

OKLAHOMA PLANNER



American Planning Association
Oklahoma Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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In This Issue...

**Note from the
President**

**2016 OKAPA
Conference Recap**

**2016 OKAPA Award
Winners**

**National APA Great
Places in America**

AICP Exam

www.okplanning.org

Note from Susan Connors, President of APA OK

It was great to have such a successful turnout at our conference in September. I want to thank all the people again who made it possible. Many people expressed to me that they enjoyed the conference and that the topics were relevant and informative. Our conference site for 2017 will be Claremore, Oklahoma. The dates for the conference have not been determined, but I hope many of you can plan on attending next fall.

We are also happy to announce that in November, the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) re-accredited the planning program at the University of Oklahoma for 4 years. There is a possibility that it could be extended up to 7 years.

I want to welcome our new board members who were elected last September. Our new members are A.J. Kirkpatrick, AICP, At-Large Director 1 and Mark Zitzow, At-Large Director 5. In addition we have returning members Jell Ferenc, AICP, Chapter Secretary, Nancy Warring, At-Large Director 4 and Jennifer Gates, AICP, who has changed roles to be our Chapter Professional Development Officer. The new year will certainly bring new challenges so I am anxious to work with the Board to continue to look for opportunities to involve all members of OKAPA in chapter activities and to continue to provide information regularly to the chapter members.

I welcome your comments and suggestions on ways to continue to improve the Chapter and continue to serve the chapter members. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Susan F. Connors, AICP
APA Oklahoma President



2016 OKAPA Conference

Thank you all again for attending the 2016 OKAPA Conference, September 25-27! We had over 90 attendees for the conference at the beautiful Quartz Mountain Resort Arts and Conference Center. The conference "**Moving Mountains**" had 18 sessions and a walking tour of downtown Altus. Presentations from the sessions are available on our [website!](#)

The Conference kicked off with a reception on Sunday night. On Monday, attendees enjoyed an enlightening presentation Drew Edmondson, former Oklahoma State Attorney General and District Attorney, on "SQ 777 Right To Farm" bill during lunch. That night, attendees enjoyed a dinner and presentation of the 2016 OKAPA Award Winners.

We want to thank all the many individuals and organizations who made this conference such a huge success! Thank you again to our 2016 sponsors!

Appalachians



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2016 OKAPA Award Winners

The 2016 OKAPA Awards Dinner was held on September 26, at the Oklahoma Statewide Planning Conference. The awards honor outstanding plans, best practices, and innovative concepts throughout Oklahoma.

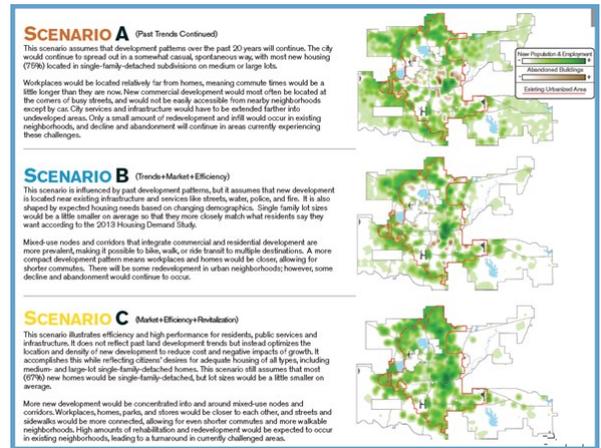
This is the second year of the reestablished program. Nominees were asked to submit a project description, along with support letters, plans, maps, renderings, and photos as appropriate. A multi-state jury of professional planners reviewed and rated the submissions using a scoring matrix.



2016 Outstanding Plan

planOKC – The Comprehensive Plan for Oklahoma City City of Oklahoma City

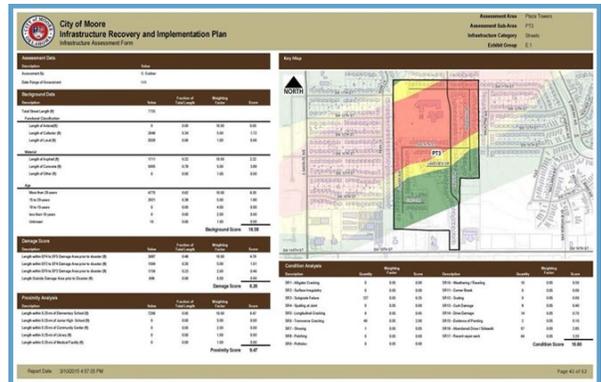
Oklahoma City’s first new plan since 1977, planOKC was developed in-house by City planners, with consultant support for topic-specific studies and surveys. The plan used a sophisticated fiscal model to evaluate development patterns and a highly interactive website to engage citizens. Three future growth scenarios were presented with bottom line cost differences that allowed the community to pick the most efficient and sustainable option. The plan provides long range policy direction for land use, transportation, economic development, housing, public services, and natural and cultural resources. Consultants included: Sasaki, RDG, ECONorthwest, Fregonese Associates, Economic & Planning Systems, Wallace Roberts & Todd



