

# APA Ohio

Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association

## Annual Report FY 2016

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016



American Planning Association

**Ohio Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

The First Statewide Association of Citizens &  
Planners



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This report of the Chapter's activities during FY 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) was approved by the APA Ohio Board of Trustees at their September 23, 2016 meeting.

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### *Did you know?*

- The APA Ohio Listserv was reinstated in 2015 in response to member demand. To subscribe/unsubscribe, visit [www.ohioplanning.org/listserv](http://www.ohioplanning.org/listserv).
- Dayton's Fifth Street was added to the list of APA Great Places in America in 2015.
- APA Ohio offered/facilitated over 250 hours of AICP CM credits.
- You can like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/APAOhio](http://www.facebook.com/APAOhio).
- You can follow us on Twitter at [#becauseweplan](https://twitter.com/becauseweplan).
- Many sections have their own Facebook and Twitter pages to provide timely information.
- Eighteen planners passed the AICP exam in FY 2016.



## President's Report

I am pleased to provide this report of the Chapter's activities during FY 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016).

APA Ohio is a statewide, non-profit association of citizens and professional planners committed to promoting and enhancing planning and the quality of planning for all governmental entities in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for all Ohioans. APA Ohio is a state chapter of the American Planning Association (APA).

APA Ohio operates under the guidance of a volunteer Board of Trustees according to an adopted set of Bylaws. Administrative operations are well managed by the Chapter's Executive Director, a position filled by Christine Dersi Davis, AICP since January 2011. Key responsibilities of the Executive Director include office and organizational administration, fiscal management (in conjunction with the Chapter Treasurer) website and newsletter management, board meeting management, conference coordination, and section support.

The Board adopted a Strategic Plan in October 2011 to guide our efforts toward achieving the APA Ohio mission—advancing the art, science and profession of good planning, physical, economic and social, to create vibrant communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for all Ohioans. Our objectives are to:

- **Inform** - Encourage widespread planning information to and education of public officials, professional citizen planners, the general public and media.
- **Advocate** - Serve in an advocacy role in legislative and policy issues.
- **Promote** - Increase public awareness and support of the planning process and planning profession among the public and members of related professions. Tell the planning story.
- **Serve** - Provide value-added services to both existing and new members.

Over the last year, the Board has further developed the **#becauseweplan** initiative. The goal of this effort is to create a simple and effective way of telling the planning story as well as rallying greater support and interest in planning by citizens, allied professionals, and both local and state officials. This is a deliberate effort to share the positive outcomes of planning activities across Ohio to create a strong awareness of planning outside of our members.

Beyond this, the Board has been focused on the idea of improving planning legislation in Ohio. We recognize that such an effort will take a great deal of time and effort and we have begun strategizing on how to move forward. Part of that effort included collaboration with a graduate student from Ohio State University to survey our members about legislative issues and viewpoints for potential changes to Ohio's enabling legislation.

While these are two major efforts of the Chapter, our workload is much bigger. On the following pages you'll see a complete overview of the Chapter's activities and finances as well as services provided to APA Ohio members during FY 2016.

I am proud to serve as APA Ohio President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Todd M. Kinsky'.

Todd Kinsky, AICP  
Chapter President 2015-2016



## Executive Director’s Report

It has been another successful year here at APA Ohio! As always, it is my pleasure to work daily with APA Ohio Board’s twenty-two board members, eleven board committees, and six Sections.

As staff person to APA Ohio, it is my primary directive to support the above entities and, more specifically, to manage the following:

- Office & Organizational Administration
- APA Ohio Website
- *The Ohio Planner’s News*
- Outreach (Social Media & Email Communication)
- Board & Committee Meetings
- Finance & Investments
- Organization Development
- Sponsor/Advertiser Development
- Membership Development
- Conference Coordination
- Networking & Section Support

Some of the larger initiatives that we’ve been working on at the ground level here at APA Ohio are below. I urge you to contact me at any time should you want more information, or if you would like to get involved!

### **APA Ohio Website**

As our members are spread geographically throughout the state, our website is the primary method of communication and outreach with members. The website is updated at least once a day with calendar events, news items, workshop information and registration, job postings, and much more. We’ve recently added financial budgets, tax returns, board books and more to keep our organization fluid and our members involved in board and organization decisions and status. Take some time to peruse all that APA Ohio has to offer online at [www.ohioplanning.org](http://www.ohioplanning.org).

### **Chapter President’s Council (CPC) Grant**

Last summer, APA Ohio was awarded an APA Chapter President’s Council grant to further goals of the **#becauseweplan** initiative. The purpose of the grant is to:

- Produce a marketing video highlighting the **#becauseweplan** initiative.
- Over the long term, to promote the value of smart and responsible planning as a means of encouraging better statewide planning policies (first and foremost to advocate for ‘comprehensive plan’ to be defined in the Ohio Revised Code).

The planning process for the video is near completion, and we look forward to unveiling this year long effort soon!

### **Membership Acknowledgement & Outreach**

At APA Ohio, we are continually trying to find ways to acknowledge members for their membership, provide tangible benefits to members, and increase communications on the benefits available to members. We continue to provide a member rate at APA Ohio sponsored functions, acknowledge membership through an APA Ohio member ribbon attached to name badges, increase communication to membership via a weekly eNEWS newsletter (email), and frequent postings on the social media outlets **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

New members, both National and Ohio-only, receive a welcome letter indicating their Section affiliation, benefits and links to more information, and a **#becauseweplan** sticker with an explanation of the initiative.

APA Ohio members received a membership survey opportunity back in July 2016. This information is currently being analyzed by the Membership Committee and myself to continue bringing members the services really desired and needed. Stay tuned for the release of these findings in the coming weeks.

### ***Planning Webcast Series***

In 2016, the Planning Webcast Series entered into its eighth (8th) year! The Series offers over forty-five (45) webcasts per year and has almost fifty (50) sponsoring APA Chapters and Divisions. The Series is run by myself as moderator of sessions, and Northern New England APA Professional Development Officer Benjamin Frost, AICP as session coordinator. Sessions are offered most Friday afternoons and are worth 1.5 CM credits. When applicable, Law and Ethics credits are available. To learn more and receive free access as a benefit to your APA Ohio membership, visit [www.ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast](http://www.ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast).

### ***Investing in our Organization***

In February 2016, the APA Ohio Board approved an investment strategy that APA Ohio Treasurer Rachel Ray, AICP and I researched. The idea is to invest organization “rainy day funds” in a strategic combination of conservative stocks, bonds, and mutual funds in order to help grow our pot of funds. For more information on our financial status and outlook, visit [www.ohioplanning.org/ataglance](http://www.ohioplanning.org/ataglance).

