



Claire Cormier

On behalf of the Planning and the Black Community Division, the Scholarship Committee is please to announce the 2007 recipient of the Robert A. Catlin and David W. Long Scholarship Claire Cormier. Claire is a junior at Stanford University. Having completed the requirements towards a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning and Design ahead of schedule with a 3.9 GPA, she is currently working towards a Masters Degree in Construction Management in Stanford's Civil Engineering department while she completes her final courses for her undergraduate career.

As a member of Stanford's track and field and cross country teams, Claire specializes in the 400m and 800m sprints. Her career highlights include an appearance at the USA Junior National Championships and a 10th place finish at the US Open. Her current goal is to qualify for the 2008 Olympic Trials in the 800m.

When not on the track, Claire can usually be found at her sorority house, cooking, read-

ing, and spending time with friends. As president of Pi Beta Phi sorority, she helps organize campus-wide philanthropy projects and various outreach programs throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Claire is also a member of Stanford Gospel Choir and is an active church member.

Growing up in Houston, Texas, Claire was inspired by the skyscrapers, shopping centers, and historic theaters built by great Houston developers such as Ed Wulfe and Gerald Hines. Having fallen in love with historic architecture by the age of 12, she had decided that her dream was to one day become a developer and historic preservationist. This dream led her to choose her major at Stanford and has continued to shape her personal and career aspirations ever since. Despite living in the Bay Area while attending school, she is an active member of the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance and regularly takes part in petitions and public outreach campaigns to save endangered historic buildings in her home town. This semester she will complete her honors thesis, a year-long independent study on the effects of historic preservation on economic improvement and community uplift in struggling inner city neighborhoods.

Upon graduation from Stanford, Claire hopes to return to Houston and eventually work in both the public and private sectors of urban development. A staunch New Urbanist, her goal is to bring mixed use, walkable living to individuals of all ages and income levels – particularly in the Black community.

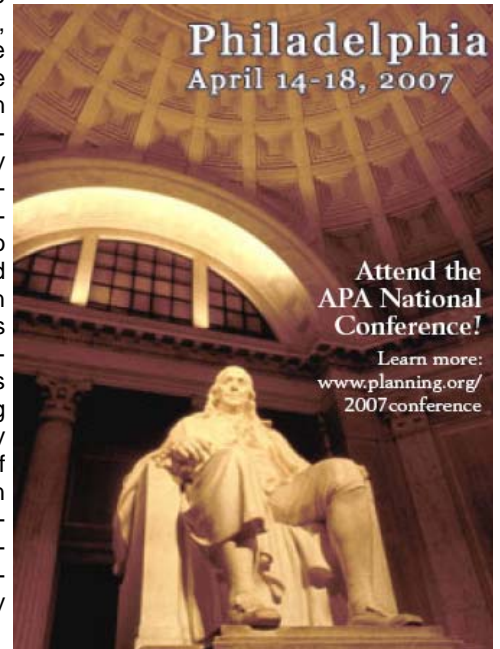
Tickets for the annual scholarship luncheon are \$50 per person. Your support for this important event is encouraged.

**Scholarship Luncheon
Keynote Speaker
Robert D. Bullard, Ph.D.,
Father of Environmental
Justice.**

PLANNING AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY DIVISION

PBCD NEWS

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Save The Date!



**PBCD CONFERENCE IN GARY, INDIANA
August 8-11, 2007**

**Theme: "Making Great Communities Happen:
Planning for a Comeback!"
See Pg. 13**

Greetings From PBCD's Chair

One of my favorite groups, "Pieces of a Dream," emerged out of Philadelphia around the mid-1970s. As we have prepared over the past several months for the APA 99th National Conference that will occur April 14 – 18, 2007, in the "City of Brotherly Love," their song "Rising to the Top," continues to enter my mind. The lyrics in the chorus are a command to:

Give it all you got
Keep rising to the top
Don't let nobody stop us
Let some love shine through
Don't fight the feeling
Let's keep on dealing
Keep moving

Indeed, the Division is moving forward. In order to determine this for yourself, this edition of *PBCDNews* provides the 2006 Division Annual Report and Workplan for the upcoming year. It also contains a detail itinerary of PBCD-sponsored sessions and others that entail presentations from our members. Another highlight of this edition of *PBCDNews* is the feature article announcing the 2007 Robert A. Catlin and David W. Long Scholarship recipient.

When I became PBCD Chair, on April 24, 2004, at the National APA Conference held in Washington, DC of that year, you, the membership, agreed to allow me to provide oversight in strengthening our resolve and action for fulfilling the mission of the Division through the following four goals: 1) improving PBCD infrastructure and operations; 2) articulating one national policy issue relevant to planning and the Black community for APA involvement and advocacy; 3) cultivating relationships with other organizations; and 4) enhancing the professional development of our members. As we strived to attain these aims, we successfully met and made progress towards meeting several objectives.

Improve PBCD Infrastructure and Operations. In 2005, we updated our bylaws for the first time since 1998. The changes primarily reflect a focus on leadership development and transition with the election of Chair-elect and Student Representative positions, as well

as the aspiration to expand our network for knowledge exchange among ourselves and other organizations. Additionally, we've worked hard to increase and sustain active membership. Let me emphasize that there is a dual objective of increasing membership and members involvement in PBCD efforts. The membership numbered 219 (March 2004), 253 (March 2005), and 268 (March 2006), and 262 (March 2007). During this same three-year period we have noticed an increase in participation on five standing committees: Communications, Membership, Policy Analysis, Research and Education, and Workshops and Conferences. In so doing, the Communications Committee has significantly improved *PBCDNews* in both the style and substance.

The Research and Education Committee has reinvigorated our Scholarship, choosing a recipient for two consecutive years—from a combined total of twenty-seven applicants, and formed a relationship with the newly established ACSP Planners of Color Interest Group; the Workshops and Conferences Committee has realized an increase in presentation proposals for sessions and workshops and also reviewed six RFQs for the PBCD Conference.

The Membership Committee has been diligent in developing an appropriate strategy for membership recruitment and retention, and initiated both membership and student surveys; and the Policy Analysis committee has been at the vanguard of examining and critiquing Criminal Justice, specifically the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) and its affect on planning and the Black community.

