Friends and Colleagues:

I think it’s fair to say that 2020 has thrown plenty at us. Back at the start of the year, none of us thought that we’d find ourselves in October simultaneously navigating a pandemic, a recession, the aftermath of devastating wildfires, sustained civil protest against racial injustice, and a political season like no other. In any event, I hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and well.

Before continuing with the state of the Chapter, I want to first thank everyone on our team who played a part in delivering our programming over the past year, from our fantastic Board of Directors, to our standing committees, our event volunteers, and our excellent Chapter staff. For all the challenges we’ve faced this year, we’ve seen many successes, due to the tenacity and creativity of our team. I can’t thank everyone enough.

Wildfire Response

On behalf of the Board, our hearts go out to everyone in communities that were impacted by the devastating wildfires in September. As we work our way through response and onto recovery, the Chapter is investigating the best way to support local communities in their efforts to recover and rebuild. Planners play a key role in helping communities respond to disasters, and we’re investigating the best ways to support our colleagues in these efforts, drawing from resources here in Oregon and across the U.S.

COVID-19

The ongoing pandemic has had a significant impact on the Chapter’s operations. As the pandemic unfolded, we quickly pivoted to online programming, including this year’s virtual Joint Conference with APA Washington. Owing to the uncertainty that the pandemic brought, the Board approved a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget with substantial reductions on both the revenue and expense sides of the ledger. Although the current budget runs at a deficit, we have more than adequate reserves to cover the shortfall. The good news is that we were able to retain staff, we avoided cancelling major Chapter programs, and early signs indicate that we are tracking to, and some cases beating, our reduced budget.

My expectation is that we will continue with our virtual-only offerings through at least Summer 2021. Despite the lack of in-person events since the pandemic arrived, our event participation this past fiscal year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) was robust – we engaged more than 1,500 participants in 29 events, 12 of which were online and available to members around Oregon and the U.S. We’re learning that even without the pandemic, leveraging Zoom helps to make our programming easily accessible across the state, and we envision using it even more as a primary tool.

Anti-Racism and Our Approach to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

If there is any silver lining to 2020, it’s that we have an opportunity to examine long-held structures and practices that yield racism, exclusion, and disenfranchisement across our communities. We are at the beginning of a long, important, and sometimes uncomfortable conversation about the role that planners play in building communities that are anti-racist, diverse, and inclusive. The AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct instructs us to actively promote anti-racist and socially just outcomes in our work and to actively oppose systems and structures that perpetuate historic inequities. Our record on this as a profession, frankly, is not good… and it is well past time to change that.

The Chapter intends to help do just that, through a continued emphasis on addressing anti-racism in our professional development programs, our legislative priorities, and our interactions with allied professions and organizations. We know that there are a variety of perspectives out there when it comes to equity and race: our intent is to help everyone learn more and work toward meeting the call of the AICP Code of Ethics, in ways that are relevant to the work that we all do. Much more to come here.

Looking Ahead: Strategic Plan Refresh

Finally, I want to quickly highlight work coming up in 2021 as we look to refresh our Strategic Plan. It’s hard to believe that our shiny new plan is already three years old! It’s served us well, and in 2021 we will have a look to make sure it’s up-to-date to guide us through the next three years. We hope to have your input and ideas!

In closing, I want to say what an honor it is to lead such an exceptional group of professionals. Oregon is in many ways the model of what an effective planning system can be, and that’s absolutely through the hard work and dedication of all of our members. The work that you do for our communities is critically important, absolutely complex, and often unseen. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank all of our members for the great work that you do for all Oregonians, and I look forward to continuing to lead OAPA to support you and the profession across the state.

Very sincerely yours,

Aaron Ray, AICP
President, OAPA Board of Directors
president@oregonapa.org
Members Served 960 (-7% from ’19-’20)
Board Members 20
Committees 10
Volunteers 116
Staff 2 (part-time)
Revenue $177,756
Expenses $167,268
Events* 29
Event Attendees 1,167

*Five events cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19, including one in Southern Oregon.

40% of membership is outside of Portland Metro. Another 4% live outside Oregon. 12 events (41%) were online, accessible to members statewide.

Aaron Ray, AICP
Port of Portland
President
president@oregonapa.org

John David (JD) Tovey III, AICP
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Vice President

Kirsten Tilleman, AICP
WSP USA
Immediate Past President

Matthew Davis, AICP
Architectural Resources Group
Secretary

Serah Breakstone, AICP
Otak
Treasurer

Nancy Ferber, AICP
CREST
Board Member-At-Large

Maria Harris, AICP
City of Ashland
Board Member-At-Large

Karl Lisle, AICP
City of Portland
Board Member-At-Large/Membership Chair

Dana Nichols
City of Bandon
Board Member-At-Large

Brad Bennington
Jackson County, County Planning Commission Representative

Brent Bybee
City of The Dalles, City Planning Commission Representative

Li Alligood, AICP
Otak, Inc.
Professional Development Officer pdo@oregonapa.org

Brian Campbell, FAICP
Planning Consultant
Education and Outreach Chair

Dani Schulte
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Emerging Planners Group Chair

