The Nebraska Planner

A joint publication of APA Nebraska and NPZA

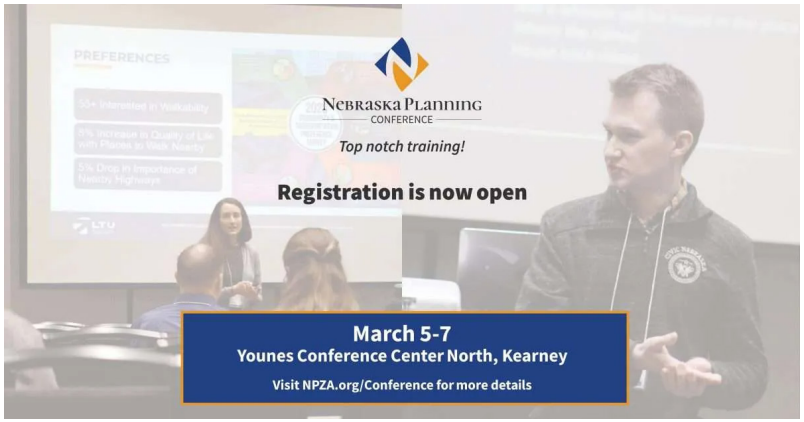
January 2025

Newsletter Editor - Cale Brodersen, AICP, cbrodersen@cityoflavista.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTER NOW FOR THE NEBRASKA PLANNING CONFERENCE!

The 2025 Nebraska Planning Conference will take place on March 5-7 at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney, NE. The agenda has been set, and registration is now open! For more information, and to register, visit NPZA's website here.



NEW ROLES FOR DR. ZHENGHONG TANG AND DR. YUNWOO NAM AT UNL

Dr. Tang, who has served as the program director for the Community and Regional Planning Program at UNL has accepted the position of Associate Dean for Research and Innovation. Yunwoo Nam will assume the role of Program Director for the Community and Regional Planning Program. Learn more about their new roles and responsibilities on page 12.

IAP2 MIDWEST CONFERENCE IN OMAHA APRIL 23-25, 2025

The conference for the Midwest Chapter of the International Association for Public Participation is in our state this year! Head to Omaha on April 23-25th to share ideas, build connections, and explore new ways to make engagement meaningful. This year's theme is *Weaving Vibrant Networks that Energize Engagement*. Learn more and register here.

NPZA AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE 2/3/25

NPZA recognizes outstanding individuals and communities that have contributed to the field of planning in Nebraska. You can make nominations for awards until 2/3/2025. Learn more and submit nominations here.

AICP DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

Interested in an AICP Certification Diversity Scholarship for the May 2025 AICP exam or the June 2025 Experience Assessment? The window to apply for the AICP Certification Diversity Scholarship is now open through, and will continue through February. Learn more here.

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PRESIDENTS' UPDATES

Looking back on 2024, APA Nebraska continued to offer exceptional learning opportunities including the spring conference and fall workshop. We held quarterly virtual book clubs, many pints with planners events, our annual meeting, and continued to release biweekly episodes of Booked on Planning. We could not have done any of this without the commitment of dedicated volunteers who make our Chapter a success. We may be on the smaller side of chapters, but we are competing with the larger staffed chapters in terms of program offerings.

Looking ahead to 2025 we are excited to announce the receipt of a Chapter Presidents Council Administrative Grant that will help us build out a suite of materials to support chapter members in conducting youth engagement across the state. In additional, we will be able to overhaul our financial system to increase efficiency and make it easier for an all-volunteer board to manage. We are also looking forward to engaging our membership through the Legislative Committee during this year's legislative cycle, with more timely updates and opportunities to engage with our state legislators. Soon we will be gathering for our first winter holiday event, another opportunity to celebrate the work we do as planners. As we close out another great year of planning to embark on another, as Chapter President I want to thank all our members and volunteers for supporting the work we do in our communities.