Articulate One National Policy Issue Relevant to Planning and the Black Community for APA involvement and advocacy. Since our founding, in 1981, the Division has proven time and time again its ability to provide forums for exchange of knowledge and information. However, in 2006, for the very first time, PBCD prepared and presented a position paper (Criminal Justice/PIC) to the APA Legislative and Policy Committee as a rationale of the need for a policy guide on the issue. Also, for the very first time, the Division was represented on a panel (Public Health, Clean Air and Transportation: In

Pursuit of Cleaner, Livable Communities) at the 2006 Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Congress.



Cultivate Relationships with Other Organizations. Several relationships were formed, both within and outside of APA around issues that influence planning and the Black community. Within APA, for three consecutive years, PBCD has partnered with other population divisions (Women and Planning, Gays and Lesbians in Planning and Indigenous Planning) and jointly sponsored sessions at APA National Conferences on social equity. We also reached out to organizations at the forefront of PIC such as the African American Men's Project, Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility, Center for Criminal and Juvenile Justice as we worked hard to expose the relevance of this issue to planning.

Finally, with regard to one of the worst natural disasters in the USA history, we collaborated with the Association of Black Sociologists, National Association of Black Social Workers, National Association of Minority Architects, National Forum of Black Public Administrators and members of the National Economics Association and released "Principals and Priorities for Rebuilding New Orleans" on Capital Hill.

This joint statement by Black Social Science scholarly and professional organizations contributed to the formation of H.R. 4197—the Congressional Black Caucus bill introduced for the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As a result of these efforts, the Division was chosen to represent the Collaboration on the Tavis Smiley Radio show, "Tavis Talks," and the Pacifica Radio (New York) show "Building Bridges.

Enhance Professional Development. As the Division worked hard to address issues significant to planning and the Black community, we maintained a concern for the professional development

(Cont. on Page 4).

WRONG COMPLEXION FOR PROTECTION

by Robert Bullard

In the real world, all communities are not created equal. If a community happens to be poor, black, or located on the "wrong side of the tracks," it receives less protection than communities inhabited largely by affluent whites in the suburbs. Generally, rich people tend to take the higher land, leaving the poor and working class more vulnerable to flooding and environmental pestilence. Race maps closely with social vulnerability and the geography of

Environmental risks.

At the same time, much of the death and destruction attributed to natural disasters is in fact unnatural and man-made. "There is no such thing as a 'natural' disaster," Case Western Reserve University history professor Ted Steinberg writes in his book *Acts of God: The Unnatural History of Natural Disaster in America*. What many people call natural disasters are in fact acts of social injustice perpetuated by government and business on the poor, people of color, disabled, elderly, homeless, and non-drivers—groups least able to withstand such disasters. Flooding in the New Orleans area largely resulted from breached levees and flood walls. A May 2006 report from the Russell Sage Foundation, *In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster, and Race After Katrina*, found that these same groups often experience a second disaster after the initial storm and that pre-storm vulnerabilities limit their participation in rebuilding and recovery.

Hurricane Katrina has been described as one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history. A September 2005 *Business Week* commentary described the handling of the untold tons of "lethal goop" as the "mother of all toxic cleanups." But the billion-dollar questions facing New Orleans are which neighborhoods will get cleaned up, which will be left contaminated, and which will be targeted as new sites to dump storm debris and waste from flooded homes.

Toxic Needles in a Haystack

The storm left debris across a 90,000-square-mile disaster area in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. According to the Congressional Research Service, debris from Katrina could well top 100 million cubic yards. This is enough trash to pile two miles high across five football fields. More than 100,000 of New

Orleans's 180,000 were flooded, and half sat for days or weeks in more than six feet of water. Government officials peg the number of cars lost in New Orleans alone at 145,000; 60,000 boats needed to be destroyed; 300,000 underground fuel tanks and 42,000 tons of hazardous waste are being cleaned up and disposed.

Where all this waste is disposed appears to be linked more to political science and sociology than to toxicology, epidemiology, or hydrology. Weeks after Katrina struck, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) allowed New Orleans to reopen the 200-acre Old Gentilly Landfill in New Orleans East, the swampiest part of the city, where the majority of the population is African American. Old Gentilly is an unlined landfill, so it lacks special protective measures required by "sanitary" landfills, such as drains, liners, and leaching collection systems. In 1986, federal regulators identified the former municipal dump as hazardous and ordered it shut down. But after lying fallow for nearly two decades, Old Gentilly was reopened to accept post-Katrina construction and demolition waste; within four months, the landfill had grown to about 100 feet high. In December last year, more than 2,000 truckloads of debris were entering the landfill every day.

LDEQ officials insist that the old landfill, which is still operating, meets all standards. But residents and environmentalists disagree. Even some high-ranking elected officials expressed fear that reopening the Old Gentilly Landfill could create an ecological nightmare. In November 2005, four days after environmentalists filed a lawsuit to block the dumping, the landfill caught fire.

In April 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality issued permits to allow Houston-based Waste Management Inc., the largest commercial trash company in the country, to open a new landfill in New Orleans East. The new site is on Chef Menteur Highway, a section of U.S. Route 90 that runs through New Orleans East. Waste Management pledged that the city would receive 22 percent of revenue derived from the site. Every week, Waste Management picks up an average of 45 pounds of trash from each home, 20 more pounds per home than pre-Katrina. The new landfill could ac-

cept as much as six million cubic yards of vegetation and other debris, including roofing materials, Sheetrock, and demolition debris, which are considered less harmful than other types of waste.

The problem is, after Katrina, disaster debris from flooded neighborhoods has been mixed to the point that separation is either difficult or impossible. Regulators acknowledge the potential for toxic contamination from storm-related trash. David Romero of the U.S. EPA says the agency would be "lucky" if even 30 percent of the hazardous waste was removed from the waste stream. In an October interview on CNN, LDEQ Assistant Secretary Chuck Carr Brown said hazardous materials were hidden "like toxic needles in a haystack" in the hurricane debris.

Nevertheless, government officials say the risk of hazardous materials being dumped at the Chef Menteur site is insignificant and that current sorting practices are adequate to keep hazardous waste out of the landfill. They also insist protective liners are not needed for construction and demolition waste. "There's nothing toxic, nothing hazardous," Brown told the *New York Times* in May. LDEQ had provided a permit for the landfill. "There will be no impact" on the community, Brown said.

Landfill opponents think otherwise. They fear the government's willingness to bend the rules will mean motor oil, batteries, electronics, ink toner, chlorine bleach, drain cleaners, and other noxious material will almost certainly wind up at the unlined landfills. "Government has done a lousy job policing what goes in landfills. When you look at the contents from gutted homes, you see all kinds of wastes mixed together that will likely end up at unlined landfills like Old Gentilly and Chef Menteur," says Sierra Club organizer Darryl Malek-Wiley.