I look forward to working with the initiatives in progress and those in the future. Again, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at [info@ohioplanning.org](mailto:info@ohioplanning.org).

Best,



Christine Dersi Davis, AICP  
Executive Director



## APA Ohio Board of Trustees

The Board is composed of 16 at-large members elected from the general membership plus the 6 Section Directors or their designated representatives. At least four of the at-large trustees shall not be professional planners, but individuals interested in furthering the goals and objectives of APA Ohio. All board members volunteer their time. Elections for the Board of Trustees are held every other year; terms are for two years. The next Board elections will take place between July 29 and September 1, 2016.

APA Ohio has been well-served by its Board. We would like to thank all of the past board members who have created and maintained a great organization.

### *FY 2016 Executive Committee*

**President: Todd Kinskey, AICP**  
*Hamilton County Planning & Development Department*

**Vice President: Kimberly Wenger, AICP**  
*City of North Olmsted*

**Treasurer: Rachel Ray, AICP**  
*City of Dublin*

**Secretary: Nancy Reger, AICP**  
*Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission*

**Past President: Ann Klavora, AICP**  
*City of Shaker Heights*

### *FY 2016 At-Large Trustees*

**Christopher Anderson, AICP (Cincinnati Section Representative)**  
*City of Forest Park*

**Joyce Braverman**  
*City of Shaker Heights*

**Kelly Brooker Soccco (Central Section Director)**  
*City of Columbus*

**Tim Davis (Miami Valley Section Director)**  
*City of Troy*

**David Edelman, PhD, FAICP**  
*University of Cincinnati*

**Jerry Egan (Akron Section Director)**  
*Egan Consulting LLC*

**Kyle Ezell, AICP (Professional Development Officer)**  
*OSU Knowlton School of Architecture*

**Patrick Etchie, AICP (Northwest Section Director)**  
*Mannik & Smith Group*

**Chris Gawronski**  
*Citizen Planner*

**Kristin Hopkins, AICP**  
*CT Consultants*

**Dennis Keating, PhD, JD**  
*CSU Levin College of Urban Affairs*

**Dan Kennedy**  
*Citizen Planner*

**Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP**  
*City of Cincinnati*

**Paul Logue, AICP**  
*City of Athens*

**Chris Ronayne, AICP**  
*University Circle, Inc.*

**Jason Russell, AICP**  
*Zaremba Group*

**Matthew Schmidt, AICP (Cleveland Section Representative)**  
*Trust for Public Land*



## 2016 Financial Reports

Rachel Ray, AICP, Treasurer

As a non-profit organization, APA Ohio relies on two primary sources for operating income—Chapter dues and conference income. The following is a summary of the Chapter’s primary income and expenses for FY 2016:

### *FY 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)*

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Dues	\$36,471	46%	APA National	\$3,764	6%
Advertising	\$4,505	6%	APA Leadership Meetings	\$2,048	3%
Workshops	\$0	0%	Contracted Services	\$40,800	66%
Interest	\$86	0.1%	Reimbursables	\$3,188	5%
Publications	\$293	0.4%	Insurance, Legal, Accounting	\$2,953	5%
Conference	\$31,134	39%	Meeting Expenses	\$357	0.5%
Other*	\$6,934	9%	Committee Expenses	\$984	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,423</b>		Website	\$409	0.6%
			Conference Support	\$1,000	2%
			Web Transaction Fees	\$4,820	8%
			Grants & Scholarships	\$1,155	2%
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,478</b>	

\*Other includes web transaction fees, Plan4Health Grant administration costs, Webcast income, etc.

Total Chapter revenue (including “pass-through” income rebated to Sections and Plan4Health Grant coalitions) was \$426,064.38; total Chapter Expenses were \$345,288.73; overall total of \$80,775.65.

The **Chapter Net Revenue** (net APA Rebate + net income – net expenses; excluding pass-through income/expenses, Plan4Health Grant income/rebates, webcast income/expenses) equaled **\$10,280.29** (carry-over to FY 2017).

### Audit Committee

**Chair:** Rachel Ray, AICP

The Treasurer serves as the Chair of the Audit Committee, convening the committee when necessary.

A Chapter Financial Administration Guide will be presented to the Board for adoption at the December 2016 meeting.





## APA National Awards

Ohio was well represented at the 2016 APA National Planning Conference in Phoenix. The **APA National Planning Excellence and Achievement Awards** are presented annually to honor the best planning efforts and individuals that create communities of lasting value. Two Ohio projects and organizations were honored in 2016. APA Ohio member Wendy Kellogg, professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Studies at the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, served on the awards jury.

### National Planning Excellence Award for Implementation

#### *Downtown Columbus Riverfront*

*Columbus, Ohio*

*Restoring the Scioto River provided more than just improving public access to the riverfront. It spurred community reinvestment and created five new downtown parks, removed two low-head dams, restored the riverfront ecosystem and revitalized adjacent neighborhoods. These investments have helped to grow downtown's residential population 108 percent since 2002.*



*The Scioto Greenways (2015) has narrowed the river from 577' to 257', restoring habitat and creating an additional 33 additional acres of parkland downtown. Photo by Randall L. Schieber.*

*The 1998 Riverfront Vision Plan established the community goals of creating a connected, active and healthy river system that was an asset to Central Ohio. The plan identified five objectives: contribute to the overall image of Columbus; become a destination and connective civic corridor; foster new development; enable community interaction; and improve the riparian environment. The plan's objectives were not only met, they achieved what other plans over the past 100 years had attempted to do – make the river a civic asset.*



*In total, 179 acres of new and renovated parkland has reconnected the public to the riverfront. Completed in 2011, **the Scioto Mile** is the centerpiece of the new riverfront park featuring a 15,000 square foot interactive fountain, performance space, restored balustrade, overlooks and inviting seating, and entertainment and dining areas. With the removal of the Fifth Avenue Dam on the Olentangy River and the Main Street Dam on the Scioto River downtown, there is now a navigable, recreation river corridor between the Ohio State University and Downtown Columbus. A brownfield was transformed into a 120-acre park that has been designated as an important bird area by the Audubon Society. The final piece of this riverfront revival is the **Scioto Greenways** that opened in the fall of 2015, creating 33 new acres of parkland in the heart of downtown along with a naturalized river channel and new riparian habitats.*

