Note from Susan Connors, Incoming President of APA OK

I am just getting my feet under me to assume the President’s position. Paula has done a wonderful job and will be a hard act to follow. I am excited about our opportunities for the next two years.

From October 21 through 23, planners from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas converged in Kansas City, MO for a wonderful conference to remember. With the theme, Planning: What We Do Matters, there were many interesting sessions from representing the different states and our diverse communities big and small, rural and urban. Having a quad state conference really inspired a lot of involvement for the Chapter.

We will now continue that tradition every three years. We start the year planning for our next State conference and look for opportunities to involve all members of Oklahoma Chapter of the APA in activities and to continue to provide information regularly to the chapter members.

Our newsletter is a great way to stay informed and we certainly hope that members will contribute articles about their towns and cities. That is a great way for all of us to recognize all the important planning work that is happening across the State.

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!

Susan F. Connors, AICP

APA Oklahoma President
Pathways To Health Receives Funding From The American Planning Association To Combat Chronic Disease

Pathways to Health, in partnership with the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association has received a $150,000 grant from the American Planning Association through its Plan4Health program to combat two determinants of chronic disease—lack of physical activity and lack of access to nutritious foods.

Pathways to Health partners will be working closely with the Tulsa Health Department on the grant and two new staff members will be dedicated to the grant’s deliverables.

“This grant perfectly aligns with the mission of Pathways to Health,” said Leslie Carroll, Pathways to Health director. “Through cross-sector partnerships with public health professionals, schools, and local organizations, Tulsa County cities will create greater access to locally grown foods; reduce barriers to physical activity; and promote systemic and policy changes supporting a health in all policies approach.”

Plan4Health is a multi-year effort that strengthens the connection between planning and public health. Seventy-five percent of the program’s funding supports local and state coalitions working to advance public health through better planning and partnerships, specifically through leveraging skills and evidence-based strategies. The program is implemented in partnership with the American Public Health Association (APHA) and represents a major new collaboration between planners and public health professionals. Funding for Plan4Health was provided through an award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“We are pleased to offer a second year of funding to local coalitions working to improve each of their community’s health,” said Anna Ricklin, AICP, manager of APA’s Planning and Community Health Center, which manages the Plan4Health program. “The funding provides fuel to address existing health concerns to create communities of lasting value that are equitable and healthy for all.”

Seventeen coalitions were selected for the Plan4Health program after a competitive review process. The program is being administered through APA’s Planning and Community Health Center that is dedicated to integrating community health issues into local and regional planning practices by advancing research, outreach, education and policy.

Coalition partners who collaborated on the grant application included the Tulsa Health Department, INCOG, Oklahoma Public Health Association, the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association, Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign, Green Country Permaculture, Tulsa Food Security Council and the TSET Healthy Living Program serving Tulsa County.
City of Choctaw to Develop First Comprehensive Master Plan
Submitted by Freese and Nichols

The City of Choctaw is working with planning consultants from Freese and Nichols to develop its first comprehensive master plan. The multifaceted plan will provide recommendations and a roadmap for Choctaw to manage its rapid growth.

Located to the east of Oklahoma City, Choctaw is among the communities benefiting from the expansion of Boeing's employee base to serve Tinker Air Force Base, the largest employer in the region. In 2015, Boeing relocated approximately 900 employees, and the company anticipates it will relocate an additional 3,000 employees over the next three years.

While this residential growth is certainly good news, Choctaw’s city services are primarily funded through sales tax revenue. The master plan will provide recommendations for revitalizing downtown development that will increase spending from non-residents, which in turn will generate the revenue necessary to support growing demands on city services.

Planning consultants and city representatives hosted the first Open House on October 19 to solicit public input. The forum was an opportunity for residents to learn why the plan is important, how the process works and how they can participate in the process. Following the presentation, participants broke into small groups to provide feedback about Choctaw’s transportation, parks and land use. They were also asked to describe what makes a city livable, as well as their future vision for the community.

A final Open House event will take place next fall to review the draft plan. Choctaw residents who could not attend the first Open House may offer input by filling out a survey that will be available on the city’s website for the first few months of the planning process. The final plan will be presented to the Choctaw City Council at the end of 2016.