Father Vien Nguyen, pastor of Mary Queen of Vietnam Catholic Church, is the de facto leader of the Village de l'Est, a predominantly African-American neighborhood in New Orleans East that is also home to the third-largest Vietnamese community in the U.S. He says the Chef Menteur Highway Landfill is less than two miles from apartments where more than a thousand Vietnamese-American families live. Nguyen views the landfill as a roadblock to his community's rebuilding efforts. "This will have a chilling effect on our recovery,"

(Cont. on Page 11)

STUDENT SURVEY OVERVIEW

Ivy McCottry

During fall 2006, the student representative launched an online survey targeting current and potential student members of the Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD). The purpose of the survey was to identify students' interests in the planning field as well as their needs as developing planning professionals.

The survey was first published in October 2006. It was later republished in early January 2007 as a result of an upgrade in the software used to produce it. The surveys consisted of a number of questions and answer blanks which can be viewed by visiting www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org.

Many resources desired and suggested by student respondents currently exist within PBCD. For example, PBCD has a mentorship program, publishes a monthly newsletter, periodically disseminates information about employment and internship opportunities periodically, and hosts conferences. Generally, respondents expressed a lack of knowledge about PBCD. This lack of knowledge has led to students not taking advantage of PBCD's resources. Given that, the student representative recommends the following course of action for 2007-2008 for increasing student awareness of and involvement with PBCD:

- Develop a website with information about PBCD, the planning profession, its relevance to communities of color, planning education, professional development opportunities, profiles of Black planners, and a communication mechanism (i.e. blog)
- Develop fact sheets about PBCD and the planning profession specifically for students of color
- Establish a PBCD student committee
- Establish affiliation with existing student organizations at colleges and university (i.e. Penn Design Black Student Alliance)
- Host ACIP exam preparation sessions outside of PBCD conferences
- Host/sponsor discussions and networking events with existing student organizations, community groups, and related professional organizations
- Involve students into PBCD's research activities
- Obtain resources for sponsoring student internship and student attendance at APA and PBCD conferences
- Revamp the mentorship program

PBCD Chair's Message, Cont.

of membership. We sought to accomplish this goal through the five objectives. First, we sought to attain participation from 25 percent of our membership on PBCD standing and special/ad-hoc committees. We did not accomplish this objective. However, participation has significantly increased over the past three years from 6 percent in 2004 to 13 percent today. Second, we planned and successfully held the 2005 PBCD Conference. Over 75 persons attended the conference, which was an increase of about 25 percent from the 2003 PBCD Conference. Moreover, attendees numbered approximately one-third of our total membership—far better than APA National Conference and APA membership comparisons. Third, we have improved on highlighting and reporting Division member accomplishments (job promotions, AICP passing, etc.) in *PBCDNews*. Fourth, the Division promoted planning academic programs relevant to Black needs by developing a new strategy for reaching potential students at the undergraduate level and academic department. Fifth, after almost three years of continuous advocacy for our interest to APA National, we achieved success with establishing a separate and distinct fund for our scholarship—now known as the Robert A. Catlin and David W. Long Memorial Scholarship.

As my term comes to an end on April 24, 2007, at the PBCD Annual Business Meeting, I want to thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve as Chair. Clearly, the success achieved and the progress we've made over the passed three years would not have happened without your involvement and help. I now only ask that we build upon our progress by working with Chandra Foreman as she assumes the role of PBCD Chair and oversees the Division's affairs, ensuring that "Making Great Communities Happen" is inclusive of Planning and the Black Community.

Give it all you got...Let the love shine though...Keep rising to the top.

See you in Philly!

Jeffrey Lowe

PBCD Chair

Wrong Complexion, Cont.

The Mary Queen of Vietnam Parish is the headquarters for the Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East, a non-profit coalition of faith-based organizations whose mission is to ensure that “communities of color who had lived in New Orleans East prior to Katrina can return home.” Nguyen says roughly half of his 4,000 parishioners live within a one-mile radius of the church. “Is this a deliberate effort to keep us from rebuilding?” he asked. “This is how a self-sufficient, self-reliant community is rewarded for their rebuilding efforts? We use those canals to water our gardens, and now they are filled with poison.” New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin ordered the controversial landfill closed on August 15, saying that his emergency order to open it had expired and that Waste Management failed to get a conventional permit.

No Comprehensive Plan

This is not the first time New Orleans residents have heard from official sources that a place is safe, only to discover evidence to the contrary. Community leaders beat back two other efforts, in 1990 and 1997, to locate dumps along U.S. 90 near their homes in New Orleans East. But Mayor Nagin’s fast post-storm rezoning and quick permit grants by LDEQ meant there was little time to consult the public. “We have grave concern that there is no comprehensive plan for disposal of waste and storm debris,” says Malek-Wiley.

In the early 1980s, New Orleans decided to build a community on top of what is now a controversial area called Agricultural Street. Located in the Saint Roch neighborhood of the Bywater District, less than three miles from the famous French Quarter, the 95-acre Agricultural Street site was a municipal landfill for more than 50 years. It was a repository for Hurricane Betsy debris in 1965, but was shut down a year later and redeveloped for residential and light commercial use. It now includes the Gordon Plaza subdivision, Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) housing, and the Press Park residential area and community center. In 1993, metals, pesticides, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were found in surface and subsurface soils around Agricultural Street. The EPA refused to declare the site eligible for the Superfund program in 1986, but, using standards that gave more weight to soil contamination, added the landfill to the list of

Superfund sites in 1994. Residents immediately pushed for a property buy-out and relocation. But the EPA disagreed, and ordered a \$20 million “cleanup,” which began in 1998 and was completed in 2001. “EPA did not do a cleanup; it was more like a cover-up,” says Elodia Blanco, a longtime resident of the Agricultural Street community who lost everything in the Katrina flood. “We were fighting an environmental justice struggle to get relocated before Katrina. None of us knew when we bought our homes that they were built on a toxic dump.”

