

Planners Network



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Please send in your updates to newsletter@plannersnetwork.org. Send in news about yourself and your work, notices about jobs, events, publications, and grants of interest to progressive planners (maximum 100 words please). Have a message or opinion you want to get out? Write it up (maximum 250 words; longer pieces may be considered for the magazine) and send them in as well.

PN NEWS

Young Planners Network (YPN) News

Since attending at the 2007 Planners Network Conference in New Orleans, the Young Planners Network (YPN) has continued to build a system of local and national support for young planners and their adult allies, and integrate young people into the field of planning. There are currently four chapters of the YPN – New York, New Orleans, Chicago, and the Bay Area – and our monthly conference calls have proven to be quite productive!

Thus far, our efforts have been focused on creating local YPN chapters, composing our statement of purpose, nominating and electing steering committee representatives (go Meredith and Cornell!), and planning our 2008 YPN Conference in New York City. We look forward to continued participation in the Planners Network, and will continue submitting updates from local chapters and the national network each month.

If you would like to contact the Young Planners Network, or get on our listserv, please email us at yjn@plannersnetwork.org . You can also check us out on the PN website, at http://www.plannersnetwork.org/chapters_events/youth.html Thanks!

Mandana Nouri-Nekoei, who recently completed the B.A. Honours in Urban Planning at Concordia University (Montreal, Canada), is the new co-editor of the PN E-newsletter. She is joining Jason Blackman and is replacing Guillaume Neault. The Editorial Board would like to welcome Mandana, and to thank Guillaume for all his great work over the last two years.

PN Individual Member Directory!

Did you know that you could access a directory with all individual PN members? All you have to do is visit <http://www.plannersnetwork.org/join/directory.html> . The directory is password protected, so you will need the password that can be found on your Progressive Planning Magazine mailing label.

PN MEMBER UPDATES

From PNER Prakash M. Apte:

I have been appointed as a Short Term Consultant to the staff of the World Bank Group in India till June 2008. Visit my Home Page at <http://www.angelfire.com/indie/pmapte>

From PNER Clara Irazábal:

In the remainder months of 2007, Clara Irazábal will be publishing five articles that include comparative and transnational perspectives: “Kitsch is Dead, Long Live Kitsch: The Production of *Hyperkitsch* in Las Vegas” (*Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*); “Neighborhoods in the Lead: Grassroots Planning for Social Transformation in Post-Katrina New Orleans?” (*Planning Practice & Research*, with Jason Neville); “Urban Design as a Catalyst for Social Change: A Comparative Look at Modernism and New Urbanism” (*Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*, with Michael Vanderbeek); “Entertainment-Retail Centers in Hong Kong and Los Angeles: Trends and Lessons” *International Planning Studies*, with Surajit Chakravarty); and “Bounded Tourism: Immigrant Politics, Consumption, and Traditions in Plaza Mexico” (*Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*, with Macarena Gómez-Barris).

From PNER Jeremy Thompson:

Jeremy Thompson moved from Chicago to Boston in July to take a research position with the Boston Redevelopment Authority. He is interested in getting a PN chapter started in Massachusetts; if any other PN members in the area share this interest they should contact him at thompson.jeremyb@gmail.com"

From PNER Jake Wagner, Daniel Samuels and Dana Eness:

**Lafitte Greenway project moves forward
City Council vote establishes a process to implement important recovery project**

New Orleans, LA. The sustained efforts of a dedicated group of citizens known as the Friends of Lafitte Corridor (FOLC) gained new momentum this week with the support of the New Orleans City Council. On Thursday, August 23rd – the Council voted unanimously to approve two measures introduced by Council members Midura, Carter, and Head that begin the process of developing a linear park or greenway within the Lafitte Corridor.

Thursday's vote establishes a structure through which citizens and city agencies will work together with property owners to plan and build the Lafitte Greenway. The first measure is a Council Resolution that reserves and dedicates all land currently owned by the City of New Orleans within two segments of the Lafitte Corridor. The second measure is an Ordinance that establishes an advisory committee, to be composed of citizens representing the neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor, which will be charged with steering the project.

"The Lafitte Greenway is a resource for the city. It's a benefit to our neighborhoods, families, the environment, and public health. This is the kind of win-win development process this office advocates for," said Council member Shelley Midura – a leading proponent of the project. Co-author Stacy Head remarked: "this is another example of a positive development as a result of hard work and initiative by individuals with a vision for improving the quality of life among neighborhoods."

