What's Missing From Community Planning?

by Jocelyne Chait and Margaret E. Seip

Mainstream planning is now embracing more participatory methods and refuting a legacy of "top-down" or development-controlled planning and decision-making. But the new trend in comprehensive community-based planning hasn't necessarily brought with it more democratic and sustainable solutions to urban problems.

The list of comprehensive community-based planning initiatives has grown over the past ten years. It includes government-driven efforts in Richmond, Chattanooga, and Minneapolis/St. Paul, foundation-sponsored programs like the Surdna Foundation's Comprehensive Community Revitalization Program in the Bronx, university-led initiatives like the University of Illinois' East St. Louis Action Research Project, and hybrid projects combining public, private and community resources such as the Sandtown-Winchester Community Building Partnership in Baltimore and the Atlanta Project.

Many such efforts have been successful and continue to flourish. But just as many have floundered and accomplished little of lasting benefit to the community. It is important to draw on the considerable body of experience that has developed and compare the rhetoric of community-based planning with the reality. Are planners truly building sustainable communities and advancing social change, or merely engaging in a form of tokenism?
Minneapolis neighborhoods in search of a voice find one in new "idea incubator"

by Darcy Seaver

The city of Minneapolis has experienced a whirlwind of increased neighborhood-based activity over the past five years, much of it thanks to a Tax Increment Financing-funded multifaceted neighborhood revitalization program, called the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). Armed with $20 million per year, Minneapolis’s 81 neighborhoods have leaned enthusiastically into the process of creating and implementing strategic and capital plans for their individual communities.

The NRP and the accompanying upsurge began in 1991. By early 1994, it was clear that while neighborhoods were doing an impressive job of bringing together their stakeholders and developing creative, comprehensive plans, all was not well. Neighborhoods were not receiving the support they needed from the public sector – particularly from City Hall. While public staff and officials were often willing to help with individual, small-scale programs, many departments and policies remained resistant to the larger redesign and innovation being proposed by the neighborhoods. This was even true when the plans were identifying near-city-wide needs (nearly all the plans, for example, had called for better street lighting). The City and other jurisdictions seemed not to be listening to some of the most important things neighborhoods were saying.

Neighborhoods were also having a hard time listening to each other. As they focused on their own boundaries and needs, they often failed to consider other communities, even those across the street. Although this has improved somewhat as more neighborhoods enter the NRP process, inter-neighborhood planning and collaboration still fall far behind their potential. And neighborhoods still know very little about what their peers around the city have tried or learned.

Finally, despite all the energy and ideas gaining strength in individual neighborhoods, there was no larger “neighborhood voice.” Ironically, while neighborhoods were organizing their residents but not each other. They were fighting their individual battles with City Hall and others, gathering their own information, testing the same ground and frustrations, but were rarely joining forces. It seemed a tremendous waste, perhaps even a danger.

These issues and others sparked a group of about 50 Minneapolis citizens – neighborhood activists, public employees, academics, businesses, and journalists – to found the Minneapolis Center for Neighborhoods. They came together in 1994 to create an organization that could develop that missing neighborhood voice.

The Center was to be an advocate on behalf of neighborhood-driven approaches to urban stability and revitalization, as well as for changes in the way public policy decisions were being made. It was to be a catalyst and incubator for promising new ideas about how to preserve urban neighborhoods, for new partnerships, and for a City agenda rooted in neighborhoods. It would also help make the connections that seemed so important but also so difficult, those which cut across neighborhood lines, between neighborhoods and government, and between the City and its suburban neighbors.

In its first two years, the Center focused on convening conversation “roundtables,” publishing a newsletter, and producing an annual State of the Neighborhoods address. Volunteers accomplished all of this, raising money for mailings and the newsletter through personal solicitations. These activities remain the Center’s core work.

The Center’s roundtables are designed to identify barriers to neighborhood efforts and to share potential solutions and strategies among neighborhoods. In keeping with the Center’s commitment to fostering collaboration and cooperation, most of the meetings are co-sponsored by neighborhood groups and community organizations. A two-hour roundtable typically begins with brief presentations of one or two “case studies” (generally by neighborhood representatives, but also partners from the public and private sectors) to help participants frame the broader group discussion.