Government officials assured Agricultural Street residents that their neighborhood was safe after the “cleanup” in 2001. But the Concerned Citizens of Agriculture Street Landfill disagreed and filed a class-action lawsuit against the city of New Orleans for damages and relocation costs. Unfortunately, it was Katrina that accomplished the relocation. This year, after thirteen years of litigation, Seventh District Court Judge Nadine Ramsey ruled in favor of the residents—describing them as poor minority citizens who were “promised the American dream of first-time homeownership,” though the dream “turned out to be a nightmare.” Her ruling could end up costing the city, the Housing Authority of New Orleans, and Orleans Parish School Board millions of dollars. The case is currently on appeal. “It was a long and hard struggle, but we won,” says Blanco. “It’s a bitter-sweet victory because we lost our community before Katrina.” A dozen or so FEMA trailers now house residents on the contaminated site, where post-Katrina government samples have turned up levels of benzo(a)pyrene exceeding EPA’s residential guidelines.

A Spoonful of Dirt

In March, seven months after the storm slammed ashore, organizers of A Safe Way Back Home initiative, the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University (DSCEJ), and the United Steelworkers (USW), undertook a proactive pilot neighborhood cleanup project—the first of its kind in New Orleans. The cleanup project, located in the 8100 block of Aberdeen Road in New Orleans East, removed several inches of tainted soil from the front and back yards, replacing the soil with new sod and disposing the contaminated dirt

in a safe manner.

Participants included residents and steelworkers who have received training in hazardous materials handling in programs funded by the federal government’s Worker Education and Training Program (WETP). “This demonstration project serves as a catalyst for a series of activities that will attempt to reclaim the New Orleans East community following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina,” said Beverly Wright, DSCEJ’s executive director. “We know it is the government’s responsibility to provide the resources required to address areas of environmental concern and to assure that the workforce is protected. We are not waiting for the government to ride in on a white horse to rescue us and clean up our neighborhoods.”

“FEMA should replicate this demonstration project on thousands of blocks in hundreds of neighborhoods across the City of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region,” United Steelworkers President Leo W. Gerard said in a press release. “Only the federal government has the resources and authority to lead such a massive undertaking. But it has to be done. The human dignity and economic security of the people of the Gulf Coast depends on it.”

The DSCEJ/USW coalition received dozens of requests and inquiries from New Orleans East homeowners associations to help clean up their neighborhoods block-by-block. State and federal officials labeled the voluntary cleanup efforts as “scaremongering.” EPA and LDEQ officials said that they tested soil samples from the neighborhood in December and that there was no immediate cause for concern. According to Tom Harris, administrator of LDEQ’s environmental technology division, a toxicologist, the government originally sampled 800 locations in New Orleans and found cause for concern in only 46 samples. Generally, the soil in New Orleans is consistent with “what we saw before Katrina,” says Harris. He called the A Safe Way Back Home program “completely unnecessary.”

A week after the voluntary cleanup project began, LDEQ’s Harris ate a spoonful of dirt scraped from the Aberdeen Road pilot project. The dirt-eating stunt was clearly an attempt to disparage the proactive neighborhood cleanup initiative. LDEQ officials later apologized.

(Cont. on Page 14)

Planning and the Black Community Division of the American Planning Association 2006 Annual Report

Division's Mission Statement

The mission of the Division shall be as follows: 1) to provide a forum for planners, administrators, public officials, students and other APA members to address issues of significance to the Black community; and 2) to promote knowledge exchange between members and other organizations, encourage and support professional development among Black planners and provide career information.

Objectives

- Formulate and articulate positions on national, regional and statewide policy issues relate Blacks for presentation to APA Board of Directors and the general public;
- Provide a forum for exchange of practical experience and knowledge among Black planners;
- Establish and strengthen liaisons with other Black professionals and organizations related to planning or that share a common interest;
- Provide a mechanism for disseminating employment information as well as a means for employers to address affirmative action goals with respect to planning and planning related jobs;
- Provide technical assistance and/or advice to urban/rural Black communities and possibly Third World countries;
- Encourage and sponsor planning studies and research that is relevant to the needs of Blacks;
and
- Encourage and assist black planning students, as well as planning programs relevant to Black communities.

Communications: Newsletters

Fall 2006 Issue (September 2006) via e-mail
Autumn 2006 Issue (December 2006) via e-mail
Winter 2007 Issue (March 2007) via e-mail
Otis Spriggs, AICP, Newsletter Editor
Other volunteers (responsible for writing, editing, and design)
Joyce Rhyan
Calvin Whitaker
Thomas K. White, Jr.

Website

Best feature(s): Accessible through APA website
Recent addition(s): September 2006 last update
2005 PBCD Conference Proceedings
Scholarship Fund Information
Joint Statement by Black Social Scientist
2007 PBCD Conference RFQ
Benefit to members: Provide Information
Website Manager: Otis Spriggs

Listserv

No Activity

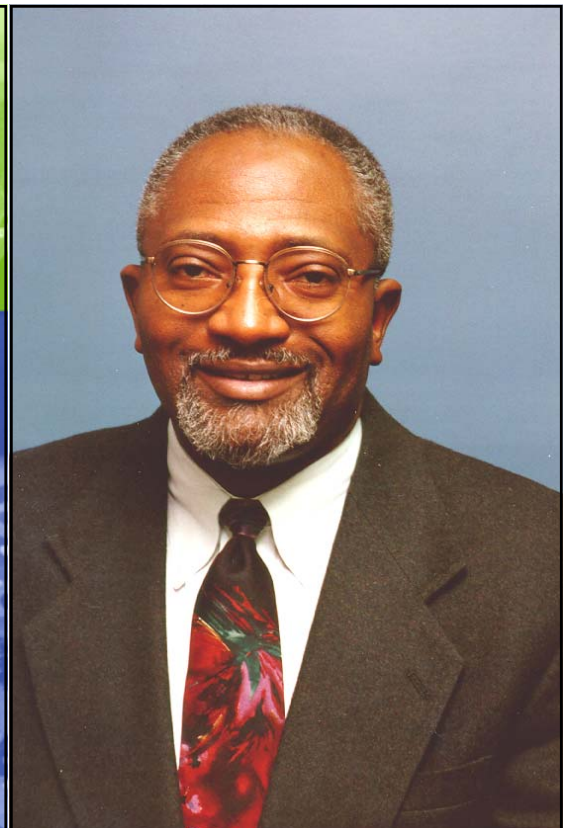
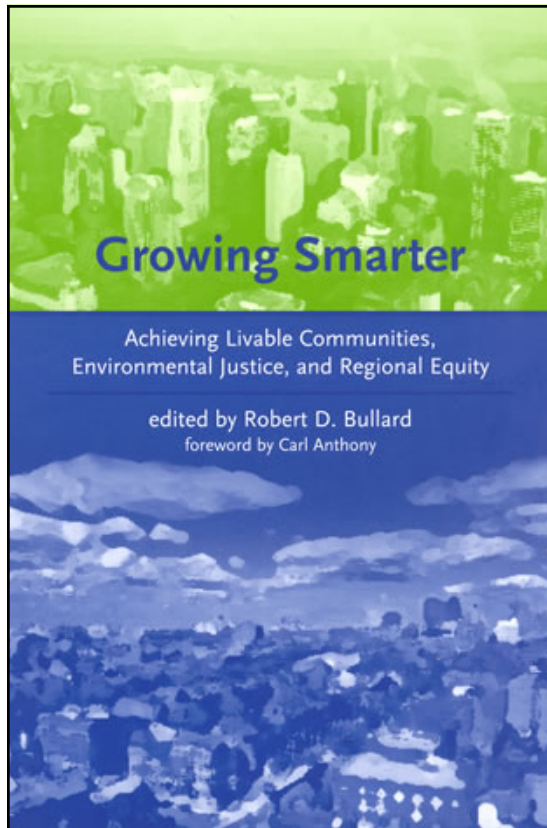
Member Survey

