

PLANNERS NETWORK

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ISTEA: Good for
Communities,
Good for Regions

URBAN POLICY UNDER CLINTON II:

TRADING HOUSING FOR A BRIDGE

by Lisa Ranghelli

When we cross the President's famous bridge to the Twenty-First century, we should not be surprised to find thousands of families living on it and underneath it – families that will not be able to find decent, affordable housing on the other side, in Clinton's "blessed land of new promise."

Before the President even laid out his Inaugural vision for the country, housing advocates knew that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) faced another four year battle to survive intact. We saw the writing on the wall when the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

proposed a HUD budget for Fiscal Year 1998 that was well below the agency's request, and proposed radical reforms that made previous GOP plans to deregulate HUD pale in comparison.

Therefore it came as no surprise when the President's Inaugural address and State of the Union speech gave zero attention to our nation's affordable housing crisis. Unlike the nameless character at a Beverly Hills party in 'Annie Hall' who has forgotten his mantra, Clinton continues to repeat his

"Medicare, Medicaid, Education, and the Environment" refrain to any and all who will listen. The scary thing is not just that housing is a low priority for the Administration, but that – in addition to that bridge we are all crossing – we are now traveling on a 'glidepath' to a balanced budget.

HUD has already borne the brunt of deficit reduction efforts in the last few years, and as a result its budget is 25% leaner today. The Administration's five year projection for HUD would freeze most programs at current levels.

Any prognostication as to where Andrew Cuomo, the new HUD Secretary, will lead HUD in the next four years must take into account the President's commitment to balance the federal budget by 2002. HUD has already borne the brunt of deficit reduction efforts in the last

few years, and as a result its budget is 25% leaner today. The Administration's five year projection for HUD would cut some housing programs deeply, and freeze most programs at current levels, which amounts to a cut because of inflation. The agency faces particular problems for the coming fiscal year, when \$6 billion in additional budget authority will be needed just to renew all the contracts in the Section 8 subsidy program. If Congress fails to approve additional budget

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Thank You!

Our mailing and notice in last month's PN resulted in over 100 contributions to help keep us in business. Please see page 2 for a list of those who have helped, and information on how you can contribute.

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authority for the Section 8 contracts, 4.4 million subsidized families will be at risk of homelessness. Alternatively, the renewals would devour the funding for other HUD programs, requiring 35% across the board cuts. In addition to a leaner budget, HUD has a leaner staff, which is being reduced from 13,200 in 1992 to 10,400 today to 7,500 in 2000.

Secretary Cuomo's challenge is to convince Congress that HUD is capable of reforming itself, and to figure out how the agency can do more with less. Cuomo's predecessor, Henry Cisneros, earned respect on Capitol Hill for his efforts to reinvent HUD's programs, especially public housing, which the media and conservative lawmakers seized on as the symbol of failed liberal urban policies. Many housing advocates were less thrilled with Cisneros' blueprints, but his efforts did stave off HUD's biggest critics, who sought complete abolition of the agency. Whatever one thinks of Cuomo, the new Secretary elicits bipartisan support from the powerful committees that oversee HUD's programs. And with four years under his belt as Assistant Secretary for community planning and development, Cuomo already knows how to navigate politics inside the beltway.

At his confirmation hearing and in budget briefings, Cuomo outlined his priorities for HUD. At the top of the list is reforming the Section 8 program, putting subsidies for landlords more in line with market rents. Then Cuomo plans to continue with Cisneros' public housing 'transformation', which largely consists of demolishing 100,000 units by 2000, and shifting more decision-making power to local housing authorities. Another key

goal of the agency is to carve out a role for itself in welfare 'reform' implementation – since economic development and job creation are more glamorous than housing these days. The package includes a second round of empowerment zones, brown-fields redevelopment, transportation to jobs ('Bridges to Work'), and portable housing subsidies earmarked for welfare recipients who must move to find jobs. It is unlikely, however, that Congress will fund these new initiatives.

Finally, Cuomo hopes to improve accountability in an agency that the Government Accounting Office (GAO) still has on its 'high risk' list because HUD is vulnerable to waste, fraud and mismanagement. He says that strategy will involve having more staff deployed in the field, with fewer based in Washington.

Overall, the outlook for HUD is grim. Devolution of power from Washington to the field has some disastrous consequences in the absence of enough HUD staff and resources to adequately monitor what is going on locally. The President's budget proposal gives HUD very little wiggle room (especially in the 'out years' of the balanced budget glidepath), and Congress can only be expected to go down from there. While public housing authorities and mayors try to make up for funding cuts in a deregulated environment, the voices of low income people may be shut out in the process, and HUD will be reluctant to step in and take action until too much damage has been done.

Lisa Raghelli is a Policy Specialist at the Center for Community Change.

Thank You!

Our fundraising letter and plea for contributions in our last issue was answered by more than 100 donations. Thank you to those of you who sent in funds to help keep Planners Network afloat:

Keith Johnson, Walter Hook, Mary Gail Snyder, Jim Elias, Alan Mallach, Maryann Leshin, John Beckman, Carmen Concepcion, Catherine Hill, Susan M. Wirka, Ron Hayduk, Frank Bonilla, Brad Smith, Ann Forsyth, Micky Lauria, Dan Lauber, Edwin Quiles, Karen B. Wiener, Cliff Cook, Fred Schmidt, Angel Roman, William Menking, Chris Davenport, Ricardo Miranda, Elizabeth Friedman, Raoul Pierre-Louis, Jessica Pitt, Daniel P. Carr, John Forester, Thomas Reiner, Geraldine Wang, Mary C. Cassidy, Tom Taylor, Bruce Stiftel, John Schwab, Daniel Lauber, William A. Peterman, David Finet, Virginia Druhe, Vanessa Dingley, James M. Buckley, Tom Vitek, Jennifer L. Cooper, Chris Benner, Andrew Schiffrin, Robert Collin, Robert Lee Russell, Anna C. Vakil, Emily Achtenberg, Liz Isaacs, Edward L. Page, Howell Baum, J. David Hulchanski, Kathy Krepcio, Michael Siewert, M. Grace S. Borbe, Jay D. Jurie, Robert E. Halstead, Stewart G. Bryant, David Barkin, Margit Mayer, Bob Maltz, Martin Pressman, Ed Pawlowski, Maria J. Vermiglio, Dr. Alejandro Rofman, Jac Smit, Hany Khalil, Ellen Chapnick, Allan Lichtenstein, Kathleen Gygi, Robin Elkin, Jim Cohen, John Metzger, Keith Getter, Michael Stone, Richard Glance, Richard Hyman, Tim Mungaven, Johanna Looye, Donna Bird, Jennifer Wintner, Liz Hauser, Patricia Lake, Joseph Feinberg, Ed Meek, Anne McLaughlin, Russel Feldman, Bruce Hossfield, Scott Carlin, Shirley Siegel, Phyllis Sachs, John Davis