Citizen-led recovery efforts begin to show progress

The Lafitte Greenway project is a citizen-led initiative with support from local non-profits (the Urban Conservancy, Steps to a Healthier LA, and FOLC), neighborhood associations (Mid-City, Faubourg St John), university planning programs (University of Missouri-Kansas City and the University of New Orleans), area businesses (D'Gerolamo Development), and local government agencies– including the Regional Planning Commission, City of New Orleans Department of Public Works, City Planning and the Office of Recovery Management.

Faculty and students from the Urban Planning and Design program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City began planning and design work on the Lafitte Corridor in

January 2006. Their research involved collaboration with the Urban Conservancy, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy as well as local residents from the Mid-City and Faubourg St. John neighborhoods.

Planners Network members **Jacob Wagner** and **Michael Frisch** have provided technical support and worked closely with city staff to implement this important recovery project as part of a grant funded by the Office of University Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy** – a national advocacy organization, has provided expertise and resources to assist and advise FOLC. **Bikes Belong** – a national bicycle advocacy group provided partial funding for a greenway master plan by FOLC and **Brown + Danos landdesign**– a Baton Rouge landscape design firm. Together with these partners, the citizen-advocates known as FOLC have kept the greenway project moving forward.

In addition to the economic and environmental benefits, the symbolic value of the Lafitte Greenway project for the city’s recovery should not be underestimated. The vision for the Lafitte Greenway is one of optimism about New Orleans’s future and the rebuilding of the city and its neighborhoods. There's much left to be done. To learn more about the Lafitte Corridor project and how you can help, please go to: Friends of Lafitte Corridor (FOLC) www.folc-nola.org , Steps to a Healthier Louisiana <http://www.stepsla.org/home2/section/6/bike-ped> .

Jake Wagner, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 816-235-6053,
wagnerjaco@umkc.edu

Daniel Samuels, Friends of Lafitte Corridor, 504- 482- 0925, or info@folc-nola.org

Dana Eness, the Urban Conservancy, 504-232-7821 or dana@staylocal.org

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Caron Atlas
Mirabai Auer
Nancy Campbell
Patrice Carroll
Jason Enos
William Guerin
Bruce Hansen
Joan Hardy
Katherine Hogan

Jeff Jacobberger
Alissa Kronovet
Matthew Lewis
Dara Nussbaum
Jeffrey Sabin
Arturo Sanchez
Kristy SeBlonka
Candace Stowell
Corinne Thatcher

PUBLICATIONS

“Fair Play for Housing Rights” (2007) focuses on problems with mega-events such as Olympic Games. Available from CORE (Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions). For more information, contact fionn@cohre.org.

“We Can Make Change: Community Organizers Talk About What They Do – And Why” (2007) by Kristin Layng Szakos & Joe Szako. Published by Vanderbilt University Press. For more information, visit www.vanderbiltuniversitypress.com, call 615-343-2445 or e-mail sue.havlish@vanderbilt.edu.

“The State of Black Michigan, 1967-2007” by Joe T. Darden, Curtis Stokes & Richard W. Thomas. Published by Michigan State University Press. For more information, visit www.msupress.msu.edu.

Immigration’s Economic Impact (June 2007) by the President’s Council of Economic Advisors. Available at www.whitehouse.gov/cea/cea_immigration_062007.pdf.

EVENTS

October 18, 2007. “The American Planning Association’s Latinos and Planning Division and Planners Network San Diego/Tijuana” holds a panel and networking event in San Ysidro (free admission). For more information please contact: Daniel Serrano at dserrano@jsanet.com.

October 19-20, 2007. “Why We Can’t Wait: Reversing the Retreat on Civil Rights: A Regional Conference” will be held in Durham, NC. Co-sponsored by the National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and North Carolina Central University School of Law. For more information, e-mail swanson@civilrights.org.

March 5-7, 2008. “National Housing & HIV/AIDS Research Summit III” convened by the National AIDS Housing Coalition will be held in Baltimore, MD. For more Information, call (202)347-0333 or visit: <http://www.nationalaidshousing.org/HousingandHIV-AIDSRsearchSummit.htm>.

June 1–5, 2008. “True Urbanism: Designing the Healthy City” will be held in Santa Fe, NM. For more information, visit: www.LivableCities.org.

