

PLANNERS NETWORK

November, 1996

What's Missing From Community Planning?

by Jocelyne Chait and Margaret E. Seip

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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?

Keeping the Community in Community Planning

The record of community planning is most problematic in terms of maintaining representative and viable community involvement and following through from planning to development in ways that are accountable to community desires. There are important

Is community-based planning truly building sustainable communities and advancing fundamental social change, or merely engaging in a form of tokenism?

examples of communities that have initiated and maintained control of the community planning process -- most often in response to a specific challenge. To a large extent, however, community planning has been initiated and driven by government, institutions or foundations and

risks the contradictions of "top-down bottom-up" control.

Most community planning initiatives are targeted to neighborhoods challenged by severe economic, physical, and social disinvestment with populations that are both economically and politically marginalized. However, in calling for broad-based participation and inclusivity, framers of community-based initiatives too often assume the existence of a level playing field. In reality, while community participants contribute crucial knowledge of a community's history and politics as well as their own life skills and experiences, they are often at a disadvantage with respect to other participants in terms of access to resources, time available, technical skills, and knowledge of established government practices and planning terminology.

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The result is often that professionals and academics, government officials, local organizations and community leaders pursuing more narrow agendas either dominate or dictate the process. A common danger is that initial community interest and excitement at being involved in shaping development gives way to frustration and disillusionment, and ultimately increases political alienation.

Community planning efforts often abandon long-term community building, through active participation, deliberation, education and negotiation at the grassroots level, in order to expedite decisions and achieve short-term

gains. Pressure to produce measurable results or respond to crises often leads those directing the process to cut short the time needed to listen, build relationships, develop awareness and understanding among all participants, and develop the critical skills, knowledge and resources of community members. While the planning process must yield interim

results and "small victories" on which to stake the community's long range future, this should not be done at the expense of public participation and deliberation.

There is an inevitable tension between moving ahead with development on the one hand and democratizing the planning and decision-making process on the other. This underscores the importance of developing the capacity of community members early on to engage in planning and public policy decision-making.

Planners and Educators

To meet the goals of community empowerment, ownership and sustainable community development, there needs to be education at all levels and for all participants -- community residents, planners, foundation officers and city officials. In particular, education for participation must begin at an early age, well before a crisis occurs in the community or the decision is made to undertake a community planning process.

Concern about education for community planning coincides with mounting interest on the part of educators in applying community-based planning concepts and approaches to elementary and high school curricula. Engaging students in participatory local planning and development projects is seen as a way to enliven the teaching of history, science, mathematics and other core curricula. It can also bring theories of democratic participation to life. Examples of this approach are Sharon Sutton's Urban Network national curriculum project for elementary schools and the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum's City of Neighborhoods program. Several of the "New Visions" schools being created in New York City emphasize a community-based approach, among them El Puente's Academy for Social Justice and the Benjamin Banneker Academy for Community Development.

The shared interest between planners engaged in community-based practice and educators involved in school and curriculum reform opens up important possibilities. They can develop mutual strategies to build the awareness, skill, and capacity of young people to participate effectively in the development of their communities and serve as responsible and entitled members of civil society.

What needs to be taught to develop individual capacity to engage in community planning? A base curriculum could

include the study of power relations and access; the impact of government power on neighborhoods; and how planning decisions are made. At a macro-level, students could investigate how daily problems and situations relate to global trends and policies. Media literacy would enable young people to understand how images are made and help them develop the tools to create and represent their own

personal visions and images. Teaching methods based on dialogue, listening and respect, that emphasize "implementation rather than implantation" are essential to the process of promoting education for community planning.

Peg Seip is a PN Steering Committee Member. Jocelyne Chait is Co-Chair of the New York Chapter of PN.

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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 multi-jurisdictional program called the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). Armed with \$20 million per year, Minneapolis's 81 neighborhoods have leaped 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 perfect. 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 projects, most departments and policies remained resistant to the larger redesign and innovation being proposed by the neighborhoods. This was often true even when the plans were identifying city-wide 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.

