Our mission 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.

The APA Foundation fulfills this mission through three priority initiatives:

- Scholarships
- Research
- Community assistance
MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ONE MONTH AT A TIME

Angela Brooks, AICP

Angela Brooks, AICP, always knew that she wanted to serve communities. She earned her degree in planning because she was interested in how policies—especially land use decisions—impact the people who live in a community, particularly in minority communities.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Brooks volunteered to serve on a Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) in Henderson Point, Mississippi. This experience left a lasting impact, and she felt a deep connection with the ability to do professional service of that magnitude. “There are so many communities that lack resources but need planners’ technical expertise. As a planner that is the work I want to do, and it became clear to me that as a donor that is the kind of work I want to support.”

In addition to community assistance, Ms. Brooks is compelled to support the APA Foundation because of the scholarships the Foundation offers. “School is not getting any cheaper, and entry level planner salaries do not necessarily support the career decision to become a planner. We have to support the next generation of planners, and scholarships are one way to do that.”

Angela Brooks is one of the APA Foundation’s first sustaining donors—a donor who has set up a recurring gift to the Foundation. “A recurring gift is the easiest way to give more and to give consistently. I can set up an amount that fits into my budget, which gives the Foundation reliable income that can help sustain its work and allow for long-term planning to make the biggest impact in communities and the profession.”

BY THE NUMBERS

Total contributions

$148,473

Total distributions*

$65,227

*scholarships and grants

Image © Joe Szurszewski

Special thank you to our NPC19 Foundation reception sponsor and partner.
In 2019 we launched a new APA Foundation scholarship, aiming to diversify the planning profession by opening doors to opportunity and creating a pipeline of top planning students from all backgrounds. By supporting students from underrepresented communities, including women, people of color and indigenous descent, veterans, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community, we can broaden the perspectives and voices in planning for the benefit of everyone.

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University of California, Berkeley

**Alexander Duprey**  
Tufts University

**Valeria Henao Cano**  
University of Colorado, Denver

**CLAIRE JAFFE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

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**LAIER-RAYSHON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Arthur Christian “Chris” Nelson, FAICP, has enjoyed successful planning careers in private and public sector planning and academia, and is currently Professor of Urban Planning and Real Estate Development at the University of Arizona. Chris recently lent his broad expertise to APA Foundation’s FutureShape initiative. His work, and the work of many others from planning, academia, research, and allied fields, will result in the first-ever research agenda for the planning profession. “FutureShape is an important initiative,” says Chris, “because it will create a agenda for planning research. The agenda will guide researchers and funders to develop the planning techniques and practices needed to meet emerging challenges.”

Chris also believes in paying it forward to the next generation of planners. Notably, he created a new APA scholarship, the Arthur C. Nelson Fellowship, to support women, people of color and indigenous descent, veterans, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community who are currently enrolled in Planning Accreditation Board-approved programs. Why? “I am setting up this scholarship to help support the very students who are the future of APA, the profession and our communities because we need their diverse perspectives.”

“Donating to the APA Foundation—including setting up individual endowments—is an opportunity for people whose careers are winding down and want to give back. I especially call upon our colleagues in consulting firms to create their own legacy through endowments, because it’s in their own interest to help create a pipeline of diverse talent. I also encourage individual planners to be creative by forming groups to create their own collective endowed funds.”

As Chris observes: “The legacy options are many but the need is clear: We need to commit ourselves to supporting the next generation of planners.”

“Making a Difference: Leaving a Legacy”

Artists: Courtesy Cait McCusker/Portland State University

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In 2019, the APA Foundation brought together planning leaders—APA members, researchers, academics, and stakeholders in planning and related fields—to identify the gaps between current planning tools and the challenges communities will face in the future. With their leadership, and input from APA members and allied professionals, in 2020, the Foundation will produce FutureShape—the first research agenda for the planning profession.

**FUTURESHPAE**

**FIRST-EVER COLLABORATIVE AGENDA FOR PLANNING RESEARCH PRIORITIES**

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**FOR PLANNING RESEARCH PRIORITIES**

**FIRST-EVER COLLABORATIVE AGENDA**

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**Climate Change, Resilience, and Sustainability**

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**Plan Making and Implementation**

**4 work groups, plus steering committee**

**36 participants, a.k.a. leaders in the profession**

**worked together to identify**

**5 themes for the first-ever research agenda**
COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

MAKING COMMUNITIES MORE RESILIENT

In 2018, the APA Foundation announced the recipients of the first cohort of disaster recovery grants. Each of the six recipient communities—in Florida, Puerto Rico, and Texas—have used the grant to support post-disaster resiliency and infrastructure projects in 2019.

1. **Deerfield Beach, Florida**
   This project provided the City of Deerfield Beach with a strategic plan for guiding actions and decision-making during disaster recovery and redevelopment, to speed up the recovery process and maximize disaster funds and resources.

2. **San Juan, Puerto Rico**
   Community recovery planning guidelines were developed with assistance from four graduate students and the Puerto Rico Planners Network to promote disaster recovery while addressing physical access and long-standing issues, such as landslides, flooding, poverty, and mobility.

3. **University of Puerto Rico – Georgia Tech Planning Studio**
   The joint Studio delivered a community data dashboard, highlighting gaps in the data and offering suggestions for remediation, and a database of grants, partnerships and other funding opportunities to help the affected communities implement recovery plans. The success of this effort has spurred the creation of a second joint Studio, to be offered in the Spring of 2020.

4. **APA Texas Chapter Dutch Dialogues**
   In 2020, APA’s Texas Chapter will be completing a series of three programs providing information exchange and training for recovery planning that will help planners and planning officials in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

5. **Rockport, Texas**
   This Recovery Planning Assistance Team project leveraged partnerships to plan for a more environmentally and economically resilient Downtown Rockport. The plan supports post-Hurricane Harvey recovery and combines efforts with a comprehensive plan update by Texas Target Communities.

6. **Wharton, Texas**
   Wharton experienced three major flood events in just 16 months. The Recovery Planning Assistance Team plan integrated and leveraged hazard mitigation infrastructure projects to transform the levee projects into community assets, integrate cultural resources programming into city programs to attract visitors, and create an active transportation program to provide safer roads and places for people to walk and bike.

Support for the Rockport and Wharton projects was provided by a grant from the Pisces Foundation, which seeks ways to accelerate to a world where people and nature thrive together. Pisces has committed to funding three more disaster resilience projects in 2020.

Learn more about the APA Foundation and join our growing community of donors at [planning.org/foundation](http://planning.org/foundation)