Since its inception, EJB | DESIGNS has further connected planning students to APA through events, peer education, and social networking. In January of 2019, EJB | DESIGNS curated a gallery exhibit at the New Jersey Planning Conference that showcased the graphic work created by EJB | DESIGNS members and Bloustein students. The exhibit featured thirteen 30”x40” poster boards that provided both graduate and undergraduate students a unique opportunity to engage with APA-NJ professionals. Coordination of the gallery space required that students engage with APA-NJ event coordinators prior to, during, and after the event. Overall, this opportunity helped students share their portfolios and engage with professionals in meaningful ways and provided APA-NJ professionals an opportunity to discuss student work with students, colleagues, and other attendees.

In October of 2019, EJB | DESIGNS hosted its first Urban Design Lecture Series titled, Designing Value: The Impact of Design, which APA-NJ co-sponsored. The two-day panel featured several seasoned planning and development professionals who described to Bloustein students, faculty, APA members, and the general public how their work experiences have navigated the complex relationship of community development and gentrification. The event was a major success, drawing over 80 attendees and providing practicing planners and students with an additional venue to network and discuss real challenges faced by planners in the field.

EJB DESIGNS continues to pursue its goals through increased student membership and broader connections to the non-academic world. This year, we look forward to rehosting the gallery space at the 2020 APA-NJ Conference and participating in a student and faculty led conference session. It is a great honor to apply for the APA Outstanding Planning Student Organization Award.
In the academic setting EJB DESIGNS seek to explore how the traditional act of sketching can embrace new technologies that have created a contemporary image. Our student work exhibits the various influences that impact our thoughts in the design process. We have our work displayed at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and we display our work annually in the NJ APA Conference.

We demonstrate how sketching is a fundamental and time-tested tool of design communication. The value of what we do has won our organization recognition in the local area of New Jersey as an organization worth hiring to create urban plan concepts. Our client list includes, the Cities of Passaic, Newark, Phillipsburgh and Manville.
We visit innovative projects to learn about their approach to impacting the social environment.

Visiting unpopular places in New Jersey and documenting their community assets.

We talk to community members to discover social values that can guide the redevelopment.

Discussing ideas with professionals in our field.

We bring professionals to our student and professional community to create a dialogue about current development issues.
Popular amongst the students in the Spring are our professional development workshops. These workshops were designed to introduce students to various topics and techniques used in the professional world. We collaborate with other student organizations to attract a wide array of students in the planning, health, and public policy program.
This tra-digital technique was used to help us communicate ideas before dedicating too much time to CAD. It is a great design and communication tool especially during a design charrette.
We teach and assist graduate and undergraduate students how to put together their portfolios. We show them how to pace themselves in producing them and to reach the goal of submitting their work in early February. To achieve this goal we bring in professionals to discuss good content and review draft sets. Annually we host a series of workshops in the Fall and early Spring to guide students through the process.

For each student, we take the time to discuss the content of their work and show why certain attributes are important to show in a portfolio and not all.
Every year we host a mock design charrette for our undergraduate students interested in planning and urban design. We bring professionals and graduate students to assist and teach the valuable techniques in a design charrette. Our event is a great way for our undergraduates and graduates to network with our alumni and professionals.