We still haven't met our goal of raising \$5,000 to cover our 1996 operating deficit, so if you haven't sent in a contribution please consider doing so. Please see page 15 for suggested contribution amounts.

Also, welcome to new Planners Network Members:

Heather Hood, Laurie Goldman, Alma C. Flores, Thanh Bui, Mohamad Razavi, David Rubel, Justin Gray, Alexandra Vrtunski, Marla Nelson, Kim Knowles-Yanez, Joseph Scarpaci, Amanda McCloskey, Steve Horstman

Rural Development – Still Last in Line

by Joe Belden

In the 1998 Clinton budget proposals, most rural development programs managed to hold their own. But it remains to be seen how much longer that can continue. Each year, rural development is usually last in line for federal support, particularly when it comes to low-income people. Rural development in the United States might be called the Rodney Dangerfield of domestic policy. It just can't get no respect. Community development and housing issues most often are thought of as urban topics. HUD is, after all, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. But there are rural issues to be confronted as well.

Most of the public and even many social scientists are not aware that six in ten people below the poverty line live outside central cities. African-American, Hispanic, and elderly people have a higher poverty rate in non-metro areas than in the central cities. And unemployment in non-metro areas is consistently higher than in metro areas. Is it any wonder that we get dissed by the federal government?

The Mississippi Delta, Appalachia, the Southeast, the Ozarks, the Southwest border, and Indian country all have large multi-county areas of very high poverty. These are areas or regions rather than "pockets" of poverty because they occupy very large parts of the map. There are over 500 non-metro counties where the poverty rate has exceeded 20 percent in each of the last four censuses.

Some rural areas also suffer from the lack of significant local government spending on public services. Not surprisingly counties with this condition tend to be poor and remote. A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) study found 160 government-poor counties in the US in 1987, concentrated in Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas.

There are many worthy and successful but little known programs, though there are clearly not enough to meet the needs of rural poverty. The Rural Housing Service (RHS, successor to the

Farmers Home Administration) is part of the USDA and has been operating low-income rural housing programs since 1950. One of the housing world's biggest secrets is that these programs pre-date most of HUD's efforts and have built over 2.6 million housing units. The biggest success story is probably the RHS single-family program, which has put almost 1.9 million low- and very low-income families into home ownership. A rental program has created over half a million subsidized apartments.

USDA also operates programs for rural water and wastewater systems, business development, community facilities, and electrification. The association with the USDA is both a blessing and

a curse for rural development policy. The good news politically, particularly these days, is that the rural housing and community development programs are not part of HUD. But the problem is that USDA is the farm agency. Although most rural people are no longer involved in agriculture, even indirectly, the Department is still mostly focused there.

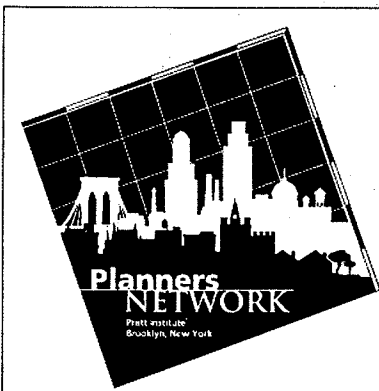
HUD of course also operates in rural America. Most housing authorities, and some excellent public housing, are in small cities, towns, and non-metro counties. Thirty percent of CDBG funds and 40 percent of HOME dollars go to non-entitlement jurisdictions. And the

McKinney, Sec. 202, and Sec. 811 programs, to mention just a few, are very important resources in rural and non-metro areas. HUD's Indian housing program is mostly rural and is a vital resource on reservations. The 1996 Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act has reorganized HUD Indian housing programs completely.

The outlook for rural development programs is mixed. They have some political support from rural legislators, but such programs also face caps on discretionary federal spending. Perhaps the biggest trend in rural housing is a shift from direct low-income loans (made by the Rural Housing Service) to guaranteed moderate-income lending (made by banks and backed by government). Since the early 1990s direct loans have declined and guaranteed lending has risen sharply in the Farmers Home/RHS budget. There is strong private and political support for this trend, but it does not help the poor. Rural America also is likely to suffer under welfare reform, since food stamps and SSI are vital in many very poor and remote areas. Many families living in subsidized farm worker housing are headed by legal immigrants and will lose their homes.

Joe Belden is Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Assistance Council (HAC).

Six in ten people below the poverty line live outside central cities. African-American, Hispanic, and elderly people have a higher poverty rate in non-metro areas than in the central cities. And unemployment in non-metro areas is consistently higher than in metro areas.



**PN '96 t-shirts
are still
available**
(XL, black only)

Contact Winton at
718-636-3461, or
pn@pratt.edu

Clinton's Urban Agenda - "Policy Tokenism Writ Large"

by Donald Lash

In his first State of the Union Address, President Clinton unveiled the "vision for change" of his Economic Plan. The plan included a limited number of new urban policy initiatives, coupled with the strategic expansion and modification of several existing programs. Urban policy was not especially high on the President's agenda, but there was some coherence - centering on the relatively simple notion that shrewd investment undertaken or stimulated by government would improve the economies of America's cities. Early on, this investment strategy was sacrificed to political realities. The President reportedly complained that his economic advisors had sacrificed all of the "non-Wall Street elements" of the investment plan in negotiating the deficit reduction package in 1993.

