

PLANNERS NETWORK

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FOR AN AMERICA THAT WORKS

A Planners Network Conference
on Economic, Social and
Environmental Justice

May 20-22, 1994
4-H Conference Center
Washington, DC.

Our History:

For the past eighteen years the Planners Network has brought together professionals, activists, academics and students who are working to change our political and economic systems. We believe that planning should be a tool for achieving a more equitable distribution of wealth and power and for ensuring a healthier environment. Through our newsletter and conferences we have promoted the efforts of community activists and planners while adding a progressive voice to national debates. Among our members are activists from the environmental, civil rights, women's, labor, housing and neighborhood organizing movements.

New Challenges:

Changes in the global economy have caused serious economic, social and environmental problems. American corporations confronted by increasing international competition have resorted to pressuring workers for concessions, raising prices to consumers and pursuing government subsidies to maintain high profit levels. They have been supported in these efforts by the supply-side economic policies of the Reagan and Bush Administrations which redistributed wealth from poor and working class families to more affluent members of our society. One particularly damaging consequence of these economic changes and public policies has been the near collapse of many America's urban communities. Today, our cities combat increasing rates of poverty, homelessness, crime and substance abuse with limited resources.

Bill Clinton's election provides the nation with an opportunity to adopt new economic, social and environmental policies to improve the quality of life for those most hurt by globalization and the Reagan and Bush Administrations' domestic policies. Renewed national debates on economic growth, health care reform and public safety fostered by the Clinton Administration offer progressive planners the chance to make their voices heard on critical policy issues affecting low-income and working class Americans. While the new Administration has made several thoughtful domestic policy appointments and statements it has initiated little concrete action to address the serious problems facing America's cities.

Therefore, the Steering Committee of Planners Network is organizing a three-day national conference to bring together

progressive planners and their allies to explore innovative policies and programs aimed at promoting economic, social and environmental justice. The goals of the Conference are:

- 1.) To share information and experience regarding successful local, state and national efforts to promote progressive economic, social and environmental policies;
- 2.) To explore strategies to move local, state and national policy agendas in more progressive directions to improve the quality of life for low-income and working class families and to promote racial equality in all spheres of social life;
- 3.) To increase collaboration between progressives working in community organizations, governmental agencies, policy institutes and universities;
- 4.) To establish new vehicles for progressive planners to provide needed technical assistance to community-based empowerment and social change efforts;
- 5.) To increase the voice progressive planners have in the planning profession and in key policy-making arenas by increasing the active membership of Planners Network.

The Conference:

The Conference will explore progressive approaches to the issues of economic development, affordable housing, environmental justice, health care/social service delivery and community empowerment. Special attention will be given to role racism continues to play in frustrating coalition-building on these issues. The Conference will feature a keynote, four concurrent workshop sessions, a plenary, poster-board sessions, membership meeting, visits to community organizations and various cultural events. The Conference structure has been designed to encourage active participation by all attendees rather than formal presentations by select groups of outside experts. The Conference panels will be reflective of the diverse communities that are fighting for fundamental change of our economic and political system.

A. The Keynote-

The Conference will begin with a keynote address emphasizing the historic role progressive planners and thinkers have played in prompting government action to address the economic and social needs of low-income urban and rural communities. The keynote will highlight the role such individuals as Tugwell played in formulating the job creation legislation of the New Deal, Keyserling and Gross played in writing the Employment Act of 1940, Ohlin and Cloward played in crafting the 1964 Equal Opportunity Act. The keynoter will argue for the continued development of Planners Network as an action organization of progressive planners committed to supporting the empowerment efforts of community-based organizations and the enactment of radical policies and programs aimed at promoting economic, social and environmental justice.

The Conference Planning Committee identified the following individuals as possible keynoters: Johnnetta Cole, Cornell West, Manning Marable, Henry Cisneros and Roberta Achtenberg. Ann Forsyth has asked Peter Marcuse to assist in securing the services of one of these individuals as the keynote speaker.

B. Workshop Sessions-

The keynote will be followed by four sets of workshops organized into five issue tracks: economic development, affordable housing, environmental justice, health care/social service delivery and community organizing/participatory planning. There will be a total of twenty workshops each involving three to four presenters. Each presenter will be responsible for preparing brief comments aimed at identifying fundamental questions in each issue area. The presenters will seek to generate active discussion of related policy and program development topics through their remarks. Each workshop will have an audience of 40 to 60 participants.

The following section presents a preliminary list of proposed workshop sessions that the Conference Planning Committee has received. The Committee feels these individuals should be encouraged to present formal session proposals for review. Peg Seip and the New York City Planners Network group have agreed to review these submissions.