Distributed to entire membership via email—40 returned
Distributed to student members and all USA planning programs—46 returned
Discuss the results and plans to address member needs.

(Cont. on Page 10)

Growing Smarter: Achieving Livable Communities, Environmental Justice, and Regional Equity

Robert D. Bullard, ed., Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2007



APA/PBCD TO HOST BOOK SIGNING FOR WIDELY ACCLAIMED AUTHOR ROBERT D. BULLARD, Ph.D., KNOWN IN AMERICA AS THE FATHER OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. DR. BULLARD IS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE PBCD SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON PROGRAM, MONDAY, APRIL 16, 11:30 A.M. LUNCHEON TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH APA TICKET CODE P201. AFTERWARDS:

THE BULLARD BOOK SIGNING

Philadelphia Marriott Hotel

Location: Salon I & J

1:30 — 2:30 p.m.

Growing Smarter

February 2007

6x9, 408 pp. 13 illus.

\$27.00 (Paper)

Books may be ordered for shipping or reserved for pick up at the APA National Conference

Phone (216) 246-7379

The contributors to Growing Smarter—urban planners, sociologists, economists, educators, lawyers, health professionals, and environmentalists—all place equity at the center of their analyses of "place, space, and race." They consider such topics as the social and environmental effects of sprawl, the relationship between sprawl and concentrated poverty, and community-based regionalism that can link cities and suburbs. They examine specific cases that illustrate opportunities for integrating environmental justice concerns into smart growth efforts, including the dynamics of sprawl in a South Carolina county, the debate over the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and transportation-related pollution in Northern Manhattan. —APA Librarian Shannon Paul (APA1800 .G913)

ROBERT A. CATLIN

Robert A. Catlin, Ph.D., FAICP, scholar, practitioner, and a founding member of APA's Planning and the Black Community Division. When Dr. Catlin was inducted into the College of Fellows of AICP in 2001, his nominators noted that he "has spent 40 years as a practicing planner, teacher/mentor, and researcher. He has combined theory and practice, mentoring dozens of students who have gone on to become AICP members, planning directors, and private consultants. He has won recognition for his comprehensive plans, administrative skills, and published literature."

He was a professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. His teaching and research interests included housing and community development, planning administration, and planning and minority group communities. Among his publications are the books *Racial Politics and Urban Planning: Gary, Indiana* (1993) and *Land Use Planning, Environmental Protection, and Growth Management: The Florida Experience* (1997).

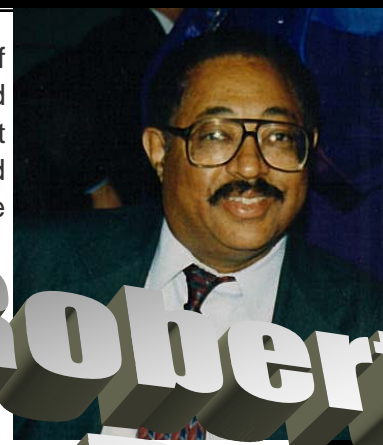
Dr. Catlin was born and raised in Chicago where he attended public schools and received a bachelor of science degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology. After working as an urban planner, he completed a master's degree in city and regional planning from Columbia University in New York, and his doctorate in American government from Claremont Graduate University.

He began his career as an assistant professor at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, before moving to the University of South Florida as associate professor and chair of the Department of Political Science. He also served as professor and chair of the Department of Minority Studies for five years.

Dr. Catlin was appointed dean of the College of Social Science at Florida Atlantic University in 1987. During his tenure there, he established new graduate programs in nursing and urban planning. He also created new departments in social work and health administration. Maintaining rapport with the faculty, he was selected as administrator of the year by the university-wide faculty union in 1988.

In 1992, Dr. Catlin was appointed Dean of the Camden College of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University. The college had 3,000 student majors and 140 full-time faculty and more than 100 part-time instructors. As dean, Catlin created a new Department of Computer Science, new graduate programs in mathematics, chemistry and liberal studies, and he coordinated the development of a charter school in a Camden, New Jersey, inner-city neighborhood. Dr. Catlin passed away July 13, 2004.

Reflections for Dr. Catlin will be provided by Mrs. Ethel Catlin. Mrs. Catlin was married to Dr. Catlin for 26 years. They met and married in Tampa, Florida. They have two adult daughters, Janell Catlin who will receive her Doctorate in Education this summer from Columbia University Teachers College; and Michelle Catlin a graduate student pursuing a Masters' in Business at Rutgers University. Mrs. Catlin is a graduate of Dillard University in New Orleans, La. and received her Masters' in Social Work from Tulane University. Presently, she is CEO and Owner of Liberty Club Seniors Inc. in Tampa, Florida; which is a Model Program she created for elderly citizens with early Alzheimer's and other problems associated with aging.



Robert
David
Memori

2007 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON—Monday, April 16, 2007

DAVID W. LONG



David W. Long, AICP, former chair of APA's Planning and the Black Community Division from 1992 to 1994. Mr. Long graduated from Park Point College in Pittsburgh, majoring in psychology and French. He completed graduate studies at Iowa State University in Ames where he simultaneously earned master's degrees in community and regional planning and in public administration in a two-year period.

