PLANNERS NETWORK

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

Information Technologies and Progressive Planning

By Ann Forsyth

For two centuries technological changes in production, transportation, and communications have been reshaping cities and regions; and for around a century people recognizable as planners have been trying to manage those changes. We are currently in the midst of a new wave of technological change that started in earnest in the 1970s with the invention of microprocessors, microcomputers, fiber optics, the fledgling internet, and in a related move, genetic engineering. By the 1990s these technologies were developed enough to start to change a number of aspects of urban life including shopping and personal communica-

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN PLANNING

Issue Editor: Ann Forsyth

The "Digital Divide" and the Persistence of Urban Poverty

By Blanca Estela Gordo

In the last six months, the "digital divide" has attracted a lot of public attention from corporate leaders, politicians, and scholars. The growing interest is in part a response to the release of the Department of Commerce's report, "Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide," a PBS documentary, a series of public summits on the topic, and the announcement of a multi-million dollar program funded by the Clinton Administration called Clickstart. Despite the attention devoted to it, talk about the "digital divide" and proposed solutions to this "new phenomenon" both mis-specify the problem of the digital divide and consequently present an overly simplistic solution.

The general definition of the "digital divide" is that it is the divide between those individuals and places that have a connection to the Internet and those who do not. The popular solution is to simply provide the

Planners Networker UPDATES

Thanks to all the PNers who sent in news this month. Let your fellow members know what you are up to — send in your update today!

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From **David (Smith) Kovacs**, Richmond, VA:

I have been in the Commonwealth of Virginia for a few years now and am now becoming active once again. Besides trying to bring the phrase "growth management" (with all its ramifications) into the planning lexicon here, I'm involved with two separate groups who are working on (a) the living wage issue – bothat the local and state levels; and, (b) having corporate responsibility being a factor (or at least considered) in the award of certain state contracts. Both issues were introduced to the state legislature through separate bills. One received a "study," the other was "carried over". In both situations this means that we have the opportunity to "educate" over the summer and go to step two in the winter. So I'm looking for contacts and experiences. <dkovacs@aol.com>

John Friedmann, responding to Bill Goldsmith's article on "Participatory Budgeting in Brazil" (PN 140), notes that Rebecca Abers has written a book on the subject, "Inventing Local Democracy: Grass Roots Politics," forthcoming from Lynne Reinner books.

Jan Reiner (1000-52nd St. No., St. Petersburg, FL 33710), responding to Tom Angotti's PN column about progressive alternatives in the presidential elections, says "Ralph Nader is the only man to translate the ten points of my 'Green Vision' into reality."

PNer **Ken Reardon** and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign received theis year's AICP President's Award for the decade-long East St. Lou9is Action Project. AICP president Norman Krumholz, quoted in Planning Magazine, says "The East St. Louis project is a tremendous example of equity planning in a disadvantage community."

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.

Welcome ...

NEW PLANNERS NETWORK MEMBERS

Will Kay, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Timothy Logue, Sandra Malmquist, Myra Monreal, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Kaveh Samsamy, Ricardo Soto-Lopez, Aakash R. Thakkar, Paul Wessel

Thank You

RENEWING MEMBERS

Nicole Blummer, Bramhall & Associates, Yoonjong Choi, Mark S. Hugel, Tarry Hum, Jay D. Jurie, Maryann Leshin, Richard D. Lewis, Lewis Lubka, Jon Pynoos

... and Special Thanks!

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

We have no new sustaining members. If you're having a good year financially, consider a contribution of at least $100 and becoming an honored Sustainer.

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.

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

Online for Organizing: The Story of COMM-ORG

By Randy Stoeker

In 1994 Wendy Plotkin, a graduate student at the University of Illinois, started an e-mail discussion list on the history of community organizing. She had lined up a nice set of papers to present on-line. But while she originally envisioned that this on-line group would discuss the historical dimensions of community organizing, she was quickly inundated with hundreds of us who ignored the "history" part of the announcement and lunged at the "community organizing" part. We were all out there, practitioners and academics, doing, thinking, and writing about community organizing, and had no one to talk to. No conferences, no gathering spots, no journals, no trade magazines, and few cross-cutting networks. But we had all just recently discovered e-mail.

Wendy carefully moderated the messages, introducing papers and returning rough e-mails to some for revision before she posted them. Eventually, however, the call of the Ph.D. dissertation forced her to choose between us and graduating. I was among those most dependent on the list. For me, stuck here in Toledo, it was a lifeline. Rather than let the list die, I took over the project that was known as COMM-ORG. Since then, my goal has been to bring academics and practitioners together. I continue to present papers on-line and to moderate the list. Every couple of years we evaluate how the list and its web site work for the participants, which are now about half academics and half practitioners and number 730 across over a dozen nations.

COMM-ORG seems to work in some important ways. First, every time I ask, people say "keep the list moderated." Those of you on unmoderated lists know how much junk they generate and how caustic they can become. COMM-ORG doesn't have those problems. As moderator, however, I reject hardly any messages and ask for changes in only about 1 of 20. I think that the mere idea of a moderator makes people more thoughtful and careful.

Second, true to the old Alinsky mantra, people participate in COMM-ORG out of self-interest or out of arm-twisting. I am still thrilled each time I post a new paper

Practitioners can help academics with their research questions ... and academics can help practitioners with their strategy questions.

on COMM-ORG. But in contrast to the days of Wendy Plotkin's leadership, there is much less discussion of the papers than there used to be. I have to use my personal networks within COMM-ORG to get people to read and actually write their thoughts on the papers. Instead, people usually contact COMM-ORG when they have a research need or a strategy need: how to do a house meeting, where to find information on an organization, how to deal with a funder's demand for evaluations. And, like it did for me, COMM-ORG comes through for them, linking them up with people who sometimes become lasting contacts. It is interesting to me, also, how often practitioners can help academics with their research questions and how often academics can help practitioners with their strategy questions.

The Internet has the capacity to both isolate us and bring us together.

Third, and last, is that I have the wacky idea that the Internet should be a personal rather than a depersonalizing medium. When people forward messages to me from someone else, I ask them to go back to the author of the original message and get their permission before I re-post the message. I ask people to include their names in their messages. And that has created an atmosphere where people of three nations across two continents have approached me, when I'm on the road, to introduce themselves face to face. The Internet has the capacity to both isolate us and bring us together. The pressures are for isolation, but the COMM-ORG experience is that an appropriate on-line organizing strategy can also reduce isolation. You can find out more at http://comm-org.utoledo.edu.

Randy Stoeker is a long-time PN member and teaches sociology at the University of Toledo.

Outgrowths of the NKLA Project

By Neal Richman

In this issue of PN (see page 5), Bill Pitkin has provided a good introduction to the Neighborhood Knowledge Los Angeles (NKLA) information project. This initiative has perhaps been most valuable because it has spawned a wide range of related projects. When the tools of information technology become second-nature to planners, opportunities to explore their political uses seem to multiply. The following list describes some of the recent outgrowths of the NKLA project.