Looking at the President's fifth State of the Union and budget for fiscal year 1998, it is evident that the President's urban policy repertoire is limited to tokenism - a few relatively cheap and readily saleable items. After declaring in his speech that we must do more to "to empower [poor urban and rural neighborhoods], to create the conditions in which families can flourish, and to create jobs through investment by business and loans by banks", the President mentioned two urban policy initiatives. He proposed doubling the number of empowerment zones and expanding the network of community development banks. Each proposal demonstrates the manner in which the Clinton urban policy is driven by the President's infamous aversion to political risk. Empowerment zones are a refinement of the enterprise zones championed by Jack Kemp as a Congressman and HUD Secretary. Community development banks have been a favorite of the President's since, as a Governor, he invited South Shore Bank to establish a subsidiary in Arkansas. Community development banking has attracted support from those who are hostile to more ambitious urban programs. In announcing plans to create a loan fund with support from large corporations and the securities industry, corporate take-over specialist Henry Kravis hailed community development banking as a positive alternative to the "failed government interventions" of the past.

As is noted in the op-ed piece by Richard Darman from which the title of this essay is derived, the Administration's response to the problems of America's cities has consisted of a patchwork of token policies masking Clinton's abandonment of the goal of enacting a serious urban policy. Given the political imperative of deficit reduction, moreover, it is doubtful whether the President really has a choice. The Administration's 1998 budget reveals how little money is left for domestic discretionary spending after defense (15%), entitlements (50%) and interest (15%). Of the remaining 20%, three quarters (or 15% of the total) consists of aid to states and municipalities, much of it in the form of block

grants with few strings attached. Thus, there is very little room in the budget for the active pursuit of an urban policy. The consensus for reducing the deficit and balancing the budget - if only for one year - makes tokenism the only politically realistic option.

The need to balance the budget by 2002 is likely to result in devastating cuts to programs important to the cities. The deficit reduction plan depends on large, unspecified savings to be achieved in the last years of the plan if the budget is to be balanced. If history is a guide, programs which benefit poor, urban neighborhoods will be disproportionately cut in the outyears.

The President's broader education reform agenda, which was assigned a much higher priority in the State of the Union address than in the budget, would create a new middle-class entitlement of two years of college to supplement high school. Neither this nor any other component of the President's education plan will address the fundamental problems of urban school districts struggling to provide basic education and retain students through high school.

It is now evident that the urban policy initiatives which will be forthcoming from the Clinton Administration will have extremely limited and/or localized benefits. Existing programs will be jeopardized by the need to reduce the deficit and balance the budget by 2002. Welfare reform will damage the cities and education reform will probably be implemented in a manner which will not help them. The tragedy is there does not seem to be a high political price to be paid for abandoning the cities. J.C. Watts, speaking for the Republican Party in responding to the State of the Union, may have been implicitly devaluing the cities when he said "the real America is on Main Street." The President and many Democrats have assigned urban concerns a low priority. Urban "progressives" have contented themselves with self-righteous irrelevancy, and are unlikely to contribute to the formulation of politically realistic alternatives. For the foreseeable future, the best that America's cities can hope for is "policy tokenism writ large."

Donald Lash is an attorney practicing in the area of education law and affordable housing development.

The urban policy initiatives forthcoming from the Clinton Administration will have extremely limited and/or localized benefits.

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PN'er Updates

- From a longer piece by PN'er **Clement Dinsmore**: "Three public interest groups – the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Surface Transportation Policy Project, and the Chicago-based Center for Neighborhood Technology – are creating an analytical tool to map "locational efficient" communities within metropolitan areas. A "location efficient" community includes higher residential density and convenient access to shopping, other services, and public transportation. The Departments of Transportation and Energy and the Environmental Transportation Agency are assisting the effort." Anyone interested in obtaining further information can contact Clem at the Surface Transportation Policy Project, 202-244-6648.
- PN'er **Stephen E. Barton** is a planner for the city of Berkeley, CA, and the Vice-President/President-Elect of the Berkeley Chapter of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 535. He writes: "I have been a leader in proposing alternative revenue raising ideas and ways of preventing layoffs during this period of local fiscal stress. I would say that planners' skills in research and presentation are of great help here, as well as in more traditional union roles such as dealing with grievances, collective bargaining and public defense of

government services and their cost. . . Planners are among the best educated people working in most city and county governments and I believe that planning education and professional development should equip planners for the opportunity to take a leadership role in the changes now taking place in revitalizing the union movement and in improving the administration of local government. More knowledge about the role of unionized planners would be a helpful and important step in that direction and I would be interested in hearing from PN members with experience in unions." Stephen also asks if any PN'ers "are aware of any research on the extent of unionization of planners or on the actual or potential contributions of planners to unions in the public sector, where most planners work." Contact Stephen at City of Berkeley, Planning and Development Dept., 2118 Milvia St., Ste. 300, Berkeley, CA 94704; 510-705-8130; stb1@ci.berkeley.ca.us

- *Housing Affordability Among Asian Americans*, a report by PN'er **Michael Stone**, is available at no charge from the Institute for Asian American Studies at U Mass-Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125-3393; 617-287-5650.

PN'ers / page 6

urban design & planning in Cuba
17-day research trip
June 26 - 10 July 1997

This program facilitates research on Cuba for graduate, undergraduate, university faculty, and journalists. It uses the 'bull environment' as a window to broader issues of historic preservation, community development, tenancy, self-help housing, privatization, environmental issues, and related themes. Itinerary includes 9 days in Havana, 3 in historic Trinidad, 3 in Camaguey, and 2 in Varadero. Space is limited to 23 applicants. 15% discount available for those matriculated by May 1, 1997. Variable graduate and undergraduate credit included in program fees. Successful applicants will be licensed to travel to Cuba by the U.S. Treasury.