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 neighborhoods, even those across the street. Although this has improved somewhat as more neighborhoods enter the NRP process, inter-neighborhood planning and collaboration still lag 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, neighborhoods were organizing their residents but not each other. They were fighting their individual battles with City Hall and others, gathering their own information, treading 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, business people, 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.

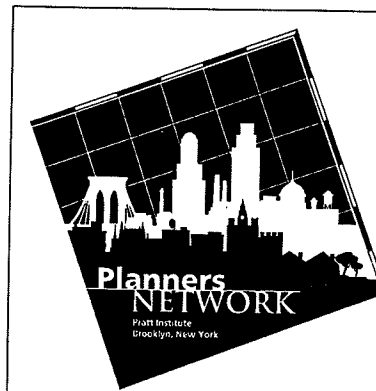
In its first two years, the Center focused on convening discussion "roundtables," publishing a newsletter, and producing an annual State of the Neighborhoods address. Volunteers accomplished all of this, raising money for mailings and the newsletter through personal solicitations. These activities remain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

The Center's roundtables are designed to identify barriers to neighborhood efforts and to share potential solutions or 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-based organizations. A two-hour roundtable typically begins with brief presentations of two or three "case studies" (generally by neighborhood representatives, but also partners from the public and private sectors) to help participants frame the broader group discussion.

Roundtable topics have included transportation and development

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issues surrounding neighborhood commercial corridors, community crime prevention, the role of the arts and cultural activities in neighborhood vitality, environmental issues affecting neighborhoods, housing affordability, availability, and development, challenges facing the NRP, and rethinking social services or human development as part of community building. A new series of roundtables is examining neighborhood-level economic development, how neighborhoods are approaching it, what roles they can play, and what technical assistance they need.

In many cases, roundtables lead to important actions and changes. Following the Center's first commercial corridors roundtable, for instance, the directors of the City's Planning Department and Community

Development Agency made a commitment to develop the type of business assistance package that roundtable participants had said was lacking. The Planning Director promised to make corridor work a priority. In addition, neighborhoods in corridor projects made connections to those tackling similar projects across town, and a design group affiliated with the university agreed to evaluate one of the bigger corridor initiatives. After other roundtables, County departments and foundations have held follow-up meetings with neighborhood groups based on concerns and ideas voiced at Center roundtables.

In late 1994, the Center began publishing a quarterly newsletter called *Neighborhood Connections*. Now sent to over 1,500 subscribers – including neighborhood leaders and staff, elected officials, media, and funders – the newsletter regularly includes sections such as "Watch it! Keeping an eye on issues and events" and "Crossing Borders: Inter-neighborhood initiatives that are working." Like other Center activities, the newsletter seeks to connect readers to individual neighborhood initiatives, opportunities for collaboration, and the broad issues and policies that frame those efforts.

In February 1995, the Center presented the city's first State of the Neighborhoods Address. Now an annual event, the address offers an assessment of neighborhood revitalization efforts across the city – highlighting positive accomplishments, areas in need of improvement, and public sector support of those efforts. This year's event includes displays by over 30 neighborhoods, coalitions, nonprofits, and government agencies.

The Center has recently received foundation grants to continue these core activities and expand into new areas. This past summer it launched a series of "Neighborhood Leadership Breakfasts," monthly events in which neighborhood staff and leaders hear from experts and practitioners from a variety of communities and disciplines. These forums differ from the roundtables in their emphasis on leadership development and capacity building.

The Center is also exploring how it can better serve as a resource to neighborhoods. Although generally supportive of the Center's activities thus far, 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 Planning Department -- have been able to provide some of this, but neighborhoods remain frustrated and hungry for more and for 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 overly centralized 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 encouraged to participate in all 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 both 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 spawned.

