

The Baldwin Hills, Black L.A. and Green Justice



Author: Robert García

The Baldwin Hills is an epicenter of excellence in African American culture across the United States, along with [Sugar Hill in Harlem](#) and, now, the White House. Even so, black folks in Baldwin Hills and adjoining South Central Los Angeles have constantly struggled for green justice. The community, which has long suffered from environmental degradation and discrimination, has been fighting to create the two square mile Baldwin Hills Park. “Once completed, the park will be larger than Golden Gate Park in San Francisco or Central Park in New York City. With over 1,400 acres of contiguous open space, it would be the largest urban park created in over a hundred years,” according to David McNeil, Executive Officer of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. “Currently there are over 700 acres, more than half of the goal, in public ownership. We have a quarter of a million visitors a year.”

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Greetings From PBCD Chair



Spring has arrived and we are energized to welcome you to the 2012 APA National Conference and the PBCD Forum. Please remember that we all have opportunities to help improve the lives of people in our communities. We should continue to encourage and inspire the next generation of planners to work with mentoring young planners.

We need to reassess our skills to make sure that they are current and relevant for our society, which is quickly changing and evolving. Crumbling infrastructure, new demands for energy, increased mobility needs and a shifting political landscape are challenges that will force us to reflect and ask, what is the new role of the planning profession? What will the impact of these changes be for you and your community? With rapidly changing demographics - race and age, are we planning ahead to address those needs? These are a few issues that we hope to address at this year's forum, "***A New American Reality: How Do We Plan for a Diverse New Economy and Aging Population.***" The forum will be combined with the Robert A. Catlin and David W. Long Memorial Scholarship Luncheon. These events will be held on the University of Southern California (USC) Campus.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the students from the Black Graduate Student Network (BGSN) at USC for partnering with us on the PBCD Forum event - they have worked diligently to ensure that we have facilities for this event. I would also like to congratulate the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) on their 40th anniversary. NOMA will commemorate this important milestone in Detroit October 18-20, 2012 at their annual conference. Our members and affiliates are encouraged to attend and can find more details about this conference in this newsletter.

In conclusion, I thank the PBCD Executive Board for their exceptional work serving the Division. Despite demanding workloads, the Executive Board continued to balance their professional and volunteer work successfully. In addition, last year Otis Spriggs, AICP retired as Chief Newsletter Editor after over a decade of outstanding service. Otis has been persistent in his efforts to ensure that our quarterly newsletter was contemporary and innovative. Last but not least, I want to thank Derek Hull and Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore, FAICP. Derek and Jeanette have been relentless champions of the Division by working endlessly to ensure we had candidates to run for positions on the PBCD Executive Board. Please join me in welcoming our new Executive Board officers: Chair Elect: Patrice S. Dickerson, AICP; Vice Chair for Policy: Rodney Harrell, PhD; Vice Chair for Programs: Melissa Williams; Secretary: Shawnika E. Johnson; Treasurer: Richard H Jennings; Student Representative: Rance Graham-Bailey.

The 2012 PBCD Business Meeting at the APA National Planning Conference will include a swearing-in ceremony for the new Executive Board. Join us in welcoming them. Looking forward to seeing you all in Los Angeles!

For Better Communities,

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“All of this is, of course, superimposed upon the ‘reality’ of the Baldwin Hills oil extraction operation,” according to Joe Edmiston, who is the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Executive Officer of the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority. “Given the price of oil projected into the future, the primary issue, and determining feature of the Baldwin Hills Park, is oil versus park. The oil drillers have rights going back to the 1920's and they are not about to be displaced. Going forward with a real park under these circumstances has got to be the most difficult urban park challenge in America.”



Youth soccer in the Baldwin Hills alongside active oil fields.

Mr. Edmiston first discussed the park with the legendary County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn in early 1978. The Carter Administration's parks initiative, lead by Chris Delaport, director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the Interior Department, focused on two areas in Southern California, the Santa Monica Mountains and the Baldwin Hills.

“In a memorable exchange, over the helicopter noise as Delaport was viewing both areas, Supervisor Hahn tried to broker a deal with me and present it to Delaport. ‘You get your park, and I get my park. Deal?’ This was vintage Hahn as a locally based political broker, working within the Carter Administration's quite sophisticated attempt to create protected areas at a level that was less-than-federally owned and with state/local participation,” according to Mr. Edmiston.

More recently the [community stopped](#) the construction of a proposed emergency power plant in the park with no environmental review in 2001 during the claimed energy crisis. The community stopped the city of Los Angeles from constructing a garbage dump - what city officials euphemistically called a "solid waste transfer station" - [in 2003](#). The community saved the budget for the state park and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy when a governor's commission threatened to [cut both](#) in 2004.

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The Sanchez Ranch in the Baldwin Hills is an official cultural and historic monument that commemorates adobe structures built in the 1790's as part of what later became the Rancho La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera. Archaeological evidence indicates a prehistoric Native American village existed on this site.

From 2007 until 2011, the community worked in and out of court to regulate the adjoining oil fields to better protect human health and the environment, resulting in a settlement in July 2011. Key settlement provisions include reduced drilling of new wells; increased air quality monitoring; more stringent noise limits; recurring health and environmental justice assessments; and a study of fracking in the area.

How is the park an environmental justice issue? "There is no equal access to resources most people take for granted. We need livable communities with clean space and open spaces to play. This is crucial to our community and our children's well being," according to Mark Williams, Youth Director for [Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles](#). "The Baldwin Hills Park is a great open space with tremendous potential to meet the needs of Los Angeles and black Los Angeles specifically."