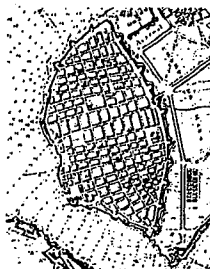
more information and application on the web:

<http://www.arch.vt.edu/CAUS/UA/cuba.html>

&

Joseph L. Scarpaci, Urban Affairs & Planning
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0113
(540) 231-7504 (540) 231-3367 FAX scarp@vt.edu

Urban Design and Planning in Havana, Cuba: An Historical Perspective



Havana, Cuba, circa 1850

New Video Available

Urban Design and Planning in Havana, Cuba: An Historical Perspective, examines the social, political, and geographic influences on what today is the largest collection of colonial architecture in the Americas.

This half-hour video tour offers a guide to Havana's urban design through three periods: colonial, from 1519 to 1898; neo-colonial, from 1899 to 1958, and Revolutionary, from 1959 to the present day.

For a VHS copy of the video, please fill out the form below and return it with a check or money order for \$ 50 payable to: Treasurer, Virginia Tech.

Send money and form to:
Cuba Video
Urban Affairs and Planning
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0113

Check here if you wish a Spanish version, available March 1, 1997

Urban Design and Planning in Havana, Cuba: An Historical Perspective

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 PN'ers / Continued from page 5

- PN'er **Jan Reiner** is seeking a planner, architect or student to help work on an eco-city project underway in Florida. Contact Jan Reiner, 1000 52nd St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710-6537; 813-321-7067.
- PN'er **Edward Page** sent his thoughts on the development of "Private Viable Mini Communities," explaining that their major objective is to "provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, jobs, recreation, and safe living that is convenient along with a healthful environment. These needs, properly combined, could result in a 'decent living' that is affordable for all involved." For "useful advice and guidance" on pursuing such projects, contact Edward Page, PO Box 237, Blue Hill, ME 04614.
- PN'er **Eric Stoller** writes, "I just started a new job doing community planning for a neighborhood organization in St. Paul, MN. As part of the outreach strategy we are planning a number of focus groups with different constituencies in the 'hood. I need information on available publications that provide practical instruction and creative ideas for planning focus groups." Contact Eric via e-mail at estoller@skypoint.com
- For a series of articles on what works and what doesn't work in Comprehensive Community Initiatives, I'd appreciate hearing from people who know of reports or evaluations of these type of projects. Contact **Winton Pitcoff** at Planners Network, 379 DeKalb Ave., 2nd Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718-636-3461.
- *Transportation Struggles in the Post-Apartheid City*, an article about the "patched-up, third-rate public transport" in South Africa, by PN'er **Jon Orcutt**, is available from Tri-State Transportation Campaign, 281 Park Ave. S., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10010; 212-777-8181; tstc@igc.apc.org
- PN'er John Emmeus Davis writes that "after a decade serving as Burlington, Vermont's housing director (and the coordinator of the city's Enterprise Community for the last two of those years) I have left City Hall. Working under the auspices of Burlington Associates in Community Development, a national consulting cooperative, I am assisting a number of nonprofits, city governments, and state governments with their CD programs. Much of my work to date has involved helping multiple nonprofits to find new ways of cooperating and collaborating. I would be interested in swapping stories and insights with other PN'ers who are knitting together community-based nonprofits." Contact John at Burlington Associates, PO Box 994, Burlington, VT 05402; BurlAssoc@aol.com

Jobs/Funding

- **Architect, E. St. Louis.** The East St. Louis Technical Assistance Center, an interdisciplinary program within the College of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is seeking an architect to provide technical assistance and advice to individual homeowners, nonprofit entities, and small businesses for new construction, rehabilitation/remodeling projects, and landscape site design. Contact Neighborhood Technical Assistance Center, Search Committee, 348R Collinsville Ave., E. St. Louis, IL 62201; 618-271-9605.
- **Executive Director, New Jersey.** Fairmount Housing Corporation in Jersey City, NJ is seeking an Executive Director to be responsible for property and asset management, supervision of projects under development, fundraising, fiscal planning and management, community relations, and staffing the Board of Trustees. For more information contact Martha Lewin, Fairmount Housing Corporation, 270 Fairmount Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07306; 201-333-5700.
- **Volunteers.** Break Away is a national source of information on alternative break programs. They connect non-profit community groups needing volunteers with students looking for projects during their school vacations. Contact Break Away, 6026 Station B., Nashville, TN 37235; 615-343-0385; brak-away@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu; <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/breakaway>
- **Project Manager, Newark.** Creative self-starter for all phases of project development; investigation of potential properties, property acquisition, financial feasibility analysis, and preparation of funding applications. For more information contact St. James CDC, PO Box 9716, Newark, NJ 07104.
- **Economic Development, Florida.** Nonprofit, community development corporation seeking experienced person to provide management oversight for inner-city lending program. Strong communication and commercial lending background required. Resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Ms. Isay Gulley, Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, 608 N. Garden Avenue, Clearwater, FL 34615.
- **Grants, New York City.** The Citizens Committee for New York City announces small grants for neighborhood groups through three programs: 1997 One City Awards (deadline April 18), 1997 Millie Parnis Dress Up Your Neighborhood Contest (deadline May 16) and 1997 Drug and Crime Prevention Awards (deadline November 3). For applications and more information, contact the Citizens Committee, 305 Seventh Ave., 15th Fl., New York, NY 10001; 212-989-0909.
- **RFP's.** The *Planning Commissioners Journal* web site, at <http://www.plannersweb.com/rfp.html>, now hosts the Planners RFP-RFQ Center, which allows local, regional and state planning and community development departments to post RFP's and RFQ's for planning related services.

Conferences / Workshops / Training

PNers at APA

If you're planning on attending the APA conference in San Diego April 5-9, please see page 14 for information on when and where to meet up with other Planners Network members.