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November 1996

PLANNERS NETWORK

Minneapolis neighborhoods in search of a voice

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Neighborhoods were not receiving the support they needed from the public sector—particularly from City Hall. While public staff and officials were often willing to help with individual, small-scale programs, many stakeholders and city policies remained resistant to the larger redesign and innovation being proposed by the neighborhoods. This was often true even when the plans were identified by citywide needs (nearly all the plans, for example, have called for better street lighting). The City and other jurisdictions seemed not to be listening to some of the most important things neighborhoods were saying.

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Indigenous Planning at Work: The Resource Center for Raza Planning by Teresa Cordova

For some, Santa Fe, New Mexico conjures up images of chic Southwestern art, architecture, and lifestyle. Glimpses of colonial natives await the traveler who travels long distances to experience Santa Fe, Taos, and Albuquerque’s Old Town. But to the indigenous populations, both Native American and Chicano, who have lived in this region for centuries, the continuous commodification of their culture signals the loss of their resources and the erosion of their communities. Santa Fe, according to Alina Bolde and Loretta Trujillo, student members of the Resource Center for Raza Planning (RCRP), is experiencing a “devastating impact from tourism and growth” through the negative impacts of gentrification.

Trujillo, a native of Santa Fe, whose family originates in Tierra Amarrilla, helped form RCRP as a mechanism to confront these other development issues facing New Mexico. Native New Mexicans have a deeply rooted connection to their history and the land that represents that history. For Loretta, the Resource Center is a vehicle to align with others who share her values and interests and are interested in equipping themselves with the analyses and skills to better engage in the shaping of their region.

The Resource Center forms part of a 1996 Spring Semester class titled Planning in the Community and Regional Planning Program (CRP) at the University of New Mexico. The course, “Planning Issues in Chicano Communities,” covered historical land use patterns, the role of colonization in shaping the region, and contemporary development issues. Planning processes and techniques were presented as valuable tools for dealing with major development issues such as appropriate economic development strategies, water rights and policies, infrastructure equity, and land use patterns. Students had the opportunity to meet a range of planning professionals including the Deming County Director of Planning and Zoning and guest speakers from the Land Institute and the SouthWest Organizing Project.

Each student was required to write a paper on a planning issue facing Raza communities in New Mexico. One approach was used in the research, writing, and editing of the paper. The results were compiled in their first publication, Planning Issues in Raza Communities. The article by Bolde and Trujillo is entitled: “Tourism in Santa Fe: Economic and Social Pervasion Upon the Community.” Paul Garcia, CRP graduate student and HUD Fellow, also wrote about her homeland in “Community Development Initiatives in Mora.” Mora, located in the northern mountains, is threatened by gentrification. Garcia documents current local initiatives to articulate “a vision for the future of Mora County that is sustainable economically, ecologically, and culturally.” She analyzes historical dynamics related to the reoccurrence of economic conditions, contemporary development concerns, and economic development policy efforts of community organizations. She concludes with a series of recommendations for implementing this vision.

Besides the papers on Northern New Mexico, several students focused their research on Atresco, which is in the South Valley, adjacent to Albuquerque. Contention over Atresco’s future epitomizes development debates related to the growth and sprawl of Albuquerque. Students in several papers summarized the historical development of Atresco and traditional land uses, the origins of the Atresco Land Grant, the erosion of the communal lands in that grant by Westland Corporation, the battle over the building of a road through sacred space, the Pueblo National Monument, the questionable wisdom of extensive development in spite of evidence that suggests trouble for the water table, soil erosion and other ecological implications; city policies for checker-board annexation of parts of the South Valley, and alternative questions for urban design. Several members of the group are interested in maintaining agriculture in the South Valley and are working on plans to promote its economic and ecological needs. On paper and in meetings, the group has demonstrated community participation, resistance to development, and public art.

