



American Planning Association
Divisions Council
Creating Great Communities for All

DC Performance Report 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Annual Performance Report!

We know you have been hard at work this past year and we are hoping to make the reporting process easier and more streamlined than ever before.

Performance Reporting Resources

The overall Divisions Performance Criteria is available on the [APA Website](#) and [APA Engage](#).

The overall Divisions Performance Reporting Template for Finances is available on the [APA Website](#) and [APA Engage](#).

Need help?

The following people are more than happy to assist you with specific questions:

Chad Nabity, ChadN@grand-island.com (Performance Committee Chair)

Jennie Nolon Blanchard, jnolon2@law.pace.edu (DCEC Secretary-Treasurer)

Jennie may assist with specific questions about your budget, or financial reporting.

Maggie Kraus, mkraus@planning.org (APA National Divisions Leadership Associate)

Division

International

Performance Report co-authors

Michael Kolber, Chair

Tim Van Epp, Immediate Past Chair

Lyndsey Deaton, Vice-Chair At-Large

Jing Zhang, Vice-Chair for Communications

Kate Holmquist, Vice-Chair for Special Projects

Joanna Manson, Vice-Chair for Financial Management

Rajiv Myana, Membership Coordinator

Workplans, Financial Report and Budgets

What are you most proud of?

The APA International Division is incredibly proud of the content it has produced in the past year. A few of the highlights include:

The Planifiquemos Initiative is a model of inter-Division collaboration, with leadership from both the

International and Latinos in Planning Divisions. This initiative will provide essential guidance for Planners engaging with Latino communities.

The International Division has established a number of committees to serve the interests of Division Members and advance our knowledge and understanding of planning around the world. The Aging and Resilient Communities Committee and the Humanitarian Planning Committee were inaugurated in previous years. The former is engaged in a global research project to gather first-hand accounts of how older adults internationally were experiencing their communities during the pandemic; the latter has led a regular webinar series on a topic that is not being addressed anywhere else in APA. The Climate and Sustainability Working Group and the Japan-United States Collaboration group were newly developed this year, with a number of activities under development for the next fiscal year.

The International Division hosted a full day of activities as part the annual World Town Planning Day virtual conference. The theme of the conference was Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in an Era of Covid.

The Division released three issues of its Interplan newsletter, including a Latin American Special Report. The Division is incredibly proud of the quality of this publication. It has multiple awards in previous years for best newsletter article, and the previous China Special Report won an award for Outstanding contribution to the profession. This year's newsletters have maintained this standard of excellence.

The Division's new partnership with the Humphrey Fellows program will foster the type of international planning discourse that is at the core of the Division's mission. Mid-career planners from around the world hosted at MIT will participate in Division activities throughout the year. The Division will provide mentors and networking opportunities to support the Fellows. The Fellows will in turn lead webinars, write for the Division newsletter, and participate in other activities to share their expertise.

Workplan



Workplan

No

Budget



Budget

Current proposed programs balanced per available balance that is reflected by APA National for the International Division.

An expenditure of \$8278.10 for the reception at the 2019 National Planning Conference remains unpaid. The APA has advised that they no longer recognize this expenditure.

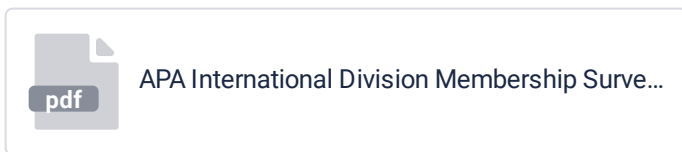
Communications

Does your Division send out a membership newsletter at least quarterly?

Has your Division webpage been updated recently?

Does your Division use any social media to communicate with members?

Has your Division conducted a membership survey in the last two years?



Please upload your current Division bylaws. Draft Proposed Division Bylaws 2020 final.pdf

Does your Division conduct targeted outreach to new members?

Does your Division conduct targeted outreach to student members?

National Planning Conference activities

Please share how your Division gets involved during the National Planning Conference.

Vice-Chair of Special Projects, Kate Holmquist, proposed an internationally themed session and served as session speaker presenting division research in coordination with a Division partner organization and another aging expert in the sole division session accepted for NPC 2021: ***Planning to Support Multigenerational Living & Resilient Communities***. Five other Internationally-themed sessions were proposed for National Planning Conference by Division leadership that were not selected. Two Division networking events were held at NPC2021: the Annual Business Meeting and virtual division happy hour event; and a virtual networking event with the MIT Humphrey Fellows.

Did your Division conduct an Annual Business Meeting this year?

Annual Business Meeting

The APA International Division has moved to have two Business Meetings each year for its membership. The first was held on April 30th, 2021, and served as a kickoff the NPC2021. Agenda Items included a Welcome, results of the Division Membership Survey, an overview of each of the Division's committees and initiatives, and an overview of the Division's NPC activities. Nineteen

Division Members participated.

