THE SEVENTH GENERATION

In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.
- From the Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

Election 2000: Is It Time for Urban Policy?

By Tom Angotti

Could it be urban policy time again? As Bush and Gore square off, is there a chance the idea of having a national policy governing urban development — something most other industrialized nations have — could catch their attention?

Election 2000 has brought a few pleasant surprises. Republicans are throwing mud at each other over the religious right. The two Democratic candidates did a dance to show they “care” about the victims of poverty and racism more than the “compassionate Republican.”

Can urban growth and inequality get

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PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN BRAZIL

Porto Alegre Planning Director Newton Burmeister with PNers William Goldsmith and Barbara Lynch Goldsmith and Barbara Lynch. Photo by Ken Reardon.

by William W. Goldsmith

In December 1999, seven PNers went to Porto Alegre and São Paulo, Brazil for nine days of conferences, meetings, and tours to exchange information about progressive alternatives for local government. In Porto Alegre, we made presentations at a three-day seminar hosted by the government of Porto Alegre, known for its pioneering work in participatory budgeting over the last ten years while run by the Workers Party. About 70 city officials, professors and students attended the intensive workshop. Parallel presentations were made by the Brazilian and North American participants on the following topics: Globalization, Decentralization, Local Democracy, Privatization, Real Estate Markets, Environmental Justice, and University/Community

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PLANNERS NETWORK  
STEERING COMMITTEE NEWS

At the PN 1999 Conference at Lowell, Mass. the Steering Committee made plans to hold elections before the end of the year. Those plans were not implemented. Ken Reardon and I have agreed to poll the current steering committee about their intentions and recruit others interested in serving, so that a vote may be held at the PN 2000 Conference in Toronto.

If you’re interested in serving on the Steering Committee, contact Ken (607-266-0122 <kmr22@cornell.edu>) or me (718-399-4391 <tangotti@pratt.edu>). Some people did come forward in Lowell but we don’t know who they were.

PN as an organization is going through some growing pains. In the last several years, we have had excellent annual conferences. This publication has grown from a newsletter to a magazine. PN’s membership has expanded to more states and foreign countries.

But we do all of this with an organizational structure that is more of a loose network than a serious association of professionals and activists. The Steering Committee has no internal division of labor. This places an unacceptable burden on the Co-chairs and staff.

PN does all it does with very limited member contributions, a part-time student staff member, a lot of volunteer sweat, and a ridiculously low annual budget of under $12,000. In part, this is possible because of the generous support of our host, Pratt Institute. But it’s simply not possible to sustain the organization without more resources.

We need to discuss these problems before and at the Toronto meeting and find solutions. I hope we can go into the meeting with some concrete ideas about a better organizational structure and how to raise funds. We’re open to your suggestions and welcome you to work with us.

-- Tom Angotti

Welcome ...

NEW PLANNERS NETWORK MEMBERS


Thank You

RENEWING MEMBERS

Kathryn Albritton, Anya J. Baum, David Birnbaum, Joseph Center, Helene Clark, Ann Forsyth, W. Dennis Keating, David Kovacs, Robert S. Schwartz, Julia A. Stephens, Joseph Torres

... and Special Thanks!

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Emily Actenberg, William W. Goldsmith, Kenneth Reardon

Thanks for supporting PN. The only source of funds for PN is membership contributions. We have no corporate donors or wealthy angels. Contributions are tax deductible.
Planning Ethics and New York's Community Gardens

In PN's Issue 138 (Nov./Dec. 1999) we published an open letter to AICP President Norman Krumholz and the President of the New York Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association. The open letters asked AICP and APA to consider the possible violation of the AICP's professional code of ethics by the New York City Department of City Planning for its failure to act in the case of the City's efforts to sell community gardens for real estate development.

No formal response was received from the APA Metro Chapter. By phone and via a note, Norm Krumholz responded. Excerpts from his written response follow.

The open letter raises questions about the "professional planners in positions of responsibility in the Department of City Planning." The AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct doesn't deal with institutions but with individuals.

Another problem: if any member of the Planners Network Steering Committee who is also a member of AICP wants to eventually bring a charge, he or she may already be in violation of an advisory ruling which says that planners should not make public allegations of code violations but should trust the processes of the Institute to deal with the charge.

Your open letter asks my advice on an appropriate next step. What I would suggest is that a member of the Planners Network Advisory Committee bring a specific charge (or charges) against an individual(s) and submit it to AICP.

All the best,
Norman Krumholz, President
American Institute of Certified Planners

PN Response to Norman Krumholz

Thank you for your response to our letter asking you to consider possible violations of the AICP Code of Ethics by the New York City Department of City Planning. If we understand it correctly, your response essentially states that the Code of Ethics applies only to individuals and not institutions, and therefore AICP will not take action until an individual is named.

The purpose of our letter was to call to the attention of AICP one of possibly many breaches in ethics by one of the largest planning agencies in the country. Our purpose was not to put any individual on the spot. Of course, if AICP needs to identify individuals to respond to our charges, you could logically address the statutory head of the agency and his leading managers, who ultimately must take responsibility for the agency's policies.

At stake in this issue is more than DCP's failure to act on the community gardens issue. The Department of City Planning has abandoned the fundamental principles of democratic planning that bind our planning organizations together. Planners in APA, AICP and Planners Network may disagree among each other about the appropriate emphasis to be placed on these principles individually, but what binds us is a basic commitment to the value of planning in the decisionmaking process.

The Director of the NYC Department of City Planning has publicly agreed with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's assessment that what makes New York City great is "there's no planning." DCP's actions follow this philosophy, with respect to community gardens, zoning, low- and moderate-income housing, and the siting of waste transfer stations in communities of color. Once one of the most active and innovative planning agencies in the country, the NYC DCP has the smallest department per capita of any large city and should rightfully be considered a clerical office for the processing of development proposals, not a planning agency.