## **The HUD Secretary's Opportunity & Empowerment Award**

### ***Homeless Solutions Community 10-Year Plan***

*Dayton and Montgomery County, Ohio*

*Differing from other existing approaches, the Homeless Solutions 10-Year Plan changed the approach from 'managing' to ending chronic homelessness. The plan is data-driven and based on best practice models providing a creative, coordinated and collaborative approach to tackling the moral and economic challenges of homelessness.*

*Prior to the plan, the homeless 'system' was more of a collection of dedicated providers who initially stepped up to fill the need. The plan provides a cohesive, coordinated homeless system implementing a set of agreed upon community strategies, changing the shape of the homeless assistance system in Dayton and Montgomery County.*

*The plan identifies four key principles: poverty reduction, housing, prevention, and multi-system response. The differentiating elements that have propelled Dayton-Montgomery County efforts to the national forefront include: coordinated entry/assessment; joint funding; and performance measurement.*

*The plan also offers other communities prescriptive measures as they work to develop their own housing and homeless solutions:*

- *Understand the nature and extent of homelessness in the community.*
- *Set a clear goal*
- *Commit to a community-wide level of organization*
- *Leverage resources from mainstream public and private agencies*
- *Adopt strategies to end not 'manage' homelessness*

## AICP Outstanding Student Awards and Student Project Awards

APA also honored recent planning school graduates. The **AICP Outstanding Student Awards** are awarded annually to recognize outstanding attainment in the study of planning by a student who is being graduated from an accredited program. Congratulations to the following award recipients:

### *Cleveland State University*

- *Kenneth Kalynchuk, Master's*

### *Ohio State University*

- *Arin Blair, Master's*
- *Tori Nicole Luckenbach, Bachelor's*

### *University of Cincinnati*

- *Ryan Dyson, Master's*
- *Anna Barchick-Suter, Bachelor's*

The **AICP Student Project Awards** recognize outstanding class projects or papers by a student or group of students in Planning Accreditation Board-accredited planning programs that contribute to advances in the field of planning. The **Award for Application of the Planning Process—Undergraduate Program** was awarded to a group of Ohio students in 2016:

### *Columbus Rail Today: A Timeline to Multi-Modal Transportation*

*Ohio State University*

- *Student Project Team: Michael Bickley, Dan Boberek, Ryan Dittoe, Luke Gerken, Will Hughen, Levi Koehl, Jevonna Morris, Steve Orange, Aaron Smith, Alex Swift, and Aubrey Wilson*
- *Faculty Adviser: Chad Gibson*



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## FAICP Honors / APA Ohio Awards

*The Awards/FAICP Committee is responsible for running APA Ohio's biennial awards program that corresponds with the Chapter's State Conference. The committee is also responsible for identifying a list of potential Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP) nominees.*

**Co-Chairs:** Joyce Braverman and Ann Klavora, AICP

### Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP) 2016 Inductees

Three members of APA Ohio were inducted into the Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP) during an April 3 ceremony at the 2016 APA National Conference in Phoenix, AZ. Congratulations to Ohio planners Jamie Greene, Principal of Planning NEXT; Kristin Hopkins, Manager of Planning Services at CT Consultants; and Terry Schwarz, Director of the Kent State University Urban Design Collaborative.

Fellowship is granted to planners who have been members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership. According to FAICP: "Election to the College of Fellows is one of the highest honors that the American Institute of Certified Planners, the professional institute of the American Planning Association, bestows upon a member. This honor recognizes the achievements of the professional as a model planner with significant contributions to planning and society."

#### **Jamie A. Greene, FAICP** Columbus, Ohio



*Based on his 30-year career, Jamie A. Greene has become a national leader in helping communities create authentic, inclusive, and impactful visions and action-oriented plans. As the founder and hands-on principal of the Planning NEXT practice, Jamie has worked in 24 states and developed a unique approach to public engagement specific to each community in which he works. Time and again his work has engaged unprecedented numbers of meaningfully engaged participants. In addition to his civic contributions and university teaching, Greene has built an award-winning practice recognized across the U.S with a proven track record of success in turning plans into reality.*

#### **Kristin M. Hopkins, FAICP** Mentor, Ohio



*Kristin Hopkins has been a passionate contributor to the Ohio planning community for more than 25 years. During her career, she has engaged in a wide variety of planning efforts and truly embodies the idea of a planner as a generalist. Working with over 50 communities, she has drafted plans and ordinances that build on community assets, promote connected neighborhoods, preserve natural systems and enhance economic and social well-being. Hopkins has promoted the planning profession by serving in APA Ohio leadership roles including chapter president, organizing and speaking at over 26 local and state conferences, and mentoring young professionals and students.*

**Terry Schwarz, FAICP**  
Cleveland, Ohio



*Terry Schwarz works at the intersection of research and practice. As director of Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, she leads an innovative urban design and planning practice that service the needs of diverse communities. She has simultaneously built a robust research agenda at the CUDC with a focus on ecological urbanism, community engagement, and the complex challenges of depopulating cities. Research and practice are inseparable—the CUDC's design practice generates a wide range of relevant and urgent research questions, and its research informs the practice, deploying new ideas and strategies in urban communities.*

**2015 Ohio Planning Awards**

The 2015 APA Ohio Planning Awards were announced on September 25, 2015 at the APA Ohio Planning Conference in Toledo. Seven exemplary projects were honored in 7 categories. There were 23 high-quality nominations. The Michigan Chapter of APA served as the awards jury, using published criteria including innovation, quality, implementation and transferability.



**President's Award: Outstanding Planner**  
**Greg Dale, FAICP**

*This year we recognize Greg Dale, a planner who has a distinguished career of professional service, has trained thousands of planning commissioners, and has been an active participant in APA Ohio. The awards jury commented that Greg has covered all facets of planning throughout his career, from infrastructure projects to planning ethics, from environmental planning to public engagement processes. Greg is a fellow of the FAICP.*

**Comprehensive Planning / Large Jurisdiction**  
**University District Plan**  
City of Columbus, Planning Division

*The plan is the area's first comprehensive land use and development strategy. The judges recognized that: the internal development of this plan demonstrates the value of having permanent planning staff with intimate knowledge of the community on the municipal payroll; the plan showed outstanding sensitivity to the nuances of town-gown issues, especially through market analysis; and the plan had an impressive public engagement process.*

**Outstanding Community Planning**  
**Mill Creek Watershed Council of Governments**

*The award recognizes 20 years of working to revive an urban stream. The judges further commented that the efforts include simplified handouts showing goals, process and focus areas. The jury stated they should be further recognized for innovative public involvement such as canal trips and birding outings to engage and educate residents.*



