PN January E-Newsletter

The Organization of Progressive Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PN NEWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON-LINE RESOURCES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PN MEMBER UPDATES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW &amp; RENEWING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTINUING EDUCATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

PN NEWS

New PN Office Administrator

PN has a new office administrator - Carl Feuer, who is based at Cornell University and working with our office sponsor and treasurer, Ann Forsyth. We would like to welcome Carl and look forward to working with him.

Carl is replacing Sarah Smith, who has been with PN for two and a half years. A special thanks to Sarah for all the wonderful work she has done in keeping the office running smoothly.

Carl's contact information will be the same as Sarah's: Carl Feuer, Planners Network Administrator, 106 W. Sibley, Ithaca, NY 14853, p. 607-255-9987, f. 607-255-1971, info@plannersnetwork.org
Call for Proposals - Deadline March 1, 2010
Presentations, Posters and Workshops

As cities and towns around the world grapple with the impacts of multiple and concurrent crises, progressive planners, urbanists, activists, and citizens face the challenge of transforming crises into opportunities to advance profound changes in the way we plan, build, design, live in, and govern our cities.

We invite submissions addressing, but not limited to, the following questions: How are today's crises impacting cities and transforming contemporary debates about justice? What possible futures emerge as cities and local communities respond to rapid economic, political, demographic, and environmental change? What is a just distribution of local, national, and global responsibilities? What possibilities and/or responsibilities will move us toward a more just metropolis? How do we collaborate to achieve change towards social justice, equity, better living conditions, and the right to the metropolis? What innovative ideas can crises prompt in the quest for a just and inclusive metropolis? And how do we get there?

Submission could be in the form of workshops, panel discussions, paper/project presentations, and posters. We encourage the grouping of papers in pre-organized sessions but reserve the right to realign papers once proposals have been accepted. The conference will feature a special reception for posters, during which authors will display and discuss their work one-on-one. We encourage collaboration across disciplines and communities.

See the Call For Papers section of this month’s newsletter for further details.

PN MEMBER UPDATES

PNER Todd Fabozzi has published his second book of radical poems and antipoems, entitled: "Crossroads." For more information see: www.toddfabozzi.com

PNER Clara Irazábal authored the Conceptual Document “Urban Environmental Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean” for the United Nations-HABITAT Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and met in Bogota, Colombia in January 2010 to discuss the preparation of the first issue of the State of Latin American and Caribbean Cities, SOLACC (to be published in 2010 in Spanish: Estado de las Ciudades de America Latina y el Caribe).
PN MEMBER CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Clara Irazábal:

Transnational Latin Americanisms: Liminal Places, Cultures, and Power (T)here
March 4 & 5, 2010—Columbia University

This conference explores transnational Latin American socio-cultural and spatial conditions across the globe and at different scales from the gendered and racialized body to the national and transnational arenas.

Participants: Vladimir Bartalini, Rosa Cervera, Miriam Chion, Patricio del Real, James Freeman, Milena Gómez, Hannia Gómez, Macarena Gómez-Barris, Cristina Inclán-Valadez, Gareth Jones, Nora Libertum de Duren, Stephan Lanz, Faranak Miraftab, María Moreno, Zaida Muxi, Ingrid Olivo, Vera Pallamin, Yves Pedrazzini, Erika Rossi, Marcela Tovar, María Teresa Vázquez-Castillo, Marisa Zapata.

Sponsors: GSAPP, ILAS, CSER at Columbia University.

Dates and Place: March 4: 12:30-6pm, followed by reception; March 5: 9:30am-6pm; Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall, Columbia University, New York. Attendance is Free.

From Tom Angotti:

No More Affordable Housing Scams (NO MAHS): Towards Community Control of Land in New York City

March 27th, 2010—9:30 - 5:00 @ Hunter College/CUNY (West Building, 8th Floor, 68th and Lexington)

The housing crisis will not be solved with band-aids! NO MAHS is a forum for housing activists, tenants, squatters, community organizers and homeless people to discuss how to secure land and how to access and preserve truly affordable housing and community space, through:

- Direct action
- Land trusts and land banking
- Community planning
- Participatory budgeting

Join us in redefining the housing movement!

To RSVP and for more information, contact: 212-650-3328 OR email: communitylandnyc@gmail.com

T H E C A L L:

Affordable housing programs were designed to fail. They do not serve low-income people, they are not permanent, and they benefit developers more than communities. They contribute to gentrification and displacement of communities of color. They rob our communities of the power to make decisions about our future. The longstanding affordable housing crisis has gotten worse with the current financial crisis, leaving us with vacant buildings, massive foreclosures, and even more homelessness.
This is a call for those who are tired of being told that their dream for truly sustainable housing, free from market pressures, is unreasonable, impractical, or naïve. This conference aims to create a space where we can radically re-imagine what is possible in our struggles over land, learn about some of the concrete skills to implement new strategies for community control over our resources, and build and strengthen ties within the housing, community and social justice movements.

