APA-MA Announces 2011 Annual APA-MA Award Recipients

BOSTON, MA (December 6, 2011) — The American Planning Association-Massachusetts Chapter (APA-MA) honors innovative planning efforts and individuals with its 2011 Annual Award Program. Twenty award recipients will be recognized during the 2011 APA-MA/Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors (MAPD) Annual Awards and Holiday Luncheon on December 16, 2011 in Boston. The recipients also will be featured in an upcoming issue of chapter e-newsletter New England Planning.

APA-MA’s awards program, the state’s highest honor for planning professionals, is a proud tradition established years ago to recognize outstanding comprehensive plans, planning programs and initiatives, public education efforts, and individuals for their leadership on planning issues. These efforts help create communities and neighborhoods of lasting value throughout Massachusetts. This year’s winners are included below.

The Comprehensive Planning Award, which honors a plan, program or process of unusually high merit, was awarded to both the Columbia Point Master Plan, (Boston) led by the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development’s Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (State-wide). In addition, A Master Plan for Downtown Rockport (Rockport) led by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council was designated as an honorable mention.

The Planning Project Award, which honors a specific project, bylaw, ordinance, or document of unusually high merit, was awarded to both the Concord Riverwalk project in Concord led by NOW Communities, and the Marlborough Economic Development Master Plan: Building the New Marlborough Economy led by the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation. In addition, the Riverbridge Mixed-Use Village project in Berlin led by Riverbridge North, LLC was designated as an honorable mention.

The Social Advocacy Award, which honors a program, project, group or individual indicating a high level of advocacy planning on behalf of those in need, was awarded to the Town of Lincoln Community Health Assessment and Planning Project led by Community Opportunities Group.
The **Student Project Award** honors an individual or group of students for an outstanding project. This year’s award is bestowed on both the *Envisioning Needham Street* project in Newton, led by planning students and faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and the *Dorchester Coast Greenway Master Plan* project in Boston, led by planning students and faculty at Tufts University Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning.

The **Media Award**, which honors excellence and comprehensive coverage of a planning or development issue, was awarded to the *Seasonal Resort Community Zoning* initiative in Dennis led by the Town of Dennis with support from Cape Cod Today, WXTK and the Dennis Register.

This year’s **Professional Planner Award**, which recognizes contributions to the planning profession through distinguished practice, teaching or writing, was awarded to Kurt Gaertner, Assistant Director of Grants and Technical Assistance at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The **Faye Seigfriedt Award**, which honors a planner who has contributed significantly to the advancement of women in the field of planning, was awarded to Dr. Stephanie Kelly of the Westfield State University Department of Geography and Regional Planning.

The **Legislator of the Year**, which recognizes an elected official who has made a significant contribution to planning, was awarded to both State Senator Sal N. DiDomenico and State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry, Senate and House Chairs of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business. Both legislators are co-sponsors of the legislation that has provided critical support of the Community Preservation Act - H. 765/S.1841 — an Act to Sustain Community Preservation. The **Citizen Planner Award**, which honors a non-planning professional who has made a distinguished contribution to planning, was awarded to Amy Cheung, creator of the Chinatown Community Walking Tours and A-VOYCE.

The **Charles E. Downe Memorial Award**, which honors a planner who, in the spirit of the late Charles E. Downe, exemplifies public outreach, mentoring of young planners, demonstrated patience and the utmost integrity, was awarded to Terry Szold, Principal of Community Planning Solutions, and Adjunct Professor of Land Use Planning in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Urban Studies and Planning. The **Young Planner Award**, which recognizes a junior or mid-level young practicing planner who has excelled in leadership, increased the impact of planning in public and private decision making, or enhanced the APA-MA Chapter, was awarded to Aaron Clausen, Associate Planner with the City of Lowell Department of Planning and Development.

The **APA-MA Chapter President Award**, which honors an individual or organization that has greatly enhanced the visibility of the planning profession within the state this past year, was awarded to the Boston Redevelopment Authority for their incredible efforts and professionalism provided in support of the APA’s 2011 National Planning Conference held this past April in Boston. The **Distinguished Service Award**, which recognizes an APA-MA member who has made a significant contribution to the development of the Chapter, was awarded to Chris Kluchman, AICP, Planner at the Town of Westford and Treasurer of the APA-MA Chapter. The **MAPD Chapter Award**, which honors special contributions identified by the MAPD, was awarded to Bob Mitchell, FAICP.

For more information about the APA-MA Chapter, see [www.apa-ma.org](http://www.apa-ma.org).