Track #1: Economic Development

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Contact/Participants</u>	<u>Affiliations</u>
Military Conversion Planning	Ann Markusen Catherine Hill Karen Salvatore Troy West	Rutgers Univ. Rutgers Univ. DOT Watch N.J. Institute of Tech.
Local Economic Development Planning	Rob Mier Bob Giloth Paula Sirola	U of Ill. at Chi. Casey Foundation Women's Economic Development
NAFTA's Impact	Judy Kossy Carol Zabin Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda	SUNY Buffalo UCLA UCLA
The Privatization Movement at Home and Abroad	Peter Marcuse Elliott Sclar A. Rofman	Columbia Univ. Columbia Univ. Natl. Council. for Scientific and Tech. Research (Argentina)
Promoting and Funding Sustainable Development	Bruce Rosen Sarah Richardson Joanne Landy Lynn E. Browne	NYC National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy Campaign for Peace and Democracy Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Economic Literacy and Popular
Education

Gilda Haas

UCLA

Urban Food Policies

Jac Smit

Urban Agricultural
Network

Track #2: Affordable Housing

Preserving Our Public Housing
Stock

Mitch Kahn

N.J. Tenants' Organ.

Community-Based Housing
Development Organizations

Ron Shiffman
Allan Heskin
Neal Richman

Pratt Institute
UCLA
UCLA

Residential Segregation/Desegregation

Tony Schuman
Mel King
- Peter Dreier
Paul Tegeler

NJ Institute of Tech.
MIT
Occidental College
NLIHC

Community Reinvestment

- Ann B. Shlay
- Howard Goldstein
Chuck Finn

Temple Univ.
Ctr. for Comm. Change
HHHI, Univ. of MN.

Creating a Coherent Natl. Housing Policy

- Peter Dreier
Emily Achtenberg
Chester Hartman
John Atlas

Occidental College

PRRAC
NHI

Track #3: Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice/ Racism: People of Color Environmental Summit

- ~ Vernice Miller
- ~ Connie Tucker
- ~ Tom Goldtooth
- ~ Hazel Johnson

NY Envir. Just. Alliance
Southwest Network
Indigenous Envir. Net.
People for Community
Recovery

Ecologically Sustainable Transportation

- ~ Tom Angotti
- ~ Jon Orcutt
- ~ Michael Replogle
- ~ John Holtzclaw
- ~ Harriet Parcells

Local Mass Trans.
NY Tranp. Altern.
Envir. Defense Fund
Berkeley Activists
Natl. Alliance of Rail
Passengers

Organizing for a Healthier Environment

- ~ Eddie Bautista
- ~ Nina Laboy
- ~ Louis Acosta
- ~ Dr. George Jiminez
- ~ Margery Moore

NY Lawyers for Public
Interest
Bronx Clean Air Coal.
El Puente
Bellevue Occup. Health
Comm. Envir. Health
Center

Urban Environmentalism

- ~ Robert Collin
- Robert Gottlieb
- Stephanie Pincetl

Oregon State
UCLA
UCLA

Minority Part. in Environ. Planning

Joseph Lee
Eileen McCurdy
Eliza Husband

U. of Ill. C-U
U. of Ill. C-U
U. of Ill. C-U

Track #4: Health/Social Service Delivery

Clinton's Health Care Reform Plan

Robb Burlage

Seton Hall Univ.

AIDS: Impact and Responses

Gwen Urey

Cornell University

Meeting the Health Care Needs of Low-Income Families

Peg Seip

Bronx Health Plan

Track #5: Community Organizing/Participatory Planning

Planning in Distressed Communities

Ken Reardon
Michael Lanz

U of Ill. (E. St. Louis)
Rutgers U. (Camden)

Planning and Organizing in New Immigrant Communities

Richard Tardanico

Florida Atlantic U.

Planning in Latino/a Communities

Luis Aponte

NYC Center for Puerto
Rican Affairs

Reflections of Equity Planners

Norm Krumholz

Cleveland State

Planning by Community-Based Organizations

Jordan Yin
Teresa Cordova

Detroit Shoreway CDC
Univ. of New Mexico

**Feminist Perspectives on Planning
Priorities and Practice**

Jackie Leavitt
Marsha Ritzdorf
Ruth Yabes

UCLA
Virginia Tech.
Arizona State

**How to Raise a Progressive
Family**

Donna Dyer

Orange Community
Housing Corp.

A fifth workshop session session will be reserved for local/regional meetings and/or sessions on specific topics of interest identified by Conference attendees. This session is labeled Self-Organized Workshops in the schedule that follows.

C. The Plenary-

The Conference's plenary session will examine the Clinton Administration's economic policies. An initial speaker will summarize the Administration's emerging economic policy initiatives. Three respondents will then discuss how these economic policies might be pushed in more progressive directions. Bill Goldsmith and Edward Blakely will be asked to organize this session. Bill has indicated a willingness to serve as a convenor and/or respondent for this session.