If the AICP Code of Ethics cannot be invoked in such an egregious case, then what use is it as a guide to action? We planners are too often accused of making plans that can't be implemented; is our Code of Ethics inapplicable to any

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Planning Ethics/Continued from Page Three

real world ethics violation? Why should the Code of Ethics apply only or even primarily to individuals? The American Association of University Professors, for example, sanctions universities for violating rights to academic freedom, and this has been an effective tool for influencing educational policy. Also, how can we expect any serious action on ethics unless there are explicit protections for individuals who are “whistle-blowers” in their agencies? Perhaps what is needed is a process to review and certify planning agencies?

In sum, we ask AICP to convene a panel to investigate our concerns with respect to community gardens. Those of us with experience in New York City know that our concerns are shared by many professional planners who are not associated with Planners Network. We would be happy to participate with you in such an effort and provide more detailed information. The panel may ultimately find that there is no cause for action, but to turn away from this issue without exploring it in depth would leave many of us with serious questions about the Code of Ethics and the ability of AICP to respond to serious accusations.

We also welcome efforts to establish standards for planning agencies and procedures for reviewing and certifying them.

Planners Network Steering Committee

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on the agenda? Will anyone look at the economic and environmental consequences of the federal government’s absence since the Reagan Revolution?

Although the majority of eligible voters will probably check out, once again, on election day, most people will watch eight months of a media spectacle. The quadrennial ritual to exchange Commander in Chiefs, by tradition, entails a public discussion that brings out, willy-nilly, the fundamental policy issues that concern people most. For those engaged in the day-to-day battle of fighting for progressive change, it’s a chance to get involved in the discussion and pose real alternatives. And if Pat Buchanan enters the fray, he could use anti-corporate sentiments to pull the debate to the right and there would be no balancing voice on the left.

Can we influence the Republicans? Can you change a bush into a sequoia? Maybe they’ll get it some day, but in the meantime ....

Is there hope for Gore? We can give the Clinton-Gore Administration credit for saving HUD from extinction, acknowledging environmental justice as a legitimate concern, and withstanding some strong attacks on the by now severely limited role of the federal government in urban affairs. On the other hand, the New Democrats conceded from the start the Reagan Revolution’s policies of devolution to the states and downsizing government. They gave in to welfare deformed, started the privatization of public housing, and screwed up health care.

Should we back Ralph Nader running on the Green Party ticket? He would be the first anti-corporate candidate. But will he run a serious campaign and generate steam for a progressive program? Will he notice racial injustice and the diverse elements in progressive politics?

Can either Gore or Nader develop a national urban policy to address problems the conservative state governments have proven themselves incapable of solving? Will they come up with proposals to stop sprawl, limit auto use and build mass transit that go beyond the feeble Smart Growth initiative announced by Gore? Will they advocate policies that build and preserve healthy communities at the same time they guarantee universal health care? Can they get the Justice Department to really fight racial discrimination, HUD to house the homeless, Agriculture to feed the hungry, and EPA to go after the polluters in communities of color? Can they help us reverse the bipartisan consensus, backed by a conservative judicial system, founded on the strengthening of “state’s rights?”

Progressive planners should ask the questions. And have some answers for the candidates.

I invite PN readers to do so in this column.
Proposal for PEO History Project

By Ken Reardon

On October 15 and 16, 1999, approximately fifty former members of Planners for Equal Opportunity (PEO) gathered for a 25th Reunion Celebration at Pratt Institute’s Manhattan Center. Following a short set of remarks by Lew Lubka and Walter Thabit, the assembled members stood, one by one, to describe their involvement in PEO during the 1960s and 1970s as well as their subsequent professional and political work. These individual reports described how this relatively small group of radical planners had attempted to move national urban policy in the U.S. in a more progressive direction.

The PEO Reunion participants described how their involvement in this organization had galvanized their individual commitment to economic, social, and racial justice and how this commitment had led them to subsequently become involved in a wide range of community struggles. They described their efforts to oppose Robert Moses’ pro-growth policies in New York City by challenging highway, housing and renewal projects that displaced low-income people of color. They told of their efforts to encourage the New York City Planning Department and the Tennessee Valley Authority to adopt redistributive policies and participatory policy-making procedures. They shared stories about their efforts, as researchers and expert witnesses, to show how well-intended Federal housing policies were reinforcing residential segregation in both Southern and Northern cities. They testified regarding their efforts to promote community-based housing, commercial and industrial development in East New York (NY), Newark (NJ), Boston (MA), San Francisco (CA), Washington (DC) and St. Louis (MO).

This introductory session went far beyond the allotted 45 minute time slot into a unplanned three hour session. Many participants expressed both surprise and pride in the number of critical urban policy debates of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s in which PEO members appeared to play a critical role. During the closing session, a number of participants highlighted the need to document the grassroots organizing efforts and national urban policy contributions of this small network of progressive community leaders, professional planners, planning academics and elected officials. Many felt it was important to tell the individual stories of PEO’s most active members now, when cynicism regarding the possibilities for progressive social change appears to be high.

Launching the PEO History Project

We are inviting interested individuals and organizations to join us in initiating a Planners for Equality Opportunity History Project which will document the grassroots organizing, planning and policy-change efforts of PEO activists during the period between 1960 and 1980 and explore the implications of this work for contemporary progressive planning practice. This project would be a cooperative effort involving former PEO Members, Planners Network members, and interested planning educators and students. The project would result in three tangible outcomes:

1) A set of interview transcripts with PEO Members, and selective documents highlighting their work, posted on the Planners Network web site.

2) An expanded archive containing the personal papers of PEO activists to be deposited in the Progressive Planning Archive established by Professor Pierre Clavel in the Fine Arts Library of Cornell University.

