

Thinking about taking the AICP exam? Prepare with the help of APA staff, chapter professional development officers, and experienced presenters. They'll offer tips and focused training.

#### **Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Governing Board Meeting (X001)**

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Meeting CM: N/A  
Location: Marriott-M104

#### **Diversity in Big-City Planning (S412)**

Time: 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-Georgia Ballroom 3

How have planners in America's largest cities tackled issues of social equity and diversity in their comprehensive plans? Explore how planners in Houston and Washington, D.C., have accommodated diverse populations.

#### **APA Student Case Competition (P002)**

Time: 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Posters CM: N/A  
Location: Georgia Tech School of City and Regional Planning, West Architecture Building, Room #359

Students participating in this competition will meet at Georgia Tech. Registration required.

#### **Improving Housing, Transportation, and the Environment through a Sustainable Communities Partnership (S903)**

Time: 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-C101

Hear the latest research on the interactions among land use, transportation, and environmental quality. The HUD presentation focuses on the development of regional and small-scale plans for housing and community development, while the DOT speaker discusses a new tool to help transportation agencies integrate sustainability into their programs and projects.

#### **How Are Millennials Changing Planning? (S436)**

Time: 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-Georgia Ballroom 2

Research by the Urban Land Institute and the Pew Charitable Trust shows how Millennials' lifestyle and housing choices are affecting planning and land-use patterns. See the impact on the nation's metropolitan regions and what it means.

## ***RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE EVENTS***

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014**

#### **Mentor Match Meet-Up (X110)**

Time: 5:15 – 7:00 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Special Event CM: N/A

Location: GWCC-Hall C1, Emerging Professionals Connection

Back by popular demand, mentors and mentees connect for the first time during the Exhibitors' Meet and Greet Reception. The second meet-up takes place on Sunday, April 27 at 9:45 a.m.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014**

#### **Opening Keynote (S900)**

Time: 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Keynote CM: 1.25

Location: GWCC–Hall C2

Rear Admiral Boris D. Lushniak, Acting U.S. Surgeon General U.S. Public Health Service will discuss how public health and planning can collaborate successfully, how the built environment affects community health, and how an active lifestyle benefits people of all ages and backgrounds.

#### **Evolution of Affordable Housing Law (S451)**

Time: 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25 Law

Location: GWCC–Georgia Ballroom 2

Recent developments have both upended and reaffirmed earlier understandings of the law, and presenters discuss the matter of *Koontz v. St. Johns River Water Management District*, the recent New Jersey Supreme Court ruling on “growth share,” and other cases.

#### **AIA, ASLA, APA Presidents Forum (S465)**

Time: 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25

Location: GWCC–Georgia Ballroom 2

The presidents of APA, AIA, and ASLA convene to discuss the state of the professions and the initiatives their organizations have undertaken.

#### **Career Reality Speed Dating 2 (S839)**

Time: 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Special Event CM: N/A

Location: GWCC–Hall C1, Divisions 3

Exploring your planning career options? Move from table to table and meet “guides” from various planning fields, work settings, and experience levels.



## **RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014**

#### **FAICP Induction Ceremony (P003)**

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Special Event CM: N/A  
Location: Marriott–Atrium A

Join the AICP College of Fellows as they welcome the 2014 class of distinguished members to their ranks. PBCD member and APA Past President Mitchell Silver will be inducted into the AICP College of Fellows at this ceremony.

#### **FAICP Induction Reception (P005)**

Time: 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. Cost: \$75 Type: Special Event CM: N/A  
Location: Marriott–Atrium B

A reception immediately follows the FAICP induction ceremony and is black-tie optional. Registration is required for all attendees. Purchase tickets at the convention center registration booth.

#### **A Georgia Hoedown (P101)**

Time: 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Cost: \$45 Type: Special Event CM: N/A  
Location: Georgia Depot, 65 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SE, Atlanta

A Taste of the South in Downtown Atlanta is the theme of the opening event for the conference. The event will take place at the Georgia Depot, a historic facility in the heart of the city. Dinner and two drink tickets included.

### **MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014**

#### **Smart Growth for Poor Urban Communities? (S537)**

Time: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM I 1.25  
Location: GWCC–C110

Evidence suggests that most smart growth strategies have not improved social equity but have actually contributed to economic segregation. Case studies from several U.S. cities show how to reverse the dynamic.

