



“Plan Big”
10th Annual APA Idaho Chapter Conference
Chapter Award Winners

Student Project Award-
Sabrina Durtschi

The student project award recognizes exceptional unpaid academic work by a student or group of students in an undergraduate or graduate planning or planning-related (e.g. public policy, architecture) program. The uniqueness of Sabrina’s capstone is that it takes a close look into the relationship between the university and the surrounding neighborhoods. Her case study was of BSU, and she examined the impacts and the diverse relationship of what happens when a university looks to expand their campus foot print within an established residential neighborhood. This thesis/capstone also provided a unique perspective in three ways: (1) It examines the surrounding neighborhood's perspective, (2) the university personal perspective and then (3) local government official's perspective. The Awards Committee felt that this project will inspire other students and young planners to strive for excellence in their work and aid in looking at the “Big” picture of the planning.

Public Outreach Award-
Around the Next Turn: a 10-year Management Plan for Ridge to Rivers Trail System

The Public Outreach award honors a plan, project or process that meaningfully engaged the public through information, consultation, coordination, collaboration and/or empowerment means. The 2017 Idaho APA Awards Committee is happy to recognize the Around the Next Turn: A 10-Year Management Plan for the Ridge to Rivers Trail System as a great example of public outreach in the planning field in Idaho. This plan is a unique collaborative effort, led by the City of Boise and includes all public land management agencies with jurisdictional lands in the Boise Foothills. With over 192-miles of trails to manage, the agencies provide resources and staff time to support the City-led program. In true Idaho fashion, these agencies work together to ensure sustainable trails are accessible, provide protection of critical wildlife habitat, and do not adversely impact local watersheds. They seek to provide a seamless trail experience for the 1 million visitors we serve each year. In partnership with Agnew:Beck, the City of Boise led the partnership in a year-long effort to gain feedback and expectations from prospective and current trail users. With over 3000 people participating in the dialogue and a 24-person planning committee, their team was confident they recorded the vision and desires of the community in the final Plan. This plan is a great example of leveraging limited resources for a “Big” pay-off in public involvement.

Leadership Award-
Dr. Stephen Pauley

The leadership award recognizes an individual or group who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to good planning and “making great communities happen”. Stephen Pauley, aka “Dr.

Dark”, is the man behind the dark sky ordinances that came into play for Blaine and Custer Counties between 1999-2010. His motivation: The preservation of an extraordinary night sky.

For more than a decade, Pauley has worked tirelessly as a dark sky advocate, helping to educate city councils, county commissioners and planning and zoning departments about the benefits of instituting well thought-out ordinances that meet community lighting needs while also preserving the character of the night sky. Pauley’s work has paid off in Central Idaho; Ketchum passed a municipal dark sky ordinance in 1999, followed by Hailey in 2002, Sun Valley in 2004, Blaine County in 2010 and Custer County in 2010. Dr. Pauley’s collective work in Blaine and Custer Counties has also laid the framework for a recent proposal to become the nation’s first “Dark Sky Reserve” also under the auspices of IDA. The Awards Committee is honored to recognize Dr. Pauley’s “Big” impact on the planning profession in Idaho.

Planning Tool and Implementation Award- Driggs & Victor Model Development Code

The Planning Tool and Implementation Award honors a specific planning tool, practice, program, project, process, or effort that has accomplished positive changes. The Land Development Codes for the cities of Driggs and Victor are a specific application of the Model Development Code that was developed for the Western Greater Yellowstone area in 2015 (a Idaho APA GEM Award Winning project). The Codes are a hybrid form-based code that are graphic based, user-friendly, online and indexed. They are a result of a decade-long commitment from the cities to smart growth principles and proof of what successful collaboration looks like between cities and staff.

