

# American Planning Association (APA) and Global Planning Network (GPN)

Presented by Tim Van Epp, FAICP  
Immediate Past Chair, APA International Division  
July 27, 2022

,

# History of APA

<https://www.planning.org/aboutapa/>

- First National Conference on City Planning was held in 1909 in Washington, D.C. From that and subsequent conferences, the organized planning movement emerged.
- American Institute of Planners (AIP) established in 1917 and American Society of Planning Officials in 1939
- On October 1, 1978, the American Planning Association emerged from the consolidation of the AIP and ASPO.
- APA includes a professional institute — the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) — responsible for national certification of professional planners.

# APA Mission, Vision & Values



APA exists to elevate and unite a diverse planning profession as it helps communities, their leaders and residents anticipate and meet the needs of a changing world.



## OUR MISSION



Creating great communities for all.



## OUR VISION



APA will lead the way to equitable, thriving communities by creating unique insights, as well as innovative and practical approaches that enable the planning community to anticipate and successfully adapt to the needs of a rapidly changing world.



## CORE VALUES



APA leaders and staff strive to model a shared set of values that will help us achieve our vision for the future.

# Strategic Goals

APA's strategic focus is on four specific Goals that will provide direction for the efforts of leaders, volunteers and staff.

**PRIORITIZE EQUITY.** APA's inclusive and diverse membership, elected leadership, volunteer and staff workforce lead the way to more equitable communities.

**REFRAME THE VOICE OF PLANNING.** The role of planners is understood, valued, and sought after by decision makers and influencers.

**UPSKILL PLANNERS.** Planners have the knowledge, insight, and skills to help communities effectively manage change.

**PURSUE DIGITAL RELEVANCE.** APA's digital business focus ensures it remains relevant.

# APA by the Numbers

40,000 members from 90 countries

47 chapters throughout the United States

24 divisions that embrace the wide range of planning

USD 10 million budget and revenues

Office location: Chicago

# Leadership

Members elect the APA Board of Directors and the AICP Commission. The Board delegates day-to-day operations to its staff in Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

APA Board of Directors

AICP Commission

Chapter Presidents Council

Divisions Council

Student Representatives Council

# Staff Composition

- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Financial & Operating Officer
- Chief Strategy Officer
- Chief Information Officer
- Professional Practice Director
- Research Director
- Education Director
- Public Affairs Director
- Marketing & Communications Director
- Membership Director
- Leadership Director
- Technology Director
- Meetings Director

# Overall APA International Initiatives

Challenges and successes often cross geographic, national, and institutional borders. Here are some examples of how APA is involved worldwide:

Global Planners Network

World Town Planning Day

United Nations Habitat

Forum on Sustainable Development

Fundamentos de Planificación de Sitios

Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

# APA International Division

<https://international.planning.org/>

- Over 1,000 members
- Students and professionals
- Based in US and overseas
- Have, are or want to do international planning
- Support APA international initiatives
- World Town Planning Day
- MIT Hubert Humphrey Fellows
- Humanitarian Planning Committee
- Climate & Sustainability Planning Webinars
- Student Travel Grants
- International Planner Exchange
- Regional Representatives and Meet-ups
- Interplan Newsletter and E-blasts
- Regional Reports
- Planifiquemos
- International Sessions at Annual National Planning Conference

# Global Planners Network (GPN)

<https://www.globalplannersnetwork.org/>

## Our Vision

Through a collaboration of the international planning profession, contribute to the creation and maintenance of inclusive, safe, healthy and sustainable human settlements.

## Our Objectives

- To mobilize and share knowledge, and learn from each other's experiences
- To build the capacity of the planning community
- To promote and provide international advocacy for planning.

## Our Goals

- Develop and share a global planning knowledge base
- Further develop the World's capacity for and understanding of planning
- Define the concepts of sustainability and sustainable human settlements
- Promote human equity and empowerment in planning
- Engage new partners committed to the work of the values of the Vancouver Declaration and the work of the GPN

# GPN Structure and Operation

- Non-institutional body with limited administration and no declared budget, working mainly via by digital communications
- Does not replace or duplicate the roles and purpose of national planning associations
- Generates ideas and information to benefit international planning awareness, learning, development, support, and standing up for planning.

# GPN Membership

- 12 signatories to founding declarations
- 24 supporting organizations
- Asian supporting organizations include:
  - Bangladesh
  - India
  - Indonesia
  - Malaysia
  - Korea
  - Singapore
  - Sri Lanka