

# The APA-KY *Annual Report*

2020

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Frankfort, Kentucky

## KENTUCKY PLANNER

A Publication of the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association

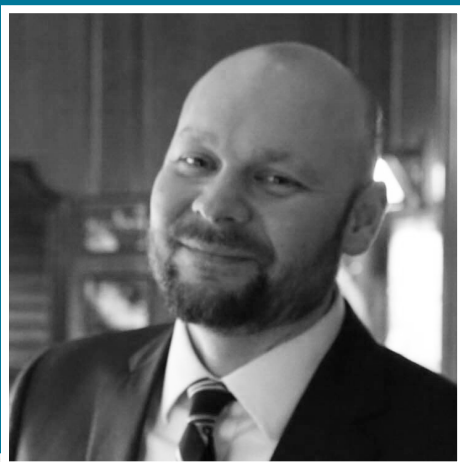
American Planning Association  
Kentucky Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen





# A letter from the President...



## Brian Davis, AICP

Planning Manager  
Planning and Design Services  
Department of Develop Louisville

[president.apaky@gmail.com](mailto:president.apaky@gmail.com)

*These are crazy days, but they  
make me shine;  
Time keeps rolling by...*

*Oasis, "All Around the World," 1997.*

This has always been one of my favorite song lyrics, and never has it rang more true than this past year. In February 2020, when I found out that I would be stepping into this role, I thought of all the extra opportunities I was going to have with this "bonus year" as chapter president: representing our chapter at the National Planning Conference in Houston, attending the spring conference at Land Between the Lakes, and hosting the OKI Conference in Louisville.

While these opportunities did not come to fruition, other opportunities to lead and learn

presented themselves, and I am confident they will allow me to rise to the challenge of leading APA-Kentucky the next two years.

While 2020 was very much a "wait and see" kind of year, 2021 is going to be a "plan and do" kind of year. Taking that into consideration, it is now more than ever that we need your input. I ask that you please reach out to me, or to your regional representative, and let us know the services and resources that you and the communities you serve need from our organization. Whether it is in-person or virtual training, guidance on how, as a community, we begin our return to normal (or, rather, the *new* normal), or just a friendly ear to help release some steam, **we are here.**

If there is one thing 2020 has shown us, it is that planners across the Commonwealth are capable of meeting any challenge:





Louisville Kentucky

*Nobody allowed to work in an office? We'll work from home.*

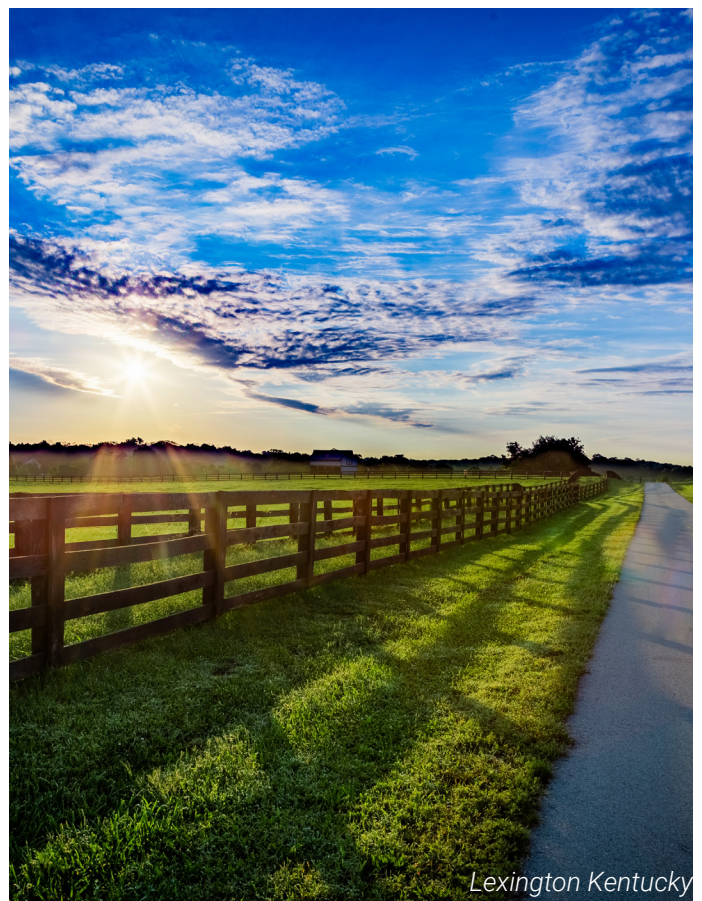
*Can't get paper plans from people for review? We'll just email electronic documents around.*

*Not allowed to have in person public hearings? No problem, we'll go virtual.*

I applaud you all for your efforts. So, as we happily transition from 2020 into 2021, I hope you will continue to step up to the challenges before you and shine brightly during these crazy days.