3) A series of biographical profiles describing the contributions of individual PEO Members to progressive planning practice and urban policy to be published in future issues of Planners Network.

4) An edited book containing individual biographical profiles of PEO members whose research, writing, and activism has impacted local progressive planning practice and national urban policy in the post 1960s era.

To start with, I will work with Walter Thabit, Chester Hartman, Tom Angotti, and Pierre Clavel to develop a preliminary proposal for the Planners for Equal Opportunity History Project. A draft of the proposal will be circulated to all former PEO members and supporters to elicit volunteers for an Editorial Board. The Editorial Board would be responsible for planning the project, including the arrangement of taped interviews with former

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PEO members, transcription, editing and publication of the interviews. The Board would seek funding and support on campuses to cover research assistants, travel, transcription services, postage, copying, etc.

If you would like to take part in this effort, want more information or a copy of the preliminary proposal, or would like to make suggestions or criticisms, contact: Walter Thabit, 305 E. 11th Street #5C, New York, NY 10003-7461 (212-477-3694) WalterKT@aol.com; or Ken Reardon, 109 Judd Falls Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607-266-0122) kmr22@cornell.edu

Conference Announcement
The Thinning Metropolis
September 8 and 9, 2000
City & Regional Planning
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York
An opportunity to explore the problems and possibilities associated with population shifts away from U.S. city centers
For information contact hg18@cornell.edu

Marazul Tours, Inc. announces the following conferences taking place in CUBA this year*

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This conference will provide a forum for the discussion of experiences in the field of a sustainable habitat that are being implemented around the world, their successes and failures, as well as of the policies that have paved the way for the implementation of such experiences and possible alternatives for the immediate future.

**Urbanism 2000: Urban Planning and Management in the 21st Century**
(July 11-14, 2000)

This conference will provide an updated view of the problems, the theory, and the practice of urbanism and their relation to sustainable development, the governance of cities, and social participation. It will adopt an integrated approach to urban planning, taking into consideration the social, cultural, environmental, economic, and technological aspects of the urban experience.

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Participatory Budgeting

Since 1989 Porto Alegre, the capital of Brazil’s southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul, has been governed by mayors elected from a coalition led by the Workers Party (PT). Three PT mayors and their staff have promoted increasingly popular and innovative programs. Participatory Budgeting is the centerpiece of Porto Alegre’s reforms.

Officials estimate that last year some 40,000 citizens participated in public meetings to allocate about half the city budget. Citizens thus take a healthy chunk of responsibility for governing the city, which has a population of 1.3 million.

Citizens decide on practical matters such as the location of new pavement or a new park, but what’s even more important, according to officials we spoke with, is that citizens become conscious of new and better possibilities for their lives. They take up and sharpen weapons to resist the damaging pressures that come from the market and the marketeers. Thus, citizens challenge forces that usually dictate the miserable conditions that make life so difficult for the majority. The Secretary of Planning for the State of Rio Grande do Sul, as of the last election also governed by the PT, invoked Che and Fidel as he enunciated his vision of the opportunity to transcend the current situation and strive to construct the socialist person. (The current governor was the first PT mayor of Porto Alegre.)

The Process of Participatory Budgeting

Participatory Budgeting now involves three parallel sets of meetings — neighborhood assemblies, “thematic” assemblies, and meetings of delegates for city-wide coordinating sessions. Events begin each year with a formal report by the city government on the previous year’s expenditures, called the Presentation of Accounts. Meetings continue all year in three series of highly organized, formal rounds. The first series considers allocations within each of the 16 districts or neighborhoods of the city, across the usual departmental responsibilities, such as water supply and sewage, street paving, parks and schools, and among the districts. District elections add a layer of representative democracy atop the directly democratic deliberations. Delegates at the district level are clearly constrained in their votes by the neighborhood meetings, ample reporting requirements, and workable recall arrangements to keep them in line. To encourage participation, the number of delegates is roughly proportional to the number of neighbors attending the meeting where elections take place.

One of the achievements of honest and effective participation is recognition that at some level allocation decisions are zero-sum games.

The district-based meetings begin with 16 Great Assemblies in public places, including union centers, gyms, churches and clubs — even a circus tent that held 2,000 people. The government reports on the previous year. Then the government presents its investment plan for the current year (decided in the previous year’s meetings). Then the debate starts for the year to come. The debates go on for nine months, and each district produces two sets of rankings, one set for twelve major in-district “themes,” like pavement versus school construction versus water lines, the other for “cross-cutting” efforts that affect the entire city, like cleaning up the beaches.

Allocation of the investment budget among districts is weighted by a set of weights also determined by popular debate. This year these weights are population, an index of poverty, a measure of shortages (e.g., lack of pavement), and the assigned priorities. A healthy tension between the executive branch and the citizens has resulted in a steady expansion of popular involvement. Through citizen initiative, Participatory Budgeting has broadened its scope to take in more of the city’s budget. The leadership and design of meetings has shifted from executive-branch officials toward citizens and their elected delegates. Budget priorities have shifted in ways not anticipated by the mayors or their staff. The mayor and his staff stressed that one of the achievements of honest and effective participation is recognition that at some level allocation decisions are zero-sum games: e.g., more child care or less pavement.

This process has other consequences. Porto Alegre’s lead-
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er s reject the competitive-city ideology and have used the
solidarity that has developed from widespread participa-
tion to make some unusual decisions. In spite of promises
of new employment and the usual ideological pressures
from the Ford Motor Company, the city turned down a
proposed new auto plant, arguing that the required subsi-
dies would be better applied against other city needs. The
city also turned down a five-star hotel proposed for the
site of a de-commissioned power plant, preferring to use
the well-situated site as a public park, convention hall
and public symbol of the city. And faced with a proposal to
clear slums to make room for a large supermarket (called
the BIG store), the city imposed stiff and costly relocation
requirements.

