

# APA Ohio

Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association

## Annual Report FY 2020

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



American Planning Association  
**Ohio Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*



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This report of the Chapter’s activities during FY 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) will be reviewed by the APA Ohio Board of Trustees at their April 23, 2021 meeting.

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### *Did you know?*

- 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of APA Ohio! Visit our [Ohio Planning History timeline](#) which celebrates 100 years of planning in Ohio.
- APA Ohio has just shy of 1,200 national and Ohio-only members
- We hosted 33 webcasts through the Planning Webcast Series in 2019, with over 13,000 people from across the country logging on to listen
- In Fall 2019 APA Ohio hosted a record-breaking state conference in Cleveland.
- The [APA Ohio website](#) is updated at least once a day with calendar events, planning news, notifications and jobs. The weekly APA Ohio eNEWS highlights the weeks’ worth of web updates in one concise email.
- We’re social here at APA Ohio so be sure to follow us:
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram
  - LinkedIn
  - YouTube



## President's Report

It's my pleasure to introduce the annual report to our members for Fiscal Year 2020.

APA Ohio is a State Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). We are a non-profit association of planners, citizens, and allied professionals with a mission to improve quality of life for all Ohioans.

The Chapter is governed by a 24-member Board of Trustees, and it is organized geographically into five sections centered on Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo. On the Board, sixteen (16) Trustees are elected by the membership, five (5) are Section Directors or their designees, and three (3) are from Ohio's PAB-accredited universities. The Ohio Chapter's Executive Director is Christine Dersi Davis, AICP. She oversees all aspects of Chapter administration, finances, and communications.

**Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plan:** APA Ohio's [Strategic Plan](#) is the roadmap for achieving our mission of advancing the art, science, and profession of good planning. Our strategic plan was adopted by the Board of Trustees in December 2019 and is the result of a year's worth of study and consultation with our sections, members, allied professions, and the American Planning Association. The plan identified four areas for the Chapter to focus its resources and efforts over the next five years: **expanding** our influence, **growing** our core strengths, **activating** leadership, and **supporting** our members.

At a more granular level, the Board also adopts an annual [Work Plan](#), which helps us manage the organization and budget the Chapter's funds effectively, work with our five geographical Sections, and in general provide the high level of service and value that our members expect.

One of the benefits of following these plans—which includes keeping budgets balanced, offering conferences & workshops, and developing new initiatives—is that it provides the capacity to be nimble in facing unforeseen challenges, as we did with the emergence of COVID-19.

### *Highlights from July 2019-June 2020*

- The **State Planning Conference, commemorating the Chapter's 100<sup>th</sup>** anniversary, was held in Cleveland and was highly successful in attendance, educational offerings, amenities, and participant evaluation. Thanks again to the Cleveland Section and the local host committee in putting on an event that was first-class in every way.
- We recognized eight outstanding individuals and organizations with the bi-annual **Chapter Awards**, which are detailed on Page 8 of this report
- The **Short North Arts District in Columbus** and **Downtown Delaware, Ohio** were recognized nationally as **Great Places in America**, and both communities held events in conjunction with the awards.
- Ohio planners Kyle Ezell (Ohio State University) and Todd Kinskey (City of Dayton) were selected as **AICP Fellows**, recognizing their outstanding contributions to the field of planning and the communities that they served.
- **Planning and Zoning Workshops** were held in Cleveland in conjunction with the State Conference, in Dayton in December 2019 and Cincinnati in March 2020. Unfortunately, the workshops scheduled for later in the year in Columbus, Toledo and Northeast Ohio had to be canceled due to COVID-19.
- **Ohio Planners News** got a fresh new look, with improved graphics, navigation, and content.

- **The OKI Regional Conference**—scheduled to be held in Louisville, Kentucky in October 2020—**was postponed to 2022**. We supported the Kentucky Chapter in working through a difficult contract negotiation with the host site, which avoided a potentially devastating expense as well as keeping all options open for OKI 2022.
- The Board of Trustees established a **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force** to examine and improve our engagement with disadvantaged and communities of color, and further the diversity within the planning profession in Ohio.
- The final third of the year was impacted, as so many other things were, by the **COVID-19 pandemic**. I'm pleased to report that the Chapter pivoted quickly and responsibly by canceling in-person events and meetings, pushing out information and resources to members, and developing online resources. Our chapter was uniquely well-positioned for this challenge due to our long experience in presenting the Planners Webcast Series. The number of programs presented and the participation in them by planners across the country both grew exponentially. All of this is due to the efforts and leadership of the Chapter's Executive Director, Christine Dersi Davis.

The pages that follow give a complete overview of the Chapter's activities, finances and the services provided to APA Ohio members in FY 2020. As you review this report, I hope you will be inspired to join a committee, support your local Section or reach out and collaborate with your fellow planners.