Regards,

Brian Davis, AICP  
APA-KY President



Lexington Kentucky



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## 2020 Officers

<b>President</b>	Brian Davis, AICP
<b>Past President</b>	Brian Howard, AICP
<b>Secretary</b>	Adam King, AICP
<b>Treasurer</b>	Shawn Dikes, AICP
<b>Professional Development Officer</b>	Amy Williams, AICP
<b>Planning Commission Representative</b>	Lori Heilman
<b>Student Representative</b>	Andrew Schuhmann
<b>Region 1 Representative</b>	Emily Liu, AICP
<b>Region 2 Representative</b>	Hal Baillie, AICP
<b>Region 3 Representative</b>	Melissa Evans, AICP
<b>Region 4 Representative</b>	Rachel Comte, Certified Arborist
<b>Region 5 Representative</b>	Kevin Myatt

## 2021 Officers

<b>President</b>	Brian Davis, AICP
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<b>Secretary</b>	Emi Randall, AICP, RLA, CFM
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<b>Region 3 Representative</b>	Melissa Evans, AICP
<b>Region 4 Representative</b>	Rachel Comte, Certified Arborist
<b>Region 5 Representative</b>	Kevin Myatt

## 2020 Committee Chairs

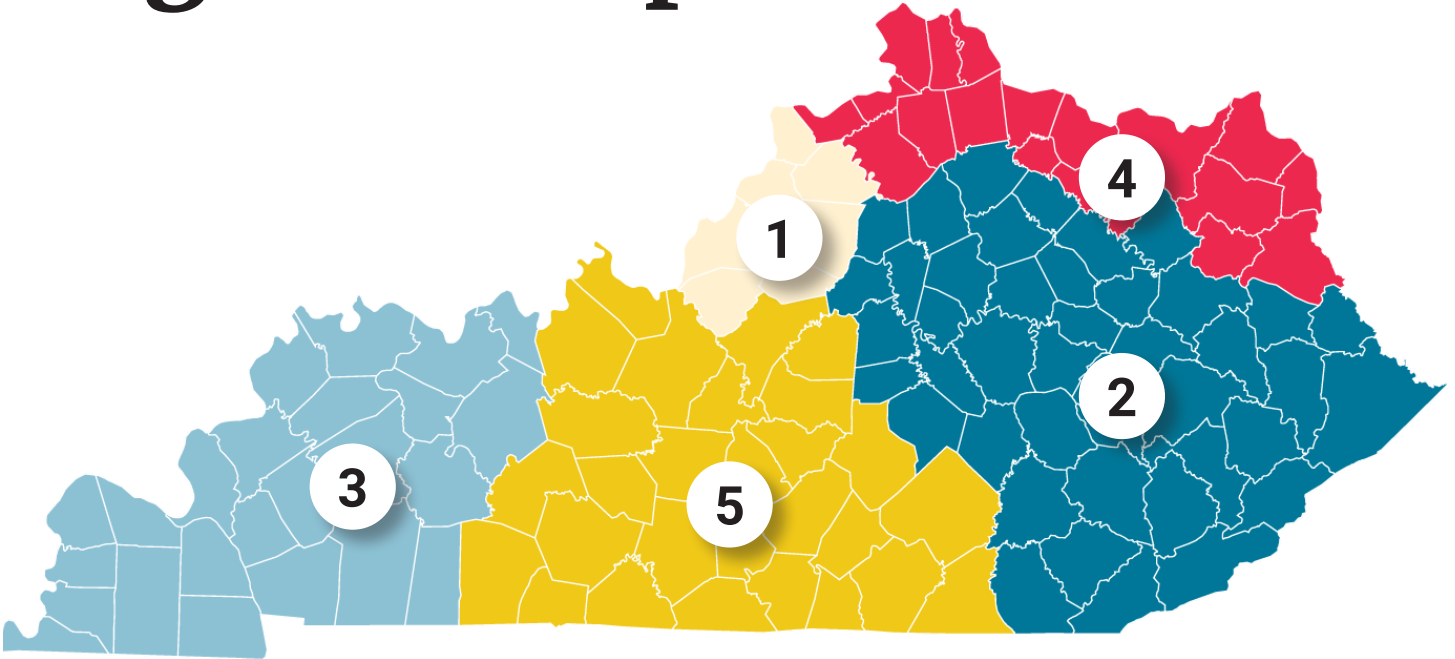
<b>Professional Development</b>	Amy Williams, AICP
<b>Lending Library</b>	Adam King, AICP
<b>Programs &amp; Special Events</b>	Lindsay Walker, AICP, PE Haley James, AICP
<b>Membership</b>	Kaaviyaa Nagarajan
<b>Legislative</b>	Kristan Curry, J.D., M.U.E.P. Parker Sherwood, Esquire, M.U.P.
<b>Public Outreach</b>	OPEN
<b>Zoning Administration</b>	Megan Bessey Rob Himes Joe Reverman, AICP
<b>Financial</b>	Shawn Dikes, AICP
<b>Awards</b>	Adam King, AICP
<b>Administration &amp; Elections</b>	Karen Mohammadi, PE, PTOE, AICP