The plans and programs resulting from the NRP comprise a rich set of ideas about housing, economic development, communication, parks and recreation, multi-sector collaboration, public safety, arts and culture, schools, transportation, urban design, and more. For a recent analysis of the NRP plans to date, as well as the City's response, see "Defining Community: A Neighborhood Perspective," by Rip Rapson and Gretchen Nicholls of the Design Center for American Urban Landscape at the University of Minnesota. Contact DCAUL 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; 612/379-3602; seagan@bitstream.net

The Center is an advocate on behalf of neighborhood-driven approaches to urban stability and revitalization . . . a catalyst and incubator for new ideas about how to preserve urban neighborhoods, for new partnerships, and for a city agenda rooted in neighborhoods.

Indigenous Planning at Work: The Resource Center for Raza Planning

by Teresa Córdova

For some, Santa Fe, New Mexico conjures up images of chic Southwestern art, architecture, and lifestyle. Glimpses of exotic natives await the curious tourist 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 inhabited the 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 Bokde 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 Amarilla, helped form RCRP as a mechanism to confront these and 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 concerns and are interested in equipping themselves with the analyses and skills to better engage in the shaping of their region.

The Resource Center formed during a 1996 Spring Semester class I taught 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 equitability, and land use patterns. Students had the opportunity to meet a range of planners including the Bernalillo County Director of Planning and Zoning and grassroots planners from the Tonantzin 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. A team approach was used in the research, writing and editing of the papers. The results were compiled in their first publication, *Planning Issues in Raza Communities*. The article by Bokde and Trujillo is entitled, "Tourism in Santa Fe: Economic and Social Penetration Upon the Community." Paula 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, current socioeconomic 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 Atrisco, which is in the South Valley, adjacent to Albuquerque. Contention over Atrisco's future epitomizes development debates related to the growth and sprawl of Albuquerque. Students in several papers documented the historical development of Atrisco and traditional land uses; the origins of the Atrisco 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 Petroglyph 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 checkerboard annexation of parts of the South Valley; and alternative suggestions 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 feasibility. Other papers covered topics of 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 our traditional communities, through the application of planning processes and techniques. RCRP conceives planning as multi-disciplinary, intergenerational, directly responsive to community needs and developed through ongoing, long term relationships. We seek to maintain the sustainability and survivability of our traditional communities that are threatened by colonization. We begin by asking: Who benefits and who pays from social and planning policies? . . . We contribute to policy debates and decisions through analysis and recommendations for alternative strategies."

On October 3, the group held its inaugural event, at which time

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it provided copies of its first publication, announced its upcoming research project on adjudication of water rights, announced its video project on Atrisco 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 organizers and is developing its agenda through direct interaction with community members. RCRP will be looking to expand its resource base as it increases its number of publications. The research project, conducted with the Atrisco Land Rights Council, will be a several month project involving the documentation of continuous water use by Atrisqueos 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 penitente 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 connectedness 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 Córdova is a PN Steering Committee Member.

An Election Postscript

by Tom Angotti

To vote or not to vote? Hold your nose and vote? Don't throw away your vote? Vote Green or Red?

The suggestions by Norm Krumholz, Dana Driskell, John Cabral and Ron Shiffman in the last *Planners Network* were thoughtful. Problem is I agreed 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 – like half the electorate who wound up staying home on November 5.

PN in Cyberspace!

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

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:

pn-net-request@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.

In the end, I voted Green, and also endorsed my very liberal (yes!) 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.

Common Ground -- But Who Owns It?

Democrats and Republicans say they are looking for Common Ground. With the far right and left liberals in reserve, Clinton and Congress hope 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 owned 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 enclave 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 other outsiders to work on new political alternatives.

Tom Angotti is a PN Co-Chair.