All images provided by the City of Choctaw.
OKAPA Awards Presentation

The Awards Ceremony for Oklahoma were held at the Quad-State Conference in Kansas City, Missouri as part of our Chapter’s Annual Meeting on October 23. The awards honor outstanding plans, best practices, and innovative concepts throughout Oklahoma. The four award winners will be recognized at the 2015 Quad-State Planning Conference in Kansas City, Missouri on October 23, 2015.

“This is the first year of the newly established Awards Program. It was discontinued many years ago, and I’m happy to reinstate it during my term,” said APA Oklahoma President Paula Dennison. Nominees were asked to submit a project description, along with support letters, plans, maps, renderings, and photos as appropriate. A bi-state jury of seven professional planners from Oklahoma and Arkansas reviewed and rated the submissions using a scoring matrix. “Three recipients were selected to receive Outstanding Planning Awards, and one recipient was selected to receive a Great Neighborhood, Street, or Public Space Award,” noted Dennison.

The 2015 Outstanding Plan is awarded to the City of Edmond, Freese and Nichols, Inc., and Catalyst Group for their submission of the Downtown Edmond Master Plan. The plan provides Edmond with a physical framework and prioritized actions to promote downtown Edmond and begin implementing past plans and newly identified opportunities.

The 2015 Outstanding Community Initiative is awarded to the City of Midwest City, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Red Cross for their submission of the Midwest City Storm Shelter Program. The multi-faceted program has registered and mapped more than 2680 shelters and put in place an emergency management strategy.

The 2015 Outstanding Student Project is awarded to University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture; Family Legacy Missions International; and Raymond Harris & Associates Architects for their submission of the Tree of Life II Master Plan. Five Regional and City Planning Masters students and two Architecture undergraduates produced a master plan for a “children’s village” in Lusaka, Zambia that would house orphaned and vulnerable children.

The 2015 Great Street Award is presented to the City of Broken Arrow for their submission of Main Street Broken Arrow. With its historic character, pedestrian scale, traffic calming and stormwater control measures, this corridor has become a vibrant arts and entertainment district with activity both day and night.
Meet the Current and Incoming OKAPA Board!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President, Incoming Past President: Paula J. Dennison, AICP

Paula J. Dennison, AICP is the President of APA Oklahoma Chapter and the Director of Development Services for the City of Stillwater. She and her family have lived in Oklahoma since 2004, are involved in a number of professional and civic organizations, enjoy the openness of Oklahoma. Paula is a 25+ year professional planner with experience in local, regional, and state planning environments. Her expertise is in community-building, placemaking and general land use planning. She prefers creamy peanut butter, loves to read & travel, and is a coffee-aholic.

Incoming Vice President: Danielle Barker

Danielle Barker has worked for the City of Bethany since 2014, where she began as the Planning Intern then stepped into the role of Community Development Specialist in May of 2015. Danielle also serves on the board of the Central Oklahoma Storm Water Association and is a member of the Oklahoma Emergency Management Association and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association. Danielle is a recent graduate from the University of Oklahoma's Regional and City Planning Master's program where she specialized in community development and hazard mitigation. She received the 2015 AICP (American Institute for Certified Planners) Outstanding Planning Student Award as well as the 2015 Charles Robert Goins Award for Outstanding Achievements by a Planning Student. Danielle received her Bachelors of Science in Geography with a Minor in Meteorology in 2013 from the University of Oklahoma and her Associate of Arts in Physical Science in 2010 from Crowder College in Neosho, MO.

Secretary: Jill Ferenc, AICP

Secretary Jill Ferenc, AICP has served as the Director of Planning and Development for the City of Claremore since 2013. She directs and coordinates the operations of development, engineering, permitting, inspections, GIS, and code enforcement and serves as the City Planner focusing on current and long-range planning for the City. Jill's experience includes working for the City of Killeen, Texas, home of Fort Hood, as a Planner I then Senior Planner/Historic Preservation Officer and an internship with the International Economic Development Council. She holds a B.S. in Economics from Oklahoma State University and a Master's in Regional and City Planning from the University of Oklahoma-Norman. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and has previously served as the Professional Development Officer for the Central Texas section of APA.
AT-LARGE AND OTHER MEMBERS:

At-Large 1: Jennifer M. Gates, AICP

Jennifer M. Gates is a Planner III with the City of Tulsa. Her experience includes community engagement, preservation planning, commercial revitalization, and plan monitoring in California and Oklahoma in the public, non-profit and private sectors. She obtained a Master of City Planning and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design from the University of Oklahoma. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and has previously served as the Vice President of Administration and Finance for the Orange County section of the California Chapter of APA. Jennifer spends her free time volunteering with organizations involved with abused and neglected children, animals, and historic buildings.