- **Development.** The National Association of Development Organizations will hold their Washington Policy Conference April 13-15 in Washington, DC. Call 202-624-7806 for more information.
- **Preservation Planning.** "Preservation Planning Today: Seeing Communities Whole," a two day conference sponsored by Preservation Planning Program of the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, will be held April 18-19 in New York City. For more information contact Tom Angotti, Pratt GCPE, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718-399-4314; tangotti@pratt.edu
- **Progressive Planning.** "Restoring Vision," an exhibition about the impact of progressive urban planning on neighborhoods and communities in New York City (co-sponsored by Planners Network) will be on exhibit at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, until April 9, and then at Pratt Manhattan April 16-26. Call 718-636-3517 for more information.
- **Lending.** The National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders' conference, "Affordable Housing and Community Development Lending: Meeting Needs, Making Progress, Achieving Goals," will be held April 24-25 in Dallas, TX. For more information call 202-861-5770.
- **Sustainable Communities.** "Sustainable Communities/Sustainable Careers," a one-day conference for environmental activists and professionals sponsored by the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, will be held May 10 in New York City. For more information contact Tom Angotti, Pratt GCPE, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718-399-4314; tangotti@pratt.edu
- **Neighborhoods.** Neighborhoods USA's conference, "Capitalizing on Neighborhoods," will be held May 21-24 in Albany, NY. Call 800-258-3582 for more information.
- **Community Development.** "Rising to the Challenge: Strategies for Learning and Action" is the theme for the 1997 Management and Community Development Institute to be held at the Lincoln Filene Center at Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, June 1-6. Tracks include Community Economic Development, Housing, Organizational Effectiveness, and Skills for Capacity Building. Contact Lincoln Filene Center/MCDI, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155; 617-628-5000 x5666.
- **Housing.** "Housing in the 21st Century: Looking Forward" is the conference of the International Sociological Association, June 11-14 in Alexandria, VA. Information from the Division of Continuing Education, Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, VA 26061-0104; 540-231-5182.
- **Organizing.** The Western Organization of Resource Councils runs training sessions entitled "Principles of Community Organizing," 4-day sessions on organizing for justice and democracy. For more information contact Western Organization of Resource Councils, 2401 Montana Ave., #301, Billings, MT 59101; 406-252-9672; billings@worc.org
- **Organizing.** A national school for environmental and civil rights organizing, combining theory, history, and intense field work, is being developed by the Labor/Community Strategy Center, with six-month programs beginning every January and July. Contact Rita Borgos at 213-387-2800 for more information.
- **Community Economic Development.** The National Congress for Community Economic Development's (NCCED) "Washington Policy Conference" will be held April 14-16 in Washington, DC. The conference will include sessions on state policy issues, funding opportunities, and briefings by federal agencies. For more information contact NCCED, 11 Dupont Circle, Ste. 325, Washington, DC 20036; 202-234-5009.
- **Children.** "Urban Childhood: An International, Interdisciplinary Conference," will be held in Trondheim, Norway, June 9-12. Workshops will range from methodology to politics, and include topics such as Physical Environment and Health, Child Labor, and Street Children. For more information, contact Urban Childhood Conference Secretariat, Norwegian Centre for Child Research, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, N-7055 Dragvoll, Norway; noseb@avh.unit.no; <http://smulen.smt.unit.no/web/noseb/noseb.htm>
- **Community Preservation.** Pratt Institute's Preservation Planning Program, a 63 credit program leading to a Master of Science Degree in City and Regional Planning, is accepting applications for matriculated students. Contact Tom Angotti, The Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, 200 Willoughby Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205; 718-399-4314; tangotti@pratt.edu

Planners Network '97

Sharing Stories, Shaping Strategies, and Building Communities

June 26-29, 1997 • California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Two to three hundred members and associates from across the country are expected to attend this year's Planners Network meeting to share stories of successful citizen action on the local and state levels and to discuss the outlines of a new national urban agenda. Pomona, California, and its problems are typical of many medium-sized, non-central cities. Pomona and the surrounding region – Los Angeles county and its 88 cities, Orange County, and the sprawling inland counties of San Bernardino and Riverside – offer rich examples of urban and metropolitan issues and solutions. The 1997 Conference is distinguished by the participation of regional activists from the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), a nationwide network of broad-based community organizations.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Tours: Thursday's tours will highlight issues and sites in the Los Angeles region that don't appear in postcards or tourist brochures.

Workshops: In Friday workshops, small groups of conference participants will meet with members of local groups on specific issues/problems. The local groups will have chosen a piece of their issue/problem for an activity that will:

- help the organization deal with the issue/problem
- offer a learning experience for conferees;
- provide an opportunity for collaboration between conferees and organization members.

We will draw on local institutions (educational and community-based) for sites.

Panel sessions: Saturday will be devoted to panels, roundtables, and paper presentations organized in four tracks to discuss how ideas from the conference relate to particular issue areas. The tracks include: Economic development, Housing and community development, Health, and Environment.

Plenary Sessions: Four plenary sessions will include speakers and open discussion.

SEE PAGE 13 FOR MORE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

If you would like to participate as a facilitator or presenter in a panel, roundtable or paper presentation, let us know by April 1. We are organizing sessions now. Contact Ruth Yabes, 909-896-2678, or e-mail RJYabes@CSUPomona.edu

QUESTIONS?

Email: PNconf@csupomona.edu

Contacts: Chuck Hotchkiss – cmhotchkiss@csupomona.edu, 909-869-2687

Gwen Urey – gurey@csupomona.edu, 909-869-2725

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Cal Poly Pomona, 3801 West Temple Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768.

Planners Network '97

Sharing Stories, Shaping Strategies, and Building Communities

June 26-29, 1997 • California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Name: _____

Title/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone (days): _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Fee

(full registration includes all conference events and some meals)

General: \$100 per person before April 15, \$120 per person after April 15 \$ _____

Student/Unemployed: \$50 per person before April 15, \$60 after April 15 \$ _____

One day registration: \$45 per person per day \$ _____

Thursday Tours: \$15 per person for one Thursday tour \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Child Care: Number _____ and ages of children _____

(Child care is free, but must be requested with registration)

Full payment must accompany registration. Please make checks payable to Cal Poly Pomona. Send to:
 Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning, Cal Poly Pomona • 3801 West Temple Ave. • Pomona, CA 91768

Cancellation fees: Fifty percent of registration fees will be refunded if requested before June 12; no refunds after June 12

Room Reservations

Dormitories: There are a limited number of single and double dormitory rooms available on campus at Cal Poly Pomona, within walking distance of the University Union, where most meetings will be held:

Single occupancy Total persons: _____ Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____ Number of nights: _____
 @ \$24.50 per room per night, amount enclosed: \$ _____

Double occupancy Total persons: _____ Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____ Number of nights: _____
 @ \$34.50 per room per night, amount enclosed: \$ _____

Kellogg West: Hotel rooms at the Kellogg West conference center are within walking distance of the University Union. Overflow arrangements are available through Shilo Inn at the same rates as Kellogg West. Kellogg West and Shilo Inn have complimentary vans that can be used to transport attendees between the two facilities.