Housing Inspection Program (HIP). NKLA was developed simultaneously with the research work of the City of Los Angeles Citizens Blue Ribbon Committee on Slum Housing which called for a total revamping of city programs that address residential deterioration. NKLA data was used to support the report's findings and the UCLA team was hired by the city to develop a paper-less system for comprehensive code enforcement. The HIP system is being launched in April 2000 and will link inspection reports on Palm Pilots to an integrative data base backbone, and connect ultimately to NKLA for dissemination of inspection data in both English and Spanish to tenants and others.

Housing Southern Californians. This involves an electronic regional housing needs assessment and technical assistance tool for the local council of governments. The primary objective is to ensure that each municipality in the seven county region has incorporated into its general plan an affirmative strategy for developing sufficient housing to address anticipated population growth. The site seeks to stem sprawl on the suburban periphery by creating more development opportunities in urban and inner ring suburban areas. (Click on "What's New" after going to http://www.scag.ca.gov).

LA Housing Crisis Task Force. This site was just launched to complement the newly released report of the sixty-person citywide task force. The report calls for a LA Housing Trust Fund, as well as land use reforms that support local housing initiatives. The site provides data and

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This initiative has been most valuable because it has spawned a wide range of related projects.

allows users to download the new report, voice their opinion of the recommendations, and keep up with the report's implementation through legislative and program development updates. (Go to http://housingcrisisla.ucla.edu).

Tenant Outreach Project. The City of Los Angeles has recently hired the NKLA group to create a special shared information network among tenant organizing and legal services groups that will be working with low income tenants to encourage their participation in the new code enforcement program. The local non-profit agencies will be able to help tenants lodge complaints electronically, mediate with property owners, and share their information with one another across the city.

Neighborhood Housing Services Evaluation Research. Through funding from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Service has embarked on an ambitious multi-neighborhood initiative to expand low cost homeownership opportunities. The NKLA group was hired to conduct ongoing client-based evaluation to determine which strategies are the most promising and the overall neighborhood effects of this development program.

Living Independently in Los Angeles. Our most recent project explores the use of online asset mapping as a tool for community-building and advocacy by a countywide community of interest — people with disabilities. Where does one go to find a car dealer who can adapt vehicles to have hand controls? Where do deaf people gather to "hang out" and have fun. Asset mappers will be recruited from the disabled community and will lead a movement to define electronic access to information as a right that should be covered under the American Disabilities Act. (Go to http://lila.ucla.edu).

Domestic and International applications. Increasingly, the UCLA team is being asked to provide consulting and technical assistance to groups working on housing and community development information systems throughout the US and abroad.

The primary challenge for the UCLA team is keeping the right balance between its core projects — keeping them updated, expanding their contents, adding new tools — and new opportunities for networking NKLA and its other initiatives into projects that promote progressive social change.

The NKLA project is part of the UCLA Advanced

NKLA: Neighborhood Improvement and Recovery is Not Just for the Experts!

By Bill Pitkin

Within planning, the computer has long been associated with images of the rational, technocratic planner who plugs data into a model that magically analyzes the information and proposes optimal solutions. Planners within a 'progressive planning' tradition tend to reject this use of technology, focusing instead on more social or political methods, such as advocacy, community organizing, and action research. New information technologies, however, have helped break down this dichotomy, as shown by a growing number of GIS(Geographical Information System) and Web projects geared toward affecting social change. Historically, computer systems enabled information to be tightly centralized within a cadre of technical experts; the new technologies, however, make it possible to more easily distribute information and democratize the planning process.

One example of using information technology to benefit communities is the Neighborhood Knowledge Los Angeles website project (at http://nkla.ucla.edu). Developed by faculty and students at the UCLA Department of Urban Planning, NKLA serves as a critical information source and advocacy tool for people living in and working on behalf of LA neighborhoods. NKLA provides, in both English and Spanish, access to previously difficult-to-access data — such as code complaints, building permits, and property tax delinquency. The data is in both tabular and mapping formats, and serves as an 'early warning system' for neighborhood disinvestment. In concert with this "techie" work, NKLA staff train community residents and organizations on using NKLA and other websites to conduct neighborhood research for strategic action. As part of this outreach program, NKLA also provides residents with the opportunity to interactively add data to the website through an asset mapping application, in which residents can upload photos and their own comments regarding properties in their neighborhood.

The new technologies make it possible to more easily distribute information and democratize the planning proces.

What NKLA Does

The experience of NKLA has helped us reflect on what it means to use information technologies such as the Web for social change.

· *Open up space for new forms of participation.* Information technologies such as the Web make it possible to increase access to information that community residents can use in evaluating property conditions, uncovering environmental risks, etc. With applications like NKLA's interactive asset mapping, residents can present their own 'bottom-up' perspectives of their neighborhoods, helping residents organize around existing resources.

· *Provide new roles for progressive planners.* The designers of the NKLA website are planners with experience in community development and activism who have gained the necessary programming skills to develop a user-driven website. Rather than relying on computer programmers to develop systems, planners concerned with social change can take advantage of software tools to help them become involved in information system design.

· *Democratize control of public data.* NKLA has come face-to-face with an increasingly important policy issue of the information age: who controls public data? By putting data from public agencies on the Web – and not charging for it – NKLA has at times been seen as a threat to revenue-generation schemes of local government. Planners concerned with public access to data should be prepared to enter this debate.

· *Demonstrate that content is key.* Much of the current policy discussion about the Web centers around the so-called 'digital divide' between those who have access to the technology and those who don't. While this is certainly important, the experience of NKLA has shown us that without appropriate content for low-income people, access is meaningless. This is confirmed in a recent report from The Children's Partnership called "Online Content for Low-Income and Underserved Americans: The Digital Divide's New Frontier" (available at: http://www.childrenspartnership.org).

· *Teach people to think critically.* We realize that NKLA is only one piece of the puzzle in affecting positive social change in Los Angeles. Using these new

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Policy Institute (API), a center for applied research, technical assistance and training. The staff include about 14 persons, approximately half of them full-time employees and half part-time student interns. With the exception of one computer science student, all of the work is carried out by either graduates of or students in the UCLA Urban Planning Department or by undergraduates enrolled in social science and humanities programs.

Neal Richman is Associate Director of the UCLA Advanced Policy Institute and teaches in the planning program at UCLA.

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information technologies is certainly not the only answer. We have found that it is best to acknowledge their value, while approaching them with what Stephen Doheny-Farina in *The Wired Neighborhood* describes as a constructive skepticism: "What communities need are people who have some technical skills, a willingness to examine how electronic communication technologies can enhance the community, some drive, and a healthy dose of constructive skepticism. Bring doubt to every claim about the net, but be committed to moving forward."

Bill Pitkin is a Research Associate at the Advanced Policy Institute, an applied research center at the UCLA School of Public Policy & Social Research.

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hardware, software, and sometimes the infrastructure, to those who do not have it. The presumption is clear: having a computer and online connection will provide opportunity and solve the problems of the poor. However, the problem of the digital divide is greater than mere connection to technology.

The "digital divide" and its solutions can only be understood within the context of the social and economic problems and tragedies that low-income and under-served populations face. Lack of access to the digital world will continue as long as low-income communities are burdened by massive economic and social problems. Ultimately, the "digital divide" must be seen within this framework. When we speak of access, we need to push further and ask: access to what, for what, where, how, for whom, when, and why?

