

Michigan Association of Planning Annual Report 2019/2020



The Michigan Association of Planning exists so that Michigan will consist of healthy, safe, attractive, and successful communities built first and foremost on quality community planning.



President's Message

Dear Michigan Planners,

Unprecedented. There is probably no other word that better sums up what type of year 2020 has been. We are all experiencing some of the toughest times of our professional and personal lives. Not only are we living through a global pandemic that has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, our local and state economies have been hit, and we are reckoning with the fallout from decades of systemic racism and social injustice. Here in Michigan over 1 million of us have filed for unemployment. There have been countless protests and marches in cities large and small across the state. Many of the businesses in our communities remain closed and our schools are struggling to find the right balance between providing meaningful education for our children while also keeping them safe.

Yet, our work as planners has not stopped. In these tumultuous times our work around ensuring the health, safety and general welfare for our residents has become even more critical. As practitioners we use policies and procedures to create an environment that is equitable and sustainable and meets the needs of all stakeholders. As conveners we use our skills to bring people together to amplify their voices and perspectives to improve the quality of life for everyone. As community developers we use our tools to drive investment and redevelopment in innovative and responsible ways. All across the state we are pivoting in response to the world around us and we are succeeding in our goal of *“Creating Great Communities For All”*.

The attached 2020 Annual Report is a reflection of MAP's ability to shift how we serve our members. As things started to shut down and in-person meetings became nearly impossible, our staff quickly sprung into action. Trainings and workshops went remote. We stepped up our online communications. And we held our first-ever virtual *Planning Michigan* Conference. MAP continues to be agile in its response to our ever-changing environment.

As we continue to move into uncharted territory, the MAP Board and staff are confident that we are up for this challenge. While 2020 may not have been the year any of us expected, we look to 2021 with a greater focus on the things that matter most. Thank you for your dedication and commitment and for all the work you do every day to make our state, and our world, a better place for all of us.

In Solidarity,
Jerrell Harris

2020 Board President | Michigan Association of Planning



Executive Director's Message

This annual report covers MAP's most recent fiscal year which commenced on July 1, 2019 and continued through June 30, 2020, and what a ride it's been.

The 2019 Annual Planning Michigan conference in Kalamazoo went off without a hitch, attracting more than 500 attendees and delivering the expected high level national speakers, motivating breakouts, exploratory mobile workshops, and lots of opportunities to network and learn. Little did we know what the remainder of the year would bring.

Our Transportation Bonanza was in early February, 2020 drew more than 200 community planners; transportation planners, policy experts, and engineers; health professionals; and planning and zoning officials. By then, we'd heard about the Corona Virus, but it had not made much of an appearance yet in the United States. By March 2020 our Regional Workshop Series was in full swing, with hundreds registered and attending planning and zoning classes across the state, learning about their roles and responsibilities, along with some advanced courses too. Mid way through the series, Michigan came to a halt, and so did our Regional Workshop Series. A grinding halt. On March 16 schools shut down, and on March 18 Governor Whitmer issued an Executive Order mandating stay at home protocols. We'd already postponed half of the workshops the week before, and were preparing for . . . we were not sure what!

By the end of March, MAP had pivoted (yes, yes, the word is overused, but it is indeed a very good word!) and within two weeks we had developed and would launch 14 webinars from Mid-April to early June. Many of our AICP certified planners count on CM credits at the annual Spring Institute, and with that May event cancelled, and we couldn't let them down. The workshops included two, 2-part legal seminars covering the Planning and Zoning enabling acts for those elusive Law credits. We learned things about running remote workshops we never knew we needed to know! And good thing, because we also began to plan the 2020 Annual Planning Michigan Conference, which would be conducted remotely.

We also completed two EGLE grants this fiscal year, with our Survive and Thrive publication going to print in December 2019, and the completion of our Planning for Tourism project, which yielded a spectacular How To Manual for integrating best practices for tourism into master plans. We launched phase one of a Tools for Officials project in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's RRC program, and culminated our partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, which elevated planning among county health departments and their 4 x 4 Communities.

And while the legislature effectively shut down in March, prior to that we were in Lansing regularly working with our lobby partners at MML and MTA to fight off bad legislation dealing with sand and gravel operations, tree removal ordinances, and Short Term Rentals.