Stephanie Rouse, AICP - APA NE President

Happy New Year 2025! Hoping all of you had a wonderful holiday with family and friends and took time celebrate and reflect on the previous year while looking forward to the new year filled with new ideas for the future.

2024 was a great year for the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association and as we all are aware, planning always comes with new challenges and new creative ideas to tackle any obstacle in front of us.

The Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association (NPZA) and the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NE) have scheduled the 2025 Nebraska Planning Conference for March 5-7 at the Younes Conference Center North, in Kearney, Nebraska. Registration is out and the hotel block is open so make your arrangements and we can't wait to see you there! You can check the NPZA Website for all of the relevent information. We are looking forward to another great conference with a broad range of sessions with topics that are sure to appeal to everyone.

Hope to see most of you at the conference in March and wishing you all a great start to 2025!

For more information on the annual conference, or on NPZA itself, please check out the NPZA website or follow our activities on Facebook and Twitter as well.

Judy Clark, MPA - NPZA President

PEOPLE-CENTERED PLANNING: ELEVATING VOICES, SHAPING PLACES

BY: MELODY HENNING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST, JEO CONSULTING GROUP

Growing up in the oldest part of Kansas City, I saw how the lack of community engagement and poor planning can divide a city and break up tightly knit neighborhoods. A perfect example is Strawberry Hill. In 1957, one-third of this historic neighborhood was bulldozed and the streetcar rails that transported people from Kansas City, Kansas, and Missouri on what was once called the Intercity Viaduct were ripped up after President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act into law and Interstate 70 was built. The deterioration of this tightly woven community, where my great-grandparents rooted themselves after immigrating from Croatia, was a rude awakening to the American Dream that they and many others worked hard to envision and build. Over time, other socio-economic factors contributed to the relocation of wealth to the sprawling suburbs.

Planning projects often have dramatic impacts in the present and vast implications for the future, so it is essential to unearth as many considerations as possible early in the process to produce the most favorable outcomes. To develop a thoughtful approach to planning and community engagement, one must turn to the experts and connect to the breadth of knowledge available through similar boots on the ground. In a former role with my local city government, I learned about the premier professional organization – the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2), which guides practitioners in engaging public input to solve problems and make decisions effectively. This organization is recognized worldwide and active in Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Latin America, South Africa, and the USA.

Painting by Marijana Grisnik. 1983. Strawberry Hill before I-70 was built.

IAP2 USA leads, advances, and advocates for best practices in public participation. As members, we have access to resources through webinars, conferences, training, research, and mentorship with a community of more than 2,500 members across 48 states. The organization's three pillars—its Core Values, Code of Ethics, and Spectrum of Public Participation—drive its mission and vision, which is "a country where public participation is deeply embedded and widely applied, and where equitable, efficient, and informed decision-making processes improve the quality of our democracy." IAP2 principles are based on the belief that those affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.