Sincerely,



Chris Anderson, AICP  
APA Ohio President



## Executive Director's Report

The 2019 APA Ohio Planning Conference marked the 100th anniversary for APA Ohio. We took all the energy that emanated from this event to plan for 2020. Although absolutely everything took a sharp turn in March 2020, I am pleased to report that APA Ohio stepped up to the task of supporting membership in an innovative and forward-thinking way. We provided or partnered to provide a record-breaking number of virtual (and FREE!) professional development offerings. We continued to work through the 2019 Strategic Plan, established a DEI Task Force and amplified our legislative efforts. As always, it is my pleasure to work daily with the APA Ohio Board's twenty-four (24) board members, nine (9) board committees, and five (5) 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 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!

### *eLEARNING with APA Ohio*



As mentioned above, APA Ohio made it Priority One to offer virtual professional development opportunities at low or no cost to members in 2020.

### *The Ohio Planner's News*

- Our goal for the Ohio Planner's News (OPN) in the last year was to re-assess its purpose and determine how best to relay the information our membership desires to hear about. COVID gave us an opportunity to prioritize and organize the information we needed to communicate to our members - we realized the OPN was an avenue to distribute critical information. We shifted from highlighting planning initiatives to reporting Chapter information and support services. We decided it was also time for a fresh start – so we completely re-branded the OPN to be more interactive and easier to read! Be sure to check out our quarterly newsletters at [www.ohioplanning.org/newsletter](http://www.ohioplanning.org/newsletter)!

### ***APA Ohio Website***

As our members are spread geographically throughout the state, our website is the primary method of communication and outreach. The website is updated at least once a day with calendar events, news items, workshop information and registration, job postings, and much more. Take some time to peruse all that APA Ohio has to offer online at [www.ohioplanning.org](http://www.ohioplanning.org).

### ***Let's Be Social***

We made a commitment to increase our presence on social media. You can now follow us across the following platforms:



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

2019 marked the eleventh year of the Planning Webcast Series. The Series offers over thirty (30) webcasts per year and has almost fifty (50) sponsoring APA Chapters and Divisions. The Consortium is currently run by myself as session moderator and coordinator. Sessions are offered most Friday afternoons and are worth 1.5 CM credits each. When applicable, Law and Ethics credits are available. We're always looking for great webcasts, so if you're interested in speaking please reach out. To learn more and receive free access as a benefit of your APA Ohio membership, visit [www.ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast](http://www.ohioplanning.org/planningwebcast).

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,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'CDD'.

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 and the 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 four years.

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

### **FY 2020 Executive Officers:**

**President: Chris Anderson, AICP**

*Community Development Director  
City of Forest Park*

**President Elect: Rachel Ray, AICP**

*Economic Development Administrator  
City of Dublin*

**Treasurer: Paul Logue, AICP**

*Planner  
City of Athens*

**Professional Development Officer:**

**Eric Anderson, AICP**

*Cincinnati Section Director  
Community Planner  
KZF Design*

**Past President: Kimberly Lieber, AICP**

*Planning & Development Director  
City of North Olmsted*

### **FY 2020 At-Large Trustees:**

**Christopher Auffrey**

*Associate Professor  
University of Cincinnati DAAP*

**Joyce Braverman**

*Planning Director  
City of Shaker Heights*

**Tom Breidenstein, AICP**

*Counsel  
Stites & Harbison, PLLC*

**Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP**

*Director of Planning  
City of Cincinnati*

**Martin Kim, AICP**

*Director of Regional Planning  
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission*

**Todd Kinskey, FAICP**

*Director of Planning  
City of Dayton*

**Ann Klavora, AICP**

*Principal  
akPlans, LLC*

**Anthony Lococo**

**Beth Nagy**

*Assistant College Lecturer  
CSU Levin College of Urban Affairs*

**Chris Ronayne, AICP**

*President  
University Circle, Inc.*

**Kelly Scocco**

*Deputy Director of Public Service  
City of Columbus*

**Megha Sinha, AICP**

*Principal  
NBBJ*

**Section Directors:**

**Eric Anderson, AICP**  
*Cincinnati Section Director*  
Community Planner  
KZF Design

**Tim Davis**  
*Miami Valley Section Director*  
Planning & Zoning Manager  
City of Troy

**Patrick Etchie, AICP**  
*Northwest Section Director*  
Chief Planner  
Mannik & Smith Group

**Nichole Martin, AICP**  
*Central Ohio Director*  
Planner II  
City of Dublin

**Matthew Schmidt, AICP**  
*Cleveland Section Director*  
Senior Real Estate Planning Administrator  
CMHA

**University Representatives:**

**Kimberly Burton, AICP**  
*The Ohio State University Representative*  
Associate Professor of Practice,  
Knowlton School

**Thomas Hilde**  
*Cleveland State University Representative*  
Managing Principal, Designing Local

**Leah Hollstein**  
*University of Cincinnati Representative*  
Assistant Professor, DAAP



# Financial Report

Paul Logue, 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 2020.

