



Area Convention & Visitors Bureau





Making Great Communities Happen



#### Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the 37<sup>th</sup> APA LA annual conference in Houma! The Acadiana Local Host Conference Committee has designed an exciting program to bring you the bayou country experience and examine planning challenges in the region. The theme of the conference is "Planning on the Edge", exploring coastal restoration and resiliency, where the edges of urban and rural lines are and may be blurred, and how the edge of technology applies to planning.

Here are some conference highlights:

- · Annual Chapter Business Meeting
- GIS Training
- Opening Luncheon with Jeff Carney, Director of the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio on Where is the Real Edge of the Louisiana Coastline
- Mobile workshops going Up "Da" Bayou and Down "Da" Bayou getting you
  out of the conference hotel to discover bayou country from the local
  planner's perspective (CM credits pending).
- Breakfast with Gordy, newly elected Terrebonne Parish President Gordon
   F. Dove
- Annual Awards luncheon
- Ending Luncheon with U. S. Congressman Garret Graves
- Planning Commissioners' Training (meets LA Act 859 requirements)
- AICP Test Prep

We hope the 37<sup>th</sup> APA LA annual conference will be educational and inspirational, giving you an "Edge" in planning. Please let us know if there is anything we can do make this conference relevant to you. We are here to serve the APA LA.

Sincerely yours,

April Jenison

Lydia Z. Jemison, AICP, CFM APA LA Chapter President

Christopher Pulaski, PLA Chair, Local Host Conference Committee







## Built to deliver a better world





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Derek Chisholm, AICP, LEED GA, ENV SP New Orleans, LA 504.799.1344 AECOM is proud to sponsor the APA-Louisiana State Conference 2016 and is eager to partner with state and local agencies as they Plan on the Edge:

The Coastal Edge – with AECOM's coastal master planning and design of flood control systems,

The Design Innovation Edge - AECOM will design and build the world's first Hyperloop test track as part of the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition.

The Public Involvement Edge – with AECOM comment management system, online GIS portals, and large group polling technology. And

The Edge of a New Era – with AECOM's resilience scorecard and resiliency planning tailored to small businesses, large institutions, Parishes and municipalities.

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Read our e-book "What's next in making cities resilient?" to learn more about devising a whole-systems approach to resiliency and cities.





### **CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE**



APA Louisiana 2016 State Conference Page 5



## Wednesday March 2

10-5 Registration Marriott Lobby 11-12 **APA Louisiana Chapter Meeting** Couture-Parlour C Join us for a Chapter business meeting, with a welcome from Lydia Z. Jemison, AICP, CFM, Chapter President. We will discuss our 2015 milestones and plans for 2016. Don't miss the opportunity to join the discussion to help guide our state. 12-1:15 Lunch Versailles-Parlour A & B Jeff Carney, AICP AIA, Director of the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, is the keynote speaker and will talk about the "Battle of the Boot", the challenge of keeping the coastline from eroding and the opportunities to preserve it. 1:30-4CM: 2.25 On the Bus (Meet in Lobby) Around da Bayou, Vision: 2030 Join Chris Pulaski, Terrebonne Parish Planning & Zoning Director & other officials for a tour of the Houma-Terrebonne region, highlighting the implementation of the Vision 2030 Comprehensive Master Plan, recipient of the 2015 APA LA Award for Excellence in Plan Implementation. See & hear about the Parish's strategies, successes & works in progress. Couture-Parlour C 1:30-2:45 **Communicating Environmental Change** CM: 1.25 In the dynamic Louisiana coastal environment, communicating environmental change is essential to development decision-making. Tools available to planners can increase efficiency and improve responsiveness. There are challenges to incorporate these tools into the planning processes. This sessions presents the work of three Louisiana entities generating, Visualizing and disseminating information to practitioners. Presenters: (Moderator) Jeff Carney, AICP AIA, Director, LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio; Traci Birch, Assistant Research Professor, LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio; Melissa Daigle, Research Associate/Recovery Specialist, Louisiana Sea Grant; and Brant Mitchell, Director, Research & Operations, Stephenson Disaster Management Institute. Port Planning: Managing the Water's Edge CM: 1.25 Library-First Floor Mtg. Room Ports are distinct entities with jurisdictions that border waterways and communities and are like cities in their own right, are often left out of the traditional planning processes. Some 150 public port authorities in the US handle more than 2 billion tons of domestic and import/export cargo annually. This panel will include presentations from several Louisiana ports & local and regional planners on the latest master planning efforts, highlighting infrastructure needs, economic forecasts and the opportunities these issues present for collaboration beyond jurisdictional boundaries. Presenters: (Moderator) Meredith E. Soniat, Sustainability Planner, Regional Planning Commission; Amelia Pellegrin, AICP, LEED AP, Environmental Services Manager, Port of New Orleans; Joni Tuck, Grants Administrator, Lafourche Port Commission; Karen Parsons, AICP, Principal Planner, Regional Planning Commission; Clair Hebert Marceaux, PCED, Director, Economic Development, Cameron Parish Police Jury