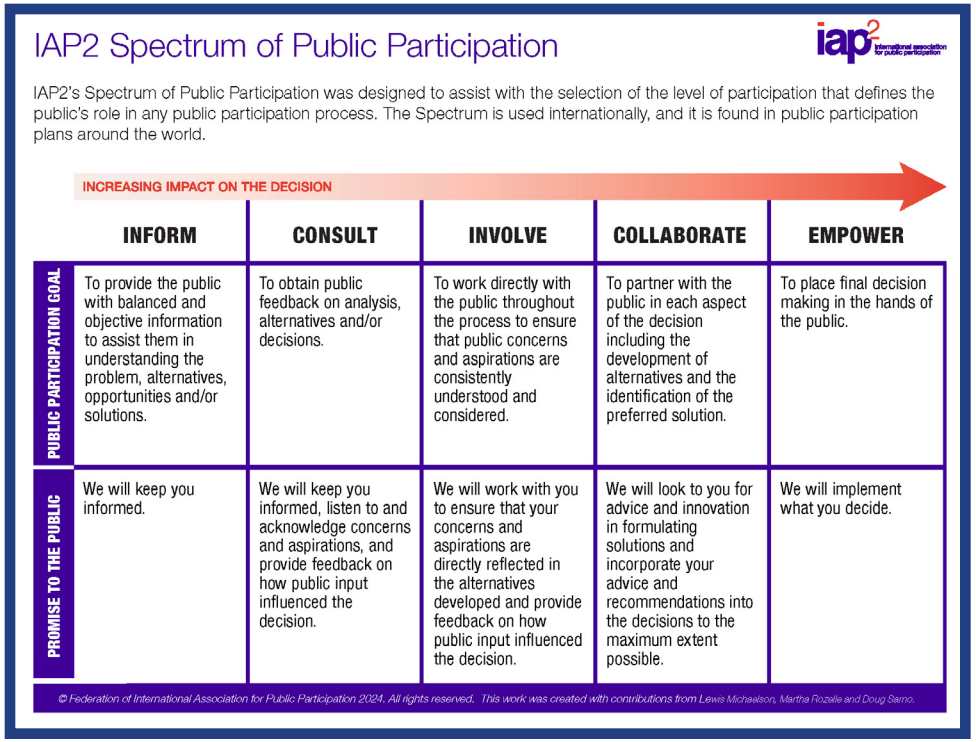
Good public participation should:

- Include the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- Promote sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.
- Seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- Seek input from participants in designing how they participate.
- Provide participants with the information they need to participate meaningfully.
- Communicate to participants how their input affected the decision.

Source: About IAP2 USA. https://iap2usa.org/aboutIAP2

The Spectrum of Public Participation is widely utilized to determine levels of engagement for the public and all stakeholder groups, establishing expectations and limitations, transparency, and accountability. Recently, IAP2 gathered feedback from practitioners around the globe who use this tool in hopes of improving it iteratively. I am excited to see the evolution of this tool and thrilled to be part of a network with high aims for societies worldwide, working together toward the greater good.

Within the US, approximately fifteen established and emerging chapters, including the Midwest Chapter, provide more localized support for practitioners in that part of the country. I am honored to have been recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Midwest Chapter. This position will springboard my efforts to establish an even more localized network of practitioners in Kansas and our metropolitan areas, using the connections I made last year at the IAP2 Midwest Conference.



IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

© Federation of International Association for Public Participation 2024. All rights reserved. This work was created with contributions from Lewis Michaelson, Martha Rozelle and Doug Sarno.

This spring, the Midwest Chapter will host its annual conference in Omaha, Nebraska, from April 23 – 25, with the theme "Weaving vibrant networks that energize engagement." Learn more and register soon at the conference website: https://iap2usa.org/Midwest-Conference.

Planners could benefit by attending this conference to learn about other regional projects where practitioners utilize tools and techniques from IAP2 to deliver successful outcomes. Engaging the public, even at the inform level, to help understand a problem, alternatives, opportunities, and solutions – necessitates the promise of keeping those who are impacted abreast of the project and implications as it unfolds. Challenges that make outreach to affected parties no small feat range from the determined scope of community engagement (time, money, authority) to the variety of communication platforms (websites, social media, television, email, post, texting, phone calls) that must be used to access diverse populations, all with barriers of identity.

Furthermore, there are non-negotiables, with the governing body as the ultimate decision-maker. Tensions between a less informed realm of public opinion and experts in public and private sectors must be managed, and the IAP2 community and wealth of knowledge are invaluable for practitioners tasked with bridging the gap.

As a Community Engagement Specialist with JEO Consulting Group, I am committed to this work because we are all inherently connected and often face increasingly complex problems that transcend boundaries. To some degree, we all feel the effects of climate change, rely on energy and goods in a global economy, and are affected by decisions made in the public realm. I am energized that the Strawberry Hill community where I grew up is making a comeback, along with the more recent revitalizations that have taken place in downtown Kansas City, MO. Recognizing the industrious force of immigrants working toward their own experience of the American Dream is a history that continues to enrich this place. There is even a KC Streetcar expansion project underway!

