

# PBCD NEWS



American Planning Association  
**Planning and the  
 Black Community Division**  
*Making Great Communities Happen*

A Publication of the Planning and the Black Community Division  
 of the American Planning Association

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**JOIN PBCD AT APA 2011 NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE**



Source: APA

**Planning and the Black Community Division Business Meeting**

*Sunday, April 10, 2011, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM, Sheraton Boston Hotel—Backbay A—Room  
 Code: X005*

**Impacts of Heir Property on Local Governments**

*Monday, April 11, 2011, 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM, Code: S496 CM: 1.25*

Explore the impact of heir property – often an asset for land planning and local governments – on cultural, historic and farm preservation; redevelopment; and community stability. Discover how it has negatively affected African-American communities, as land has been lost to tax delinquencies, forced partition sales, and auctions.

**Infusing Culture, Creating Place Through Urban Design**

*Monday, April 11, 2011, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, Code: S536 CM: 1.25*

Gain an understanding of how demographic changes within suburban communities have altered design, social and transportation needs. See how design strategies can address the needs of international communities and those undergoing change and can regenerate aging communities. Consider examples of how culture impacts place making and review successful place-making approaches.

**Diversity Forum**

*Monday, April 11, 2011, 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM, Code: S522 CM: 1.25*

A key initiative of APA’s diversity strategy is the APA Ambassadors Program. The program provides planners a unique opportunity to share their visions, ideals, and practice with students contemplating careers. The Program is an example of how the planning community can engage the public to promote growth and diversity within the profession. Participants will leave with new ideas and strategies which can be used in their own efforts to educate students about planning and increase the diversity of the profession.

**Equitable Development Is Smart**

*Monday, April 11, 2011, 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM, Code: S534 CM: 1.25*

Smart growth objectives and efforts to meet the needs of underserved populations need not be mutually exclusive. Gain an understanding of equitable development and explore equitable projects and developments that have created healthy, vibrant, diverse, and distinctive communities with a strong sense of place. PBCD Sponsored.

**SEE PBCD FULL NAVIGATING ITINERARY FOR MORE DETAILS !**

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



Phil Taylor, PBCD Chair

Dear PBCD Members:

The Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD) of APA is proud to report the following accomplishments through the end of 2010.

PBCD received the 2010 APA Division Council “Small Division Award for Contributions to the Profession” for our Technical Assistance (TA) Project, “*Vision for Broadway*,” for the City of Gary, Indiana. Special recognition was offered to Mr.

Carlton Eley, PBCD’s Technical Assistance Project Manager, for his great work, coordination, and follow-up on the project. “*Vision for Broadway*” was officially released in June 2009 on the PBCD webpage at [www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org](http://www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org). It received media attention and recognition from many external groups such as PolicyLink and EPA’s Public Involvement Program.

In addition, the Gary Common Council passed a resolution on June 1, 2010, amending the City’s comprehensive plan to include a master plan for the central business district. In adopting the 86-page “*Vision for Broadway*,” the municipality not only took a major step toward revitalizing a mile-long commercial corridor that connects downtown with a historic midtown neighborhood, they also acknowledged the efforts of PBCD to bring the “Vision of Broadway” to life.

The PBCD 2010 Planning Conference and 30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration from April 7-9th in New Orleans was a unique, exciting and rewarding conference experience. The conference permitted PBCD a rare opportunity to look at the history, successes, and challenges of the division over the past three decades. Also, it was a cooperatively effort led by the executive board, conference committee, past executive officers, and PBCD members that reached out to divisions and organizations around the country to help us develop a strong and informative conference. Lastly, it was a great opportunity to revisit our mission, and to exercise our strengths to weave a strong programming and networking opportunity for attendees. Overall, the conference was a major success for the PBCD.

There were nearly one-hundred people in attendance from across the nation and internationally at the PBCD 2010 Planning Conference. Half of the attendees were PBCD members and the remainder were non-members. Highlights of the PBCD 2010 Planning Conference included:

- PBCD Conference Keynote Speaker was EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson
- Ability to earn 17.5 AICP CM credits
- Ten (10) thought-provoking and tailored Panel Sessions, Workshops, and Presentations
- Walking Tour & Talk: Redevelopment, Recovery, & Planning in Tremé
- Policy Forum: Bridging the Gap in Low-Income Communities
- MovieTalkPlan–Lessons of Tremé & Katrina with facilitated discussion
- African American Planning Directors Leadership Summit & Networking Event
- PBCD 2010 Scholarship Dinner
- PBCD Legacy, Recognition, & Awards Gala

- Conference Planning Committee Open House–VIP Lunch & Special Presentation: Preserving Black Family Lands & Property Rights

PBCD had nine sponsors for the conference. Nearly eight-thousand dollars was raised in conference sponsorship by PBCD for the first time for a division conference. Sponsorship proved to be an essential piece in helping the organization to pay the costs associated with the conference. Sponsors showcased their services or business opportunities to attendees and PBCD membership before, during and after the conference. In addition, some sponsorship levels received complimentary conference registrations. We also raised money for our annual scholarship program through online resources.

A post-conference electronic survey was developed that provided valuable feedback to division leadership. PBCD received a re-energized membership, more recognition from outside groups, developed a potential new membership outreach base, and created a newly designed conference model.

We were proud to produce a 30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Report focused on our history, challenges and accomplishments. The report is available at [www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org](http://www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org)

The PBCD Executive Board thank our members and allied organizations that assisted us with our 30th Year Anniversary Celebration and Division Planning Conference to find collaborative strategies to help “Rise Above the Currents.” Special gratitude is extended to EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson who served as our distinguished keynote speaker. The PBCD Conference served as a platform to showcase under-discussed planning topics relevant to our mission. Attendees had an opportunity to earn CM credits; met new colleagues; enjoyed multiple tailored networking opportunities; enjoyed engaging sessions (included two opportunities to obtain the CM Law credit) and received information about PBCD. Over 30 PBCD Conference speakers presented innovative projects, raised important issues often overlooked or under-discussed in the planning field, made connections with groups or persons that can assist them in their work.

I want to personally thank the Division’s Executive Board and leaders who worked hard during my tenure to progress the division forward. I am very happy about the accomplishments that were made. As the end of my tenure nears this month, I look forward to supporting the next leadership of our division to ensure a smooth transition of division business and work program.

On behalf of the PBCD Executive Board, we look forward to working with our members and allied organizations to find collaborative strategies to meet and exceed our mission.

For Better Communities,

*Philip Taylor*

**THE PLIGHT OF BLACK COASTAL LANDOWNERS IN THE SUNBELT SOUTH AND ITS LESSONS FOR POST-HOUSING BUBBLE**

APRIL 26, 2011



At the turn of the 20th century, African Americans owned vast swaths of property along America's shores. By the post-World War II era, African American beaches and resorts served as important places for working families to escape from the daily indignities of Jim Crow and for a separate, seasonal black leisure economy to take shape. The death of Jim Crow coincided with the emergence of a pro-growth, corporate-friendly Sunbelt economy, which led to massive resort and residential development in coastal areas, and the targeting of black coastal landowners as the path of least resistance. From the 1960s to the present, African American property owners in areas targeted for leisure-based economic and real estate development have struggled to fend off various schemes deployed by developers and their allies in municipal, county, and state governments to expropriate and put to "best use" valuable property.