In 1988, Mr. Long accepted a position with the Metropolitan Council and worked as a strategic research planner in the council's research division where he managed research projects and conducted policy analysis on the region's critical growth and equity issues. In 1991, Mr. Long joined the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission where he worked on data and trend analyses and plan monitoring and evaluation. During his three years with the commission, Mr. Long coordinated the production of the 20-Year Regional Implementation Plan.

In 1996, Mr. Long joined William Smith in the development of a new planning, design, and research and policy analysis consulting firm, Biko Associates, Inc. Between 1996 and 2001, Mr. Long served as the company's vice president and principal-in-charge of policy research and analysis. During this time, Mr. Long prepared plans to address homelessness in St. Paul; truancy in Minneapolis; adolescent access to alcohol in Hennepin County; affordable housing in Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Philadelphia; work-related transportation needs in Milwaukee; and economic development in south Minneapolis neighborhoods.

In the summer of 1990, Mr. Long became editor of the newsletter of APA's Planning and the Black Community Division. Under his direction, the newsletter served to rekindle interest in the division among the membership. Through his efforts, the newsletter won its first APA National Planning Award for a specific division project. Mr. Long was installed as the division's in the fall of 1992. Largely through his efforts, the division received a second National Planning Award for overall division programming.

Mr. Long left Biko Associates in 2001 to devote more time to Black Research and Information Network (BRAIN), Inc., a consulting firm he founded in 1996, and operated with his wife, Assata Brown. Among BRAIN's clients are the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco, Insight News, and the Metropolitan African American Chamber of Commerce. *Mr. Long passed away October 7, 2005.*

Reflections for Mr. Long will be provided by Ms. Assata Brown. Assata Brown is the widow of David W. Long and the mother of their son, Daudi Long. Assata and David worked together not only as husband and wife but also as business partners in the firm, Black Research And Information Network, Inc. (B.R.A.I.N.). She served as the senior consultant of community planning services.

Ms. Brown is the founder of HER Consulting a firm that provides research, strategic planning, evaluation and communication services. In addition, she is an active volunteer in the Twin City Metro Area providing mediation services for the Dispute Resolution Center and Mediation Services for Anoka County and volunteers with Hospitality House Youth Directions as a program coordinator and coach for the track and field program as well as the Lego League program.

11:30 AM - Philadelphia Marriott Hotel—Salons I & J

WORK PLAN, Cont.

Conference Sessions/Workshops

2006 by-right session(s), mobile workshop(s), and additional sessions accepted through the competitive process:

- Eminent Domain and the Black Community: Will the Kelo vs. New London Decision Help or Hurt? (by right)
- Critical Planning Issues for the African American Community through 2050 (by right)
- Encouraging Diversity at the Chapter Level (competitive process)
- Joint Populations Divisions Reception

By-right session(s), mobile workshop(s), and additional sessions accepted through the competitive process to be held in 2007:

- Affordable Housing and the Black Community (S469)
- Equitable Development is Smart (S626)
- Mobile Workshop (APA lost proposal submission)

Session proposals are solicitation and selection process:

- Membership solicited via *PBCDNews* and email to roster and listserv
- By-right sessions recommended by Workshop and Conferences Committee
- By-right sessions approved by PBCD Executive Committee

Meetings

Major Topics – of division's Executive Committee communications:

- 2007 PBCD Conference
- Robert A. Catlin/David W. Long Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 2007 PBCD Scholarship Luncheon
- 2007 National APA Conference
- PBCD affiliates
- *PBCDNews*

Outreach

Efforts to establish relationships/collaborate with other divisions/allied organizations.

- APA Population Divisions
- Florida American Planning Association (FAPA)
- California American Planning Association (CAPA)
- ACSP Faculty

Benefits derived:

- Presentation by PBCD members at FAPA conference
- Presentation by PBCD members at CAPA conferences
- Establishment of AICP Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG)
- Joint session and reception with APA Population Divisions

Membership

- Loss of division members attributed to non-renewal of APA membership
- Letters dispatched to members encouraging renewal of membership
- Chair's Greetings refers to membership application (emphasizing different membership categories) now included in *PBCDNews*
- Specific efforts targeting new members for division activities—PBCD Membership Brochure in development, which will highlight the Division's mission, activities, benefits of membership, and provide a membership application.
- Membership Committee Chair, Fleming El-Amin
- Membership Committee Members

Phillip Taylor
Alysa Davis

(Cont. on Page 11)

WORK PLAN, Cont.

Elections

February 8, 2006 - March 17, 2006

Current Officers

Jeffrey S. Lowe, Ph.D.	Chair	April 2004 – April 2007
Chandra Foreman, AICP	Chair-Elect	April 2006 – April 2007
Sigmund C. Shipp, Ph.D.	Vice Chairperson for Policy	April 2006 – April 2008
Fleming A. El-Amin, II, AICP	Vice Chairperson for Programs	April 2006 – April 2008
Charnelle Hicks, AICP	Treasurer	April 2006 – April 2008
Stevie L. Cox	Secretary	April 2006 – April 2008
Andrew A. Baker, AICP	Sergeant at Arms	April 2006 – April 2008
Ivy McCottry	Student Representative	April 2006 – April 2008

Executive Committee

Jeffrey S. Lowe, Ph.D.	Chair
Chandra Foreman, AICP	Chair-Elect
Sigmund C. Shipp, Ph.D.	Vice Chairperson for Policy
Fleming A. El-Amin, II, AICP	Vice Chairperson for Programs
Charnelle Hicks, AICP	Treasurer
Stevie L. Cox	Secretary
Andrew A. Baker, AICP	Sergeant at Arms
Ivy McCottry	Student Representative
J. Kelley Terry, AICP	Immediate Past Chair

Candidates and emerging leaders identification:

- Members serving on PBCD committees
- Members active in APA
- Members soliciting session proposals
- Members soliciting ideas/suggestions
- Members offering to volunteer

Financial Reports—(Report available at PBCD Business Meeting)

Bylaws – Revised.

Division Representation (Meetings and Attendees)

Fall Leadership Meetings

- Jeffrey Lowe, Chair
- Chandra Foreman, Chair-Elect

Annual Business Meeting

Jeffrey S. Lowe, Ph.D.	Chair
Chandra Foreman, AICP	Chair-Elect
Sigmund C. Shipp, Ph.D.	Vice Chairperson for Policy
Fleming A. El-Amin, II, AICP	Vice Chairperson for Programs
Charnelle Hicks, AICP	Treasurer
Andrew A. Baker, AICP	Sergeant at Arms
Ivy McCottry	Student Representative

Other APA Leadership retreats, forums, orientations, etc.