**Comprehensive Planning – Small Jurisdiction**  
**Bowling Green Improvement Plan: Meeting the Needs of Today and Tomorrow**  
 City of Bowling Green



*This plan updated an outdated plan from 1987. The jury commented that the plan acknowledges planning failures of the past, and is ambitious, yet realistic, in proposing bad ideas for addressing substantive issues. The plan also has useful, transferable tools to communities across the county, such as the permeable land use map.*

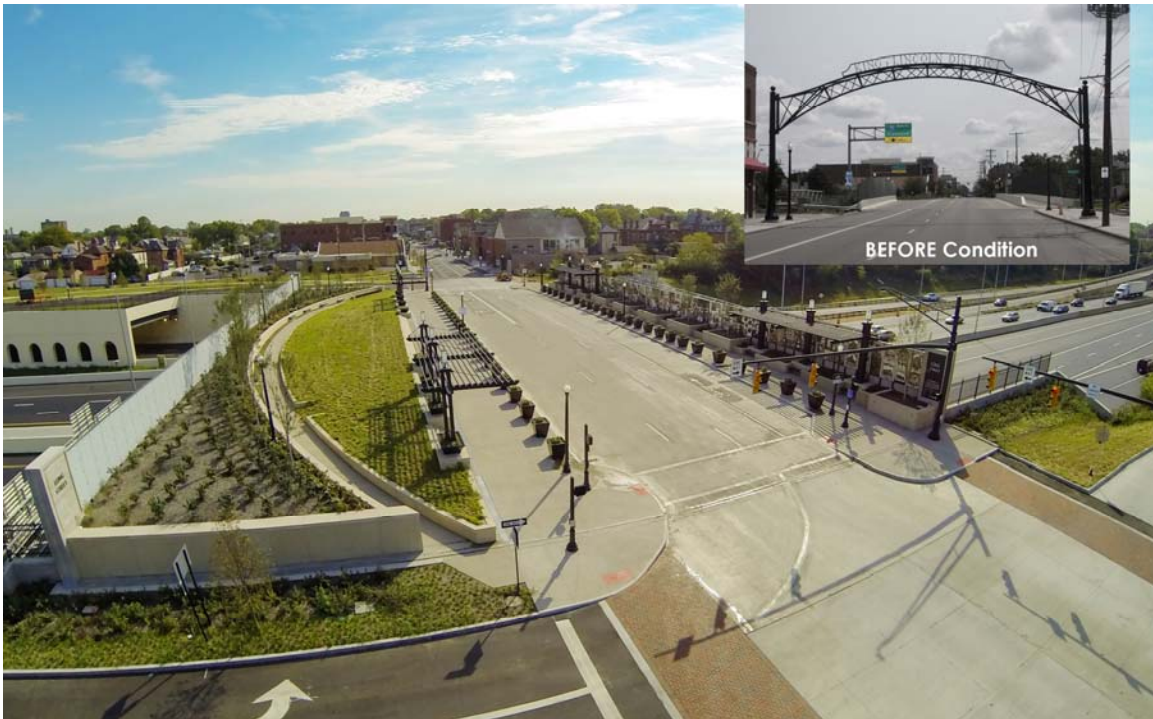
**Focused Planning Project**  
**The Essence of Athens: A Strategic Design Plan for Economic Enhancement and Community Competitiveness**  
 City of Athens, Designing Local, MKSK

*The jury noted that this was the toughest category to decide upon, given that there were 4 or 5 excellent submissions. However, this plan rose above the rest and deserves the spotlight. The plan embraces strategic Athens-based design standards. The judges commented that the attractive and creative format breaks brand new ground for the role of the planning profession in our communities and is worthy of consideration by planners and municipalities everywhere. This refreshing, engaging planning process is imaginative, from crosswalk design and lighting to the means and locations by which the citizens can express themselves politically. The document is truly comprehensive.*

### **Focused Built Project**

#### ***The Long Street Bridge and Cultural Wall***

*MKSK, City of Columbus, Ohio Department of Transportation*



*This project is part of the ODOT I-70/71 project which re-connects the King-Lincoln neighborhood to Downtown. The jury recognized the project respects past planning efforts and the transportation needs of all users, rights the historical wrongs of dividing neighborhoods by freeways, and uniquely combines walkability goals with art, culture, history and truly invites people to explore this vibrant, proud neighborhood.*

### **Planning Students**

#### ***The Columbus Rail Studio***

*Ohio State University, Fall 2014 Undergraduate Studio*

*The judges recognized the plan is well researched, well-written and makes excellent use of graphics. It contains excellent detailed case studies and in-depth analysis of past efforts which makes the document relevant even with leadership changes and the final document speaks volumes about the high level of education provided through the Knowlton School of Architecture. This team of students was also recognized with a 2016 AICP Student Project Award for Application of the Planning Process—Undergraduate Program.*

**APA**  
GREAT PLACES IN  
**AMERICA**

*The American Planning Association celebrates excellence in planning*

To celebrate National Community Planning Month, APA announces its list of Great Places in America each October. These places — in communities large and small — celebrate stories of exemplary planning that have resulted in stronger, healthier, and more just communities.

### **Great Street 2015: Fifth Street—Dayton, OH**

Fifth Street is the commercial centerpiece of the Oregon District — Dayton, Ohio's oldest neighborhood and the first listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Locally owned businesses are woven into the fabric of history along this street and have fostered a strong sense of community and place for those who spend time here. Fifth Street is the heart of Dayton's treasured Oregon District and is a focal point for the surrounding community as well as the city as a whole.



*No matter the season, Fifth Street is bustling and vibrant. Photo Andrew Thompson, City of Dayton.*

Dayton's Fifth Street joins other Great Places in America that are located in Ohio:

- Findlay Market, Cincinnati
- Hyde Park, Cincinnati
- West Side Market, Cleveland
- Shaker Boulevard, Cleveland/Shaker Heights/Beachwood
- German Village, Columbus
- Village of Mariemont, Mariemont

Learn more about Great Places in America at <https://www.planning.org/greatplaces>.



Through an overarching collaborative strategy that brings together members of the American Planning Association and the American Public Health Association (APHA), the Plan4Health project aims to build local capacity to address population health goals and promote the inclusion of health in non-traditional sectors. Plan4Health is supported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Ohio was awarded two grants in Cohort 1 and one in Cohort 2:

## Cohort 1

**City of Columbus:** Increasing opportunities for physical activity in Columbus (Ohio) is the goal of the Columbus Public Health's Chronic Disease Prevention Advisory Board. Throughout this project and beyond, strategies to increase and promote physical activity were implemented, and include:

- Increasing the number of elementary and middle schools implementing Safe Routes to School Travel Plan recommendations.
- Increasing the number of employers in Columbus who encourage active commuting.
- Incorporating a health impact assessment into the Connect Columbus multimodal transportation plan.
- Developing a strategic plan for Central Ohio Greenways that includes recommendations to improve trail access and provide trail based programming for residents.

