

**Christine M. Dersi**  
Position Statement  
Secretary/Treasurer  
28 November 2008

While attending Allegheny College in Meadville Pennsylvania, I majored in Environmental Studies with a concentration in community development and land use, and minored in art. While in Meadville, I interned for the Meadville Community Energy Project (MCEP), the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Meadville, the Crawford County Economic Progress Alliance, and Project for Public Spaces.

After graduating from Allegheny, I began a masters program at Cleveland State University (CSU) and am a May 2009 candidate in the urban planning, design, and development (MUPDD) program with a concentration in neighborhood development. I am currently a graduate assistant for the Center for Neighborhood Development assisting the team in publishing a HOPE VI evaluation report. I am also interning with Building Cleveland by Design, where my current responsibility lies in managing the LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND) application process for a large development project in Cleveland, Ohio. Lastly, I am the 2008-2009 education and membership chair for the CSU student chapter of APA and am the 2008-2009 Student Representative Council's (SRC) region IV executive committee member of APA.

Through experiences such as assisting Project for Public Spaces in creating a transit oriented development community with Placemaking as the central focus, studying the ability of HOPE VI to transform crumbling public housing complexes to livable mixed-income communities, helping to repair an urban core through aesthetics, sustainability, complexity, and cohesiveness, and representing planning students on a national level, I have gained a passion to act as a leader in this new urbanism movement and have gained technical and professional skills necessary to help bring our communities into a new era of renewed strength.