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## APA OH Account Balances - As of 6/30/2020

prepared by P. Logue 1/18/2021

	<b>4th Qtr 6/30/19 Balance</b>	<b>1st Qtr 9/30/19 Balance</b>	<b>2nd Qtr 12/31/19 Balance</b>	<b>3rd Qtr 3/31/20 Balance</b>	<b>4th Qtr 6/30/20 Balance</b>
<b>Bank Accounts</b>					
<i>Checking</i>					
<b>Chapter Checking</b>	\$96,210.55	\$93,909.55	\$90,269.30	\$88,196.51	\$64,767.64
Opened 11/19/2014					
<b>Webcast Checking</b>	\$26,927	\$27,505.17	\$28,394.97	\$32,594.97	\$33,908.17
Opened 11/12/2013					
<b>Conference Checking</b>	\$8,310	\$38,721.40	\$48,180.96	\$42,919.41	\$45,382.82
Opened 5/2/2017 - Opening Balance: \$2,000					
<i>Savings</i>					
<b>Emergency Reserve</b>	\$7,751	\$7,751.27	\$7,751.66	\$7,752.00	\$7,752.00
Opened 3/16/2017 - Opening Balance: \$9,772.18					
<b>Scholarship Fund</b>	\$31,947	\$31,948.57	\$29,543.26	\$37,044.74	\$37,045.36
Opened 3/16/2017 - Opening Balance: \$19,230.98					
<b>Investment</b>	\$31,916	\$32,487.22	\$33,232.96	\$28,666.57	\$30,957.17
Opened 3/30/2017 - Opening Balance: \$30,000					
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$203,061.13</b>	<b>\$232,323.18</b>	<b>\$237,373.11</b>	<b>\$237,174.20</b>	<b>\$219,813.16</b>



## Awards Committee

*The Awards 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.*

**Chair:** *Matt Schmidt*

The Awards Committee began a process of reimagining its programming and activities to have a greater focus on equity and inclusion in its mission. With Award Committee programs spanning a two-year cycle, the Great Places in Ohio Awards were held in 2020, and scholarship program updates were planned to include a greater focus on community outreach and service.

### **Great Places in Ohio Awards:**



The Great Places in Ohio Awards recognized four places for their demonstration of how because we plan, great places exist across Ohio. These include the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls commercial district, Toledo's Promenade Park and Cincinnati's Oyer Community Learning Center in the Lower Price Hill Neighborhood as great parks and public spaces, and the South Fountain residential neighborhood in Springfield.

For FY 2020, the first year of community service funds were dedicated to hosting Richard Rothstein, author of the book *The Color of Law*, as the keynote speaker for the virtual Ohio Planning and Zoning Conference to bring additional AICP CM opportunities to members at no cost since in-person programming was not possible.

### **2021 Goals:**

- Administer the 2021 State Planning Awards Process
- Unveil a reimagined scholarship and community service program with a connection to the DEI Task Force Mission Goals

### **Challenges:**

- We will need to coordinate ASAP with the university reps on the board to administer a new scholarship program. In 2021 it would be beneficial to coordinate with the DEI Task Force as the Awards Committee formalizes a program for community service projects.



## Membership Committee

*The Membership Committee is responsible for developing activities to expand and serve the membership of the Chapter. The Committee shall be responsible for working with APA Ohio staff to develop and implement any policies or strategies related to outreach to the chapter's various constituents as outlined in the strategic plan. These responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, developing avenues for "telling the planning story" to members and non-members alike; develop additional methods of outreach to planners, planning officials, and allied organizations, and similar activities that may be identified in the strategic plan.*

**Chair:** Kimberly Lieber, AICP

### APA Ohio Seeks to Better Engage Student Members

#### **Events:**

- The Membership Committee came into 2020 focusing on two main goals: better engaging students/young professionals in APA while they are receiving the free/discounted membership and keeping young professionals active in APA once the discounted membership expires. To this end, and in collaboration with the Education and Awards Committees, we released a student survey in September asking a variety of questions about how they currently engage with us, their interest in mentorship and scholarship programs, and their needs as students right now. The survey generated only 18 responses, just about 4% of student membership. It is likely that the distractions of pandemics and politics impacted participation. Overall, the results did not send a clear message in one area, which can make it difficult for us to narrow down and focus on specific changes. Interest level seems highest in the areas of career development, volunteer activities, and local planning workshops. Students found the greatest value in APA's role providing networking opportunities and as an online resource for jobs and internships. General awareness of APA continues to be a struggle: students are not aware they are even members, income cases. While the student survey provided some good food for thought, the committee will likely need to engage educators to a much greater extent to effectively reach student populations.

#### **Events:**

- In 2021, the first goal of the Membership Committee will be to continue the work started in 2020 to improve communications, outreach, and service to our student members. We will take the information we collected through the survey and input from our university-affiliated board members to create action items for the state chapter and sections, as appropriate.
- The second goal of the Membership Committee will be to review the vision and goals presented by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force in the areas of Chapter Membership and Student Outreach, and create specific strategies to more effectively engage underrepresented and BIPOC populations in APA OH.