Single occupancy Total persons: _____ Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____ Number of nights: _____
 @ \$56 per room per night, amount enclosed: \$ _____

Double occupancy Total persons: _____ Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____ Number of nights: _____
 @ \$65 per room per night, amount enclosed: \$ _____

ISTEA: Good for Communities, Good for Regions

by Scott Bernstein

When a group of public interest leaders spanning the fields of transportation, environment and community gathered in September 1990 to address the seemingly impossible challenge of changing "the highway bill" proposed by President Bush, we were faced with a choice: either to (a) swallow hard and live with a reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act which was being proposed, (b) craft a decidedly pro-transit, anti-highway policy, or (c) propose something else.

Why did we opt for "something else?" Because the "sprawl" we were all concerned about was a form of disinvestment from existing places in favor of new ones which could not be fought on modal transportation grounds alone. Post-war metropolitan land development increased up to twelve times faster than population, leaving behind a legacy of stranded assets: schools, communities, and infrastructure in older central cities and their suburbs built for larger populations, which were forced to raise taxes beyond their ability to pay.

President Bush's proposed Highway Bill would have continued and strengthened the historical post-WWII trends in highway building and weak planning and environmental review standards. It would have further weakened the role of metropolitan planning organizations and localities in favor of an even stronger role for state highway departments, while trivializing the role of citizens in these reviews.

While it was important to make a statement in favor of mass transit, it was felt that this could be accomplished within the broader framework of preservation and enhancement of existing systems and places over new ones. Logically this led to a framing transportation funding which encouraged flexibility – a notion akin both to the way Community Development Block Grants have been administered by cities since 1975 – and early and continuous involvement by citizens in the planning and administration of local plans.

Finally, it was envisioned that the ISTEA framework would result in a performance-driven system on a regional and metropolitan basis. ISTEA would be a locally-formulated, but federally funded mandate for continuous improvement by incorporating environmental, economic, and planning factors, by requiring that plans be fiscally constrained (i.e. evaluated with regard to long-term costs and the availability of resources), and by linking metropolitan transportation planning to other Federal policies such as the Clean Air Act Amendments and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act,

As a result, the coalitions which have arisen in metropolitan regions around the country have broken out of the "transit vs. Highways" polarity. Rather, they include leaders of existing

communities and defenders of existing transportation who want reinvestment not disinvestment, and who are seeking mutual gain agendas which can turn around their regions' economies which encourage citizens to not run away from their communities.

In Chicago, a strong city-suburban coalition used ISTEA requirements to defeat a proposed demolition of the 100 year old elevated rapid transit in favor of rebuilding the renamed "Green Line" around which Chicago's subsequent winning empowerment zone strategy was crafted. Local planning and reinvestment is occurring around the rebuilt stations that resulted, including infill homeownership, commercial development and job creation. And thousands of leaders from churches, municipalities and community-based organizations from virtually every place in a region of 267 towns, six counties and hundreds of special service districts are, for the first time, wrestling over what kind of long range plan the region will have, rather than whether there will be one.

ISTEA has shown that regionalism is too important to be left to professional regionalists alone. The problems of inequality, fiscal disparities and spatial mismatch between jobs and people can only be addressed by a commitment to community-based regionalism. Solving these inequities requires a commitment to equality; fiscal parity and tax base sharing and equitable regional access to jobs.

ISTEA has shown that regionalism is too important to be left to professional regionalists alone. The problems of inequality, fiscal disparities and spatial mismatch between jobs and people can only be addressed by a commitment to community-based regionalism.

As we enter the year in which Congress will consider ISTEA reauthorization, let's try and remember that what helped us in 1990 and 1991 was ensuring that transportation policy was seen as everyone's business. Maintaining the metropolitan framework means that place matter. Let's remember Ben Franklin's dictum, "We must hang together or we will surely hang separately."

Scott Bernstein is President of the Center for Neighborhood Technology.

Reprinted, by permission, from the Spring, 1997 issue of Place Matters, a publication of the Center for Neighborhood Technology. For subscription information, contact the Center for Neighborhood Technology, 2125 W. North Ave., Chicago, IL 60647.