Andrea Brown, AICP

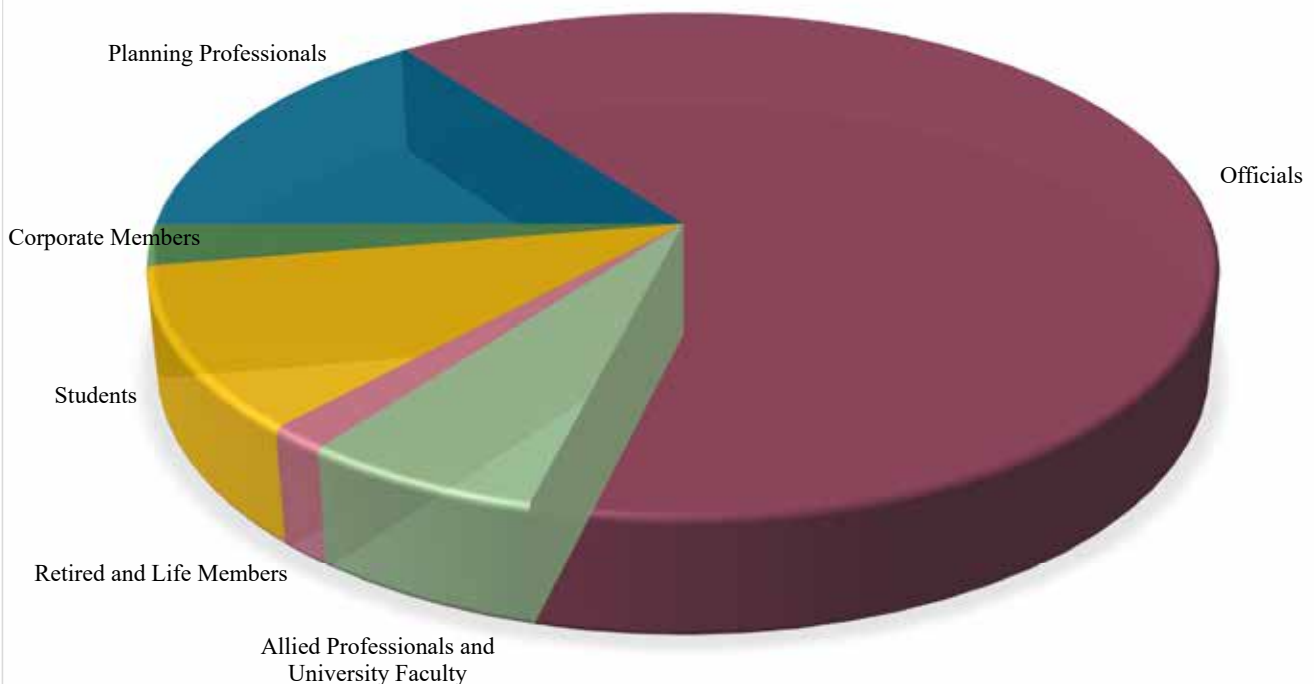
Executive Director | Michigan Association of Planning

Membership

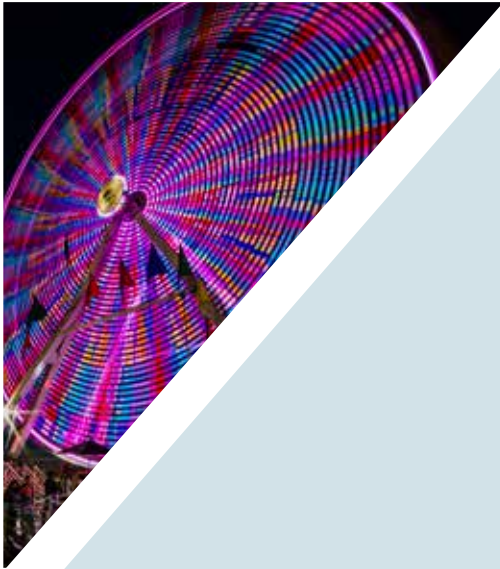
MAP is the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association. We are a membership based 501 c 3 nonprofit organization with some 4,200 members. We have members from all over the state, from Mastodon Township in the UP, to the Village of Dundee in southern Michigan, from Niles to Oscoda Township. From A (Acme!) to Z (Zeeland!), our membership is diverse and is generally divided into two categories:

- **Chapter only groups and individuals are typically local elected (township board and city council and commission members) and appointed officials (planning commissioners and zoning board of appeals members) representing all types of local government (townships, cities, villages and counties).** We count among our chapter only members 199 groups (up to 12 members of a municipality, usually the planning commission or zoning board, and sometimes non-professional planning staff), and more than 140 members classified as individual chapter only members. When we say “Chapter Only” we mean they do not also have a membership with the American Planning Association.
- **Michigan Chapter, APA members are typically professional planners.** 380 of our members hold the AICP or FAICP certification. We currently have 6 AICP Candidates. An AICP Candidate has passed the AICP exam and is in the process of obtaining the required years of experiencing for full AICP certification.

MAP MEMBERSHIP



Corporate Members



*The Michigan Association of Planning thanks
our Corporate Members 2019-2020*

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.
Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.
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**Michigan Economic Development
Corporation (MEDC)**
MKSK
OHM Advisors
Safe Routes To School (SR2S)
SmithGroup
Wade Trim

*MAP extends a big thank you to
our 2019-2020 Contributing Members*

Lisa Easterwood, CST.
Christopher Graham, ASLA
Troy Jeschke

Emily Palacios, JD
Daniel Reed, AICP, PCP



2019-2020 Sustaining Members

Richard Carlisle, PCP, FAICP
Stephen Cassin, AICP
Kevin Christiansen, AICP, PCP
Bill Hartwig
John R. Jackson, AICP
Steve Langworthy
Phillip McKenna, AICP, PCP
Mark F. Miller, AICP

Gregory Need
Gerald Rowe, PCP
Andrew Schmidt, AICP
David Schneider
David Scurto, AICP, PCP
David P. Smith
Mark Wyckoff, FAICP