Damian Syrnyk, AICP
City of Bend
Legislative and Policy Affairs Chair

Josh Williams, AICP
City of Gresham
Communication Chair

Rebecca Lewis, PhD
University of Oregon
Faculty Liaison

Greg Schrock, PhD
Portland State University
Faculty Liaison

Genevieve Middleton
University of Oregon Student Rep

Kenny Werth
Portland State University Student Rep

STAFF
Stephanie Kennedy
Chapter Administrator oapa@oregonapa.org

Susan Millhauser
Program and Policy Coordinator susan@oregonapa.org

 Expenses

Revenue

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

- Membership
- Communications
- EPC
- EOC
- Membership Outreach
- Officers and Board

- PDC Events
- Conference
- Gen. Admin
- LPAC
- Other-Grants & Mission
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

11 Committee members • 6 Events • 4 Webinars • 4 Book groups • 523 Participants • 2 Event scholarships • 29.25 AICP CM credits, including 4.25 Law and 1.5 Ethics • 14 AICP Members • 3 AICP Candidates • 1 AICP exam fee scholarship

Events included the Legal Issues Workshop, December 2019, Portland; Planners Network Meetings with evening Planning Commission Trainings, in cooperation with Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development; a mobile workshop; book group discussions; AICP exam prep offerings; and webinars.

PDC members organized a webinar for the Planning Webcast Consortium Series: Making Room for Middle Housing: HB 2001 and Lessons from Oregon, with 432 attendees from across the U.S. (not included in the above participant count). OAPA's participation in the Consortium afforded members free access to 30 webinars offering 45 AICP CM credits.

Planners Network Meetings
Central Oregon
September 2019, The Dalles
Willamette Valley
January 2020, Mid-Willamette Valley COG, Salem
Two PNMs, Southern Oregon and Portland Metro, were cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19.

Webinars
Making Room for Middle Housing
November 2019
Planning for Pollinators in the Pacific Northwest
February 2020
Parking Reform–The How and Why
May 2020
Virtual Planning Tools with APA NorCal Chapter
June 2020

Book Group Discussions
July 2019, February & April 2020; October 2019, Eugene

Campus Planning Workshop
September 2019, Portland
This multi-modal mobile workshop focused on the unique urban environments of OHSU's and PSU's campuses, including ADA accessibility, transportation demand management, institutional partnerships, new construction, public spaces, and pop-up interventions.

AICP Exam Prep
Trivia Night and Live Q&A Sessions, with EPG
October 2019
Demystifying the AICP Exam, with PSU Planning Club
February 2020

College of Fellows of AICP (FAICP) & American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
Congratulations to the following FAICP Inductee, AICP Members, and AICP Candidates:

Scot Siegel, FAICP
John Arroyo, AICP
Erik Bertram, AICP
Brian Davis, AICP
Jennifer Dimsho, AICP
Gwendolyn Farley-Campbell, AICP
Zechariah Heck, AICP
Dylan Huber-Heidorn, AICP Candidate
Jamin Kimmell, AICP
Elizabeth Lafleur, AICP
Anais Mathez, AICP
Caroline Mellor, AICP Candidate
Eric Mongan, AICP Candidate
Laurie Oliver, AICP
Mark Raggett, AICP
Daniel Rutzick, AICP
Ian Sisson, AICP
Melissa Slotemaker, AICP

FAICP recognizes planners for the extraordinary work they do in service of the profession and the communities they serve. AICP Candidates are AICP Candidate Pilot Program participants who passed the AICP Certification Exam and are eligible to apply for AICP Certification after completing the required number of CM credits and years of professional planning experience.
EMERGING PLANNERS GROUP

11 Committee members • 13 Events • 242 Participants • 25 Mentorship matches

EPG kept busy with its successful Mentorship Program and a variety of in-person and virtual gatherings, including networking opportunities, educational events, and AICP exam prep.

Eastern Oregon Main Street 2nd Story Tour
August 2019

EPG and PSU MURP Happy Hour
September 2019

Lunch and Learn: 1000 Friends of Oregon
November 2019

First Tuesday Happy Hour
February & March 2020

Lunch and Learn: Metro Habitat Connectivity Group
February 2020

Eastern Oregon Wine Country Planning with Wine!
March 2020

Virtual Happy Hour & Podcast Discussion
April & May 2020

AICP Exam Prep Trivia Night via Zoom!
June 2020

Mentorship Kick-Off Event
January 2020

Mentorship Mid-Program Event: Speed Informational Interviewing
May 2020

Mentorship Finale: Virtual Trivia Night
June 2020

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION GROUP

20 Committee members • 1 Charter • 4 Committee liaisons • 1 retreat • 1 Survey • 1 Training program proposal

DEIG, formed in 2019, works across the organization to integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies into OAPA’s offerings, advocacy, and operations. Successes in 2019-2020 included:

• Developing a charter, identifying co-chairs and committee liaisons, and crafting a work plan.
• Organizing equity focused sessions at the 2019 Annual Planning Conference and coordinating the Legal Issues Workshop ethics session.
• Developing a facilitated anti-racism listening session for Board and Committee volunteers, in conjunction with Board leadership.