Over the summer, the group formulated its mission statement: “RCRP is an organization of university and community-based research activists who promote integration between higher education and community agencies through the application of planning processes and techniques. RCRP conceives planning as multi-disciplinary, intergenerational, directly responsive to community needs and developed through long-term relationships. We seek to maintain the sustainability and survivalability of our traditional communities that are threatened by colonization. We begin by asking: Who benefits and who pays from social and planning policies?”

On October 3, the group held its inaugural event, at which time...
The Center is also exploring how it can better serve as a resource to neighborhoods. Although generally supportive of the Center’s activities, too, neighborhoods are increasingly asking it to serve as a collector and clearinghouse of information and resources. City staff — particularly at the NRP and the City’s Planning Department — have been able to provide some of this, but neighborhoods remain frustrated and hungry for more and clearer direction on how to get and use it. How to help neighborhoods navigate their way through what one local funder has called “the chaotic marketplace,” without becoming overburdened or losing focus on the broader policy and advocacy work, is one of the Center’s most important challenges.

Another relates to accountability. The Center has been challenged to construct better and clearer mechanisms for its relations and responsiveness to neighborhoods. Although neighborhoods are active participants in Center activities and are welcome at its monthly board meetings, there is no formal process for neighborhood input into Center activities or public statements. Developing such a mechanism is a priority for the board, however, and seems increasingly important as the Center grows in stature and resources.

Later this month, the Center will hold its first Minneapolis Neighborhood Assembly, a kind of free mini-conference. This first assembly is titled “Life after Planning: The role and future of neighborhood organizations.” It promises to be an important milestone — not only for the many vibrant neighborhood groups in the city, but also for the Center that their efforts spawn.

The plans and programs resulting from the NRP comprise a rich set of ideas about housing, economic development, communicative, parks and recreation, multi-sector collaboration, public safety, arts and culture, schools, transportation, urban design, and more. For a reminder of the NRP plant to date, as well as the City’s response, see “Defining Community: A Neighborhood Perspective,” by Rip Rapson and Gretchen Nichols of the Design Center for American Urban Landscape at the University of Minnesota. Contact DCAL at 612/627-1850.

Darcy Seaver is a staff person at the Minneapolis Center for Neighborhoods. For more information on the Center, write to the Minneapolis Center for Neighborhoods, P.O. Box 14207, Minneapolis, MN 55414-0207. 612/379-5062. seagan@hstteam.net

RCP conceives planning as multi-disciplinary, intergenerational, directly responsive to community needs and developed through ongoing, long term relationships. We begin by asking: Who benefits and who pays from social and planning policies?
Nov 1996

Bulletin Board

PN'ER UPDATES

- PN'ER Tan Lehrentz writes "I am in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa, for two years. My wife is the medical officer for the Peace Corps. I am picking up some short-term contracts with USAID, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the United Nations Department of the local government. I hope to volunteer for some local NGOs as well. I graduated from UIC's Urban Planning and Policy Program in May." Tim can be reached at US Embassy Bissau, Dept. of State, Washington, DC 20521-2000; Cindy.lehrentz@dos.us-state.gov.

- PN Steering Committee Member Teresa Cordova's article "Development is not always a blessing" about New Mexico's recent growth patterns and ensuing strains on infrastructure and resources, appeared in the July issue of Voces Unidas, which is published by Southwest Community Resources, Inc., 211 10th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

- New PN'ER Solomon J. Greene writes "My work at the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing will involve helping to coordinate city agencies dealing with urban poverty to respond to changes in federal welfare policy and the devolution of federal funds. I am excited about exploring this process from an urban policy perspective and hope that the experience I gain through this exposure will be valuable in my future work in the fields of community and economic development of low-income communities. Contact Solomon at The Haas Center for Public Service, 558 Salvaterra and Congress, CA 94118-8240."