#### **Creating Neighborhoods of Opportunity (S816)**

Time: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC–Hall C1, Divisions 1

How can revitalizing neighborhoods best help the low-income communities that call them home? See how social impact investment can be an agent of positive change. Learn to use social capital.

#### **Confronting Poverty (S538)**

Time: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC–Georgia Ballroom 2

Poverty is entrenched in America, but there are always new ways to address it. Learn from experts who have studied it—and attacked it. Hear about innovative policy choices and reclaiming neighborhoods.

## RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE EVENTS

### MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014

#### **Planning for an Ethnically Diverse Community (W023)**

Time: 10:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Cost: \$85 Type: Mobile Tour CM: 4.5  
Location: Departs from Hall C Lobby – Georgia World Congress Center  
Visit Clarkston, Georgia, and discover how diversity can benefit local economies—and how to build partnerships that foster community.

#### **Planning Expo Lunch (P012)**

Time: Noon – 1:00 p.m. Cost: Included w/full registration or \$30 w/discounted registration  
Location: GWCC–Hall C1  
Enjoy a light lunch and meet with exhibitors, check out the bookstore, and attend the poster session.

#### **Equitable Development and Urban Ethnography (S559)**

Time: 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC–C201  
Learn how students in the Ethnographic Summer Field Research program succeeded in connecting marginalized groups to future redevelopment plans in their community.

#### **Health Equity and the Built Environment (S577)**

Time: 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC–C101  
This national review of best practices focuses on what Massachusetts, South Carolina, and California are doing to advance health equity. Learn how their innovations can apply in your community.

#### **Jobs, Transit, Housing and Dispersing Poverty (S616)**

Time: 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC–Georgia Ballroom 1  
Major cities are expanding existing employment centers into “activity centers.” In these centers, housing for diverse income levels integrates with transportation modes to serve the projected influx of migrants. What could go wrong? Host: Latinos and Planning Division.

#### **Diversity Forum (S574)**

Time: 2:30 – 5:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Deep Dive CM: 2.75  
Location: GWCC–C205  
Aging populations. Burgeoning immigration. Emerging gentrification. Those are just some of the issues in diverse communities throughout the United States. Explore the issues with invited speakers and a hands-on and deep-dive break-out table discussions, then network with your peers and learn about APA's Diversity Taskforce, divisions, and chapters.

## ***RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE EVENTS***

### **MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014**

#### **Cincinnati, Re-Urbanization, and Economic Prosperity (S576)**

Time: 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-A402/A403

Many Cincinnati residential buildings and lots sit vacant or unmaintained. learn how the city crafted a community character-based comprehensive plan to establish a solid framework for revitalization.

#### **Environmental Justice on Federal Projects (S597)**

Time: 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-C201

Environmental justice for low-income and minority communities is a federal government priority. Learn how to perform effective research, assess community concerns, and design an outreach process that promotes fairness.

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014**

#### **Planning Accreditation Board General Meeting and School Reviews (X006)**

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Meeting CM: N/A  
Location: Marriott-M301

#### **HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (S439)**

Time: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Plenary CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-Georgia Ballroom 3

HUD, DOT and EPA representatives discuss how federal funding and technical assistance have made significant strides. Learn how the partnerships engaged community support and included diverse community voices.

#### **Awards Luncheon (P011)**

Time: Noon – 2:00 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Special Event CM: N/A  
Location: GWCC-Hall C2

Enjoy lunch as APA and AICP present the 2014 National Awards for Planning, a multimedia celebration of the best projects, plans, and planners in the country. One invitation is included with full registration; to assist us with an accurate count, you must register for this event if you plan to attend.

#### **APA/AICP Annual Meeting and Leadership Honors (X050)**

Time: 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Special Event CM: N/A  
Location: GWCC-Hall C2

Highlighting this year's annual meeting will be addresses by APA President William Anderson, FAICP, and AICP President Lee Brown, FAICP, and the announcement of the winners of the 2014 APA/AICP elections.



## **RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE EVENTS**

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014**

#### **Diverse Approaches to Community Redevelopment (S660)**

Time: 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-C110

Three universities have taken three different approaches to redevelopment of their surrounding community. While one is a model of communitywide historic preservation, another is focused on redevelopment that accommodates increased use and varied activities. Hear how and why.

#### **APA/AICP Annual Meeting and Leadership Honors (X050)**

Time: 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Special Event CM: N/A  
Location: GWCC-Hall C2

Highlighting this year's annual meeting will be addresses by APA President William Anderson, FAICP, and AICP President Lee Brown, FAICP, and the announcement of the winners of the 2014 APA/AICP elections.

