

GPA 2007 FALL CONFERENCE – A Record Breaking Event

The GPA 2007 Fall Conference was a historic event, drawing a record-breaking 317 registered attendees. The event was held on September 19 to 21 at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront; the conference location highlighted historic Savannah and the schedule provided ample opportunity to learn and network.

The conference featured 43 breakout sessions in five tracks – Environmental Planning & Sustainable Development, Transportation Planning, Comprehensive Planning & Quality Growth, Data & Technology, and Professional Development – dispersed over three days. Four mobile workshops were offered, including bus tours of LEED development projects and urban redevelopment sites, a trolley tour of the historic district, and boat tour focusing on coastal development. In addition to the regular conference training events, two special training opportunities were offered. The Planning Officials Track - a one day track tailored to the elected and appointed officials who make planning and zoning recommendations and decisions - was held for the second consecutive year and was attended by 40 planning officials from around the state. For the first time, pre-conference training was offered with two sessions from The Carl Vinson Institute of Government on Building Professional Relationships and Leadership From Where You Are.

Special events included a variety of plenary sessions, receptions, and closing lunch.

The opening plenary session featured “Planners Feud”. Modeled after the classic Family Feud game show, Planners Feud examined the perceptions of the planning profession from the viewpoint of various groups. Prior to the conference, a survey was conducted that polled elected officials, planning commissioners, developers, citizens, and students about what they think of planning. In a lighthearted look at our profession, teams competed in the Planners Feud to reveal the results of the survey.

The opening reception was held in the atrium of the Savannah Marriott Riverfront. The reception included a traditional southern low country boil with live local music from Boomerang.

A Thursday afternoon plenary presentation was made by our APA Region II Director Carol Rhea. Ms Rhea’s presentation took a humorous look at our planning profession and provided an update on the American Planning Association regional and national programs.

This plenary session led into the Annual Membership Meeting featuring the installation of your new GPA officers and recognition of outgoing officers.

The annual Awards Lunch was held on Friday and provided an opportunity for planners

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NOW HIRING!

GPA Executive Director

Duties: assisting VP for Programs with conference arrangements and registrations; assisting Professional Development Officer with AICP exam review events; work with District Directors to organize District events; plus other duties.

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GEORGIA PLANNING MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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APA DESIGNATES BULL STREET

APA has singled out Bull Street as one of this year’s 10 Great Streets in America for the historic architecture and craftsmanship, diversity of uses, and integration of a variety of transportation alternatives – as well as the commitment of Savannah to preserve the street’s legacy.

...read more p. 9

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PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Congratulations to Rob LeBeau and his committee on a fabulous conference in Savannah! As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter, the conference set attendance records and participants were able to take advantage of more than 40 sessions on a wide range of topics, in addition to mobile workshops and social events. Thanks to all the organizers and attendees for making the conference a big success. We’re all looking forward to next year’s event, even bigger and better, in Augusta. Mark your calendars for October 1-3, 2008.

The Savannah conference also marked the official start of your new Board of Directors, listed in the columns. Sincere thanks to outgoing Board members who gave tirelessly of their time and energies to make the past two years such a success for the Chapter: Debbie Miness, Stanford Harvey, Glenn Coyne, Bill Drummond, Kip Padgett, Phil Clark, Mark Wilkes, and Kenwin Hayes.

Over the last two years we’ve made great strides, including a complete redesign of the website and newsletter, increased visibility generally in Georgia and with our sister professional organizations, introduction of divisions at the chapter level, four successful conferences, numerous planners’ lunches and district events, and a very successful introduction of AICP’s Certification Maintenance program. This year’s board has big shoes to fill, and we had a good start in Savannah. Priorities for the next year will include:

- Continued rollout of the AICP Certification Maintenance Program. We will continue to offer qualifying courses at GPA conferences, and Professional Development Officer Gary Cornell has begun to work with other providers around the state. This is a big job and Gary really needs the help of all of us in identifying providers and working with them to get certified. Those who attended sessions at the annual conference in Savannah can register their credits soon on the APA website—starting October 25.
- Continued development of and emphasis on chapter divisions. If you haven’t done so, please log on to www.georgiaplanning.org and register for a division. This is a great way to network and learn more about best planning practices around the state. Divisions established so far are: Zoning Administration; Diversity in Planning; Economic Development; Environment, Natural Resources & Energy; Information Technology; Small Town & Rural Planning; Transportation Planning; Urban Design & Preservation; and Housing & Community Development. If you are interested in leading a division on a different topic, by all means let me know and we can set it up.
- Because of our increased membership with the attendant increased activities and administrative duties, the board has authorized the President to hire a part-time Executive Director. Our goal is to have this person in place January 1, 2008. Please see the “Now Hiring” article on page 3 for all the details.

I’m excited about our future and look forward to working with all the members to make GPA serve you. As always, we can only do it with your help, so please consider volunteering your time with programs, membership activities, legislative affairs, or whatever else might be of interest to you.

Ellen Heath, AICP
President, Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association



NOW HIRING – GPA Executive Director

The membership of the Georgia Chapter of APA voted at the Spring Conference in 2007 to increase dues by \$10 annually with the intention of hiring an Executive Director. GPA has grown to 1,050 members and requires substantial volunteer effort to maintain the website, distribute newsletters hold two annual conferences and other special events. An Executive Director will help the GPA Board and members better interact and progress planning for our state. Below you will find the advertisement for this new position with GPA.

GPA is seeking a part-time Executive Director. This will be a contract position and the candidate will provide office space and computer. Candidates should be computer literate, have oral and written communication skills, be able to travel to state conferences as needed and provide minor bookkeeping. Fundraising experience is helpful. The preferred candidate will have some knowledge of growth and planning issues but it is not necessary. The number of hours may fluctuate during the year, but we are budgeting approximately half-time over the year at \$20-25 per hour, as well as travel expenses. The candidate will report directly to the President of GPA. Duties will include: assisting treasurer with invoice management and bookkeeping; assisting VP for Programs with conference arrangements and registrations; assisting Professional Development Officer with AICP exam review events; work with District Directors to organize District events; and other duties. Please contact Ellen Heath or Dan Reuter for more information, or submit a resume to ellen.heath@edaw.com. ■

GPA 2007 FALL CONFERENCE *(continued from p. 1)*

to hear about the innovative and quality planning undertaken around the state over the last year. The lunch also featured a keynote address from Bob Hunter, FAICP, President of the American Planning Association. Mr. Hunter’s keynote address was on “Pots & Pans, Politics and Planning”, discussing the national scene and why we as planners need to engage our elected/appointed officials.

The success of this conference was due to the efforts of many people. Special appreciation goes out to our sponsors – ARCADIS, Brick SouthEast, BRPH, Carter Burgess, Jordan Jones & Goulding, Kennedy Ragsdale & Associates, Kimley-Horn & Associates, MACTEC, Pond & Company, Prosser Hallock, RS&H, Ross + associates, Savannah Development and Renewal Authority, Southeaster Engineering, Tunnell Spangler Walsh, Vinyl Siding Institute – who provided financial support to help keep the conference economical for all attendees. Thanks also to the conference local host committee, session organizers, programs committee, and numerous speakers that volunteered their time. Finally, thanks to all the conference attendees for supporting your Georgia Planning Association and advancing the interest of the planning profession by participating in the conference. ■

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Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association 2007 ANNUAL AWARDS

The Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) presented the 2007 Awards during their Fall Conference in Savannah, GA on September 21, 2007. The GPA Awards Program is an opportunity to recognize the outstanding planning work undertaken around the state. This year, we received 34 nominations in 11 categories from 21 different communities. We were pleased to honor 10 communities with an award for their excellent work in planning.