Concerned Citizens, represented by The City Project, sought access to justice through the courts against the County of Los Angeles and the oil company Plains Exploration Company (PXP) in 2008 "in order to take responsibility for protecting, improving and developing our community because our children can't fend for themselves. We have to do our part," according to Mr. Williams. Culver City, Community Health Councils, NRDC and the Citizen's Coalition for a Safe Community filed related suits, all covered by the [2011 settlement](#).

What is fracking? Fracking is the injection of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure into deep wells to force oil and gas to the surface. According to a [recent article](#) in the New York Review of Books, fracking should be stopped because of threats to drinking water, rivers and streams, global warming and human health, and the risk of earthquakes. [According to](#) a columnist for the New York Times, on the other hand, who is silent on the other risks, market based solutions and state regulations can minimize the risks of methane leaks. A study of fracking in the Baldwin Hills is scheduled for release in the summer of 2012 under the settlement.

VIDEO: <http://vimeo.com/25571214>

Robert García on the struggle for the Baldwin Hills Park

Please go to this link to follow the discussion about race, crime and the Baldwin Hills parklands on FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HiddenLA/posts/114327785358109>

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The mission of The City Project is to achieve equal justice, democracy, and livability for all. For more information about The City Project visit their website and blog at www.cityprojectca.org.

The Death of Redevelopment in California

Author: Mark Stivers

After sixty years of addressing blight, spurring economic development, and building affordable housing, California's more than 400 city and county redevelopment agencies are dead. The tasks that remain are to close down the house and divvy up the estate.

The causes of death are many, but the most important factor was the fact that roughly half of the \$5.5 billion annual tax increment revenues received by redevelopment agencies statewide indirectly came out of the state's chronically-in-deficit budget. California's unusual constitutional restrictions on the Legislature's ability to raise additional revenues coupled with the years of deep cuts to education and safety-net social services created intense competition for these funds, and the state's only legal means of reducing the subsidy to redevelopment was to eliminate the agencies entirely.

But redevelopment's passing is a more complicated case. Originally envisioned and utilized as a tool to combat blight in distressed neighborhoods, redevelopment in California in some cases became a way for cities and counties to increase their share of a limited property tax pie. In 1978, California's voters approved Proposition 13 to roll back and cap property tax rates at 1%. Because many different local government entities (cities, counties, schools, special districts) all received property taxes, the Legislature had to enact a statutory system to allocate these reduced receipts among the competing local government entities. On average statewide, schools ended up with 50 cents of each property tax dollar. Cities ended up with 13 cents. And a number of cities received little or no property taxes. Cities and counties that created redevelopment agencies, on the other hand, could capture all of the growth in property taxes within a designated area without the consent of the other local government entities. To adopt a redevelopment project area, a city or county only had to find "blight," which was loosely defined.

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According to 2011 U.S. Census figures, California's population is 37,691,912 of which 6.2% (2,336,898) are African American.

Large African American communities are in the following California cities:

Compton, Fairfield

Inglewood, Los Angeles

Long Beach, Oakland

Pasadena, Richmond

Riverside, Sacramento

San Bernardino and Vallejo.

The Death of Redevelopment in California

Around the same time, in response to a court case objecting to the grave disparities in school financing between wealthy communities and poor communities due to differing property tax bases, the California Legislature guaranteed each school district a general funding level per student. As a very indirect result, redevelopment no longer reduced funding to schools because the state was required to backfill the loss of property tax revenues to school districts.

In the years following these two developments – the desire of cities to increase their share of the property tax dollar and the de-linking of property tax allocations and school funding – the number of redevelopment agencies and the number of project areas administered by each agency proliferated. The stage was set for a fiscal clash between the state, redevelopment agencies, and their host cities and counties.

These clashes came to a head in the first decade of the 2000s as the state again faced significant budget deficits. In order to close the gap, the state on various occasions required redevelopment agencies to make contributions to school districts serving their redevelopment project areas, reducing the state's own funding requirements to schools.

Opposed to these payment requirements and fearful of larger and ever more frequent requirements, the California Redevelopment Association teamed up with the League of California Cities in 2010 to sponsor a citizen ballot initiative, Proposition 22, that would constitutionally outlaw such diversions of resources. Voters approved the proposition at the November election of that year.

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The Death of Redevelopment in California

Enter the new California Governor Jerry Brown, focused on resolving the state's stubborn \$25 billion budget deficit. In his very first budget proposal released in January 2011, the Governor proposed to eliminate redevelopment agencies completely in order to restore property tax increment to schools, cities, and counties. The restoration to schools would directly relieve the state's funding commitment to schools. The restoration to cities and counties would help pay for the governor's other proposal to shift, or "realign," a number of state responsibilities to local governments. Because the proposal ensured the payment of redevelopment bonds and other agency financial commitments, property taxing entities would not see all \$5.5 billion in annual property tax increment immediately, but the \$1.1 billion they would receive in the first year would grow over time as redevelopment agency debts were retired.

At first, the Legislature balked at this proposal. Many members supported the benefits that redevelopment had brought to their community. Others feared losing the \$1 billion per year that redevelopment agencies generated for affordable housing as a result of the requirement to set aside 20% of tax increment for that purpose. As the budget debate wore on and the pressure to close the budget gap increased, the Legislature ultimately approved a two-bill package. The first bill, AB 26X, eliminated redevelopment agencies. The second bill, AB 27X, however, nullified the elimination for any agency that "voluntarily" agreed to make significant and on-going payments that would ultimately benefit the state budget. The two-bill package was designed to redirect tax increment and keep redevelopment agencies alive without violating the provisions of Proposition 22.