**Andrew Kahrl** is an assistant professor of African American and environmental history at Marquette University and a nonresident fellow at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. He specializes in the history of race, real estate, and coastal development in the twentieth-century United States. He is currently completing a book on the history of African American beaches and coastal land ownership from the age of Jim Crow to the rise of the Sunbelt titled *Losing the Land: African American Beaches and the Making of Coastal Capitalism*, to be published by Harvard University Press. Andrew is a member of the board of directors of the Urban History Association and is the past recipient of fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies. Articles based on his research have appeared in the *Journal of American History* and the *Journal of Social History*.

[RSVP for April 26 Tuesdays at APA](#) - FREE - 1.0 AICP CM

Co-Sponsored Event by PBCD and Planning and Law Division of APA

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**PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN NOMA AND PBCD  
WILL MAKE BOTH ORGANIZATIONS BETTER**

*Sanford Garner, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP ND*



On October 9, 2010, I was elected president of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). I took office on January 1, 2011. As president of NOMA, my two (2) year platform is MECCA (Mentorship Education/Community Collaboration/Authority)– Remembering our past, embracing the present, and guiding our future. The primary focus of my first year will be to strengthen NOMA’s foundation (501c3), strengthen affiliate relationships, and increasing the organization’s value proposition.

Because I believe in the power of collaboration and cooperation and as previously stated, one of my goals as president of NOMA is to strengthen relationships with affiliate organizations. That includes developing partnerships and synergies with Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD) of APA.

Together, we can be a stronger voice for issues that are equally important to our members, our communities and the built environment.

I first was introduced to PBCD in 2007, when I was asked to participate in the PBCD conference in Gary, Indiana. After learning of the Division’s mission, I knew I had to get involved in the technical assistance and help in whatever capacity I could. It was an honor to lead the “visioning session” of the conference and speak about “context sensitive solutions.”

But this was personal, too. Unbeknownst to PBCD, I have strong ties to the City of Gary. My mother grew up in nearby East Chicago and worked in Gary. Many of my relatives still live in Northwest Indiana. It was easy for me to say, yes.

I’m glad I did. It was one of the most satisfying engagements that I have ever participated in, largely because this was an opportunity to serve and interact with an under-served community in a wonderfully meaningful way.

So often people of color or under-privileged persons must simply “take what they can get.” The concept of dreaming about what you would like your community to be like is hard to fathom, largely because no one ever extended the courtesy of asking the question and then actually listening to your ideas. Together, we did just that.

What a great way to begin my relationship with PBCD. I want to ensure my involvement and NOMA’s partnerships with PBCD continue.

So, I pose these questions: What could NOMA and the PBCD do together? What kind of an impact could we have collectively? What kind of an impact could we have if we were to leverage our other

affiliate relationships to truly push forward issues of redevelopment, social equity, and sustainability?

The opportunities are exciting and endless, if we are willing to put the time and energy into finding out just how much of a difference we can make as organizations, professionals and individuals.

I look forward to working with the PBCD and strengthening our relationship as we both move forward and grow our organizations in size, importance and impact on the built environment.

*Architect and urban designer Sanford Garner is president and founding partner of A2SO4 Architecture in Indianapolis.*

*Sanford Garner can be contacted at [SGarner@A2SO4.com](mailto:SGarner@A2SO4.com)*

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF  
MINORITY ARCHITECTS  
2011 (NOMA) CONFERENCE**

**REGISTER TODAY !**

[www.noma.net/Events/Program/events\\_2011conference.aspx](http://www.noma.net/Events/Program/events_2011conference.aspx)



**PBCD MEMBER RUNS FOR MAYOR OF BALTIMORE**



PBCD Member

Otis Rolley running for Mayor of the City of Baltimore

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

- Otis France Rolley was the seventh Director of Planning for the City of Baltimore, Maryland, serving from July 2003 until 2007.
- Upon taking office at age 29, Rolley was the youngest director of a large city planning department in America.
- Under Rolley’s leadership, Baltimore adopted its first Comprehensive Master Plan in 39 years.

Visit [www.otisrolley.com](http://www.otisrolley.com) to learn about his campaign for Mayor of the City of Baltimore and how to help.

**PBCD MEMBER RECOGNIZED FOR  
WORK IN PARTNERING WITH  
MINORITY ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS**

On March 30th, PBCD member Carlton Eley was recognized with the EPA Office of Small Business Programs Director’s Award for “Outstanding Accomplishment by an EPA Employee or Group in Partnering with Minority Academic Institutions.

This award is in recognition of his exemplary contributions to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Howard University. Carlton has connected the MOU leadership team with environmental non-profits such as Green DMV. Carlton has also offered several lectures at Howard University and educated students about energy efficiency; equitable development; and sustainability.

Carlton is strengthening Howard University’s working relationship with professional societies including the National Organization of Minority Architects as well as the Planning and the Black Community Division of the American Planning Association. Carlton’s work has been instrumental in the success of the MOU with Howard University, and he is very deserving of this award. He is a strong advocate for leveraging the untapped talent of minority academic institutions for advancing environmental stewardship.

PBCD congratulates Carlton on his accomplishment!

**LEADERSHIP**

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT LOSES SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO ICON HAZEL JOHNSON

*Robert D. Bullard - Permission, published at [www.opednews.com](http://www.opednews.com)*

At 1:42 am on Wednesday, January 12, 2011, the nation lost Hazel Johnson, an icon of the Environmental Justice Movement in the United States. Nearly two decades ago in October 1991, Ms. Johnson was tagged the "Mother of the Environmental Justice Movement" at the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit. This unofficial title was reaffirmed at the 2002 EJ Summit II held in Washington, DC. Both summits attracted several thousand leaders from around the world.

Ms. Johnson died peacefully in her sleep. She was a warrior of the first order and a "shero" to millions. She was born January 25, 1935 in New Orleans where she grew up in the Lower Ninth Ward. She would have been 76 on her next birthday. Hazel relocated to Chicago in 1957 and moved into Altgeld Gardens, a public housing development located in the Riverdale Community area. Hazel's husband, John Johnson, died at the age of 41 of lung cancer. She believed pollution contributed to his death.

She is best known for her relentless pursuit of environmental justice for low-income black residents. Her even temper and quiet demeanor could disarm the most ardent opponent. She inspired hundreds of grassroots groups to organize and fight for environmental and economic justice. In October 1982, she founded People for Community Recovery (PCR), one of the oldest African American community-based environmental justice organizations in the Midwest.



Her work in Chicago gained prominence several years before another young community organizer Barack Obama took up the environmental justice mantle in her community, and later became President of the United States. The young Obama went on to become her U.S. Senator and the 44th President of the United States. Hazel stayed in her Southside Chicago neighborhood to lead the struggle in Altgeld Gardens, a community of some about 8,000 residents surrounded by pollution and environmental dumping on the poor.

She got involved in environmental issues while watching the news and learned that Southeast Chicago had the highest incidence of cancer than any other area within the city. After learning these disturbing facts, she contacted the city and state health department for additional information. She asked the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to mail her a complaint form and in return, she made 1,200 copies of the forms and began knocking on her neighbors' doors asking them to fill it out. She later learned that people were suffering with severe health problems that could be environmentally related. Asthma, cancer, skin rash, kidney and liver problems were documented on the complaint forms.

