



In Focus...Special APA Conference Edition

Comment on the Division Work Plan

In addition to conference related activities in Philadelphia, the Division is moving forward with design forum events in 2007. We're also anticipating our 3rd grant round opportunity in November. The Division is also pursuing design and preservation oriented initiatives that range from mentoring to curriculum reform. But maybe we're missing some opportunities?

Here is your chance to send us your thoughts on the work of the Division. The Executive Committee will meet in Philadelphia at the National Planning Conference. We'll review our current Work Plan to make sure that we're doing as much as we can for members. We welcome your thoughts, feedback and ideas for the coming year. Note that the annual report will be available after March 13th.

Send your ideas and comments by April 5th to jmaximuk@livablecommunitiescoalition.org.

(Work Plan on page 7)

Integrating Historic Preservation and Urban Design

Some of our best-loved cities were planned or re-planned to highlight the civic and religious structures that symbolized the collective beliefs and values of its citizens. The linkages between these important buildings and open spaces is what made the city – and what was often the city's power structure - legible. The relationships between the buildings, most often defined by movement systems, made these monuments both visible and accessible, by design. Examples include Pope Sixtus V's baroque plan for Rome, Pierre L'Enfant's late eighteenth century plan for Washington DC, and Baron Haussmann's nineteenth century plan for Paris.

Beginning in the second half of the nineteenth century, Frederick Law Olmsted and his contemporaries overlaid cities throughout the United States with systems of parks linked by parkways that responded to and respected topographical and other local conditions. The open spaces expressed a concern for civic enhancement, but also public health and welfare in growing industrial cities. In addition to the great parks of San Francisco and New York City, work of the Olmsted office is exemplified by open space systems overlaid on the urban landscape in such cities as Boston, Seattle, and Portland. These systems represented a more democratic and place-oriented urban design, but a designed landscape nonetheless.

The developed nature of our urban environments coupled with contemporary planning practices and political values preclude such large scale interventions today. The lessons of urban renewal and the brutal highway building practices of the past are too fresh in our collective memories to undertake such massive projects today. They would raise the very important question of whose values were being addressed. There is a way, however, to bring greater structure, meaning and a sense of place to our cities and communities that also addresses contemporary values in a more inclusive way. Our collective values today are embodied in something that is already in place; our historic structures and dis-

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2006-2007 Grant Selection
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- Jennifer Morris
- Paul Forgey

Letter from the Chair

The Division is happy to bring you the first newsletter of 2007. Like much of the APA, our Division is focused on the upcoming National Conference. We're also preparing to announce the 2nd Round Winners of the Division Grant Program. Work is underway on design forum events for different cities as well as several other initiatives in our 2006-2007 Work Plan.

The Division in Philadelphia

You might be making plans to be in Philadelphia too. There are many reasons why the APA National Conference can be a great opportunity. You might be looking for a new direction for your position? Maybe you'd like to work with others to pursue a planning idea? Taking time away is a big reason why conferences can rejuvenate us. Getting in touch with others who share interests in urban design or preservation can add to the effect. This year, the Division provides several great opportunities to meet other Division members who are interested in design and preservation.

Division Annual Reception

The Executive Committee extends a special invitation to the Division reception on Monday evening from 5:45 to 9:00 PM – held on-site immediately after the 4:15 Division sponsored session. Our reception this year will be packed with presentations, book giveaways, announcements, special guests, and refreshments. Last year, over 200 members of our Division attended the conference in San Antonio – a large number relative to APA divisions. Imagine meeting just two or three really interesting people to boost your career or provide a new perspective?

Leadership Roles and Volunteer Opportunities

Whether or not you'll be in Philadelphia next month, the Executive Committee is looking for more member involvement in several key areas. Right now, there are several ways to get involved in the work of the Division. Here are the most important items:

- Serve as Mentoring Co-Chair – managing the Division's Mentoring Service.
- Host a "Division Sponsored Design Forum Event" in your metro area.
- Serve as one of the Division's AICP Commission Experts.
- Assist with case studies.
- Help build a Division Fellowship Program.
- Help launch a Division Training Session.
- Contribute to the Division's efforts to improve design curriculum in the U.S.
- Write an article for the summer e-newsletter focusing on historic preservation.
- Build a database of firms, design centers, and academic programs related to our mission.
- Submit a bid to be one of the two By Right Conference Sessions in Las Vegas 2008.
- Serve on the Nominations Committee in fall 2007.