#### **Challenges:**

- We will need to set up a committee call early in the year to identify manageable tasks since our goals are broad. Also, maybe a joint meeting between Membership and the DEI Task Force representative(s) could help start us off in the right direction.



## Education and 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.

**Education Committee Co-Chair:** Christopher Anderson, AICP & Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP  
**Professional Development Officer:** Eric Anderson, 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.

### Planning Webcast Series

Established in 2008, the Planning Webcast Series continues to grow each year. Reorganized in 2011, the Consortium is now officially managed by APA Ohio Executive Director Christine Dersi Davis, AICP. The Consortium currently includes 41 Chapters (of 47 total), 15 Divisions (of 21 total) and 3 communities 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.



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
<b>Webcasts</b>	35	30	31	32	50
<b>Participants</b>	13,100	11,250	14,600	14,500	16,800
<b>CM Credits Available</b>	54	45	46.5	48	75

\*Total scheduled for 2020 (Jan 1 – Dec 31)

### OKI Regional Planning Conference

The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Planning Conference, originally scheduled for October 2020, was moved to 2022 and will be held in Kentucky.

### eLearning

APA Ohio partnered with several professional organizations to bring a wide breadth of educational opportunities, for little to no cost to members, virtually during the pandemic.

### AICP Updates –Digital Credentials, Exam Prep, and Scholarships... oh my!

We regularly pushed out updates from APA national in our quarterly newsletter. Topics included new AICP digital credentials, regular updates on the AICP exam process and deadlines, scholarships, and study resources.

## Planning & Zoning Workshop Series



With the cancellation of most in-person trainings and educational events in 2020, this past October APA Ohio responded to the needs of our members who both required AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) credits and also needed a little distraction from the ever-present pandemic and election news cycles.

Sections across the state banded together to produce APA Ohio's first jointly hosted Planning and Zoning Workshop Series during October, also National Planning Month. Sessions relevant to the biggest planning topics of the moment were curated for each week, such as equity, public health, community engagement, housing and more.

Our keynote for the workshop was Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law*, who spoke about the role governmental policies have played in creating and sustaining racial segregation across the nation. Rothstein said **that while planners may create plans and policies to address these systemic issues, change will only happen through broad community activism.** He predicted only a civil rights movement would exert the necessary pressure on politicians to make needed change and encouraged listeners to engage in direct action in their local communities. APA Ohio gave away 50 copies of Rothstein's book to workshop attendees.

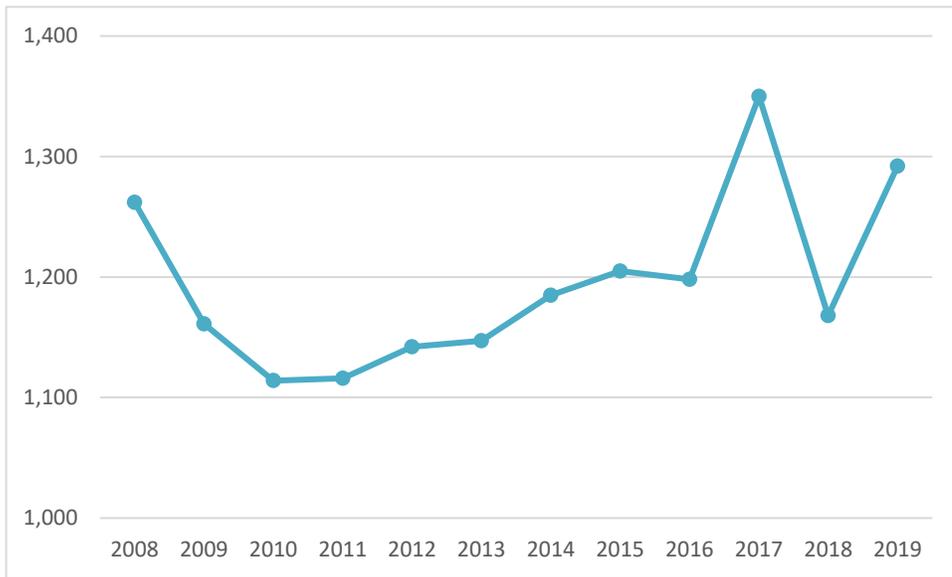
The workshop series wrapped up with the live session *Planner's Therapy*, which explored the unique stresses faced by planners in the profession, compounded by the events of 2020, and how we can develop greater resilience and improve our stress management skills.

Our virtual conference was jam-packed with 387 total attendees, mostly APA Ohio members but also a handful of non-members plus APA members from other states including our friends in Indiana and Kentucky, as well as folks from as far away as Florida and California.