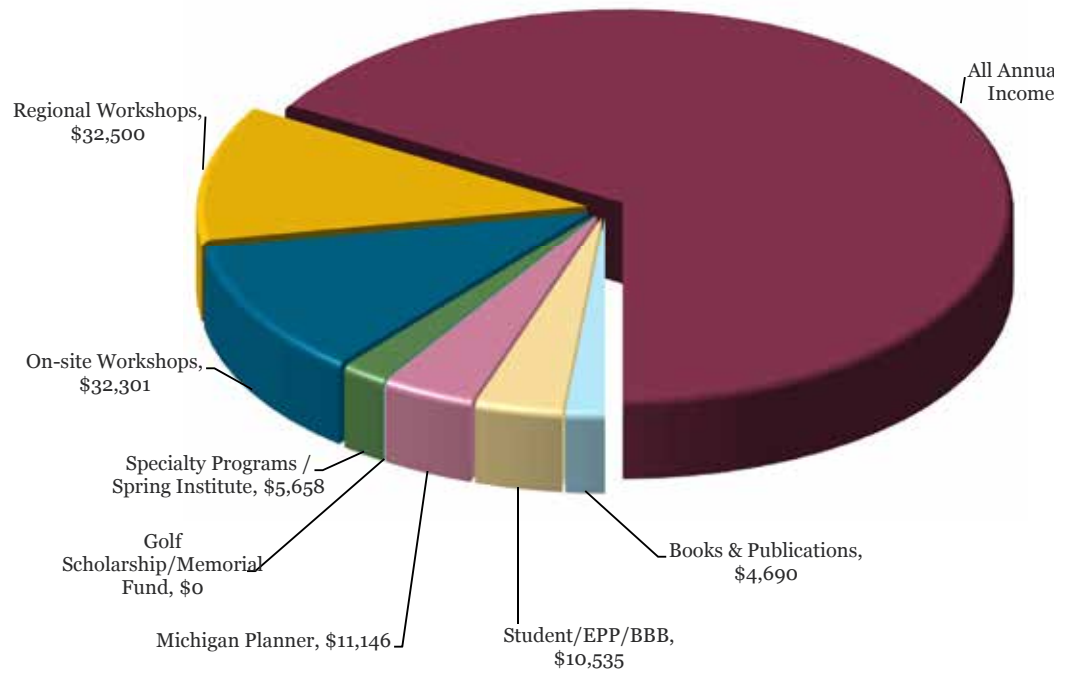


Treasurer's Report



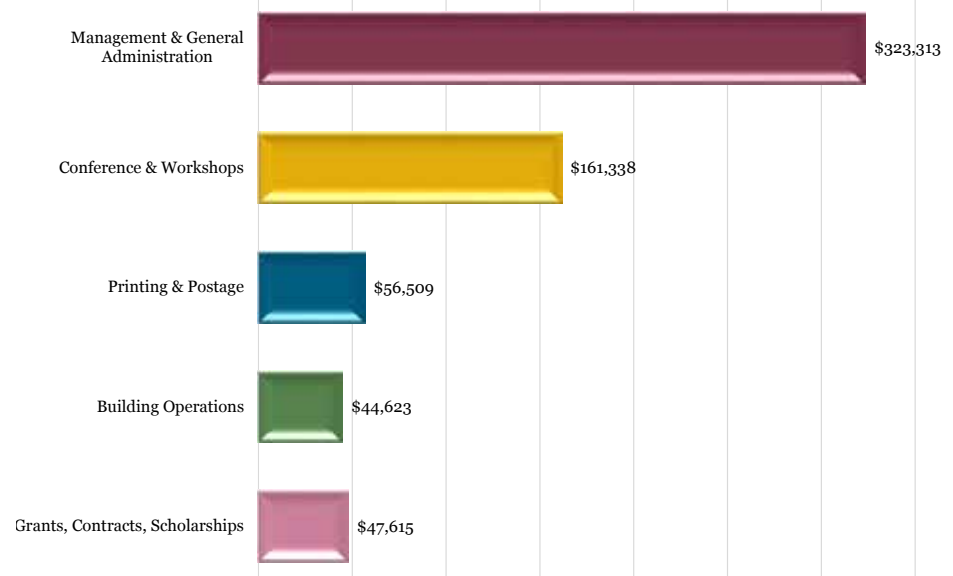
We end the 2019-2020 fiscal year on a high note, with a profit of almost \$14,000. Our annual budget is developed in two parts: the general operating budget and the grants budget. When the budget was developed in May of 2019, we were predicting \$721,814 in overall revenues and \$691,482 in predicted revenues. While we fell short of the overall predictions, we still maintained a healthy profit. Our major revenue sources are memberships (\$238,757), profits from conference (\$52,000), and workshops like our Spring Institute (postponed from this fiscal year to December of the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year), Regional Workshops (due to COVID and emergency executive orders from the governor, we shut them down in mid-March, and rescheduled remote events in April and May, 2020). Typically we make a profit of close to \$5,000 from Spring Institute, and that is after expenses, which was affected by the COVID shutdown.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS INCOME