Bulletin Board

PN'ER UPDATES

- PN'er **Tim Lohrentz** 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 Coastal Planning 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 PC, US Embassy Bissau, Dept. of State, Washington, DC 20521-2080; cindy.lohrentz@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 Salvatierra Walkway, Stanford, CA 94305-8620.
- PN'er **Grace Braley** writes that she is "newly employed as Senior Planner with the Maine Commission for Community Service. We are lodged 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 determined and defined at the community level." Contact Grace at #38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333; 207/287-5300; gracebraley@state.me.us
- **Call for Papers.** *Panorama: The Planning Journal of the University of Pennsylvania* is soliciting papers for its Spring 1997 publication. Topics may include any area of urban and regional planning, as well as any related subjects in architecture, landscape architecture, historic preservation, civil engineering, environmental management, and public policy and management. For more information, contact *Panorama*, 127 Meyerson Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6311; 215/898-8329; dpsmith@dolphin.upenn.edu
- **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 discussion sessions, and innovative or unique kinds of presentations. For more information contact Sandi Rosenbloom, Drachman Institute, University of Arizona, ACSP 1997 Conference, 819 East First Street, Tucson, Arizona 85721-0483; 520/623-1223; ACSP97@u.arizona.edu
- PN'er **Debbie Sultemeier** writes "I'm doing research for a CDC on ways they can wean themselves off CDBG and HOME funds and become financially self-sufficient. The organization's experience has been in owner-occupied rehab and acquisition/rehab/resale. 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 CDC activities." Contact Debbie at DebbieSult@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, in which it will competitively award up to 15 grants to eligible doctoral candidates of accredited schools of higher education to complete their research and dissertations on housing and urban development issues. For more information contact University Partnerships Clearinghouse/HUD USER, P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849; 800/245-2691; huduser@aspensys.com
- **Fundraising.** The *National Guide to Funding for Community Development*, listing over 2,500 national and local grantmakers and descriptions of recent grants, is available from the Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003-3076. Cost is \$95.
- **Referee 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 Lauria, Professor and Director, Division of Urban Research and Policy Studies, College of Urban and Public Affairs, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana 70148; 504/286-7106; Mylur@uno.edu

CALLS FOR PAPERS / ASSISTANCE

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 McAuley Institute, 8300 Colesville 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 McAuley Institute, 8300 Colesville 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 Professor or Associate Professor. For more info. contact College of Architecture and Planning, Office of the Dean, 224 Art and Architecture Building, University of TN, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN 27996-2400; 423/974-5267.
- **Development Officer.** National community development organization seeks development officer to coordinate institutional fundraising efforts. Requires grant writing experience, excellent written and verbal communication skills. Opportunity to make a difference. Cover letter and resume to Carol Lewis, Institute of Community Economics, 57 School St., Springfield, MA 01105. People of color encouraged to apply.
- **Director of Technical Assistance.** National community development organization seeks Director of Technical Assistance. Assist community land trusts, oversee training events, preparation of resource materials, manage dept. Requires 3 years in development of financing of affordable housing, familiarity with subsidy sources, excellent verbal and written communication, extensive travel. Cover letter and resume to: Carol Lewis, Institute of Community Economics, 57 School St., Springfield, MA 01105. People of color encouraged to apply.
- **Professor/Los Angeles.** Occidental College invites applications for the Henry Luce Professorship in Urban Environmental Studies. The Luce Professor will be responsible for establishing and coordinating a new Environmental Studies Project, focused on understanding urban environmental issues, and using metropolitan Southern California as a laboratory. For more info. contact Professor Jim Sadd, Chair, Environmental Science and Studies Program, jsadd@oxy.edu; 213-259-2518, or PN'er Peter Dreier, Director of Public Policy Program at dreier@oxy.edu; 213/259-2913. (Note corrected e-mail address from last issue. - Ed.)
- **Professor/Cincinnati.** The School of Planning at the University of Cincinnati is seeking an assistant professor. Candidates should possess a Ph.D. in Planning or a related discipline, and those with professional planning experience and/or degrees in both Planning and Architecture may be given preference. Expertise in physical planning, methods and techniques, land use planning, regulation and development is preferred. Previous teaching experience, especially studio-based experience, is helpful. Individuals should also demonstrate strong research and grant experience. Application deadline is December 31, 1996. Send a vitae, sample of writing and/or design work and names of referees to: Dr. Charles Ellison, Director of the School of Planning, University of Cincinnati, PO Box 210016, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0016. Questions may be addressed via e-mail to Charles.Ellison@uc.edu
- **Evaluation Coordinator.** The Center on Urban Poverty and Social Change at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio is seeking an evaluation coordinator. The evaluation coordinator will work with the project directors to manage all aspects of the evaluation. The position offers a challenging opportunity to participate in developing and testing new evaluation methods while also relating directly to community leaders, residents, agencies and businesses. For more information, contact Claudia Coulton, 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; 216/368-6946; cxc10@po.cwru.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 Rohe, Chair Faculty Search Committee, Department of City and Regional Planning, New East CB# 3140, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3140; 919/962-4769; rohe.dcrp@mhs.unc.edu