**Summit County (City of Akron):** Summit County (Ohio) believes higher levels of community health are possible through urban design. To achieve this, Plan4Health Summit County will:

- Incorporate Complete Streets policies into existing transportation plans
- Expand use of garden space throughout the community placing an emphasis on bringing farm fresh produce to the community
- And introduce client choice pantries to the existing pantry system.

## Cohort 2

**Lake County:** The Plan4Health Lake County coalition aims to develop personalized Community Health Action Plans for communities in Lake County lacking access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity. By working with a diverse group of professional partners and residents, Plan4Health Lake County will create a model for developing comprehensive Community Health Action Plans in addition to the Plan itself.

For more information, visit: <http://plan4health.us>. Click on the Coalitions tab for project-specific details.



## Membership

*The Membership Committee is responsible for developing activities to expand and serve the membership of the Chapter. The committee is also responsible for implementing the Chapter's goals for increasing diversity in participation amongst the Board and in Chapter activities.*

**Chair:** Kimberly Wenger, AICP

### Membership Recognition

APA Ohio distributed membership ribbons with name badges at the 2015 State Conference in Toledo. The goals were to both recognize existing members and also to promote membership to other attendees. Sections were encouraged to implement this practice at their own local planning and zoning workshops.

New members continue to receive welcome letters thanking them for joining APA Ohio, letting them know which Section they belong to, and giving them a brief introduction to the organization and the general benefits available to them. Each new member also receives a #becauseweplan sticker with a brief explanation of the initiative.

### Membership Survey

Following a chapter dues increases, the Membership Committee was tasked with drafting a 2016 membership survey that would answer several key questions:

- *Are APA Ohio members aware of the diversity of benefits and services available to them? Do members perceive they receive good value for the cost of dues? Which benefits and services are of the greatest value to members?*
- *What member benefits and services should be improved? What can we be doing better?*

The APA Ohio Board also wanted to allow Sections to have an opportunity to include section-specific questions submitted by their leadership along with the general survey. The survey will be administered in July 2016. Results will be compiled, reported and used by chapter officers and committees to establish priorities and set goals for the next fiscal year.

### Membership Trends

Overall membership has remained fairly constant with seasonal peaks in the late fall and winter. While total membership decreased slightly across the reporting period, the number of Ohio-only members has steadily increased in absolute numbers and as a percentage of total chapter membership.

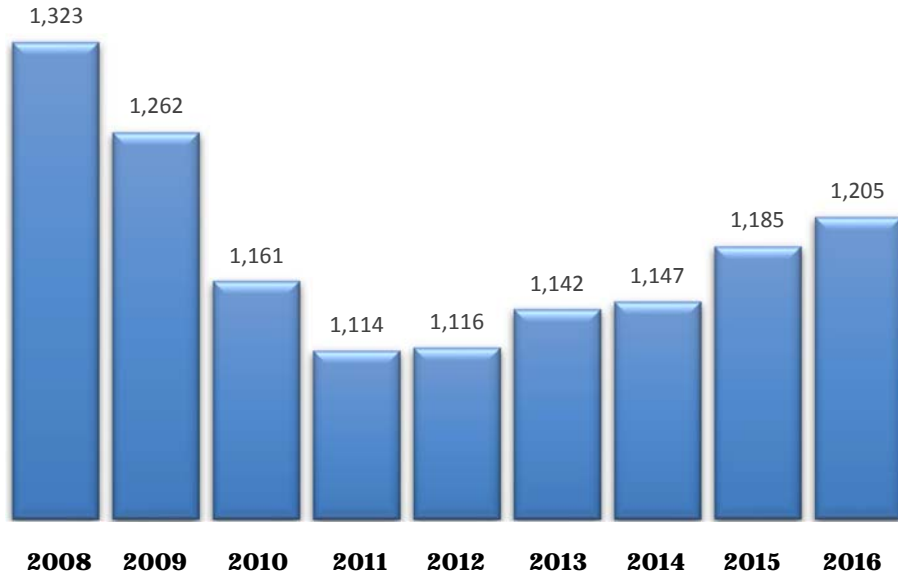
Date	National	Ohio Only	Total
April 2015	938	136	1,074
September 2015	945	150	1,095
February 2016	1,051	154	1,205
May 2016	838	173	1,011

### Section Membership

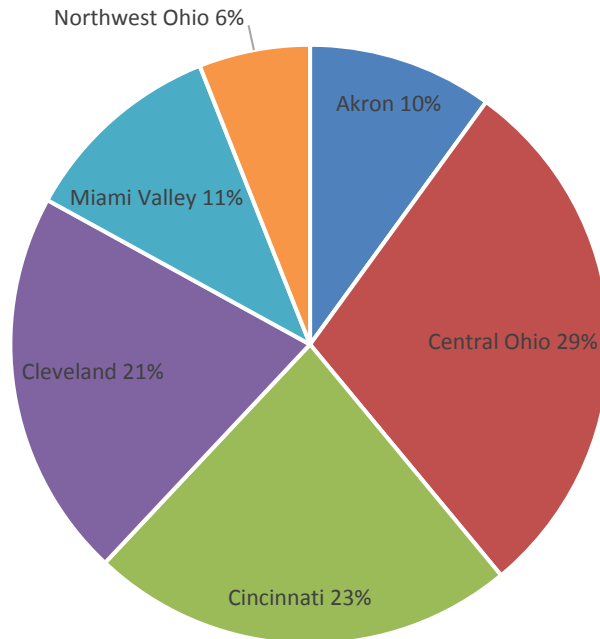
Akron	101	Cleveland	217
Central Ohio	303	Miami Valley	115
Cincinnati	231	Northwest Ohio	44

*Section memberships may not match total number due to timing of membership renewal processing.*

### 2016 APA Ohio Membership



### 2016 APA Ohio Membership by Section





## Professional Development

*The Education Committee is responsible for identifying appropriate educational programs that may be offered during workshops, conferences, webinars, or other forums. The committee also works with the Sections and the Conference Committee to identify emerging topics or issues that may need to be addressed during educational programming.*

**Chair:** Kyle Ezell, AICP

The Chapter supports our members through a variety of professional development activities. APA Ohio provides general educational programs for all members and continuing education that qualifies for certification maintenance credits for AICP members.