Even more, planners interested in and working on digital divide issues and solutions should stay away from overly simplified conceptions of technology and its direct "impact" on people and places. The context and setting in which technology is used provide strikingly different "impacts." Technology is not deterministic, but is socially-constructed. What matters is how technology is used and for what purpose. Under what conditions does access to enabling technologies have more prospects for leveling or (re)creating inequalities? Research efforts should focus on figuring out the causal mechanisms, points of intervention, and measuring the context. Right now research should be based around: context, context, and context.

A movement of *community technology* has emerged throughout the United States as a response to the growing digital divide in our society (see www.ctcnet.org). Community Technology Access Centers (CTCs) are embarking on an ambitious plan to bring information technology to traditionally under-served and low-income communities for the purpose of improving their socioeconomic status. I have been examining the potential role of CTCs throughout California and New York. In doing this work I have redefined the "digital divide" concept to include not just internet access but the divide between those individuals and places that have the opportunity to participate, compete, and prosper in an increasingly information and knowledge-based economy and society and those who do not.

Community technology providers are addressing and grappling with these issues, realizing that technology is a tool to achieve other ends. As they see it, the inability to participate, compete, and prosper in a digital economy and society can only cement the process of underdevelopment of the physical space and the continued underemployment and unemployment of populations, increasing the possibilities for more concentrated poverty.

Thus, community technology is about providing what I term *enhanced access*. Enhanced access is about the production of knowledge rather than simple consumption of information. It is a combination of technical and soft skills (including social skills) needed to compete in a flexible and contingent labor force. In this way, technology is viewed as an enabling and productive tool, an information resource, and a vehicle for communication. The power of the Internet for some CTCs is the ability to expose, to fuel curiosity and motivate people to know and learn more. Thus, enhanced access includes the ability to use and manipulate technology and recognize and obtain the needed information; and the skills to be able to organize and transfer information into productive knowledge. It also includes the ability to apply and communicate this knowledge to meet personal, economic, political, and social needs and goals. Providers of enhanced access offer training (structured and informal), and hands-on experience which serves to credential individuals in the labor market, the school, and the community at large. Furthermore, the opportunity to be part of a CTC—where people gain skills and acquire valued labor market experience—increases the symbolic value, prestige, and status associated with being part of a formal organization. Some CTCs provide more than affordable connections, they provide the know-how (how to use technology), and relevance (how the tool can be used to meet economic, social, political, professional, and personal goals). This requires the time, space, assistance, guidance, and hands-on experience.

Plugged In in East Palo Alto is a place that provides enhanced access. This CTC is the community production studio, copy center, cyber-library, self-paced learning studio, and telecommunication booth for East Palo Alto. Plugged In uses technology to help community members of all ages to access the Internet, and information that can help them find jobs, start small businesses, get information on health resources, or receive homework assistance in a safe place. This CTC works with other local organizations to complement their services with job training, business development and other social programs.

Much can be learned about the places and conditions under which low-income communities benefit or not from enhanced access. The challenge and opportunity is to rec-

> **Enhanced access is about production of knowledge rather than simple consumption of information.**

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ognize the critical importance of how the problem of technology is framed and constructed, for this determines the solutions envisaged. It is imperative to be critical of the conditions in which technology is being provided. The results for some individuals can be harmful and irreversible.

Blanca Esthela Gordo is a doctoral student in the Department of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley.

Forsyth/Continued from Page One

tion, and to suggest possible future changes in areas such as transportation, employment, and social inequality. Planners have also engaged with these new technologies in our professional work, embracing more complex data storage and analysis methods including geographic information systems, and exploring new forms of virtual professional and activist networks.

This issue of Planners Network Newsletter examines the role of some of these new technologies in community building and progressive planning. As contributor Bill Pitkin points out, in the past progressive planners have been ambivalent about using information technologies, seeing them as part of technocratic and apolitical practice. However, as this issue shows, in the past few years progressive planners have come to appreciate the potential of the new generation of technologies, particularly the internet, to empower a wide range of populations.

As Randy Stoeker describes in his article on COMM-ORG, progressive email lists can be a "lifeline," particularly for people working in more isolated locations. Planners Network's own listserve performs such as function as do many others in the areas of planning and community development. Progressive planners are in some senses distinguished by our commitment to an expansive set of ideals about equity and justice. New information technologies can link together a national and global community of progressives. This can reinforce the progressive commitment to global justice but interactions with new voices may also challenge old understandings of the scope of progressive change.

Information technologies need not only foster such virtual communities, but can link people in actual spaces. For example, the Neighborhood Knowledge Los Angeles

project outlined by Bill Pitkin presents city data on neighborhoods, such as code complaints, and allows residents to add their own data. Also interesting are projects such as Living Independently in Los Angeles, described by Neal Richman, that links people with disabilities to services and gathering spaces in their local areas, such as the spaces where "deaf people gather to 'hang out' and have fun." Abhijeet Chavan, writing in the context of the East St. Louis Action Research Project, explains how residents have systematically generated parcel-level data from their neighborhoods for use on the web. I wonder how this will change people's conceptions of their local communities-and of their roles within those communities. Certainly there are new options for involvement, but at present these are unevenly distributed.

Progressive planners have also come to see a role for themselves in critiquing the concept of the digital divide, commonly seen as "the divide between those individuals and places that have connection to the internet and those that do not" (Gordo). As Blanca Gordo explains, this conceptualization underestimates the additional resources needed to enable people from disadvantaged neighborhoods and populations to "participate, compete, and prosper in an increasingly information and knowledge-based economy and society." This is a key issue for suppliers of digital information, as Varkki George suggests, and there may be a real mismatch between progressive intentions and the capacities of disadvantaged populations to gain access to that information.

Gwen Urey's analysis of a low-income area of Los Angeles County shows that even telephone access is not universal, let alone access to computers, and schools in these neighborhoods are also unlikely to have access to the internet. Further, there is a largely unexamined assumption that households are benign places, while there is more likely to be competition within households for access to information resources, particularly where that access is limited. As Gordo describes, however, there are some hopeful signs like the Community Technology movement. Overall, progressive planners are engaging with these new technologies with a blend of optimism and critique.

Ann Forsyth is a mid-level user of information technologies and an Associate Professor of Urban Planning at the Harvard Design School.

SUPPORT PROGRESSIVE PLANNING

Information Technology in the Service of Community Action

By R. Varkki George

To the extent that knowledge and awareness can spark and fuel community action, the Internet revolution is potentially a vehicle for community empowerment. Based on my experience working with the East St. Louis Action Research Project (ESLARP), I see a key opportunity and a challenge in our attempts to use the Internet in the service of community empowerment. We are now poised to go from just providing information to providing powerful, accessible tools for processing this information. The challenge is to ensure that communities have the means to access the information and information-processing resources we develop.