Resources

HOUSING

- **Low-Income Housing Awards.** The recipients of the FannieMae Foundations' Maxwell Awards of Excellence 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, and a book compiling profiles of the projects is available. Contact FannieMae, 4000 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016-2800; 202/274-8000.
- **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 five languages. For an order form, listing titles and prices, call CTCR, 212/964-7200.
- **Mortgages.** The Center for Community Change has released HDMA Works, a new software package that makes it easy to analyze local mortgage lending patterns with information disclosed under the Home Mortgage Act. The package is designed specifically for community-based organizations, is affordably priced, and is available in DOS, Mac, and Windows versions. For information contact Becky O'Reilly at 202/342-0567; hn0280@handsnet.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 expiring 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. 710, Washington, DC 20005; 202-628-2981; (fax) 202/783-1485; e-mail: cie@erols.com; <http://neighborlink.cc.duc.edu/cie/index.htm>
- **Low-Income Tax Credits.** HUD's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit database, recently updated, is available on-line at <http://www.huduser.org/lihtc/>
- **Women and Homelessness.** *Unlocking the Door III*, a detailed report of recommendations to prevent homelessness and to eliminate the bureaucratic and programmatic barriers to affordable housing to women, is available now through HousingLink, at <http://www.housinglink.com/unlock.htm>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Community Development.** *Community Development Digest* is published twice-monthly, with briefings on community and economic development news, policy issues, and resources. It's \$413 per year from CD Publications, 8204 Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD 20910; 800/666-6380; cdpubs@clark.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 ruralupdates@lists.aspeninst.org, with the subject line: subscribe, and your name, organization, mail address, phone, fax, e-mail address, and web page address. For more information call Tim Walter, 202/736-5834; timothy@aspeninst.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 (\$8) are available. Contact: Judy Pannullo, LI Progressive Coalition, 516/541-1006. PN'er Scott Carlin helped write this plan and is available at scarlin@aurora.liunet.edu

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 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 how planners and 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 in the San Gabriel Valley, a subregion 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 presenters, and an urban policy agenda.

If you would like to help organize for the conference, contact Gwen Urey (gurey@csupomona.edu, 909/869-2725) or Chuck Hotchkiss (cmhotchkiss@csupomona.edu, 909/869-2687) at Cal Poly, Pomona.

- **Community Economic Development.** The Community Information Exchange has released its databases on community economic development on CD-ROM. The disks include case studies, information about funding sources, and "how-to" materials. It's available in subscription form (12 months) for \$500 for local organizations, \$600 for state-wide organizations, and \$750 for national organizations. Contact Community Information Exchange, 1029 Vermont Ave., NW, Ste. 710, Washington, DC 20005; 202/628-2981; <http://neighborlink.cc.duq.edu/cie/index.htm> (Note corrected internet address from last issue. - Ed.)