Vehemently opposed to these bills, the California Redevelopment Agency immediately appealed directly to the state's Supreme Court. In a worst-case scenario for redevelopment agencies, the court decided that the Legislature had the ability to eliminate redevelopment agencies but not the authority, directly or indirectly, to require agencies to make payments that would benefit the state. In upholding AB 26X and overturning AB 27X, the court pulled the plug on California's redevelopment agencies effective February 1, 2012.

The combined impact of the legislation and the litigation will have a dramatic impact on efforts to revitalize challenged downtowns, turn around troubled neighborhoods, and meet affordable housing needs, particularly in lower-income and communities of color that may have low market demand and few other resources.

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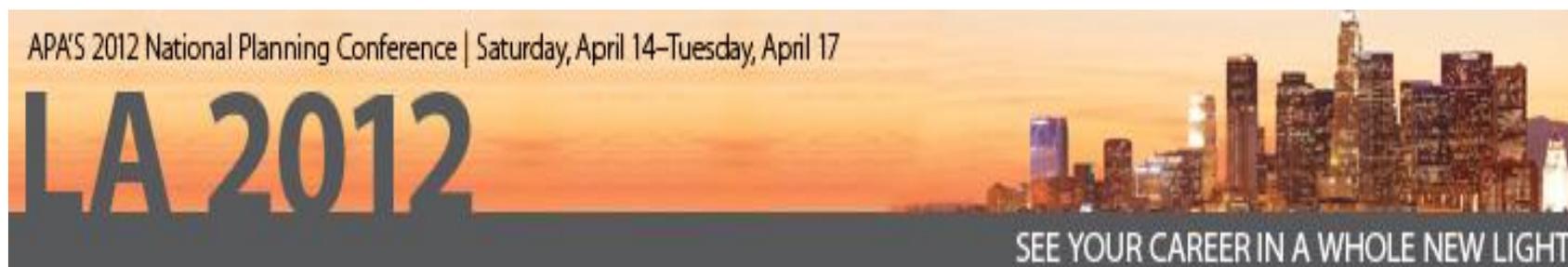
The Death of Redevelopment in California

Already, however, discussions have begun at both the state and local level on how to carry on the two missions that redevelopment sought to serve: stimulating economic development and providing affordable housing. Governor Brown has proposed amending the constitution to lower the vote threshold to approve local government bonds infrastructure and housing. The Legislature has introduced bills to maintain the assets of former redevelopment agencies for public purposes. Local governments are exploring the greater use of existing tools such as infrastructure financing districts (that also divert property tax increment from the host city or county but can only access the property tax shares of other taxing entities, excluding schools, with their consent) and benefit improvement districts. And others are proposing to create a new redevelopment-like program focused on financing higher-density and mixed-income growth in infill areas, particularly around transit stations.

Though ailing for some time, California's redevelopment program succumbed to a quick and unexpected death. It is undeniable, however, that during its long life and in spite of its faults, redevelopment had a significant impact on California's communities. And while it is too early to be sure, redevelopment may yet spawn a progeny of tools and strategies to build on its own accomplishments.

According to 2011 U.S. Census figures, California's population is 37,691,912 of which 6.2% (2,336,898) are African American. Large African American communities are in the following California cities: Compton, Fairfield, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oakland, Pasadena, Richmond, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino and Vallejo.

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Uptown Tuskegee: A New Sustainable Community Concept

Author: Vaughn Horn, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP; Major Contributor: Phoenicia Robinson, Tuskegee University architecture student

Paul Lawrence Dunbar dubbed Tuskegee, Alabama, as the “pride of the swift growing south.” At the time of Tuskegee's founding, the area was still populated by members of the Creek Nation. The town itself was named after a Creek leader named Taskigi, whose town was located in the triangle formed by the convergence of the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers. Tuskegee was located along a historic Indian trail that later became the highway between Fort Mitchell and Montgomery. Tuskegee was one of five settlements in Macon County that attracted a significant amount of trading business by 1855. Of these settlements, however, Tuskegee was the only one that did not have the advantage of being located along a railroad, but because it was the county seat as well as in a central location, it still drew business. Also, because the railroad did not run through Tuskegee, as it did in most towns, the town streets were laid out around the central square where the courthouse is located.;



Macon County Courthouse, Tuskegee, Alabama.

In 1881, Booker T. Washington founded the Tuskegee Normal School for Colored Teachers, later named Tuskegee Institute, and then Tuskegee University. As a land-grant university located (in the heart of) Alabama's *Black Belt*, just 1.5 miles from downtown Tuskegee, the university staged important African-American post-slavery accomplishments, thanks to contributions of Robert Robinson Taylor, the Tuskegee Airmen, and George Washington Carver. Rich in national historic sites, home to nearly 12,000 residents, 95% of which are African American, the story of the rise of both Tuskegee and the University emulates the Macon County Courthouse towering above its surroundings. Yet, recent years of financial upheaval, deferred maintenance, and a lack of a master plan have caused downtown to fall into disrepair.

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Uptown Tuskegee: A New Sustainable Community Concept

In her book The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Jane Jacobs pinpoints the failure of downtowns “when a city’s heart stagnates or disintegrates.” She continues by stating “a city as a social neighborhood of the whole begins to suffer: people who ought to get together, by means of central activities that are failing, fail to get together. Without a strong and inclusive central heart, a city tends to become a collection of interests isolated from one another.” This dissipating vitality in Tuskegee has caused many faculty and staff of the University to commute from nearby Auburn or Montgomery, even as far as Atlanta. Common consent among recent alumni underscores an unwillingness to stay in Tuskegee upon graduating. Being approximately 30 miles east of Montgomery, 30 miles west of Auburn, and 100 miles southwest of Atlanta, Tuskegee struggles to retain residents who often commute in search of an up-to-date gym, family entertainment, shopping, and fine dining. Also, an insufficient transit system has forced residents to become 100% dependent on their automobiles. If the University is the heart of this city, then downtown represents the lungs, and both are required for survival.