#### **Diverse Approaches to Community Redevelopment (S660)**

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Location: GWCC-C110

Three universities have taken three different approaches to redevelopment of their surrounding community. While one is a model of communitywide historic preservation, another is focused on redevelopment that accommodates increased use and varied activities. Hear how and why.

#### **Housing, Equity, and Health (S669)**

Time: 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC-C205

Housing choice—or the lack of it—can affect health in any number of ways, from supporting access to jobs to influencing family and social cohesion. Explore emerging policy and planning strategies.

#### **The Other Side of Ethics (S410)**

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.5 Ethics  
Location: GWCC-Georgia Ballroom 1

When planners discuss ethics, they tend to focus on the rules of conduct portion of the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, while the “Principles to Which We Aspire” can be overlooked.

## RECOMMENDED CONFERENCE EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2014

#### Planning for Shrinking and Slow-Growth Regions (S683)

Time: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC–

Find out how planners have fully constructed planning and development scenarios around population stagnation. Explore ways to use map-based scenario modeling

#### Give Change A Chance (S676)

Time: 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Cost: Free Type: Session CM: 1.25  
Location: GWCC–Georgia Ballroom 1

In Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Greenville, South Carolina, it took years to transform portions of their landscapes. How did they do it? Find out as you hear the stories of small-scale developments on difficult sites.

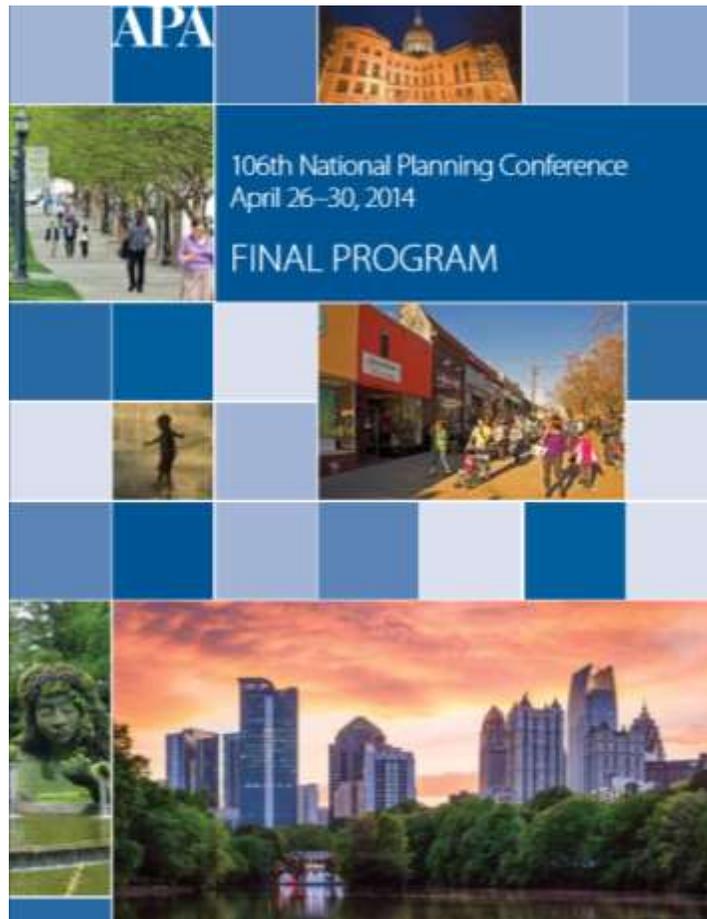


Image Source: American Planning Association, [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)



## ***PBCD BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA***

### **2014 APA National Planning Conference Planning and the Black Community Division Business Meeting**

Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel  
Room M104/105  
265 Peachtree Center Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

