

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

**American Planning Association Iowa Chapter**

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# APA IOWA LEADERSHIP

## Board Officers (as of December 2021)

- President: Dylan Mullenix, AICP, Des Moines Area MPO
- Vice President: Madeline Sturms, AICP, City of Pleasant Hill
- Secretary: Bill Micheel, AICP, WSP USA Inc.
- Treasurer: Zach Young, AICP, Des Moines Area MPO
- Immediate Past President: J. Ben Champ, AICP, City of Pleasant Hill

## Executive Board Members (as of December 2021)

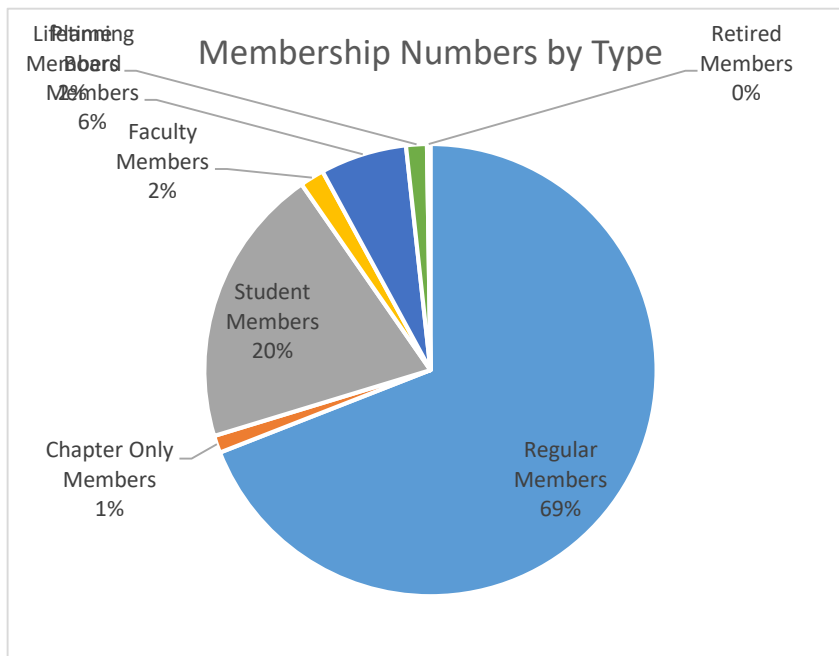
- Professional Development Officer: David Wilwerding, AICP, City of Johnston
- Planning Board Member: Trina Flack, City of Ankeny Plan & Zoning Commission
- Advocacy & Outreach Co-Chair: Rose Schroder, AICP, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Advocacy & Outreach Co-Chair: Melissa Tiedemann, AICP, Stanley Consultants
- Legislative Program Chair: Steven Van Steenhuyse, AICP, City of Mason City
- Chapter Development Co-Chair: Chris Janson, AICP, MSA Professional Services
- Chapter Development Co-Chair: Anne Russett, AICP, City of Iowa City
- Recognition & Awards Co-Chair: Chris Shires, AICP, Confluence
- Recognition & Awards Co-Chair: Emily Bothell, AICP, City of Iowa City
- Communications Program Co-Chair: Liesl Seabert, AICP, IEDA
- Professional Development Chair: Charlie Cowell, AICP, RDG Planning & Design
- At-Large Representative: Alexis Fleener, AICP, Southwest Iowa Planning Council
- At-Large Representative: Jim Holz, AICP, MSA Professional Services
- At-Large Representative: Vacant
- University Representative: Francis Owusu, Iowa State University
- University Representative: Lucie Laurian, University of Iowa
- University of Iowa Graduate Student: Tanner Osing
- Iowa State University Undergraduate Student: Keegan Haines
- Iowa State University Graduate Student: Andre Lafontant
- County Planning & Zoning Officials: Bret Vandelune, Polk County
- Iowa Floodplain & Stormwater Management Officials: Mark Land, Snyder & Associates

## Executive Board Members Whose Terms Expired in 2021

- Charlie Nichols, AICP, City of Cedar Rapids
- Leon Begay, University of Iowa Graduate Student
- Ashlyn Daniels, Iowa State University Undergrad Student