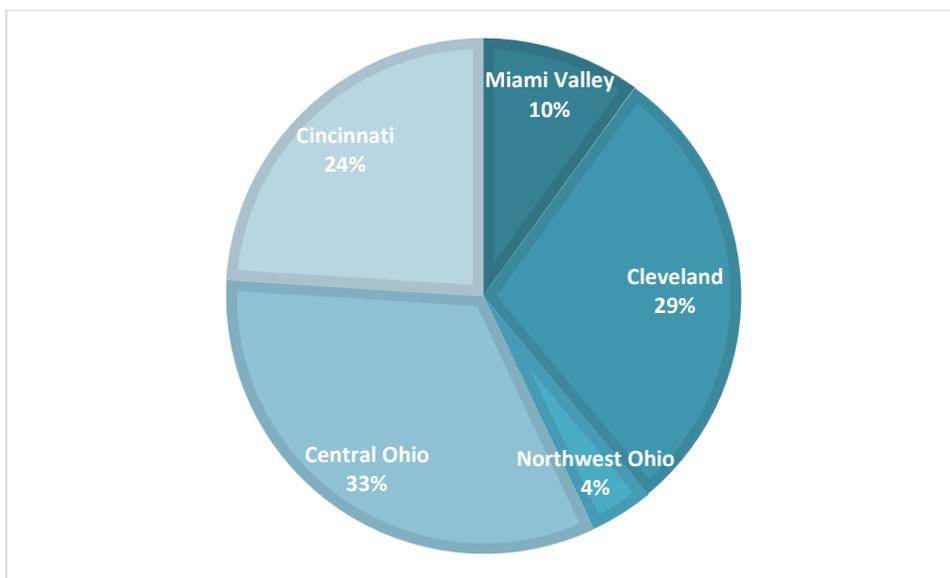
### Membership Trends

Overall membership has maintained a steady course with free student memberships accounting for approximately forty five percent (45%) of the overall national memberships.

Date	National	Ohio Only	Total
June 2017	878	90	968
June 2018	1,259	91	1,350
June 2019	1,090	78	1,168
June 2020	1,204	91	1,295



### Membership by Section:





## Legislative Committee

*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.*

**Chair:** Todd Kinskey, FAICP

**We added three (3) new volunteers that brought our ranks up to twelve (12) members on the Legislative Committee. This additional capacity allowed us to develop a robust work plan for 2020-2021.**

### **Current Efforts:**

*Electronic Meetings* – We are working to modify state legislation, currently enabled by HB197, and expiring on July 1, 2021, to enable municipalities to continue to use electronic means to engage citizens in required public meetings (Planning Commission, BZA, etc.).

*Legislator Meet and Greet* – We plan to organize an in-person legislator meet and greet event in Columbus in the fall of 2021 to enable our members to connect with state elected officials. This will be coupled with an educational (CM certified) event.

*Update of “Guide to Planning in Ohio”* – We intend to begin the process to update and republish the "Guide to Planning in Ohio". This effort will include revisiting all existing topics in the book as well as identification of new topics (based on our Policy Platform) that need to be added to the publication. We are currently trying to track down original digital documents to avoid having to redo existing/relevant work.

*Policy Platform Synopsis* – We are working on an effort to simplify the APA Policy Platform to a more readable format for distribution to legislators as a "leave behind" publication.

*Communication to Legislators* – We have created two sample letters/emails designed to help APA connect with legislators. We intend to distribute/mail this in early 2021. We are also in the infancy of a longer-term project to create an objective, data driven brochure that would inform law makers how planning can be beneficial to them and their constituents.

### **2021 Goals:**

- Hold Legislator Meet and Greet event
- Update of “Guide to Planning in Ohio”

### **Challenges:**

- The effort associated with updating the "Guide to Planning in Ohio" will be monumental. We will need more volunteers willing to donate a significant amount of time to move this project forward.



## Governance Committee

*The Governance Committee reviews the APA Ohio Code of Regulations and make any suggested modifications to the Board for consideration. The Committee is also responsible for the development of any guides, governance plans, or written policies as it applies to the operations of the Chapter including, but not limited to, financial policies for the Sections, rules for meetings, or orientation materials for new Board members.*

**Chair:** Rachel Ray, AICP

In 2020, the Governance Committee managed the biannual APA Ohio Board member elections, in addition to a minor update to the Chapter's bylaws.

The Governance Committee prepared an APA Ohio Chapter Election Procedures Manual to guide candidates, Board members, and the Governance Committee to ensure the process ran smoothly and fairly.

APA Ohio wishes to congratulate new and incumbent Board members on their election and service to the chapter:

**Professional Planners:** Christopher Anderson, AICP (incumbent); Todd Kinskey, FAICP (incumbent); Allison Lukacsy-Love; Rachel Ray, AICP (incumbent), Matthew Schmidt, AICP; Megha Sinha, AICP (incumbent)

**Citizen Planners:** Christopher Auffrey, PhD (incumbent); Geoff Milz, AICP

A special thank you to our outgoing At-Large Board Members, Kelly Scocco and Christopher Ronayne.

### **2021 Goals:**

- Create a leadership succession plan for the Chapter and Sections. Work with Membership and Education Committees and Sections to develop future leaders.
- Develop performance metrics/key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the Chapter's success at implementing programs and initiatives.