D. Poster-Board Sessions-

Two thirty minute poster-board sessions will be held during which time representatives of local and national organizations can discuss their ongoing organizational activities with small groups of interested members. Sessions might also be organized on specific planning techniques and innovative uses of technology. Longer presentations will be made possible by organizing presentations which extend through both poster-board sessions.

E. Annual Membership Meeting-

A membership meeting will be held during the Conference to approve a concrete work program for the year and to elect individuals to an expanded Steering Committee for the organization.

F. Cultural Events-

An evening of music, sing-a-long and dancing led by members will follow dinner on Saturday. A special tour of the Holocaust Museum will take place on Sunday afternoon.

The Overall Conference Schedule:

Friday, May 20, 1994

9:00	Registration- continues all day!
10:00-	Visit to selected area community groups
2:00	
3:00	Concurrent Workshop Session I
5:00	Dinner
7:00	Keynote Address, "The Challenges Facing Progressive Planners and Planners Network in 1994."

Saturday, May 21, 1994

7:00	Breakfast
8:00	Concurrent Workshop Session II
10:00	Self-Organized Workshop Session
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Concurrent Workshop Session III
2:30	Concurrent Workshop Session IV
4:30	Poster-Board Session I
5:00	Poster-Board Session II
5:30	Dinner
7:00	Plenary Session I, "Pursuing Economic Justice in a Global Economy: What Should Progressive Planners Do?"
9:00	Cultural Event

Sunday, May 22, 1994

7:00	Breakfast
8:00	Planners Network Annual Meeting
10:00	Planners Network Organizing Session, "Building a Base for Progressive Change: PN's 1994 Political Program."
11:30	Lunch
2:00	Visit to Holocaust Museum

Organizing the Conference:

The Conference Planning Committee has developed the following work plan for the event.

- 12/20 Draft Conference Proposal will be forwarded to the PN Steering Committee, Rhode Island Group, ACSP Meeting Volunteers and Newsletter Respondents for 1.) general comments and suggestions, 2.) workshop suggestions and panelists, 3.) ideas for others to involve in the Conference, and 4.) specific commitments to organize local participation. Conference ideas and suggestions should be sent to Ken Reardon by Wednesday, January 12, 1994.
- 1/3 Copy for next newsletter announcement on the Conference should be forwarded to Bob Beauregard and Prentice Bowsher. The front panel announcement (1/3 page) and PN Special Feature must be prepared. Ann Forsyth volunteered to prepare the front panel and Ken Reardon agreed to prepare the Special Feature.
- 1/3 Workshop Proposal Form mailed to those individuals whose names had been mentioned as possible workshop organizers or presenters. Peg Seip will send these out.
- 1/12 Comments on the proposal should be forwarded to the Conference Planning Committee. Meanwhile, outreach should begin regarding additional workshop and poster-board session participants.

- 1/19 Conference Planning Committee forwards final proposal to Planners Network Steering Committee for review and final approval.
- 1/21 Initial Conference Flyer should be prepared for mailing to all members of Steering Committee, Rhode Island Group, ACSP Volunteers, Newsletter Respondents as well as the extended PN Mailing List.
- 2/1 Workshop Proposals reviewed by New York Planners Network group for final inclusion in the Conference Program.
- 2/1 Conference announcements placed in as many publications/electronic bulletin boards as possible. Early Registration by March 15th encouraged.
- 2/15 Keynote, plenary presenters, workshop and poster-board session participants confirmed.
- 2/28 Final Conference Program Brochure prepared and mailed to extended PN mailing list.
- 3/7 Deadline for Pre-Conference PN Newsletter Submissions.
- 3/20 Early Registration deadline.
- 4/4 Confirm final logistical plans for the Conference (i.e. rooms, meals, equipment, services required).
- 4/20 Final Registration deadline (postmark date). We may wish to accept late registrations if the 4-H Conference Center has some flexibility.

Selecting Workshop and Poster Sessions:

The New York City Planners Network Group will be responsible for reviewing all workshop and poster-board session proposals for the Conference and making final decisions regarding the number, content and participants in each of these sessions.

Conference Decision-Making:

The Conference Planning Committee (Peg Seip, Teresa Cordova, Ann Forsyth and Ken Reardon) is prepared to make final revisions in the Conference Proposal based on feedback from the Steering Committee, Rhode Island Group, ACSP Volunteers and Newsletter Respondents. It is also prepared to produce the copy for the initial Conference Announcement Flyer and Conference Brochure. The Committee believes that final decisions regarding the Conference program should be made by the existing Steering Committee with input from other interested Planners Network members. The Committee hopes all members of Planners Network will assist in organizing local participation in the 1994 Conference.

Final Comment:

The Planning Committee welcomes additional feedback on the Conference Proposal! Please forward your ideas to Ken Reardon, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 907 1/2 W. Nevada Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801, 217-244-5384 (phone), 217-244-1717 (fax) or e-mail KMJR@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu by January 12th.

Draft 1/8/94