Who Participates in Participatory Budgeting?

One index of the success of Participatory Budgeting is the
increased level of participation. The
number of participants grew from
fewer than a thousand in 1990 to more
than 16,000 in 1998 and about 40,000
in 1999. But even more important,
participation isn’t limited to the mid-
tle class or the traditional supporters of the Workers
Party.

Studies have shown that participants in the 16 district
assemblies and delegates to the regional councils are
drawn disproportionately from the poor, although partici-
pation in the thematic (ministerial) groups involves more
professionals, technocrats, and middle-class people.
Furthermore, the Participatory Budgeting process has
brought into political action many who aren’t in or don’t
support the Workers Party. This is in stark contrast with
the traditional patronage approach of the other major par-
ties that used city hall as a way to pay off their support-
ers.

This incredible achievement explains why the PT govern-
ment is able to consistently get its budget proposal past
the city council, where the majority remains in the hands
of conservatives. The mayors (we spoke with two), the
city planners, and other staff people report that members
of the council are kept in line by direct pressures from
their constituents.

The success of Participatory Budgeting takes place amid
substantial pressures hostile to democracy. Citizens face a
constant ideological assault from local newspapers and
television, all of them right-wing, which glorify the market
and globalization. They harken to the conditions that cre-
ated patronage and graft, which for so long and so prof-
itably pervaded budget making and public spending, as
they still do in most Brazilian cities. Nevertheless, through
active participation, the efforts of radio broadcasting, and
a long history of resistance, a majority of the Porto Alegre
population has managed to pressure the city council to
vote in favor of the mayor’s budget proposals, and they
have managed to keep the progressive agenda intact.

Poverty in Porto Alegre

We must add that Porto Alegre begins from a relatively
advantageous position. It is the capital city of a wealthy
state, and both city and state have enjoyed a long history
of populist and often left-populist politics. But this pop-
ulism has many shortcomings. In 1989, despite a high life
expectancy and literacy rate, conditions in Porto Alegre
mirrored the inequality and segregation of other Brazilian
cities. A third of the population was in slums, isolated and distant from the
center and with low levels of public
services.

However, it appears that the participatory
process has begun to yield some important changes in
substance. Conditions for the poorest citizens of Porto
Alegre have improved in some respects, in spite of diffi-
culties in the economy that have deepened poverty and
unemployment in all Brazilian cities. Between 1988 and
1997, sewer and water connections in Porto Alegre (gen-
early, in Brazil, no guarantee of frequency of service or
quality) went from 75 percent to 98 percent of all resi-
idences. The number of schools quadrupled since 1986.
The city’s health and education budget grew from 13 per-
cent to nearly 40 percent between 1985 and 1996. New
public housing units, which sheltered only 1,700 new resi-
dents in 1986, housed an additional 27,000 in 1989.

The progress in Porto Alegre would be no small matter in
any city of the world, but since Brazil has what is often
said to be the world’s most unequal distribution of income,
public sector efforts can be of extraordinary importance
for the well-being of the majority. Although broad statisti-
cal comparisons are always complicated, the Brazilian dis-
parities in wealth and poverty are so extreme that they pre-
sent extraordinary odds against a progressive city govern-
ment. Consider that in the United States, which is perhaps
the least equal of the rich industrial democracies, the top
twenty percent of households earn, on average, about nine
times what the poorest twenty percent earn. In Brazil this
spread is more than thirty to one. For very large numbers of people near the bottom in Brazil, sometimes for whole neighborhoods, near homelessness and hunger are not remote dangers but ever-present realities.

The vast majority of the Brazilian population is urbanized, and a very sizeable portion live in very large metropolises. The Porto Alegre metropolis houses about three million inhabitants. In most Brazilian cities, roughly one-third to one-half the people live in favelas, generally illegal or irregular settlements that are grossly underserved with water and sewerage connections, schools, health centers, public parks and recreation areas, lacking even paved streets and sidewalks. Most favelas lie on the distant outskirts of cities, imposing physical isolation, very long commutes for work, and severe shortages of public services. This geography of dispersed poverty prevails in Porto Alegre.

Under these conditions, exacerbated by massive federal budget cutbacks and the severe inequality generated by the private market economy, what can a city government do? We asked this question to officials in the Porto Alegre government. Their answers were hopeful but highly cautious. We were reminded by the current mayor that while the United States in some sense grew up from localities to a federation, leaving at least a residue of local control and a tradition of local decisionmaking, Brazil is growing down from a centralized empire which has yielded a long tradition of deference and passivity. Following a number of progressive urban initiatives in the 1989 post-dictatorship Constituent Assembly, all Brazil is now involved in a double-edged process of “municipalizing” and increasing local autonomy. The downside of this process is that it shrinks national responsibility and reduces financial pressure on banks, corporations, and wealthy individuals. The positive side is that it offers to increase both local control and locally controlled resources.

We asked about local progressive innovations familiar to us – living wage laws, restrictions on banking practices, etc. Any intervention in banking practices or in the determination of private wages, even of suppliers, would not be legal, we were told, but the city does practice its own progressive wage policy, making increases every two months to follow inflation (a perpetual Brazilian problem, under control only in recent years). Porto Alegre municipal workers are the best paid, compared to other city halls in the country, and their high and often adjusted wages also serve as a model for other local workers and unions.