The second Business Meeting was held on September 21st at 8pm. The purpose of this meeting was exclusively to review, edit, and adopt the Division's workplace and budget.



Virtual Divisions Booth at NPC21

Yes, Division Chair Michael Kolber participated in the virtual Divisions Booth on multiple days and times. The booth was not well attended during these times; only two other people visited the booth during the times that Michael was participating.

Year-round programming

Education programs (including webinars or events co-sponsored with other Divisions, Chapters, and allied professions.)

The APA International Division once again served as the host and organizer of the World Town Planning Day annual conference, held on November 8, 2020. The theme for this conference was Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in an era of COVID. The event included speakers and participants from around the world. It included two regular CM credit sessions, a fast and fun CM credit session, an Ask Me Anything activity session, and a happy hour event at the end of the program.

Planning is underway for the 2021 World Town Planning Conference, to be hosted November 8, 2021, with a theme of Planning for Intergenerational Equity.

The Division also coordinates webinars presenting critical international planning work and progressive perspectives. Webinars held in FY2021 include:

Planning with Nature, November 13, 2020

Planning for Resilient Communities in the Midst of Pandemic, Social Justice, and Climate Change Challenges, November 18, 2020

Planning Excellence Award Winners, 2020 and 2021

The International Division's Humanitarian Planning Committee hosts its own bimonthly webinar series. There were four webinars hosted in FY2021 as part of this series:

Emily Clifton, November 2020: The Humanitarian Field Today: Opportunities and Challenges for Planners

Dr. James Miller, January 2021: Adapt Humanitarian Shelters to Cultural Living Patterns

Michael Kolber, March 2021: Tuungane: Community-Driven Reconstruction in DR Congo

Belén Gonzalez, May 2021: Community Leaders: Crucial players in the sustainable development of the excluded city

The webinars can be viewed at: <https://international.planning.org/community/humanitarian/initiatives/>

To help accomplish its goals, the Division's Climate & Sustainability Working Group is organizing quarterly meetings and webinars that will introduce participants to tools, techniques, and methodologies for planning and measuring climate adaptation, resilience and sustainability. Planning began in FY21 for the first Working Group webinar entitled, "Inclusively Resilient Urbanism", which was held November 8, 2021, as part of World Town Planning Day (WTPD).

Networking/social events

The Division's regional meetup program was suspended due to the pandemic.

Awards you give out (student papers, scholarships, research fellowships, etc.)

The 2021 ID International Planning Excellence Awards focused on Africa. These have been given to the following entities:

- Liberia Municipal Water Project by The U.S. Agency for International Development and Tetra Tech (Infrastructure Planning Award)

- Structural Plans for Mozambican Towns by TSPA and Vocação Técnica, LDA (Advancing Social Equity Award)

The Division hosted a webinar to show off these award winners; this provided an opportunity to see examples of outstanding projects that planners from anywhere in the world can learn from.

Division management meetings

The Division hosts monthly leadership meetings on its Zoom account. Leadership also routinely communicates via email and ad-hoc meetings.

Membership

Membership changes due to COVID-19

In FY2021, over 50 members joined the Division, primarily students. The Division conducted an annual membership survey, with over 30 active members responding. When asked members about their interests in the Division, some of the key responses include networking, job opportunities, and more information about planning in Latin America and Western European regions. Most of the members who responded to the survey are from the Western European and Latin American regions other than the US. When members were asked about their interests in planning areas, Urban Design, and Housing & Community Development received the most responses. Many active members responded, expressing their interest in webinars, especially about Sustainable City Planning and Smart City Planning.

Does your Division have any committees, task forces, or other groups? If so, tell us the name of

the group, who's on it, and what they're working on.

The APA International Division established the Humanitarian Planning Committee (HPC) in 2019 for the purpose of advancing the role of planning in the fields of Humanitarian Assistance and Development (HA+D). Working collaboratively with our partners at the Global Alliance for Urban Crisis (GAUC), we advocate for planning professionals to be a critical part of HA+D teams—both deployed in the field as well as supporting field teams from afar. We currently have about 10 regular participants and a list of 50+ interested participants. Our primary initiative is a bi-monthly webinar series that we record and post on our website. We have completed 4 webinars over the past year. To see our webinars:

<https://international.planning.org/community/humanitarian/initiatives/> ;

The Aging + Resilient Communities Committee is committed to advancing multigenerational planning to support resilient communities that address the life span. The Committee engages with emerging international trends on the topics of aging in the community, multigenerational housing, housing visitability and accessibility, and their intersection with public health, housing access, city livability, and community resilience. The committee maintains a partnership with AARP's International Planning division, and supports collaborations and initiatives around planning for aging in the community.