In spring semester 2011, I attempted to catalyze an urban design solution to invigorate Tuskegee. As a full-time faculty at the Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture and Construction Science at Tuskegee University, I chose to engage fourth-year design students, appropriately, given that these students have lived, and worked locally for at least four years, and were ideal candidates to spear-head a regeneration of Tuskegee. I presented two separate, equally challenging design problems, exposing students to urban design, planning, investigative research, and a focus on sustainable community planning.

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Uptown Tuskegee: A New Sustainable Community Concept

First, we studied the macro-scale planning features of Tuskegee. I created a design challenge for students to develop a clean-fuel transit system, connecting the university, downtown, national historic sites such as Moton Airfield, and other points of interest. As a result of studying traffic patterns of both cars and people, the students mapped a potential transit route, designed shuttle buses equipped with logos and slogans, and transit stops. I developed the program within a footprint of 8'-6" wide by 4'-6" long and 8'-6" high. Besides providing a bench, canopy, and map holders, the design criteria required a new architectural vocabulary, integrating lighting, water fountain, and through it all, students had to identify six (6) key sustainable features. In fall semester 2011, Tuskegee University implemented a shuttle system, called TU Transit, which was a direct result of our research: a step in the right direction.

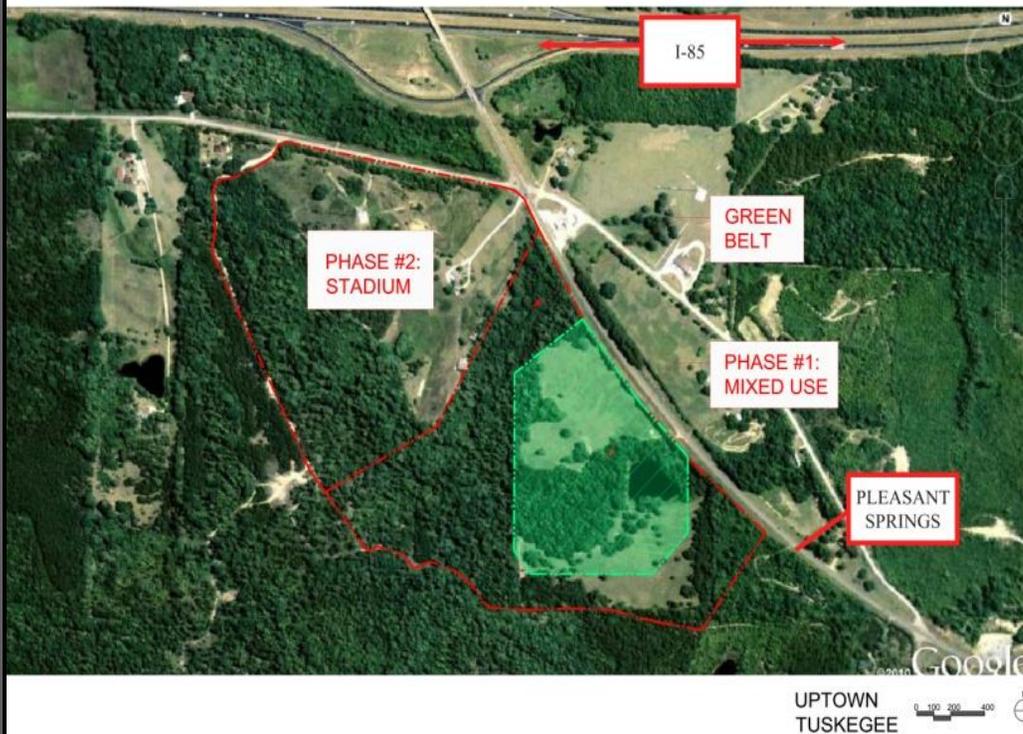


Pictured: Student bus stop design; Thomas Anderson, Author.