The cities of Driggs and Victor along with Teton County, Idaho spearheaded the effort to create and showcase a model code for the Western Greater Yellowstone area. The Code writing process began in earnest in 2012 with consulting assistance from Code Studio of Austin, TX. After significant public outreach, including charrettes, design studios, stakeholder meetings, open houses from 2013-2014, the model code was ready. The model code implements ordinances and standards that addressed the region’s need for affordable housing while also reflecting existing regional sustainability plans with new initiatives including increased infill development options, a sign ordinance, and a dark-sky lighting ordinance. After Code Studio completed their consulting work, the staff from the Planning & Zoning departments and commissions from Driggs and Victor went to work revising and finalizing the model code to meet their communities’ specific needs. A project website (www.tetonvalleycode.org), a logo, and weekly ads were created to promote public awareness and engagement of the effort. The website further served as an archive for all of the project documents (staff analyses, presentations, photos, drafts, etc.), public meetings on an events calendar, and most importantly an online public comment box. Behind the scenes, staff planners (Brittany Skelton- Victor (now Ketchum, ID), Ashley Koehler-Driggs, and Jason Boal (now Ada County) met weekly to review the draft codes and to fine tune the model code for each of the jurisdictions. It was a very deliberate and detailed process to ensure consistency amongst our jurisdictions and a strong unifier for staff and for planning in the Teton Valley. The 2017 Idaho APA Awards Committee is excited to recognize this project as a “Big” winner when it comes to innovation, transferability, and long-term measurable results.

Outstanding Plan Award-

Quad Cities, Idaho Highway 2/200 Corridor

The Outstanding Plan award honors a written plan that advances the science and art of planning or brings awareness of the benefits of good planning.

One common thread that runs through the Cities of Dover, Sandpoint, Ponderay and Kootenai is the Highway 2-200 Corridor. Each city has its own unique set of challenges and opportunities along this vital regional and local transportation route. After participating in a Community Builders Leadership Institute in Boise in November 2014, these four Bonner County communities united to form a Highway 2/200 Committee. A subcommittee of the Bonner County Area Transportation Team, this small committee served as a catalyst for the first regional transportation planning effort since the Urban Area Transportation Plan was completed in 2007.

The Highway 2/200 committee successfully applied for assistance from the New Mobility West (NMW) program to help them craft a unified vision for the Highway 2/200 corridor in collaboration with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). A technical team from New Mobility West led by Charlier Associates, Inc. was created to assist the region in developing an action plan to support multiple needs and goals of the four communities, the various important nodes along this stretch of highway, and accommodation of all modes of transportation.

The final report was completed in February of 2016 and displays a variety of unique, community driven approaches and design concepts to address the opportunities and challenges identified by each of the four cities, ITD and various stakeholder groups.

The Highway2/200 Plan exemplifies the “Big” goal of excellence in planning for livable and sustainable communities with public engagement and realistic goals.

Gem Award- City of Boise Cultural Master Plan

The Gem Award is a unique and prestigious award that recognizes planning achievement in the topic chosen as the theme for the annual chapter conference. The 2017 theme for the conference, and topic for the Gem Award, is “Plan Big”. The project that the 2017 Idaho APA Award Committee felt best exemplified this theme is to City of Boise Cultural Master Plan.

The planning area for the City of Boise Cultural Master Plan is within the city limits of the City of Boise, however, the plan also addresses Boise’s important role in the larger context of Southwest Idaho, which includes Garden City, Eagle, Meridian, Star, Nampa, and Caldwell.

Boise’s population has steadily increased at a rate above the national average. Maintaining authentic character and livability through rapid growth and change is a key driver to examine and invest in Boise’s cultural life at this critical time.

The significance of this cultural plan is that it is the first comprehensive cultural master plan for the City of Boise, and, to our knowledge, the most wide-ranging and in-depth cultural plan completed for a city in the state of Idaho. The plan provides a comprehensive, multifaceted story of the history of cultural planning and policy in Boise, the development of cultural community by discipline, an overview of relevant national trends, and goals and strategies for moving forward.

Rather than hire an outside consulting firm to do the work (as many cities do), Boise City staff Karen

Bubb (then the public arts manager) managed the project, which included public outreach, research, analysis, and plan development. Support and input for the plan came from a variety of sources: Department of Arts & History Director Terri Schorzman and other department staff and commissioners; local seasoned planners Dr. Amanda Ashley and Diane Kushlan; Boise City planning staff; and former Mayor Bieter speech writer, Michael Zuzel. This local team process helped maintain an organic, authentic tone that accurately reflects the community.

When the Cultural Master Plan was completed, the City created a new position of Cultural Planner and appointed Karen Bubb to the position to implement the plan. This new position is a significant innovation for cities of our size in North America. The position is based on a similar position in Vancouver B.C. Its creation demonstrates the City's commitment to implementation and to furthering cultural planning processes in City government.

There is no question this planning effort and the resulting plan exemplifies the "Plan Big" theme of this year's conference.