An awards committee reviewed each application based on the following criteria:

- **Innovation** of concept
- **Transferability** to other areas or projects
- **Quality** of thought, analysis and character
- Effectiveness of, or promise for, **Implementation**
- **Comprehensiveness** of principles observed

OUTSTANDING PLANNING DOCUMENT (POPULATION UNDER 15,000) **CHEROKEE COUNTY FOR THE BELLS FERRY LCI COMMUNITY DESIGN GUIDELINES**

- Document built upon the 2005 LCI plan completed for the corridor.
- Created a regulating plan of consistent principles for good urban design and attractive development to encourage investment.
- Guidelines were developed upon the Cherokee County Traditional Neighborhood Development ordinance.
- Evaluated the existing conditions, created the regulating plan, and created the general standards for development.
- Guidelines include standards for streetscapes, architecture, the environment, signage, and parking.



Ellen Heath, GPA President; Caleb Racicot, Tunnell Spangler Walsh; Jeff Watkins, Cherokee County; Margaret Stallings, Cherokee County; Bob Hunter, APA President

OUTSTANDING PLAN DOCUMENT (POPULATION OVER 15,000) **HENRY COUNTY FOR THE JOINT HENRY COUNTY/CITIES COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**



- Created a coordinated short, medium and long range future for transportation needs in Henry County.
- Plan includes Henry County, and the Cities of McDonough, Locust Grove, and Hampton.
- Plan consolidates the transportation needs and policies for the county and cities.
- Plan development included a substantial public outreach campaign.
- Plan coordinates future land use and transportation goals in a fast growing region.

Ellen Heath, GPA President; Cheri Hobson-Matthews, Henry County; Whitney Shephard, RS&H; Bob Hunter, APA President

INNOVATIVE AND EFFECTIVE PLANNING PROCESS (POPULATION UNDER 15,000) **CITY OF SUWANEE FOR THE MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT**



- Provided an analysis of the effectiveness of implementing the Comprehensive Plan 2020 goals for mixed use development.
- Provided a critical analysis of the nine mixed use developments approved since 2000.
- Evaluated the communities based upon their sense of community, sense of place, consistency with the design guidelines, and meeting the goals and strategies of the comprehensive plan.
- Assessment found excellent progress toward goals and made suggestions of changes to procedures.

Ellen Heath, GPA President; Josh Campbell, City of Suwanee; Bob Hunter, APA President

INNOVATIVE AND EFFECTIVE PLANNING PROCESS (POPULATION OVER 15,000) **CHATHAM COUNTY – SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION AMENITIES PLAN AND CONTEXT SENSITIVE DESIGN MANUAL**

- Established policies and tools to protect scenic corridors and ensure future road projects are in concert with community values.
- Project began as a response to public outcry over excessive tree canopy loss on road construction projects.
- Planning team brought in experts from around the country to educate and participate in the public meeting process.
- Plan has already resulted in positive changes to local road projects and tree restoration.



Back Row: Mark Wilkes, MPC Transportation Director; Helen Stone, Chatham County District One Commissioner; Robert Hunter, President of APA. Front Row: Ellen Heath, President of GPA; Wykoda Wang, MPC; Jane Love, MPC; and Paul Moore of Glatting Jackson.

OUTSTANDING PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (POPULATION OVER 15,000) **CITY OF SAVANNAH FOR THE WEST SAVANNAH REVITALIZATION PLAN**



- Plan goals include an opportunity-rich neighborhood that serves the needs of the current and new residents.
- Plan grew out of a wide range of collaborative planning by neighborhood residents, business leaders, politicians, and local agencies.
- Plan has begun a successful implementation by utilizing a short term work program detailing project goals through 2009.

Ron Mallis, Goody Clancy; Allynne Tosca Owens, City of Savannah; Otis Johnson, Mayor of Savannah

OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL TOOL (POPULATION UNDER 15,000)
CITY OF CALHOUN FOR THE HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES



- Guidelines serve as a handbook to delineate appropriate and inappropriate development within the historic district.
- Guidelines include extensive architectural definitions, photographs and sketches of appropriate design.
- Explains the value of local preservation and the importance of plan review.
- Includes a section to educate the community on available financial and technical assistance.