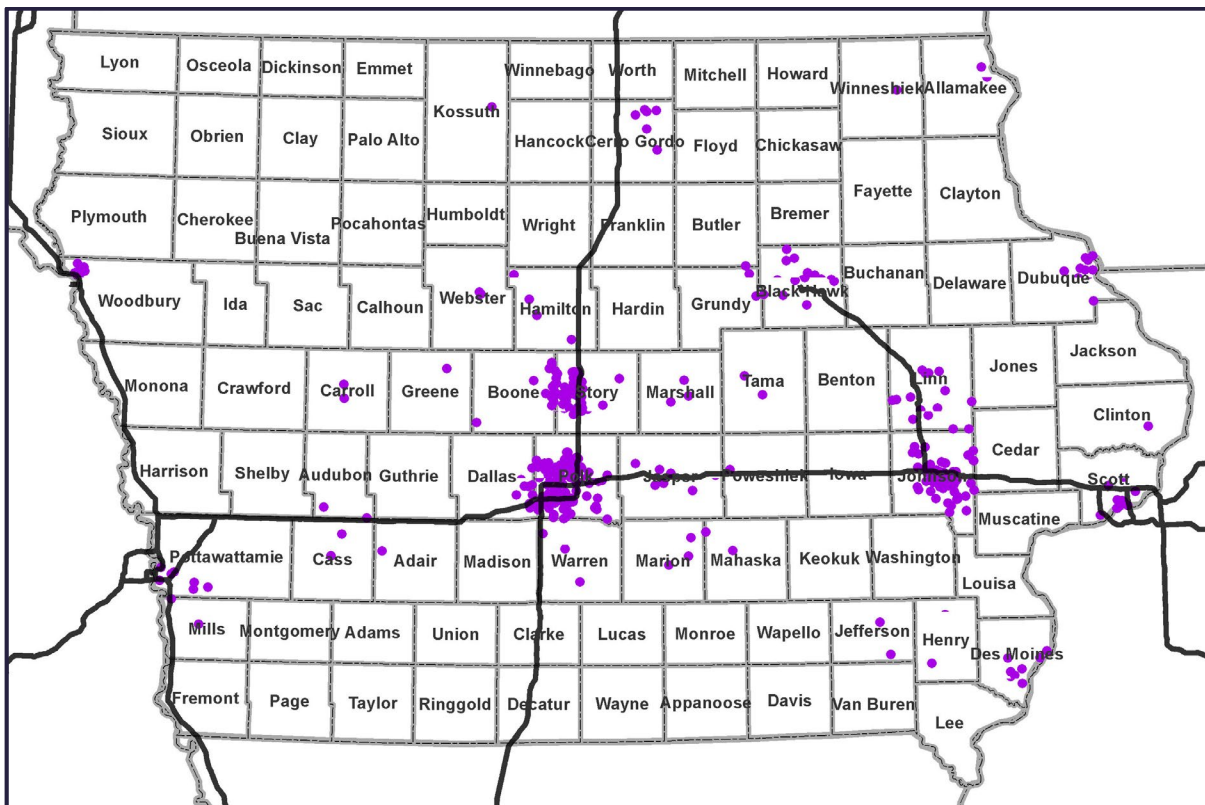
# MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

## Membership by Type



Membership Category	#
Regular Members	279
Chapter Only Members	5
Student Members	81
Faculty Members	7
Planning Board Members	25
Lifetime Members	6
Retired Members	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>404</b>

## Member Distribution



Data as of December 2021

# CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

## Elections

Chapter consolidated elections were held in August 2021 where chapter members received a ballot via email to cast their vote for executive officers including president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The following positions will serve two year terms beginning in January 2022.

- President: Madeline Sturms, AICP - City of Pleasant Hill
- Vice-President: Liesl Seabert, AICP - Iowa Economic Development Authority
- Immediate Past President: Dylan Mullenix, AICP - Des Moines Area MPO
- Secretary: Bill Micheel, AICP - WSP USA, Inc.
- Treasurer: Zach Young, AICP - Des Moines Area MPO

## Administrative Support

2021 was the second year that APA Iowa had paid administrative support. The board retained the services of firm Sickels & Associates, an Indianola based company who provided approximately 10 hours of assistance per month. These services included financial management services, meeting management and event coordination, and advisory services to help carry out APA Iowa's policies. The board voted in fall 2021 to terminate services with the contractor.