Bulletin Board

HOUSING

- **HMDA.** The Center for Community Change has released Home Mortgage Disclosure Act software, aimed at helping community groups analyze local mortgage lending programs with information disclosed under HMDA. Cost is \$150 for nonprofits, \$500 for universities, and \$1,500 for for-profits. Contact Center For Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20007; 202-333-5462; hn0280@handsnet.org
- **Housing.** "Saving Affordable Housing: What Community Groups Can Do & What Government Should Do" by John Atlas and Ellen Shoshkes was published as the December issue of *Shelterforce* magazine. The report is available on-line at <http://www.nhi.org/online/issues/sf90.html>, or for \$5 from *Shelterforce*, 439 Main Street, Orange, NJ 07050; 201-678-3110; hs@nhi.org
- **Affordable Housing.** *Managing Affordable Housing: A Practical Guide to Creating Stable Communities* provides nonprofits and for-profit property owners a step-by-step guide to strategically managing their properties. It's available for \$150 from John Wiley and Sons, 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10158; 212-850-6336.
- **Housing.** The National Low Income Housing Coalition has three new publications: *Housing in America: Questions for People of Faith*, *The Youngest Among Us: Is Your Prophetic Voice an Effective Voice?* and *Homelessness in Our Communities: Leading Your Community to Housing Justice*. They are \$7 each from the NLIHC, 1012 14th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202-662-1530 x234.
- **Mutual Housing.** *Hands-On Housing: A Guide Through Mutual Housing Associations and Community Land Trusts for Residents and Organizers* (\$10), and *Balancing Acts: The Experience of Mutual Housing Associations and Community Land Trusts in Urban Neighborhoods* (\$15), both by Sarah Hovde and John Krinsky, are available from the Community Service Society of New York, 105 E. 22nd St., New York, NY 10010; 212-614-5314.
- **Affordable Housing.** *Over the Edge: Cuts and Changes in Housing, Income Support, and Homeless Assistance in Massachusetts* documents changes in the status of thirteen different federal and state programs designed to assist low income people. Cost is \$10 from HOME Coalition, 1803 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA 02124; 617-265-6028.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Sustainable Communities.** *The Sustainable Community Checklist*, a hands-on workbook for sustainable rural community development, is now available from the University of Washington's Northwest Policy Center. The cost is \$12.50 for one copy, \$6 for additional copies, and \$1 per book postage and handling, from Northwest Policy Center, University of Washington, Box 353060, Seattle, WA 98195-3060; 206-543-7900.
- **Community Development.** *The Economic Renewal Guide: A Collaborative Process for Sustainable Community Development* outlines a step-by-step community decision making process that encourages collaborative citizen involvement in the promotion of successful, sustainable community development. Cost is \$17.95 from Rocky Mountain Institute, 970-927-3851.
- **CBO's.** The National Center for Economic & Security Alternatives is initiating a comprehensive study of community-based organizations aiming to revitalize their localities, and is seeking information on groups helping to foster values such as citizen participation, democracy, equality, community, environmental sustainability, and local self-sufficiency, and community groups working to obtain greater control of capital. Contact Stephanie Lessans, Research Associate, National Center for Economic and Security Alternatives, 2000 P Street, NW, Suite 330; Washington, DC 20036; 202-835-1150.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Development and Organizing.** The March/April issue of *The Neighborhood Works* includes a special 32-page supplement on "New Directions in Grassroots Organizing and Economic Development." It's available from *The Neighborhood Works*, 2125 W. North Ave., Chicago, IL 60647; 773-278-4800 x111; tnwedit@cnt.org; <http://www.cnt.org/tnw/>
- **Lending.** The National Community Reinvestment Coalition's (NCRC) study on lending patterns in the 20 largest metropolitan areas, *America's Worst Lenders* is available from NCRC, 733 15th St. NW, #540, Washington, DC 20005; 202-625-8866.
- **Community Reinvestment.** *Tools for Promoting Community Reinvestment: Using Data to Analyze Lending Patterns in your Community* is available from the Woodstock Institute, 407 S. Dearborn, #550, Chicago, IL 60605; 312-427-8070; woodstock@wwa.com

- **Community Economic Development.** *Can This Business Succeed? Nonprofits and Community Economic Development* is available for \$7 from the Community Information Exchange, 1029 Vermont Ave., NW, Ste. 710, Washington, DC 20005; 202-628-2981

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation.** "Transportation Corridor Management: Are We Linking Transportation and Land Use Yet?" is a report which includes eleven case studies from across the country of innovative planning and implementation strategies to mend local and regional institutional separation between transportation and land use. An executive summary is available on-line at <http://www.gspa.washington.edu/ippm/pub/96transportation/title.html>. Copies can be ordered for \$10, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling, from Julie Comiskey, Institute for Public Policy and Management, Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, Box 353060, Seattle, WA 98195-3060; 206-543-0190; jcomiske@u.washington.edu
- **ISTEA.** *Five Years of Progress: 110 Communities where ISTEA is Making a Difference* is available from the Surface Transportation Policy Project, and provides project descriptions, contact information, and funding information. Cost is \$15 from Surface Transportation Policy Project, 1400 Sixteenth St., NW, #300, Washington, DC 20036; 202-939-3470.

SHELTERFORCE

Housing • Community Development • Organizing
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For 21 years, *Shelterforce* has been the voice of the affordable housing and community development movement, providing news, analysis and solutions to the crisis in housing and community in America. Only *Shelterforce* provides complete coverage of the issue at the core of community development and urban revitalization.

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at: <http://www.nhi.org>

- **Mass Transit.** *Taken for a Ride: Public Transit and the Decline of America's Cities*, a 52 minute film about the campaign by the auto and oil industries to dismantle urban street-car lines, is available from New Day Films. Cost is \$55 to rent, \$95 to purchase (for grassroots groups), from New Day Films, 22D Hollywood Ave., Hohokus, NJ 07423; 201-652-6590; <http://www.newday.com>

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Gathering Places.** The winter issue of *Planning Commissioners Journal* features a series of articles on "Our Vanishing 'Third Places,'" informal neighborhood gathering places. Subscriptions and information available from Planning Commissioners Journal, P.O. Box 4295, Burlington, VT 05406; 802-864-9083; pcj@together.net; <http://www.plannersweb.com>
- **Children.** Childwatch International, a research network open to those involved in research on issues relating to children and children's development and well-being, is a primary participant in "Children's House in Cyberspace," a meeting place on the Internet for professionals involved in issues related to children. The site can be found at <http://childhouse.uio.no>, or write Childwatch International, PO Box 1132 Blindern, N-0317 Oslo, Norway.
- **Environmental Justice.** "Intel Inside New Mexico: A Case Study of Environmental and Economic Injustice," a 176-page book documenting Intel's expansion of its Rio Rancho, NM plant, is available from Southwest Organizing Project, 211 10th St., SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, for \$11.50.
- **Nonprofits.** *New Social Entrepreneurs: The Success, Challenge & Lessons of Non-Profit Enterprise Creation* contains 17 case summaries, chapters on perspectives from employees, directors, funders, etc. It's available from The Roberts Foundation, PO Box 29906, San Francisco, CA; 415-561-6533; jemerson@well.com
- **Data.** RTK NET (Right To Know Network) is an online service offering databases of information useful to planners, including data from lenders provided under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), campaign contributions, and other demographic and economic data. It can be found at <http://www.rtk.net>
- **New Urbanism.** *New Urban News*, calling itself "The first professional newsletter devoted exclusively to New Urbanism," is available for \$59/yr (6 issues) from New Urban News, PO Box 157, Emmaus, PA 18049-0157.
- **Eco-Villages.** An Eco-Villages and Communities Resource List is available from the Global Eco-Village Network, International Secretariat, Skyumvej 101, 7752 Snedsted Denmark; gen@gaia.org; <http://www.gaia.org>

New York's Rent Regulations in Jeopardy

The New York State Legislature will decide in June the fate of the state's decades-old rent control laws, and the outlook is bleak for tens of thousands of low-income renters.