There are other paradigms for community-based control of land and resources that can help move our communities forward! Community Land Trusts, Land Banking, Participatory Budgeting, Land Takeovers, Squatting, and Community-Based planning are just a few of these. We need to familiarize ourselves with these and other approaches, and reformulate our strategies to build community power.

The conference will be organized in two general sections. First, we will explore why land is fundamental, the history of its privatization and commodification, including NYC’s specific history with land use and community based movements for control over land. This will set the stage for understanding the way affordable housing policies and programs have become scams. We will have time for discussion, then break, and return to discuss tactics and strategies including but not limited to those mentioned above. We will have time for break-out groups and a closing conversation among all people who come.

We need your support and input. What would you like to see included in this conference? What results would you like to see come out of it? Do you or your organization have any special needs we should be aware of?

Conference organizers: Peter Aleksa, Tom Angotti, Sam Imperatrice, Francesca Manning, Mario Mazzoni, Frank Morales, Felix Gottdiener, Avi Rosentalis, Mary Tek

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Benjamin Bissell
Rachel Bratt
Neil Brenner
Nico Calavita
Dana Chieco
Clara Irazabal
Richard Milgrom

Alice Posner
Justin Rocchi
Joshua Saunders
Corinne Scally
Ali Shaver
Aleeece Smith
Gray Smith

Bonnie Wessler
Laura Wurst
Michela Zonta

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PUBLICATIONS

“The Housing Policy Revolution: Networks and Neighborhoods,” (2009, 264 pp., $29.50) by David Erickson, has been published by the Urban Institute Press.


EVENTS


March 27-28, 2010. “Structures for Inclusion 2010 Conference” is a 10th anniversary celebration hosted by Howard University in Washington, DC. Three panels will discuss the theme: “Social Economic Environmental Design: SEED” and how to build on the success of the Green design movement in addressing critical social and economic issues through design. For more info visit here.


CONTINUING EDUCATION

Bloustein Online Continuing Education Program | BOCEP | Professional Development Institute

Upcoming courses and events: (AICP CM credit approved, requested or to be submitted for
February 23, 2010. 2:00 pm:

- Leadership Lessons from Olmsted, Moses and Jacobs

March 3 to April 10, 2010:

- Planning in the Age of Direct Democracy
- Affordable Housing Strategies
- Economic Development Analysis
- Introduction to New Urbanism
- Managing Green Politics
- Professional's Writing Studio
- Long Range Planning
- New Jersey Planning Law

Each BOCEP Deep Learning class is eligible for a Bloustein Professional Certificate

ON-LINE RESOURCES

Analyzing the Impacts of Climate Change on Wetlands in a post-Copenhagen World (Website)

Last month’s Copenhagen Accord at the international climate summit provided a small step forward in the continuing response to our changing climate. The January-February 2010 issue of the National Wetlands Newsletter provides a series of ideas about how to respond to climate challenges going forward, both on-the-ground efforts and implementing national policies.

Picturing Smart Growth (Website)
by: Natural Resources Defense Council

Cities and towns across the country are embracing smart growth as a better solution to meet the needs of their growing populations. See NRDC’s visions for how 70 U.S. communities could apply smart growth principles that accommodate growth and development while saving open space, revitalizing neighborhoods and helping cool the planet.

Cyberhood (Website)

Recent updates to the website include:
1. New public bulletin board items have been added
2. New syllabi have been added
3. A new webcast has been added: Resist 2010, 8 Reasons to Oppose the 2010 Winter Olympics
4. New featured sites have been added: Free Documentaries, and Gather the People websites.
JOBS

CALIFORNIA

Urban & Environmental Policy Program
Occidental College
Los Angeles, CA

Occidental College invites applications for a one-year full-time visiting position at the Assistant Professor level for our Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters in the Urban and Environmental Policy (UEP) Program.

For this position, we are seeking someone with expertise and teaching interests in the following areas: 1) Environmental justice and the history of the environmental and environmental justice movements; 2) Community-based research methods in planning and policy analysis; 3) Community development and community economic development with a focus on community organizing and leadership development. We are particularly eager to find candidates who also have an interest in the link between these issues and equity issues.

UEP is an interdisciplinary major that involves faculty in politics, sociology, economics, history, biology, geology, and other disciplines. We will consider candidates with training in a variety of disciplines, including urban planning, political science, sociology, environmental studies, public policy, economics, history, and law. The UEP program is closely linked with the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute, through which students, faculty and staff engage in applied research and community engagement. (Website)

Applicants should submit a letter of interest demonstrating a commitment to academic excellence in a diverse liberal arts environment, and including a statement of teaching philosophy, areas of teaching interest, examples of relevant coursework; a curriculum vitae; samples of scholarly or creative work; and two letters of recommendation to Professor Peter Dreier, Chair, Urban & Environmental Policy Program, Occidental College, 1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles, CA. 90041.