## 2022 Work Plan

In November 2021 the APA Iowa board held a *Strategic Doing* session, facilitated by Liesl Seabert, incoming Chapter Vice President recently certified as a Strategic Doing Facilitator, to help refine the 2022 work plan. Strategic Doing is a discipline of simple rules to form and guide collaborations. It is a discipline that enables participants to form complex collaborations quickly, move them toward measurable outcomes, and make adjustments as they learn by doing. The APA Iowa Chapter Board decided to use Strategic Doing to assure the development of a plan that was collaborative and actionable.

Board members identified three primary strategic opportunities to focus on in 2022: be the planning resource for advice, guidance, and learning within Iowa; improve upon relationships in the planning community, with you, and with outside organizations; and to improve upon our own operations through messaging, organization, and marketing. Priorities were further developed with metrics related to increased membership, increased awareness, and increased opportunities for engagement.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee

In August 2020, the APA Iowa chapter formed a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to ensure the underrepresented planners had a voice in the chapter and to help APA Iowa address DEI goals. The subcommittee meets monthly and has approximately 15 members. The committee has brought attention to important DEI topics and has facilitated the following events for the Chapter Board and Membership:

- September 7-8, 2021 – Anti Racism Training for Chapter Executive Board Members facilitated by Dr. Tristen Brenaé Johnson and Tiara Cash, Founder and Owner of Crowned Vitta
- November 18, 2021 – Planning on Tap – Microaggressions in the Workplace Virtual Panel featuring Caleb Knudson, V Fixmer-Oraix, Liesl Seabert, and Keisha Fields.

The APA Social Media Pages also celebrate underrepresented planners during various months including Iowa female planners (March), Asian American and Pacific Islanders Month (May), Pride Month (June), Hispanic and Latino American Heritage Month (Sept 15-Oct 15) and National Native American Heritage Month (November).

In September, the APA Iowa Board and its DEI Committee participated in an antiracism training. To aid in this training, the Chapter applied for and received a \$2,100 grant from the APA's Chapter President's Council. Diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts are ongoing within the chapter with a focused effort on sharing tools and resources to chapter members through planning on tap training opportunities and a working group has been created to review the Chapter's bylaws to evaluate all aspects of the Chapter's structure but specifically with a DEI lens to ensure opportunities for underrepresented members of the chapter.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## AICP Exam Results

In 2021, the Iowa Chapter welcomed 8 new AICP or AICP Candidates:

### New AICP Members

- Thomas Gruis
- Ruth Hulstrom

### New AICP Candidate Members

- Wyatt Archer
- Michael Delp
- Lauren Dietz
- Ryan Forster
- John Stinogel
- Nicholas Tarpey

The Chapter is promoting the APA new “One Path” program to certification which streamlines the AICP/AICP Candidate process.

## CM Offerings

In 2021, APA Iowa offered 70 hours of CM opportunities to members, compared with 77 hours offered in 2020. Of these, 40.25 hours were offered directly by APA Iowa. Other were offered by partnerships with the Department of Cultural Affairs for the Preserve Iowa Conference (23.75 hours), and the University of Iowa (6 hours).

## CM Partnership Policy

APA Iowa is a registered CM Provider through the American Planning Association and provides this service so that AICP members have ability to receive CM credits throughout Iowa, including APA Iowa events and conferences. APA Iowa frequently partners with other groups and organizations to co-sponsor training events so those events can qualify for CM credits. To partner with other groups to offer CM credits, APA Iowa must follow the guidelines set forth in the [CM Provider Toolkit](#).

## 2021 APA-Iowa Chapter Conference

The APA-Iowa Chapter Annual Conference was held October 13-15, 2021 in Des Moines at the Iowa Event Center as the only in-person programming for the year. The Chapter was able to offer 36.5 Certification Maintenance Credits including Law and Ethics through a variety of programming including:

### Keynotes

- The Power of Diversity & Inclusion, Wesley Hamilton, Founder of Disabled but not Really
- Artists as Essential Partners in Planning, Laura Zabel, Executive Director of Springboard for the Arts
- The Role of Civilians in Law Enforcement, Cameron McElhiney, Director of Training and Education for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement

### Mobile Tours

- Invest Des Moines: Tools & Strategies to Strengthen Middle Neighborhoods
- Cycle Your Watershed
- City Beautiful Movement/Downtown Bicycle Tour
- The Best of the West (DSM)

The program highlighted the planning work happening across Iowa and the Midwest thanks to the work of our local members. The event also featured targeted programming for young professionals including the Mentor Match Program, AICP Exam Preparation and student poster presentations, networking events including the progressive dinner and conference reception and sponsorship opportunities.





# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Each year, APA Iowa asks its members to nominate plans, projects, and individuals deserving recognition by the professional organization. Award nominees can be recognized in nineteen categories ranging from public outreach to distinguished leadership.

Based on an independent review by a jury of professional planners, nine nominees have been selected to receive APA-Iowa Awards in 2021.

**Award:** Best Practice

**Awardees:** City of Peosta and RDG Planning and Design

**Plan:** Peosta Forward! – Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan

**Award:** Transportation Planning

**Awardees:** Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, City of Burlington, City of West Burlington

**Plan:** Greater Burlington Bike and Pedestrian Plan

**Award:** Exemplary Student Project

**Awardees:** Iowa State University CRP 432 Community Planning Studio Class Members

**Plan:** Expanding Access to Quality and Affordable Housing in Grand Junction, Iowa

**Award:** Exemplary Student Project

**Awardees:** University of Iowa and Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities

**Plan:** 2040 City of Tama Comprehensive Plan

**Award:** Economic Development Planning

**Awardees:** City of Des Moines, Douglas Avenue Coalition, RDG Planning & Design, and HDR

**Plan:** Douglas Avenue Corridor Plan

**Award:** Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner

**Awardee:** Charles Connerly

**Award:** Urban Design

**Awardee:** City of Bondurant

**Plan:** City Park Master Plan

**Award:** Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan

**Awardees:** City of Ottumwa, Ottumwa Regional Legacy Foundation, Confluence, HR Green, and Leland Consulting Group

**Plan:** Our Ottumwa 2040 Comprehensive Plan

**Award:** Environmental Planning

**Awardees:** Astig Planning

**Plan:** Flood Resilience Action Plan in Coralville and the FRAP Guidebook for Planners

**Award:** Planning Advocate

**Awardee:** Mayor Curt Sullivan, City of Bondurant

**Award:** Student Poster Contest 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Awardee:** Ella Field

**Poster:** Comparing Urban Planning & Topography around Stream Ecosystems

**Award:** Student Poster Contest 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**Awardee:** Kayonna Topp

**Poster:** Community Engagement That Targets Underrepresented Populations

**Award:** Student Poster Contest 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**Awardee:** Meredith Miklos

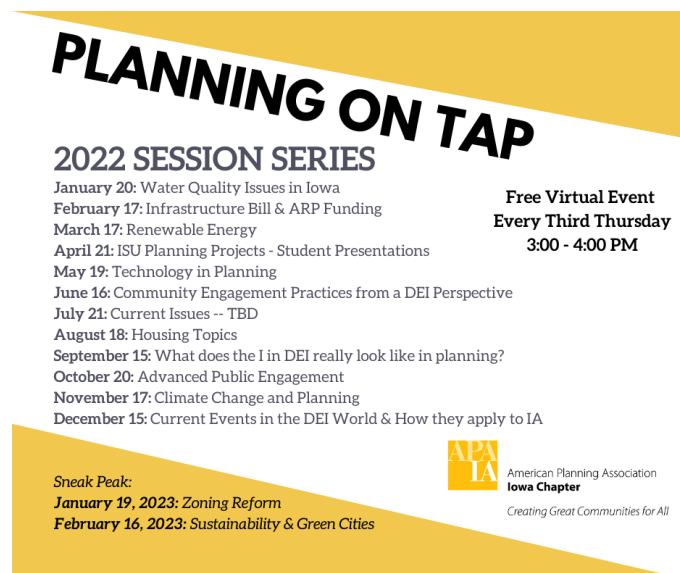
**Poster:** Using Bluespot Model to Locate areas of High Flood Concern in Des Moines, IA  
Relative to ICON Site Restorations

# PARTNERSHIPS

## Planning on Tap Series

In 2020 APA Iowa embarked on holding monthly events that combined networking and professional development. These events, dubbed “Planning on Tap”, were to partner with APA’s Divisions to have facilitated discussions focused on a specific topic related to that division, hosted at a brewery or bar. Due to COVID, these events transitioned to Zoom, yet retained the same goal. In 2021, APA Iowa continued to host virtual Planning on Tap sessions, partnering with APA Division members, including topics on Technology in Planning and Microaggressions, hosted by the APA Iowa-DEI Committee.

APA Iowa has identified the Planning on Tap series as the first project outcome from the Strategic Doing exercise completed in November, 2021. In January, 2022, the full monthly schedule of topics and dates were announced to membership, extending into February, 2023. The first three sessions cover topics on water quality, the Infrastructure Bill, and renewable energy.