## Wednesday March 2

#### 3-4:15 Planning for Health in the Diabetes Belt

CM: 1.25

Couture-Parlour C

Baton Rouge has seen tremendous unplanned growth in the last three decades, resulting in the worst sprawl among US cities its size. Along with the unplanned growth, negative health impacts are significant and growing. FUTUREBR, the 2011 comprehensive plan for the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge calls for a realignment of City/Parish policies, regulations and investment decisions to improve quality of life. The session will highlight 2 on-going planning efforts and identify key policy, design and investment strategies linked by evidence to improve health outcomes.

Presenters: (Moderator) Frank M Duke, FAICP, Planning Director, City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge; Lael Holton, AICP, Manager, Long Range Planning, City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge; Basak Alkan, AICP, LEED AP BD+C, Urban Design, Perkins + Will; and Lauren Jumonville, Project Manager, Baton Route Area Foundation.

#### **Managing Storm Water in New Orleans**

CM: 1.25

Library-First Floor Mtg. Room

The City of New Orleans & the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans strive to preserve and restore the delicate environmental balance of a coastal city and implement several comprehensive plans by enforcing environmental law, Implementing storm water management regulations, installing green infrastructure and facilitating education and outreach programs. This session will share how these 2 agencies are working together to ensure continued success.

Presenters (Moderator) Brooke T. Perry, Senior City Planner, City of New Orleans; Danica Adams, Senior City Planner, City of New Orleans; Bridget A. Tydor, City Planner, Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans; and Tyler Antrup, Senior City Planner, City of New Orleans.

5:30-8

Bayou Bash Dinner (Ticketed Event) Enjoy dockside dining at Dominique's Wine Boutique & Bistro in Historic Downtown Houma.

Come & celebrate the planning profession at our premiere ticketed event. The menu will feature the local expertise of

Owner/Executive Chef/Sommelier Dominique Malbrough. 8013 Main Street, Houma, LA. <a href="https://www.dominiquesbistro.com">www.dominiquesbistro.com</a>



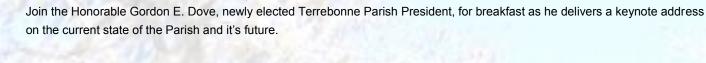


7-5 Registration Marriott Lobby

7:30-8:30

#### Breakfast- Grits & Grillades with Gordy

Versailles-Parlour A & B



8:45-10:15

#### Who Are You Calling Arbitrary

CM: 1.50 Law

Couture-Parlour C

The planning process, resulting in regulations enacted for community benefit, often takes place "on the edge" of limited resources. This can result in missed opportunities for the creation and adoption of clearly drafted and clearly understood regulations. This presentation offers concise guidelines, based on cited Louisiana judicial decisions & experience of the presenters, on how to help protect land use planning & regulatory decisions without inviting lawsuits. It includes a recommended "Land Use Decision Box" consisting for 4 precepts: Be Clear, List, Be Consistent and Give Your Reasons for use by planning staff, commissioners and elected officials in safeguarding their actions.

Presenters: (Moderator) Neil Erwin, JD, Manager, Neil Erwin Law, LLC; Susannah O. Stinson, JD, Associate Attorney, Neil Erwin Law, LLC; Caroline E. Mladenka, MPA, Policy Analyst, Neil Erwin Law LLC; and Pat Doane, Planner & Paralegal, Neil Erwin Law, LLC.