### **Educational Programs, Training & AICP Certification Maintenance Activities**

The Webcast Consortium, established in 2008, continues to grow each year. Reorganized in 2011, the Consortium is now officially managed by APA Ohio Executive Director Christine Dersi Davis, AICP, with assistance from the Northern New England Chapter Professional Development Officer Benjamin Frost, AICP. The Consortium currently includes 37 Chapters and 14 Divisions nationwide. Access to the monthly webcasts is free to APA Ohio members and is a great membership benefit. Each year, at least one webcast qualifies for Law and one webcast qualifies for Ethics certification maintenance (CM) credits. There are currently one of each available for Distance Education CM credits.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	2016*
Webcasts	38	39	36
Participants	9,500	9,750	n/a
CM Credits Available	57	58.5	54

*\*Total scheduled for 2016 (Jan 1 – Dec 31)*

The Ohio Chapter and its Sections regularly organize education events for members across the state, including state and regional planning conferences, local Planning & Zoning Workshops and individual events. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, the Chapter received CM credits for over 250 hours of instruction.

Key events included:

- APA Ohio Statewide Planning Conference (Toledo), September 2015
- Complete Streets Workshop (Akron), November 2015
- Safe Routes to School National Conference (Columbus), April 2016
- Trails & Greenways Conference (Cleveland), June 2016
- Annual Planning & Zoning Workshops in Cincinnati, Central Ohio, Cleveland, Miami Valley and Northeast Ohio

### **2015 APA Ohio Planning Conference**

APA Ohio (previously named the Ohio Planning Conference, or OPC) was founded in Cleveland on October 20, 1919 as the first Ohio State Conference on City Planning. Among the attendees was OPC co-founder Alfred Bettman, the author of the famous amicus brief in support of the *Village of Euclid v. Ambler Realty* U.S. Supreme Court case of 1926 that legitimized zoning. The October

1919 conference included the standard program we enjoy today, even a mobile workshop where “...delegates enjoyed an automobile trip to points of city planning interest in Cleveland.”

Today, the biennial APA Ohio Planning Conference is conducted in odd-numbered years. Since the 1980s, the chapter has coproduced a three-state regional conference with the Kentucky and Indiana chapters of APA. This Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Conference takes place in even-numbered years and rotates between the three states to provide expanded opportunities for educational and networking exchange.

### **2015 | Toledo**

The 2015 APA Ohio Planning Conference was held September 23-25 at the Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Toledo. The conference theme was **Reclaiming Spaces for People’s Sake**. The opening keynote speaker was APA National Executive Director James Drinan. The luncheon keynote speaker was **Tom Murphy, Urban Land Institute Senior Fellow**. A total of 323 individuals attended the event.



*Urban Land Institute Senior Fellow, Tom Murphy*



*APA National Executive Director, James Drinan*

### **AICP Exam**

The Chapter provides resource materials to assist members in preparing for the AICP exam, including the *Chapter Presidents Council Study Manual*, and also provides reduced rate scholarships for exam applicants.

Congratulations to the following eighteen (18) APA Ohio members who passed the exam during the November 2015 and May 2016 exam periods:

#### **Nov 2015 Exam**

Alex Beim  
Joseph Danyluk  
Leslie Deacon  
Seth Dorman  
Andrew Dutton  
Patrick Hewitt  
Allison Hodson  
Andrew Merrill  
Brian Wamsley

#### **May 2016 Exam**

Verona Campbell  
John Cocanougher  
Sara DiLandro  
Nicole Grohe  
Andrew Juengling  
Alexandra Keen  
Matt Obringer  
Jeremiah Rowan  
Samuel Sprague

## **Advanced Specialty Certification**

No members of APA Ohio received Advanced Specialty Certifications in the May 2016 period. Six (6) members did receive the certification in 2015 (previously reported). Advanced Specialty Certification enables AICP–credentialed planners to be recognized for their knowledge, experience, and leadership skills in specialized areas of planning. There are three certifications available – Certified Environmental Planner (CEP), Certified Transportation Planner (CTP), and Certified Urban Designer (CUD).

## **AICP Exam Participant Survey – Summary of Findings**

Beginning in 2013, APA Ohio has conducted a survey of Ohio members who have been approved to take the AICP exam. Once the testing period is opened, APA Ohio sends a survey invitation link to all those who have been approved to take the exam. Our hope is to develop a robust database of information on how much time and effort it takes to both apply for and study for the AICP exam, and advice on the best study materials and test taking tips.

To date, a total of 62 members have participated in the survey; the results are summarized below:

### ***Pass Rate of Respondents***

Of the 62 respondents, 61 had taken the test and 50 passed. Of those that passed the exam, 6 had taken the exam previously.

### ***Application Preparation***

On average, the respondents spent approximately 9.5 hours to prepare the application over a two-week period, though the median was 10 hours and the range was from as few as 2 hours to as many as 35 hours.

### ***Test Preparation***

Of the 61 who took the exam and responded to the question of test preparation, the average number of hours spent studying was 65.5, with the median being 100 hours. There was quite a range of responses, with one person studying about 3 hours and another studying over 300 hours. Of the 61 people who responded about the period over which they studied, the average was about 11 weeks, with the median being 4 weeks. Resources used (sorted by frequency of response):

- Practice exams
- Notecards and/or online flashcards
- Planetizen course
- AICP Exam Prep 3.0
- *Planning Magazine*
- AICP Code of Ethics
- Study guides
- APA Planning Prep website
- CD study manual published by the Chapter President’s Council
- YouTube webinars of APA presentations
- Study guide available from the APA Pennsylvania Chapter
- Took a pretest to identify weaknesses (see <http://planningprep.com>)
- APA National Conference study session
- APA podcasts

### ***Advice for Future Test Takers***

The survey provides respondents an opportunity to share their studying advice on what worked and didn’t work for them. Not surprisingly, test takers have provided a wide range of tips to the open-ended question. Common suggestions include: start early; use common sense/practical knowledge; go beyond APA/AICP Review material; and don’t rely on APA’s Planning Prep website.



## Governance Committee

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*The Governance Committee reviews the APA Ohio Code of Regulations on an ongoing basis and develops guidelines, governance plans, or written policies for the operations of the Chapter. The Governance Committee is also responsible for working with the rest of the Board to draft the APA Ohio Strategic Plan.*

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**Chair:** Rachel Ray, AICP

Rachel Ray began serving as Chair of the Governance Committee in January 2016 when Wendy Moeller vacated her position on the Board after being elected APA (National) Region IV Director. Since the beginning of FY 2015, the Governance Committee has worked on the following:

### **Chapter Bylaws Amendment: Consolidated Election Process**

APA National notified the Ohio Chapter that all Chapters and Divisions will be required to participate in a consolidated election process, synchronized with APA's national election schedule and process. This new process required an amendment to APA Ohio's bylaws, which was proposed alongside the Board member elections taking place this summer. The new process involves APA National managing the election process and sending out ballots to members; however, Chapter-only (non-APA National) members will continue to be included in the election process.