## 2021 Committee Chairs

<b>Professional Development</b>	Amy Williams, AICP
<b>Lending Library</b>	Adam King, AICP
<b>Programs &amp; Special Events</b>	Lindsay Walker, AICP, PE Haley James, AICP
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<b>Legislative</b>	Kristan Curry, J.D., M.U.E.P. Parker Sherwood, Esquire, M.U.P.
<b>Public Outreach</b>	Supriya Kelkar, LEED AP ND
<b>Zoning Administration</b>	Megan Bessey Rob Himes Joe Reverman, AICP
<b>Financial</b>	Shawn Dikes, AICP
<b>Awards</b>	Adam King, AICP
<b>Administration &amp; Elections</b>	Karen Mohammadi, PE, PTOE, AICP



# Regional Reports



Our Regional Representatives worked diligently over the past year to provide professional development opportunities and to enhance collaborations within the community. The following pages contain their reports on the past year. We want to thank them for their continuing service to APA-KY. If you would like to get involved as a regional representative in the future, please contact our chapter president at [president.apaky@gmail.com](mailto:president.apaky@gmail.com).

## Region 1



**Emily Liu, AICP**

Director  
Louisville Metro Planning &  
Design  
[emily.liu@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:emily.liu@louisvilleky.gov)

2020 was undoubtedly one of the most challenging years many of us have ever experienced. It was also a busy and productive year for planners and the planning departments in the Region 1, which includes the Louisville Metro area and its surrounding counties in Kentucky.

In 2020, Louisville Metro passed two significant amendments to its Land Development Code (LDC) - which involved updating regulations related to urban trees and parking. The new tree amendment focuses on higher standards for tree preservation and increased tree canopy requirements

for new developments. The new parking amendment greatly reduces parking requirements for new developments and, in certain areas, eliminates parking requirements completely.

Also in 2020, Louisville Metro initiated a complete equity review of the LDC, also referred to as LDC Reform, to identify and address existing land use regulations and policies that have inequitable impacts on Louisville Metro residents. As part of this LDC Reform Project, four planning workshop sessions were offered to Region 1 planners. These workshop sessions





Louisville, Kentucky

were conducted virtually and were eligible for required training hours including AICP hours.

Oldham County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. Subdivision record plats and building permits have also increased significantly in this county in 2020.

Shelby County has experienced labor shortage in 2020. There are several hundred jobs available in Shelby County that cannot be filled which impacts business expansions.

Trimble County's planning and zoning is currently underway and has started to review development proposals and building permits.

For more information on the LDC Reform or to watch the recordings of the workshops:

[louisvilleky.gov/ldcreform](https://louisvilleky.gov/ldcreform)

Louisville Metro Council passed a 100% clean energy resolution in 2020, and an energy manager has been hired. Long range planning activities include the Broadway Master Plan and the Preston Highway Master Plan, as well as several on-going neighborhood plans. Louisville is also looking at two-way street conversions in the west end and the downtown area.