She often referred to her community as a "toxic doughnut" because of the large number of environmental hazards and waste dumps surrounding her neighborhood. Speaking to the Los Angeles Times back in 1993, Hazel Johnson set her sights on the polluting industries who want to turn her Chicago housing project into a toxic dump. She says, "The people who made this mess know me, and I won't give 'em a minute's peace." She was in their face 24/7 and never retreated. She would not rest until she won justice for all of her neighbors in Chicago and oppressed peoples around the world.

Through her perseverance and dedication, Ms. Johnson has successfully brought needed attention to the environmental issues in Southeast Chicago. She had testified before Congress, met three Presidents of the United States, sponsored "toxic tours" of her community with dignitaries, hosted environmental conferences, workshops, and training programs, and lectured at hundred of universities and colleges.

Ms. Johnson served on the U.S. EPA's first National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), established by charter pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) on September 30, 1993. The charter for the NEJAC provides the Administrator with advice and recommendations with respect to integrating environmental justice considerations into EPA's programs, policies, and day-to-day activities.

And on February 11, 1994, while attending the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) "Symposium on Health and Research Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice" in Arlington, VA, when she and a handful of EJ leaders were called to the White House to witness President Bill Clinton sign the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations."

*(Continued)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT LOOSES SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO ICON  
HAZEL JOHNSON (CONT'D FROM PG. 5)**

For the past two decades, Hazel Johnson has been a stalwart in the antiracist movement and a relentless advocate for poor people at home and abroad. She traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992 as part of an environmental justice delegation to the United Nations Earth Summit where she shared her story with Brazilians who faced environmental justice challenges ranging from those in the rainforests of the Amazon to those who lived in favelas or shanty town in the cities. In 1996, she carried her environmental justice message abroad to South Africa as part of a twelve-member people of color delegation where she witnessed firsthand the environmental ravages of that country's evil apartheid system. She later participated in several other international meetings, including the 2000 Climate Justice Summit in The Hague, Netherlands, 2001 World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa, and 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Her story has been told on every major U.S. television network. She has appeared on National Public Radio (NPR) several times. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Emerge, Essence, and Ebony magazine. She has even been the subject of puppet shows and plays. Her work on the Southside of Chicago has even attracted the foreign press, including the British, French, and German media.

She and PCR were featured in the People of Color Environmental Groups Directory published by the C.S. Mott Foundation in 2000. She has received numerous awards and honors for her important work. Photographs of her are found in Children's Museums, the U.S. Congress, and Chicago Public Libraries. One of the most important awards she accepted on the behalf of PCR is a gold medal from the President's Conservation and Challenge Award for Communication and Education. In 2010, Planet Harmony named her one of "Ten African American Heroes" for her work educating people about the effects of environmental hazards on low-income and people of color communities.

Today, Altgeld Gardens is cleaner and healthier for her work. And because of her efforts, some of the dirtiest nearby industrial sites have cleaned up their acts. Much work is still needed. Ms. Johnson passed the torch to her daughter Cheryl Johnson to carry on the struggle. Hazel Johnson is survived by her seven children, ten grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. The EJ Movement and the world will miss this great warrior and healer. Her legacy lives on in her work and the thousands of lives she has touched the nearly 76 years she was with us.

*Robert D. Bullard directs the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. His most recent book is entitled Race, Place, and Environmental Justice After Hurricane Katrina: Struggles to Reclaim, Rebuild, and Revitalize New Orleans and the Gulf Coast (Westview Press 2009).*

*There are historic photo's, and more background on the life and historic grassroots work of Hazel Johnson on her organization website  
[www.peopleforcommunityrecovery.org](http://www.peopleforcommunityrecovery.org)*

## HAITI WILL RISE

*Vanessa Leon*

When a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, 2010, I found myself grappling with the immense challenges that lie ahead for my country and me. Like many Haitians in the Diaspora, I found myself longing to contribute to Haiti's rebuilding efforts in some way. It was uncanny that I was finishing a graduate degree in urban planning at a time that my homeland needed urban planners more than ever before. While the earthquake was certainly a natural occurrence, the level of destruction that it caused was very much due to decades of human failings. As we reflect more than a year later on the devastated Haitian capital and surrounding cities, which claimed up to 300,000 lives in a matter of seconds, it is important to set Haiti in an historical context before attempting to plan for its future.

Haiti is a country that is not unfamiliar with suffering. Having stood as "The Jewel of the Antilles" in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the brutal slavery that Haitians endured provided France with almost fifty percent of its gross national product. Haitian slave labor provided the rest of Europe with sixty percent of its coffee and forty percent of its sugar. The average lifespan for a Haitian slave in the 1750s was twenty-one years old. Despite this grueling existence, Haiti has also known great triumphs. In a twelve-year war, Haitian slaves brazenly overthrew Napoleon Bonaparte's army. In 1804, Haiti became the first Black republic in the world and only the second country in the Western hemisphere to declare its independence after the United States of America. For this glorious victory, Haiti has been paying ever since.

After independence, there was a concerted effort by the leading world powers to nullify Haitian progress. The United States and England, major slaveholders at the time, feared that their societies would be disrupted if their slave populations learned of the successful slave revolt in Haiti. Thus, an international boycott of Haitian goods ensued. The United States did not acknowledge Haiti's sovereignty until 1862 when it sent Frederick Douglass to establish diplomatic relations with the Black nation. France, however, refused to recognize the newly independent country unless Haiti paid a fine. In 1838, France charged Haiti \$150 million francs, equivalent to over \$20 billion U.S. dollars today, as reparations for the profit France lost because of the Haitian revolution. Up to eighty percent of the Haitian economy, in addition to loans taken out from other countries, was spent on this payment throughout Haiti's early years. The debt to France was not paid off until 1922.

The United States occupation from 1915-1934 initiated the centralization of political power and resources of Haiti in the capital - Port-au-Prince. Port-au-Prince was built to hold a population of a few hundred thousand, not the two or three million people inhabiting it at the time of the earthquake. The United States ruled Haiti with dreadful force, rewriting the Haitian constitution and establishing a Haitian militia that did not exist prior to the occupation. With the concentration of economic activity in Port-au-Prince, thousands of people emigrated from the countryside seeking better opportunities. The father and son regime of 'Papa Doc' and 'Baby Doc' Duvalier, lasting from 1957-1986, further reinforced Port-au-Prince's centralization through their dictatorial rule. In the 1990s, attempts at democracy were fraught with political instability and civil unrest.

As we know, the 21<sup>st</sup> century brought Haiti its share of natural disasters. In 2008, the successive tropical storm Fay and hurricanes Hannah, Gustav and Ike created a Hurricane Katrina-like situation in the City of Gonaïve that claimed almost 1,000 lives. Last year, we witnessed the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that left over 1.3 million displaced in Port-au-Prince even a year later. Now the country struggles to contain a cholera outbreak that continues to wreak devastation.

It is a challenge not to look at Haiti's present situation, riddled with abject poverty, a lack of infrastructure, deforestation, and soil erosion, among other concerns, without a feeling of hopelessness. Haiti is about the size of Maryland and its total population is 9,648,924. With eighty percent of the population living below poverty, Haiti's gross domestic product for 2009 was only \$6.558 billion. Of this amount, \$1.2 billion is remittances that flow back to the country every year from the Haitian Diaspora.