Five or six days visiting a city could give us only a taste and can lead to false impressions. Two of the seven of us have worked for years in Brazil, and others have visited and studied Brazilian and Latin American cities, but we are loathe to present this report as definitive. On the other hand, our observations lead to the inescapable conclusion that the Porto Alegre experience challenges Brazilian and global capital. The elected leadership has assisted these choices with extraordinary intelligence and marked dedication to progressive principles. This is an important experiment to watch. Throughout Brazil, state and municipal governments are governed by leftist parties and coalitions — mostly by the PT, but by other parties as well, some 200 state and local governments in all. These local governments face enormous obstacles, but their work should be taken by political activists and planners everywhere as a signal and test of the possibilities for progress. Perhaps too much attention has been paid by U.S. planners to the experience of Curitiba, a city not far from Porto Alegre that has made some advances in environmentally sensitive planning under conservative leadership that has had the effect of gentrifying the center city and further isolating the poor. Curitiba has waged a successful international marketing campaign to publicize its work. It’s time for progressive planners to speak truth to the market.

Further reading:

Rebecca Abers, “From Ideas to Practice: The Partido dos Trabalhadores and Participatory Governance in Brazil.” Latin American Perspectives 23,4 Fall 1996, pp. 35-53.


William W. Goldsmith is a Professor of Urban Planning at Cornell University.
Insurgent Planning, Globalization & Local Democracy

Planners Network Conference, June 22-25, 2000
Toronto, Canada

The Planners Network Conference 2000 will be held at Ryerson Polytechnic University in downtown Toronto, and will explore the theme of Insurgent Planning, Globalization & Local Democracy, as well as the sub-themes:

- Environmental Politics
- Privatization of Planning
- Rights to the City
- Communities of Resistance
- Community Economic Development
- Contested Open Spaces

Full details on the 2000 Conference are on the web at: www.plannersnetwork.org/pn2000.htm

Sponsors include: York University Faculty of Environmental Studies, Ryerson Polytechnic University School of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Toronto Program in Urban & Regional Planning, and the City of Toronto Department of Planning and Development.

The City of Toronto is being buffeted by the adverse effects of globalization and the “downloading” of responsibility for social services. Local communities are organizing to resist these developments with varied success. This conference will provide an opportunity to meet with some of these communities, as well as with conference participants from around the world, to share strategies and experiences.

Toronto is described as the most multicultural city in North America. It is also home to a large and vibrant gay and lesbian community. The conference coincides with a week of festivities culminating in Toronto’s Gay Pride parade on Sunday June 25. Toronto’s Pride Festival is one of the oldest and largest on the continent. Some of the conference activities will be integrated with Gay Pride events.

DRAFT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

**Thursday June 22:**
8:30 am  Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:30 am  Keynote Speaker: Gerda Wekerle, “Insurgent Planning, Globalization and Local Democracy in Toronto”
10:30 am  Concurrent Workshops
12:00  Lunch break
2:00 pm  Community-Based Workshops
7:00 pm  Dinner and Panel Discussion at Field to Table: Food Security and Communities of Resistance

**Friday June 23:**
7:30 am  Continental Breakfast
8:30 am  Concurrent Workshops
10:30 am  Creative Workshops

**Saturday June 24:**
7:30 am  Continental Breakfast
8:30 am  Concurrent Workshops
10:30 am  Concurrent Workshops
12:00  Lunch break
2:30 pm  Toronto Island Community Tours and Workshops
6:00 pm  BBQ, Dance, and Fireworks at Wards Island Clubhouse

**Sunday June 25:**
8:30 am  Networking Breakfast at Oakham House
10:30 am  PN Steering Committee Meeting
CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Some of the workshops already confirmed include:

Interactive Workshops:

Eco-cities and Eco-villages, Queer Communities and Space, Multicultural Rights to the City: International Perspectives, Alternatives to the Mainstream: Critical Planning Education, Whose University? Resisting Privatization, Women Plan the City, Suburbs as a Site of Mobilization, Alternatives to Olympic Fever: Bread Not Circuses, Housing for Marginalized Communities, Community Use of GIS, Community Organizing on the Internet, Competing Visions for Old Neighbourhoods: International Perspectives

Creative Workshops:

Activist Video, Puppet Making, Insurgent Hat Making, Storytelling.

Tours:

Thematic Walking Tours of Toronto, Immigrants and their Gardens, The Great Indian Bus Tour of Toronto, A Gay History of Toronto, Environmental Flashpoints: the Rouge River Valley & the Oak Ridges Moraine

Proposal for Workshops and Presentations
[Include with your Registration -- see over]

We invite you to propose a workshop or presentation on one or more of the conference themes. We are hoping that workshops will be interactive, with brief presentations on current research, issues or activities, and lots of time for discussion. To submit a proposal or abstract, or for more information: email pnetwork@yorku.ca or write to: Barbara Rahder, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3, Canada. Please submit proposals before 15 April, 2000.

Title of Proposal:

Participants:

If you list presenters other than yourself, we ask you to obtain permission from them (please also include names, affiliations, addresses, phone number, and emails). Please develop panels that reflect a racial, gender, age, and practitioner/academic balance, as well as a geographic mix wherever possible.

This proposal is for:

() A presentation
() A complete presentation workshop (3-4 presenters; presentations should be brief and designed to stimulate discussion)
() A complete self-organized discussion workshop (semi-structured discussion of a topic, no formal presenters)
() Community tour/off site presentation (should be reachable from the Greater Toronto Area).
() Charrette (intensive brainstorming/problem-solving session with community group or agency)

Brief description of the content of the presentation/workshop/activity:
Conference Registration


Name ____________________________ Affiliation ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ____________________________ State/Province ________ Zip or Postal Code ________
Country ___________ Daytime Phone ___________ Fax ___________
email ____________________________

Registration Fees (breakfast and dinner included)

FOR CANADIANS

( ) High income (over $80,000 Can.) $255 before 22 March 2000, $305 after 22 March 2000
( ) Middle income $150 before 22 March 2000, $200 after 22 March 2000
( ) Low income and students $75 before 22 March 2000, $100 after 22 March 2000
(under $40,000 Can.)