Bullitt County has its first planned unit development on the docket for a multi-family and single-family project that resembles the Norton Commons planned community in Prospect, Kentucky. Subdivisions and building permits in the county have increased significantly.





## Region 2



**Hal Baillie, AICP**

Senior Planner

Lexington-Fayette Urban County  
Government Division of Planning

[hbaillie@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:hbaillie@lexingtonky.gov)

The major themes for 2020 has been adaptability and flexibility. As with all of the regions within Kentucky, Region 2 has experienced the ups and downs of Planning in the world of COVID-19. We have all been forced to learn new technologies and shift the way we interact not only with each other, but with the members of our community.

While we have not been able to meet physically for any educational and social events this past year, there have been numerous opportunities to connect and educate ourselves

on the web. Whether through the National Conference videos, the KY-APA virtual trainings, or the Mornings with Planning hosted by the Lexington Division of Planning, there have been various opportunities for us to learn, grow, and virtually interact, despite the restrictions.

As we move into 2021, we look forward to returning to some sort normal and hope to see you (virtually or in person) soon.

## Region 3



**Melissa Evans, AICP**

Senior Planner

Owensboro Metropolitan Planning  
Commission

[Evansmm@owensboro.org](mailto:Evansmm@owensboro.org)

Hello APA-KY! As you can imagine, 2020 was a challenging year for Region 3, Western Kentucky just as it was for most everyone.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were unable to host our annual half-day conference that we look forward to each year. This is a great training and networking opportunity for our Region, and I hope in 2021 that we can bring it back even better than before as we are all itching to meet in person again. Until then, if you are in need of training hours please reach out; there are many

opportunities nationally and regionally for continuing education.

I encourage everyone in Region 3 to reach out and share any new, exciting or interesting happenings in your area; we want to hear about the work you are doing!

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or ideas about APA-KY and Region 3 please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I appreciate the opportunity to serve APA-KY Region 3 and look forward to working with all of you for years to come.

## Region 4



**Rachel Comte**

Planner, Principal

Urban Canopy Works LLC

[rachel@urbancanopyworks.com](mailto:rachel@urbancanopyworks.com)

As for all of us, 2020 was a challenging year for Region 4 (NKY).

The plan was to gather in person multiple times throughout 2020 for networking lunches, together with our APA-OH planner colleagues in the Cincinnati area. However, it was not able to happen thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. These networking events have been great for connecting and learning from each

other, as well as providing an avenue for graduating planning students to meet local planners as well. My hope is to bring it back in 2021 as things begin to open up.

If you have suggestions for other activities for APA members in the northern KY region, please reach out. I appreciate the opportunity to serve APA-KY Region 4 and look forward to "seeing" you all in real life this year.

## Region 5



**Kevin Myatt**

Planning Director

Joint City-County Planning  
Commission of Barren County

[kmyatt@glasgow-ky.com](mailto:kmyatt@glasgow-ky.com)

Speaking with Planners and Professionals representing the Region 5 planning units, it appears that the Region has seen tremendous growth.

Talking with Warren County Planning, it's clear that this was a record year for them in terms of residential and industrial growth. The demand for housing remains strong in this area of the Region.

The trend continues up I-65 to Bardstown where Janet Johnston-Crowe, Planning Director of Nelson County, has said that commercial growth is continuing and they are in the beginning phase of constructing a new Comprehensive Plan for their County.

Also in the works there is a new GIS Mapping software for the County and the hope is that this will give a whole

new set of tools for the Staff and residents of Nelson County.

Glasgow/Barren County has seen several new multi-family residential growth areas, as well as new road infrastructure and the beginning phase of a new 200 acre industrial park. Adam King, AICP of Hardin County spoke about the tremendous issues of billboard progression and the difficulty of regulating those, however, Hardin County has seen an uptick in development.

Overall, Central Kentucky, specifically Region 5, is experiencing growth in all phases of development and 2021 looks to be no exception with all Planners expressing favorable forecast for plat recordings, zone changes and building growth.



*Loretto, Kentucky*



# Financial Committee

First of all, thank you again to the Board and members of APA-KY for allowing me to serve as your Treasurer in 2020.