Additionally, the Board and Committees continued to integrate and address equity, inclusion, and racial justice, and members participated in training via the Nonprofit Association of Oregon’s Equity and Inclusion Leaders Network.

COMMUNICATING, CONNECTING, PLANNING

OAPA communicates with members and the public through a twice a month email newsletter, webpage and blog, the Oregon Planners Network listserv, and social media. Follow @OR_APA on Twitter, @APAOregon on Facebook and Instagram, and @OregonAPA on LinkedIn!

At the Annual Business Meeting, during the October 2019 Planning Conference, members received an update on the past year, including an overview of diversity, equity, and inclusion activities and plans, and provided feedback on what’s going well, what we can do better, and what’s missing.

At its January 2020 Annual Retreat, the Board heard updates from Committees, checked in on the Strategic Plan, and held a round-table discussion on programming.

A spring 2020 Member Survey focused on COVID-19 to help understand how the daily work of planners in Oregon changed, what that meant for OAPA membership and events, and what content respondents were interested in.
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

30 Members • 1 Retreat • 1 Legislative Priorities document • 1 Policy Priorities & Strategies document • 9 Bills tracked • 8 Letters • 1 Webinar with 52 participants • 1 AICP CM credit • 3 Newsletter articles

LPAC tracks and comments on legislation, policy discussions, and State rulemaking. In 2020 the Oregon Legislature met for a short session and LPAC submitted testimony on bills related to greenhouse gas emissions and urban growth boundary expansion.

LPAC also weighed in on State policy and rulemaking, including letters to:
- Land Conservation and Development Commission and the Department of Land Conservation and Development relating to greenhouse gas emissions reduction;
- Oregon Housing and Community Services relating to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment Scope of Work; and
- State Chief Building Official about single-family dwelling conversions and Building Codes Division Rulemaking.

At the federal level, the Chapter advocated for the Transportation Infrastructure Act Reauthorization, with a letter to Representative Peter DeFazio, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Bills tracked, testimony and letters submitted, and the Chapter’s Legislative and Policy Priorities are available on the OAPA website.

An LPAC member attended the annual APA State Legislative Summit in Richmond, VA, in December 2019.

Newsletter articles provided a 2020 legislative preview, an overview of Governor Brown’s Executive order to address climate pollution in Oregon, and COVID-19 information for planners at the city, county, state, and federal level.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

7 Committee members • 6 Awards

**Distinguished Leadership: Lifetime Achievement**
Bob Parker, AICP; Lidwien Rahman

**Betty Niven Award for Distinguished Leadership (in Affordable Housing Advocacy)**
czbLLC and the Housing Action Team (HAT) – Coos County Housing Analysis & Action Plan

**Professional Achievement in Planning**
City of Hillsboro – Comprehensive Plan

**Public Involvement and Participation**
Cornelius Town Center Plan and Urban Renewal Plan

**Student Achievement in Planning**
Thread Community Planning, Portland State University, Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning – Reside Vancouver: An Anti-Displacement Plan

The 2019 webinar included presenters from OAPA, League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties, and DLCD
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

13 Members • 2 Podcasts with 201 total downloads • Urban Design Panel presentations

**Pints with Planners** podcasts included:
- **Urbanism Next – New Mobility and Emerging Technologies**, with Becky Steckler, AICP; April 2020
- **Perspectives on Planning from a 50 Year Career**, with Adrian Freund, FAICP, May 2020.

Downloads included listeners from the UK, Canada, Singapore, and Australia.


UDP is a collaboration of OAPA, AIA Oregon, and ASLA Oregon with monthly presentations from the planning and design community on major development projects or public policy issues with significant urban design implications. UDP is coordinated by an Executive Committee composed of two members from each organization’s Oregon chapter.

The annual NW Youth Careers Expo was cancelled due to COVID-19.

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In Memoriam: Adrian Freund, FAICP

Adrian Freund passed away in May 2020. Known to many members, Adrian was an engaged and thoughtful volunteer on several committees and will be greatly missed. He served on the Education and Outreach and Legislative and Policy Affairs Committees and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group. Adrian spearheaded Community Planning Month recognition of communities doing great planning, engaged youth at the NW Youth Career Expo, attended APA’s first annual Policy and Advocacy Conference on OAPA’s behalf, tracked federal policy making, and organized conference sessions, among other activities. Prior to his passing, he was interviewed for a Pints with Planners podcast.

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

12 Committee members • 350 Attendees • 33 Sessions • 3 Mobile workshops • 1 Opening general session • 1 Keynote speaker • 1 Reception • 1 Pub crawl • 50.75 AICP CM credits • Student exhibits

The 2019 Annual Planning Conference was held in Eugene. The Future of Oregon: Leaders Share Their Vision for the Next Generation opening general session set the tone (top left); conference sessions engaged and informed (bottom left and right); and poster exhibits provided an opportunity for University of Oregon and Portland State University students to showcase their work (top right).