Incoming At-Large 3: Dr. Charles Leider, PhD, AICP, FASLA

Dr. Leider’s has worked in public, private practice and higher education based on a multi-disciplinary educational background in Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University, Masters in City Planning from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Oklahoma State University. While in public practice he worked for the City of Lansing, MI, Fayette County Pennsylvania, and Commonwealth of Kentucky. In private practice he served as Director of Planning for Clark & Enersen, Lincoln, NE, HNTB in Kansas City, and William Periara and Associates out of Los Angeles in Doha, Qatar.

His teaching experience includes appointments at the Universities of Nebraska and Kansas and Oklahoma State University (OSU) where he directed and developed a planning emphasis in the Landscape Architecture program. In 2011 he was selected as Outstanding Landscape Architecture Alumnus in 2011 by the School of Planning, Design and Construction at Michigan State University. He retired after nearly 30 years at OSU but has continued his private practice while serving the OK/ APA as Director at Large.

Legislative Liaison: Justin Henry

Justin is the Assistant Planner for the Capital Planning Unit in the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, Division of Capital Assets Management for the State of Oklahoma, and assists in the development of the State’s Capital Improvements Plan, Annual Capital Budget, and planning activities for the Capitol-Medical Center Improvement and Zoning Commission. In addition to his role with the State of Oklahoma, Justin previously served as the Student Representative to the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association and as President of the Student Planning Association of Oklahoma.

Prior to joining the State, Justin was the Vice-President of Stout & Henry Surveying, Inc., where he
worked in land surveying and development. Justin also worked for the City of Edmond, Oklahoma as a city management intern. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Central Oklahoma, a Master of Regional and City Planning from the University of Oklahoma, and studied Political Science/Public Administration at the University of Central Oklahoma.

**Student Liasion: Chase Phillips**

Chase Phillips is a graduate student studying Regional and City Planning at the University of Oklahoma. He has professional interests in Community Development, Transportation, and Long-Range Planning. Chase loves the social aspects of planning, views planners as public servants, and is eager to establish strong relationships with the communities he serves.

Prior to graduate school, Chase completed his undergraduate degree in Environmental Health Science from East Central University in 2012. After which he moved to Washington State and worked for Amazon.com and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

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**City of Tulsa Celebrates National Community Planning Month!**

The City of Tulsa kicked off National Community Planning Month in October with Proclamations by the Mayor and City Council. To celebrate planning in their community, the City of Tulsa's Planning and Development Department are providing activities centered around this year's theme, **"Healthy Communities, Healthy People"**.

They had many people participate in the FREE activities developed in partnership with Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, Tulsa Young Professionals, and Guthrie Green! Events included:

- **Healthy Tulsa Scavenger Hunt** - A challenge to find 10 healthy places in Tulsa! Clues were provided for both difficult and easy options.

- **This is Tulsa Through Many Eyes, Vol 3** - We asked for photos of your favorite places in Tulsa that celebrate the community throughout October. Here is the 2015 video!

- **Build a City** - On October 14, we had over 100 participants help us at Guthrie Green to "Build a City," an interactive game to create a city out of boxes. See images from this fun event!

- **Jane Jacobs Walk** - Led by Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, we discovered Downtown through the eyes of Jane Jacobs, an urban activist and author of "The Death and Life of Great American Cities." Here is the tour and pictures from the tour!

Did you celebrate National Community Planning Month? We would like to hear about your activities too! Send them to Jennifer Gates.
National Planning Conference

Registration is open for the National Planning Conference in Phoenix, AZ April 2-5, 2016!

Jobs and Events Needed

Do you have a planning job open in your community that you would like OKAPA to post? Do you have an event, workshop, training, or conference of interest to Oklahoma Planners you would like OKAPA to post?

OKAPA is now accepting jobs and events to post on our website and facebook page. If you have not viewed our new website recently we now have a calendar page and an available jobs page.

Articles and Images Needed

We would like to hear from you about the great things going on in your community! Please share your images and interesting projects with fellow planners in Oklahoma in our quarterly newsletter! Contact Jennifer Gates at jgates@cityoftulsa.org.

Where in Oklahoma is it?

Hint: They won an APA award this year!

Board of Directors 2016

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