It was a challenging year to say the least. I want to thank our corporate sponsors for 2020 for their continued support of APA-KY, which allows us to provide education, training and program opportunities for planners, local officials and citizens across the Commonwealth. Our 7 great 2020 Sponsors were: AECOM, Kendig Keast Collaborative, enCODEPLUS, Lord Aeck Sargent, Qk4, Gresham Smith, and HMB! If you or your firm wants to be a sponsor or continue to be a sponsor in 2021, please contact me.

As of December 31, 2020, we have a positive cash checking balance of \$44,163.41. Couple that with over \$20,000 in our two CD's which act as a "rainy day fund", and the Chapter is again in

my estimation on sound financial footing. Many thanks to the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, and Region Reps for being judicious with the Chapter's funding and your budgets, while providing virtual opportunities for education and fellowship that were as successful as they could be in the new normal of COVID-19. These folks do the hard work of the Chapter so thank them when you see them hopefully at an in-person event in 2021.

The following table shows the budgeted and actual Revenues and Expenses for Calendar Year (CY) 2020 (January 1 to December 31), as well as the proposed budget for CY 2021. If you have any questions about this information please contact Shawn Dikes at [sdikes@lochgroup.com](mailto:sdikes@lochgroup.com).

## Behind the Numbers

We spent much less than anticipated in 2020. COVID-19 restrictions limited our ability to host conferences, therefore we were significantly under budget in that area, in addition to a few others. In early 2020, we funded the KY portion of the OKI Conference, now set to take place in 2022. Finances for this event has been and will be separate from the APA-KY Chapter's. Conversely, our revenues were down due to lack of in-person events and fewer sponsors. Looking ahead into 2021, we intend to host one in-person event, likely in the fall, that may boost revenue for the year. Our Chapter was able to collect close to the anticipated funds from our portion of APA National dues.

In 2020, there was discussion about bringing back the APA-KY scholarship, particularly with

some added flexibility regarding to whom it's awards and what school they attend. There will be more to come on that in the coming months.

That's all from the treasurer's seat. If anyone has any questions, please ask. Thanks for the opportunity to serve APA-KY and I'm looking forward to a much better 2021!



**Shawn Dikes, AICP**

Regional Leader - Jeffersonville Office  
Lochmueller Group  
[SDikes@lochgroup.com](mailto:SDikes@lochgroup.com)

Revenues	CY 2020 Budget	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Budget
APA Rebate	\$8,000	\$8,628	\$8,000
Conferences	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
APA-KY Affiliate Dues	\$0	\$350	\$300
Seminars/Workshops	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sponsors	\$8,000	\$3,250	\$5,000
Professional Dev.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$150	\$1,428	\$150
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$41,150</b>	<b>\$13,656</b>	<b>\$38,450</b>

Expenses	CY 2020 Budget	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Budget
Publications/ Newsletter	\$2,500	\$2,312	\$2,500
Program Development/ Conferences/	\$25,000	\$0	\$33,000
Seminars/Workshops	\$1,400	\$1,458	\$1,400
Professional Development	\$6,000	\$2,365	\$3,500
Executive	\$0	\$0	\$3,500
Special Projects	\$200	\$0	\$200
Legislative	\$300	\$0	\$300
Community Outreach/ Partner Orgs	\$500	\$110	\$500
Public Relations/ Awards	\$1,500	\$993	\$1,200
Administrative	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
University of Louisville Scholarship	\$50	\$0	\$50
Postage	\$1,000	\$425	\$1,000
Membership	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,000
Miscellaneous/FAICP Fellow	\$0	\$340	\$300
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$40,450</b>	<b>\$9,578</b>	<b>\$49,450</b>



# Administration Committee

The Administration Committee was responsible for overseeing the election process for 2021-2022 officers. In early 2020 a call for nominees for Secretary and for Treasurer was announced. APA-KY has chosen to hold our chapter's elections concurrently with APA National Elections. Kentucky voting members who are also national members are sent instructions around July for voting for national and state officers on one ballot. The National Elections adhere to the following timeline:

Mid-March	Begin the Call for Nominations
Mid-May	Firm deadline for the Call for Nominations
Mid-July9	Ballots available online for all eligible voting members
Mid-August	Ballots close
Late August	Election results are certified and announced

This year's ballot resulted in the following elected officers for the upcoming two-year cycle:

**Secretary:** Emi Randall, AICP, RLA, CFM  
**Treasurer:** Shawn Dikes, AICP

We are greatly appreciative of each candidate's interest and willingness to contribute to our Executive Committee team. I encourage anyone interested in either running for a position or serving on the Administration Committee to contact me at (502) 339-8319 or at [Karen.Mohammadi@MBakerIntl.com](mailto:Karen.Mohammadi@MBakerIntl.com).