Ultimately, better processes can potentially rebuild the public's trust in government and urban planning where it has been broken. I am grateful for IAP2 as a source of inspiration and professionalism. As we look to the future, remember that the best decisions are made when the voices of those impacted most are included.

UNL TEAM'S ARCGIS STORYMAP EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES TO BUILD FLOOD RESILIENCE

BY: ZHENGHONG TANG & KERRY MCCULLOUGH-VONDRAK, UNL COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

A persistent challenge during flood recovery and prevention has been the lack of accurate and timely disaster information, especially for vulnerable populations. Non-English speakers and individuals with limited digital access often face significant barriers to obtaining critical, life-saving information. These challenges are further exacerbated by inefficient spatial data systems, undermining community resilience.

To address these issues, the research team from the Community and Regional Planning program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) has developed the "Nebraska Flood Resilience" through ArcGIS StoryMap Collection, a multilingual and user-friendly platform designed to improve flood information accessibility. The ArcGIS StoryMap Collection is a visual and interactive tool available in English and Spanish. It focuses on improving information delivery for multicultural audiences, particularly Spanish-speaking users, enabling them to better understand and act on disaster-related data. It aims to enhance public awareness and build capacity in communities severely affected by the 2019 floods, preparing them for future flood events.

In addition to its multilingual capabilities, ArcGIS StoryMap empowers communities with an intuitive interface to explore flood risk data, visualize past flood events, and identify high-risk areas. By integrating maps, images, and narratives, it bridges the gap between complex geospatial information and actionable insights for local decision-makers and residents. The platform also supports collaborative planning by allowing stakeholders to share information, build scenarios, and engage in informed discussions about flood mitigation strategies.

The StoryMap Collection also supports the creation of a digital twin of Nebraska, an advanced technology that integrates geospatial data to produce a virtual replica of the real world.

This innovation is vital for disaster prediction, infrastructure design, and urban planning. By leveraging ArcGIS StoryMap's powerful visual storytelling and data visualization features, communities can better anticipate, prepare for, and respond to flooding events, ultimately strengthening resilience and saving lives.

"This innovative tool will serve as an essential information platform to serve economic development and climate resilience as a demonstration model for planners and policy makers at the local, state and national levels" said Dean of College of Architecture, Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg.

"The StoryMap Collection provides developers, urban planners and researchers with critical data for informed decision-making, laying the groundwork for Nebraska's future disaster management and sustainable urban development," said Community and Regional Planning Program Director and Professor Zhenghong Tang.

"Multilingual support is a key element in reducing the information gap and helping vulnerable populations more easily access their flood risk," said Yunwoo Nam.

CRP Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer Jiyoung Lee said, "the StoryMap Collection is transforming communication between communities and experts by organizing spatial data into an accessible and engaging format. The platform includes interactive features such as a map swiper, zoom functionality, interactive scale bars, layer selection tools and legends. These tools allow users to explore critical datasets, such as the Natural Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL), land values impacted by the 2019 floods and demographic profiles of affected areas, providing actionable insights rather than simply presenting raw data."

The project is already making a significant impact. "The StoryMap Collection has not only improved disaster information accessibility for vulnerable populations but also helped communities establish more efficient and precise disaster response systems," said CRP student Jahangeer Jahangeer. "Additionally, the digital twin technology plays a pivotal role in strengthening Nebraska's sustainable development and long-term disaster resilience strategies."

"This project is a prime example of how technology can address social challenges," noted Post Doctoral Research Associate Jesse Andrews. With ongoing contributions from the UNL GeoAI team, the ArcGIS StoryMap Collection continues to evolve, incorporating more data and features that enhance Nebraska's safety and resilience. Beyond being a disaster information tool, the platform fosters inclusive and sustainable communities, supports recovery efforts and sets new benchmarks for urban and disaster management strategies.