For starters, one should not look at Haiti as a monolith. The country is divided into ten departments (or regions). In order to decentralize Port-au-Prince, the capacity of the other departments has to be built up giving people alternative places to go. Right now, there is a Haitian-led grassroots movement in Washington DC to develop a comprehensive plan for the *Nord* (north) department.

This region is rich with history; it is where the battle for Haitian independence was fought. Urban planning needs to happen in *Nord* at this very moment so as to begin the decentralization of Port-au-Prince and other overpopulated cities.

There are several ongoing projects in this department already. Venezuela has taken the lead in financing and building Haiti's second international airport. The airport is expected to be completed in eighteen months and will be located in Cap-Haitien. Cap-Haitien is the capital of *Nord* and is the second largest city in the country. The loan for the airport was secured in the weeks before the quake and a Venezuelan-Cuban firm began working on it this past August. Furthermore, the Dominican Republic announced in March 2010 that it was building a modern university in *Nord* as a gift to Haiti. The groundbreaking ceremony took place in July and the university will eventually hold 10,000 Haitian students. Considering that there is so much underdeveloped land in *Nord*, building up this department would even facilitate the decentralization of Cap-Haitien, as well as Port-au-Prince.

*(Continued)*

HAITI WILL RISE (CONT'D FROM PG. 8)



Our urban planning expertise is strongly needed to coordinate these efforts. Haiti lost about 180 ministry buildings and a significant portion of its government employees last January. The collapsed University of Port-au-Prince, where my cousin perished, buried an overwhelming majority of professors and students. With this massive loss of human capital and with eighty percent of its professional class living and working outside of the country, Haiti will need the participation of the entire African Diaspora to chart its days ahead. We, as urban planners, have a unique and invaluable skill set to contribute. With a newly elected president for Haiti, this presents a unique opportunity to help influence the future.

We can and should play an active role in restoring Haiti to its rightful place. Haiti will not be able to do this alone.

My Haitian colleagues and I need you.

Now is the time.

**Vanessa Leon**

**Manager, Local Relations at the American Institute of Architects**

[VanessaLeon@aia.org](mailto:VanessaLeon@aia.org)

## RECAP OF NEXT AMERICAN CITY, NEXT AMERICAN LANDSCAPE 2010 NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

### *Jihad Muhammad, MS/CED*

*The following is a quick summary of memorable activities at the 2010 National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) National Conference in Austin, TX.*



#### **2010 Diversity Scholarship Program Scholarship Recipients**

This year, I was fortunate to be selected to participate in the [Diversity Scholarship Program](#) (DSP) sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP). After receiving recommendations from the Planning and the Black Community Division and the National Black Chamber of Commerce, I was provided financial assistance to attend the 2010 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference October 27-30, in Austin, TX. The conference theme was the “Next American City, Next American Landscape.”

The goal of the Diversity Scholarship Program, which has been operating since 1992, provides financial assistance to approximately 60 community leaders each year from diverse social, economic, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to attend the National Preservation Conference. This is meant to increase the diversity of participants at the annual National Preservation Conference and in the preservation movement. The program, through interactive sessions, presentations, informal gatherings, and tours of the host city and surrounding areas, is designed for participants to learn about necessary tools to strengthen their commitment and effectiveness in preserving historic places and revitalizing their communities.

The City of Austin is a place which values the old and makes way for the new. Austin provided us with a view of a downtown four-block “Historic Corridor” with a Western flavor. It featured a wealth of historical residential and commercial buildings - homes, restaurants, hotels, etc; constructed between 1860 and 1933. All are listed in either the National Register or the State of Texas Registry of Historic Places. Among the many sessions attended, the most memorable session that held particular interest for me was – Why Would I

Give You Money? “Preservation = JOB!”

This session featured a panel consisting of a banker, developer, person from main street, community activist, state legislator and senior National Trust staff collectively sharing, from their own perspective, how heritage preservation contributes to creating distinctive communities that capture the affection of residents and visitors. Also, they shared how the use of historical tax credits and other such resources has resulted in 1.8 million jobs and 85 billion dollars in rehab projects.

This type of information that set me on a conference course of securing information for my hometown of Gary, Indiana. I felt extremely motivated to bring home information at least that “would” result in our [\(The Historic Midtown Chamber of Commerce\)](#) forward movement toward accomplishing three visible and somewhat talked about projects – the preservation of Vivian Carter’s VJ Records Building, St. John’s Hospital (also known as Hendricks Clinic) and securing the historical designation of our beloved Roosevelt High School. Through this session it seems that preservationists know that restoring the fabric and character of historic buildings or streetscapes can create jobs and stimulate economic vitality. Also how the challenge of convincing policy makers is a taunting task since they often don’t see the connection. I believe that historic preservation is a value added proposition, one which can motivate the engagement of others based on a love of self, kind and place. This kind of engagement brought on several people who support my local efforts, not only with historic preservation, but also with other proactive – progressive community economic development initiatives. I was so fortunate to have former military veterans; Alfred Woods and Glenn Stokes, provide me with additional support on this journey to find the ways and means to make things happen in our city. The session provided us with a number of resources and strategies for financing historic preservation and quantifying the benefits. A number of those resources presented are as follows:

[The National Trust Community Investment Corporation \(NTCIC\)](#) makes equity investments in real estate projects that qualify for federal historic tax credits and when available, state historic tax credits and New Markets Tax Credits. Their focus is on projects that have a strong economic revitalization impact on the surrounding community.

[Rutgers Report on the Economic Impact of the Federal Historic Tax Credit, 2010](#)

[Using SECTION 106 to protect Historic Properties:](#) Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties. It is a powerful tool that ensures private citizens and State and local governments have a voice in Federal decisions that impact historic properties.

[Saving Places That Matter To You:](#) Taking the first steps toward

**2010 NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE  
(CONT'D FROM PG. 10)**

saving a place that matters to you is an exciting challenge. And although the process can be complicated, keep in mind that you don't have to do it all by yourself – there are many valuable materials and people ready to help!

[The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training website](#) includes a model which calculates the economic impact of preservation.

[Teaching with Historic Places Program](#): It is important to inform our children of their heritage, places and things within their respective communities. The Heritage Education Services within the National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior offers more than 135 Ready – to – Use Classroom Lesson Plans including 19 on sites associated with American Presidents.

[Saving America's Treasures \(SAT\)](#): Save America's Treasures are program initiatives, along with Preserve America provides resources that are vital to the preservation of our nation's cultural heritage and the promotion of vibrant communities.

Furthermore, the conference presented me with an opportunity to see former First Lady Laura Bush. Mrs. Bush is a preservationist, and she spoke about her passion for this movement. I also had the pleasure of meeting several African American preservationists from around the country with a passion for preserving the stories/histories of our historical people, places and things. They included Edwin B. Henderson II, Mary Jones Fitts and Rick Wallace. Edwin B. Henderson II is the founder of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation in Northern, VA. Edwin wishes to tell the many African American stories/histories that have been buried by suburban development. Interesting enough, it was Edwin's great grandfather, James Wormley, a hotel owner in Washington, D.C. and a close personal friend to Abraham Lincoln, who was called to Lincoln's bedside, at his hotel at the time immediately after the shooting. Also, in Edwin's rich personal history is his grandfather's significant role in the origins of basketball. Mary Jones-Fitts is with the Marengo County Historical Society and President and Director of the Marengo County History and Archives Museum Foundation. In addition, to all of the above that she does, she volunteered to assist me in finding out about my Alabama roots. Rick Wallace of Community Development Resources (CDR). CDR, based in Lincoln, Nebraska is a non-profit small business lending program. Rick is working to preserve the legacy of African Americans who helped shape the state of Nebraska.