The Division initiated the Japan-United States Collaboration Group (JUSCOG). The mission of the group is to initiate, promote, and facilitate collaboration between American planners and Japanese planners through networking, knowledge sharing, and project partnership. The group has invited 4 guest speakers in its monthly meetings, developed 8 pages of summary notes on disaster mitigation, and is developing an International Student Peer Pairing Program. Currently, the group has 21 members including 3 representatives from Japan.

The Division is developing a project called Planifiquemos in partnership with the Latinos and Planning Division. The project is to provide information for planners and members of Latino Communities to work together. The project consists of 8 team members and 6 advisory board members, including several University faculty. The project was initiated in March 2021 to develop a handbook to help planners better engage members of Latino communities.

The APA International Division has recently established a Climate & Sustainability Working Group. The goals of the new Climate & Sustainability Working Group are to: (1) foster discussion related to international dimensions climate action, resilience, and sustainability within APA and abroad; (2) bring overseas innovations in resilience and climate action planning to American planners and communities; (3) better understand the US's achievement of the SDGs especially related to planning; (4) increase US planner visibility in international SDG and climate processes; and (5) facilitate International Division planners to help the world meet the SDGs and the 1.5 degrees Paris Agreement target.

Division Programs

Did your Division plan or implement any programs related to equity, diversity, and inclusion? If not, how will your Division plan for this in the coming year?

The Humanitarian Planning Committee is a program that supports equity, diversity, and inclusion. Conflicts are increasingly drawn-out, climate change impacts are more common, and cities are more crowded as rural peoples look to cities for livelihood opportunities. All of these issues contribute to a cycle of vulnerability that does not address the traditional divide of acute crises as "humanitarian" and extended crises as "development." As these two fields intertwine, sustainable development and resilient solutions will need planning skills.

Experts in the humanitarian system have developed a trending concept, "humanitarian assistance-development nexus," to reflect the understanding that work is needed to address communities'

vulnerability before, during, and after crises (Gingerich 2015, Bennet et al 2017, Fullwood-Thomas 2019). It challenges the status quo of the aid system, which is overstretched and operates with little coordination between project-based development and humanitarian interventions, resulting in it not effectively meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people.

Further, post-crises evidence reveals that short-sighted humanitarian assistance often imparts devastating cultural consequences on marginalized groups (Miller 2019). With careful stakeholder engagement and specialized knowledge of the long-term effects of planning decisions, the results may have been designed to support cultural heritage. Our problem is that the humanitarian system has not traditionally engaged planning professionals as core members of HA+D response teams. Planner's skills and experience will support sustainable development and resilient solutions to global crises.

The Aging + Resilient Communities Committee is committed to advancing planning to support inclusive communities that address the life span and provide for aging in place. The committee focuses on the equity, diversity, and inclusion issues related to these planning issues. The committee maintains a partnership with AARP's International Planning division, an organization dedicated to advocacy for communities that support aging Americans.

The initial task of the Planifiquemos initiative was to translate key terms and concepts used by planners into Spanish. The task was then expanded to introduce Latino culture in the U.S. and in LATAM countries. In the following months, the project was further extended, aiming to empower Latino communities with knowledge of planning. It embraced the idea that residents who understand key concepts and tools in planning can better advance their interest in the planning process. In August, the project team created the Planifiquemos.org website based on the structure of the proposed handbook. The website was to provide more accessible and dynamic materials for all users.

The APA International Division has entered into a partnership with the Humphrey Fellows program to support mid-career planners and allied professionals from around the world. Through a highly competitive process each year, the US State Department selects a dozen or so urban planners, architects, and engineers from developing countries to be at MIT for a year of study, retooling, networking, and professional engagement. The goal is to give them opportunities to expand their professional skills, foster knowledge exchange with urban professionals in the US, and create institutional linkages between the Fellows and American planning organizations. It is also the goal of the program to help the Fellows develop a more nuanced understanding of planning in the US.

Humphrey Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in a number of Division activities. There was already a networking event for last year's Fellows held as part of the Division's National Planning Conference events; a Fellow presented as part of the Humanitarian Planning Committee webinar series; and there are Fellows who are scheduled to present at World Town Planning Day. The Division will be matching Fellows with Division members who will serve as mentors, helping to answer questions about planning in the US and helping with guidance and networking opportunities. Many of the Fellows are already quite accomplished professionals, and Division members stand to benefit tremendously from their expertise as well.

Planning began in FY21 for the first webinar of the Division's Climate & Sustainability Working Group. The session is entitled, "Inclusively Resilient Urbanism", to be held on November 8, 2021, as part of World Town Planning Day (WTPD). The session takes a comprehensive look at how to make climate action more inclusive and how to plan for climate adaptation and mitigation in ways that improve development sustainability and address social inequalities.