9-10:15

#### Damned if We Hadn't

CM: 1.25

Duhe Center Mtg. Room G

This session focuses on how Lafourche Parish's unique historical past has made it economically stable with challenging environmental issues. Learn how the Parish's southern portion is completely within a manmade flood controlled system, making it vulnerable to frequent coastal and seasonal storms. However, with local pro-active measures, the Parish continues to thrive economically. The panel will also discuss the ramifications of the Federal Government moving towards a 500-year flood requirement.

Presenters (Moderator) Jeffery Leuenberger, AICP, Senior Planner, Lafourche Parish Government; Windell Curole, Director South Lafourche Levee District; Joni Tuck, Grants Administrator, Greater Lafourche Ports Commission; Amanda Voisin, Coastal Zone Management Coordinator, Lafourche Parish.

#### 9-10:15 Edging Ahead in Suburbia CM: 1.25

Jefferson Parish, in partnership with the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, concluded an expansive evaluation and public outreach effort to address cycling needs. This resulted in the Jefferson Parish Master Bicycle Plan and was adopted in April 2014. The panel will discuss the structure, elements and intricacies of creating a plan that is both well done and politically acceptable.

Presenters: (Moderator) Karen Parsons, Principal Planner, New Orleans Regional Planning Commission; Terri Wilkinson, Planning Director; Matthew Rufo, AICP, Senior Planner, GCR, Inc; and Mark Drewes, Director, Department of Engineering

#### 10:30-11:45 South Central Multi-Modal Extravaganza

CM: 1.25

Couture-Parlour C

Library-2nd Floor Mtg. Room

Transportation is an important aspect for those living in rural areas and this session will focus on examining alternatives to automobile travel in the rural parishes. There have been recent studies and planning efforts and the discussion will focus on the recent Lafourche Transit Study and on-going planning efforts with AMTRAK and Greyhound. Other planning initiatives will also be discussed along with any updates and new efforts.

Presenters: (Moderator) Leo Marretta, Transportation Division Administrator, SCPDC; Adam Tatar, Transportation Planner, SCPDC; and Jeffery Leuenberger, AICP, Senior Planner, Lafourche Parish Government

#### Do The Best Laid Recovery Plans Often Go Astray?

CM: 1.25

Duhe Center Mtg. Room G

In the 10 year since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the coast, communities along the coast have invested time and energy in planning rebuilding critical assets in preparation for future storms. However, during this time of restoration, many of these areas have also become hot spots for development opportunity. Has the recovery planning process equipped these area to address this new found interest and investment or have these plans gone astray and been shelved, forgotten or replaced?

Presenters: (Moderator) Jane S. Brooks, FAICP, University of New Orleans; Stephen D. Villavaso, FAICP, JD, Principal, Villavaso & Associates; Clair Hebert Marceaux, PCED, Director of Economic Development, Cameron Parish Police Jury; and Tim H. Jackson, AICP, Principal, Tim Jackson Consulting.

#### 10:30-11:45 Street Smart Neighborhood Connectivity Plan

CM: 1.25

Library-2nd Floor Mtg. Room

During the Street Smart Planning process in Baton Rouge, streetscape demonstrations were used as an outreach tool. This led to widespread neighborhood involvement and a plan to improve safety, connectivity and health for all members of the neighborhood. This presentation will illustrate how temporary physical changes to the street, along with more traditional public meetings and online tools, can help residents visualize changes, ease concerns and build support.

Presenters: Lauren Marschall, Project Manager, Center for Planning Excellence; and Ryan Benton, Designer, Center for Planning Excellence

#### 12-1:30 Lunch—Chapter Awards

Versailles-Parlour A & B

Join special emcee, Dr. Fritz Wagner, former Dean/Director of College of Urban & Public Affairs at the University of New Orleans, now Research Professor & Director of the Northwest Center for Livable Communities in the Department of Urban Design & Planning at the University of Washington-Seattle, to recognize planning excellence in Louisiana.