Providing information has always been a part of community organizing, but the Internet represents a new vehicle for this task. Web-based software applications offer a key opportunity to enhance the role of the Internet in community action. Today, Web servers deliver information and the software tools that can be used to process that information. At ESLARP, we are developing ways of providing widespread access to mathematical models of urban systems (see http://www.imlab.uiuc.edu/eslarp/usm/). For instance, in our business impact analysis tool, users have to know the SIC code of the sector in which investment is proposed. We therefore encoded in the tool a way of making this choice transparent to the user.

While information systems are being developed to promote community action, they must be accompanied by efforts to develop computer skills and access to computing (which also increase job skills and employment). There are several such efforts underway (for example, see http://www.prairienet.org/). The problem is that the two types of projects are rarely coupled: the supply- or server-side projects described earlier are usually implemented in different locations from the demand- or client-side projects described in this paragraph. Public and private funding tends to go towards either one or the other type of project, and certainly is not long enough to sustain efforts to increase community access to computing. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Given adequate cooperation and funding, projects of one type can learn from projects of the other type—linking information and access.

R. Varkki George (varkki@uiuc.edu) works with the East St. Louis Action Research Project, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Data Collection for Community Development: The East St. Louis Neighborhood Condition Survey

By Abhijeet Chavan

The East St. Louis Action Research Project (ESLARP) is an interdisciplinary community development initiative of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Since 1989, ESLARP has worked closely with East St. Louis citizens and community groups by providing technical assistance. Since 1994, with the help of UIUC's Imaging Systems Laboratory, we have been using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to strengthen our outreach activities with geographic analysis.

The community groups we work with wanted to know the condition of their neighborhoods so that they could identify problem areas and prepare neighborhood improvement plans. They were interested in knowing the current condition of housing, open space, and sanitation in their neighborhoods. Geographic data sets available from several federal and state agencies were inadequate. Commercial data collection options were expensive. This meant that we had to devise a process for collecting the data ourselves that would:

- collect data at the required parcel-level resolution
- be implemented by volunteers with minimum training and equipment
- allow us to easily incorporate the data into our existing GIS base maps
- be inexpensive

To address these issues we created the "Neighborhood Condition Survey" (NCS). In collaboration with our community partners we first compiled a list of multiple-choice questions that would record the attributes for parcels in the neighborhood. To record the data in the field we printed these questions on machine-readable forms (MRF). MRFs are generally used for student testing so most students are already familiar with filling in the "bubbles" to indicate the answer to a multiple-choice question. Completed forms can then be passed through a scanning machine that converts the data recorded on these paper forms to digital data. Standard MRFs with blank spaces on which we could print our questions were available through UIUC's Office of Instructional Resources for a nickel per form. Scanning charges at UIUC were 17 cents per form, making this a cost-effective solution.

Student and neighborhood volunteers organized in

Household Information Strategies and Community Responses

By Gwen Urey

For progressive planners, the "digital divide" should be thought of as a "digital wedge." Technology-based strategies to improve the flow of information at the local level may have perverse effects if we don't really understand the needs of the most marginalized neighborhoods as suppliers and demanders of information. Technology-based strategies that ignore competing demands for scarce resources within the household may unintentionally exacerbate inequalities between men and women, old and young, and other inequalities. In short, we should keep our focus on the "information gap," and seek to better understand the many dimensions of that gap, before conflating it with a "digital divide" to be transcended by a digital bridge.

Households and Individuals

Households and individuals generate information needs. A household may need to know which day trash will be collected during a holiday week or if the air quality is expected to be poor today. A teenager may need to know if there is an employment opportunity at a local establishment, or a parent may need to know when the local clinic will provide immunizations against childhood diseases. Individual members of a household may have different or even competing information needs. As with money, time, and other resources, we shouldn't assume that the distribution of access to information and information technologies within households is equitable. Rather, it is subject to intrahousehold negotiation or conflict.

Technology-based strategies that ignore competing demands for scarce resources within the household may unintentionally exacerbate inequalities between men and women, old and young.

Individuals can develop personal information strategies, but the collective strategy of a household may involve more difficult choices. A household's decision to maintain a telephone line usually serves the needs of many members. Intrahousehold competitition for use of that line may intensify with the introduction of internet access to the household's technological resource base.

The relationship between information strategies at the household level and programs to facilitate those strategies at the community level needs to be better understood. In low-income communities, programs that provide access or training in a community center more often address the needs of individuals who have time and motivation to come to the center.

Programs Serve High-Income Households

The comprehensive and better known community-based programs serve households that tend to have higher incomes, more wealth, more education, and the resources and motivation to get computers set up at home. Two of the better known programs are Santa Monica's Public Electronic Network (PEN) and the Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV). BEV was in the vanguard of providing robust internet access to households by collaborating with the local telephone company to install ethernet connections in apartment buildings. Neither PEN nor BEV specifically target low-income populations, however, and profiles of their users reveal a more privileged community. For example, a 1997 telephone survey of Santa Monica households, PEN's target group, found that 59% used computers, whereas nationally 37% of households had computers. In Santa Monica, PEN found that 30% of households had a fax, 20% had a second phone line; of households with computers, 78% had modems and 58% used the Internet.

In Blacksburg, BEV found their 1997 user profile consistent with previous years: average age was 45 years. Thirty-eight percent of all respondents had completed graduate school. The majority (65%) were members of a church or local club; 66% used the public library.

Developing comprehensive programs and programs that can empower more members of a household is much harder in low-income communities. In 1997 field work to investigate household information needs in low-income neighborhoods of Pomona (District II of Pomona, which lies in Eastern Los Angeles County), it was found that very few households had computers. Internet access was limited primarily to schoolchildren, some of whom have limited access to classroom computers. Households relied primarily on face-to-face word-of-mouth strategies for satisfying information needs in basic areas, such as finding employment, health providers, recreational and educational opportunities, and housing.

According to 1990 Census data, the area was 71 percent Hispanic and 61 percent of the adults had less than a high school education, 11 percent of households had no telephone service (and in some block groups the figure exceeded 20 percent), and 16 percent had no vehicle. Data from 1998-99 suggest that the distribution of com-

puting resources within the local school district strongly favors schools with more economically and socially advantaged students. The data are most striking for the middle schools, where the only school with internet access is the one in which Latinos are a minority and the only one where less than one third of students are learning English as a second language.

In the low-income neighborhoods of Pomona, lack of access to computer technologies did not stand out among the concerns of residents. People articulated the difficulties of getting and communicating information, but telephone access and the alleviation of language and literacy barriers were perceived as higher priorities for addressing these issues. The school data suggests that computer and internet access parallel other dimensions of segregation in the school district.

Gwen Urey is Associate Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Chavan/Continued from Page Nine

teams collected the data. Using custom maps of the neighborhood showing parcel numbers for every parcel, they walked through the neighborhood, identified the parcel, and recorded its condition using one MRF per parcel. A team could survey about twelve parcels per hour. We were able to survey a neighborhood of approximately 1300 parcels in eleven hours.

Back on campus, we had the MRFs scanned to convert the marked MRFs to digital data — a process that took less than thirty minutes. We then checked the data for machine or human errors such as duplicates, valid values and logical consistency. The next step involved joining the data to a digital GIS parcel base map provided to us by the City of East. St. Louis. Using ArcView GIS software, we joined the data with the parcel base map and checked for errors such as missing or incorrect parcel numbers before using it to prepare maps. The time required for error-checking and joining the data to the GIS base map varied greatly depending on the land use of the area being surveyed and the number of human errors introduced in the field while surveying. On an average it took us approximately four hours to check and join a hundred parcels.