**DATE: Saturday, April 26, 2014**

**TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

#### **AGENDA**

<b>Networking</b> (food and beverage service)	7:00 p.m.
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <i>Patrice S. Dickerson, AICP, Chair</i>	7:15 p.m.
<b>2014 Scholarship Award</b> <i>Rodney Harrell, PhD, Vice Chair for Policy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robert A. Catlin/David W. Long Memorial Scholarship Winner: Gisla Bush, Florida Atlantic University</li></ul>	7:20 p.m.
<b>PBCD Service Recognition Award</b> <i>Executive Committee Outgoing Officers</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rodney Harrell, PhD, Vice Chair for Policy</li><li>• Melissa Williams, Vice Chair for Programs</li><li>• Shawnika Johnson, AICP, Secretary</li><li>• Rance Graham-Bailey, Student Representative</li></ul>	7:30 p.m.
<b>New PBCD Executive Committee Induction Ceremony</b> <i>PBCD Nominations Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zunilda Rodriguez, AICP, Chair-Elect</li><li>• Spencer Alan Williams, AICP, Vice Chair for Policy</li><li>• Fleming El-Amin II, AICP, Vice Chair for Programs</li><li>• Samantha Robinson, AICP, Treasurer</li><li>• Alan C. Peterson II, Student Representative</li><li>• Christopher Jackson, Sergeant-At-Arms</li></ul>	7:40 p.m.
<b>Financial Report</b> <i>Samantha Robinson, AICP, Treasurer</i>	7:45 p.m.
<b>Division Business</b> <i>Patrice S. Dickerson, AICP, Chair</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2013 PBCD Business Meeting Minutes - Review &amp; Adoption</li><li>• 2014 PBCD Division Work Plan &amp; Budget – Review &amp; Adoption</li></ul>	7:50 p.m.
<b>Open Forum for Members</b>	8:00 p.m.
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	9:00 p.m.
<b>Adjourn</b>	9:00 p.m.

## ***MITCHELL SILVER NAMED FAICP***

*Author: Zunilda Rodriguez, AICP*



***Mitchell Silver, FAICP***

The AICP College of Fellows will welcome the 2014 class of distinguished members to their ranks. Selected AICP members who have made lasting contributions to the practice and profession of planning will be elevated to Fellow at an induction ceremony in Atlanta. PBCD member Mitchell Silver, nominated by the APA-NC Chapter, has been selected for membership in the AICP College of Fellows (FAICP). PBCD extends its warmest congratulations to Mitch on this distinguished professional honor!

Mitch was recently appointed as the new Commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation for New York City. As the former Chief Planning & Development Officer and Planning Director for the City of Raleigh, Mitch built a distinguished career prior to coming to North Carolina through his work as a policy and planning director in New York City, a principal in a New York City-based planning firm, a town manager in New Jersey, and deputy planning director in Washington, DC.

Since moving to North Carolina in 2005, Silver has taken his work to the highest levels of the profession, helping to transform Raleigh into a 21st-century city, leading the American Planning Association as its president, and traveling the country and the world to inspire planners and promote the planning profession. Recognized today as an international thought leader on the built environment, Silver exemplifies his professional commitment to “lead, inspire, and innovate.”

Join us in supporting Mitch at the FAICP Induction Ceremony at the 2014 APA National Planning Conference in Atlanta on Sunday, April 27 at 4:30 p.m. This event is free but registration is required. A black-tie optional FAICP induction reception will immediately follow the ceremony at 6:15 p.m. Registration is required for all attendees for the induction reception and tickets are \$75.

All are welcome.

Visit the APA Planning Conference website at [www.planning.org/conference](http://www.planning.org/conference) for more details.

***Congratulations Mitchell Silver, FAICP!***



## REQUEST FOR SESSION PROPOSALS



The EcoDistricts Summit is the premier gathering of leaders dedicated to sustainably transforming entire cities from the neighborhood up. Ours is the biggest network of the world's most innovative city makers, and we want you to be part of it.

The EcoDistricts Summit gathers 500+ municipal policymakers, developers, business leaders, planners, financiers and community advocates—people with decision-making power—to learn, share, and experience emerging best practices for creating a more sustainable future, starting at the district-scale. Plenary sessions and panel discussions are carefully curated to introduce conference participants to cutting-edge projects and thought leadership in green buildings, smart infrastructure, and community action.

This year, the sixth annual Summit converges on Washington, DC, a city that has captured the spirit of creative collaboration like few others. With the District as our host, we will explore how we, as international urban leaders, can lay the groundwork for future resilient neighborhoods.