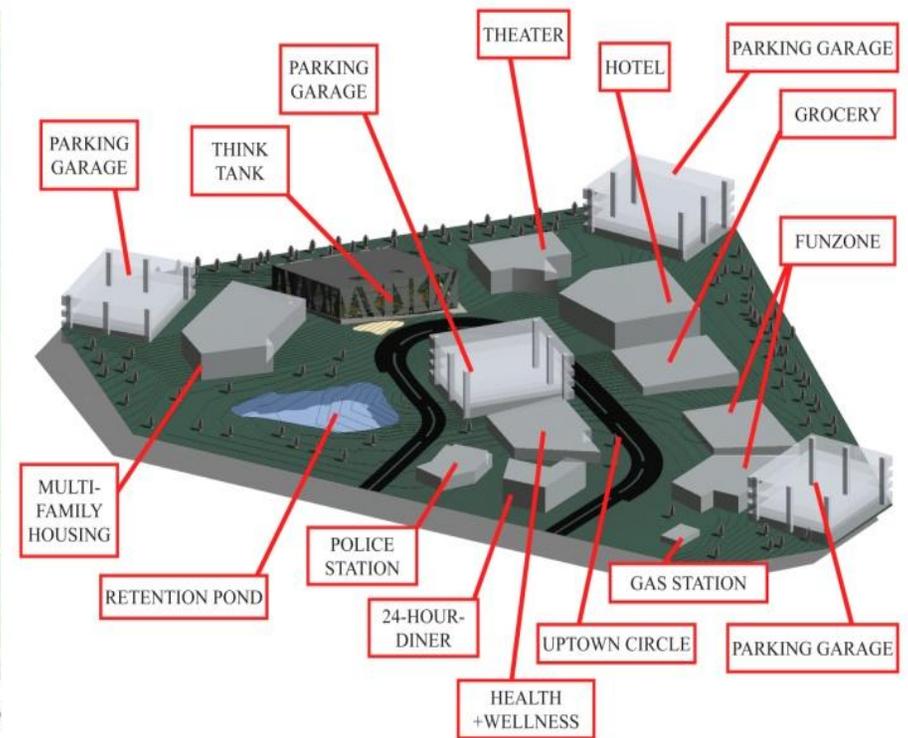
Secondly, I devised a capstone design problem, opposite of perpetually banal “revitalization of downtown Tuskegee” concepts. Instead, I envisioned a new master planned community located five miles from campus, sited on 100-acres of privately owned land, and closer to Interstate 85. To generate a fresh demographic to enliven Tuskegee, I targeted recent Tuskegee alumni and young faculty, such as myself, seeking amenities more suited for healthy, active lifestyles. Students gathered demographic data, conducted field verification and site analysis, and generated a master plan for *Uptown Tuskegee*. At its root, a vibrant Uptown district could increase resident income and home values, providing competitive jobs closely related to current majors offered at Tuskegee University, including architecture and veterinary science. In fact, as of 2009, Tuskegee had an estimated median household income of \$23,563, well below the average in Alabama of \$40,489.ⁱⁱ

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Uptown Tuskegee: A New Sustainable Community Concept



Site map of Uptown Tuskegee.



Uptown Tuskegee massing model.

According to one of the student participants, Phoenicia Robinson, “the area identified as Uptown Tuskegee is one that ensures to broaden horizons that the city of Tuskegee has yet to see.” She continued by stating “Uptown seeks to engage residents and visitors alike in a unique experience that combines both the past and future. Tuskegee has always been a city that exemplifies rich cultural history, and in doing so it has set the tone for the change that Uptown Tuskegee will bring about.” Working from the newly generated master plan, students collaborated to determine, implement, and integrate restrictive covenants, and identifying proper facilities for the *Uptown Tuskegee way of life*. Once again, if the university is the heart, downtown, the lungs, then Uptown would be the life-blood, and of course the residents its soul.

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Uptown Tuskegee: A New Sustainable Community Concept

Foreseen as a pillar of Macon County, Tuskegee deserves a project that demonstrates the city's ability to emulate a rapidly globalizing society. Focusing on providing basic amenities, Uptown would respond to critical issues within the community. In fact, a 2007 Tuskegee Direction Finder Survey in which 1,066 people were polled, nearly (a whopping) 54.0% think city streets should receive the most emphasis from City leaders over the next year, followed closely city parks, police services, then city buildings and facilities. Moreover, that same survey indicates residents were least satisfied with the overall maintenance of City streets, and an emphasis needed over the next year to combat drugs.ⁱⁱⁱ

Therefore, the very nature of the program for *Uptown Tuskegee* will improve the general public safety and image of Tuskegee. Anchored by a new police station, commercial space for local businesses, health and wellness center equipped with a public gymnasium, whole foods market, combine to promote healthy, sustainable living. Also, a central library focusing on digital and interactive media will more closely respond to millennial changes in technology. Efficient multi-family housing within the Uptown district will cater to both students and young faculty that wish to live off campus, meanwhile setting the tone for the revitalization of the other areas of Tuskegee. Lastly, a multi-purpose theater will host various cultural activities in order to stimulate tourism, including an entertainment hall-of-fame museum showcasing the contributions of Lionel Ritchie, the Commodores, and numerous others.

Main Library Design; Gabrielle Riley, author.



Ultimately a bright future is in store for Tuskegee, combining downtown, the University, and Uptown. Like most other sustainable communities “you can’t rely on bringing people downtown, you have to put them there.”^{iv} I discovered utilizing an academic setting fostered teamwork, in which those whom the project were intended could envision themselves inhabiting this new Uptown district. As a contribution toward improving blighted African-American communities, *Uptown Tuskegee* can conquer the scourge of economics, deferred maintenance, and a lack of a master plan to become a millennial sustainable community.

i “Tuskegee.” *Encyclopedia of Alabama*. Web. 21 February 2011.

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2051>.

ii “Tuskegee, Alabama (AL 36083) Profile: Population, Maps, Real Estate, Averages, Homes, Statistics, Relocation, Travel, Jobs, Hospitals, Schools, Crime, Moving, Houses, Sex Offenders, News, Sex Offenders.” *Stats about All US Cities - Real Estate, Relocation Info, House Prices, Home Value Estimator, Recent Sales, Cost of Living, Crime, Race, Income, Photos, Education, Maps, Weather, Houses, Schools, Neighborhoods, and More*. Web. 21 Feb. 2011. <http://www.city-data.com/city/Tuskegee-Alabama.html>

iii Findings based on information given in the 2007 Tuskegee Direction Finder Survey.

iv Jacobs, Jane; *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Vintage Books. New York, NY. 1992

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Who Are We Planning For?

Author: Zunilda Rodriguez, AICP

On February 8th, the School of Architecture and Planning at Catholic University in Washington, DC held their Spring 2012 Lecture Series on Expanded Dimensions of Urbanism. The speaker was Mitchell Silver, AICP, President of the American Planning Association and Chief Planning and Development Officer and Director for the Department of City Planning for the City of Raleigh in North Carolina.