- PN'ER Grace Bailey writes that she is "newly employed as a Senior Planner with the Maine Commission for Community Service. We are located in the state planning office, and I am responsible for working with AmeriCorps program development, increasing awareness of effective community service, developing a state youth empowerment program. I'm interested in creative/ effective ideas. The Commission is committed to encouraging programs defined and determined at the community level." Contact Grace at 818 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333; 207/287-5300; gracebailey@state.me.us

CALLS FOR PAPERS / ASSISTANCE

- Reference Wanted. The Journal of Planning Education and Research will use a practicing planner as a fourth referee for each article that is reviewed for publication in JPER, and is seeking interested individuals to act as referees. Contact Mickey Laura, Professor and Director of Urban Planning Research and Policy Studies, College of Urban and Public Affairs, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana 70148; 504/286-7106; Mylar@uno.edu

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- Call for Papers. The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) 1997 conference will be held November 6-9, 1997 in Fort Lauderdale, FL, and will be entitled "Planning in the Americas." ACSP is accepting abstracts for individual papers, complete paper sessions, roundtables or discussions, luncheons, and innovative or unusual kinds of presentations. For more information contact Sandi Rosenblum, Durlachman Institute, University of Arizona, ACSP 1997 Conference, 819 East First Street, Tucson, Arizona 85721-0458; 520/623-1223; ACSP97@u.arizona.edu

- PN'ER Debbie Saltmeyer writes "I'm doing research for a CDC on ways they can weaken themselves off CBG and HOME funds and become financially self-sufficient. The organization's experience has been in owner-occupied rehab and acquisition/rehab/rental. The CDC grew out of a church but is now independent. I'm looking at developer fees, management fees, direct rehab loans, bank partnerships, and whatever else I think of. I would appreciate any ideas people have or examples of other groups doing up to 10 projects to help the homeless. DebbieSalt@aol.com; 210/341-6479; 11634 Sandman St., San Antonio, TX 78216.

FUNDING SOURCES

- Dissertation Funding. HUD's Office of University Partnerships, located in the Office of Policy Development and Research, has announced the fourth round of dissertation grants which it will continue to award to graduate students to support dissertation research at institutions of higher learning and urban and regional development initiatives. For more information contact University Partnerships, ClearinghouseHUD USER, P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849; 800/245-2691; huduser@asapcm.com

- Funding. The National Guide to Funding for Community Development, listing over 2,500 national and local government and private sources of economic and financial assistance, is available from the Center Foundation, 79 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003-3076. Cost is $95.

An Election Postscript
by Tom Angotti

In the end, I voted Green, and also endorsed my very liberal (yes!) local representatives. But in the end, what really matters, is that Jesse Jackson at the Democratic Convention, is that we continue to struggle and organize in the face of power.

Common Ground - But Who Owns It?

Democrats and Republicans say they are looking for Common Ground. With the far right and the far left seemingly in reserve, Clinton hopes to march in a straight line to the millennium. Clinton's compulsion for being liked by history will keep him in a safe zone with the Republicans. But the Common Ground is owed by corporations. Both parties milked the corporate cow to nourish their campaigns. The New York Times said that "business won big" on ballot initiatives all over.

Will the corporate Common Ground include more privatized public housing? More suburban sprawl? More enclaves communities? Will it exclude immigrants, people with low incomes, children whose only mistake is being poor, people of color living near toxic waste sites?

In part, it depends on us. But I don't think we should maintain any illusions that talking to our few friends in the Clinton administration will produce significant results. The record of the last few years is clear. The man in The Oval Office is no stealth liberal. Progressive planners should join with others to work on new political alternatives.

Tom Angotti is a PN Co-Chair.

We’ve also set up a listserv for PN members with e-mail to carry on discussions, share resources, post job listings, etc. To subscribe, send e-mail to: pnserv@pratt.edu with the subject heading: subscribe your-e-mail-address (substituting your e-mail address in the appropriate place, of course). You’ll receive instructions in response to the listserv.