### PROPOSAL OUTLINE

Proposals will be submitted through our online portal: <http://ecodistricts.org/summit/program/>

### CONTACT

Please direct questions to [program@ecodistricts.org](mailto:program@ecodistricts.org)

**2014 EcoDistricts Summit**  
**THE DISTRICT OF COLLABORATION**  
SEPTEMBER 24-26 | WASHINGTON DC



## ***REFRAMING THE CONVERSATION: A Renewed Call for Environmental Justice in Planning***

***Author: Dr. Joan Marshall Wesley***

Two decades ago, Executive Order (E.O.) 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, garnered a significant amount of attention from communities across the nation. Signed by President William Jefferson Clinton on February 11, 1994, environmental justice (EJ) proponents viewed the Executive Order as a major accomplishment in addressing the disproportionate environmental burdens shouldered by low-income and minority communities.<sup>1</sup>

The twentieth anniversary of E.O. 12898 presents planners with an excellent opportunity to reflect upon the historical relevance of the environmental justice grassroots movement. Concomitantly, we must examine the current state of EJ efforts, and envision the best course of future action informed by a contentious past where environmental degradation, income, race and ethnicity met at a crucial intersection. Planners as well as EJ advocates must continue to examine and articulate the cumulative adverse effects of this intersection and identify appropriate intervention strategies and treatments.

Many planners' ideas about and calls for justice derive from personal and shared experiences in places we live and spaces we occupy. As a planning academician for a Historically Black College and University, it is particularly privileging to be able to embrace the full range of arguments presented by marginalized groups who have felt the impact of systems and processes which gave little consideration to their concerns and placed limited value on their human worth. Speaking from a variety of perspectives, I argue that it is time for a new call to advance EJ: As a long-time member of the American Planning Association (APA) and the Mississippi Chapter, as a member of several APA divisions, but particularly Planning and the Black Community Division. I also speak as a US citizen, born and reared southern, but educated largely nationally and internationally through travel by circumstance. Complicating, or advantaging, my diverse status is that I also claim the titles of planning professor, community worker, and lifelong learner.

During the twentieth anniversary of Executive Order 12898, I stand at the same fork in the EJ road as many of my peers, students and community stakeholders. Since it is not possible to take more than one road at a particular juncture, a tough but forced choice must be made. Will my planning allies and I choose to advance justice or demure in the face of the promise of more comfortable or lucrative positions? In spite of the different perspectives, or perhaps because of them, I feel a certain urgency to move beyond euphemistic rhetoric to an insistence that we give immediate attention to the continuously widening disparities between the privileged and low-income and minority populations. The choice is not a difficult one for me. It is the road less traveled, but one that supports community empowerment, equitable development, just and sustainable communities. In fact, my decision is less about alternative routes than an imperative requiring my full attention and energy.

Environmental Justice will never become a reality without social justice. Social justice is grounded in the belief that all people are treated impartially and fairly and are accorded equal access to opportunity.<sup>2</sup> Achieving social justice demands that we move beyond polite conversations that evade the realities of the enormous inequalities within our democracy. It requires open and honest discourse that acknowledges systemic disparities that allow some communities to become disproportionately burdened by environmental threats.

*Continued on page 22*



## REFRAMING THE CONVERSATION

At the same time, I submit that we must also tackle the issues created by wealthy and socially irresponsible industries and their beneficiaries. We have to follow the road of justice, confronting euphemistic descriptions of the slow pace with which we give serious action to justice.

Southern, Black, female, and planner ... I am the sum of my experiences. The historic knowledge gleaned from these descriptive labels informs my world view. They shape my ideas and sensibilities about environmental and social justice. The maxim, "Those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it,"<sup>3</sup> offers appropriate applications to how we speak to the concurrency of emerging environmental and social injustices and unresolved wounds of the past. I could point to several instances where engaging in such discourse appears too difficult a course to traverse. It is easier to disclaim the ongoing struggle for justice than to hold an authentic conversation about the continuous privileging of some populations to the disadvantaging of others. Yet, the difficult truth persists: refusing to address these fundamental disparities serves only to perpetuate them, giving them a stronger footing and strengthening entrenched injustices.



*Vieques, Puerto Rico.*

Growing up in the south afforded me rich experiences that helped define my EJ travels. Leaving behind me, after high school graduation, the encumbrances of my South Carolina hometown, the birthplace of the Confederacy, proved to be an instructive journey. It allowed me to develop a worldview on many issues, but a view through the lens of one of the most culturally southern states in the country. Along the way, I learned that environmental injustice cuts across geographies and cultures. Whether at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina or the former Naval Training Station in Vieques, Puerto Rico, environmental threats to health may remain well after site cleanup and remediation.