Risha Singh, a master student in the Community and Regional Planning Program, is developing community-based flood risk maps to inform landowners, developers and policymakers about flood risks. These working products are shared with stakeholders to enhance community resilience planning, contributing to the project's goal of creating a safer and more informed Nebraska.

CITY OF MILFORD INVESTS IN CHILDCARE, HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS TO FOSTER GROWTH ACROSS GENERATIONS

REPRINTED FROM NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JANUARY 8, 2025

Community creates an "environment of growth" to earn recertification in Nebraska's Leadership Certified Community Program

The Department of Economic Development (DED) has recognized officials in the City of Milford (pop. 2,211) for their ongoing success in Nebraska's Leadership Certified Community (LCC) program. The city earned program recertification for strategic planning efforts to increase opportunities in childcare, education, housing, and recreation. DED's Southeast Nebraska Business Consultant Dave Honz presented the award to Milford city leaders on Tuesday, January 7th.

Milford is one of 31 LCC communities in Nebraska. DED established the program in 2011 to help qualified communities adapt to ongoing changes and opportunities in economic development. Leadership Certified Communities earn program designation for five years by demonstrating preparedness in strategic planning and technological development, investing in new and existing businesses, and creating a robust online marketing plan. Milford received its first LCC designation in 2019.

"Thanks to our various partners for collaborating with us throughout the Leadership Certified Community recertification process, including DED, the Nebraska Public Power District, council members and staff, and the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP)," said City of Milford Mayor Patrick Kelley. "We are honored to achieve this important recertification and look forward to the continued success stories of improving our community with tools like this to aid us along the way."

Over the past five years, Milford leaders have worked extensively to create local housing opportunities.

Residents celebrated the start of the community's three-phase, 54-lot Timber Creek subdivision in 2020. Phases two and three opened in 2024.In 2023, developers converted Milford's former Crestview Care Center nursing home into a 21-unit apartment building, First Street Flats, which is now fully occupied. Additionally, Southeast Community College (SCC) has added two 150-bed dormitories. The first, Prairie Hall, was completed in 2019. The second, Meadow Hall, was finished in 2021.

Ongoing development taking place at SCC's entrepreneurship center, which includes incubator rental "focus suites" and business coaching opportunities, aligns with additional local efforts to foster a welcoming space for new and existing businesses. Private donations to Milford Public Schools recently contributed to the purchase of new screen printing, engraving, 3D printing, and plasma cutter equipment. With this equipment, students now have opportunities to create and sell products and services throughout the community.

"Contributions that encourage entrepreneurship and creativity in our schools are showing students firsthand that leaders in Milford want to invest in their futures," said LCC Director Kelly Gewecke. "As workforce recruitment efforts grow, DED commends communities that consistently look for ways to keep our talented young people in Nebraska."

The community of Milford has successfully utilized state programs to support development. The city received a $50,000 planning grant from DED through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for Downtown Revitalization (DTR) in 2020. The City of Milford matched $12,500 for a project total of $62,500. In 2018, Milford's Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (LB840) passed, which allows voters to utilize local tax dollars for economic development purposes.

In addition, Milford's LB840 program contributed $85,000 to secure assistance from DED's Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF) in 2020 and 2022.

The city and Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership are prioritizing ongoing projects to enhance Milford's quality of life. Seward County's Broadband Task Force and the Nebraska Broadband Office engaged residents in efforts to increase broadband capabilities during a town hall session earlier this year. The community now offers four fiber-to-the-home Internet Service Providers (ISP's).

The city is also investing in its youngest residents. The Milford Childhood Learning Center (MCLC) received a $70,000 grant to support a childcare center in 2023. The $1.2 million facility opened in the summer of 2024 and offers services for up to 50 children. Throughout 2024, the center utilized Nebraska Child Care Tax Credits and raised thousands of dollars in donations to become a debt-free facility.