I was informed and impressed at the possibilities of utilizing historic preservation as a tool toward our overall effort to realize Community Economic Development in Gary, Indiana. The idea of seeking opportunity to motivate and inspire people through the value given to a building which has significance through the memories of pioneering seniors within our community, the access to intellectual and financial capital to fund the restoration of historical sites and the programs and policies established to give support to the historic preservation movement was enlightening to say the least. I am a strong proponent for historic preservation as a vital tool to positively impact the urban/inner-city. In summary, Austin was a great host city. Next year's conference will be in beautiful Buffalo, New York. If you have questions about the conference and the program, please contact the Diversity Scholarship Program at [conference@nthp.org](mailto:conference@nthp.org).

**DID YOU KNOW....**The National Trust for Historic Preservation, through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has released a paper describing policies and practices that encourage the preservation and construction of community-centered schools? Decisions about where to locate new and preserve old schools greatly influence the futures of communities for years to come. Providing quality education in safe, well-maintained schools is the first priority. By reforming policy and practices as outlined in this report, states and localities can strengthen public schools and reduce carbon emissions and air pollution, preserve older neighborhoods and open space, and encourage healthier citizens and communities. By making smart policy decisions today, communities can be sustained for years to come.

To download a copy of the full report, go to [www.preservationnation.org/issues/historic-schools](http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/historic-schools)

*Jihad T. Muhammad is a community economic development practitioner, consultant and trainer with [Urban Development Consultants, LLC](#) in Gary, Indiana and may be reached at [urbandc1@aol.com](mailto:urbandc1@aol.com)*

## EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

**American Planning Association - Jobs:****<http://www.planning.org/jobs/search/>****Planetizen - Jobs:** <http://www.planetizen.com/jobs>**Local APA Chapters:** [www.planning.org/chapters/](http://www.planning.org/chapters/)**Virginia Association of Counties:** <http://www.vaco.org/Employment.html>**Govtjobs.com:** <http://www.govtjobs.com/>**Cyberbia Job Resources (Mega Listing):**<http://www.cyberbia.org/forums/showthread.php?t=36609>**Urban Planning Now:**<http://www.urbanplanningnow.com/jobservice/firstpage.shtml>**Governmentjobs.com:** <http://www.governmentjobs.com/index.cfm>**Govtjob.net:** [http://www.govtjob.net/job\\_openings.htm](http://www.govtjob.net/job_openings.htm)**USA Jobs - HUD:** <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/a9hudp.aspx>**USAJobs.com (Federal Government):** <http://www.usajobs.gov/>**National League of Cities (Search each state):**[http://www.nlc.org/state\\_municipal\\_leagues/2203.aspx](http://www.nlc.org/state_municipal_leagues/2203.aspx)**National Forum of Black Public Administrators:**<http://www.nfbpa.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3288>**Georgia Local Government Access Marketplace:** <http://www.glga.org/>**North Carolina Association of County Commissioners:**<http://www.ncacc.org/classifieds.htm#top>**Maryland Municipal League:**<http://www.mdmunicipal.org/classified/jobs.cfm>**New Jersey League of Municipalities:**[http://www.njslom.org/classifieds\\_jobs.html](http://www.njslom.org/classifieds_jobs.html)**California Job Service:** [www.caljobs.gov](http://www.caljobs.gov)**Architecture Crossing:** [www.architecturecrossing.com](http://www.architecturecrossing.com)**Geography Jobs:** <http://www.geographyjobs.com/>**GIS Jobs:** <http://www.gisjobs.com/>**GIS Jobs Clearinghouse:** <http://www.gjc.org/>**GeoJobs.org:** <http://www.geojobs.org/>**GIS.com:** <http://www.gis.com/content/find-gis-job>**Foundation Center Jobs:** <http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/jobs/>**The Chronicle of Philanthropy - Jobs:**<http://philanthropy.com/section/Jobs/224/>**Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (Faculty Job Bank):**[http://www.acsp.org/job\\_bank/faculty\\_positions](http://www.acsp.org/job_bank/faculty_positions)**Indeed:** [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)**SEEKING MINORITY OWNED FIRMS FOR PLANNING?****BREE & Associates, Inc.**<http://breeassociates.com/>**Roberta F. Burroughs & Associates**[www.rfba-upc.com/](http://www.rfba-upc.com/)**Trends Management, Inc.**<http://trendsmangement.com/>**Dinwiddie & Associates**[dinwidd@attglobal.net](mailto:dinwidd@attglobal.net)**Attended the 2011 APA National Planning Conference?**

Share a short article of your conference experience for inclusion in next newsletter with PBCD members!

- What did you learn?; and/or
- What was your favorite session or workshop?; and/or
- What was your experience like in Boston?; and/or
- Summarize overall experience or particular events if desired.

Send submissions by June 2011 to:

Sef Okoth,

PBCD Vice Chair for Programs

[seferinus22@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:seferinus22@yahoo.co.uk)



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**Lillian Thompson, President**

**NEW URBANISM AND  
COMMUNITIES OF COLOR  
FORUM**

**Zunilda Rodriguez, A.I.C.P**

Special thanks to the New Jersey Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (ECDC) of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association for inviting PBCD to serve as a co-sponsor of the successful forum entitled "New Urbanism and Communities of Color," which was held on April 1, 2011 at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University in New Jersey. The event was free and open to the public. AICP members earned 2.0 CM credits.

PBCD member Lee Edgcombe, founder and President of The Edgcombe Group, served as the speaker for this forum. He delved into New Urbanism principles and traditions to assist the contemporary community planner in deriving relevant strategies for the desired New Urbanism approach to effectively respond to the social, economic and physical needs of inner-city communities.

As an event co-sponsor, PBCD provided marketing assistance for this event. Division membership and activity information was distributed to attendees. There were several sponsors of this forum including the Latinos and Planning Division of APA, New Urbanism Division of APA, New Jersey Chapter of APA and Congress for the New Urbanism.

One attendee noted that "it was such a successful event that we had people on a waiting list to get in!" This forum event was the first in a series that the ECDC committee has entitled the "4Thought Forum Series." The next forum will be on *Leading Community Building: Emerging Planning Concepts for Diverse Communities* on Friday, May 13th.