Did your Division provide support to other APA Divisions, Chapters, students, staff, or general membership? Please provide the date, topic, and Division member(s) who participated.

The Division helped initiate the Asian and Pacific Islander Interest Group (Jing Zhang, May to present)

The Division initiated a training course of Climate Adaptation Planning for Emergency Management (6.5

CM), in collaboration with the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center. The course is free for all APA members. (Jing Zhang, September 24-26)

The Division helped the West Virginia Chapter setup a website on the Wagtail platform. (Jing Zhang, September to present)

Division Chair Michael Kolber represents the Division on the Global Planners Network. The Network meets approximately quarterly.

Are you conducting your own research? If so, please identify any Division-sponsored research activities, and/or publications (provide a web link for all publications).

Aging + Resilient Communities Committee Research Project, *Aging During Covid*: Members leveraged their international networks and participated in a global research project to gather first-hand accounts of how older adults internationally were experiencing their communities during the pandemic – and what that might tell us about aging and community livability and resilience. Adults over 65 from all over the world were interviewed, and the resulting surveys yielded a diverse collection of personal stories providing global perspectives on aging in community and resilient urbanism. This Division research was featured in the international themed NPC 2021 Conference Session on intergenerational living organized by Kate Holmquist, Coordinator for the Aging + Resilient Communities Committee.

The APA International Division released two regular issues of its Interplan Newsletter, as well as a Latin American Special Report. These newsletters are too large to upload, but they can be viewed at the following links:

InterPlan Newsletter.

2021 Summer: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/1f9548a9-c60e-43d0-8534-b49508541601>

2021 Spring: <https://international.planning.org/documents/4629/InterPlan2021SpringFinal.pdf>

2021 Latin America Special Report: [https://indd.adobe.com/view/fb01079c-1817-4620-98cb-c3b27b2027dd\[1\]](https://indd.adobe.com/view/fb01079c-1817-4620-98cb-c3b27b2027dd[1])

Divisions Council Meetings

Division Chair Michael Kolber represented the Division at Division Council Meetings at the 2021 NPC and Fall Leadership meeting.

APA Strategic Priorities

Inclusive and Diverse: The APA International Division seeks to show examples of outstanding planning form all over the world. The Division seeks to provide opportunities for as many members as possible to participate in the Division; over twenty-five division members have a leadership position within the Division. The Planifiquemos Initiative is a partnership with the Latinos in Planning Division to help give planners the skills they need to engage successfully with Latino communities.

Role of Planners is Valued: One of the key objectives of the Humanitarian Planning Committee is to promote the role of planning in humanitarian assistance organizations. Planners have a tremendous number of skills that can contribute to humanitarian programming, but they often do not fit the traditional titles of humanitarian organizations. The Humanitarian Planning Committee seeks to show how planners fit within these organizations and advocate for them as a key part of humanitarian work.

Manage Change: The Committees of the International Division, including the Aging and Resilient Communities Committee, the Climate and Sustainability Working Group, and the Humanitarian Planning Committee all seek to provide guidance for planners seeking to engage with changing communities and dynamic environments.

Digital Business: The International Division completed the transition to the new website platform. This has allowed the Division to manage its own updates, post more regularly, and greatly expand the content of the website. The Division has also purchased its own Zoom account. This has improved the quality of Division meetings and allowed the Division to produce additional educational content.

Division Challenges

As a result of the pandemic, there are several Division programs that needed to be put on pause. A decision was made that our student travel grant program was not tenable, and none of our Regional Coordinators are comfortable to date hosting in-person meet-ups. Like almost everyone, the Division has relied on connecting virtually with its members. However, Zoom fatigue has become an issue in sustaining regular programming.

After the International track and all international content were cut from NPC2020, there was once again no international track at NPC2021. Only two sessions had any international content at all. It is critical that APA highlight examples of planning practice from across the world; much of the best planning in the world does not come from the United States. The APA also cannot claim to be fully embracing social justice as a core value without calling attention to planning in developing countries.

We encourage all Divisions to submit for Divisions Council Awards, which include:

- Overall Division Performance
- Education Excellence
- Division Communications Excellence
- Best Practice
- Best Newsletter Article
- Overall Contribution to the Planning Profession

Divisions Council Achievement Awards

Overall Division Performance

Education Excellence

Division Communications Excellence

Best Practice

Best Newsletter Article

Overall Contribution to the Planning Profession

You're done! Please hit "SUBMIT" below.

On behalf of the DCEC and the Performance Committee, thank you so much for your work over this past year. Your leadership and efforts do not go unnoticed, and we look forward to another tremendous year of Division achievements.

Many thanks,

Chad Nability, AICP (Chair - Performance Committee)