"Over the past five plus years, Milford's successes have been in various community and economic development areas," said SCCDP President & CEO Jonathan Jank.

"Local public and private sector leaders have created innovative solutions to solve community challenges, which have developed an environment of growth now and for the future."

For information about the Leadership Certified Community Program, contact Kelly Gewecke at kelly.gewecke@nebraska.gov or 308-627-3151. More details about the LCC program are available by visiting https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/lcc/.

WHAT ARE DESIGN GUIDELINES?

BY: CHRIS SOLBERG, AICP; REPRINTED FROM RURAL RESURRECTION, DECEMBER 24, 2024

One subject that has been brought up to me from time to time by readers is the subject of design guidelines. Also referred to as architectural guidelines or design standards, design guidelines can have a notable impact on your community if implemented consistently.

What Are They?

Design guidelines are a set of rules and recommendations that are enacted to ensure the overall quality, functionality, and aesthetics of a development. Design review processes typically review building form, material durability and aesthetics, colors, site layout, landscaping, and sustainability.

The concept of design guidelines rose in popularity during the 1970s and 1980s as communities started desiring greater control over the look and feel of new developments. The effective use of guidelines is one way of achieving this goal and the number of communities that use design guidelines grows each year.

Why Have Them?

1. Protect Property Values

Much of what zoning is designed for is to protect nearby property owners from the actions and land uses of those adjoining or nearby. Many times this includes NIMBYs claiming about the impact of land use on their property values. Often these claims are overblown and without viable evidence. However, the overall condition of a neighborhood does play into property values and design guidelines help to maintain the condition of the neighborhood. The elevated design of a building and the surrounding site has the potential to increase the value of the property.

Example of a building constructed to design standards in La Vista, Nebraska.

2. Durability of Materials and therefore Taxes

Also, the durability of materials used helps to slow the deterioration of the property, retaining property value longer as well. Sometimes just the prohibition of certain materials, like corrugated steel roofing, is enough to make a difference. Even something as simple as requiring a TENEMIC paint, or an allowed equivalent, on all exterior painted surfaces can have a long-term positive impact. An entire subdivision with design guidelines is more likely to retain its value longer than one that doesn't. The longer that the structures retain their value, the more stable your tax base is.

3. Longer Viability

Requiring higher durability of materials also helps to increase the likelihood of longer economic viability of the structure. Durable materials slow deterioration and delay the need for reinvestment on the exterior aspects of the structure, allowing for more financial concentration on the

maintenance of the rest of the building over the years. This lengthens the overall economic viability of the structure.

4. Match a Theme for the Community

Some communities that like to market their cultural heritage utilize design guidelines in commercial areas to further that push. Architectural aspects unique to a specific culture can be integrated to build upon a theme for the community. This is sometimes the case in nature-related communities as well. Whether it is a Gateway Community on the edge of a national park or a seaside town that is rich in boating history, towns are creating guidelines that further the look and feel they are trying to convey.

Example of a building designed with scandinavian influence.

Should Your Community Have Design Guidelines?

Design guidelines may sound good, but are they right for your community? Poorly drafted and implemented guidelines have little effect, making the effort a waste of time. Be prepared to commit fully to implementing the guidelines in order to have the desired impact on your community.

Want to learn about creating and implementing design guidlines, and see some examples? Visit the Rural Ressurection website for more resources!

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE ANNOUNCES TWO LEADERS IN NEW ROLES

BY: COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, JANUARY 23, 2025

Today, we are excited to announce two faculty leaders beginning new roles! Zhenghong Tang has served as program director for the Community and Regional Planning (CRP) Program for the past five years and has accepted the position of associate dean for research and innovation. Yunwoo Nam will assume the role of program director for the Community and Regional Planning Program. Both transitions begin now, as we launch spring semester. It will be an exciting beginning to 2025! We thank Professor Emeritus Rumiko Handa for her years of service as associate dean of research and professor Tang for his years of service as program director.