**Karen Mohammadi, PE,  
PTOE, AICP**  
Department Manager - Planning  
Michael Baker International  
[karen.mohammadi@MBakerIntl.com](mailto:karen.mohammadi@MBakerIntl.com)



Paducah, Kentucky

# Memberships

# Committee

The membership chart below illustrates the APA-KY Chapter membership trend from 2012 to 2020. At the end of 2020, there were 356 APA-KY members across the five different categories.

Those interested in joining the national APA, please visit their website at [planning.org](http://planning.org). To inquire about joining the APA-KY chapter only membership, please contact Treasurer, Shawn Dikes at [sdikes@lochgroup.com](mailto:sdikes@lochgroup.com). Chapter only members receive all newsletters, email blasts and other correspondences which includes information on training opportunities for required HB 55 hours.



**Kaaviyaa Nagarajan**

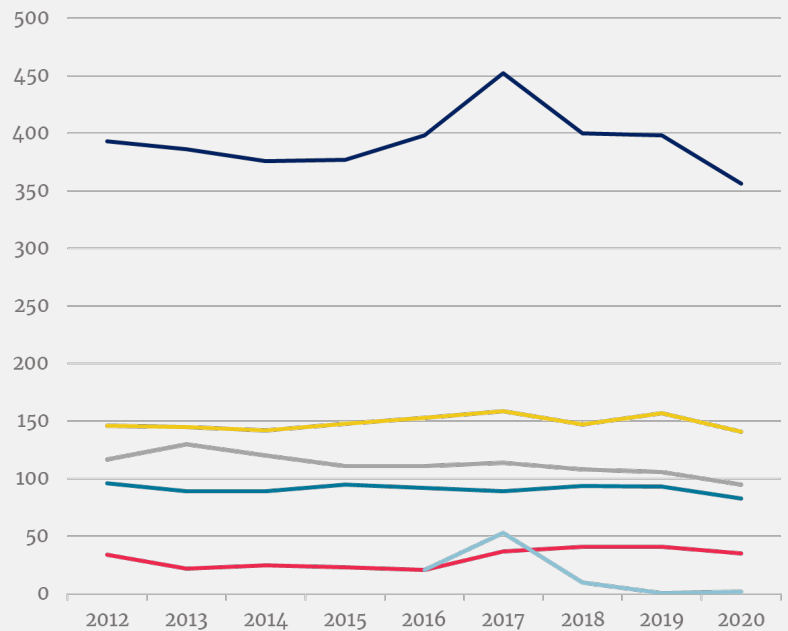
Urban Designer

Lord Aeck Sargent | A KATERRA Company

[knagarajan@lordaecksargent.com](mailto:knagarajan@lordaecksargent.com)

In the coming year, membership retention and recruitment will continue to be a focus of APA-KY! Please let me know if you have any questions and be sure to check out our membership brochure on page 22 of the report.

**APA-KY Membership, 2012-2020**



	Regular APA	AICP/FAICP	Group Planning Board Members	Student	State Only	Total
2012	96	146	117	34		393
2013	89	145	130	22		386
2014	89	142	120	25		376
2015	95	148	111	23		377
2016	92	153	111	21	21	398
2017	89	159	114	37	53	452
2018	94	147	108	41	10	400
2019	93	157	106	41	1	398
2020	77	141	95	35	8	356



# Legislative Committee

Hello APA-KY Committee Members! This is the final Legislative Report wrapping up the 2020 Regular Session. Since our last report in March, COVID-19 has certainly changed our world! At the onset of COVID-19, Governor Beshear requested strongly that the legislature end the session immediately, or work only to pass a budget and then quickly adjourn.