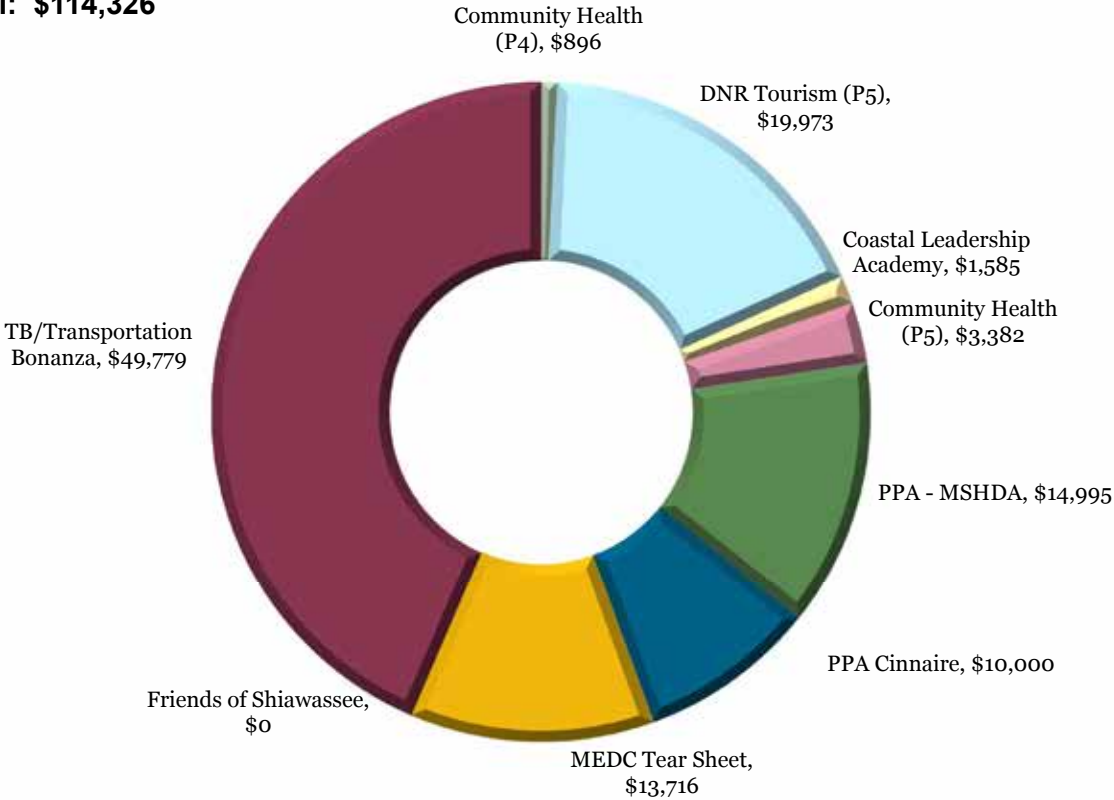
EXPENSES

Total: \$633,398



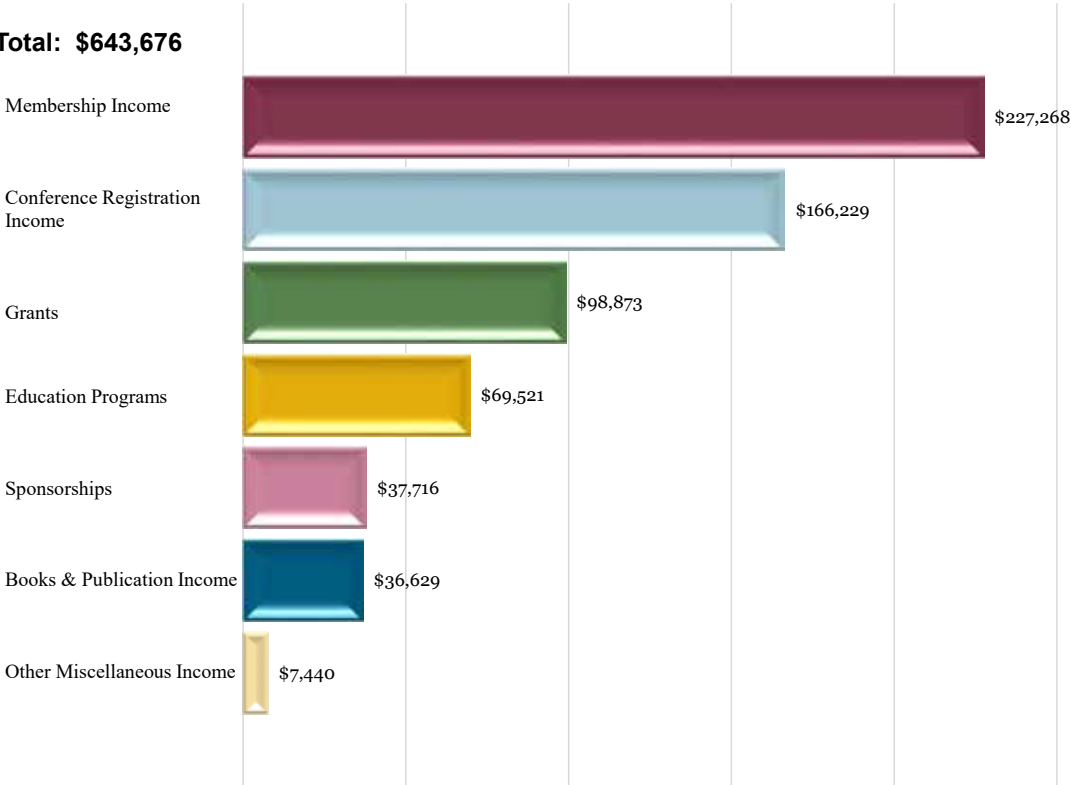
GRANT INCOME

Total: \$114,326



REVENUE SOURCES

Total: \$643,676



Educational Programs

By every measure, MAP's educational offerings attracted high attendance, high quality content, expert speakers, and satisfied participants. From the annual conference in Kalamazoo in September 2019 to setting a record with the number of On Site Workshops delivered, we provide targeted, high level training products to our members. We educated over 2,800 individuals in 2019-2020 fiscal year. Our content is constructed to meet the discreet needs of two diverse audiences: the professional planner and the local elected or appointed official. In addition, students and emerging planning professionals are a significant portion of our membership, and they have their own particular education and networking needs. MAP's professional development events are established anew each year to ensure that topics are timely and relevant.

Annual Conference. We were in Kalamazoo September 25 to 27, 2019 for our annual conference, and attracted more than 500 participants, among them 35 students. Our keynote speakers included Mike Green of ScaleUp Partners, and Jennifer Nichols from the Frameworks Institute. During the opening session a dozen climate change protesters, complete with drums and banners, descended on the stage. While MAP is a strong advocate for aggressive climate mitigation policy, the protesters were escorted from the stage by our very capable president Jerrell Harris. We had plenty of breakout sessions, opportunities to network and engage, and explorations of downtown Kalamazoo. Mobile tours went by bus, walking and kayak this year. Planners love to kayak!

Regional Workshops for Planning and Zoning Officials. Our annual regional workshops were a moving target this year, as COVID shutdowns were implemented before we were halfway through. With half the workshops completed, we pivoted to reschedule the remaining virtually, via Zoom, in June. In the end, MAP trained 349 planning and zoning officials and zoning administrators (195 in

person prior to the pandemic and 154 in remote training). Communities send new officials year after year, recognizing the great value informed officials bring to community decision makers, as well as repeat participants there for a refresh, and we are humbled that they turn to us for our workshops.

On Site Workshops. With 18 locations, 9 different topics, 15 in person workshops and 5 virtual workshops, our popular onsite program kept MAP staff busy this year. Some 543 individuals participated, making our 2019 – 20 On Site Workshop one of our most successful yet. We learned that we can provide quality training when everyone must stay home to stay safe. On Sites are one of our most popular training products. Topics range from the ever-popular Planning and Zoning Essentials to more specialized and advanced topics like Managing Risk, Site Plan Review and Master Planning Process.