If you're interested in any of these activities, call or write to me at 404.214.0081, ext., 21 or jmaximuk@livablecommunitiescoalition.org

John Maximuk, AICP,
Chair

Conference Preview: Urban Design and Preservation Events

APA's Urban Design & Preservation Division is taking advantage of the 2007 conference setting in Philadelphia, one of the country's most livable and historic cities, to offer a number of special programs.

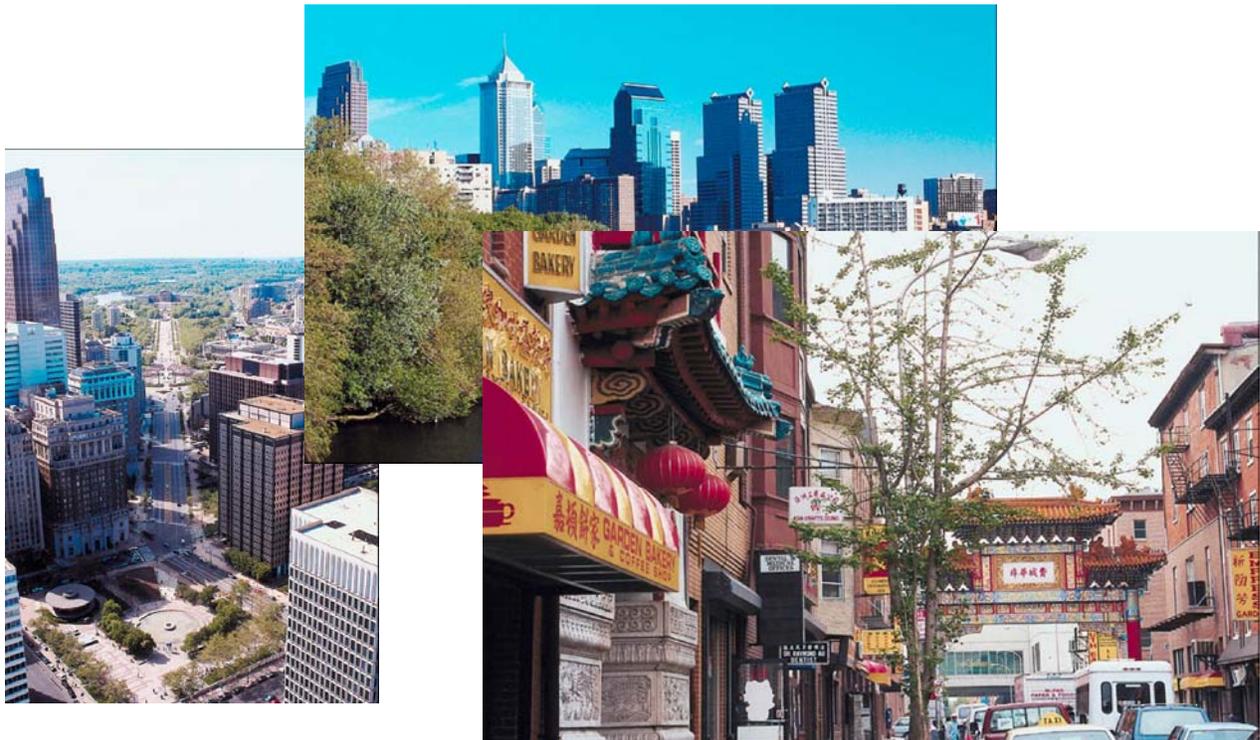
- A training workshop on site planning in downtown Philadelphia will be taught by Bob Yakas, AIA, AICP, with a hands-on exercise. Bob teaches at Portland State University and is a senior designer with Myhre Group Architects in Portland. The session will be offered Saturday, April 14.
- Also on April 14, "The Philadelphia Block," a walking tour of downtown Philadelphia, will be led by author and urban designer Todd Bressi, principal with Brown & Keener Bressi, Philadelphia. Todd has extensive experience in urban design and public art planning and teaches at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Jennifer Morris, AICP, of AKRF, a New York City environmental and planning firm, will moderate a panel on "Green Design in Historic Preservation," on Monday, April 16. Panelists will discuss the challenges of making historic architecture "green."
- A second panel, "Where Urban Design and Historic Preservation Intersect," will be moderated by Diana Painter, PhD, AICP, on Tuesday, April 17. The session will focus on three cities grappling with the balance between historic preservation and revitalization. Participants will be Martin Black, city manager of Venice, Florida, who will speak on his city's plans to reinstate the 1926 John Nolen plan for Venice; Amy Miller Dowell, development manager for the Portland (Oregon) Development Commission, who will talk about the Ankeny-Burnside Development Framework, currently in the adoption stages; and John Gallery, executive director of Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, who will speak to Philadelphia's current efforts to preserve the city's historic heritage in the face of redevelopment pressures.