**PLANNING ON TAP**

**2022 SESSION SERIES**

January 20: Water Quality Issues in Iowa  
 February 17: Infrastructure Bill & ARP Funding  
 March 17: Renewable Energy  
 April 21: ISU Planning Projects - Student Presentations  
 May 19: Technology in Planning  
 June 16: Community Engagement Practices from a DEI Perspective  
 July 21: Current Issues -- TBD  
 August 18: Housing Topics  
 September 15: What does the I in DEI really look like in planning?  
 October 20: Advanced Public Engagement  
 November 17: Climate Change and Planning  
 December 15: Current Events in the DEI World & How they apply to IA

**Free Virtual Event**  
**Every Third Thursday**  
**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Sneak Peak:**  
**January 19, 2023: Zoning Reform**  
**February 16, 2023: Sustainability & Green Cities**

**APA IA**  
 American Planning Association  
**Iowa Chapter**  
 Creating Great Communities for All

## Professional Development Events

APA Iowa Chapter partnered with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to provide Certification Maintenance Credits during the 2021 Preserve Iowa Summit. The event was held June 3-5 and provides learning opportunities for professionals and volunteers involved in historic preservation.

# LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

## State Advocacy

APA Iowa annually develops a state legislative agenda and engages in the Iowa legislative process when necessary. Periodic updates are made throughout the legislative session to APA Iowa members about planning-related legislation making its way through the legislature. When necessary, APA Iowa works to educate legislators on the potential planning-related impacts of pending legislation.

Prior to the 2021 Legislative Session, the Chapter contracted with lobbyist firm Cope Murphy + Co to advocate for the Chapter's Legislative Agenda before the Iowa Legislature. The Chapter was able to have a stronger voice in promoting our planning-related priorities. In addition, the lobbyist assisted the Chapter by updating the Board on legislation efforts; he also co-presented a session at the State Conference with the Legislative and Policy Committee Chair about the Iowa legislative process and legislation of interest to planners. The Legislative and Policy Committee will continue to work with the lobbyist to encourage cooperation with allied professional and interest groups and develop relationships with key legislators.

In December, 2021, Legislative and Policy Chair Steven Van Steenhuyse attended the State Legislative Summit in Lansing, Michigan, convened by the National APA Office. This afforded an opportunity to learn about legislative efforts in other states, to compare notes with the legislative chairs of other state chapters, and learn about Federal actions that impact planning at the state level.

## Federal Advocacy

APA Iowa representatives also engage with peers on a national level regarding planning-related legislation. Each September, APA Iowa's President as well as the Legislative and Policy Chair travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in APA's Policy and Advocacy Conference. Due to COVID, this conference was held virtually. A benefit of the virtual conference was that more APA Iowa members than usual were able to participate, including in the virtual Day on the Hill in which members were able to meet with their respective representatives, as well as meeting with the Senator's staffs to discuss federal legislation affecting planning and to share planning successes here in Iowa.



# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021

APA Iowa operates on a calendar year schedule, January to December. The following tables summarize APA Iowa's finances in 2021. APA Iowa included several activities in the 2021 budget that increased costs over previous years. These activities included hiring Chapter Administrative Services, hiring a lobbyist, and engaging in a diversity and equity training for the board. These additional activities compounded with slightly lower conference attendance and higher conference costs associated with the Des Moines venue resulted in the \$5,374.49 deficit shown the following financial report. APA Iowa did not renew their contract for Chapter Administrative Services for FY 2022.

<b>Program Revenues</b>	<b>Amount</b>
APA Membership Dues Rebate	\$15,219.19
APA IA Conference Revenue	\$46,196.70
All Iowa Reception – University Share	\$0.00
Transfers from Reserve Funds	\$5,000
Interest Earned	\$19.40
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$66,435.29</b>

<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bank Charges	\$62.77
APA Iowa Conference Expenses	\$47,349.96
Professional Fees	\$15,597.05
Insurance	\$994.00
Software	\$185.39
Office Supplies/Postage	\$103.79
Travel	\$1,012.82
Training/Continuing Education	\$5,250.00
Sponsorships – Expense	\$0.00
National Conference Expenses	\$0.00
CM Dues/Subscriptions	\$1,254.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$71,809.78</b>



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**Iowa Chapter**

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