All figures for Canadians are listed in Canadian dollars.

Total Registration Fee ________ Can.

FOR NON-CANADIANS

( ) High income (over $50,000 US) $170 before 22 March 2000, $200 after 22 March 2000
( ) Middle income $100 before 22 March 2000, $135 after 22 March 2000
( ) Low income and students $50 before 22 March 2000, $70 after 22 March 2000
(under $25,000 US)

All figures for non-Canadians are listed in U.S. dollars. Please indicate on your check that you are paying in U.S. funds.

Total Registration Fee ________ U.S.

Planners Network Membership (special conference rate: $15) ________

Total Payment Enclosed ________

Full payment for the conference must accompany registration. Please note, accommodation reservation form is on the next page. Please make checks for conference registration payable to: Planners Network. If paying in U.S. funds, please indicate this on your check. Send to:

Barbara Rahder,
Faculty of Environmental Studies,
York University,
4700 Keele Street,
Toronto, Ontario
M3J 1P3, Canada.

If you will need CHILD CARE at the conference, please indicate here: ________
Number and ages of children: ________
Day(s) child care will be needed: ________
Accommodation Reservation

TO BE CERTAIN OF GETTING A ROOM, PLEASE BOOK BY 20 MARCH, 2000

PITMAN HALL RESIDENCE: On-campus accommodations will be provided in Ryerson’s dormitory-style residence with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. Pitman Hall is a modern, air-conditioned building located in the heart of downtown Toronto. All rooms provide a captain-style single bed and are comfortably furnished with in-room telephone, and individual climate control.

(Please print or type)
Name ________________________________ Affiliation
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Address ______________________________
____________________________________
City __________________ State/Province __ Zip or Postal Code ___
Country _______ Daytime Phone ______________ Fax __________________
email ________________________________

DATE OF ARRIVAL: ____________________ CHECK-IN: AFTER 4:00 PM
DATE OF DEPARTURE: __________________ CHECK-OUT: BY 11:00 AM
PARKING REQUIRED: YES____ NO____

MC_____ VISA_______ CC#______________
EXP. ________________
SIGNATURE: ____________________________
NAME OF CARDHOLDER: __________________

DAILY GROUP RATE: $46.00 x ____ (# of days) x 1.12 (12% tax) = $____________

We accept cash, VISA, MASTERCARD and travellers cheques. **No personal cheques accepted.** All reservations must be confirmed with a credit card. Your credit card will not be charged until you arrive. You must provide at least 48 hours cancellation notice to avoid being charged for the room.

Thank you for reserving with Ryerson Conference Services

Fax form to: (416) 979-5212

CONFIRMATION # _________________
Confirmation will be sent by mail, time permitting.
JOBS

ILLINOIS

The Institute for Community Empowerment seeks a Community Organizer. Must have college degree, excellent communication skills, writing skills, and Spanish-speaking a plus. Conduct resident interviews, volunteer recruitment, leadership development, and grassroots fundraising. Salary is $20-30K. Send resume to Institute for Community Empowerment, 4959 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60641, or email <iceclayton@aol.com>.

NEW YORK

STRIVE, an East Harlem-based job readiness and placement program, seeks an Executive Assistant for its national headquarters. Candidate must be detail oriented and organized, a self-starter who works well independently, have strong written and oral communication and a professional demeanor. Bilingual (English/Spanish) a plus. Salary is $28K. Fax cover letter indicating position, resume, salary requirements to Tim Moriarty, STRIVE, 212-360-5634.

The Research and Investigations Unit of the Office of NYC Public Advocate Mark Green is seeking a Research Assistant-Administrative Aide to assist with public policy research including phone calling, field research, tabulations, preparing tables and charts and handling occasional administrative duties such as faxing and photocopying. Good writing and computer skills required. Salary is $22K to $24K. Send cover letter and resume to Glenn von Noistitz, Office of the NYC Public Advocate, 1 Centre Street, 15th floor, New York, NY 10007.

Cooper Square Mutual Housing Association, manager of low income housing, seeks a Tenant Relations Specialist to manage buildings, co-}

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<th>Planners Network</th>
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JusticeWorks Community, a national non-profit based in Brooklyn, New York, seeks an experienced Community Organizer. Must have campaign and nonprofit experience, be willing to learn and practice JWC's organizing model. Organizer will be expected to recruit and mobilize religious and secular groups for the Interfaith Partnership for Criminal Justice-the local organizing vehicle of a national campaign and to work on public policy change in New York State. Computer skills required. Salary mid-30's. Send resume to Mary E. Fitzgerald, JWC, 1012 Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215.

Phipps Community Development Corporation seeks an Executive Director. Responsible for planning and management of a multifaceted human services corporation that is part of a large not-for-profit housing and community development organization. PCDC is an affiliate of Phipps Houses, a not-for-profit housing developer and sponsor, PHSI, a manager of nearly 10,000 affordable apartments, and is part of the Phipps Houses Group which owns over 3,700 units of affordable housing in Manhattan, the South Bronx, and Queens. Salary is $100,000 plus. Send resume to Rachel Zoffness Gilbert Tweed Associates, 415 Madison Ave, 20th Floor New York, NY 10017 or email <r_zoffness@gilberttweed.com>.
Mount Hope Housing Company is seeking a **Community Development Associate**. Responsibilities include the Coordination of NYC’s first individual Development Account Program. Build skills in program management, grantwriting, asset-building initiatives and comprehensive development models. Must have BA or equivalent, strong oral and written skills; prior experience with home ownership, business development and/or money management; knowledge of and/or interest in economic development. Spanish a plus. Send cover letter and resume to Rita Bowen, MHHC, 2003-05 Walden Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453, or fax: 718-299-5623.