JOBS

CALIFORNIA

Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Planning

California State University, San Marcos

The **Liberal Studies Department at California State University, San Marcos**, seeks to hire a full-time, tenure track, **Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Planning**. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in Public Policy, Planning, Environmental Studies, Political Science, Sociology or other related field, with expertise in two or more of the following areas: cross national studies, multiculturalism, politics and governance, environmental studies, public policy, urban planning, political economy, border studies, or migration studies. Candidates should have an interdisciplinary background and a program of engaged community-based scholarship. GIS expertise is preferred. The position requires collaboration in the teaching and development of offerings in the Liberal Studies Department and in our new Border Studies option.

Deadline for application is October 31, 2007, or until the position is filled. Applicants must submit a letter of interest (which includes evidence of teaching success, commitment to interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship, and understanding of engaged scholarship), curriculum vitae, two samples of scholarly work, and three letters of recommendation. Address all correspondence to: Liberal Studies Search Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, California State University San Marcos, San Marcos, CA 92096-0001. CSU San Marcos is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Title IX Employer. The University has a strong commitment to the principles of diversity

Environmental Planner

PMC, Oakland, CA.

PMC was established in 1995 with a mission to provide a wide range of support services to cities, counties, special districts and other public agencies. Our services include environmental review, policy planning, development and development services, project management, community enhancement, finance, community outreach and public affairs. Our multidisciplinary consulting firm brings a local perspective to important community issues.

The **PMC Oakland office** is seeking a highly motivated **Environmental Planner** to be a part of our interdisciplinary team of environmental consultants. This is an ideal opportunity for a qualified professional who is focused on creating instant value in a team oriented environment and advancing their career within a growing organization. Responsibilities will include assisting with environmental planning and compliance activities; compiling and analyzing technical information to support evidence-based environmental impact analyses; conducting general site surveys; conducting data research and analyses; developing substantial sections of environmental documents, including those required by NEPA and CEQA; and assisting with a variety of other projects.

The position requires proven capabilities in technical analysis and problem-solving in the context of environmental consulting. PMC expects the individual in this position to communicate effectively as well as assist with marketing efforts.

Education and Experience Requirements: Bachelors or graduate degree in city and or urban planning, environmental studies, or closely related field; 3-5 years relevant experience and ability to communicate effectively in written and verbal mediums. Please send your resume and salary requirements to careers@pmcworld.com. EOE m/f/d/v

Housing Technician

PMC, Monterey, CA.

PMC was established in 1995 with a mission to provide a wide range of support services to cities, counties, special districts and other public agencies. Our services include environmental review, policy planning, development and development services, project management, community enhancement, finance, community outreach and public affairs. Our multidisciplinary consulting firm brings a local perspective to important community issues.

The **PMC Monterey office** is seeking a self-motivated **Housing Technician** to join a diverse team of seasoned professionals providing assistance in the development of housing and land use policy programs. This is an ideal opportunity for an individual with a mortgage background seeking to utilize their knowledge in a different yet very much related capacity such as affordable housing and zoning codes.

Responsibilities will include designing and administering state and federally funded housing programs, completing periodic financial and performance reports for grant contracts, composing staff reports and making public presentations. Due to the indispensable responsibility of researching funding opportunities and writing grant applications for housing and public work projects, the successful candidate will possess strong writing and analytical skills, superb research skills and the ability to work effectively with the public and other governmental entities. Working knowledge and experience in underwriting and mortgage is essential in order to be effective in this role. However, no previous planning experience is required.

Bachelor's degree preferred; 2+ years experience in the mortgage industry; ability to communicate effectively in written and verbal mediums. Due to interaction with a diverse community, candidate must be bilingual in English and Spanish. Please send your resume and salary requirements to careers@pmcworld.com. EOE m/f/d/v

NEW JERSEY

Senior Researcher/Policy Analyst

Legal Services of New Jersey, Poverty Research Institute

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) seeks a **Senior Researcher/ Policy Analyst** to work for its Poverty Research Institute. Responsibilities include conducting data analysis from secondary sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, developing qualitative interview guides, quantitative questionnaires and sampling strategies, data management, and presenting findings to diverse audiences and engaging in related advocacy.

A Ph.D., Masters, or equivalent in social science, public policy, or a related field required; knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods, and excellent written and oral communications skills required; knowledge of GIS preferred.