Suzanne Roland; Bob Hunter, APA President

CREATIVE USE OF THE PLANNING PROCESS (POPULATION UNDER 15,000)
CITY OF HAPEVILLE FOR THE FORD 2020 REDEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN



- Animated video presentation of a 3-D model.
- The property of the closed Ford plant was rezoned for mixed use.
- Staff created the movie to demonstrate goals for the site.
- The 3-D modeling allowed for careful consideration of density and FAA height limits.
- Perspectives from fly-through, drive-through, and walk-through.

Ellen Heath, GPA President; Chris Montesinos, City of Hapeville; Bob Hunter, APA President

OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL TOOL (POPULATION OVER 15,000)
ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD NOTIFICATION INITIATIVE

- Local tool emails anyone interested in a project within a registered neighborhood area.
- Projects include zoning actions, plan review of five or more lots, variances, special uses, and certificates of appropriateness.
- Organized neighborhood groups register their special interest area.
- Neighborhood areas are mapped and approved by the Mayor and Commission.
- Anyone may sign up for an area’s email list, regardless of residency.
- Email list will receive updates on new projects submitted for consideration.



Ellen Heath, GPA President; Lara Mathes, Athens-Clarke County; Bob Hunter, APA President

CREATIVE USE OF THE PLANNING PROCESS (POPULATION OVER 15,000)
CITY OF ATLANTA FOR THE AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Document provides the City with comprehensive view of the need and a tool to make planning and budgeting decisions.
- Key priorities of the plan include clearly defining a need, development of a target policy, creation of an inclusionary housing ordinance, and establishing a housing opportunity fund and a land assemblage financing program.
- Plan is comprehensive in scope and required the input of multiple disciplines and specialties.

Ellen Heath, GPA President; Steve Cover, City of Atlanta; Terri Lee, City of Atlanta; James Shelby, City of Atlanta; Bob Hunter, APA President



OUTSTANDING STUDENT PROJECT
CITY REASSEMBLY: WHEN THE AUTO PLANT CLOSES



- Plan focused on redevelopment opportunities for the GM plant in Doraville.
- Class members include Susan Cohn, Marc Dixon, Miguel Granier, Kenwin Hayes, Rick Liu, David Pierce and Samantha Singer.
- Plan calls for flexible and pedestrian-friendly subdivision of blocks and streets for the 150+ acre site with parks, a town center, and new housing.
- Plan has been presented to the City Council, the DeKalb-Doraville Blue Ribbon Commission, and has been featured on WSB-TV and the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Miguel Granier, Georgia Tech Student; John Skach, Georgia Tech Faculty

GPA Creates Georgia Planning Foundation

The Georgia Planning Association Board has authorized the creation of a 501(c)(3) charitable organization – the Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation – to receive and administer charitable contributions in memory of or in honor of Georgia planners. “The primary purpose of the Foundation is to raise and distribute funds to help with the education and ongoing professional development of planners, planning commissioners, or other persons in the state who work in or serve rural or poorer communities who would otherwise not be able to obtain such educational and professional development opportunities,” said GPA Board member David Kirk, whose law firm, Troutman Sanders LLP, is donating pro bono legal support to establish the Foundation. Other educational and charitable purposes for the fund may be authorized by its Board of Directors.

As part of the Foundation, the Board officially created a permanent memorial fund in the name of Denise Abboud in recognition of her contributions to GPA and to the planning profession in Georgia. The Fund will be dedicated to helping planners attend GPA conferences to expand their skills and professional knowledge, who otherwise could not afford it. “This is something Denise would have been particularly interested in pursuing –she strongly supported GPA reaching out to include everyone in its programs and offerings, and she made sure that practical, useful programs were always included in the many conferences she put together as GPA Vice President,” said her business partner, Bill Ross. “The Board committed an initial \$2,000 to fund Denise’s Memorial Fund,” said Dan Reuter, Immediate Past President, “and a challenge grant from a private party has been offered to match any contributions received from others.”