Victim Services is looking for **Advocates** to assist victims of domestic violence. Duties include assisting victims of domestic violence to prepare for and access housing, advocate for entitlements and other services, provide on-going case management and co-facilitate workshops and support groups. Must have BA, 2 years experience with victim issues, and Spanish speaking a plus. Salary is $24-$30K. Send resume and cover letter to A. Perhaes, Victim Services, 2 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10007.

Common Cents New York is seeking an **Executive Assistant**. Provide community action opportunities to thousands of students through service learning programs. Must have office and computer experience, and strong administrative and organizational skill to assist the Executive Director in fundraising, public relations and working with the Program Management Team. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills needed. Salary is low-mid $30’s. Fax cover letter and resume to Kruti Parekh 212-579-3488 or phone 212-PENNIES.

The NYC Coalition Against Hunger seeks a **Director of Technical Assistance**. Coordinate new initiative to build the capacity of emergency food programs. The Director will help a faith-based, voluntary service sector develop management skills and implement new programs through a comprehensive program of training, information and TA. Must have extensive community-based experience in social services, management, fundraising, and training. Salary in mid $30s. Send resumes to 212-385-4330; email <nyccaah@netzero.com> or for more info call 212-227-8480.

**Assistant Project Director** needed for eviction prevention program. Research into PA & Housing law, editing & updating manuals on HRA & Housing Court rules, oversight of staff’s work on Jiggetts cases, some staff training & supervision. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred; and 3 years’ experience in case management and broad-based social services knowledge. Great writing & organizational skills required. Mid-$30s. Send resume to Assistant CHAT Director, CFRC, 39 Broadway, 10th Floor, NY NY 10006 or fax 212-616-4988.

Asian Americans for Equality seeks a **Fair Housing Specialist**. Work with clients to correct code violations, resolve landlord/tenant disputes, advocate with government agencies, work with investigators, and education and outreach. Must be bilingual in Spanish, Korean, Chinese or South Asian languages. Send resume to AAFEHC, 40-34 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11354, Attn: Christopher Punongbayan or email <chrsp@aafe.org>.

**VERMONT**

The Vermont State Housing Authority is looking for a **Housing Development Specialist** in Montpelier. Must have knowledge of federal and state laws and regulations regarding finance, design, construction and maintenance of real estate, grant writing skills, working knowledge of construction and operating budgets and proformas, and ability to plan, coordinate and oversee large construction, repair and improvement projects. Salary is $30-40K. Send resume to Vermont State Housing Authority, One Propsect St., Montpelier, VT 05602-3556, or email <kim@vsha.org>.

**EVENTS**

**March 17, 2000**: Planner Network New York Spring Forum Series "Confronting the Asthma Scourge." 5:30 pm at the Puck Building. For more info 718-636-3461.

**March 27-29, 2000**: National Low Income Housing Coalition’s National Housing Policy Conference and Housing Lobby Day in Washington, DC. For more info and updates on the conference visit <www.nlihc.org>.

**April 4-7, 2000**: The International Eco-Cities Conference in Curitiba, Brazil. For more info visit <www.unilivre.org.br>/or contact Clovis Ultramari, Cleon Ricardo dos Santos, Unilivre, Open University for the Environment, Rua Victor Benato 210, Zip 82, 120-110, Curitiba, Parana, Brazil or <unilivre@unilivre.org.br>. The U.S. organizer is Richard Register of EcoCities Builders at <ecocity@igc.org>. 


May 10-14, 2000: Building Bridges: Connecting People, Research and Design by the Environmental Design Research Association. San Francisco, CA. For more info 405-330-4863 or email <edra@telepath.com> or visit <www.telepath.com/edra/home.html>.


May 22-24, 2000: Toward a Sustainable Habitat: Challenges of the New Millennium in Havana, Cuba. See ad on p. 6 for details.

June 12-15, 2000: National Low-Income Energy Conference in Los Angeles, CA. Learn new approaches and resources to assist in relieving the energy burdens in low-income households. This year’s theme is “Building Bridges: California Dreaming... Making Dreams Reality.” For more info contact Richard Sims at 614-460-6940 or Sue Gove at 412-431-5087.

June 12-15, 2000: Management & Community Development Institute. Contact the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs for more info at 617-627-3453 or web site <ase.tufts.ed/fci>.

June 22-23, 2000: The Practice of Environmentally Sensitive Development a workshop sponsored by the Urban Land Institute and the Conservation Fund which will be held in San Francisco, CA. For more info contact ULI, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W., Suite 500 West, Washington, D.C. 20007, phone 800-321-5011, or visit their web site at <www.uli.org>.


July 4-6, 2000: Urban Agriculture and Horticulture-The Linkage with Urban Planning in Berlin, Germany. Organised by TRIALOG - Association for Research into Housing, Planning and Building in the Developing World, Humboldt-University, Faculty of Agriculture, Germany. For more info <www.agrar.hu-berlin.de> and for abstracts and feedback email <urban.agriculture@arcormail.de> and <urban.agriculture@usa.net>.

July 10-14, 2000: Urban Futures Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. Speakers and information listed at the web site <sunsite.wits.ac.za/urbanfutures/>. For more info contact Alan Mabin, Johannesburg, +27 11 482 7142, fax +27 11 403 0936, email <mabina@zeus.mgmt.wits.ac.za>

October 26-28, 2000: The UMass Lowell International Conference on Sustainable Regional Development will be held in Lowell, Massachusetts. Themes include the sharing of experiences and analyses among people in institutions of higher education engaged in regional development and regional development agencies that are linking their efforts with universities. For more info email <Judy_Blackburn@uml.edu>.