Early on in March, there was some negotiation between the Governor and legislators about whether bills in play during the Regular Session could be revived during a potential later Special Session after COVID-19 issues had been addressed and it would be safer to meet, but the Governor maintained that the Regular Session should end as soon as possible for safety reasons and that any later Special Session this year would only be on the subject of passing a budget. Despite requests from the Governor throughout March and April to end the Session, the legislature continued to meet on an abbreviated and expedited basis through to the official end of the legislative session in mid-April, only taking a few legislative days off. Legislators continued to debate and enact laws, as well as pass a one-year budget.

## Here are the final metrics for the 2020 Regular Session:

Despite a global pandemic, the 2020 KY Regular Legislative Session met for **53** of the **60** scheduled days for a legislative session as allowed under our state Constitution. A total of **932** bills were introduced (647 in the House and 285 in the Senate), and **124** of those bills became law (75 from the House and 49 from the Senate). Four of the **462** resolutions introduced in both chambers carry the weight of law. Therefore, **13.3%** of all bills introduced became law.

New laws, per provision in the Kentucky Constitution, take effect 90 days after the adjournment of the legislature, which officially ended on April 15. Thus, most laws took effect on July 15th.

Bills that are general appropriation measures, have specific effective dates, or that state an emergency (meaning that they take immediate effect) are the only bills that do not take effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns.

[Click here](#) to access the Interim Record, A Summary of Interim Activities.

The APA-KY followed **153** bills during this Session, **112** House bills and **41** Senate bills, **17** of which became law.

Since the first confirmed case of coronavirus in Kentucky in the first week of March, the focus of state law has shifted from the legislative branch to the executive branch. Throughout these unprecedented times, Governor Beshear has issued several emergency Executive Orders related to the coronavirus response, some of which have been challenged in court. Some churches objected to Beshear's mandate that there be no in-person services, but the Executive Order related to churches was upheld because it did not prevent churches from holding other types of services, like online services or in-person, "drive-in" services if congregants remained in their cars and did not pass anything, like an offering plate, from vehicle to vehicle. And, the closure was not limited to just churches, but to all business and gatherings of a certain size, so the measure was evenly applied.

The court challenge to Beshear's travel ban resulted in the Governor revising it to being



advisory instead of a mandate to mimic a similar Ohio travel advisory which was deemed acceptable.

The KY Attorney General, Daniel Cameron, has joined or initiated challenges to the Governor's authority to issue emergency Executive Orders without more input from other state agencies and more attention to process. Actions seeking temporary injunctions have been denied, allowing Beshear's Executive Orders, like the mandate to wear masks in public when social distancing of 6 feet or more is not possible, to remain in place based on public health considerations. These issues will be decided by the Kentucky Supreme Court eventually, but the mask mandate and other Beshear Executive Orders will remain in place until those issues are considered by the state's highest court.

Below, you will find a listing of a few of the bills we have followed throughout this session.

- SB 2 - An act relating to voter identification and making an appropriation therefor.
- SB 5 - An act relating to special purpose governmental entities.
- SB 57 - An act relating to public school building renovations and declaring an emergency.
- SB 99 - An act relating to alcoholic beverages.
- HB 44 - An act relating to key infrastructure assets.
- HB 98 - An act relating to causes of actions for building code violations.
- HB 195 - An act relating to the publication of local government legal advertisements.
- HB 302 - An act relating to the Kentucky State Plane Coordinate System.
- HB 308 - An act authorizing the payment of certain claims against the state which have been duly audited and approved according to law and

have not been paid because of the lapsing or insufficiency of former appropriations against which the claims were chargeable or the lack of an appropriate procurement document in place, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

- HB 319 - An act relating to historical preservation of Revolutionary War battlefields, Civil War battlefields, and Underground Railroad sites, and making an appropriation therefor.
- HB 352 - An act relating to appropriations measures providing funding and establishing conditions for the operations, maintenance, support, and functioning of the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its various officers, cabinets, departments, boards, commissions, institutions, subdivisions, agencies, and other state-supported activities.
- HB 353 - An act relating to appropriations providing financing and conditions for the operations, maintenance, support, and functioning of the Transportation Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- HB 354 - An act relation to road projects and declaring an emergency.
- HB 362 - An act relating to broadband deployment.
- HB 382 - An act relating to the operation of golf carts.
- HB 405 - An act proposing to amend Sections 97, 119, and 122 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to terms of Constitutional offices.
- HB 570 - An act relating to interlocal cooperation agreements.