Zhenghong Tang assumes new role as Associate Dean for Research and Innovation

In his new role, Tang will promote a culture of innovation and collaboration within the college, celebrating diverse perspectives and emphasizing interdisciplinary design and planning research and creative initiatives. He will mentor faculty in research and creative methodologies, advance the college's research and creative activities and develop strategic initiatives that align with the college's vision for excellence.

Tang will work closely with faculty members and partners to foster collaboration and engagement. He aims to leverage the College of Architecture's unique capacities to help the university accelerate impact in the key Association of American Universities (AAU) membership criteria: competitively funded federal research expenditures, recognition of faculty through national and international awards/fellowships/memberships and impactful citations and book publications.

Dr. Zhenghong Tang

In addition to his new administrative responsibilities, Tang will continue to advance his research agenda and teach courses in the Community and Regional Planning Program. Tang is currently leading and participating in over 15 externally funded research projects supported by agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Tang plans to continue to teach a range of topics including planning studio, capstone studio and environmental impact assessment.

Reflecting on his appointment, Tang said, "It is a huge honor to serve the College of Architecture in advancing its research and innovation profile. Our faculty team has achieved significant and impactful design, planning research and creative activities. I look forward to listening, learning, supporting and serving everyone to foster more efficient, influential and innovative work to serve the critical needs of the State of Nebraska, the nation and beyond."

"For the past four and half years, Tang has tirelessly served as the CRP Program director, demonstrating exemplary leadership in student recruitment, research development and community engagement," said

Dean Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg. "In fact, in 2024 alone, Tang brought in approximately $3 million in external grants and funded two new post-doctoral research associates and one research assistant professor. I am excited for Dr. Tang to support our whole faculty through his expertise and experience."

Yunwoo Nam is poised to lead the Community and Regional Planning Program

Professor Yunwoo Nam has been with the Community and Regional Planning Program since 2005.

"Professor Nam has been an outstanding instructor and advisor for the program for nearly 20 years, building a robust network with alumni, partners and stakeholders," Tang remarked. "We look forward to Nam's leadership as he takes the program to new heights."

"I'm excited about this opportunity because it allows me to contribute to the growth and evolution of a program that equips students to address pressing societal challenges," said Nam. "As the new director, I am eager to collaborate with a talented team to cultivate a dynamic, inclusive and supportive environment where both students and faculty can excel and make meaningful contributions to the field."

As director, Nam's goals for the CRP Program include elevating the visibility of the program locally and nationally while fostering strong connections among students, faculty, alumni and community partners through collaborative research and service-learning. Additionally, Nam aims to expand interdisciplinary opportunities and update the curriculum to reflect emerging trends, promoting academic excellence and career development.

Nam's proven leadership skills make him an ideal choice for the director position. "Nam has advanced our GIS education within the college, building an interdisciplinary research agenda that has secured funds for various innovative projects contributing to the advancements of urban planning education," Tang said.

Dr. Yunwoo Nam

"His commitment to student success, mentorship and program growth have enhanced our program's visibility and reputation at both local and national levels. I can't wait to see what the future holds with Nam and the helm."

In addition to his new administrative duties, Nam will continue to teach and lead his research program.

Nam plans to teach various GIS and planning courses including topics focused on advanced spatial analysis, active and healthy communities, spatial structure of cities and regions and environmental design. His ongoing research work explores the dynamic interactions between humans and the urban environment.

APA NE CHAPTER ANNUAL SPONSORS

The Nebraska Chapter of the APA would like to thank our annual sponsors for supporting our chapter and professional development programs. These sponsorships support APA NE's events, our Mentor Match Program, and allow us to provide a quality Fall Workshop and other educational and professional development opportunities throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more or to become a sponsor today, please email Stephanie at rouseplanning@gmail.com.