The data and maps were used in preparing neighborhood improvement plans and for research activities. For exam-

ple, NCS data has been used to:
- assist in determining where there is potential for expanding or consolidating open space
- identify where urban infrastructure is intact and where revitalization is needed
- identify derelict houses for potential rehabilitation or demolition
- identify sanitation code violations so citizens can lobby for municipal action.

NCS has had the additional benefit of introducing student volunteers — many of them in the planning, architecture, or landscape architecture programs at UIUC — to an organized way of collecting, analyzing, and using detailed data. NCS data is also distributed via the Internet on the East St. Louis Geographic Information Retrieval System (EGRETS) website.

Using the NCS, we were able to effectively use the available resources while reducing the time required to develop a useful dataset. Since 1995, we have carried out this survey in four neighborhoods. We have also created a similar process to survey the condition of neighborhood infrastructure such as streets and lighting. The NCS process has enabled our community partners to quickly collect accurate and current data and use it to inform the planning process in preparing neighborhood improvement plans.

Related Links:

East St. Louis Action Research Project.
www.imlab.uiuc.edu/eslarp

East St. Louis Geographic Information Retrieval System.
www.imlab.uiuc.edu/egrets

ESLARP Neighborhood Condition Survey.
www.imlab.uiuc.edu/eslarp/gis/ncs

Imaging Systems Laboratory. www.imlab.uiuc.edu

Abhijeet Chavan was the Information Technology Coordinator for the Imaging Systems Laboratory and the East St. Louis Action Research Project from 1995 to 1999. He is currently the Chief Technology Officer at Urban Insight, a Los Angeles-based internet consulting firm specializing in the urban planning market.

Progressive Alchemy: Organizing Planners Network

By Ken Reardon

Like the alchemists of yore, PN's National Steering committee is constantly seeking the optimal organizational structure to advance our work! Last month, Tom Angotti and I met in New York City to discuss the growing number of activities which PN is currently pursuing. After some discussion, we came to the conclusion that it might be time for PN to consider replacing its all-purpose national Steering Committee with a series of action committees responsible for the organization's major programs.

Reviewing our current commitments, we thought there might be five or six action committees focused on the following tasks.

A Newsletter Committee would continue to work on the development of our publication, Planners Network. This committee would refine the publication's editorial policies, recruit editors of special issues, and seek ways to boost circulation.

An Outreach/Fundraising Committee would develop a systematic approach to inviting new planing students, planning faculty, community activists, professional planners and elected officialsto join the organization, and raise funds for the organization.

A Conference Committee would assist the host organization undertaking each annual conference with fundraising, program development, speaker recruitment and volunteer mobilization.

A Professional Relations Committee would work to insure that PN and its concerns are adequately represented on the annual programs of the AIA, APA, ALSA, ACSA, ACSP and ACSLA.

A Planning History Committee would work with volunteers to complete the PEO History Project which Walter Thabit, Robb Burlage, Pierre Clavel,Tom Angotti, Chester Hartman and I have recently undertaken.

Coordination among these larger and more active action committees would be provided by a leaner and more nimble Executive Committee composed of a representative from each of these standing committees. This group might also include a representative from the active local PN Chapters (New York City and Canada), the coordinator of our web site, Gwen Urey, and our Founder/Chairperson

Emeritus, Chester Hartman.

Tom and I are interested in eliciting your feedback on this proposal which seeks to mobilize our current active members to address some of PN's core functions. The structure is also designed to expand the number of members active in our major projects which will serve to strengthen the organization by creating new leadership positions. We hope to discuss this and other proposals for increasing our organizational effectiveness at our upcoming Toronto Conference. Changes of this nature will require a vote and bylaw changes. Please give our proposal some thought, consider attending the upcoming Business Meeting scheduled to take place during the conference, and finally think about becoming more active in PN. With Al Gore, George Bush and Rudy Gulliani raising record amounts of campaign funds PN can't afford to sit back on itslaurels waiting for the "prairie fire" to ignite. We need to move into the New Millenium organizing as if our communities, nation and planet depended upon it -- because it does!!!

Reviving Urban Planning in New York City

The following Position Paper was prepared by members of the New York Chapter of PN and is being distributed to community, professional and civic groups as they gear up for City Council elections and next year's mayoral election.

The City of New York does not adequately plan for the use of its land. Under the current administration, the City's capacity to plan has been weakened by policies of privatization and downsizing. However, this is but the latest step in a gradual process of decline that has extended over a period of decades.

The problem is a combination of poor planning and the lack of planning. City planning should involve all policies that affect the use of land. It should aim to improve the quality of life of people who live and work in the city, and foster healthy communities. City planning must aggressively promote community preservation and efficient, effective and equitable development.

The New York City Planning Department, however, focuses its efforts on zoning and rarely engages in broader land use planning encompassing all aspects of city life. The present strategic planning function is mostly a compilation of the Mayor's program and budget priorities and does not entail a process of long-range comprehensive

planning or citizen participation. This perpetuates inequalities in the levels of funding and services among city neighborhoods. Also, City Planning does not plan comprehensively for the location of community facilities and new infrastructure. Thus, many low-income neighborhoods and communities of color are disproportionately burdened with waste transfer stations and other potentially noxious facilities, a pattern reinforced by zoning.

The City does not sufficiently promote or lead metropolitan and regional planning efforts. The Planning Department has failed to propose policies to retain industrial jobs, and does not adequately regulate the establishment of large retail uses. Planners do not contribute significantly to the City's housing policies and since the Ten Year Plan of the Koch administration there has not been a long-range planning effort. Too many planning decisions are made without the involvement of professional planners or citizen participation. Most importantly, in this large and diverse city of 7.5 million people and hundreds of neighborhoods, there is no effective community-based planning. The City Planning Department does not provide adequate support for community plans initiated under Section 197-a of the New York City Charter ("197-a plans"). This particularly affects low-income communities that often do not have the resources to pay for professional assistance. Under the City Charter, responsibility for land use planning rests with the Department of City Planning, which has the lowest ratio of planners per population of any major city, and the City Planning Commission, an appointed body of 13.

The Mayor, Borough Presidents and City Council can help reverse this situation by moving to create a planning culture in New York City. This requires that a greater value be placed on the open democratic process of community-based planning, inter-governmental cooperation and regional planning, and the use of planning methods that go beyond zoning and the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). The planning process should consider the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of land use decisions, and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Planning should help preserve our communities and manage urban growth.

PROPOSALS

The City Planning Department should assist all community boards in the preparation of *197-a plans*. New staff must be hired so that there is on average one community planner for each community board. DCP must be a proactive partner with the community boards and not an overseer, and must provide staff assistance in the preparation of plans.

The City Planning Department should establish a *regional planning* division aimed at promoting cooperative approaches to regional land use and infrastructure planning. This initiative would work closely with the Regional Plan Association, state governments and suburban counties in the region.