2016 Outstanding Public Outreach, Program, Project, Tool, Community Initiative

Infrastructure Recovery and Implementation Plan City of Moore

After Moore’s devastating tornado of 2013, a professional team gathered to assess damage and prioritize where the limited disaster recovery funding should go. Through public meetings, workshops, surveys, and planning efforts, the *Infrastructure Recovery and Implementation Plan* identified public infrastructure improvements which will enhance the future resiliency of the City of Moore and the quality of life for its citizens.



Consultants included: Cardinal Engineering, Lemke Land Surveying, TAP Architecture, TDA Consulting

AND

Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (Outstanding Community Initiative)

City of Oklahoma City

The City of Oklahoma City developed the *Strong Neighborhoods Initiative* to help revitalize struggling neighborhoods through physical, social, and economic investments. Three neighborhoods were chosen, information was gathered, and an implementation plan was developed with goals, strategies, and timeframes. Projects were chosen in visible locations that would catalyze market confidence and investment. Since implementation, there has been a steady increase in private investment in all three neighborhoods.



2016 Outstanding Student Project

See Sand Springs

Kasey St. John, Student, University of Oklahoma, Tulsa

Kasey used her Master's thesis project to create an economic development and marketing plan for the City of Sand Springs. Her project resulted in a new economic development website and implementation action plan with measurable economic goals for such things as workforce development and a business incubator program.



2016 Great Public Space Award

Oklahoma Civic Center Lawns

City of Oklahoma City

The Civic Center Lawn unites public buildings and creates an attractive campus for play and socializing and for festivals and other large scale events. Its design honors the surrounding Art Deco architecture and the historical uses of the site, and, as a natural extension of the OKC Art Museum, it provides a space for public art installations.



Tulsa's Guthrie Green Named One of 15 Great Places in America by the American Planning Association

The American Planning Association (APA) named Guthrie Green in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as one of five Great Public Spaces on the organization's annual Great Places in America list.

As part of National Community Planning Month, APA's Great Places in America program recognizes streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces in the United States demonstrating exceptional character, quality, and planning—attributes that enrich communities, facilitate economic growth, and inspire others around the country. The Great Neighborhoods, Great Streets, and Great Public Spaces of 2016 are places that are unique and exemplary in their amenities and infrastructure, cultural identity, and use of sustainable and innovative practices.



October 19, Wendy Shabay, AICP, Region III Director for National APA Board, presented the designation to Guthrie Green.

Since launching the Great Places in America program in 2007, APA has recognized 260 neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces around the country. Places are selected annually and

represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for the future.

Guthrie Green is an example of the successful conversion of a blighted industrial site into a vibrant urban community space that helps drive economic development in a formerly sleepy downtown neighborhood.

In 2009, George Kaiser Family Foundation engaged Creative Community Builders to work with The Brady Arts District community to articulate a vision for the neighborhood. The City of Tulsa adopted the Small Area Plan in 2013 to help guide the development of the park and other commercial, residential, and nonprofit projects within the district.

The Park incorporates sustainable features including LED lighting and solar panels that reduce electricity needs. A geothermal well field on the park site that feeds ground-source heat pumps at the neighboring Tulsa Paper Company and Hardesty Visual Arts Center reducing their heating and cooling costs by approximately 60% and keeps the lawn at a perfectly splay-worthy 66 degrees.

In addition to Guthrie Green, APA also recognized the following public spaces this year:

- Golden Heart Plaza - Fairbanks, Alaska
- Central Park Plaza -Valparaiso, Indiana
- Findlay Market -Cincinnati, Ohio
- Fairmount Park - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For more information about these public spaces, as well as APA's Great Public Spaces and Streets for 2016 and previous years, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces.



Guthrie Green images by Shane Brown

AICP Exam Application Deadline 12/30

Are you interested in taking the AICP exam in May? The application deadline is quickly approaching! To find out more information on eligibility, how to apply and the fees, please visit the APA webpage:

<https://www.planning.org/certification/currentexam/>



Where in Oklahoma is it?



Hint: It's going to be the location of the 2017 Conference!



Last Answer: Downtown Altus

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