ECDC welcomes support for future events. For more information, contact ECDC in NJAPA at [www.njplanning.org](http://www.njplanning.org) or send email to [ecdc.nj@gmail.com](mailto:ecdc.nj@gmail.com)

Photos of the "New Urbanism and Communities of Color" forum event can be found on the NJAPA website at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/njplanning/sets/72157626427501068/show/>



American Planning Association  
**Planning and Law Division**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

**Submit Articles for Next PBCD Newsletter to:**

**Calvin M. Whitaker**

**E-mail: [cmwhitaker@yahoo.com](mailto:cmwhitaker@yahoo.com)**

**Deadline: June 27, 2011**

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUPS FIND COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS THROUGH A DIFFERENT TYPE OF COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM

### Marva King

Not only have environmental justice (EJ) researchers come a long way since the early 90s but so has the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Such growth was evident at the 2010 San Diego three-day Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) National Training Workshop held December 7-9 and co-hosted by the Environmental Health Coalition (a 30-year old EJ organization and 2009 CARE recipient) under the leadership of Executive Director Diane Takvorian. The EPA developed the CARE program in 2005 in response to community requests for help in addressing environmental concerns and in recognition of the need for a new approach to help communities develop locally-led solutions for addressing such concerns. CARE provides funding, information, training, technical support, and help to build collaborative local partnerships and address community environmental concerns.

CARE holds national training workshops (exclusively for community partners and presenters working within the CARE program) every year at different locations across the nation. This year's workshop theme of *Sustainability through Local Solutions* featured a town-hall question and answer dialogue with EPA senior managers and local community leaders (on ways to better serve community-based activities) and three general sessions entitled *Building Healthy Communities* (outlining correlations between community planning and health and how a community's greatest asset is its human capital); *Race, Place and EJ* (focused on health research in communities with EJ concerns); and, *Funding After the CARE Program Monies End* (focusing on community partnerships economic stability).

Urban planners would have appreciated the *Building Healthy Communities* session which provided an overview of the effectiveness of community focused and cross-sector collaboration efforts to achieve sustainability. Session presenters EPA Environmental Specialist Carlton Eley provided examples of community projects emphasizing the correlation between public health and physical well-being, EJ, and economic health.

California Endowment Senior Vice President Dr. Anthony Iton, M.D., presented the results of several models displaying a direct correlation between decreased life expectancy and increased poverty rates for Alameda, San Francisco, and Contra Costa counties in northern California, and Ms. Diane Takvorian discussed elevated health disparities in Barrio Logan a San Diego community, its current mixed land uses, and a vision for creating future healthy land uses.

The 18 breakout session topics, each co-led by local community leaders, ranged from "community approaches to building capacity in risk identification/ranking" to "building and maintaining partnerships" to "promoting clean energy and green jobs." Of particular note was the *Green Zones for Economic and Environmental Sustainability* breakout session approach (which focused on transforming a community through combining strong community grounding with tangible opportunities for change). Most importantly, brown bag luncheon speaker Ms. Elizabeth Yeampierre (chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council) emphasized the impacts a hurricane has on urban communities

During the workshop, a special and unplanned tribute was paid to Dr. Clarice Gaylord by Session Moderator Ms. Vernice Miller-Travis on behalf of national EJ leaders. Ms. Miller-Travis (a known EJ Leader) asked Dr. Gaylord to stand up and be recognized as a former EPA manager whom many environmentally underserved communities previously approached for help in early communications with the Agency. EPA retiree Dr. Gaylord, one of the first Senior Executive Service (SES) African-American women employed by the Agency, and the first Director of the Office of Environmental Equity (later referred to as the Office of EJ) linked the concerns of EJ and CARE communities in one statement after listening to current work being conducted by *Race, Place, and EJ* general session presenters EPA Associate Assistant Administrator for EJ Lisa Garcia and University of Southern CA Professor Dr. Manuel Pastor. After explaining how proud she was to learn about such ongoing activities, Dr. Gaylord exclaimed: "Where was this research when I needed it in 1993?"



King, Gaylord & Eley

Throughout workshop discussions, a creative and fertile place-based field blossomed as a dream environment for any young planner wishing to find partnering opportunities for building and reinvesting in urban communities with local leaders. Although CARE Training Workshop participation is limited, it behooves an energetic planner to investigate how to get involved with such an emerging group of local partnerships. As noted by internationally known Senior EJ Leader Richard Moore (Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice) -- communities are becoming more self reliant and self-sustainable through local partnerships.

### RESOURCES:

For further information on the CARE Program and specific communities across the nation, please visit: [www.epa.gov/care](http://www.epa.gov/care)

[www.epa.gov/care/library/2008CAREtrifold.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/care/library/2008CAREtrifold.pdf)

**Marva King is the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Grants Team Leader and Co-chair. Since June 2005, Ms. King has been working in the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation. Previously, Marva worked for 10 years as a Senior Program Analyst in EPA's Office of Environmental Justice managing the EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program and the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Her professional work has gained her sustainable connections throughout the country with a variety of stakeholders from community groups, business/industry, state/local/tribal government, academia, non-governmental organizations, and federal agencies. Marva recently received a 2010 Child Health Advocate Award from the Children's Environmental Health Network in their community category. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Delaware and is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy from George Mason University.**

## CHARLOTTE D.A.P DIVERSITY NETWORKING RECEPTION EXPANDS OUTREACH

*Zunilda Rodriguez, A.I.C.P*

PBCD and the Diversity Committee of the North Carolina Chapter of APA (NCAPA) held a professional diversity networking event at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, NC on February 4, 2011. This nearly three-hour event featured approximately fifty attendees from North Carolina and around the country. A business casual atmosphere in the eclectic *Lobby Lounge Bar* provided an inviting backdrop for attendees to expand their professional network and exchange contact information. Sponsors were also able to engage prospective attendees with membership information, notes on upcoming events, answer questions and discuss benefits of becoming part of their organization.

Thank you to PBCD members Carlton Eley, Ramond Robinson and Fleming-El-Amin, AICP for their coordinated assistance with this networking reception.

Special gratitude is also extended to the Diversity Committee members of the NCAPA for their sponsorship support and assistance. The Diversity Committee of NCAPA mission to increase diversity in the planning profession. Core activities of the Diversity Committee of NCAPA include minority scholarship fundraising, organizing NCAPA conference planning events, conducting workshops, networking events and programs. More information on the Diversity Committee of NCAPA is available at [www.nc-apa.org/Diversity](http://www.nc-apa.org/Diversity)



*PBCD members and attendees network in Charlotte, NC on February 2011*



# ETHNIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

VISIT US ONLINE: [WWW.NJPLANNING.ORG](http://WWW.NJPLANNING.ORG)

# NETWORKING

## RISING ABOVE THE TIDES OF THE CIVIL WAR IN SOUTH CAROLINA: SOUTH CAROLINA AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION— CALL FOR ACCURATE ACCOUNT FOR SESQUICENTENNIAL

*Jannie Harriot*

Three years ago South Carolina began preparing for the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. The subject of the Civil War evokes passion on all sides so it is imperative that the commemoration reflect actual facts and not the feelings of individuals. The next four years can be educational, revealing and healing or it can be tumultuous for the citizens of South Carolina and the South.

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) believes this sesquicentennial can shape our future just as much as the Civil War has shaped who we are today. Recently, SCAAHC prepared a statement that reflected the words of President Abraham Lincoln from his first inaugural address.

“We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

Ironically, Lincoln’s words are as relevant today as they were in 1861. Some would suggest they are “providential.”

As we embark upon this South Carolina civil war sesquicentennial commemoration, SCAAHC has faith that the better angels of the nature of all South Carolinians will prevail and foster greater mutual understanding and respect as citizens of our state consider and commemorate the civil war in different ways and from different perspectives, even though it is part of our one common heritage.