*Savannah River Site in South Carolina*

Working in communities to advance EJ is simultaneously rewarding and challenging. The need for reliable information is crucial for understanding and battling environmental hazards and disparities. Full and accurate information is necessary to reduce the widening gap between marginalized populations and the privileged and powerful. All of us cannot vote with our feet. We may be trapped in places where toxic and contaminated environments place us at greater risks for developing some health problems and exacerbating others. We may live and work in communities that are not walkable, safe or healthy. They may lack sidewalks, experience high criminal activity, or they may be plagued by the prevalence of polluted air, soil and water. Whatever the reason, the new call for environmental justice requires cooperative efforts between planning and allied professions, academics, communities and individual stakeholders. It is time for a paradigmatic shift in how we view EJ. EJ transcends the natural environment. EJ includes sustainable and healthy community strategies, design elements, equitable development, and policy-making that speak to the full range of human settlements in fair and equitable fashion. Planners play a pivotal role in every aspect of community structures and systems: housing, transportation, economic development, the natural and built environments.

*Both Photo Sources:  
Dr. Joan Marshall Wesley*

*Continued on page 23*



## REFRAMING THE CONVERSATION

Francis Bacon's dictum, "Knowledge is power,"<sup>4</sup> holds especially true when working with communities. Planners possess knowledge, expertise, and empowering tools that can benefit communities. For example, I find that engaging residents in community-based participatory research teaches them how to conduct studies in their neighborhoods and promotes self-determination. Planners can assist residents in learning to use web-based databases and tools, including ECHO and EJView. These EPA web-based resources are useful for examining land use decisions, evaluating demographic data, identifying environmentally harmful facility sitings and environmental threats.<sup>5</sup>

The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct provides a framework to guide planners' behavior and responsibilities to the planning profession. These guiding principles must be treated with the full gravity they deserve. The professional code makes clear planners' responsibility to pursue social justice and to provide help to underserved and marginalized communities. The Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) in APA State Chapters provides pro bono assistance to communities in need of professional planning services. CPATs offer planners considerable opportunities to engage in activities that promote equity and make social justice a reality.

The activist scholar in me is unable to shrink away from blatant environmental injustices even as I am fully aware of the constraints placed on my effectiveness by divided attentions and competing priorities. At the same time, the full range of responsibility to justice keeps me connected to heritage and the knowledge about the historical roots of environmental and social injustice. More importantly, acknowledging the invisibility of populations who shoulder such injustices remains paramount to my understanding their powerlessness and fuels my compulsion to act on that comprehension. What shall I tell my students? How do I help them understand that my urging critical thought extends beyond the classroom? Where do I find the words to articulate the manifestations of historical injustices that many of them seem unable to grasp with any real appreciation for the communities they serve? These questions require students to develop basic knowledge about environmental justice and the broader inclusiveness of social justice. However, these are questions that demand serious inquiry and intellectual depth.



Jackson State University students engage EJ research for poster designs at EJ Conference in Atlanta, GA. Standing: LaTisha Jackson, Kimberly Whaley, Felton Van Buren. Sitting: Candice Davis and Eric Jefferson. Photo by Joan M. Wesley

Teaching EJ as a salient component of planning brings with it the incumbency to inculcate in my students a sense of responsibility about safeguarding our democratic principles. Some will remain students with little interest in environmental and social justice. Others will become activist scholars, planners, or both committed to EJ advocacy and social justice. It is sometimes difficult to challenge students to think critically about existing conditions in disprivileged communities that suffer the brunt of environmental injustice. They sometimes lack adequate understanding and knowledge about the historical events that contributed to existing conditions. Bridging this gap often proves difficult, especially when students come to the learning environment deficient in certain social or cultural experiences because of their own privileged circumstances.

*Continued onto page 24*

*Jackson State University Students research poster designs,  
Photo Source: Dr. Joan Marshall Wesley*



## REFRAMING THE CONVERSATION

Encouraging empathy for victims of injustices creates an environment in which students become open to the experiences of others. Invoking a fundamental precept borrowed from Martin Luther King, Jr. gives me a little traction when presenting my better argument: “An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”<sup>6</sup> Invoking another of King’s quotes, “There comes a time when silence is betrayal,”<sup>7</sup> bolsters my argument while inviting critical thought and discourse. It challenges students to expand their capacities to embrace causes greater than their individual selves. Encouraging students to expand their capacities for environmental stewardship and concern for others provides the impetus for teaching about EJ.