## Communications Committee

*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.*

**Chair:** Ann Klavora, AICP

### Communications Plan Implemented

- The Committee made significant progress toward advancing the new Communications Plan. Key action steps include:
  1. Implemented the enhanced Membership Profile database.
  2. Converted the online APA Ohio Policy Platform into an accessible, searchable format.
  3. Redesigned a printable PDF version of the APA Ohio Policy Platform.
  4. Finalized key messages for the APA Ohio pitch.
  5. Created an annual media schedule for implementation beginning January 2021.

### 2021 Goals:

- Illustrate the Policy Platform with #BecauseWePlan award-winning projects and communities.
- Implement the media schedule in coordination with Executive Director.



## DEI Task Force

*The DEI Task Force is responsible for developing specific actionable steps towards elevating equity, diversity, and inclusion in our organization and profession.*

**Chair:** Megha Sinha, AICP

- The DEI Task Force was founded in June 2020 with 7 Board Member volunteers.
- DEI Task Force Chair wrote a letter for the summer 2020 Ohio Planner Newsletter to inform our membership of the formation of the DEI Task Force and invite/entice a more diverse participation.
- A page on our website dedicated to our equity efforts is created.
- The DEI Task Force has grown to 11 APA Ohio members and represents of the diversity we were aiming for.
- The DEI Task Force has identified four categories of impact and have developed recommendations specific to each, which will be shared with the Board on Dec. 10, 2020.

### **Events:**

1. First meeting of the Task Force took place in July 2020.
2. Task Force met monthly since then. Total of 5 meetings.
3. Sub-groups were formed within the Task Force. This group meet separately between each monthly meeting.
4. Task Force progress was shared in the Sep 2020 Board meeting.
5. DEI Task Force formation was shared at the AARP Ohio conference Sep 23, 2020
6. Task Force will share findings and recommendations with the Board in Dec. 2020.

### **2021 Goals:**

- Help the Board determine priorities
- Support the Board in implementing identified priorities

### **Challenges:**

The Board should take the time to discuss the recommendations of the Task Force and think through the action steps and priorities. Following questions for consideration:

1. Are further efforts required of the Task Force? The Task Force was set-up as a temporary group.
2. Who is responsible for implementing action steps?
3. Does the Board need to recruit additional volunteers to help focus on the priorities?
4. Which of the recommendations fall into existing Board Committee goals?
5. For those that fall outside of our current Committee structure do we add a new Committee or ask the Task Force to stay on longer?



## APA Ohio Section Reports

*The APA Ohio Chapter includes five sections organized geographically: Central Ohio, Cincinnati, Cleveland + Akron, 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 2019 for each section are summarized below.

### **Central Ohio Section**

**Director:** Nichole Martin

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CentralOhioAPA>

This past FY, the Central Ohio section reflected on organizational development. As part of this effort, Central Ohio has introduced annual Organizational Meetings, adopted revised bylaws, and established a Finance Committee. Collectively we strive to provide the most value for our members and to enhance organizational transparency. The updated organizational structure and goals led to a highly productive year allowing our Section to take the Covid-19 pandemic in stride.

#### **Events:**

- **P&Z Workshop:** Due to the unfortunate circumstances associated with the Covid-19 pandemic the section cancelled our local workshop originally scheduled for May 8, 2020. The Central Ohio section of APA Ohio participated in a joint P&Z Workshop hosted in October. Central Ohio coordinate two sessions as part of the joint workshop: We're Going to Rip up Your Sidewalk: A Robust Public Engagement Program in the Short North Arts District; and, Expanding Suburban Mobility: Two Microtransit Pilots in Dublin.
- **Webinars:** The Central Ohio section hosted a series of three virtual webinars in 2020:
  1. Parks are an Essential Business
  2. Ethics for Planners
  3. Community Character in the University District: Planning to Implementation

The webinar series provided free, safe, and accessible CE credits to our members.

#### **Partnerships:**

- The Central Ohio section partnered with The Center for Architecture and Design as a sub-organization to investigate opportunities to expand and rebrand Camp Architecture and Design. As part of the partnership, the Central Ohio made a \$1000 donation to summer 2020 camp programming.

#### **2021 Goals:**

- Expanded Virtual Programming
- Increased Member Engagement

## **Cincinnati Section**

**Director:** Eric Anderson, AICP

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/APACincinnati>

Twitter: @APA\_Cincinnati

### **Events:**

- *Cincinnati P&Z Workshop:* We were able to narrowly squeeze in our annual P&Z Workshop in early March, right before Covid-19 closures began. More than 200 local planners were in attendance.
- *Using Census Data:* On May 7, we partnered with the OKI Regional Council of Governments on how to query data from the data.census.org website, reviewed the most recent data for response rates in the OKI Region, and reminded attendees about the tools available to ensure their community remains aware of the census.
- *Moving to Virtual Public Meetings:* On May 8, we hosted a free virtual education session on where we heard from Cincinnati planners on their initial experiences with virtual public meetings, good and bad, as well as lessons learned. More than 120 people attended from across the US.
- *Using Historic Preservation to Shape the Urban Context:* On May 13, we partnered with AIA Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Preservation Association to host a free education session on Using Historic Preservation to Shape the Urban Context. More than 75 people were in attendance.
- Unfortunately, many of our regular events were cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19.