Silver provided an insightful and engaging presentation to the audience of designers, architects, planners and academics on *"The Value of Planning and Design in the 21st Century."* The presentation focused on understanding the many impacts and overlapping connections between growth, changing demographics, planning and design practices that will help shape our future decision-making. As planners, the next few years and decades will challenge our traditional notions of who are we planning for, what are our values, and what strategies we will need in the future.

Planners and designers will need to understand how growth and changing demographics will shape our work today and impact how we plan and design for the future. Therefore, "who are we planning for?" For example, "by 2030, one in five Americans will be over the age of 65?" As Silver noted, there will be many implications of an aging population on our communities. He also mentioned that projections indicate that as families shrink in size the demand for smaller housing units will increase. Silver began by discussing where significant growth is occurring, which is projected for the South and urban areas of the United States. These demographic shifts will impact the types of plans we prepare, neighborhoods we create, community facilities and transit services that will be needed, and the ability to provide municipal services as tax bases and budgets decline. Therefore, we will need to revisit how our communities will grow and shrink in the future.

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"As planners, the next few years and decades will challenge our traditional notions of who we are planning for, what our values are, and what strategies we will need in the future for our communities."

"These demographic shifts will impact the types of plans we prepare, neighborhoods we create, community facilities and transit services that will be needed, and the ability to provide municipal services as tax bases and budgets decline."

Who Are We Planning For?

According to Silver and Arthur Nielson, “experts estimate there will be an excess inventory of 22 million single family homes by 2030 with no market to buy them.” For decades communities supported expanding suburban building development with few investments in urban areas. However, who will these same communities fare as their population ages, becomes more diverse and younger? The answer is simple - they will need to adapt and revisit their traditional ways of planning, outreach, and development.

Changing demographics and households in our country will impact everything from housing and transit choices, development, tax bases, employment opportunities, master plan efforts, public outreach, etc. According to Silver, “the results of the 2020 Census will be a wakeup call for America. By 2023, minorities will comprise of more than half of all children in the United States.” This will be led largely by domestic growth in the Hispanic population, which will make our communities more diverse. “By 2042, there will be no majority race in the United States.” Many attendees, including myself, were astonished to hear Silver discuss projected community and planning changes that will occur based on census figure estimates.

As our country becomes more diverse, how will we plan strategically to meet different needs for housing, schools, parks, transit, commercial development, etc? As a PBCD member, I challenge all of us to think about how our profession and leadership roles will help guide and shape these efforts in the future on the national, regional and local level.

In order to meet this challenge, it is first important to better understand the different composition of our communities. He encouraged attendees to better understand what shapes their concerns and needs when planning and designing communities and projects. Silver’s presentation included a discussion of six (6) generations cohorts that shape how we plan our communities. They include the following:

1. **Greatest Generation** (1900 – 1923)

This generation grew up during the Great Depression in the United States and fought during World War II. “They gave their today for our tomorrow,” according to Thomas Friedman who is the author of *“That Used to Be Us.”* Their values are modest. Today, they consist of our most elderly populations in our communities. Planning outreach often includes bringing “planning to them.”

2. **Silent/Chosen Generation** (1924 – 1945)

This generation grew up during the beginning age of suburbanization in America that included growth of suburban home building and automobiles use. Many fought during World War II and sacrificed for the common good. They are part of today’s aging population.

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Who Are We Planning For?

3. **Baby Boom Generation** (1946-1964)

They are defined by post World War II, further suburbanization of America, age of segregation and Civil Rights Movement. This generation cohort is distinct because they are the second largest generation cohort in American history and their retirement from the workforce in the coming years will greatly impact the jobs-housing balance in most communities.

4. **Generation X** (1965-1981)

This generation grew up after the Civil Rights Movement and is defined by how and when the traditional family unit began to change. More single-family, female-headed and non-wed households begin to emerge in large numbers during this time. This generation is very educated and has waited longer to marry and have children than previous generations. Children born into these households are part of Generation Y.

5. **Generation Y** (1982-1995)

This generation cohort is defined by an age of expanded technological choices and the beginning of declining birth rates. They prefer urban lifestyles, value place and not just jobs and are environmentally more conscience than previous generations. They demand more options and choices than previous generations and are part of the young professional workforce today. Engaging this generation often requires public and interactive meetings, special media and web outreach.

7. **Generation Z** (1996 – Today)

This generation values multi-tasking, expanded choices and is technologically savvy. They utilize different forms of various social media forms on a daily basis. Public engagement to this generation cohort requires creative technological forms to reach and sustain them in planning processes. They were also born during a time in American history of declining birth rates and are having fewer children.

Examining these cohort generation groups poses significant questions for us. For example, are we customizing plans, development and outreach methods to accommodate these diverse generation cohorts for our communities? Are we attracting and reaching the right groups in our efforts? Are our elected officials and others knowledgeable about who we are planning for - both today and into the future? These are challenging questions will require us to collectively to be creative and aggressive to address over the next few years. This was the primary message I and many others understood from this lecture on *“The Value of Planning and Design in the 21st Century.”* Silver fielded several questions from the audience at the conclusion of his presentation and at a networking reception that immediately followed. Let us continue these conversations so we can better understand who we are planning for tomorrow.

Resources:

www.census.gov
www.gentrends.com

Planning and Peace (Piece): A Reflection of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots

April 29, 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Riot.

By some accounts more than 50 people lost their lives and approximately \$1 billion in property damage occurred. The riots which spanned for over five days was a result of community unrest predominately impacting African Americans, Hispanics and Korean Americans in South Central Los Angeles.

Historical accounts target the seemingly unjust not guilty verdict of five police officers in the excessive brutality case of Rodney King. However, was the community of South Central Los Angeles pre-conditioned for upheaval?