All materials are due by April 1, 2010. Please note in your resume that you are interested in the 1-year appointment. (We will also have 3-year position available beginning in Fall 2011, which we will begin recruiting for at the end of 2010). E/O/ E. The full job announcement can is available from here.
Transportation Planner Analyst - Two Positions
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
Oakland, California

Two transportation planner analyst positions are offered. The offer includes health, dental, vision, PERS retirement, life, & disability coverage and up to 38 days of paid leave, in the 1st year.

Requirements: Minimum one year of recent progressive and verifiable professional experience in the field of transportation with emphasis on transportation planning. BA in transportation engineering, transportation, environmental or urban planning, or a related discipline. Graduate degree is preferred.

The persons in these positions will perform planning and policy analysis, assisting with technical studies and act as a liaison to one or more county congestion management agencies and the four agency Joint Policy Committee (JPC), representing MTC and explaining MTC programs and policies, as well as supporting other Planning Section functions as needed.

To Apply: Submit an MTC Application, a response to the supplemental questions & current resume to: MTC, Attn: HR Dept, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607. Application & full job announcement can be downloaded from MTC’s website. To request an application & job announcement call job hotline @ (510) 817-5818 or e-mail jobhotline@mtc.ca.gov. Position closes 4:00 p.m., March 3, 2010. (Faxed/ emailed applications will NOT be accepted). EOE/AA

MICHIGAN

Community and Economic Development Coordinator
City of Hamtramck, Department of Community & Economic Development
Hamtramck, Detroit, MI

The City of Hamtramck, Michigan is seeking a self-motivated individual to join the Community and Economic Development Department. Under the administrative oversight of the Director of Community and Economic Development, the Community and Economic Development Coordinator will direct, oversee, and administer a wide range of initiatives aimed to encourage the redevelopment and future growth of the City. Applicants should have a bachelor’s degree in urban planning/design, business, architecture, public administration, or a related degree, and at least 3 years of related experience. Starting Salary: +/- $40,000 depending on qualifications.

Complete job description and applications are available online from here, or at the City of Hamtramck Clerk’s Office. Completed applications should be submitted via mail to HR Department, Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline, Hamtramck, MI, 48212, email: jneel@hamtramckcity.com or fax: (313) 872-0399. Please respond no later than 4:00 p.m. February 26, 2010. The City of Hamtramck is an EEOC employer.

MISSOURI

City Planner
City of Creve Coeur
Creve Coeur, MO
Established suburban community with a high quality of life and a healthy balance of premium commercial and residential properties is seeking a community planner. With a resident population of 17,000 and daytime population of 44,000, Creve Coeur ranks third in assessed valuation in St. Louis County. The current Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2002 followed by a Downtown Plan in 2005.

Working under the supervision of the Director of Planning, the planner is responsible for providing land use planning and development expertise to all policy making bodies, other city staff and the public. Key tasks include preparation of the full range of plans and reports on land planning and development issues, public notice and preparation for public meetings, consultation with potential project developers, and critical plan review in the permitting process.

The successful candidate will also serve as staff liaison to the Economic Development Commission and attend other commission and council meetings as needed. Graduation from college with a four-year degree in urban or community planning or a related field plus three or more years of equivalent or related experience. A graduate degree in a related field may count as additional equivalent years of experience. Must have demonstrated ability to work effectively with the public, boards and commissions, the development community, and city staff. Must have excellent communication skills, both written and oral. AICP highly preferred. Excellent benefits and a competitive salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Position open until filled.

Send resume and salary history to: Jaysen Christensen, Assistant to the City Administrator, 300 N. New Ballas Road, 63141 or e-mail Nancy O’Loughlin at noloughlin@ci.creve-coeur.mo.us. Website: www.creve-coeur.org. EOE

INDIANA

Associate Planner
City of Columbus - Bartholomew County Planning Department
Columbus, Indiana

The City of Columbus - Bartholomew County Planning Department is accepting applications for two full-time “associate planner” positions (with anticipated employment start dates in June and August 2010). The Planning Department provides development review and land use policy guidance for the City of Columbus and Bartholomew County.

Columbus, population 40,000, is a regional center for financial services, health care, employment, entertainment, and shopping. The community is recognized nationally for its vibrant downtown, quality parks, and overall quality of life. Website.

Employment in the Planning Department provides valuable experience in a dynamic city that emphasizes a high quality of community design and well crafted land use and development policies. The primary responsibility of an associate planner is the processing, review, and documentation of development applications. Associate planners are also offered opportunities to participate on special project teams, research planning-related topics, and serve as liaisons to community interest groups.

An associate planner shall possess a bachelor’s degree in urban planning, geography, landscape architecture, urban design, public policy, or a related field of study. Working knowledge of word-processing, graphic design, mapping, and publishing computer software is recommended. An associate planner shall also demonstrate a general knowledge of planning concepts and issues, and display a working knowledge of local government operations. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are also required.
The 2010 maximum annual salary is $38,520, based on qualifications.

A City of Columbus job application can be downloaded and printed from here. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and completed application to: Jeff Bergman, AICP, Planning Director, City of Columbus - Bartholomew County, Planning Department, 123 Washington Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201.

Questions or Comments? Email us at newsletter@plannersnetwork.org

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