Our Mission
The mission of the APA Foundation is to advance the art and science of planning through philanthropic activities that provide access to educational opportunities, enrich the public dialogue about planning, and advance social equity in the profession and in our communities.

Priority Initiatives
The APA Foundation fulfills this mission through three priority initiatives:

SCHOLARSHIPS
Increasing diversity in the planning profession by providing financial assistance to underrepresented students

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE
Extending expert planning services to underserved, resource-limited, and disaster-affected communities

RESEARCH
Supporting research that provides planners with tools to help communities plan for future challenges

2018 Contributions
Total contributions: $87,827

2018 Distributions and Commitments
The APA Foundation distributed scholarships totaling $25,000 to eight planning students attending accredited planning schools and committed $78,000 to disaster-recovery planning projects in six communities devastated by hurricanes in 2017.

2018 Scholarship Recipients
Georgia Institute of Technology
Jasmine Jones-Bynes

Harvard University
Gina Ciancone
Henna Mahmood

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Kenyatta McLean

University of California, Berkeley
Lily MacIver
Diego Rentería

University of Illinois at Chicago
Kim Lovely

University of Michigan
India Solomon

2018 Disaster Recovery Grantees
Florida
Deerfield Beach

Puerto Rico
San Juan
San Isidro, Canóvanas, and Rio Piedras

Texas
The Coastal Bend
Rockport
Wharton
Judith McManus Price Scholarship Spotlight: Kenyatta McLean

As a student at UCLA, Kenyatta McLean drove 25 minutes once a week to tutor students in nearby Inglewood. These trips opened her eyes to the ways the built environment can dictate residential exposure to resources and influence life outcomes. Her students commonly sought after-school snacks at the local gas station or liquor store. The disparity between their lack of access to fresh foods, contrasted with her own proximity to Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s, fueled her interest in understanding how urban and regional development policies resulted in segregation and hoarding of resources.

Following graduation, Kenyatta started as an Urban Fellow at the Department of Small Business Services in New York City. She worked on a revitalization team that managed $1.5 million in Community Development Block Grant funds to support nonprofits that improved low-to-moderate-income commercial corridors across the city.

In 2015, Kenyatta co-founded BlackSpace, a collective of professionals with experience in urban planning, architecture, real estate development, urban design, and the arts. She describes BlackSpace as “A space for professionals with a shared identity to come together around our challenges within the field and share ideas of how to create or reimagine the way our work is done.”

“I plan to leave my mark on planning by vetting and producing new ideas of operationalizing equity in neighborhood development.”

Currently enrolled as a graduate student at MIT, Kenyatta looks forward to earning her master’s in city planning and collaborating with faculty to better understand racialized zoning laws. With the help of the APA Foundation’s Judith McManus Price Scholarship, Kenyatta will continue to press for preservation and development of healthy neighborhoods, stable homes, and economic opportunities for marginalized American communities. She says, “I plan to leave my mark on planning by vetting and producing new ideas of operationalizing equity in neighborhood development.”

Disaster Recovery Grant Spotlight: Puerto Rico – Disaster Mitigation and Recovery

Hurricane Maria was a Category 4 hurricane that made landfall over Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017.

The hurricane caused widespread devastation and the collapse of critical infrastructure. Two particularly hard hit communities — Rio Piedras in San Juan and Canóvanas in San Isidro — are the focus of a disaster recovery project (one of six) funded by the APA Foundation.

The project centers on a studio series conducted jointly by the Graduate School of Planning at the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras and the School of City and Regional Planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Twelve students from each university will participate in parallel studios focused on developing disaster recovery proposals that will model best practices for channeling institutional resources and student talent toward disaster recovery planning.

“This project will help the affected communities recognize the opportunities they already have and identify new ones that became available after the disaster. It will help draw a blueprint for reconstruction,” explains Dr. Norma Peña Rivera, acting director of the Graduate School of Planning at the University of Puerto Rico.
Donor Spotlight:
Richard Anderson, FAICP

Richard Anderson, FAICP, is a nationally recognized urban planner. He was president of the New York Building Congress from 1994–2017, served as executive director of the Dallas Plan, and was president of New York’s Regional Plan Association. In 1980, he became the first elected president of the newly formed American Planning Association. He has been an AICP member since 1969 and was inducted into the AICP College of Fellows in 2000. Richard is the Vice Chair of the APA Foundation Board and Chair of the APA Foundation Fundraising Committee.

“Planning is, by definition, a caring profession. As a planner, I see contributing to the APA Foundation as another way to do good.”

Why do you support the APA Foundation?
I have worked in planning for my entire career, so I see support of the APA Foundation as a way to give back to my profession. The APA Foundation has a well-rounded program with three priority initiatives — scholarships, community assistance, and research — that form a solid framework to support its mission.

I’m particularly inspired by the disaster recovery grants awarded by the Foundation. One of the missing ingredients following a natural disaster is “replanning” — after immediate relief efforts conclude — to ensure that communities use the opportunity to reimagine and replan themselves to be more resilient to future disasters. The Foundation is funding that critical and often overlooked part of the recovery process.

Why do you think it’s important for planners to support the APA Foundation?
Planning is, by definition, a caring profession. As a planner, I see contributing to the APA Foundation as another way to do good. It doesn’t take a lot from any one individual, but together we can have a great impact. As an APA member, it’s easy to just add a small donation when you pay your dues. When my dues dropped when I became a Life member, I started donating the difference to the APA Foundation.

Students from Georgia Tech will travel to Puerto Rico to collaborate with students there in intensive workshops; hear from guest lecturers; participate in site visits, community outreach activities, and data collection; engage in service projects; and cooperatively develop proposed policies and adaptation actions that prioritize sustainable infrastructure and socio-economic development.

According to Dr. Catherine Ross, who chairs the School of City and Regional Planning at Georgia Tech, “Both sets of students will benefit from this hands-on, locally driven work, learning from residents of affected communities as well as organizations like ENLACE, a community-organized public-private partnership.”
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