You are invited

The Division extends an open invitation to a reception on Monday, April 16, 5:45 to 9:00 p.m. The reception will include giveaways, division related announcements, and free refreshments. Special guests include:

- Jonathan Barnett, professor of practice in city and regional planning at the University of Pennsylvania and director of Penn's urban design program;
- David Dixon, principal at Boston's Good Clancy and leader of their planning and urban design division;
- Barbara Faga, urban designer and chair of the board of EDAW, Inc. in Atlanta;
- Mark Hinshaw, principal at Seattle's LMN Architects and leader in their urban design division;
- And John Gallery, Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia.

These and other invited guests will speak on the state of the art in urban design and historic preservation. Mr. Hinshaw will also be available to discuss his current book, "True Urbanism."



Integrating Historic Preservation and Urban Design

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tricts, parks and open spaces.

The buildings, neighborhoods and open spaces that represent past planning and building practices bridge the gap between the past and the present. They provide grounding and a shared history, tied to a specific place and time. Historic preservation, as practiced today, represents a broader range of values than those which led to the rebuilding of great cities in the past, making this way of structuring a city much more relevant. Although we still preserve important civic or religious buildings, we place great importance on our streets, parks and plazas as well.

We also recognize neighborhoods of relatively ordinary homes that represent periods of growth and prosperity in our cities; the buildings and places of value to ethnic minorities; and the workplaces of ordinary people, including commercial centers and buildings of bygone industries. These resources display the growth and development of our institutions and expanding values as manifested in our cities and towns. In short, they embody the cultural, social and economic history of our country and communities. They are visible reminders of what we believe is important. It is possible to look at these resources as akin to the monuments and plazas of the past, adding structure and meaning to our experience of urban environments today.

To support this way of looking at the built environment, preservation must be integrated with the planning process. These resources must be supported in their role as place-makers and as conveyers of our cultural past. Preserving important buildings, neighborhoods, open spaces and monuments not only maintains meaning, but is an opportunity to build on urban patterns that have proven successful over time, as will be seen in our three case studies.

In the session “Where Urban Design and Historic Preservation Intersect” (S619, Tuesday, April 17th, 2:30), three cities will be examined whose strong historic urban framework influences design and preservation to this day. Each city is at a different stage in adopting plans to preserve their historic buildings and open spaces, and each is using different mechanisms to achieve their goals. But each city is striving to preserve their historic plan, with all it represents.

Venice, Florida

Venice, Florida was planned by John Nolen, embodying the values that he embraced and articulated in his 1927 book, *New Towns for Old*. Nolen’s plan was executed during a time of intense real estate speculation in Florida. It was a wholly planned new town within 2,916 acres of land owned by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Laid out in 1926, the town’s infrastructure was essentially

in place by January 1927.

Venice’s core downtown and residential areas to this day reflect the pattern of parks, open space, blocks and streets that Nolen saw as “...an opportunity better...than any other in Florida to apply the most advanced and most practical ideas of regional planning.” Today 1,150 acres within Nolen’s original planned area are listed on the Florida Register and pending listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The city is one of three – the other two being Washington DC and Savannah, Georgia – whose significance resides in its plan. It is the only 20th century city recognized for its plan, which embodies the principles of the Garden City movement and is valued in particular for its tree-lined boulevards and park system.