Author: Christopher J. Palmer

In 1992, I witnessed the devastation of the riots first hand. I lived in South Central Los Angeles and saw several businesses, a local library and many neighborhood resources destroyed by fire and the actions of looters and others. As a youth it was difficult to understand why there was so much tension, destruction and despair. Twenty years ago the riots created extreme economic blight. However, the unrest also uncovered long standing local policies that fell well short of improving the quality of life for South Central Los Angeles neighborhoods. Banks, grocery stores and neighborhood restaurants were replaced by check cashing/pay day operations, small scale markets and fast food chains. Some storefronts have been shuttered for years and vacant lots are commonplace.

South Central Los Angeles neighborhoods are plagued with a high unemployment rate, poor performing public schools, elevated crime rates and ongoing economic and physical blight. Better inclusive neighborhood planning is needed to improve the fortunes of the predominately African American and Hispanic communities of South Central Los Angeles. How can it be accomplished?

I never met a planner as a child in South Central Los Angeles. No city planners ever visited our schools to talk to us about urban planning, land use design or community development. Once I began my planning career I noticed a disconnection between the majority of transplanted or non-indigenous planning professionals and the community. I believe that if more minority planners would return to their childhood communities and work with local community based organizations we could attain a more significant piece of the pie instead of fighting over the crumbs of our blighted communities.

Christopher J. Palmer is a Planning Associate in Southern California. Christopher may be reached at planningneverstops@yahoo.com

NOMA To Hold 40th Conference In Detroit

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS TO HOLD 40TH CONFERENCE IN DETROIT IN OCTOBER 2012

Detroit – March 2012 – The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) has selected its Detroit chapter to host the organization's 40th annual conference at the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, Michigan, October 18-20, 2012. Registration information and a promotional video can be found at http://noma.net/EventsPrograms/events_2012conference.aspx

The theme of the conference is "A Legacy Driven by Design" and will feature professional development and continuing education workshops, exhibitors, Detroit tours, a community service project, a student design competition focused on a Detroit neighborhood, and the perennial Bros Arts Ball.

The conference will also celebrate the establishment of NOMA at an American Institute of Architects convention in Detroit in 1971. NOMA was founded by 12 African-American architects who recognized the need for an organization dedicated to the development and advancement of minority design professionals. The founders envisioned an organization that would work to fight discriminatory policies that limit or bar minority architects from participating in design and constructions programs. NOMA continues to be an influential voice, promoting the quality and excellence of its members.

Over 400 NOMA members, affiliates and students are expected to attend the NOMA 2012 Conference, including architects, interior designers, planners, and construction and real estate professionals.

NOMA membership includes 22 chapters nationwide and numerous outstanding professionals and firms, including Hamilton Anderson Associates (Detroit), recipient of several NOMA and American Institute of Architects design and honor awards; The Freelon Group (Research Park Triangle, NC), designer of the National Museum of African American History and Culture to be located on the Mall in Washington, DC; and Moody-Nolan, Inc. (headquartered in Columbus, OH), the largest minority-owned architectural design firm in the country.

CONTACT: Karen Davis; National Organization of Minority Architects - Detroit Chapter; PHONE: (248) 210-3750; noma2012@buildingsource.net
National Organization of Minority Architects; PHONE: (202) 686-2780; programs@noma.net; <http://www.noma.net>

ABOUT NOMA NATIONAL - The National Organization of Minority Architects' (NOMA) mission is to champion diversity within the design professions by promoting the excellence, community engagement, and professional development of its members.

ABOUT NOMA DETROIT - The National Organization of Minority Architects was founded in 1971 as a means to foster communications among minority architects and to fight discriminatory practices used by public sector and private clients. Founded in 2006, the Detroit chapter hosts activities that highlight the architecture profession, the needs of the community, and provides solutions that will insure a healthy living and working environment.

2012
40 YEARS IN THE MAKING

DETROIT CONFERENCE
A LEGACY DRIVEN BY DESIGN

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS

WESTIN BOOK CADILLAC HOTEL DETROIT MI OCTOBER 18-20, 2012

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www.greenjobsconference.org
 @gjjconference, #gjj2012
 /goodjobsgreenjobs

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 regional conferences 2012

Member News

CONGRATULATIONS Lindy Wordlaw, AICP!

Chair-Elect - Environmental, Natural Resources & Energy Division of APA



Lindy Wordlaw, AICP was elected as the new Chair Elect of the ENRE (Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Division) of the American Planning Association. She will serve in this position for one year and will assume her official term as Chair of ENRE from 2013 to 2015. As a PBCD member and Senior Planner with *CNT Energy* (www.cnt.org), a division of the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago, Lindy brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to ENRE.

As Chairperson, Lindy aims to work with the collective ENRE membership to:

- Dialogue with other divisions to learn about barriers that keep planners from addressing important sustainability issues; The ENRE Division should be the “go-to” source for the APA and planners aiming to address environmental, natural resources and energy concerns;
- Identify helpful tools for planners that already exist, such as talking points to engage elected officials/communities; energy planning toolkits; green infrastructure do’s and don’ts; first step protocols for integrating sustainability planning practices, and more. As experts in the field, ENRE can assist planners in identifying best practices, case studies and research applicable to their communities, while helping to avoid “information overload.”
- Encourage members to utilize membership database for regular exchange of ideas via the newsletter and other potential opportunities, such as quarterly membership webinars where members, for example, can learn about trends in green infrastructure planning tools;
- Identify additional ways to engage student planners, with specific outreach to planning programs that address environmental, sustainability and/or climate planning.