If you would like to contribute, send a check made out to the Georgia Planning Association (indicate Denise Abboud Memorial Fund in the memo line) and send it to Eric Bosman, GPA Treasurer, c/o Urban Collage, 84 Peachtree Street, Suite 300, Atlanta 30303. ■

WHAT THE HECK ARE APA DIVISIONS, ANYWAY?

By Dale R. Powers, AICP – Chair, Small Town and Rural Planning Division, American Planning Association

According to the odds of probability, approximately 4,000 APA members are in the process of renewing their membership. As you review your dues renewal form, you will see “Division Dues” and may wonder exactly what role Divisions have within the organization and what benefit there is in joining a Division. Unlike Chapters – of which membership is a mandatory requirement of maintaining your APA membership – being a member of a Division is optional.

So why should you join a Division? Is it worth the additional \$25.00 a year to your profession (and, perhaps more importantly, your employer) to join a Division?

The best way to describe the differences between a Chapter and a Division is that while Chapters are generalist in nature in serving the needs of members within a geographically-defined area, Divisions focus on the specializations of our profession, such as transportation planning, economic development, and urban design; creating a forum to discuss areas of interest unique to population-based groups of planners such as women, African-Americans, Latinos/Latinas, gays and lesbians, and Native Americans; and establishing a forum for the setting-based planners working in large cities and counties, as well as small towns and rural areas. While the focus of any one Division may be specialized, the scope is nationwide and global (especially true with the International Division). Division members share experiences with members throughout North America and the world, and the ideas learned are transferable to the situations each of us face on a daily basis.

As you scan the list of the 21 Divisions, you might be wondering what types of issues they are dealing with. Here is a small sample of these issues:

- The City Planning and Management Division just completed its 3rd peer consultation. Following up on its success for Atlanta and New Orleans, the Division sent a team of 3 experienced Directors to Jackson, MS to consult with local leaders, staff and clientele, reviewed the City’s operations and procedures and made recommendations on improvement.
- The Economic Development Division is presenting a ½-day “Economic Development Planning 101” training seminar at next year’s APA Conference in Las Vegas, designed for planners interested in this facet of planning or who want a refresher on the topic.
- The Federal Planning Division just completed its annual workshop, with 236 attendees, 29 exhibitors, and 28 breakout sessions.
- The Gays and Lesbians in Planning Division has addressed such issues as mapping safe neighborhoods, clear and concise

planning documents, neighborhood revitalization, retirement housing, and social equity.

- The Indigenous Planning Division is currently partnering with the Alaska APA Chapter to hold a joint conference on Indigenous Planning in Anchorage in the fall of 2008.
- The Planning and Women Division is in an exceptional position to influence the relationship of planning to women and to highlight outstanding women planners.
- The Small Town and Rural Planning Division is the first APA Chapter or Division to offer subsidies for AICP Division members to partially reimburse for the cost of maintaining the AICP certification.
- The Transportation Division is working on a number of initiatives, including the Airports Committee and tracking pending. As well, the Division is developing a mentoring program and revitalizing its Policy Advisory Council that will provide expertise on a range of transportation-related topics.
- The Urban Design and Preservation Division hosts a nationwide Design Forum Series to engage planners and allied professionals in design oriented planning.

To conclude, before you complete your membership renewal, take another look at that bottom left corner of the application form directly right of this article and consider joining one or more Divisions. It is a simple task to hand-write the Divisions you want to join on the renewal form – and well worth the time and modest cost to do so. ■



CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGIANS PASSING AICP EXAM

The AICP Exam was held in May of this year and was taken by over 450 people nationally. We are proud to announce that 20 members of the Georgia Planning Association passed the exam this May. This is an important achievement given that the test is now administered twice a year. Our pass rate this year was the highest ever- 71% and for the first time in recent history, the pass rate for Georgia’s AICP candidates was higher than national average of 67%!! The next exam session will be held in November. For more information go to www.planning.org and visit the AICP link.