The Planners Network Web page can be found at http://www.pratt.edu/pnic/resource/pn, or by following the "Resources" thread from the PICCED home page at http://www.pratt.edu/pnic. Suggestions for improvements to the site, as well as articles written by members to post, are welcome. Contact Winton at winton@ix.netcom.com.

it provided copies of its first publication, announced its upcoming research project on adjudication of water rights, announced its video project on Aturco and Westside Development, and initiated its fall lecture series on water, RCRP is adding members, many of whom are Raza graduate students in Community and Regional Planning. The Community and Regional Planning Faculty at UNM have been immensely supportive and other CRP graduate students are asking how they can get involved. The Resource Center Works closely with grassroots organizations and is developing its agenda through direct interaction with community members. RCRP will be looking to expand its resource base and number of publications. The research project, conducted with the Aturco Land Rights Council, will be a several month project involving the documentation of continuous water use by Aturcos as a way to preserve water rights and sustainable agriculture. Several students are obtaining training in video production both for the research project and for the documentation of Westside and South Valley development issues. Next semester, the primary topic for the lecture series will be alternative economic development strategies, which is particularly important given city and state policies that promote giveaways as a means of industrial recruitment. Finally, the group intends to get their hands dirty when they journey to Southern Colorado next spring to help restore a pristine church which was destroyed by vandals. On an ongoing basis, RCRP will collect materials and information related to development issues facing Raza Communities.

The ambitiousness of RCRP members is matched by their long term commitment based on a history of resistance and connectiveness to this part of Aztlán. For many Raza students at UNM, Planning is providing a set of tools to tackle some very difficult and serious development issues. For more information, write to us at the School of Architecture and Planning, UNM, Albuquerque, NM, 87131 or write to kizi@unm.edu via e-mail.

Teresa Cordova is a PN Steering Committee Member.

PRAKASH LAPALI
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T o vote or not to vote? Hold your nose and vote? Don't throw away your vote. Vete Green or Red? The suggestions from Norm Knutholz, Dina Driakel, John Cahal and Ron Staffman in the last Planners Network were thoughtful. Problem is I agree with all of them. Some days I woke up convinced I had to vote for Clinton, and other days I vowed I would never. Half the time I felt the election gala was a farce unconnected with democracy and real political change – half the electorate who wound up staying home on November 5.

In the end, I voted Green, and also endorsed my very liberal (are we out of this? local representatives. But in the end, what really matters, as per Jesse Jackson at the Democratic Convention, is that we continue to struggle and organize in the face of power.

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PN in Cyberspace!

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We've also set up a listserv for PN members with e-mail to carry on discussions, share resources, post job lists, etc. To subscribe, send e-mail to: pn-member-list@pratt.edu with the subject heading: subscribe your-e-mail-address (substituting your e-mail address in the appropriate place, of course). You'll receive instructions in response.

PN'ers Update

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• Fundraising. The National Guide to Funding for Community Development, listing over 2,500 national and local government agencies and foundations, is available from the Center for Foundation Studies, 75 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003-3076. Cost is $95.
PLANNERS NETWORK
November, 1996

Resources

- Low-Income Housing Awards. The recipients of the Fannie Mae and Federal Home Loan Bank Board’s Excellence in Housing Program for the Production of Low-Income Housing, meant to identify and recognize organizations developing and maintaining housing for low-income residents, have been announced. For more information: special-edited text for the award program.

- Tenant Rights. The Community Training and Resource Center has published a tenant information book intended to help organization initiatives by tenant associations and neighborhood housing groups. Eight copies of the sheets are available in five languages. For an order form, listing titles and prices, call CTRC, 212/964-7200.

- Mortgages. The Center for Community Change has released the Housing Project, a new software package that makes it easy to analyze housing lending patterns with information disclosed under the Home Equity Credit Act. The package is designed specifically for community-based organizations, is affordable priced, and is available in DOS, Mac, and Windows versions. For information contact Becky O’Reilly at 202/342-0577.