- FAPA Conference
- CAPA Conference

Governance

The Chair assumed responsibility for developing the Annual Work Plan with input and approval from the remaining members of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer is responsible for developing the budget, with input and approval from the Executive Committee. All members of the Executive Committee provide input to the Chair and approve the Annual Business Meeting agenda. Input may occur through e-mail and conference calls while approval takes place via teleconference Executive Committee meetings. Monitoring Division activities occurs as each Vice Chairperson assumes responsibility for specific standing/ad-hoc committees. The Chair oversees all activities, primarily through monthly reports during the Executive Committee meetings.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

PBCD Business Meeting - Monday, April 16th 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Philadelphia Marriott 304/305- Please plan to attend and receive the latest updates and information on the work of the Division. Note the PBCD Conference will be held in Gary, IN - August 8-11. Additional information will be provided during the business meeting.

Diversity Forum, Tuesday, April 17th 5:15 p.m.–6:15 p.m. - PCC Room 203- Please participate in this discussion of the American Planning Association's programs to increase diversity in the planning profession. A reception among the population divisions of APA will follow this event.

Conference Sessions: PBCD By-Right Sessions:

Affordable Housing and the Black Community (S469)

Sunday, April 15th 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. - Location/Room: **PCC Room 202**

Sponsor: Planning and the Black Community Division- CPD Credits: 1.5

Topics: Housing, Minority Populations and Social Equity

Description

As housing prices rise throughout the nation, the housing shortage has intensified for low-to moderate-income families. There is a great need for long-term affordable housing solutions in black communities. In light of diminished federal subsidies, learn about innovative approaches to provide diverse affordable housing opportunities through joint ventures, alternative funding sources, and incentive planning policies.

Speakers:

Derek R. Hull, Opal Ventures, Santa Clarita, CA (Moderator)

Shawn McNamara, AICP, Department of Community Development, Raleigh, NC

Arthur M. Weddington, Selby Area CDC, St. Paul, MN

Candace H. Stowell AICP, Chair, APA Division of Housing and Community Development

Correcting Environmental Injustices (S467)- CPD Credits: 1.5

Sunday, April 15th 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM - Location/Room: **PCC Room 113C**

Topic: **Citizen Participation**

Description

Low-income and minority communities face disproportionately burdensome environmental harm, intensive land uses, contaminated properties, and inadequate infrastructure. Planning and regulatory tools are needed to address these injustices. Learn how environmental justice impacts land use and discuss tools used to achieve land use that is smart, clean, and fair.

Speakers:

Patricia E. Salkin, Albany Law School, Albany, NY

Craig Anthony Arnold, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY; PBCD Member

Nicholas Targ, Holland and Knight, LLP, San Francisco, CA

Equitable Development is "Smart" (S626)- CPD Credits: 1.5

Tuesday, April 17th 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.- Location/Room: **PCC Room 111**

Sponsor: Planning and the Black Community Division

Topics: Minority Populations and Social Equity, Smart Growth

Description

Across the nation, cities are experiencing a renaissance as people migrate back to the urban core. Older neighborhoods are changing as newcomers move in, creating shifts in community dynamics and diversity. Explore how incumbent residents and institutions are revitalizing communities from the inside out.

Speakers:

Carlton C. Eley, EPA, Washington, DC (Moderator)

Steven D. McCullough, Bethel New Life, Inc., Chicago, IL

Henrietta Owusu AICP, City of Trenton, Trenton, NJ

Karen McLane Torian, Housing Authority of the City of Newark, Newark, NJ

APA Population Divisions Jointly Sponsored Session:

Allied Professions Talk about Social Equity (S621)

Tuesday, April 17th 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM - Location/Room: **PCC Room 113A**

Sponsor: **Planning and Women Division**

Topics: **Minority Populations and Social Equity, Professional Development-** CPD Credits: 1.5

Description

Building on APA's efforts to develop collaborative networks with allied professions, representatives from associations representing architects, landscape architects, collegiate schools of planning, and transportation engineers will discuss the status of social equity within their professions, how this is being addressed, and future issues that have been identified.

Speakers:

Pattsi Petrie, AICP, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL (*Moderator*)

Eugenie Ladner Birch, FAICP, University of Pennsylvania City/Regional Planning, Philadelphia, PA

Ann Forsyth, Metropolitan Design Center, Minneapolis, MN

2007 PBCD Planning Conference



Theme: "Making Great Communities Happen-Planning for a Come-

Planning and the Black Community Division



INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

PBCD CONFERENCE IN GARY, INDIANA

August 8-11, 2007

Lodging: Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, Merrillville, Indiana

Registration: <https://www.planning.org/ecommerce/conference>

Information Website: www.planningandtheblackcommunity.org

The Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD) of the American Planning Association will convene at its 2007 Division Conference on August 8-11, 2007, in Gary, Indiana. Indiana University Northwest and the City of Gary are jointly serving as local hosts.

At this conference, PBCD will celebrate 27 years of providing a forum for planners, public officials, students, and other APA members to address issues of significance in the black community. This year's theme "Making Great Communities Happen: Planning for a Comeback," centers on the dynamic challenges facing the planning profession and the black community as many places work towards revitalization-making them great places to live, work and play. After decades of economic downturn and social decay, Gary is showing signs of revitalization and the city is pursuing efforts to enhance its competitive advantage through partnerships and proactive development incentives. The conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges in sustaining vitality, inclusion, social equity and justice in planning and black communities throughout the USA as well as highlight some of the activities undertaken by the City of Gary.

Highlights of the week include keynote addresses from Charles Allen, FAICP, former Planning Director for the City of Gary (the first black planning director of a large U.S. city) and founding member of PBCD, and former Gary Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher, one of the first black mayors of a large U.S. city. Other highlights of the conference include community workshops, an AICP exam preparation course, the PBCD Recognition Dinner, thought-provoking conference sessions, and networking with PBCD members, students and other attendees.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity, and make your plans to attend now! The early registration deadline is June 29th.