The City Planning Department should undertake a major study of the location of *environmental hazards in communities of color*, and propose policies to address existing problems. This study must include analysis of public health problems related to environmental hazards, siting policies of city agencies, and the inequitable distribution of environmental risks. Recommendations should address the zoning and other policy changes needed to address current inequities.

The City Planning Department should propose economic, fiscal and zoning changes that promote the *retention of small industries*, support pollution prevention efforts, and help preserve mixed use communities. Changes in the Zoning Resolution are needed to adequately regulate large retail establishments so that they are compatible with New York City's dense, transit-oriented land use pattern.

The efforts of the Transportation Division of the City Planning Department to *reduce auto dependency*, promote pedestrian circulation, cycling and mass transit, should be expanded. The Division should be more closely tied to implementation by the Department of Transportation, which has moved very slowly on implementing proposed plans.

The City Planning Department should establish a Housing division that works closely with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and non-profit housing developers to prepare a long-range plan to preserve and develop *low-and moderate-income housing*.

The City Planning Department, in cooperation with community boards and civic groups, should prepare neighborhood *open space plans* and a city-wide open space plan. The objective should be to increase the proportion of open space per capita throughout the city. Community gardens and other environmentally beneficial uses must be part of these plans.

In conjunction with the Sanitation Department and Department of Environmental Protection, the City Planning Department should develop a *long-range solid waste management plan* that incorporates expanded efforts in waste prevention, recycling, and composting. The long-range plan should minimize the export of waste and the concentration of waste facilities. It should engage all neighborhoods in waste prevention, recycling and management efforts.

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. Supported by grants from The Pequod Fund and Fannie Mae Foundation.

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 22 June

8:15 – 9:15 am   Continental Breakfast
    Conference Registration
    Rogers Communications Centre

9:15 – 9:30 am   Welcome
    Professor Barbara Rahder, York University

9:30 – 10:15 am   Keynote address
    Professor Gerda Wekerle, York University
    "Planning in Civil Society"

10:30 – 12:00   Concurrent Sessions
   Building Community Through Housing in Africa
    Barry Pinsky, Jodi Horne, John van Nostrand
   Insurgent Planning for Collaboration?
    James McKenzie, McKenzie Paris, John Douglas
   Immigration, Ethnicity, and Space
    Detlev Ipsen, Yasminah Beebeejaun, Roxanna Ng
   Contesting Spaces Bob Johnston, Ray Bromley, Cynthia J. Cranford, Robert D. Wilton.

12:00 – 2:00   Lunch

2:00 – 5:00   Tours of Toronto and Area
   Accidental Village: Church and Wellesley (Queer Toronto). Traditional Toronto: Density and Diversity. Rouge River Valley. Growing Cultures: Immigrants and Their Gardens (Photo Exhibition). West of Toronto's Downtown. Toronto Suburbs. St. Lawrence Neighbourhood.

6:00 – 7:30   Buffet dinner at Toronto City Hall.

7:30 – 9:30   Panel discussion.
   Roger Keil, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University (moderator and discussant).
   Gustavo Romero Fernández, Chair, Solidarity Fund for Housing, Mexico.
   Winnie Frohn, Départment d'études urbanes et touristiques, Université de Québec à Montréal.
   Peter Marcuse, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University, New York.

Friday 23 June

7:30 – 8:30   Continental breakfast and Registration

8:30 – 10:00   Concurrent Sessions
Toronto at the Millennium: Still Planning to be Different?
Roger Keil, Stefan Kipfer, Ellie Perkins.
Toronto 2008: Labour's Divergent Views of the Olympics. John Cartwright, David Kidd, Jan Borowy, Paul Clifford.
Whose Rights to the City? Herbert Glasauer, Stephanie Gabel, Laura Lanza.
Lost and Found in the City: Environmental Initiatives. J.P. Warren, Alex Long, Stewart Chisolm, Eduard Sousa.

10:30 – 12:00   Concurrent Sessions
Globalizing Cities: Partitioned Worlds. Peter Marcuse, Roger Keil, Tom Angotti, Kanishka Goonewardena.
Spatial Practices: Politicians, Planners, and the Everyday. Antonio Gomez-Palacio, Pino di Mascio, Jen Keesmat.
Bread Not Circuses: Resisting the Growth Machine. Jan Borowy, Richard Milgrom.
Comparative Approaches to Community Development? Alejandro Rofman, Xavier Morales.
Mixing it Up: Local Housing Issues in Canada and the United States. Sue Bunce, Sylvia Novack, David Hulchanski, Cheryl Wilson.

12:00 – 2:00 pm   Lunch

2:00 – 5:00 pm   Tours of Toronto and Area
The Great Indian Bus Tour of Toronto. Daily Bread/Food Share. Straw Bale House. Garment District. West Donlands. Alternative Housing. Bring Back the Don River. Coop Housing in Toronto. Queen Street West. Poverty in the Suburbs.

7:00 – 9:30 pm   Dinner and Panel Discussion

Saturday 24 June

7:30 – 8:30   Continental Breakfast.

8:30-10:00   Concurrent Sessions
Shared Experiences of Gender Based Planning. Alison Meistrich, Melanie Hare, Reggie Modlich, Kellie O'Neill, Connie Guberman.
Walkin' the Walk: Techniques for Empowerment. Ken Reardon, Cathy Klump, LaTonya Web.
Cities for Sale: Planning in the Face of Privatization. Luis Octavio Silva, Nirmita Mehrotra.
The Good, the Bad, and the 905. (905 is the area code for suburban Toronto). Stephen Dale, Heath Priston, Alan Walks, Karen Wirsig and Stefan Kipfer.

10:30 – 12:00 pm   Concurrent Sessions:
Aboriginal Migration to Cities in Canada. Daniel Bellegarde, Little Black Bear's Band of the Cree Nation.
Popular Education and Community Organizing. Chris Cavanagh, Catalyst Centre.
En-gendering Planning. Jacqueline Leavitt, Winnie Frohn, Sophie Paqin, Heather McLean.
Social Movements and Community Development Sheri Blake, Mark Stern.
Local Economic Development and Issues of Metropolitan Governance: New Challenges for Community Groups Pierre Hamel, Claude Piché, Anne Latendress, Jill Hanley.

12:00 – 1:30 pm.   Lunch

1:30 pm -???   Tours and Workshops on the Toronto Islands. Barbecue dinner, dancing and fireworks.

Sunday 25 June

9:00 am   Breakfast at Oakham House, Ryerson University.
Planners Network Steering Committee meeting

Conference Registration

PN 2000-Insurgent Planning, Globalization and Local Democracy.
22-25 June, 2000. Ryerson Polytechnic University, Toronto.

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

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

_____

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. <u>No personal cheques accepted.</u> 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

<u>**Fax form to: (416) 979-5212**</u>

CONFIRMATION # _____

Confirmation will be sent by mail, time permitting.