The city’s draft historic preservation plan, aimed at preserving the city’s historic character, calls for consideration of historical, cultural, natural, and community character in the land use planning and development process. Proposed policies assess development impacts on not only buildings and structures, but also viewsheds, landscapes, vistas, culturally significant heritage resources, and with respect to the 1926 Venice Master Plan. Additional preservation tools include incentive programs and the development of regulatory exceptions to better accommodate historic buildings and structures.



SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD

John Nolan’s Planning Principles Reborn in Venice’s New and Redeveloped Neighborhoods, Shown-The Bridges, A new Mixed Use Development

Not only is Venice proactively integrating preservation into its planning and development processes, it is applying the design principles that have proven successful in the historic community to newer areas of the city. Today Venice is in the midst of an intensive capital campaign aimed at creating additional parks and green belts. As Venice rewrites its comprehensive plan and implementing regulations, it is clear that its heritage of planning and urban design has become a renewed focus within the community.

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Integrating Historic Preservation and Urban Design

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Applying the design principles that have made the City's core a destination for the region, state and nation, Venice is moving forward to apply these principles in a vision for newly annexed areas, redeveloping corridors and activity centers. Case studies reflect the application of the historical planning and design principles to an urban waterfront, green field development and industrial redevelopment area, while highlighting the opportunity to reflect Nolen's Venice heritage for the next generation. This session will be presented by Martin Black, City Manager for the City of Venice.

Portland, Oregon

Like many cities, Portland made some unfortunate planning choices during the urban renewal era, and some areas of the city have since suffered from decline. The city had the insight, however, to involve many renowned planners and designers in its urban design plans over time, and reversed some of its earlier 'mistakes.' An example is the 1974 removal of the 1940 Harbor Drive built along the waterfront. Portland also has unique urban design features on which to build including its walkable street grid made up of 200 foot x 200 foot blocks, the historic "Park Blocks," and its picturesque siting on the Willamette River. Today Portland leads the country in urban design, historic preservation and the application of smart growth principles.



Aerial View, Ankeny Plaza

The Ankeny/Burnside Development Framework presented here emphasizes historic preservation issues and builds on and reinforces earlier preservation planning for the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District. The Framework engages the historic district in a planning process intended to revitalize this area of downtown Portland. The neighborhood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and made a National Historic Landmark in 1977.

The City recently proposed new design guidelines to address protection of the district and the National Historic Landmarks Survey has been updated and submitted to the National Park Service. The latter, called for by public agency staff, architects, building owners, and the general public, will improve historic design review and facilitate preservation planning.

The Framework encourages reuse of historic structures through public/private partnerships and investment in this area. Redevelopment of surface parking lots and infrastructure improvements will be the key to encouraging revitalization of this area. By integrating preservation planning and revitalization, it is hoped that this district will see the kinds of improvements that will ensure its continued place in Portland's downtown renaissance.



Historic Board, Emmons

To accomplish this vision of adaptive re-use and revitalization, the City has adopted a multi-layered approach that proposes public initiatives to stimulate private investment. These include improvements to the public realm; development of public / private catalyst projects; identification of private opportunities; revisions to the existing regulatory framework; rewriting the historic design guidelines; and a proposal to investigate re-use of the dismantled cast-iron storefronts that once graced the area.

The Portland Development Commission is working closely with the Bureau of Planning, Portland Historic Landmarks Commission and the public on updating the historic design guidelines. The historic context is seen as a major city asset which, along with new investment, will attract greater activity and benefits to the area. The guidelines are essential to promoting contemporary, high quality projects that are compatible with the character and scale of the historic build-

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Integrating Historic Preservation and Urban Design

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ings. Revised design guidelines will help encourage the rebuilding of a continuous, vibrant streetscape edge in the district.