Registration Option	Before 6/30	Regular Price
Full Conference PBCD Member	\$175.00	\$215.00
Full Conference PBCD Student Member	\$155.00	\$155.00
Full Conference Nonmember	\$200.00	\$250.00
Full Conference Student Nonmember	\$165.00	\$165.00

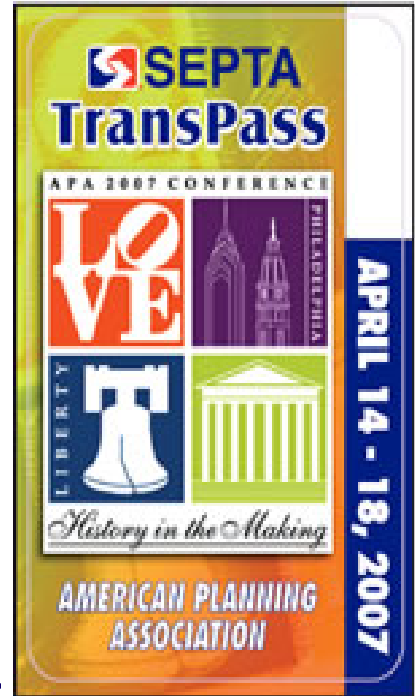
Location: Radisson Hotel (219-769-6311) * 800 East 81st Avenue, Merrillville, IN 46410 ; To make toll free room reservations call 888-201-1718

Information Contact: Fleming A. El-Amin II - felamin@ridetta.org - phone: 919-485-7521

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR PHILLY TRANSPORTATION

The American Planning Association is gearing up for the 2007 National Planning Conference, and we are excited that you will be joining us for what is sure to be another great conference. We are pleased to announce that SEPTA is offering a special "APA TransPass" for use throughout the conference. Use this special pass for bus, trolley, subway-elevated and regional rail services throughout Philadelphia (Saturday - Wednesday). The TransPass is valid for travel between the Airport or Amtrak's 30th St. Station and one of three convenient downtown Philadelphia stations (including the Market East Station, which is adjacent to Convention Center, Marriott and Loews hotels.)

To purchase your transit pass before the conference please visit shop.septa.org. Follow the "Discount Fares" link, and select "Specialty Passes/Event Tickets." TransPasses will also be available for purchase onsite, in the Registration area.



WRONG COMPLEXION, Cont.

Is This Place Safe?

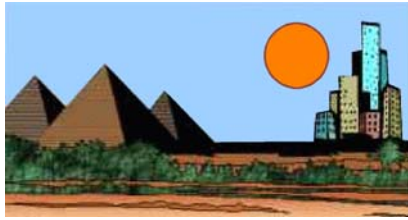
Despite barriers and red tape, a few Katrina evacuees are slowly moving back into New Orleans's damaged homes or setting up travel trailers in their yards. Homeowners are gutting their houses, treating the mold, fixing roofs and siding, and slowly getting their lives back in order. One of the main questions returning residents have is: Is this place safe? They are getting mixed signals from various groups. Last December, the LDEQ announced, "there is no unacceptable long-term health risk directly attributable to environmental contamination resulting from the storm." Two months later, in February this year, test results from the New York-based non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) showed otherwise. NRDC's analyses of soil and air quality after Katrina revealed dangerously high levels of diesel fuel, lead, and other contaminants in Gentilly, Bywater, Orleans Parish, and other New Orleans neighborhoods.

Although many government scientists insist the soil is safe, on April 4, a multi-agency task force press release distributed by the EPA raised some questions. It claimed that levels of lead and other contaminants in New Orleans soil was "similar" to soil contaminant levels in other cities, but it also cautioned residents to "keep children from playing in bare dirt. Cover bare dirt with grass, bushes, or 4-6 inches of lead-free wood chips, mulch, soil, or sand."

In August 2006, one year after Katrina struck, the EPA gave New Orleans and surrounding communities a clean bill of health, while pledging to monitor a handful of toxic hot spots. EPA and LDEQ officials concluded that Katrina did not cause any appreciable contamination that was not already there. EPA tests confirmed widespread lead in the soil—a pre-storm problem in 40 percent of New Orleans. And yet the EPA dismissed residents' calls to address this problem as outside the agency's mission.

Now, instead of cleaning up the mess that existed before the storm, government officials are allowing dirty neighborhoods to stay dirty forever. Just because lead and other heavy metals existed in some New Orleans neighborhoods before Katrina doesn't mean that they are safe, or that there isn't a moral or legal obligation to clean up contamination. Government scientists have assured New Orleansians that they do not need to worry about soil salinity and heavy metal content. They say residents need not worry about digging or planting in the soil. But can government officials really be certain that all New Orleans neighborhoods are safe? All levels of government have a golden opportunity to get it right this time. Cleanup and reconstruction efforts in New Orleans have been shamefully sluggish and patchy, and environmental injustice may be compounded by rebuilding on poisoned ground.

Robert Bullard is the Ware Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. This article first appeared in the Next American City, Winter 2006/2007. It is reprinted in PBCD news by permission of the author.



Join!

Planning and the Black Community Division

Dues for division: APA regular members \$25; APA student and new professional members \$10; Nonmembers \$40.*

___ **Planning and the Black Community Division**

___ I am an APA member. My APA ID is _____

___ My check for \$ _____ payable to APA, is enclosed

Charge my ___ MasterCard ___ VISA ___ American Express

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Cardholder's signature

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Department

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Home address

City, State, ZIP

Home phone E-mail address (required)

**Your payment may be prorated.*

Details at www.planning.org/members/prorated.htm

Return this form to:

American Planning Association

Payment Center

97774 Eagle Way

Chicago, IL 60678-9770 Fax: 312-786-6735 (credit payments only)





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***Making Great
Communities Happen***

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OUR MISSION

1) To provide a forum for planners, administrators, public officials, students and other APA members to address issues of significance to the Black community; and 2) To promote knowledge exchange between members and other organizations, encourage and support professional development among Black planners and provide career information.



Writers Needed!

for the PBCD Newsletter-
Contact

Calvin M. Whitaker

E-mail: cmwhitaker@yahoo.com

Next PBCDNews Release Date: July 10, 2007
Deadline for Articles: June 29, 2007

PBCD Quick Facts

Did you know that PBCD's 244 members reside in the following regions?

<u>Region</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Percentage of PBCD Membership</u>
I	20	8%
II	82	34
III	66	27
IV	42	17
V	9	4
VI	25	10

Source: PBCD Division Roster, February 2007.

Which region will have the largest increase in membership by the 2007 National APA Conference in April 2007?