LSNJ is the coordinating office for the state-wide system of Legal Services programs, which provide essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people throughout New Jersey. LSNJ's Poverty Research Institute conducts primary and secondary research on the scope and extent of poverty in New Jersey, and on its causes, effects and remedies.

Send resume, writing sample and salary requirements to LSNJ, P.O. Box 1357, Edison, NJ 08818 c/o Patti Koncius or jobs@lsnj.org.

OREGON

Planning Intern Position

Fregonese Associates Inc.
Portland, Oregon

Fregonese Associates is seeking a highly motivated and talented **Intern** to join our team. Located in downtown Portland, Oregon, FA maintains a national practice specializing in urban and regional planning. We work with a variety of public, private and non-profit clients on projects ranging in scale from main street or small area planning to regional growth strategies.

A successful candidate must be both self-motivated and able to work in a team environment. The office is fast-paced, requiring candidates to be detail oriented and able to complete projects in a timely manner. Exceptional written and oral communication skills are necessary.

Successful candidates will perform a range of *duties* including: GIS mapping and analysis and/or urban design; Financial feasibility analysis; Writing and editing; Qualitative and quantitative analysis; Layout and graphic design (not necessary but desired)

Desired Skills: Arc GIS 9 or above; Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, PowerPoint,

Outlook); Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator) (strongly desired); SketchUp or other visualization program skills (strongly desired)

One part-time intern positions is available immediately and compensation is \$11.50 per hour. Preference will be given to current and particularly second-year planning graduate students. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Please email resume and cover letter to Heather Bissell at heather@frego.com.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Research Analyst

National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)

The **National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)** has an immediate job opening for a **Research Analyst!** NCRC's research department is expanding with lots of exciting projects in the immediate future!

NCRC, the nation's economic justice trade association based in Washington, D.C, has over 600 community organization members dedicated to increasing access to loans, investments, and banking services for minority and low- and moderate-income communities. NCRC seeks to strengthen the nation's fair lending laws and the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), federal legislation requiring banks to meet the credit needs of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. NCRC also seeks to create partnerships among neighborhood non-profit organizations and lending institutions that develop affordable loan products for underserved communities. NCRC works to support the efforts of its member organizations through training, research, and direct services. NCRC serves as the voice for our members before federal, bank regulators, elected officials, and national media.

The Research Analyst must be committed to issues of economic justice, be skilled in data analysis, and possess good writing skills.

Responsibilities include:

- Analyzing data on lending activity. The analyst must have the skills to use data analysis software and to develop and manage databases and spreadsheets. Generic skill in using database programs is more important than specific knowledge of HMDA and CRA data on home and small business data. Applicant must be proficient at analyzing significant quantities of data and enjoy quantitative analysis.
- Contributing to research reports, articles, and policy papers. The analyst will be asked to write research reports, articles, and will contribute to policy papers. Solid writing skills necessary. Other duties as assigned including working on proposals for funding and working on tasks related to NCRC's annual conference.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Computer skills. Solid background in quantitative analysis and the capacity to use computer databases. Proficiency with Excel. Familiarity with other databases such as ARC GIS, SAS, SPSS, or Access a plus.

- Academic background and practical experience in one or more of the following areas: economics, statistics, urban planning, political science, sociology, community organizations and neighborhood issues.
- Ability to work and interact with diverse organizations and individuals.
- A Bachelor's degree is required.

Salary and Application Procedure: Competitive salary, depends on experience. Excellent benefit package. Generous vacation. NCRC is an equal opportunity employer that seeks to maintain a diverse work force and therefore does not discriminate on the basis of color, gender, faith, national origin, disability or age.

Applications (cover letter, resume and a short writing sample) are now being accepted. To apply, please send materials to Joshua Silver, Vice President of Research & Policy, NCRC, 727 15th St. NW, Suite 900, Washington DC 20005. Fax (202) 628-9800, jsilver@ncrc.org. Thank you.

TENNESSEE

Director, Graduate Program in City & Regional Planning The University of Memphis

The **Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning at The University of Memphis** is seeking applicants or nominations for **Director** to begin August 2008. This Director will hold a 9-month tenure-track position. Salary will be dependent on qualifications.