PBCD congratulates Lindy and wishes her the best in her endeavors! Contact Lindy Wordlaw, AICP at lindy@cntenergy.org

PBCD 2012 Elections Results

Author: Derek R. Hull

The Nomination's Committee is pleased to announce the results of the 2012 Election for the Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD) executive officers. PBCD conducted an election for seven (7) of eight (8) officers for the Division: Chair Elect, Vice Chair of Programs, Vice Chair of Policy, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms and Student Representative. There was one candidate for each officer position with the exception of Sergeant at Arms, where there was no member nominated.

During the election cycle, members were provided with an electronic ballot and candidate position statements. All members nominated for an office received at least 90 percent affirmative vote. The election spanned one week and concluded on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. PST.



Based on the ballot tally, the following PBCD members were elected into office:

Chair Elect:	Patrice S. Dickerson, AICP
Vice Chair for Policy:	Rodney Harrell, PhD
Vice Chair for Programs:	Melissa Williams
Secretary:	Shawnika E. Johnson
Treasurer:	Richard H Jennings
Student Representative:	Rance Graham-Bailey
Sergeant-At-Arms:	Vacant

All officers will serve a two-year term except for the Chair Elect who will serve one year as Chair Elect and another year as Chair.

As Nominations Committee Chair, I would like to recognize the efforts of several individuals. Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore, FAICP has served as a nominations committee member for more than three years. She continues to be instrumental in recruiting members for office and prepares candidates' position statements for review by the general membership. Zunilda Rodriguez, AICP, PBCD Communications Committee Chair, and Otis Spriggs, AICP, website manager provided the needed technical expertise that helped the Committee to digitize our election ballot and create multiple streams of communication to get members to participate in the election process.

As in years past, the Nomination's Committee requests to make a formal presentation of the election results and officially swear-in new executive officers at the PBCD Business Meeting during National Planning Conference on April 16th at 7:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Newly elected officers have been encouraged to attend the conference. In coordination with the Executive Board, final election results have been provided to the membership by electronic bulletin, noted in this spring PBCD division newsletter and posted to the division website. The Nomination's Committee strongly encouraged the Board to set up a transition meeting either before or directly after the APA National Planning Conference with the newly elected officers to facilitate a smooth transition of responsibilities and duties. On behalf of the Committee, I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles.



Write for PBCD News

The PBCD Newsletter features original and reprinted articles, letters, case studies, photos, announcements, and news items from PBCD members, individuals and organizations around the country. PBCD Newsletters are published quarterly and distributed to a national audience. They are intended to showcase local, regional and national planning stories, ideas, policies, and innovative planning techniques. We are always seeking well-written and interesting material.

PBCD encourages individuals to contact us with ideas for content or to provide original content, and to use PBCD as a vehicle to highlight all of the important planning and design related work planners of color are doing on the ground. Did you attend an exciting walking tour, workshop or professional development recently? Do you have any innovative planning ideas? How about your opinion on the state of ongoing planning? Here's your chance to be heard.

Past PBCD News issues are available at: www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org



We Are Seeking *YOUR* submission for our *NEXT PBCD News issue!*

In general, submittals for PBCD News should be relevant, geared to the diverse interests of our membership and be a maximum of between 1-3 pages in length. However, we are flexible and all submissions are subject to editorial review and edit. Illustrations with submissions are highly welcome and are worth a thousand words!

**Submission Deadline:
June 1, 2012**

**For submittals or questions,
please send to:**

Calvin M. Whitaker
cmwhitaker@yahoo.com

Next Issue Release: July 2012

News You Can Use

POCIG (Planners of Color Interest Group) initiated special edition of Housing Policy Debate, entitled "**Recovery After Hurricane Katrina**," now available online: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rhpd20>



Congratulations to Edward Blakely for the publication (by University of Pennsylvania Press) of his recent book:

My Storm: Managing the Recovery of New Orleans in the Wake of Katrina



Congratulations to Professor Emeritus William Harris, FAICP for the publication (by the Edwin Mellon Press) of this newest book:

**African American Community Development
(with Twelve Case Studies)**

Employment Resources

American Planning Association - Jobs:

www.planning.org/jobs/search/

Planetizen - Jobs:

www.planetizen.com/jobs

Local APA Chapters:

www.planning.org/chapters/

Govtjobs.com: www.govtjobs.com/

Governmentjobs.com:

www.governmentjobs.com

Govtjob.net:

www.govtjob.net/job_openings.htm

USAJobs.com: www.usajobs.gov/

Geography Jobs:

www.geographyjobs.com/

GIS Jobs: www.gisjobs.com/

GIS Jobs Clearinghouse:

<http://www.gjc.org/>

Foundation Center Jobs:

<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/jobs/>

Indeed: www.indeed.com

Cyberbia Job Resources (Mega Listing):

www.cyberbia.org

The Chronicle of Philanthropy- Jobs:

<http://philanthropy.com>

National Forum of Black Public

Administrators: www.nfbpa.org

PBCD NEWS

April 3, 2012



American Planning Association
**Planning and the
Black Community Division**

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Planning and the Black Community Division
of the American Planning Association

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Making Great Communities Happen

Planning and the Black Community Division of APA

www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org
www.planning.org/divisions/blackcommunity



American Planning Association
**Planning and the
Black Community Division**

Making Great Communities Happen



American Planning Association
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Black Community Division**

Making Great Communities Happen

Mission

The Planning and The Black Community Division (PBCD) of APA is an organization that provides a national forum for planners, administrators, public officials, students and other interested individuals to address issues of significance to the black community, promote exchange between members and other organizations, encourage and support professional development among black planners and provide career information.