So here are our newest members of the American Institute of Certified Planners:

- Lynn Buffkin, AICP*
- Christopher Cole, AICP*
- Heather Colston, AICP*
- Teresa Concannon, AICP*
- Brantley Day, AICP*
- Jessica Dempsey Tullar, AICP*
- David Emory, AICP*
- Aaron Fortner, AICP*
- Jason Gaines, AICP*
- Anson Gock, AICP*
- Paul Grether, AICP*
- Jennifer Hunter, AICP*
- Jia Li, AICP*
- Jared Lombard, AICP*
- Ryan Madson, AICP*
- Julie McQueen, AICP*
- Jennifer Price, AICP*
- Holly Shiver, AICP*
- Betts Slingluff, AICP*
- Daniel Studdard, AICP*

APA DESIGNATES BULL STREET – ONE OF TEN GREAT STREETS IN AMERICA

The American Planning Association (APA) announced today that Bull Street in Savannah, GA, has been designated one of 10 Great Streets for 2007 through APA’s Great Places in America program. APA Great Places exemplify exceptional character and highlight the role planners and planning play in creating communities of lasting value. APA has singled out Bull Street as one of this year’s 10 Great Streets in America for the historic architecture and craftsmanship, diversity of uses, and integration of a variety of transportation alternatives – as well as the commitment of Savannah to preserve the street’s legacy.

“We’re honored that the American Planning Association has recognized Bull Street,” said Mayor Otis Johnson. “Savannah is preparing to celebrate its 275th anniversary and Bull Street exemplifies the rich history of our magnificent city,” he said. The portion of Bull Street nominated for this honor extends from City Hall to Forsyth Park. Most distinctive are the five public squares located along the street –two of which were included in the original plan for Savannah created by General James Edward Oglethorpe. In his unusual orthogonal plan, streets and building lots are arranged around a central open space. The repetitive street grid connects one neighborhood to another and one public square to the next.

See the Bull Street News Release on the GPA web site – www.georgiaplanning.org ■

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Georgia Chapter does not maintain address lists. All lists are maintained at the national office and are mailed to the local chapters each month. If you have moved, e-mail: addresschange@planning.org, go to Member Login at www.planning.org, or write to:
American Planning Association
97774 Eagle Way
Chicago, IL 60678-9770

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you are interested in joining GPA or the American Planning Association, contact the national headquarters at the address above or call (312) 431-9100 or visit their website at www.planning.org.

CONTACTS

Direct financial inquiries and address payments to the Treasurer. Direct questions about chapter records to the Secretary. Direct matters for the Board of Directors to the President. See mailing and email addresses inside.

SUBMISSION

The Georgia Planning Association welcomes articles, letters to the editor, photos of planning events or state happenings, calendar listings, job notices, planners on the move, etc. We are always interested in publishing items you think may be of interest to others throughout the state. Graphics are especially welcome. Articles may be edited for space. Articles printed in any issue of The Georgia Planner are not the expressed opinion of the Chapter.

DEADLINE

The deadline for the next issue is **November 30, 2007**.

Send items for the newsletter to:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - visit the website for the current events listing

November 1st	L'Enfant Lecture City Planning And Design	Chicago, IL	www.planning.org
November 2nd	Southface – Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable	Atlanta, GA	www.southface.org
November 5th – 19th	AICP Exam Window	TBA	TBA
November 7th – 10th	Atlanta on the Cutting Edge: New Models For Growth and Renewal	Atlanta, GA	www.theseasideinstitute.org
November 8th	Form Based Development Code for Cultural Heritage Tourism District Training	Warm Springs, GA	ceidson@dca.state.ga.us
November 9th	Transfer of Development Rights Implementation Class	Palmetto, GA	
November 13th – 17th	Congress of Cities and Exposition	New Orleans, LA	www.nlc.org



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American Planning Association
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