- Section 8. The Housing Disaster That’s Not Being Fixed, by James B. Rarth and Robert E. Litman, Brookings Policy Brief No. 1, July 1996, in a short policy perspective about existing Section 8 rent subsidies. It describes policy decisions and options being discussed in Washington. To receive it, contact the Community Information Exchange, 1029 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005; 202-228-2981; (fax) 202-783-1485; e-mail: cicc@erols.com; http://neighborhood

- Low-Income Tax Credits. HUD’s Low-Income Tax Credit database, recently updated, is available online on http://www.huduser.org/lhtc/.

- Women and Homelessness. Unlocking the Door II, a detailed report of strategies organizers use to prevent homelessness and housing the homeless and homeless to affordable housing to women, is available new through HousingLink, at http://www.housinglink.com/unlock.htm.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Community Development. Community Development Digest is published twice-monthly, with features on community and economic development news, policy issues, and resources. It’s $41 per year from CD Publications, 8204 Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD 20910; 800/666-6630; cdpubs@clair.net.

- Rural Development. A new on-line newsletter, "Rural Update," provides highlights of innovations and news important to improving the quality of life in small communities. To subscribe, send e-mail to rurupdate@cliffs.apa.org.

- Sustainable Development. Sustainable Long 2000: A Draft Greenprint for a Sustainable Long Island. This masterplan focuses on ecologically sustainable development as a method to restore and preserve the quality of life on Long Island. Executive Summaries and full reports ($8) are available. Contact: Judy Panafait, IL Progressive Coalition, 516/541-1006. PT’s work was helpful in writing this plan and is available at scott@aurora.stnet.

PN 1997 Conference Update: Touring local communities, projects and programs will allow participants to explore Los Angeles and its surrounding metropolitan areas.

Thursday evening: Welcome event hosted by the Watts Community Labor Action Committee (WCLAC) in Los Angeles.

Friday morning: Working session at Cal Poly, Pomona, to explore how planners, community organizers, and others can engage and communicate with multiple publics.

Friday afternoon: Exploration of local cases related to issues considered earlier in the morning session. The city of Pomona may be the focus, but we’ll include other cities in the San Gabriel Valley and other subregions of Los Angeles. These cases will have subject foci such as jobs, health access, etc.

Friday evening: A big party in the City of Pomona.

Saturday: Strategy groups and issue forums, with some papers and presentations, will be held.

If you would like to help organize for the conference, contact Gwen Urey Greene (gc@greene.com, 909/686-2782) or Chuck Hotchkiss (chhotchkis@ccorp.com, 909/686-2878) at Cal Poly, Pomona.

PLANNERS NETWORK
November, 1996
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**November, 1996**

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**Jobs**

- Senior Housing Development Associate. Senior level program professional sought for national Catholic affordable housing organization with a special commitment to addressing the needs of women. Contact McAleer Institute, 8300 Coleville Rd., Ste. 310, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301/588-8110.

- Development Director. Development Director sought for national nonprofit organization with a special commitment to addressing the needs of women. Knowledge of women’s issues, social justice, and housing/community development a plus. Contact McAleer Institute, 8300 Coleville Rd., Ste. 310, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301/588-8110.

- Director of Employment Training and Placement. LEAP, Inc., a community economic development intermediary, seeks applicants for Director of Employment Training and Placement, a full-time position paying in the mid-30’s. This individual will direct an existing job training and placement program for Red Hook/South Brooklyn and will participate in the establishment of new training initiatives. More info from LEAP, Inc., 105-C Court St., Ste. 307, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

- Director, School of Planning. The University of Tennessee College of Architecture and Planning invites applications for the position of Director of the School of Planning. The appointment will be with the Associate Professor. For more info contact College of Architecture and Planning, Office of the Dean, 224 Art and Architecture Building, University of TN, Knoxville, TN 37996-2400; 423/974-5261.

- Development Officer. National community development organization seeks development officer to coordinate institutional funding efforts. Requires grant writing experience, excellent written and verbal communication skills, and opportunity to make the development position offer a challenging opportunity to participate in developing and testing new evaluation methods while also relating directly to community leaders, residents, agencies, and organizations. More information contact Claudia Coulston, Co-Director, Center on Urban Poverty and Social Change, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7164, 216/368-0496; e-mail couston@case.edu.