Having observed the progress of EJ over the past twenty years, I think the concept of equitable development comes the closest to demonstrating how EJ can be realized through the planning process. Principles of equitable development are steeped in the foundational principles of democratic ideals and justice. For example, the recent Equitable Development Workshop in Denver attracted stakeholders from all over the nation. Although not in attendance, I have it on good authority that the Workshop was a great success! That feedback gives me optimistic pause. What were the takeaways and how will participants utilize them to advance environmental and social justice in ways that ensure equitable processes in underserved communities with low-income and minority populations?

These workshops are important for a number of reasons. They reinvigorate our EJ spirits and awaken the burned out EJ warrior. They engage us with allies in ways that are not always available to us in our daily activities with coworkers. They allow us to work across socioeconomic, professional, and educational variations for a common purpose: to advance environmental justice and all that the term implies. Finally, they show us how successful groups can be when they coalesce around shared interests and concerns, finding a voice and exercising political muscle to effect needed change.

As we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Executive Order 12898, several words come to mind that speak to environmental justice: inclusiveness, empowerment, self-determination, equitable development; smart growth, appropriate land use decisions, and the vast responsibilities of planners. I submit that we cannot hold an honest conversation about equitable development and sustainable communities without addressing the creative ways we conveniently sidestep discussions about environmental and social justice. The interdependence between equitable development, sustainable communities and EJ is undeniable. Notwithstanding the gains realized as a result of Executive Order 12898 twenty years ago, Dr. William Harris, FAICP would likely state, “The struggle continues.”<sup>8</sup>

EPA Insight Policy Paper: Executive Order #12898 on Environmental Justice. [http://www.epa.gov/swerffrr/documents/executive\\_order\\_12898.htm](http://www.epa.gov/swerffrr/documents/executive_order_12898.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Social Justice Law and Legal definition. (2001-2014). US Legal.com. <http://definitions.uslegal.com/s/social-justice/>

<sup>3</sup> Sir Winston Churchill. <http://brendabowers.wordpress.com/2008/05/10/those-whofail-to-learn-from-history-are-doomed-to-repeat-it-sir-winston-churchill/>

<sup>4</sup> Bacon, Francis. Internet Encyclopedia of Knowledge. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/bacon/>

<sup>5</sup> Wesley, Joan M. & Jackson, Markell. (2012). GIS and Environmental Justice: Improving Land Use Decisions in Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Sitings. *American Journal of Science and Engineering*, Vol. 1, No.1, 2012

<sup>6</sup> Martin Luther King, Jr. Quotes. [http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/martin\\_luther\\_king\\_jr.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/martin_luther_king_jr.html)

<sup>7</sup> Martin Luther King, Jr. [http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/23924.Martin\\_Luther\\_King\\_Jr](http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/23924.Martin_Luther_King_Jr)

<sup>8</sup> Dr. William M. Harris, FAICP is a long-term advocate for environmental and social justice. He is co-founder, PBCD, an active member of APA and the first FAICP in Mississippi and. He is currently Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professor of Urban Studie

*Dr. Joan Marshall Wesley is an Associate Professor in the Urban and Regional Department at Jackson State University. Dr. Wesley may be reached at 601-432-6860 or via email at [joan.wesley@jsums.edu](mailto:joan.wesley@jsums.edu).*