### **Partnerships:**

- *Cincinnati Design Awards:* Once again, APA Cincinnati participated in the Cincinnati Design Awards, a program that recognizes the best built-environment design produced by Cincinnati-area creative organizations.
- *Statewide Planning Conference:* APA Cincinnati hosted two sessions in the APA OH joint Planning and Zoning Workshop, one of which was the closing session, Planners Therapy.

## **Cleveland Section**

**Director:** Matthew Schmidt, AICP

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

Twitter: @APA\_CLE

The Cleveland Section strived to create a variety of on-line programming options and engagement opportunities in response to not being able to hold in person activities in 2020. Strong partnerships were essential in accomplishing this goal, including those with the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, University Circle Inc., Cleveland State University, the City Club of Cleveland, the Cleveland International Film Festival, and our fellow APA Ohio Sections. While WePlanCLE and the Planning & Zoning Workshop looked different in 2020, it was the Cleveland Section's goal to provide forums for spurring critical thinking and conversations. These focused on the overlap of the planning profession and topical issues including systemic racism and both the short and long-term effects of Covid-19 on our cities and towns. We will continue this commitment to virtual content into 2021, and hope to see you all again in person as the year progresses.

## **Events:**

- ***P&Z Workshop:*** The APA OH joint Planning and Zoning Workshop allowed the Cleveland Section to highlight programming surrounding Equity and Social Inclusion. The P&Z Keynote address featured Richard Rothstein, the author of *The Color of Law* who spoke about how racial policies have affected development patterns in cities for the past one hundred years and led to the continued segregation of neighborhoods. The Cleveland Section also hosted a panel of local and national planners who discussed the topic *Developing an Equitable and Inclusive Process*, bringing together new and exciting techniques to cultivate the diversity of perspectives needed to create plans. Finally, building from the success of WePlanCLE's HOMEchats described below, a conversation with Case Western Reserve University Professor Mark Joseph was highlighted that discussed how planners can be more intentional and understanding of what anti-racism means, and how planners can overcome unintentional biases in themselves and the planning process.
- ***WePlanCLE: HOMESchool:*** Every year, WePlanCLE is conceived to encourage collaboration, discussion, and great ideas, and in 2020 we recognized an even greater need for this civic dialogue. The theme HOME was particularly poignant as people spent more time than anticipated there due to stay at home orders, and demonstrated a deeper understanding of how different the idea of what HOME means for those faced with racial and societal injustices in light of the Black Lives Matter movement. Between June and August, the Cleveland Section released a weekly slate of 25 articles, podcasts, and videos in the WePlan HOMESchool program available via the APA Ohio website. These showcase both historical and contemporary forces that impact housing and one's perspective of home.
- ***WePlanCLE: HOMEtours:*** Interacting and exploring Northeast Ohio communities through citizen-led walks inspired by urban activist Jane Jacobs is a traditional part of WePlan's programming. Throughout the 2020 virtual edition, walking and biking routes were created and gathered, as a means of encouraging members to explore the region's communities in a socially distanced manner. Nine different neighborhoods are highlighted on the APA Ohio website, providing perspectives of what community can mean ranging from a bike tour of Slavic Village; to historic homes in Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and Union Miles; the thriving AsiaTown community; nature in Berea's Coe Lake Park; or exploring new development in University Circle, Detroit Shoreway and Downtown Cleveland.
- ***WePlanCLE: HOMEchats:*** The final element of the Cleveland Section's virtual WePlan programming were HOMEchats. These pre-recorded conversations with Northeast Ohio planners and civic advocates discuss the changes being seen in communities due to Covid-19, and how it's affecting our definition of HOME. In the discussions, topics ranged from how local communities and businesses are adapting, to how non-profits can support homeowners, incorporating anti-racism and social equity in planning, as well as the challenges, adventures, and new appreciation of time spent together at HOME.

***University Circle Inc. Mobility in the Modern Era Series:*** University Circle Inc. and uGO curated a monthly series of speakers that explored topics related to urban mobility and decision making that was offered for AICP CM credits. The series explored how new and different modes of transportation are beginning to share streets and sidewalks, and best practices cities are employing to help people get around. Modern mobility themes included pedestrian safety, innovation, shared mobility, and business partnerships.

### **Partnerships:**

- Partnerships were critical in 2020, including the sponsorship of the Cleveland International Film Festival's movie *Push*, a film highlighting the effects of new development in cities around the globe as they force long-term, lower income residents to evaluate the potential to remain in their neighborhoods. The City Club of Cleveland once again brought a wide variety of programming to the planning community, including the Cleveland Section's sponsorship of a local panel of planners as a part of the Friday Lunch Lecture Series in *Reopening and Reconnecting: Preparing for a New Normal* featuring Karis Tzeng (AsiaTown Cleveland), Ricardo Leon (MetroWest CDC), and Joe Duffy (formerly Union Miles CDC). A second community sponsorship of City Club programming included former mayor of Bogota, Colombia Enrique Penalosa's talk *Equity by Design: Sustainability, Mobility, and Building the Cities of the Future*. The Kent State University College of Architecture's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative offered a series of Friday virtual lunch lectures throughout the fall semester that brought together perspectives on equity, parks, civic design, and urban manufacturing.