Applicants should hold a Ph.D. or terminal degree in urban planning or closely related field. In addition, professional planning experience and an accredited master's degree in planning are desired. The successful candidate should demonstrate significant achievement in teaching, research, and service with scholarly achievements for tenure as an Associate or full Professor. The candidate should also exhibit leadership skills with experience in collaborative and/or multi-disciplinary work. The Planning Program offers the Accredited Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree and is one of five (5) independent units forming the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy at The University of Memphis.

The Director reports to the Head of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and is responsible for leading a faculty of 10 (5 full-time and 5 part-time), managing budgets, personnel policy, annual reporting, recruitment, and maintaining accreditation standards at the highest level. The Director teaches 2 courses per year and mentors students in individual research projects while pursuing research activities. The Director represents the Planning Program to closely aligned academic units, other University programs, the profession, and general public.

Candidates should send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and the name and contact information for at least three (3) references to: Dr. Linda Bennett, Associate Dean of

Graduate Programs and Research, College of Arts and Sciences, 107 Scates Hall, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152
lbennett@memphis.edu

We will begin reviewing letters of interest on November 15, 2007. Applications may be considered until the position is filled. The University of Memphis, one of the Tennessee Board of Regents Institutions, is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. For more information, visit: <http://planning.memphis.edu>.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

American Association of Geographers Conference Boston 2008, April 15-19

Just sustainabilities: What is the potential of 'environmental space'?

There have been many debates recently about the role that issues of equity and justice could or should play within predominantly environmentally focused sustainability discourses. One response has been to develop the concept of 'just sustainability/ies' or what Jacobs (1999:32) calls "the egalitarian conception of sustainable development". It arises from the definition of sustainability of Agyeman et al. (2003:5), "the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems", which prioritizes justice and equity, but does not downplay the environment, our life support system.

The 'environmental space' (Spangenberg 1995) is the sustainable rate at which we can use resources without precipitating irreversible damage to our ecosystems, or depriving future generations of these resources. In other words, it is that space in between the minimum resource use to ensure an acceptable quality of life (the dignity floor), and the maximum use of Earth's capacity without depleting ecological stocks (the profligacy ceiling). McLaren (2003:22) argues that the concept of environmental space "can underpin the emerging concept of 'just sustainability' " and it can "suggest how sustainable development policies can explicitly incorporate equity concerns" (2003:34).

Buhr (2004) sees three main avenues for the institutionalization and implementation of environmental space: through the legal-constitutional framework (as rights and obligations); through the economic system (as environmental property rights) and through green planning (as objectives and targets within national environmental plans). While the concept has potential, there are problems. The very name hints that its main concern is based around 'the environment' and environmental resources, when, as many have argued, sustainability is about more than just 'green' issues.

The purpose of this session is to examine whether a research agenda could be built around a composite 'spatial justice' or 'community space' index which attempts to define a floor and ceiling to not only environmental resources and sinks, as in environmental space, but to social and economic entitlements too. Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted to one of the convenors (addresses listed below),

as soon as possible, and before 12th October 2007 at the latest. Successful authors will be notified in time for the 31st October registration deadline.

Julian Agyeman, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University, Medford, MA USA julian.agyeman@tufts.edu

Barbara Rahder, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada rahder@yorku.edu

Mark Roseland, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada roseland@sfu.edu

ON-LINE RESOURCES:

Planetizen Offers Online Training Course for Planning Commissioners

You've just been appointed to your local planning commission and are now in charge of making important decisions that will guide the shape and future of your community. But you're not a planner and have no planning experience. What do you do?

Planetizen has teamed with the Planning Commissioners Journal and experienced planning commissioner Ric Stephens to offer a comprehensive online course designed specifically for non-professionals and citizen planners who have been appointed to their local planning commission. This self-paced online course covers the basic planning, knowledge, issues, and trends that will help planning commissioners understand the practice of land use and community planning, and help them to become more efficient in their multiple roles.

PLAN-315: Planning Commissioner Training Course is a highly practical, informative, and affordable course that provides a comprehensive overview of planning principles and practices, environmental design, project development, and other topics vital to creating a vibrant community. This course offers detailed descriptions of planning concepts, discussions about public participation and the decision-making process, an introduction to land-use and development, and the extensive first-hand experience and knowledge of the course's expert instructor. The Planning Commissioner Training Course is one of Planetizen's online planning courses, accessible through any web browser with an Internet connection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, visit: <http://www.planetizen.com/courses/commissioner>.