The Ankeny / Burnside Development Framework is not without controversy, however. It proposes increasing the 75 foot maximum height limit on some empty half blocks at the periphery of the Landmark Historic District in order to improve the economic viability of the small block development. This proposal distinctly illustrates the subtle balance between past and future, and the intermixing realms of preservation and urban design. This session will be presented by Amy Miller Dowell, Development Manager for the Portland Development Commission.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia was founded by William Penn in 1682 and laid out in a distinctive gridiron pattern stretching from the Delaware to the Schuylkill River. Philadelphia City Hall, a late nineteenth century structure in the Second Empire style, stands in the center at the crossing of Broad and Market Streets, the city's two major arterials. Each of the City's quadrants is graced by a block-sized square, Rittenhouse Square being perhaps the best known. Until the mid-1980s the view of William Penn atop City Hall was protected by an informal viewshed agreement. Since that time, Center City Philadelphia's low scale, continuous built fabric has been challenged by new development scenarios that threaten the historic significance of the city and its urban neighborhoods.

The City has had a preservation ordinance and a Historical Commission in place since 1955, over ten years before the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Philadelphia's earliest historic districts and buildings were listed on the National Register the same year it was established, in 1966. Among Philadelphia's many historic resources, significant to the nation as a whole as well as to the city, are Independence Hall, built in 1732; the Liberty Bell; and Elfreth's Alley, considered the longest continually inhabited residential street in the country. Additionally, Philadelphia has been in the national forefront in demonstrating the economic benefits of historic preservation to cities, as documented in the 1998 landmark study by Donovan D. Rypkema and Katherine M. Wiehagen.

In recent years Philadelphia has experienced a surge in residential development in Center City neighborhoods as well as in neighborhoods immediately adjacent to Center City. This has resulted in a substantial number of proposals for high rise condominiums and infill town house projects. Many of these projects are proposed to be located in historic districts or neighborhoods with historic character. In its eagerness to capture this new residential development, the City has relaxed earlier planning and zoning regulations. The Zoning Board

of Adjustment has granted variances for high rise buildings, resulting in buildings that are out of scale with their neighborhood contexts. At the same time, one-for-one parking for townhouse development has resulted in the creation of many townhouses with first floor garages, to the detriment of the pedestrian environment and historic neighborhoods.

To confront these issues, historic districts have established height restrictions and consistently opposed and appealed project proposals that they felt were inappropriate. To address the garage issue, the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia and other organizations secured the creation of Conservation Districts, with the ability to create design guidelines for new development. One such district is in the approval process.

The presentation on Philadelphia will show examples of the conflicts between these new residential proposals and historic preservation and discuss the strategies that the Alliance and others are pursuing to address these issues, including the creation of design guidelines for new construction in historic districts. This case study will be presented by John Andrew Gallery, Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia.

Summary

Each of the cities discussed here faces the challenges of retaining historic character while accommodating the new growth and uses that proponents believe is necessary to enhance economic viability. The historic plans for each place, ranging in age from over 300 years to under just over 80 years, are made up of buildings, open spaces and streets that have proven flexible enough to accommodate our daily activities over a significant period of time. The challenge today is to retain the meaning that these environments have held while accommodating the new vision for historic forms and uses envisioned by each community.

Diana J. Painter, PhD, AICP, Painter Preservation and Planning

Comment on the Division Work Plan

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DIVISION MEMBER SERVICES

National Conference Activities:

- By-right Division Sessions (Complete: sessions were selected in August 2006)
- Annual Business Meeting/Membership Meeting/Forum at APA National Conference
- Mobile Workshop: (Complete: Division has Co-sponsored Brown and Keener Bressi Mobile Workshop for 2007 Annual Conference)

Vice Chair for Legislative Issues/Current Issues

- Vice Chair to be added to the Division bylaws in order to have an ongoing effort to track and respond to issues related to urban design and preservation (Complete: approved by the Executive Committee in July 2006)
- Provide updates and information as needed

Communications

- Web Site: Organizational Information.
- Online Newsletter: issues planned for September, November, January 2007, March 2007
- Periodic Email to membership
- Listserve
- State Representatives: Getting input across the U.S.
- Mentoring Service: Helping young professionals and career changers
- Membership in the Divisions Council of APA: Input to National APA

DIVISION INITIATIVES

Initiatives Underway

- Division Grant Program. Member only opportunity. November 1, 2006 deadline for first round applications, February 1, 2007 deadline for second round applications)
- 2006 Conference Summaries as prepared by Todd Bressi