SCAAHC echoes the sentiments of the State Department of Archives and History and other agencies, organizations, and individuals that have made clear that we are embarking upon a commemoration and not a celebration. Also, we agree that great effort must be made to tell the whole story of the war and to tell it truthfully, to explain how it affected the entire state, and to explain how the impact of the war continues to reverberate throughout the state and nation today. Beginning with its annual meeting in January, the commission will do its part to ensure that the commemoration as a whole is fair, balanced and accurate.

The facts of the civil war, though they are perhaps open to some degree of interpretation, are plain. Numerous scholars and even the words of some of those involved in the secession movement themselves as indicated in various confederate documents confirm that the central cause of the war was slavery. For African Americans, reflecting on American history in general and the history of the civil war in particular can be a bitter-sweet experience. Many African Americans would rather ignore this part of our history because of the pain and ugliness that characterizes it. But the SCAAHC knows that an understanding and appreciation of history in general requires an understanding and analysis of the good, the bad and the ugly of it and its ramifications for our contemporary lives.

There are two important lessons that can be drawn from recent commemorations of the sesquicentennial. The first is history should reflect the facts. The second is how to “give voice to the unspoken stories” of the Civil War.

For the later, it is important to acknowledge that this topic is often left to the interpretation of scholars, historians, politicians, aficionados, and enthusiast. However, there may be an important role for design professionals, especially people of color in the fields of community planning, architecture, or even urban design.

While there are occasions when it is prudent to have a debate, there are other occasions when it is appropriate to plan; to design; or even build the monuments that will draw the public’s attention to events of significance which have shaped the American landscape. A powerful example of this is the African Burial Ground National Monument in Lower Manhattan. The monument serves multiple purposes that help the public to rise above passionate rhetoric. First, it acknowledges the importance of the subject with dignity. Second, it educates the public about issues that are often treated as peripheral. Third, the monument’s permanence is an effective rebuttal to skeptics and cynics. Finally, the monument is effective in connecting with a broader audience of Americans because it reflects the nation’s strength which is its diversity.

Perhaps, the example of the African Burial Ground National Monument can shed light on how to:

- build strategic alliances with new professionals and expand the conversation about the sesquicentennial at national conferences rather than become bogged down in polarizing dialogues;
- direct attention to preserving churches or historic school facilities that were established following the Civil War for improving quality of life of “freed men and women;”
- be stewards of our own story for the benefit of current and future generations such as the Alexandria Freedman’s Cemetery.

*(Continued)*

## RIISING ABOVE THE TIDES OF THE CIVIL WAR IN SOUTH CAROLINA (CONT'D FROM PAGE 16)

Perhaps, it is now time to leverage the untapped talent of design and planning professionals as the nation commemorates events from the past.

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) was created by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1993 for the identification and preservation of African American heritage and culture and to serve as advisor to the SC Department of Archives & History. The Commission, the National Park Service, Fort Sumter Trust and I Company of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Re-enactors have taken the lead in ensuring that the commemoration is balanced, the stories are accurate, and that the African American story is told with dignity. Other groups are encouraged to join in the quest to tell the untold stories of the Civil War in order to forge a better understanding of it for all people.

*The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The 15-member commission includes representatives from all regions of the state.*

<http://shpo.sc.gov/SCAAHC.htm>

For more information about the Commission, contact Jannie Harriot, Vice-Chairperson, at [professionaljmh@aol.com](mailto:professionaljmh@aol.com) or 843.332.3589.



### NCAPA DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

#### North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Academic Scholarship

The NCAPA Diversity Scholarship was created to increase diversity in the planning profession by fostering increased interest among minority students in the field of urban planning. Towards this goal, NCAPA is offering a \$1,000 diversity scholarship for minority students pursuing graduate or undergraduate planning degrees or planning-related degrees to cover education expenses.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

The \$1,000 scholarship is available to graduate and undergraduate minority students majoring in urban planning, urban design, urban studies, geography or public administration at an accredited university in North Carolina. The applicant should be a full-time student with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). The scholarship will be given directly to the student to pay for expenses incurred during the 2011-2012 academic year. Eligible students interested in applying should obtain an application by visiting [www.nc-apa.org/diversity](http://www.nc-apa.org/diversity).

#### All application materials should be mailed by June 3, 2011 to:

NCAPA Diversity Committee,

Attn: Ramond Robinson, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor-CATS, 600 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

Applicants will be notified concerning status of their application approximately 30 days following the closing date. The scholarship recipient will be acknowledged at the North Carolina Planning Conference in Charlotte, NC, October 5 - 7, 2011.

For more information contact:

Ramond Robinson, Diversity Committee Chair - Email: [ncapa.diversity@gmail.com](mailto:ncapa.diversity@gmail.com)

# PRESERVATION

## RAISED GARDEN BEDS, CREATES HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES FOR FRESH VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

*Melanie Wilson*

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "policy and environmental change initiatives that make *healthy choices in nutrition and physical activity available, affordable...* will likely prove most effective in combating obesity." As we deal with high gas prices and unemployment obesity and raising food cost, fresh vegetables and fruits are becoming less affordable. In some communities, fresh fruits and vegetables are not attainable as full-service grocery stores elect to move out of lower-income neighborhoods. *Access and affordability* are two common and significant obstacles for many families when it comes to providing fresh fruits and vegetables in the home." Research has revealed that, "despite extensive overall food availability in the United States, there [is] documentation...of unevenness in the location of supermarkets and the prices they charged.[1] Also, in order to see that availability is a significant fact in more consumption of healthy food we need only turn to research that has revealed low income people, "... who live closer to supermarkets consume more fruit and vegetables." [2] Therefore, a close correlation between availability and more consumption of healthy and nutritious food is clear.

### Reference:

1. [http://www.npc.umich.edu/news/events/food-access/rose\\_et\\_al.pdf](http://www.npc.umich.edu/news/events/food-access/rose_et_al.pdf)
2. [http://www.nationalpovertycenter.com/news/events/food-access/final\\_bitler\\_haider.pdf](http://www.nationalpovertycenter.com/news/events/food-access/final_bitler_haider.pdf)

This article is written to show alternative to ways to provide affordable access to individuals who may otherwise not be able to afford or have access to fresh food options. One solution that everyone can participate in is to create raised gardens. Raised beds have a longer growing season, the soil warms faster and freezes later than the surface soil. A raised bed will also save your back and is less likely to succumb to weeds.

<http://www.humeseeds.com/s>

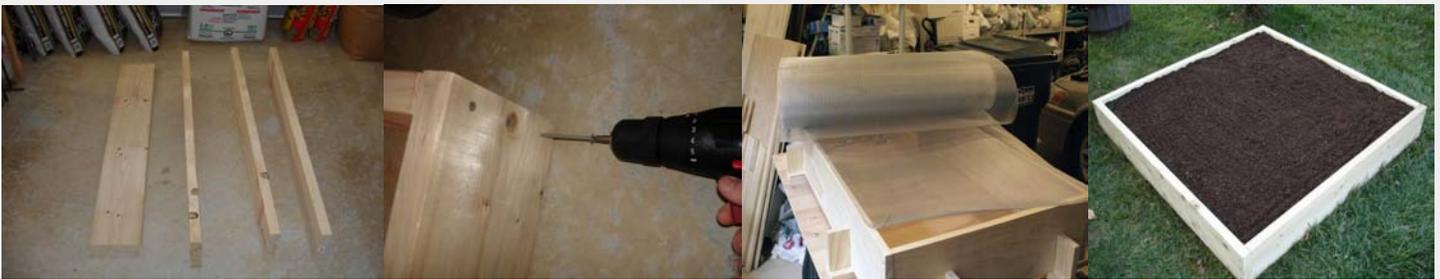
<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/factsheets/orgmatter/index.html#peatoilph.htm>

Here supplies needed for a 4 x 4 raised frame. The cost can be minimal if you use scraps from lumber yard or you can go and get pieces cut to your specifications. Either way, this can be a fun weekend project for the family and neighborhood. In low wealth communities supplies may be donated by local hardware/home improvement stores. Here are the basics.