On site workshops allow groups or municipalities to host a MAP workshop in their community, resulting in costs savings and the ability to provide even more local leaders with access to the education. MAP arranges for an instructor and sends workshop materials to the community. MAP's partnerships with Redevelopment Ready Communities, regions, and counties have allowed even greater access to excellent information.

Transportation Bonanza (TB) 2020. We passed a milestone of partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation and their Safe Routes to School Program at TB 11, now working together for more than a decade. We trained 214 professional planners, transportation and policy planners, engineers and health professionals at our February 2020 event, highlighted 2 general session national speakers, and continued to move the needle on innovative, multi-modal transportation options for all.

This year, we again leveraged our partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to add session offerings. A portion of this project was made possible through funding from Michigan's Health & Wellness 4X4 Plan.

Spring Institute (SI) 2020. MAP was just beginning to promote our Spring Institute – originally scheduled for May 2020 - when the Stay at Home Order was issued. MAP will deliver this program and all of the amazing content in December 2020.

Spring 2020 Remote Learning Series. In the days following the COVID shutdowns, MAP staff realized we would need to provide our AICP planners with Certificating Maintenance (CM) credits that they counted on securing at Spring Institute. With that event postponed, we pivoted to launch a virtual Lunch Learn Link series. This was originally conceived as an informal opportunity for planners to share new methods, protocols and strategies, but demand was so high that we reframed the conversations into a workshop format. Our parallel Planners Response to the Pandemic provided tools, techniques and policies for the here and now, and moving forward, including topics like scenario planning, hazard mitigation and economic recovery. In total, we offered 8 workshops in 8 weeks, attracting more than 450 participants.

In addition, we offered a 4-part Planning Law series on the Michigan Planning Enabling Act and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.

We provided CM credits for all of these remote sessions and trained more than 1,000 professionals in 6 short weeks.

Breakfast | Beverages | Bright Ideas | Books (BBBB). MAP developed its BBB series in 2012, 8 years ago, as part of our intentional efforts to connect more deeply with planners in the City of Detroit, and to provide informal opportunities to network and learn and highlight planning and development efforts in Michigan's largest city. Over the years the series evolved, and we've now hosted events in communities across the state. In 2019-2020 we hosted two Detroit BBB's, one on Detroit's east side complete with a bus tour and fabulous breakfast, and the other a walking tour in Corktown showcasing the changes in that neighborhood with an inside tour of the Central Depot.