- Revise Bylaws Prior to 2007 Conference (Underway: Revision Committee began in September 2006)

Priority Initiatives

- Curricula reform efforts for graduate planning programs in urban design and preservation.
- Collaboration with related organizations on events, projects, and initiatives. Example organizations include the APA State Chapters, graduate school programs, design centers, AIA, ASLA, and the Mayors' Institute on Community Design.
- Division could develop itself as a clearinghouse resource for case studies on urban design and preservation including reviews of selected materials and templates for future case studies.
- Organize and host urban design forum events in fall 2006 and winter 2007. Budget allocated for speakers, refreshments, and venue rental. Explore potential for partial sponsorships and or collaborations.
- Prepare and release a Request for Proposals from members for a future design oriented PAS Report.

Other Initiatives for 2007 and 2008

- Prepare and release a Request for Proposals from members for a future preservation oriented PAS Report.
- Launch a campaign to encourage planning officials to attend APA conference or other key events.
- Brainstorm ways in which the Division can encourage local governments to improve/provide design guidelines.

DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

- Maintain Division Budget
- Administer Elections
- Build and Support Membership
 - Membership e-flyer and postcard September 2006

Urban Design and Preservation Division Executive Committee

2006-2007 Division Leadership

The Executive Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 12:00 PM eastern time via conference call. If you are interesting in participating, contact John Maximuk, Chair.

Division Chair

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Division Bylaws are Being Revised Now

Since September 2006, the Division's Bylaw Revision Committee has been working to revise and update the Bylaws of 1983. The Division decided to sharpen the organization's mission and to clarify voting and administrative practices. Members are encouraged to vote to endorse the 2007 revised Bylaws during the month of March. Email will be sent to invite members to vote on the revised bylaws. For more information, contact Bylaw Revision Committee Chair Irene Tyson at ityson@boudreauxgroup.com.

Action Requested: Give Back to Your Host City!

2006-2007 Division Leadership

Make a difference! APA and its professional institute, AICP, are hosting the AICP Community Planning Workshop for the seventh year during the annual conference. Participation in this workshop on Saturday April 14th is a way to give back to our host city through the provision of pro-bono planning services to a community in need.

This year's charrette-style workshop will focus on Philadelphia's Sharswood neighborhood. Distressed by blight and economic disinvestment, the large number of vacant properties in the neighborhood presents both a planning challenge and an opportunity. Sharswood's proximity to Center City and active, engaged residents make it a good candidate for implementing workshop proposals.

Consider donating your time and planning expertise to this worthwhile project.

For more information regarding the AICP Community Assistance Program (CAP), please visit www.planning.org/cap. To register for the AICP Community Planning Workshop and the annual conference, please visit www.planning.org/2007conference. Thank you.

The Home of Urban Design and Preservation IN PHILADELPHIA



Division-Related Events at the 2007 APA National Planning Conference in Philadelphia



Division Sponsored Training Workshop

Saturday, April 14, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Site Planning on-site in downtown Philadelphia
S011, Page 24 of the Preliminary Program
Robert Yakas, AICP

Division Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, April 14, 4:30 to 6:00 PM
Location pending – see www.planning.org/urban-design/ for updates

“The Philadelphia Block” Division Sponsored Mobile Workshop

Monday, April 16, 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Mobile Workshop #56, Page 15 of the Preliminary Program
Todd Bressi

“Green Design in Historic Preservation” Division Sponsored Session

Monday, April 16, at 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM
S558, Page 52 of the Preliminary Program
Jennifer Morris, AICP

Annual Division Networking Reception

Monday, April 16, 5:45 PM to 9:00 PM
Special Guests ■ Book Giveaways ■ Announcements
Refreshments ■ Display Your Work
Page 64 of the Preliminary Program
Division Executive Committee

APA Pavilion Presentation

Tuesday, April 17, 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM
APA Pavilion Area
Darby Watson, AICP

“Where Urban Design and Historic Preservation Intersect” Division Sponsored Session

Tuesday, April 17, 2:30 to 4:00 PM
S619, Page 59 of the Preliminary Program
Diana Painter, PhD, AICP

◆ For more info or to volunteer, email maximuk@livablecommunitiescoalition.org ◆