Proclaiming that "An atom bomb would have created less of a problem literally in New York City to the real estate market than rent control has," State Senate Majority leader Joe Bruno has already promised landlords "the end of rent regulation as we know it." To residents of the 2,311,924 regulated apartments in New York City (*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993 NYC Housing and Vacancy Survey*) the implications are devastating.

Bruno has time on his side, because the laws expire on June 15, so to revoke them requires merely that he prevent their renewal, which he has promised to do. Governor George Pataki has also indicated his support of decontrolling all rental units. New York City must also re-approve rent regulations, since city rent laws expire April 1.

Full vacancy decontrol would mean that all apartments would be removed permanently from rent regulation when they are vacated when tenants move, die or get evicted. Tenants moving into

these decontrolled apartments would have no protection: landlords could charge any rent they wish, could raise the rent as often as they wish, would be under no obligation to give leases or renew leases, and would be free to evict for any reason or no reason. Other issues at stake are the threatened immediate decontrol of buildings with less than 20 units, and lowering the threshold for the so-called "luxury decontrol."

Several groups have been organizing tenants to fight to renew rent regulations. For more information, contact:

New York State Tenants and Neighbors Coalition
505 8th Ave., 18th Fl.

New York, NY 10018-6505
(212)-695-8922

<http://www.nytenants.org>

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development
305 7th Ave., Ste. 2001

New York, NY 10001-6008
(212)-463-9600

<http://www.igc.apc.org/ANHD/>

PN '97 Highlights

Thursday (6/26) Tours

Hollywood: Visit the areas that are not shown in the movies.

Southeast/South Central Los Angeles: Visit the areas devastated by the 1965 and 1992 civil disturbances

Downtown Los Angeles Sweatshop Tour: Learn about the garment industry and see first hand the working conditions faced by the City's 120,000 plus garment workers

Watts and the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC): Tour and learn about WLCAC projects and visit Central Avenue in Watts.

MacArthur Park/Westlake District/Northeast Los Angeles: Tour the areas where many first generation immigrants initially settle

Alameda Corridor: Tour the area which is being revitalized as a manufacturing mecca.

Information Strategies: How can the widening "information gap" be narrowed by pushing up from the bottom?

Neighborhood Revitalization with Historic Preservation: How can historic preservation be used in a strategy for neighborhood revitalization?

Welfare: How do you do an effective market analysis to identify employment opportunities for the large number of people recently pushed off the welfare rolls

Health Care: What are viable strategies for organizing Medical recipients and other families unable to pay for health care into a bargaining unit for negotiating affordable health care with local providers?

Housing: What are the possibilities for building a critical mass of owner-occupied low-income housing in an area where land prices are exorbitant and the few remaining large parcels of land are laden with toxics

Friday (6/27) Workshops

Environmental Justice: How do you stimulate or re-establish economic viability in an area ravaged by a major Superfund site?

Immigration: What are the political and economic opportunities for metropolitan Los Angeles, given the large and continuous influx of first-generation immigrants?

Speakers

Robert Reich (invited)

Henry Cisneros (invited)

Maria Elena Durazo, President, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, Local 11 in Los Angeles

See pgs. 8-9 for more conference information and registration materials.

Watch for the May/June issue of PN for more details of PN '97.

Planners Network at the National Conference of the American Planning Association in San Diego, April 5-9.

PN97 Conference organizer Chuck Hotchkiss will moderate a session called "Connecting Planners and Community Organizers."

Panel participants include planners and organizers active in planning this year's Planners Network Conference. Join us for this session on Wednesday, April 9th, 8:45-10 am.

A reception for the PN 97 Conference will be held jointly with the Cal Poly Pomona reception at the Conference Hotel on Tuesday evening, **April 8th**, from **6:30 to 8:30** in the Oceanside Room, Level 1, South Tower, San Diego Marriot Hotel (location subject to change, check listing at conference).

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

PN in Cyberspace!

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

We've also set up a listserv for PN members with e-mail to carry on discussions, share resources, post job listings, etc. To subscribe, send e-mail to:

pn-net-request@pratt.edu

with the subject heading:

subscribe your-e-mail-address

(substituting your e-mail address in the appropriate place, of course.) You'll receive instructions in response.

Notice:

PN has a new
e-mail address:
pn@pratt.edu

Call for Articles

We invite PNers to contribute to the following special issues in 1997:

- Sustainable Communities: Empty Slogan or Progressive Program?
- Transportation Planning: Challenging Auto Dependency

Articles should be no more than 1,000 words; contact us for deadlines and more information via phone at 718-636-3461, or e-mail at pn@pratt.edu

— The Editors

New York PN Forums

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

Friday, April 11

Planning for Sustainable Cities:
Taming the Auto

Friday, May 16

Planning for a Less Violent City

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

PLEASE WRITE!

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

Send us your:

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

The Planners Network

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

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

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

Enclosed is my check payable to

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379 DeKalb Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11205

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Moving?

Please make sure to let PN know if you're moving. It saves us money and helps ensure that you don't miss an issue!

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Still Last in Line**
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NEXT ISSUE

ARRIVAL DEADLINE FOR *PLANNERS NETWORK* #123 COPY:

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1997.

All materials should be sent to:

**Planners Network
379 DeKalb Ave., 2nd Floor.
Brooklyn, NY 11205
718/636-3461; fax: 718/636-3709**

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