

Candidate to be Included on Slate

Michigan Chapter

Board Member at Large

Laura Haw, AICP

271862

Position Statement:

Michigan is at a pivotal moment for planning. Communities across the state are grappling with persistent challenges—from housing affordability and transit access to climate resilience and environmental health. This moment calls for bold leadership and coordinated, statewide action. I see this board role as a powerful opportunity—not only to advance sound planning policy, but also to serve as a strong bridge between MAP and its diverse membership. I’m committed to being an engaged, thoughtful board member who helps steer MAP toward lasting impact.

Over the past 12 years, my work as a planning and design professional has spanned communities of all sizes across Michigan—from urban cores to rural townships. Through projects involving zoning reform, economic development, housing strategy, infrastructure investment, and mobility planning, I’ve seen how planning directly influences quality of life. These experiences have sharpened my understanding of the complexities of local governance and reinforced the need for collaborative, state-level solutions. MAP plays a crucial role in shaping and advancing that vision, and I am eager to support its ongoing efforts.

I also bring a deep commitment to advancing the profession. I’m a certified planner (AICP) with specialized training in systems management and facilitation from the National Charrette Institute. I’ve taught as an adjunct professor at Eastern Michigan University, presented at MAP and National APA conferences, and since Fall 2024, have served on MAP’s Governmental Relations Committee, where I’ve deepened my engagement with state policy and advocacy. I believe MAP is uniquely positioned to lead bold, collaborative solutions for Michigan’s future. Serving on the Board would be an honor—and a chance to help shape the future of planning across the state.

Professional Experience

- 2017 - Present: Vice President and Planner / Designer, McKenna
(Team Leader for Southeast Michigan offices since 2019)
- 2016 - 2017: Planner / Designer, Atwell Engineering
- 2013 - 2016: Planner, McKenna

Education

- Master of Urban Planning: Physical Planning and Design | Taubman College, University of Michigan 2013
- Bachelor of Arts (with honors): Political Science / Pre-Law | Michigan State University 2011
- Bachelor of Arts (with honors): International Development | Michigan State University 2011

Certifications, Affiliations & Achievements

- American Institute of Certified Planners, AICP (2017) / American Planning Association, APA
- Michigan Association of Planning, MAP
- National Charrette Institute (NCI), Charrette Systems and Management and Facilitation
- “Do Creative and Helpful Staff Reports Exist?”
Michigan Association of Planning Annual Conference, Mackinac Island, Michigan, 2022 and the Student Michigan Association of Planning (SMAP) Annual Conference, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 2023
- “Develop Your Parks Inventory with One (or-Two) Clicks”
National Planning Conference - American Planning Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2023
- Commissioner, Environmental Leadership Commission, Charter Township of Plymouth, 2020 - 2023

- Adjunct Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, Eastern Michigan University
Winter / Spring 2023: URP 410 Site Planning Studio / URP 559 Preservation Studio
- Project Manager and Research Fellow, Policy Team, New Story Non-Profit, 2020 - 2021
- MAP Government Relations Committee, Member, 2024 - Present