### **#becauseweplan:**

- In 2020 APA Ohio held the Great Places in Ohio awards, honoring outstanding physical spaces that planners have made permanent through careful planning. Representing Northeast Ohio, the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls commercial district was designated as a great place due to its unique history and recent revitalization. Planning for the district linked economic development with infrastructure initiatives, marketing, and public spaces to attract new businesses and solidify Front Street as the anchor to the City's downtown.

### **Initiative:**

- The Cleveland Section is committed to maintaining and expanding its collaboration with the Cleveland State University Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs and its student APA organization. Each year, the Section sponsors a student award for outstanding work at the college, as well as awards to assist students that attend the APA National Conference. In 2020, members, graduates, and Cleveland Section officers served on the College's MUPD Advisory Board and assisted in the school's reaccreditation process.

### **2021 Goals:**

- The Cleveland Section will maintain its commitment to providing opportunities for free and accessible AICP CM credits for members throughout 2021, remaining flexible throughout the year as virtual and in-person programs are deemed safe and feasible.
- With an expanding geographic region encompassing all of Northeast Ohio, the Cleveland Section will prioritize the development of new programming and outreach strategies to better engage citizen and professional planners across diverse regions, ensuring members remain connected to one another and the organization.

## **Miami Valley Section**

**Director:** *Tim Davis*

### **Events:**

- **P&Z Workshop:** Held the 33rd annual Miami Valley Planning & Zoning workshop on December 6, 2019. The event was an all-day workshop held in the David H. Pointz Center at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH. The workshop had 30.25 credits certified by APA for the approximately 400 in attendance. The American Institute of Architects partnered for the workshop and was eligible for AIA credits.

- Unfortunately, many of the events we proudly sponsor (such as Miami Valley Cycling Summit and Miami Valley Communication Council Training for Public Officials) were cancelled due to COVID-19.

**Partnerships:**

- In the past, we partnered with US Green Building Council of SW Ohio and held “mixers” but events were cancelled due to COVID-19.

**#becauseweplan:**

The Greater Downtown Dayton Plan has provided the framework for many investments both in the core and throughout the surrounding area. These investments continue to accumulate, fostering a more connected and vibrant city center. For example:

- Downtown’s office towers continued to make major investments and improvements, including lobby upgrades, new murals, remodeled office spaces, new amenities, new owners, and more at such buildings as Stratacache Tower, the 130 Building, Talbott Tower, and Fifth Third Center.
- Downtown housing continues to grow in popularity and the number of units, as compact, walkable urban areas are the places people increasingly want to call home. There are now 1,715 market-rate housing units in our urban core – a 68% increase since 2010, with another 380 in the pipeline (102 already under construction).
- The developers of The Dayton Arcade have continued work on this downtown icon and still target the end of 2020 for some of the project’s major milestones as great progress was made on the project’s retail, business, and housing spaces.
- Link, downtown Dayton’s bike share program, officially re-launched with Drop Mobility, a software that runs completely off of an app to control the check-out process of the green bikes and the 100 new e-bikes (or electric assist bikes) that are a part of the system. Link originally launched in 2015 and, since then, more than 18,500 users have taken more than 140,000 trips.

**2021 Goals:**

- Continue to provide professional development while increasing educational opportunities for members, local jurisdictions, elected officials, and various local planning boards.
- Grow the annual Miami Valley Planning & Zoning Workshop

**Northwest Ohio Section**

**Director:** Patrick L. Etchie, AICP

"Learning with a Social Distancing Frame of Mind"

**Events:**

- *P&Z Workshop:* As most workshops and conferences in 2020, the Northwest Ohio Section cancelled our local event to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and we instead prepared a virtual session for the APA Ohio on-line virtual event held in October of 2020.
- The Northwest Ohio Section prepared a virtual session that was provided for a 2-hour webinar session on Thursday, October 22, 2020, as part of the APA Ohio's virtual workshop series in the month of October. The topic was a panel discussion of hot topics in zoning and also was approved for AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) Law Credits.
- Several Zoom meetings were held by the Northwest Ohio Section to discuss events of 2020 and to coordinate the session for the APA Ohio virtual workshop series.

**Partnerships:**

- The Northwest Ohio Section partnered with APA Ohio for the virtual workshop series.

***Initiative:***

- The Northwest Ohio Section contributed financial assistance to the Toledo Design Collective's Legacy Fund to support their internship program that routinely engages young planners to learn about urban planning that their organization conducts.

***2021 Goals:***

- Continue safe practices of learning during the Pandemic based on CDC and government guidance
- Begin to transition back to traditional learning as the Pandemic begins to lessen in 2020

