



American Planning Association  
**Latinos and Planning Division**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

**Latino and Planning Business Meeting**  
**April 27, 2009**  
**Minneapolis, MN**

**Introductions** – the following were present:

Nina Nixon-Mendez  
Manuel Munoz  
Marcos Fernandez  
Irayda Ruiz  
Vicky Carrasco

Andrea Garfinkel-Castro  
Hector Solis  
Teresita Fernandez  
Richard Rojas  
Fred Solis

Luis Barahora  
Leonard Bechet  
Arianna Martinez  
Ester Valle

Irayda was recognized by the Chair for her leadership role within the division and APA. The newest newsletter was also discussed.

**Financial Report** – Ester gave a summary of our current budget which had a balance of \$2,689 after the booth rebate by APA. This was the development of the Division's first official budget and funds were allocated by using the adopted work plan as a guide. Irayda stated that we should not attempt to keep unused money within the budget, but to spend it on division interests such as education and memberships.

**Scholarship** – Fred gave an update on the scholarship program. There has been a survey done to indicate what was done within other divisions and to determine what LAP's best course of action should be. Fred indicated that his concern was the minimal amount of money currently allocated to the scholarship. Ideas brought up were to coordinate with other larger divisions, have a monetary match to an amount that other divisions might donate. One person suggested that we start a program immediately with the allocated \$250 in order to get the scholarship off the ground. Manny indicated his current work with awards and scholarships and stated that he has a model for a future award. He also indicated that he has a network with universities around the country that could be used to promote the scholarship. All members agreed that the scholarship program is an important tool to give the division additional exposure. There was also a suggestion of having members all donate an additional \$25 per person to get more money allocated to scholarships (raise an additional \$250?). Esther was going to follow-up on process for how donations are handled by divisions.

**Performance Report** – Vicky described our current performance report and indicated that LaP passed all APA criteria for this year. The annual report is available online.

<http://www.planning.org/divisions/latinos/business/pdf/annualreport.pdf>

**Dialogo Update** – Andrea gave an update regarding the recent dialogo in Arizona. Three dialogos a year are to be planned in Arizona and it was suggested that the division leadership create a best practices and guide for planning issues. Irayda suggested that we should make them

locally relevant yet keep with our national agenda. Arianna stated that we have had dialogos in 10-15 states and the data compiled has been generally consistent in regard to the issues of concern to attendees. These issues are the ones we should try to address in our by-right sessions during national conferences. Irayda suggested that we coordinate dialogos with our state APA chapters. Arianna stated that the data compiled was available to anyone who wants to use it to involve their state chapters. A powerpoint template of the Dialogos: A National Agenda was developed a while back, and it is being updated and shared with those interested in hosting a Dialogo. Vicky suggested an **Action Item** to request that others take the dialogo information and possibly create their own dialogos within their respective states.

**CM Credit** – Leo is working with the Planning in the Black Community division to hold a webinar for AICP CM credit (on urban design and social equity). The Utah state chapter and Technology Division have also expressed interest in working with Divisions to offer for-credit webinar.

**Planning Book** – Leo is working on a compilation of essays (18 different authors) from different people on subjects relating to planning and Latinos. It is anticipated the book will be published sometime next year.

**2010 LaP Lunch and Tour** – Arianna asked for any contacts in the New Orleans area and stated that next years tour might be a mobile workshop through APA.

**White House Office of Urban Affairs** - Vicky stated that we are trying to send a one page document to APA to be included in a document that will be sent to the new Office director Adolfo Carrion.

**Hispanic College Fund** – Vicky mentioned her contact with the HCF. She suggested that LaP could volunteer to provide leadership development for High School students. At the regional level, individuals could become a Hispanic Heroes mentor if the option is available in their area. Action: Vicky will send instructions on how to become Hispanic Hero volunteer at the upcoming summer symposiums held at some universities.

### **Student Representative**

Our current student representative Ricardo Aldama is graduating in May. A call will be made for volunteers in order to appoint a new student representative.

**Ambassador Program** – Michelle is heading up that responsibility and it is currently being formulated.