- Professor/North Carolina. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department City and Regional Planning is seeking candidates for a tenure-track faculty position at the assistant or associate level in housing planning and policy. For more information, contact Professor William Rehe, Chair Faculty Search Committee, Department of City and Regional Planning, New East CAB #3140, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3140; 919/962-4769, ruche.dcp@unc.edu.

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**Resources**

- Low-Income Housing Awards. The recipients of the Fannie Mae Foundation’s Maxwell Awards of Excellence Program for the Production of Low-Income Housing, meant to identify and recognize organizations and developing and maintaining housing for low-income residents, have been announced. A news release compiling profiles of the projects is available. Contact Fannie Mae, 4000 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016-2800; 202/744-8000.

- Tenant Rights. The Community Training and Resource Center has published 22 tenant information fact sheets intended to help organizing initiatives by tenant associations and neighborhood housing groups. Eight of the sheets are available in four languages. For an order form, listing titles and prices, call CRTC, 212/964-7200.

- Mortgages. The Center for Community Change has released HDMA Works, a new software package that makes it easy to analyze housing lending patterns with information disclosed under the Home Mortgage Act. The package is designed specifically for community-based organizations, is affordable priced, and is available in DOS, Mac, and Windows versions. For information contact Becky O’Reilly at 202/342-0657; bwo280@bandnet.org.

- Section 8. "The Housing Disaster That’s Not Being Fixed," by James R. Barth and Robert E. Litan, Brookings Policy Brief No. 1, July 1996, is a short policy perspective about existing Section 8 rent subsidies. It describes policy decisions and options being discussed in Washington. To receive it, contact the Community Information Exchange, 1029 Vermont Ave., NW, Ste. 600, Washington, DC 20005; 202/228-2981; (fax) 202/787-1485; e-mail: cie@erosa.com; http://neighborlink.cie.uc.edu/cie/index.html.

- Low-Income Tax Credits. HUD’s Low-Income Tax Credit database, recently updated, is available on-line at http://www.huduser.org/ltc/.

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**Communities Development**

- Community Development. Community Development Digest is published twice-monthly, with briefings on community and economic development news, policy issues, and resources. It’s $41 per year from CD Publications, 8204 Fenton St, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 800/666-6380; cdpubs@clark.net.

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**Housing**

- Rural Development. A new on-line newsletter, "Rural Update," provides highlights of innovations and news important to improving the quality of life in small communities. To subscribe, send e-mail to rurbanupdates@lists.pnis.org., with the subject line: subscribe, and your name, organization, mail address, phone, fax, e-mail address, and web page address. For more information contact Tim Walters, 202/756-5834, timothy@ruralsecretariat.org.

- Sustainable Development. Long Island 2020: A Draft Greenprint for a Sustainable Long Island. This masterplan focuses on ecologically sustainable development as a method to restore and preserve the quality of life on Long Island. Executive Summaries and full reports (8B) are available. Contact: Judy Pannillo, LI Progressive Coalition, 516/541-1006. Pn’t ever Scott Carlin helped write this plan and is available at scottl@aol.com.

**PN 1997 Conference Update**

The 1997 Planners Network conference is shaping up with an exciting agenda for next summer, June 26-29, 1997, Thursday through Sunday morning. Its theme is "Sharing Stories, Shaping Strategies, Building Communities." The conference will highlight the professional experiences and contributions of both planners and community organizers.

The four-day schedule includes a variety of activities designed to deeply engage conference participants. The schedule includes these events:

- Thursday: Tours of local communities, projects and programs will allow participants to explore Los Angeles and its suburban and metropolitan surroundings.
- Thursday evening: Welcoming event hosted by the Watts Community Labor Action Committee (WCLAC) in Los Angeles.
- Friday morning: Working session at Cal Poly, Pomona, to explore local problems, community organizers, frame issues and communicate with multiple publics.
- Friday afternoon: Exploration of local cases related to issues considered earlier in the morning session. The city of Pomona may be the focus, but we'll include other cities from the San Gabriel Valley and beyond, including Los Angeles. These cases will have subject foci such as jobs, health, access, etc.
- Friday evening: A big party in the City of Pomona.