Prior to the pandemic, the MAP Reads book group met every other month in offices and coffee shops in Detroit to discuss books related to planning, racial justice, and the City of Detroit. Since the pandemic, the book group has met via Zoom every month. Selections this year have included *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*; *Broke*, and *The Great Stink of London*.

It is a fluid and informal group. On average 15 people attend this event.



Grants

MAP values the relationships it has with state agencies and other partners who recognize the benefits of collaborating to integrate planning into state policy priorities. MAP is humbled to work closely in 2019–2020 with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC); and the Michigan Department of Transportation and its Safe Routes to School Program (MDOT|SRTS); and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.



Michigan Department of Transportation and its Safe Routes to School Program (MDOT|SRTS) The MAP and MDOT collaboration remains stronger than ever, and we completed the 12th year of our Safe Routes to School Partnership, and our 11th Transportation Bonanza. This event has become foundational to MAP's educational offerings, and the grant funding allows us to develop multidisciplinary, innovative and forward thinking programming that attracts a multidisciplinary audience of professional planners and engineers, transportation engineers, planners and policy experts, public health and education professionals, and more. This year's event attracted 217 attendees. We offered two national speakers, 3 breakout session tracks, and a new partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services with a customized track for their 4 x 4 communities.



Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) MAP continues to support the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program by supplementing the training MEDC delivers to RRC communities with workshops from our menu of offerings. This year we partnered to deliver the Capital Improvements Program and Risk Management. In addition we completed phase one of a two part project, the development of Tear Sheet information guides on a variety of basic and advanced topics to help municipal planners, officials, and other community leaders understand contemporary themes in planning and development.



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) MDHHS renewed MAP's Planning for Health technical assistance grant in January 2020. The grant allowed MAP to again develop a special

session track at Transportation Bonanza focused on the health aspects of active transportation. The MDHHS grant covered registration for health coalition members in Berrien, Oakland and Kent counties, in addition to MDHHS staff. The grant also calls for MAP to provide technical assistance to the three health coalitions as they work to implement active transportation work plans. This grant will continue through September 2020.

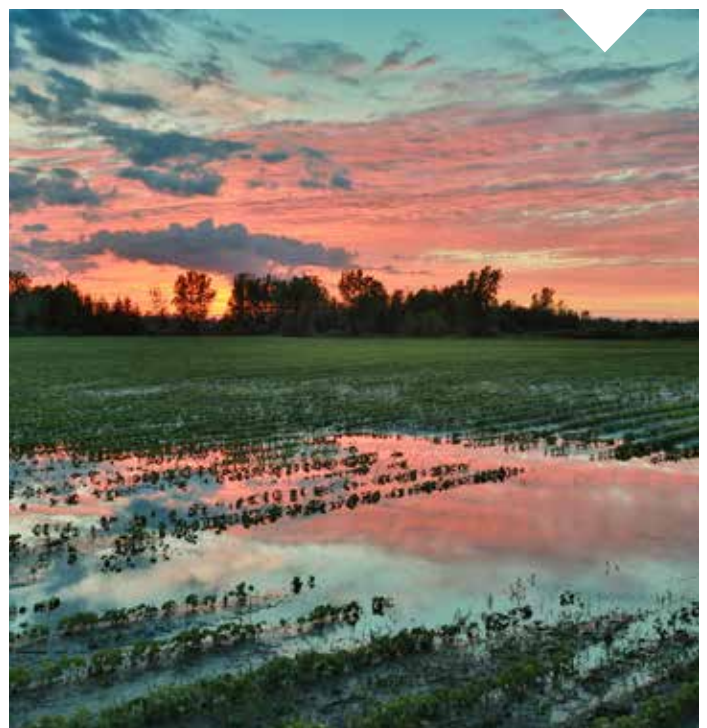


Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) MAP's *Best Practices Guide for Sustainable Tourism* project, launched in January 2019, received additional funding and a time extension in August 2019 to gather deeper stakeholder feedback from communities dealing with tourism impacts. MAP staff conducted a series of focus groups and interviews in November and December 2019 with tourism stakeholders in Cheboygan, Alpena, Marquette and Munising. Focus groups planned for Traverse City were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Throughout the project, the work of the project team was guided by an advisory committee of tourism experts representing academia, regional planning agencies, tourism organizations, non-profits and state agencies.

The project involved an extensive search of the tourism planning literature; an online survey of coastal community officials and tourism professionals; and discussions with community stakeholders about tourism benefits and impacts. As a result of this research, MAP staff produced a hard-copy *Michigan Planner* issue in May 2020 focused on

tourism planning, which was mailed to 4000 MAP members, and published a 112-page resource guide, *Master Planning for Tourism in Michigan*, in June 2020, which was mailed to coastal counties, regional planning agencies, planning consultants, and convention and visitor bureaus throughout the state. The guide and additional resource information has been added to the MAP website (www.planningmi.org/tourism). The project is now complete.