### **Chapter-Section Relationship Policy**

The APA Ohio Bylaws include language that allow Sections to be certified on an annual basis, although there are no criteria specified. With the need for a clearer policy regarding the financial relationship between the Chapter and the Sections, which was approved by the Board in December 2015, and desire to provide a better understanding of the services the Chapter offers to the local Sections and in turn, the membership, the Board recommended that the Governance Committee develop a policy to outline the relationship between the Chapter and the Sections with some basic parameters around Section performance.

The policy, which will be considered by the APA Ohio Board at the September 23, 2016 meeting, is intended to accomplish the following:

- Explain how Sections may be established and operated following the adoption of Section bylaws, in accordance with the APA OH bylaws;
- Establish an annual reporting and certification process to occur at the Chapter's annual business meeting, including proactive measures to work with struggling Sections;
- Clarify Section financial responsibilities in accordance with the Chapter-Section Financial Relationship Policy adopted in December 2015;
- Set forth mandatory Section performance requirements; and
- Outline the services offered to the Sections by the Chapter.



## Legislative Committee

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*The Legislative Committee monitors pending state legislation of interest to the Chapter and its members and participates in APA Legislative matters. The Legislative Committee is a forum for discussing legislative issues related to planning and zoning in Ohio and develops recommendations to the Board.*

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**Chair:** Todd Kinskey, AICP

During FY 2016, the Legislative Committee and the APA Ohio Board continued to remain focused on its goal of better addressing legislative issues. Highlights of our work include:

- In addition to improving state planning enabling legislation, the committee prioritized tracking legislation and judicial cases for members. We are exploring various avenues to achieve this goal.
- Collaborated with a graduate student Ohio State University to prepare a legislative survey for Chapter members. The goal was to gain information about legislative issues and viewpoints for potential changes to Ohio's enabling legislation.
- Responded to a legislative survey from APA National to gauge the level of activity of the Chapter and involvement with elected leaders and statewide issues.
- Served on the APA Chapter President Council's Policy and Advocacy Committee.

## Communications Committee

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*The Communications Committee is responsible for production of the Chapter newsletter and for overseeing and updating the chapter's website activities in conjunction with the Executive Director.*

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**Chair:** Ann Klavora, AICP

The Communications Committee works very closely with the Executive Director on all matters related to member communications and Board publications. Activities undertaken during FY 2016 are highlighted below.

Four (4) quarterly issues of the *Ohio Planner's News* were distributed via email during the 2015 fiscal year, and all issues are accessible to members on the APA Ohio website. Back issues are also posted on the website.

To maintain the effort of providing succinct and applicable information to members, the APA Ohio eNEWS is sent every Wednesday to all APA Ohio members, and are section specific.

After several years of dormancy, the APA Ohio Listserv was reinstated in 2015 in response to member demand. To subscribe/unsubscribe, visit [www.ohioplanning.org/listserv](http://www.ohioplanning.org/listserv).

APA Ohio has become more active on social media, both at the statewide Chapter level and at the local Section level. This is a great way to find information about APA Ohio events and announcements. You can find, follow, post and interact with us on:

- **Facebook**—like us at [www.facebook.com/APAOhio](http://www.facebook.com/APAOhio). All members are welcome to post events and share articles or news. Many sections also have their own Facebook pages, including Cleveland, Cincinnati and Central Ohio.
- **Twitter**—follow us at [#becauseweplan](https://twitter.com/becauseweplan)



## APA Ohio Section Reports

The APA Ohio Chapter includes six sections organized geographically: Akron, Central Ohio, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Miami Valley and Northwest Ohio. Sections typically organize informal luncheons with speakers, and sponsor workshops and social functions to allow members to stay current on local planning issues. Each section is represented on the APA Ohio Board of Trustees. Section Directors are listed below; a complete list of the Executive Committees running each section is available on the website.

Accomplishments and events during FY 2016 for each section are summarized below.

### Akron Section

*Director: Jerry Egan*

The Akron Section sponsored a Complete Streets workshop in November attended by 55 area planners, engineers and public officials. The workshop fulfilled a commitment in support of the 2015 national Plan4Health grant received by the Section and the Summit County Health Department. The Section also actively worked with the Summit County communities of Akron, Barberton, Springfield township and Twinsburg on health-related activities around nutrition and active transportation as part of the Plan4Health grant.

During FY 2016, the Section continued its effort to spread activity throughout our five-county area. Lunch presentations were held in Medina on downtown development in August, in Canton in October on Stark Parks, in Kent in January on Asset Mapping, in Akron in February on Cleveland area projects and the need for urban resilience in the face of climate change, and in Akron in March on economic development in Twinsburg.

During the year, the Section communicated with members with bi-monthly mailings of planning-related news from the area and announcements of meetings and workshops of special interest.

### Central Ohio Section

*Director: Kelly Scocco*

The Central Ohio Chapter of the APA had a busy and productive year. Hosting over three APA Happy hours, and co-hosting five Joint Association Happy hours with Ohio ASLA and Ohio AIA continued to reinforce the strong network of planners in the Central Ohio Region. Central Ohio APA also hosted a walking tour of the award-winning Scioto Greenways. The Central Ohio Planning and Zoning Conference was, once again, a major success, boasting over 150 attendees.