**PUBLICATIONS**

The Youth Power Guide: How To Make Your Community Better details the design and planning activities developed by a neighborhood improvement program run by the Holyoke, MA youth and community arts program El Arco Iris. The guide was developed by YouthPower and the Urban Places Project at the University of Massachusetts and PN member Ann Forsyth co-authored the book. For more info on this innovative book, phone 877-UMASSXT or visit web site <www.umass.edu/umext/bookstore>.

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**PLACE YOUR AD IN PN**

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Send file via email to <tangotti@pratt.edu>, or mail camera-ready copy by first day of the first month of the issue (e.g., March 1 for the march/April issue).
SPRING FORUM SERIES

March 17  Confronting the Asthma Scourge: Applying the Health Cities Approach to the City’s Asthma Epidemic

The incidence of asthma is increasing at an alarming rate in New York City. A recent study by researchers at Mount Sinai Hospital indicates that low-income, minority communities with a high proportion of children are especially hard hit. Integrated approaches, based on collaboration between public health, planning and environmental officials and professionals hold promise in addressing and alleviating high asthma levels in New York City.

April 28  Overhauling New York City’s Zoning Resolution: What Needs Fixing and What Doesn’t?

The Department of City Planning has proposed revisions to the Zoning Resolution. Do these revisions respond to changing needs and conditions? Will they promote a more efficient and equitable process of land use regulation in the city? Current and former members of the City Planning Commission will be invited to discuss these issues.

Note: This Forum will take place in Room 428.

Ron Shiffman, Director, Pratt Institute Center for Community & Environmental Development
Mitchell Silver, President, NY Metro Chapter, American Planning Association
Joseph Rose, Chairman, NYC Planning Commission [invited]

ALL FORUMS ARE ON FRIDAYS AT 5:30 PM

All Forums are at the Pratt Institute/Manhattan campus, 295 Lafayette Street @ Houston.
Wine & cheese reception begins at 5:30 pm. Program 6-8 pm.
Co-sponsored by Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning & Environment

If you’re interested in finding out about other PN’ers near you, or in starting a local chapter, contact Tom at:718-636-3461 or pn@pratt.edu

PLANNERS NETWORK ON LINE

The PN WEB SITE is at: www.plannersnetwork.org

The PN LISTSERV:

PN maintains an on-line mailing list for members to post and respond to queries, list job postings, conference announcements, etc. To join, send an email message to majordomo@list.pratt.edu with “subscribe pn-net” (without the quotes) in the body of the message (not the subject line). You’ll be sent instructions on how to use the list.
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. This includes opposition to racial, economic, and environmental injustice, and discrimination by gender and sexual orientation. 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.

Future Issues

Upcoming special issues:

May/June 2000: Technology Guest Editor: Ann Forsyth
July/August: PN 2000 Conference Issue
The New York Region

We are looking for articles on the following topics:

- Environmental Justice
- Rural Planning
- Planning the Prison-Industrial Complex
- Charter Schools
- Healthy Cities Initiatives
- Auto Dependency

Feature articles of 500 to 1,500 words are always welcome. Please submit articles, notes, updates, and resources typed and double-spaced. Submissions on disk or by email are greatly appreciated. Send to the Editor at <tangotti@pratt.edu> or Planners Network, 379 DeKalb Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205. Fax: 718-636-3709.

Deadline: first day of the first month of the issue (e.g., May 1 for May/June issue).
FOR 25 YEARS, Planners Network has been a voice for progressive professionals and activists concerned with urban planning and social justice. PN's 1,000 members receive this bimonthly newsletter, network online with PN-NET, and take part in the annual conference. PN also gives progressive ideas a voice in the mainstream planning profession by organizing sessions at annual conferences of the American Planning Association and American Collegiate Schools of Planning.

The PN Conference has been held annually each spring since 1994. These gatherings combine speakers and workshops with exchanges involving local communities. PN conferences engage in discussions that help inform political strategies at the local, national, and international levels. Recent conferences have been held in Washington, D.C.; East St. Louis, IL; Brooklyn, NY; and Pomona, CA.

Whether face-to-face, in print, or over the internet, PNers are part of a network that shares progressive ideas and experiences. Join Planners Network and make a difference while sharing your ideas and enthusiasm with others!

All members must make an annual financial contribution. The Steering Committee recommends the following amounts as minimums for Network members:
- $15 for those with incomes under $25,000, students and unemployed
- $25 for those earning between $25,000 and $50,000
- $45 for those earning over $50,000
- $50 for organizations and libraries
- $100 Sustaining Members – if you earn over $50,000, won’t you consider helping at this level?

Canadian members: See column to the right.

Your contribution to Planners Network is tax deductible.

PN MEMBERS IN CANADA

Membership fees by Canadian members may be paid in Canadian funds:
- $25 for students, unemployed, and those with incomes <$40,000
- $40 for those with incomes between $40,000 and 80,000
- $70 for those with incomes over $80,000
- $150 for sustaining members

Make cheques in Canadian funds payable to: “Lester de Souza in Trust for Planners Network” and send with membership form to:

Lester de Souza
181 University Ave., Ste. 2200
Toronto, ON M5H 3H7

If interested in joining the PN Toronto listserv, include your email address or send a message to Barbara Rahder at <rahder@yorku.ca>.

PLANNERS NETWORK ON LINE

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MAIL THIS FORM TO:

PLANNERS NETWORK
379 DeKalb Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11205

NOTE: Your contribution is tax deductible.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS: Please send a check in U.S. funds as we are unable to accept payment in other currency. Thanks.
1 Participatory Budgeting in Brazil

3 Planning Ethics and Community Gardens in New York City

10 PN 2000 in Toronto Registration & Call for Workshops

14 Resources: Jobs, Events and Publications

YOUR LAST ISSUE?
Please check the date on your mailing label. If it is FEBRUARY 1999 or earlier this will be your last issue unless we hear from you RIGHT AWAY! See page 19 for contribution suggestions.

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Please send us your new address