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JOB POSTINGS

SENIOR/PRINCIPAL PLANNER - TRANSPORTATION, OLMSTED COUNTY

Olmsted County Minnesota is searching for a senior or principal planner to coordinate the various work activities of the Rochester-Olmsted Council of Governments, including conducting long-range transportation, land-use, redevelopment, subdivision, and zoning projects. Jo posting closes 2/10/2025. To learn more about the open position, and to apply, click here.

Looking to hire? Visit https://nebraska.planning.org/career-center/job-announcements/ to post your job description , or find job openings today.

FOR MORE JOB POSTINGS VISIT:

» https://npza.org/resources/careers

» https://iowa.planning.org/career-center/job-announcements/

» https://www.lonm.org/classifieds/careers.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

OHIO CHAPTER PLANNING WEBCAST SERIES

1. January 31, 2025 with Guest Host APA Michigan Chapter: Planning and Zoning for Childcare at 12:00 PM CT
2. February 14, 2025 with guest host APA County Planning Division: Introduction to AI & Ethics in County Planning at 12:00 PM CT
3. February 21, 2025 with guest host APA Food Systems Division: Mapping the Food Landscape: Using Healthy Food Walk Audits to Assess Local Food Systems at 12:00 PM CT

APA NE WINTER SOCIAL

- Thursday, January 30th from 5:30-7:30pm
- ICC Bowlatorium, 2701 S. 25th Street, Omaha, NE 68105
- Free bowling, pizza, and drink ticket provided.
- Learn more and register here.

NEBRASKA PLANNING CONFERENCE

- March 5-7 at the Younes North Conference Center, Kearney
- Learn more and register here.

RESOURCES

APA NE Board Members

- Stephanie Rouse, AICP – President
- Jeff Ray, AICP – Past President
- Cale Brodersen, AICP – Vice President
- Jesse Poore, AICP – Treasurer
- Ruva Tsoka - Secretary
- Bruce Fountain, AICP - Professional Development Officer
- Chris Solberg, AICP – NPZA Liaison
- Cailtin Bolte, PLA, ASLA – Allied Professionals Liaison
- Meryl Ohireka Sahouet – Student Planning Association of Nebraska (SPAN) Liaison
- Yunwoo Nam, Ph.D. – UNL Planning Faculty Liaison

APA NE Subcommittees

- Outreach Committee; Chair: Chad Bunger, AICP
- Events Committee; Chair: Cale Brodersen, AICP
- Legislative Committee; Chair: Jennifer Hiatt
- Finance Committee; Chair: Jesse Poore, AICP
- Awards & Accreditation Committee; Chair: Cailtin Bolte, PLA, ASLA, AICP
- Communications Committee; Chair: Cale Brodersen, AICP

NPZA Board Members

- Judy Clark, AICP – President
- Daniel Bennett – Vice President
- Keith Marvin, AICP – At Large Member
- Barb Barnett - At Large Member
- Bruce Fountain, AICP - At Large Member
- Melissa Doughtery-O'Hara - At Large Member
- Chris Solberg, AICP – Past President
- Char Carpenter – Recording Secretary
- Steve Charleston – Membership Sec/Treasurer
- Dave Ptak – Legal Counsel
- Stephanie Rouse, AICP – NE APA Liaison
- Zhenghong Tang, Ph.D. – UNL Liaison

NPZA Subcommittees

- Conference Committee – Stacey Hagemen
- Newsletter Committee – Cale Brodersen, AICP
- Awards Committee – Christopher Solberg, AICP
- Zoning Administrator Certification Committee – David Ptak
- Nebraska Planning Handbook Committee – David Ptak

SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT!

The NE Planner welcomes readers and associates to submit articles for publication within the newsletter. We are happy to include RFP/RFQ's, new job postings, and upcoming events. For your content to be included in the next newsletter, please email cbrodersen@cityoflavista.org.

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