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Oklahoma's Planning Awards Recipients to be Honored at Annual State Conference

The American Planning Association - Oklahoma Chapter (APA Oklahoma) recently announced the winners of the 2017 Planning Awards Program. The awards honor outstanding plans, best practices, and innovative concepts throughout Oklahoma. The three award winners were recognized at the 2017 Annual State Planning Conference in Claremore, Oklahoma on October 9, 2017.

This is the second year of the newly established Awards Program. Nominees were asked to submit a project description, along with support letters, plans, maps, renderings, and photos as appropriate. A three state jury of eight professional planners from Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas reviewed and rated the submissions using a scoring matrix. Two recipients were selected to receive Outstanding Planning Awards, and one was selected to receive a Great Neighborhood, Street, or Public Space Award.

The 2017 Outstanding Public Outreach, Program, Project, Tool, Community Initiative is awarded to Dr. John Harris, Gina Sofola, Vanessa Morrison and Eyahem Gulilat from the University of Oklahoma Regional and City Planning Division for the submission of *Women of Northeast Oklahoma City Photovoice*. Staff and students created a photovoice project to allow women of color within Northeast Oklahoma City to voice their concerns of the disinvestment and neglect. The project became a catalyst to start the dialogue needed and allowed stakeholders to gain a better understanding and provided a way for these women to be heard.

The 2017 Outstanding Citizen Planner is awarded to Ms. Ashley Terry of the Wheeler District in Oklahoma City. Ms. Terry has worked over the last several years promoting innovative planning such as density and strong urban development within Oklahoma City's core. Ms. Terry stated she works to initiate change in Oklahoma City at a grassroots level by organizing volunteer efforts focusing on placemaking, walkability, and access to public space.

The 2017 Great Public Space is presented to the City of Oklahoma City for their submission of *Reinventing Military Park as a Community Asset*. Military Park is located within the Asian District and was transformed into a park that has many amenities including play areas and architectural stylings from Vietnam. Monuments that are within the park are dedicated to the United States and Vietnam relationship during the Vietnam War.

For additional information about the APA Oklahoma Awards Program, visit:
<http://okplanning.org/awards.html>.

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association (<http://okplanning.org/>) is an independent, not-for-profit educational and professional organization. We further the mission of National APA (<http://www.planning.org>) in advancing the art, science and profession of good planning-- physical, economic, and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live in Oklahoma.

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