
Women & Planning Division Fall 2016

[APA Women & Planning] Fiona Akins, Chair <fionaakins@gmail.com>

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NEWSLETTER – FALL 2016 EDITION

We're celebrating the achievements of the APA Women & Planning Division of the American Planning Association! We're also working to expand our reach, read on to find out how. . .

National Community Planning Month

This month, we're joining with our planning colleagues from across the country to celebrate who planners are and the lasting value thoughtful planning has on communities of all sizes. Check out ways to get involved and our special member spotlight.



2016 Theme: Civic Engagement

This year's theme is civic engagement, underscoring the necessity of engaging the public, elected officials, and key leaders in discussions that shape the future of our cities. Ways you can get involved:

- Check out the APA's National Community Planning Month [Resource HUB](#) to **share with your community, elected officials, and local media** the positive impact planning has had on your community.
- **Have a planning success story you'd like APA to highlight during October?** Send your stories and photos to us at: ncpm@planning.org.
- **Learn more** about National Community Planning Month at www.planning.org/ncpm.

Member Spotlight

This month, the Division is marking National Community Planning Month by conducting a series of interviews that recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of women in planning. These interviews will also explore the issues facing the planning and development of communities, cities, regions, states, and the nation related to the changing roles of women and men as a means of promoting social equity. First in our series, we'll hear from Jessica Garrow, Community Development Director for the City of Aspen, Colorado.



Describe your planning background, particularly as it relates to civic engagement.

Engagement is an important value that has been part of my focus since my first years in planning. While in graduate school at the Ohio State University, I had an internship with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and provided support for public engagement on a seven-county regional growth strategy that involved working with the region's

It was great to be able to use what I learned in Columbus and in school. Our commitment to making residents a part of the process paid off and the public engagement piece of the plan update won four awards, including from APA's Small Town and Rural Planning (STaR) Division.

Want to hear more from Jessica? Check out the **full interview** on the [American Planning Association blog](#).

diverse groups through diverse ways of communicating. The project focused on engaging as many as possible to ensure the final plan addressed the varying needs of the large region.

As part of the work, we targeted particularly hard-to-engage populations like immigrants and students. Public engagement became what I focused on in grad school and what I've come to enjoy most about planning.

Shortly after my move to Aspen, I led a team of planners updating the Aspen Area Community Plan (AACP). Our goal was to involve residents in update of our city's long term vision. Instead of having a Steering Committee guide the update, we brought the plan to the public in stages, using clicker meetings and surveys to get feedback throughout the process. We knew that our update should not reflect just the thoughts of the last person standing, it should have the involvement of as many people as possible.

About the Interviewee

Jessica Garrow, community development director for the City of Aspen, Colorado, specializes in policy planning, public participation, and land use development. Prior to becoming the director, she served as the Aspen long range planner for eight years. She holds a master's degree in city and regional planning from Ohio State University and has more than 10 years of experience in the planning field. In addition to being a member of the Women and Planning Division, Garrow currently serves as the vice chair for conferences and programs in [APA's Small Town and Rural Division](#) and will be the chair of that division in 2017. You can read more about planning topics of interest in Aspen at [Aspen Community Voice](#). Follow Garrow on Twitter at [@GarrowJessica](#) or via email at jessica.garrow@cityofaspen.com.

Let's network and learn together!

We'll be sharing info about members of our Division and opportunities for learning with each edition. Have you heard about an upcoming event or other info we should share? Email [Elisa Hamblin](#), Director of Communications.

Message from our Chair – Fiona Akins

Big changes are happening at the Planning & Women Division, or I should say the newly renamed Women &



Planning Division . We've seen so much growth and progress with our small Division. Part of that has included a renaming effort to better clarify our mission. In the next few months you'll see us start to roll-out use of the new name – but don't be confused! We're still the same awesome group dedicated to the women in the planning profession.

Continuing on our theme of growth and change – our **Election results are in !** A hearty congratulations and thanks to all of you that ran for office this year. Our current Executive Committee has done tremendous work, and I am looking forward to an even busier two years ahead. **All incoming officers begin their terms on January 1, 2017 .**

2017 Executive Committee

Chair - Fiona Akins

Vice Chair - Breanne Rothstein

Treasurer - Kadie Bell

Secretary - Brianna Gray

Director of Communications - Elisa Hamblin

Director of Programs - Corrin Wendell

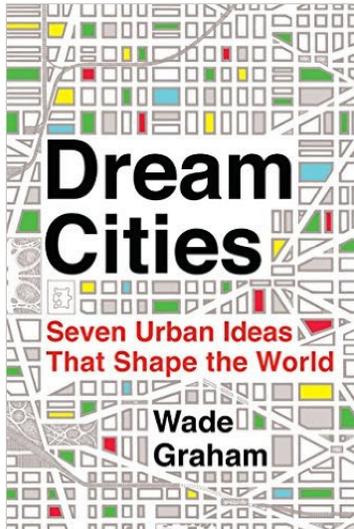
Director of Membership - AJ Fawver

Director of Student Engagement - Deyanira Nevarez

Director of Chapter Engagement - Deborah Myerson

Past Chair - Anna Kitces

Division Book Club



The book club just kicked off its last read-along for the year, entitled **“Dream Cities: Seven Urban Ideas That Shape the World”** by Wade Graham. This read will take us through the end of the year and you can access our read-along schedule [here](#). We hope you'll join the conversation via Twitter ([@APAPWD](#)), Facebook ([Planning & Women](#)), or LinkedIn (Planning & Women Book Club). Also – we will be seeking two new co-directors for 2017 to lead our book club! If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to current co-directors [AJ Fawver](#) and [Ronni Nimps](#). More information about that will be distributed as we get closer to the end of the year.

Upcoming Events



National Planning Conference 2017

The Division will be well represented at the conference in May. We have proposed **three dynamite sessions** all about women in the planning profession, are organizing an **awesome reception for the Division** , and are rolling out **special initiatives in 2017** . If you are attending the conference, be on the lookout for emails and social media posts about how to connect with other members of the Division. **NPC is our time to gather, celebrate successes, and plan for the future.** Check out our [website](#) for updates and specifics about conference events.

Catch a Division

representative at one of these upcoming events:

[Southern New England APA Conference](#)

Worcester, MA, Oct. 20–21

[California Chapter APA Conference](#)

Pasadena, CA, Oct. 22–25

Free Webinars: A Hunt for Topic Ideas

Do you have an idea for a great webinar topic? Are there studies, research or current events that you would like more information about? Have you thought about the challenges and issues that face women in the planning field and would like to learn more about how others have found solutions? What would be fun to learn more about? The Women & Planning Division would love to dig through a list of great concepts, ideas and issues and bring back phenomenal webinars for you all to enjoy! Send your list of webinar topics to [Corrin Wendell](#) and help contribute your ideas to our Division.

Make a difference today – volunteer!



[Credit: Pontio](#)

The Division is always in need of volunteers to help serve our members and expand our reach. Consider any of the following ways to get involved.

NPC 2017 in NYC Volunteers

Are you going to the National Planning Conference in May? If so, connect with other division members by volunteering a couple hours of your time at the conference. Please contact [Breanne Rothstein](#) to offer your help.

Book Club Co-Directors

Two new co-directors to lead our book club are needed in 2017! If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to current co-directors [AJ Fawver](#) and [Ronni Nimps](#).

Division Website Manager

A volunteer is needed to bring the Division website up to date and suggest revisions. This is a great way to make an impact! Please contact [Elisa Hamblin](#) if interested.



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