## ***COME HELL OR HIGH WATER: The Battle for Turkey Creek***

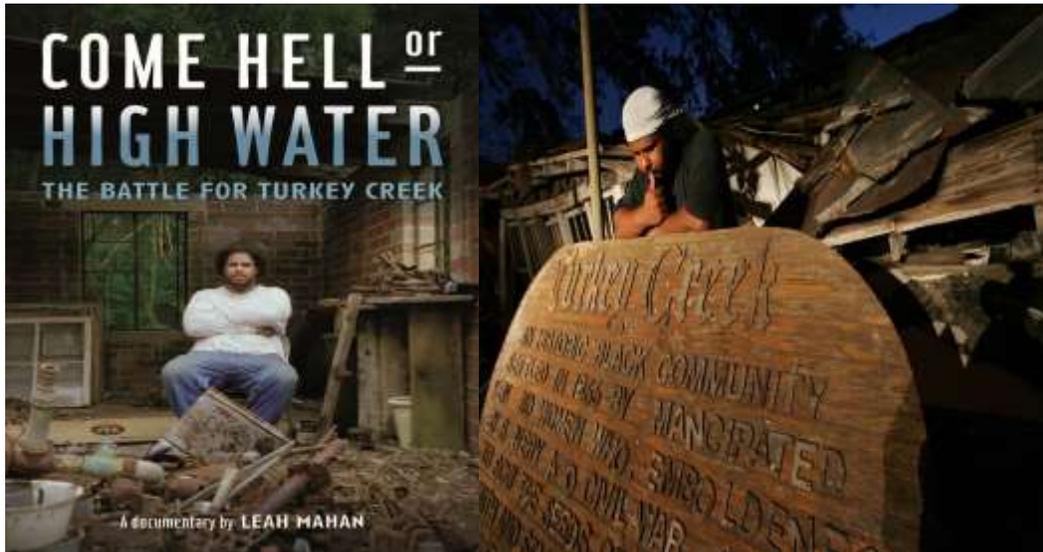


Photo and Information Source: Leah Mahan, Film Director / <http://comehellorhighwaterfilm.com>

***Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek*** is a documentary film that follows the painful but inspiring journey of Derrick Evans, a Boston teacher who moves home to coastal Mississippi when the graves of his ancestors are bulldozed to make way for the sprawling city of Gulfport. Over the course of a decade, Derrick and his neighbors stand up to powerful corporate interests and politicians and face Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil disaster in their struggle for self-determination and environmental justice.

This is an inspirational story of how one community banded together to save their land and culture. After watching the film with your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues, you can facilitate a discussion on how the film moved them and encourage them to get involved locally.

With extreme energy disasters like the West Virginia chemical leak and the exploding tar sands trains fresh on people's minds, many are searching for ways to take action to ensure the safety of their communities. Strong voices calling for oversight and community control include leaders of the Environmental Justice movement, who recently marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Executive Order signed by President Clinton with calls for bolder steps toward health and equity. *Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek* tells the story of a Gulf Coast community threatened by urban sprawl, hurricanes and an unprecedented manmade disaster. The national release of the film offers an opportunity for discussion and debate about the roles we can play in forging a sustainable future.

**[Sign up to host a watch party](#) of *Come Hell or High Water: The Battle for Turkey Creek* on April 29<sup>th</sup> or within 30 days following the premiere broadcast.** You can access the film by finding your broadcast on a [local station](#), or watch when it [streams](#) for free online through American ReFramed. After you sign up, they will provide you with a guide to hosting a successful party.



## **2014 NOMA CONFERENCE: Call for Proposals**

The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) will hold its 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibition in Philadelphia from October 1-4, 2014. **Submit a proposal for the conference by June 9. Registration now open** so plan to attend this exciting conference! For more details, visit the NOMA conference website at [www.lovenoma.com/](http://www.lovenoma.com/)



## **PBCD CALL FOR NEWS**

**PBCD is seeking materials for the next PBCD newsletter issue.** Our newsletter features original and reprinted articles, letters, case studies, announcements, and member news items. PBCD Newsletters are published quarterly and distributed to a national audience and are intended to showcase local, regional and national planning stories, ideas, policies, events, membership news and innovative planning techniques. Past PBCD News issues are available for review here: [www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org](http://www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org)

In general, submittals for PBCD News should be relevant, geared to the diverse interests of our membership, and be a maximum of between 1-3 pages in length. We are flexible however and all submissions are subject to editorial review. Illustrations with submissions are encouraged.

**Send submittals to Newsletter Director:  
Calvin M. Whitaker - [cmwhitaker@yahoo.com](mailto:cmwhitaker@yahoo.com)  
Next Deadline: July, 1, 2014**



## MEMBER NEWS

### PBCD EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**Rance Graham-Bailey,**  
Student Representative



**Brandon White, AICP**

*Assistant Zoning  
Administrator*

Brandon White, AICP, was hired as the **Assistant Zoning Administrator for the Town of Leesburg, Virginia** in November 2013. Leesburg, located approximately 35 miles west of Washington, D.C., has a population of approximately 45,000. Brandon relocated from South Carolina where he was a Planner II with Charleston County.

As Assistant Zoning Administrator for the Town of Leesburg, Brandon works in the Planning and Zoning Department. Along with department staff, Brandon is responsible for the administration, interpretation, and enforcement of regulations in the zoning ordinance. Brandon is also the staff liaison for the Board of Zoning Appeals. More information on the Town of Leesburg is available at [www.leesburgva.gov](http://www.leesburgva.gov).

PBCD warmly congratulates Brandon on his new position! Stay connected with Brandon at [bwhite@leesburgva.gov](mailto:bwhite@leesburgva.gov).

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