#### 1:45-5 Mobile Workshops

On the Bus (Meet in Lobby)

Down Da Bayou

CM: 2.75

Join us as we go down da Bayou! This mobile workshop will take attendees through downtown Houma, past Chauvin along Highway 56, across the inland marsh near Cocodrie & back through Dulac along LA Highway 57. Communities along these highways indeed do live on the edge-the water's edge, among the numerous bayous & small inlets of the Gulf. Balancing economic development & survival with flooding and salt water intrusion has been a way of life for generations. The tour will stop at the Boudreaux Canal Floodgate, to watch the lock structure in action, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and Cecil Lapeyrouse Grocery.

Up Da Bayou CM: 2.75 On the Bus (Meet in Lobby)

Join us at we travel from Houma up to Thibodaux & back to the conference hotel along some major growth corridors in both Terrebonne & Lafourche Parishes. As residents & businesses look for higher ground to invest & build, many former agricultural & rural uses make way for increased development. Highway 90 has been designated as the future I-49 corridor. The tour will stop at Bayou Country Club; Acadia Plantation & Schriever Railroad Crossing, a former AMTRAK station now a flag stop.

#### 1:45-3 Sessions **Blurring the Curb Lines** CM: 1.25 Couture-Parlour C Cities and towns are reclaiming streets for people over cars by softening the traditional hard edge between motor vehicles and pedestrians. This interactive discussion will reveal how New Orleans planners, designers and policymakers are rethinking boundaries in the public right of way to promote economic development, improve water quality, increase safety and encourage physical activity. Presenters: (Moderator) Matthew Rufo, AICP, Senior Planner, CGR, Inc; Ramiro Diaz, LEED AP, Architect, Waggonner and Ball Architects; Melissa Lee, Sr. Advisor for Commercial Revitalization, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority; and Kurt Weigle, President & CEO, Downtown Development District. Planning on the Edge of Professions CM: 1.25 Library- 2nd Floor Mtg. Room Join us as we discuss how planners, landscape architects and engineers are integrating edges of their professions to meet the primary new challenge of our time: storm water management. Case study is presented that demonstrates how collaboration can work in land use planning, zoning codes and plan reviews. Presenters: (Moderator) Dana Nunez Brown, ASLA, AICP, LEED AP, President, Dana Brown & Associates; Jessica L. Watts, P.E., CFM, D.WRE, Water Resources Engineer, CDM Smith; and Jennifer Roberts, Senior City Planner, Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans. Couture-Parlour C 3:15-4:30 On The Edge of Road: Moving Walking & Biking Off The Margins CM: 1.25 Biking & walking are on the rise, in Louisiana and across the nation. This session provides updates on the Complete Streets policy approach, presents data that demonstrates an increasing demand for active transportation and evidence that infrastructure innovation is imperative. Bicycle and pedestrian plans from projects in New Orleans and Houma will be shared. Presenters: (Moderator) Ellen Soll, AICP, Principal, Soll Planning; Tara M. Tolford, Research Assistant, University of New Orleans Transportation Institute; Adam Tatar, Transportation Planner, SCPDC; and Stosh Kozlowski, Senior City Planner-Transportation, New Orleans City Planning Commission.

#### 3:15-4:30 Redirecting Markets to Realize Community Visions CM: 1.25 Library-2nd Floor Mtg. Room

Changes in the real estate, housing and commercial markets often are most evident along physical edges-corridors, neighborhoods, infrastructure or natural features that create boundaries. Community members often identify these edges as hot spots for change-whether that change comes in the form of gentrification, increasing vacancy, increasing density or other observable alterations. This panel will examine planning strategies for dealing with these contentious edges. Successful strategies from New Orleans' Oretha Castle Haley and Washington Avenue corridors, the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority's Commercial Corridor Gap Financing program and Houston's Southern Downtown Public Realm plan will be shared and discussed.

Presenters: (Moderator): Alexandra Miller, Consulting Principal, Asakura Robinson; Jonathan Leit, Director, New Orleans Office, Alembic Community Development; Zakcq Lockrem, Principal and Director of Planning, Asakura Robinson; and Seth Knudsen, Project Manager, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority.

5:15-6:15 Conference Reception Marriott Poolside

Join us poolside at the Marriot for some networking and meet and greet. Catch up with old friends and meet new friends. Dinner is on your own.

