



President's Corner



Mac Martin, AICP
City Planner
City of Hoover

CENSUS RESULTS ARE IN!

Hello fellow ALAPA members!

I hope this communication finds you all well. While 2021 has seen its share of challenges with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, our state has also experienced some good news. Results released by the U.S. Census Bureau last week included some particularly welcome news about our state. Alabama far exceeded the Fed's expectations for growth over the last decade. Our state welcomed almost a quarter of a million new residents since 2010, over a 5% increase and over 100,000 more than the bureau anticipated in its estimate.

Most of these gains were realized across several areas of the state, most notably the Huntsville MSA (including the City of Huntsville itself), the Birmingham-Hoover MSA, Baldwin County, the Auburn-Opelika-Phenix City area, and Tuscaloosa-Northport.

Other communities, primarily major cities, a few mid-sized communities, and rural areas, did experience some losses in the census count. While this may have been the case, there is still reason to be optimistic and celebrate accomplishments in these communities, including numerous re-development efforts and the newfound life downtowns are experiencing in communities large and small.

There is plenty for us to work on to meet the various challenges our communities face in the coming decade...

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Summer 2021 Newsletter

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AL-MS 2021 Annual Conference

Biloxi Civic Center, Biloxi, MS

October 13-15



SAVE THE DATE! The Mississippi Chapter of the APA has set the dates for our annual conference and reserved a venue. The conference will be held Wednesday, October 13 through Friday, October 15 at the Biloxi Civic Center, located at 578 Howard Ave. The conference is being planned as primarily an "in-person" event. However, we are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will adjust if needed. MSAPA is working to package information related to registration, session proposals, hotel accommodations, etc. Said information will be presented on the websites for both chapters very soon. Stay tuned!





President's Corner *Continued*

Planners in the high growth areas of our state have been and will continue to be busy working to ensure that the growth takes the best possible form and functionality. Planners in areas that experienced population loss are hard at work continuing the noble work of revitalizing their communities into places with renewed energy and hope. The ALAPA will continue to look for new ways to provide planners across the state with the resources and knowledge to advance their efforts and continue to enhance the quality of life for citizens across our great state! If you have ideas about how we can better serve our planning community with resources and programming to meet these various challenges and opportunities, feel free to reach out to me at mac.martin@hooveralabama.gov.

2021 APA Elections

While ALAPA will not hold elections for another year, 2021 national APA elections are in full swing. You should have received an email from the APA with your own personal login information and instructions on how to vote. Various national positions are on the ballot. The election is open through August 20, 2021. Candidate information is available on the online ballot. For technical support (available Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Central Time, USA, excluding holidays), please call 952-974-2339 or <mailto:support@directvote.net>. For other questions, please call 312-786-6372 or <mailto:getinvolved@planning.org>

Other Important Announcements!

- AARC 2021 Conference will take place October 24-27 in Montgomery. APICP CMs offered. Registration form is attached.
- Mississippi Main Street Association conference in Starkville, MS Sept 15-17. 12.75 AICP CMs available. Registration attached.
- The ALAPA Executive Committee has elected to partner with the Alabama Association of Regional Councils to jointly host the 2022 AL-MS APA annual conference on October 23-26, 2022 in Gulf Shores-Orange Beach. Stay tuned!



University Updates



The Spring 2021 Virtual Commencement and the Racial Justice and Urban Planning Lecture Series at Alabama A&M

The Department of Community and Regional Planning at Alabama A&M University celebrated the academic achievement of the graduates of the Bachelor of Science and the Master of Urban and Regional Planning in the Spring of 2021 on Wednesday, April 28th. Carol Rhea, FAICP, the Past President of the American Planning Association 2015-2017 served as the commencement speaker. She offered advice and encouragement to the planning graduates about the importance and role of planning discipline during the time of uncertainty.

The Department also presented the Racial Justice and Urban Planning lecture series on February 26th and April 16th. The first lecture series featured Dr. June Manning Thomas, Mary Frances Berry Distinguished University Professor Emerita, and Professor Emerita, Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Discussion also involved local panelists.

The second lecture series was given by Dr. Julian Agyeman titled "Just sustainabilities in urban policy, planning and practice". In his lecture, Dr. Agyeman outlined the concept of just sustainabilities.

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Auburn Planning Program Touts Student Learning Opportunities

The Spring 2021 Urban Design Studio, taught by Binita Mahato, worked on Auburn Martin Luther King Blvd (MLK) Corridor Urban Design Concept Plan focusing on the redevelopment of the corridor and its adjacent areas. Students worked closely with the Auburn Corridor Investment group (ACIG) on the project.

The Spring 2021 Synthesis Studio focused on four different hypothetical scenarios regarding the future of Auburn, AL. The students were divided into four groups in order to tackle the challenges that each scenario presented. Each scenario offered a vision of what the city of Auburn would look like in 2040.

Mr. Damon Duncan joined MCP faculty as an adjunct professor to teach a class on Public Sector Grantsmanship and leadership. Duncan is the executive Director of the Montgomery Housing Authority (MHA).

MCP students also had the opportunity to participate in a week-long charrette in Yazoo, Mississippi about historic downtown redevelopment. Along with participating in community engagement, students gained experience in land use and market analysis, historic building footprint, and feasibility analysis.

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