ENVIRONMENT

- **Cultural Environment.** The Cultural Environment Movement is a coalition of over 150 independent organizations and supporters in every state of the US and 63 other countries. It represents a wide range of social and cultural concerns, united in working for freedom, fairness, diversity,

Full Employment: A Dream Re-Deferred

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-Deferred* 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 undermines 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.

Panelists included an officer of the union representing the municipal architects, 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

responsibility, health-promotion, respect for cultural integrity, the protection of children, and democratic decision-making in the media mainstream. For more info. contact CEM, 3508 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19104; 215/387-8034; cemad@libertynet.org

- **Environmental Decision Making.** "Negotiated Approaches to Environmental Decision Making in Communities: An Exploration of Lessons Learned," is a working paper on the Negotiated Environmental Strategy. Available from the Program for Community Problem Solving, 915 15th St., NW, Ste. 601, Washington, DC 20005; 202/783-2961; fax: 202/347-2161. Cost is \$10, (+\$4 s&h.)
- **Open Space.** In *Conservation Design for Subdivisions: A Practical Guide to Creating Open Space Networks*, Randall G. Arendt explores better ways of designing new residential developments than we have typically seen in our communities. The step-by-step guide (\$34.95) is published by Island Press, Bix 7, Dept. 2PR, Covelo, CA 95428; 800/828-1302; <http://www.islandpress.com>

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Information.** *Where the Information Is: A Guide to Electronic Information for Nonprofit Organizations*, by Helen Bergan is a recent publication of BioGuide Press (1996, \$29.95, 257 pp.). Intended as a desk reference, the book is also a guide to help new users learn to find their own resources on CD-ROM as well as online. Chapters include resources on the Internet and how to establish a home page for your organization. Contact BioGuide Press, PO Box 16072, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703/820-9045.

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 Disassembling: What Planners Need to Know about Globalization

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

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 can 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.

The Planners Network

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 to maintain and justify 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.

Enclosed is my check payable to

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Planners Network Steering Committee

Ann Forsyth, Co-Chair
Amherst, MA, 413/545-6634
e-mail: forsyth@larp.umass.edu

Ken Reardon, Co-Chair
Urbana, IL, 217/244-5384
e-mail: kmjr@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu

Tom Angotti, Co-Chair, Executive Editor
Brooklyn, NY, 718/636-3486
e-mail: tangotti@pratt.edu

Emily Achtenberg
Boston, MA, 617/524-3982
e-mail: ejpa@aol.com

Luis Aponte-Parés
Boston, MA, 617/287-7286
e-mail: aponte_pares@umbmsky.cc.umb.edu

Teresa Córdova
Albuquerque, NM, 505/277-7535
e-mail: tcordova@vesta.unm.edu

Dana R. Driskell
Bronx, NY, 718/220-8505

Chester Hartman
Wash., DC, 202/387-9887
e-mail: pracc@aol.com

Peter Marcuse
New York, NY, 212/854-3322
e-mail: pm35@columbia.edu

Barbara Rahder
Toronto, Ontario, 416/736-5252
e-mail: es050033@orion.yorku.ca

Peg Seip
New York, NY, 212/260-0250

Andrée Tremoulet
Pittsfield, MA, 413/499-9368

Robert Yabes
Los Angeles, CA, 213/237-0134

Jordan Yin
Ithaca, NY, 607/273-7617
e-mail: jy36@cornell.edu

Newsletter Editor: **Winton Pitcoff**
Brooklyn, NY, 718/636-3461
e-mail: wintonp@ix.netcom.com

Planners Network/Pratt GCPE
200 Willoughby Ave.
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NEXT ISSUE

ARRIVAL DEADLINE FOR *PLANNERS NETWORK* #121 COPY:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1997.

All materials should be sent to:

**Planners Network
379 DeKalb Ave., 2nd Floor.
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.