*2016 Central Ohio P&Z Workshop*

Facebook Page:

**<https://www.facebook.com/CentralohioAPA/?fref=ts>**

## Cincinnati Section

Director: Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP

- *2015 Planners Night at the Ball Park* at Great American Ball Park, July 21, 2015. APA members from Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky gathered to cheer on the Cincinnati Reds vs. divisional rivals Chicago Cubs. We met pre-game at Moerlein Lager House.
- *Welcome New Students Happy Hour* with University of Cincinnati MCP Students, August 20, 2015. We welcomed new University of Cincinnati Master of Community Planning (MCP) students to Cincinnati with a short presentation about APA followed by a Happy Hour at Ladder 19 in Corryville.
- *World Town Planning Day Event*, focusing on the Reading Road corridor, November 13, 2015. Local professional, student, and citizen planners worked together to generate revitalization strategies for the Reading Road Corridor between Galbraith Road and Section Road.
- *Holiday Party with Northern Kentucky Section of Kentucky APA*, December 4, 2015. For the second year in a row, APA members from Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky met to kick off the holiday season with a party at the Downtown Cincinnati Hyatt.
- *David J. Allor Planning and Zoning Workshop*, January 22, 2016. At this annual event, held at the Anderson Center in Anderson Township, nearly 200 local professional, student, and citizen planners had their choice of 16 sessions that both educated and inspired. Our Keynote Speaker was Mark Fenton, who focused on combining policy and environmental approaches to promote economic vibrancy, environmental sustainability and public health.
- *Joint Associations Mixers* with allied professions, April 20 and June 15, 2016. Sponsored by the USGBC in conjunction with numerous allied professions including APA, local professionals met to socialize and network to build stronger relationships between our groups.
- *2016 Planners Night at the Ball Park* at Great American Ball Park, June 9, 2016. APA members from Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky gathered to cheer on the Cincinnati Reds vs. divisional rivals St. Louis Cardinals. We met pre-game at Moerlein Lager House.
- Facebook Group: [facebook.com/groups/APACincinnati](https://www.facebook.com/groups/APACincinnati)
- Twitter: [@APA\\_Cincinnati](https://twitter.com/APA_Cincinnati)



World Town Planning Day 2015

## Cleveland Section

Director: Kimberly Wenger, AICP

### Educational, Social and Professional Events

- *2015 Summer Social* on July 21, 2015; Platform Beer Co. happy hour featuring Justin Carson and Pete Snavely
- *2015 Fall Social* on October 27, 2015; Downtown Heinen's tour and happy hour featuring Kevin Brokaw and Bob Fridrich of Geis Companies
- *2015 APA Cleveland Planning & Zoning Workshop* on November 13, 2015; LaCentre Conference & Banquet Facility, Westlake
- *2016 Spring Social* on April 28, 2016; EDWINS happy hour featuring Brandon Chrostowski
- *10th Annual Goodtime III Boat Cruise* on June 3, 2016; Social networking event with affiliated design professionals
- *2016 Northeast Ohio Planning & Zoning Workshop* on June 10, 2016; Lake Metroparks Environmental Learning Center



2015 APA Cleveland Summer Social @ Platform Brewery

### Student Outreach & Scholarships

- *2015 Back-to-School Ice Cream Social* with CSU and CUDC students on September 3, 2015; Mitchell's Ice Cream student-professional networking event featuring Mike Mitchell
- *APA National Conference Student Stipends*—awarded \$1,500 in stipends (\$125 each) to CSU students attending the conference in Phoenix in 2016
- *APA CSU Student Award*. This new award replaced the Section's long standing student scholarship program. The \$1,500 award is intended to support the ongoing studies of an outstanding mid-program Cleveland State University MUPD student who is actively involved with CSU APA. The award was presented to Susan Vincent at the Levin College awards ceremony on May 13, 2016.

### Other Notable Activities

- Financial sponsor and planning partner of the Cleveland Planning Commission's 100th anniversary celebration, specifically the Centennial Forum event, a panel discussion with current and past Cleveland planning directors at Cleveland State University on September 15, 2015
- Partnered with CSU APA for a tour and a volunteer clean-up day of Cleveland's Red Line Greenway on October 3, 2015
- Release of Cleveland Arts Prize video in 2016 honoring achievements of Bill Gould, FAICP, recipient of the 2015 Robert Bergman Prize for his significant contribution in urban planning, financially sponsored by APA Cleveland
- CM and promotional sponsor of various Medina County Planning & Zoning seminars in 2015 and 2016, the AIA/ASLA Drawing Workshop in August 2015, the Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways Conference in June 2016, and various CUDC speaker events in 2016



- Financial sponsor of the City of Euclid's Historical Marker commemorating the Euclid v. Ambler Realty decision – June 9, 2016

Facebook Group: [facebook.com/groups/APACleveland](https://www.facebook.com/groups/APACleveland)

Twitter: @APA\_CLE; #WePlanCLE



APA Cleveland sponsorship of historic marker in Euclid

## Miami Valley Section

Director: *Tim Davis*

The Miami Valley Section continues to improve upon its objectives by providing professional development while increasing educational opportunities for its members, local jurisdictions, elected officials, and various local planning boards. From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, our local section has been involved with the following:

- Held the 29th annual *Miami Valley Planning & Zoning Workshop* on December 4, 2015. The event was an all-day workshop held in the David H. Ponitz Center at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH. The workshop had 30.25 credits certified by APA for the approximately 350 in attendance. The American Institute of Architects partnered for the workshop and was eligible for AIA credits.
- Partnered with US Green Building Council (USGBC) of Southwest Ohio on a series of networking events to be known as *Joint Associations Mixers (JAM's)*. The JAM's are intended to collaborate with related organizations that are committed to designing healthy and prosperous community environments that improve the quality of life.
- Offered free webcasts to members covering various planning topics.

The Section sponsored the following local events:

- 2016 Miami Valley Crime Prevention Associations' CPOP conference.
- 2015 Miami Valley Crime Prevention Associations' Community Problem Oriented Policing (CPop) Conference.

- Bike Miami Valley's 2017 Miami Valley Cycling Summit.
- Donation to StreetsBlog.

### **Northwest Ohio Section**

*Director: Patrick Etchie, AICP*

The Northwest Ohio Section of APA Ohio continues to offer dialogue and guidance for professional and community planners in the NW Ohio region. In the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 our section leadership has conducted the following activities:

- *State Conference Committee* – In 2015 our local NW Ohio Section developed a Conference Committee that met monthly to plan for the Statewide Planning Conference that was held in Toledo, Ohio in 2015.
- *2015 Statewide Planning Conference* – The NW Ohio Section was the host section for the APA Ohio Statewide Planning Conference in 2015 that was held in Toledo on September 24 and 25, with the Professional Development Workshop on September 23. The conference was well attended and offered a variety of session topics and mobile workshops for those attending.
- *Section Organizational/Social Meetings* – These meetings began in early 2016 again after the Statewide Planning Conference was over. The meetings are held approximately every couple of months to allow members as well as other related professionals to attend and find out more about our organization and to potentially recruit membership into APA-OH.
- *Annual Planning & Zoning Workshop* – Planning began for the NW Ohio Section Annual Planning & Zoning Workshop which will be held on Friday November 18, 2016 at the Hensville Roost (3rd Floor) in downtown Toledo. A workshop committee was formed in early 2016, and is in the process of developing sessions and speakers for the event.