EGLE included MAP as a partner in a NOAA Project of Special Merit, which was approved in November 2019. The Coastal Leadership Academy project teams MAP with Michigan Sea Grant and the University of Michigan to conduct a cohort-learning program for communities interested in identifying planning and zoning solutions to address coastal hazards such as shoreline erosion. Originally proposed as a series of three in-person workshops with a cohort of 25-35 people, the project has been restructured due to COVID-19 health concerns to three virtual workshops with a smaller cohort from Emmet County communities. The workshops will be organized and facilitated by MAP, with assistance from topic area experts, and take place from October-December 2020. The grant ends on December 31, 2020.



Partnerships & Collaborations

Partnerships and collaborations allow MAP to integrate planning, community resilience, and equity into the work and policies of other organizations. We are frequently called upon to represent the voice of planning in many state and non-profit organization's initiatives.

This year we worked with the AARP on their Age Friendly Communities, adopting a resolution in support of the initiative, and serving on an advisory board; as a steering committee member for the Michigan Department of Transportation's Long Range Transportation Plan 2045; as a member of MSHDA/MML's Sense of Place Council, and as a member of the smaller leadership team which guides the work of the Council; as a member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporations' (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Advisory Board and as a member of their Michigan Main Street Program Steering Committee. We also were represented on a leadership team with our funders at EGLE to strategize with partners about implementing coastal resilience best practices to mitigate impacts of severe weather events; and served as advisor to Community and Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) Ameri Corp fellows.

American Planning Association (APA) Activities

APA National Planning Conference. The APA Chapter President's Council (CPC) representative Suzanne Schulz, AICP, completed her 3 year assignment in fall 2019 representing MAP at the APA fall leadership conference in Washington DC. New Chapter President's Council (CPC) Representative Sarah Lucas, AICP, would have initiated her duties in person at the April 2020 APA National Conference in Houston, but the event was cancelled due to COVID. Ms. Lucas has participated in many zoom leadership calls instead. The CPC typically travels twice annually for leadership meetings with APA staff, and presidents of other APA Chapters.

APA Policy and Advocacy Conference. Wayne Beyea, JD, AICP, MAP's legislative liaison to the APA also traveled to DC in September 2019 to participate in the APA Policy and Advocacy Conference. We received a grant from APA to subsidize his travel.

Financial Reports|Membership Rosters. The Michigan Chapter provides quarterly financial statements to the APA. The APA provides quarterly membership rosters to the Chapter, and also quarterly reimbursements for the Chapter dues our APA members make directly to APA.

2019 – 2020 AICP. The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is the credentialing that provides the only nationwide, independent verification of a planner's qualifications. Certified Planners pledge to uphold high standards of practice, ethics, and professional conduct, and to keep their skills sharp and up to date by continuously pursuing advanced professional education. It is recognized by hiring professionals, and is the standard bearer for credentialing in our industry.

In November 2019, ten Michigan planners passed the exam (an 83% pass rate). The May exam was postponed due the COVID-19 pandemic. The exam was rescheduled for July, but no Michigan planners elected to take the exam.



FAICP Recipients

Every other year the Chapter FAICP nominating committee identifies candidates who are eligible to be nominated for the Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP). The selection criteria is onerous, and the submission process difficult. Fellows of AICP are nominated and selected by their peers to recognize and honor their outstanding contributions as a professional planner. The outcomes of their individual efforts left demonstrably significant and transformational improvements to the field of planning and the communities they served. All Fellows are long-time members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, and community service and leadership.

In December 2019, Rory Bolger, FAICP, Richard Carlisle, FAICP, and John Iacoangeli, FAICP were inducted into AICP College of Fellows. John, Dick and Rory join the ranks of Michigan's other FAICP's: Mary Ann Heidemann, Zenia Kotval, Robert W. Marans, James A. Segedy, James E. Tischler, Norman R. Tyler, Cynthia E. Winland, and Mark A. Wyckoff. Congratulations!



M. Rory Bolger, PhD, AICP

Well before Dr. Bolger began his 33-year career as a planner, his work as a Peace Corps/Panama volunteer and years with CDCs in Detroit launched him on a trajectory of public service. His ability to craft land use regulation and explain the nuts and bolts of zoning (in two languages) have helped empower community voices and strike a responsible balance between spirited entrepreneurs and under-resourced neighborhoods. He has authored/edited the majority of Detroit's zoning text amendments since 1986.



Richard K. Carlisle, AICP

Having served hundreds of Michigan communities as a planning consultant for forty years, Dick was the guiding influence in the merger of the Michigan Association of Planning and the Michigan Society of Planning Officials, resulting in one of the largest chapters in the country. Dick realizes that community building extends beyond the profession as a strong advocate for people with disabilities by forming support organizations and leading Michigan's campaign to expand the Best Buddies program.



John Iacoangeli, AICP

John Iacoangeli's planning career can be summed up in two words: transformational and transferable. As a hands-on planner, he recognizes the importance of community inclusion, using the opportunity to educate participants on the value of planning with an eye toward achievable results and preparing them to transform their community. John has also served his home community as mayor, councilmember, and board member on several commissions.