Resources

EVENTS

May 22-24, 2000 Toward a Sustainable Habitat: Challenges of the New Millennium in Havana City, Cuba. The Group for the Integral Development of Havana City, the National Housing Institute and the Cuban Union of Architects & Engineers invite all professionals who works in urban fields, to talk about international experiences in habitat issues, sharing and learning from successes and failures. For more info email <gdic@ceniai.inf.cu> or telephone (537)227303 & (537)227322

June 1- 3, 2000 Attend a National Meeting on ADVANCING COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY at Roanoke, Virginia to examine the practice of sustainability in each of three areas of community life: physical development, infrastructure design and economic structur. Email to urban@vt.edu for a brochure to be mailed to you. Registration Fees: first two days $150. Any workshop: $100 additional. Special student fee for first two days only $55. For info and to register visit www.conted.vt.edu/advcom.htm.

June 18-23, 2000 The Oregon Community Development Training Institute is a 5-day residential training for individuals charged with responsibility for community development. Location: Portland State University, Portland, OR. For details: www.extended.pdx.edu/cp. For a brochure: 1-800-547-8887, x 54184.

June 22-25, 2000 Insurgent Planning, Globalization & Local Democracy is the Planners Network 2000 Conference in Toronto, Canada. Themes include environmental politics, the privatization of planning, community development, contested open spaces, and communities of

resistance. 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.

July 4-5, 2000 International Making Cities Livable Conference in Vienna, Austria. Plenary and panel sessions on Rediscovery of Public Space, New Urban Spaces, Design Principles, Squares in New Urban Neighborhoods, Mixed Use Urban Fabric, Innovative Zoning, Urban Villages, Sustainability: Ecological City and Regional Development, and many more topics. For paper and exhibit proposals submit a 200-300 word abstract or project description. Deadline: May 25th. Send to Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard, Ph.D. (Arch.), IMCL Conferences, PO Box 7586, Carmel, CA 93921. Fax 831-624-5126; www.livablecities.org.

July 4-6, 2000 Urban Agriculture and Horticulture: The Linkage with Urban Planning, in Berlin, Germany. Organized by TRIALOG - Association for Research into Housing, Planning and Building in the Developing World, Humboldt-University, and 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. A joint initiative of the University of the Witwatersrand and the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council. Speakers and information listed at the website <sunsite.wits.ac.za/urbanfutures/>. Includes cultural program. 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>.

September 8-9, 2000 The Thinning Metropolis, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. For more info email <HG18@cornell.edu>.

December 6-9, 2000 Strengthening our Communities, National Rural Housing Conference at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. Sponsored by the Housing Assistance Council, 1025 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 606, Washington, DC 20005, 202-842-8600, ext. 108; conference2000@ruralhome.org or www.ruralhome.org.

December 13-17, 2000 International Making Cities Livable Conference in San Francisco, CA. June 25 is the deadline to submit proposals for papers and exhibits. Contact Suzanne H. Crowhurst Lennard, Ph.D. (Arch.), IMCL Conferences, PO Box 7586, Carmel, CA 93921. Fax 831-624-5126; www.livablecities.org.

JOBS

CALIFORNIA

The Center for Community Change seeks an **Economic Development Specialist** to provide technical assistance in the fields of business and workforce development. Based in San Francisco, this person will work with low-income community-based organizations across the country in analyzing economic and workforce development needs, strategizing and implementing projects. 7+ years related experience. See www.communitychange.org for full description. Resumes to Human Resources, CCC, 1000 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20007.

National non-profit PR firm and media training center challenging racism and

poverty seeks a **Senior Media Associate** for its San Francisco office. Responsibilities: pitching news stories, media training for community organizations, and conducting media watchdog projects. Several years experience with media, training or community organizing helpful. Salary commensurate with experience. People of color and Spanish speakers strongly encouraged to apply. Resumes to: Search Committee, 965 Mission Street, #220, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-537-9437 for full job description.

MARYLAND

Neighborhood Design Center (NDC), a 32-year old non-profit organization providing professional community design and planning services in lower income Maryland neighborhoods and services seeks **Executive Director**. The Director is responsible for the overall operation of NDC, including general administration and management, program planning, budgeting, fundraising, grant reporting and community relations. For info visit <www.ndc-md.org>. Send cover letter/resume to NDC Executive Transition Committee, c/o The Welch Company, 1401 Hollins Street, Baltimore, MD 21223.

MASSACHUSETTS

Asian Community Development Corporation seeks full-time **Director of Housing and Development**. Contact 888 Washington Street, Suite 102, Boston, MA 02111-1426; 617-482-2380; (fax) 617-482-3056; jeremy@asiancdc.org .

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation seeks **Administrative Assistant** for Boston location. $20-30,000 salary, Negotiable with benefits. Work involves responsibility for administrative support services to the Staff Development/ Professional Practice Groups. resumes@nw.org or fax: 617-450-0410. Director, Staff Development, NRC, 607Boylston Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02116 Attn: AA.

Community Organizer for WATCH CDC in Waltham, MA. Salary $20-30,000, negotiable with benefits. Experience in organizing, popular education and/or community development a plus. Spanish speaking a plus. Work with low-income tenants around housing issues at a neighborhood, citywide and statewide level. Resume to Jennifer Van Campen, WATCH, 333 Moody St., Waltham, MA 02453. jvc@watchcdc.org. fax: 781-891-1703.

NEW JERSEY

Shelter force, the Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Development, seeks a full-time **Executive Editor**. Major responsibility for developing Shelterforce's editorial content, planning each issue, soliciting copy, editing and copy editing articles, staff development and supervision, and ensuring deadlines are met; manage circulation activities, advertising, and fundraising. Requires at least 5 years of magazine or newspaper editorial experience. Knowledge and experience in affordable housing and community development is essential, ability to juggle many tasks and meet deadlines, commitment to the social justice agenda consistent with Shelterforce's editorial mission; Macintosh publishing experience preferred, supervisory, graphic design, and/or production management experience a plus. Salary mid-to upper 30's plus benefits. Send cover letter, resume, and nonfiction writing sample to: Harold Simon, Shelterforce, Suite 311, Orange, NJ 07050. hs@nhi.org.

NEW YORK

Community Development Venture Capital Alliance is seeking individuals with significant business finance experience and a commitment to improving the lives of low-income individuals. Available positions: **Investment Officer**, **Research Officer**, **Training Officer** and **Consulting Officer**. For info visit www.cdvca.org. Send cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to CDVCA via e-mail <employment@cdvca.org>, fax 212-980-6791 or 9 East 47th St., 5th Fl., New York, NY 10017.

"Our Kids," a Queens-based after school program, is seeking a part time

Technology Coordinator for our Center for Technology. Responsibilities include developing our community newsletter, developing content for our web site, and developing lesson plans for children ages 5-12. Candidates must possess an education background, high energy, and enjoy working with children. Fax resumes to: Attn: Keith Mitchell, Education Coordinator, 718-784-3055.

Brooklyn Bureau of Community Services has the following position available: **Director of Family Day Care**. Must have expertise in Head Start and the Administration for Children's Services/ Agency for Child Development; demonstrated achievement in supervision and management, curriculum development and implementation, family and community partnerships, and collaborating with diverse teams; current N-6 Certification and a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education or related field. Resume to T. McDonald, 285 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, New York 11217.