- Two Water Resistant 2"x8"x8' boards (cut in half to make four 4' lengths)
- Twelve 3" deck screws
- Stapler (if screen is used)
- (Aluminum screen) or newspaper if you are putting directly on grass to control weeds
- \*Four 1 cubic foot bags of compost (If regular topsoil is used then mix with compost)
- (you can use "Planting Mix" to fill, if so, then you do not need as much compost )
- \*One 1 bag of peat moss (3.8) (you can share this bag and if you use potting soil this is not needed)
- Some old newspapers (if you plant on top of grassed area)
- One bale of twine (to make planting grid)

**\*NOTE: If using potting soil, then you do not need to use peat moss but use 1 cubic foot bag of compost**

Choose the lumber for the size of garden you want. When choosing a size, consider that in order for you to easily reach the entire thing it should be no deeper than 3'. The length can be as small as you wish, but should be no longer than 8'. The height depends on several factors. Consider the root depth of what you are growing. A water resistant wood is what you are looking for, something that you would use for a deck. If you like, you can seal the wood yourself, but choose a natural sealant that is nontoxic to plants. The hardware store will help you find something appropriate. Have the lumber store cut the wood for you. This will save you a great deal of time and energy and also makes it easier to transport the wood back to your location.



More detail and planting ideas are available at the following link: <http://cmg.colostate.edu/gardennotes/713.pdf>

**RESOURCE:** APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning - [www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm](http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm)

## URBAN FARMING PROJECT SEEKS TO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN BOSTON

*Hakim Cunningham*

The Boston Workers Alliance (BWA) BWA is a community organization led by unemployed and underemployed workers fighting for employment rights and social and economic justice. ([www.bostonworkersalliance.org](http://www.bostonworkersalliance.org)) We have united to end CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) discrimination and the crisis of joblessness in the community. BWA Urban Farming Project seeks to empower communities of color in Boston through the development of community gardens that are intricate to urban neighborhoods and the fabric of many residential communities. Community gardens often are used to help create change and forms the social landscape of low-income communities. These gardens can provide training, education, job opportunities and self-sustainable community practices in farming and recycling. These gardens can provide training, education, job opportunities and self-sustainable community practices in farming and recycling. Our goals is to take advantage of these underutilized pieces of property and use them to help empower the residents and youth in the neighborhoods of Boston.

First, BWA would clean up, restore and make the gardens available for planting. BWA seeks to take all of the grass, shrubbery and debris and make compost heaps to be reused for the garden. The second phase would consist of turning the soil and getting the garden ready for seeds and fertilizer. In this phase, we seek to train residents in this area for future gardens communities in the Boston area. Subsequent phases will be to identify vegetables and herbs that are grown in urban settings. This phase will involve contacting local farmers markets, restaurants and food pantries along with discounted sales to BWA members and C.S.A.'s. The timeline from planting to harvesting is the only variable in the equation. We also want to make sure that we are growing what the residents and markets have a demand for. This is very important from the perspective that Boston neighborhoods of color are ethnically diverse and that many residents come from Caribbean islands and other countries and receiving food from their native lands have high costs for consumers in Boston.

The focus of the Boston Workers Alliance is to bring the community together through awareness and community involvement in this project. The problems that can be addressed from something of this nature can bring many issues that we are having to a halt. It is a slow gradual process and over a period came bring things to a halt. The violence that plagues our communities have to be look at from all angles. We feel that urban gardening is one angle that can curb the violence. Through neighborhood social interaction in these communities gardening spots. This can help with youth violence rates and education, to job opportunities, community activism, and residential involvement. We must first begin with education and training about urban agriculture. Then start learning about gardening and growing food in the inner city. Then a gradual implement other steps to address issue like childhood obesity, physical inactivity, farmers markets and niche small businesses that can grow out of community farms and gardens that support the local food culture. This will offer an avenue for social and economic change in low-income communities and create a model that can be used citywide or nationwide.

BWA developed a small community garden plot that yielded a considerable amount of food for embers and local residents. We feel that if we can scale up our working model it will have the ability to impact, health, hunger and social issues in neighborhoods of Boston. BWA decided to tackle this issue because we felt like this was the way to get back to community and nature and help develop a lasting change in the socio-economic landscape of disenfranchised people of the inner-city. One of our greatest issues is high fructose corn syrup in drinks and sweets, which lead to added obesity in African Americans, additives, and preservatives put into food for taste, which gives us bad cholesterol. Spoilage due to long travel time from neighboring countries and pesticides used to ward off insect and bugs. If we grow local and each more natural, than we will have a greater impact on our health and wellbeing in communities of color.

The proposed garden space is located at 74-76 Lucerne St. & Balsam St. in Dorchester, MA 02124. The place is the size of ¼ of a city block 60'x200' in area and has at least ten plots of sectioned land for specific vegetables or herbs. This land is owned and operated by The Boston Natural Areas Network. The Nightengale Community Garden located on Park St. in Codman Square is an alternate site if 74-76 Lucerne St. is not available yet. BWA seeks to have harvested food from these gardens serve as a direct impact to neighborhoods through discounted sales to all involved participants and members of Boston Workers' Alliance. Food distribution would occur to local farmers markets in the area, residential food pantries, or community supported agriculture (CSA's) in which individuals or organizations pay in advance for future produce to be delivered to them later would serve as other methods for food distribution.

BWA plans to conduct door-to-door knocking, canvassing, PSA radio advertisements, press releases and community meetings to bring awareness to local residents about our expanding Urban Farming Project. Community residents will have access from a process called "work for a bag" where we can exchange work on the garden site for bags of produce during harvest time. Our marketing efforts will strive to tell our story and get our message and relay partnership opportunities through local print and visual media. It will change how they look at land and vacant lots and the local food culture and growing vegetables. BWA is seeking donations to keep this project on going; financial support is needed primarily to keep this project as a stable part of Boston Workers Alliance. Donated flowerpots, seeds and seedlings and also gardening or small scale farming tools and equipment will be greatly appreciated and can be sent to the Boston Workers Alliance/Urban Gardening Project c/o Hakim Cunningham, 411 Blue Hill Ave Boston, MA 02121. **For additional information or ways to assist BWA Urban Farming Project, please contact: Hakim Cunningham, Lead Organizer/Program Director, Boston Workers Alliance at [hakim@bostonworkersalliance.org](mailto:hakim@bostonworkersalliance.org) or (617) 530-0757.**

**RESOURCES:** Southeastern African American Farmers Organic Network: <http://www.saafon.org/>  
National Black Farmers Association: <http://www.blackfarmers.org/>

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