Student Membership

Membership. APA and MAP continued to promote APA's expanded free student membership program over the past fiscal year. MAP's student cohort declined from 404 members in June 2019 to 306 members in June 2020, due primarily to APA moving graduated students to an introductory paid membership when their free memberships ended in September.

Activities and Events. To encourage student members to engage in the chapter, MAP staff visited orientation and classes at Wayne State University and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in the fall semester, 2019. MAP staff sent monthly e-bulletins to student members highlighting MAP events, the AICP candidate program, scholarship announcements and networking opportunities.

Student MAP Conference. The Student MAP conference, organized by student representatives from four universities, was held on a Saturday in February at Wayne State University. The one-day conference included a keynote address by Clarinda Barnett Harrison of Ford Smart Mobility; a student poster session; breakout sessions taught by MAP members covering food systems, environmental planning, zoning basics and Complete Streets; resume review and job search tips; and roundtable discussions with professional planners. The event evaluation showed a 92% satisfaction rate, with 95% of participants indicating the reason they attended the event was to network with professionals.

Student Board Members. Two student board members are appointed to the MAP board each year, with representation rotating between the 4 accredited universities. In 2019 – 20, Wayne State University students Shaniqua Gibson and Vickie Swanson served through April 2020, at which time Najma Muhamad and Quinn Kendra from Michigan State University were appointed. The student terms cross fiscal years.

Student Scholarships. The Scholarship Committee received two scholarship applications in April 2020: one undergraduate and one graduate. The committee awarded both applicants scholarships totaling \$2,500, which will be distributed in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Outstanding Student Project Awards. The Scholarship Committee received and reviewed two graduate project nominations in April 2020 and awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Project Award to both projects.



Emerging Planning Professionals (EPP)

MAP supports an EPP committee that meets monthly to network, share information and plan activities connected to the group's goals to be a voice for new professionals and a bridge between recent graduates and professionals. During FY2019-2020, the EPP Committee hosted the second annual Planner Trivia night at the Planning Michigan conference; piloted a mentorship program; and organized several after hour and virtual meet-ups. The group's annual career building event, scheduled for May 2020, was cancelled due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The EPP is chaired by Jada Tilison-Love (CEDAM, City of Ypsilanti) and Katie Reilly (City of Kalamazoo).



Advocacy

Much of MAP's legislative advocacy efforts in recent years were focused on defending the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MPEA) and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MZEA) from damaging amendments introduced by various legislators, often with their outcome intended to help an individual property owner or a single industry.

We fought the good fight again this year, often in collaboration with our advocacy partners at the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Townships Association. We testified, submitted letters of opposition (and offers to assist!), and sent legislative alerts to our members with

talking points and links to their legislators for many bills. Some highlights include Short Term Rental bills and Sand and Gravel Mining bills.

And there were high points too. The MAP Law Committee dusted off the long dormant MZEA clean up language that the MAP law committee has been working on for several years and we've devoted considerable time this year on final fixes. You may recall that when the Municipal, Township and County Zoning Acts were unified into a single act back in 2008, no substantive changes were made. This set of MAP led changes will address necessary

corrective amendments, like removing references to Zoning Commissions, improving public hearing notifications, provide simple mechanisms to correct drafting errors, and to correct typos and other miscellaneous issues. MAP convened a workgroup composed of staff lobbyists and legal counsel from MML and MTA, along with the MAP Law Committee members who drafted the amendments. Many thanks to Mark Wyckoff, FAICP; Dick Norton, University of Michigan; Doug Piggott, AICP, Rowe Professional Services; Emily Palacios, Miller Canfield; Wayne Beyea, JD, AICP, MAP board law committee liaison; and Justin Sprague, CIB Planning.

MAP Board

The MAP Board elections were conducted in August 2019, and three incumbents ran for 3 seats, and were handily reelected. Following the 2019 Annual Conference in Kalamazoo, the board began to develop its work plan, which would be completed at the annual retreat in January 2020. At the retreat the board identifies the themes, topics and policy priorities it will study in the upcoming year. The board determined that policy efforts should continue to complete the Equitable Economic Development Policy, and that climate and clean energy planning would be explored through linkage meetings with experts in those areas. They also agreed to take the show on the road, and programmed membership meetings in May in Southwest Michigan and in September Sault Ste. Marie. The objective of Board member outreach meetings is to take the board to the members, do discovery on the issues and interests in a geographic area, and embed take aways in MAP products, policies or follow up activities. Both traveling meetings were cancelled due to COVID.

A major accomplishment in spring 2020 was the updating and adopting of the MAP By Laws. While MAP has an engaged and committed nominating committee that seeks out professionals to run for the board based on many factors (geographic location, sector [public, private, nonprofit], gender, race and ethnicity) it isn't always easy to fill a seat with a voice MAP leadership embraces. So to better embrace voices that are necessary on the board, but difficult to capture in election slates, the bylaws were changed to create two new ex-officio non voting positions. A seat for an elected leader or an appointed planning or zoning official, and a university faculty representative. Other changes to the bylaws made the Professional Development Officer (PDO) a position that would be elected by the membership, rather than appointed by the board; and this position would continue to serve on the executive committee. We are thrilled to welcome these new voices to the board deliberations.



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