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## Friday March 4

7-9	Registration		Marriott Lobby
7:30-8:30	Breakfast– APA Leadership Experience Part Deux		Versailles-Parlour A & B
	Join us for Leadership Experience Part Deux. Help us plan for "Planner's Day at the State Capitol".		
	This special event, which will happen later this spring, will help ensure that our legislators understand the		
	vital role of planners in communities throughout the state. Your input and help is needed to ensure that		
	this event is successful!		
8:30-10	Ethics on the Edge	CM: 1.50	Couture-Parlour C
	An interactive Ethics session in which the APA ethics case of the year will be used to cover ethical topics of the		
	the APA Code of Conduct, public interest and conflict of inte	rest.	
	Presenter: Sean Daly, AICP, Iteris, Inc. & Professional Development Office, APA Louisiana Chapter		
8:45-10	Strategies for Funding Infrastructure Reconstruction	CM: 1.25	Duhe Center Mtg. Room C
	A majority of our country's highways, bridges, rail lines and port facilities along coastlines have outlived their design		
	lifespan. Facing the threat of sea level rise and climate-base		
	investment. This presentation explores costs and funding options and the need for a new national planning priorities		
	Presenter: Kate Gillespie, AICP, Vice-President, Director of Planning, Perez APC		
	MMLOS: How Many Bike Lanes are Enough	CM: 1.25	Versailles-Parlour A & B
	A new, groundbreaking study will determine bike, pedestrian, vehicular, and transit Level of Service (LOS) in downtown New Orleans, and use		
	the methodology to assess proposed improvements. We will cover best practices in multi-modal LOS; and we will provide the		
	models/spreadsheets for conference attendees to use in their own jurisdictions.		
	Presenters: (Moderator) Derek Chisholm, AICP LEED GA, ENV SP; Tara M. Tolford, Research Assistant, University		
	of New Orleans Transportation Institute; Bobby Evans, Transportation Planner II, AECOM; Carl Seifert, AICP, Senior Planner, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.		

## Friday March 4

10:15-11:30 Interstates and Urban Fault Lines

CM: 1.25

Couture-Parlour C

Planning is underway for the I-49 Lafayette Connector, a 5.5 mile elevated segment transecting Lafayette's urban core, combining parallel analysis of conceptual facility design incorporating Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) principles and a TIGER funded community planning scope. Project consultants and local representatives will discuss the progress in shaping a new kind of urban highway in a panel moderated by the I-49 South Coalition. This is an opportunity to discuss a near real-time case study given the time frame for this phase of the connector project. In addition to the panelists below, there will be a representative from DOTD.

Presenters: (Moderator) David Mann, Chairman, I-49 South Coalition; Stephen Wallace, Principal, Stantec; Carlee Alm-LaBar, Chief Development Officer, Lafayette Consolidated Government; Harry Weiss, Vice President of Urban Revitalization and Development, One Acadiana

#### Vacant Land: Empowering Stakeholders

CM: 1.25

**Duhe Center Mtg. Room G** 

Many urban areas throughout Louisiana have experienced shrinking or changing populations, thus leaving a large number of vacant lots and properties. These unattended lots and properties bring a variety of challenges to public safety, property values and quality of life for surrounding residents. While local governments have addressed these issues, it becomes a burden on governments to sustain these properties. The panel will discuss innovative approaches which have not only brought new stakeholders to the table but engaged the community.

Presenters: (Moderator) Alexandra Miller, Consulting Principal, Asakura Robinson; Bryan C. Lee, Jr, New Orleans Place + Civic Design Director, Arts Council of New Orleans; Colleen McHugh, Resilience Planning Fellow, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority; Liana Elliot, Vacant Land Service Designer + Policy Expert; and Zakcq Lockrem, Principal and Director of Planning, Asakura Robinson.

11:45-1:15 Lunch Versailles-Parlour A & B



Join Honorable Congressman Garrett Graves (R), as our concluding keynote speaker. The Congressman is a member of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as he discusses issues and opportunities in the upcoming Legislative session. Congressman Graves is the representative from Louisiana's 6th Congressional District. He is also a member of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Water Resources and the Environmental (Vice Chairman) and Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. He is also a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Subcommittees on Energy and Mineral Resources and Public Lands and Environmental Regulation.

1:39-5:30 Planning Commissioner Training Couture-Parlour C

AICP Test Preparation Marriott Board Room

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