For more information and details on the various events, watch for announcements in upcoming issues of the planning section.
November, 1996

PLANNERS NETWORK

ENVIRONMENT

Full Employment: A Dream Re-Defered

The New York Planners Network Forum opened its 1996-7 season with a discussion focusing on such employment-related issues as workfare, welfare, and privatization of municipal services. The October 18th forum, Full Employment: A Dream Re-Defered was organized as part of Jobs For All Week, a nationally-coordinated series of events designed to emphasize the continuing importance of joblessness in a booming economy.

The panelists stressed the interdependence of working people, whether currently employed or unemployed, colored or non-colored, native-born or foreign born, blue-collar or white-collar. Clearly, the presence of large numbers of unemployed underlines the wage rates and benefits management will offer their workers. Similarly, the rise of workfare, as mandated by Clinton's criminal "welfare reform" law, threatens not just the wages but the jobs of the currently employed.

Panels included an officer of the union representing the municipal architechts, engineers, and planners, a recent public assistance recipient, and a Work Experience Program (WEP) worker organizer.

Our discussion ended with a call for greater cooperation between unionized workers and the unorganized WEP participants. Public assistance recipients have developed a statement of principles that identify the shared interests of currently employed and unemployed workers. These principles provide the basis for unified action.

NY Planners Network has formally endorsed these principles, as have some unions in the area. As the national workfare programs go on line, these principles might provide a valuable model to guide progressives in other parts of the country. - Dana Driskell

November, 1996

PLANNERS NETWORK

PLeASE WRITE!

The surest sign of an effective network is as much participation as possible. As we strive to fill Planners Network each month with information and resources, we need only do so much without your help.

Send us your:
Resource listings • Job Postings
Article ideas (or articles, even) • Suggestions, comments, critiques of the newsletter.

MICROSESSANEUS

Information. Where the Information Is: A Guide to Electronic Information for Nonprofit Organizations, by Helen Bergan is a recent publication of BioGuide. (The November 18th forum, Full Employment: A Dream Re-Defered was organized as part of Jobs For All Week, a nationally-coordinated series of events designed to emphasize the continuing importance of joblessness in a booming economy.)

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New York PN Forums

The New York Planners Network continues its series of monthly forums. The forums are held on Friday nights, 5:30-8:00 p.m., at Pratt Manhattan, the Puck Building, 295 Lafayette St., corner of Houston.

Friday, November 22
Business Improvement Districts (BID’s) and the Community Development Process
Friday, December 13
Assembling and Dissembling: What Planners Need to Know about Globalization

Call Wintton at 718-636-3461 for more information.

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Planners Network/Pratt GCPE
379 DeKalb Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11205

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wintp@ix.netcom.com

The Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems.

We believe that planning should be a tool for allocating resources and developing the environment to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, rather than maintain and sustain the status quo. We believe that planning should be used to assure adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, jobs, safe working conditions, and a healthful environment. We advocate public responsibility for meeting these needs, because the private market has proven incapable of doing so.

The Planners Network Newsletter is published six times a year as the principal means of communication among Network members. Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee has recommended the following amounts as minimums for Network members: $15 for those with incomes under $25,000, students and unemployed; $25 for those between $25,000 and $50,000; and $45 for those over $50,000. Organizations may subscribe for $30. **

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PLANNERS NETWORK  November, 1996

November 1996

PLEA S E  W R I T E !

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Send us your:
Resource listings  Job Postings

Article ideas (or articles, even)  Suggestions, comments, critiques of the newsletter.

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Sheet 2

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All materials should be sent to:

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Brooklyn, NY 11205  
718/636-3461; fax: 718/636-3709

As always, our thanks to those who can type their notes. It reduces our chances of misreading what you write. Feature articles of 500-1,500 words are always welcome; a diskette is greatly appreciated.