New York City organization seeks **Director** to manage programs. B.A. Degree, experience in affordable mortgage lending, loan underwriting preferred; strong administrative, management skills. Fax resume with salary requirements to Dir. H.R.: 212-242-6680.

Leading East Side social service agency seeks **Program Planner**. Excellent writer and creative thinker to help develop programs. Responsibilities include proposal writing, related correspondence, and staffing internal and external meetings. Must balance multiple projects and work successfully with a variety of individuals and groups. Resume and cover to Ms. G. Burke, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021.EEO.

Well regarded, growing homeless services non-profit seeks **Grants Coordinator**. Opportunity to learn all aspects of securing and maintaining government funding. BA or BS, 2-4 years experience in non-profit or government setting, writing, administrative and organizational skills, attention to details/deadlines, cooperative spirit, commitment to poor people.

Resources
Continued

Competitive salary, benefits. Resume with salary expectations to Care for the Homeless, 12 West 21st Street, 8th Floor, NYC 10010. EOE. Women, minorities encouraged to apply.

Tenant Organizer needed to organize church-based committees to address tenant concerns in public housing projects. Conduct grassroots outreach and leadership training. Must have experience with community organizing and desire to work in faith community. Good writing skills, ability to work flexible hours. Salary: $25,000 + benefits. Send resume and cover letter to Central Brooklyn Churches, 140 Devoe Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211.

Bronx CDC specializing in affordable housing, employment services, real estate development and asset-building programs seeks **Community Development Associate**. Oversee NYC's first Individual Development Account: a match program for low-income families to buy a home, start a small business or go back to school. Qualifications: BA or equivalent, communication skills; experience in facilitating groups, building professional relations; experience or interest in program management; and interest in affordable homeownership, micro enterprise development & higher education for low income families. Fluency in Spanish required. Salary to mid-30s. Send letter/resume to Rita Bowen, Director of Community Development, 2003-05 Walton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453. Fax 718-299-5623.

Bronx-based CDC and RE Management Co. seeks **Property Manager** with the ability to oversee staff and overall maintenance of several buildings. Must be knowledgeable of housing codes and violations. Must have two years experience in property management and be computer literate. Bilingual a plus. Send resume with cover letter to Director of Property

Operations, Mount Hope Housing Company, Inc., 2003-05 Walton Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10453. Fax 718-583-6557.

The Trust for Public Land, a national not-for-profit land conservation organization, seeks a **Community Organizer** to assist in its NYC Gardens Land Trust Program. Responsibilities include meeting with 64 local volunteer gardening groups to improve group functioning in governing and maintaining the community gardens recently purchased by TPL in New York City; working one-on-one with garden leaders to formulate, structure and review plans to strengthen the groups and provide on-site assistance with governing structure. Bachelor's degree; experience in organizing volunteer neighborhood groups; excellent organization and communication skills; willingness to work some evenings and weekends; computer proficiency. This is an approximately two-year position. Salary: mid-30's + excellent benefits. For more info www.tpl.org. Send resume to TPL, 666 Broadway, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10012, or fax 212-353-2052.

The NYC Housing Partnership seeks a **Construction Monitor**. Architectural or Engineering degree and knowledge of various construction types and materials utilized is required. Also seeking a **Financial Analyst** with strong interpersonal, verbal and written communication skills; computer proficiency in developing spreadsheets and budgets; Bachelor's degree, accounting/financial analysis experience, MS Word and Excel required. Fax/mail cover letter /resume to William Nelson, Chief of Staff, 212-742-9559. New York City Housing Partnership, One Battery Park Plaza, New York, NY 10004.

OHIO

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation in Cincinnati seeks a **District Director** for the Great Lakes District. 5-7 years of demonstrated achievement working with non-profit community-based initiatives, a portion of which encompasses hands-on, grass-roots experience preferred. At least 8-10 years of diverse pub-

lic and/or private sector management experience wherein the candidate was responsible for personnel hiring, supervision and development; contract and budgetary management; resource development; program development and/or provision of technical assistance; and program evaluation. $70-80,000 negotiable. cgreeley@nw.org. The Deputy Executive Director for Field Operations, NRC, 607 Boylston Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 0211; fax 617-450-0430.

VERMONT

Director of organization dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods through home ownership and community in West Rutland, VT. At least 5 years experience in organizational management and lending. Responsible for a 10 member staff, $1 million budget, strategic planning, program administration, fundraising and board development. cfaw@together.net. Fax 802-773-5709, The Mosher Group, 128 Merchants Row Rutland, VT 05701.

PUBLICATION

The 2000 Edition of the National Low Income Housing Coalition's Advocates Guide to Housing and Community Development Policy is available now! This annual publication is required reading for advocates, students, local agencies, developers, and anyone who needs up-to-date information on the full range of issues affecting affordable housing and community development at the national level. Features include a detailed profile of the status of low-income housing in America; an in-depth look at trends in the federal housing budget; lobbying guidelines for nonprofit housing organizations; 45 chapters on programs and issues — from AIDS Housing to Youthbuild — with updated 2001 budget information. The Guide (161 pages, spiral-bound) is available to NLIHC members for $15, and to non-members for $25 Order via e-mail: info@nlihc.org ; 202-662-1530; fax 202-393-1973. NLIHC, 1012 14th St., NW #610, Washington, DC 20005.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Successful management consulting firm seeks office director for West Coast operation of national community development practice. Position will be located in the LA, California area. Requires a minimum of 6-8 years practical technical experience in the field administering affordable housing and economic development programs. In depth knowledge of HUD's HOME or CDBG programs. Strong management skills, excellent interpersonal, presentation, and written communications skills. Travel within region and occasionally throughout the US. Must be energetic, creative, and able to multi-task. Will participate in developing new business and ensure performance to existing contracts by providing quality deliverables to customers. Experience in OD, situational analysis, and creative problem solving. Ability to transition broad technical experience and knowledge into growth opportunities. Responsibilities include managing technical assistance contracts, conducting workshops, and providing technical assistance on affordable housing and community development programs. Degree in relevant area, prefer masters.

Send Resume and cover to: LA Director, TONYA, Inc. 1000 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20005, fax: 202-289-8107, email: hr@tonyainc.com

SR. HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Washington DC consulting firm seeking entrepreneurial program associate with experience developing and delivering training and technical assistance for housing and community development programs. Position will be located in DC. Individual must have critical thinking skills and proven project management experience. Must be energetic, creative, and able to multi-task. Will participate in developing new business and ensure performance to existing contracts by providing quality deliverables to customers. Previous experience developing training tools, manuals, and delivering on-site training for groups of 50 – 100 housing community development professionals, and providing technical assistance to clients. Experience in OD, situational analysis, and creative problem solving. Ability to transition broad technical experience and knowledge into growth opportunities. Excellent oral and written communication skills required. Must have 6 to 8 years of practical and technical experience in the field administering affordable housing, community or economic development programs. Requires in-depth knowledge of one or more of the following programs: HOME and CDBG. Must be willing to travel at least 50% of the time.

Send resume to: HR, TONYA, Inc., 1000 Vermont Ave., Suite 500, Washington DC, 20005, or fax: 202-289-8107, or email: hr@tonyainc.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN PLANNING

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