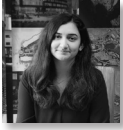
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# Accelerated Trends *in Planning...*



**Supriya Kelkar**  
Urban Designer, LEED AP ND  
Lord Aeck Sargent | A KATERRA Company  
[skelkar@lordaecksargent.com](mailto:skelkar@lordaecksargent.com)

COVID-19 is a humanitarian challenge that has changed the way we occupy physical space. As we cautiously step forward into this unknown realm, urban planners are faced with new opportunities and challenges for redesigning our space for this reality. Over time, this pandemic will result in lasting changes in human behavior, and our profession will need to adapt accordingly.

## **Real Estate & Development**

In general, impacts experienced by the commercial real estate sector are slower moving and are not as immediately visible as with the financial market. The effects of COVID-19 have had a broader sustained impact on the economy, which has trickled down to the real estate market. Consumers are focusing on the essentials and tightening expenditures which starts showing in the real estate market. This is especially evident in real estate with higher human density. Reacting to the immediate crisis, the critical process of thinking ahead to the months and years that follow is being initiated across the table.



## **Mobility & Public Space**

As we face an anti-density dialogue, our role as planners and designers is to now create public spaces that meet the human need to congregate while also feeling safe and accessible. While the cities are the frontlines of this global crisis, what happens in the cities does not stay in the city. How do we ensure our city's resiliency to future crises? Densities, when planned properly define urban core. How do we protect the vulnerability in our densities?







### **Public Participation**

Before the pandemic, we heavily relied on an in-person public engagement process. Social distancing requirements have increased our reliance on digital public engagement tools in order to distribute information and collect input. Though the question remains – how do we facilitate this shift to virtual engagement for communities and individuals without access and/or digital literacy? Such a question demands that we examine whose voices are heard, and whose are not, as we make this transition into a digitally dependent time.



### **Focus on Equity & Inclusion**

This pandemic has shown the fragility of our systems and laid bare the challenges of establishing equity in our cities. Access to urban services has disproportionately affected marginalized communities. Economic conditions, rather than physical geography, largely determine overall impact. As we rebuild and recover, community development – particularly in these pandemic hotspots – must place a high priority on equitability and inclusivity.





# Planner Spotlight



My name is Rachel Mandell

I am a Planner I for Planning and Design Services with Louisville Metro. This is located within APA-KY Region 2.

My work is focused in Louisville Metro Area. With Louisville Metro being a merged city and county government, my work is focused on both urban and suburban areas.

Three words I would use to describe my 2020 experience as an urban planner –

- **Mobilizing**
- **Adaptive**
- **Fulfilling**

**Describe one of your biggest achievements in 2020. Consider focusing on the ways that this project/campaign/action responded directly to 1) the unique needs of your community, and/or 2) the challenges/opportunities posed by the year's events.**

The social movements in 2020 provoked cities nationwide to enhance equity and address systemic racism. Planning and Design Services launched the Land Development Code Reform to confront how zoning and land use policies have been used as a tool to not just separate uses, but to separate people. Through research, collaboration with agency professionals and public engagement, Planning and Design Services has identified a system of regulations enforced through the

Land Development Code that continue to serve a historic pattern of inequitable development. These regulations will now be removed, modified or corrected as we move forward with the reform.

**Have your planning views, thought process, decision making, recommendations or choices changed due to the impacts of COVID-19?**

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted vulnerable populations, particularly those most economically disadvantaged. The impacts of the virus have reaffirmed my view that planners should aspire to plan for the needs of underrepresented communities and promote racial and economic integration. My thought process has changed to encourage

proactive planning rather than reactive planning, especially in residential and mixed-use development proposals. This may involve researching how density influences a neighborhood's capacity to respond and mitigate crisis.

**The COVID-19 regulations have necessitated a significant shift onto digital platforms, which has undoubtedly affected how we engage internally and with the communities we aim to serve. How has this shift affected the level of connection that you feel with your various audiences, whether that be other planners, community members, development professionals, consultants, etc.?**

Hosting a virtual public hearing was a foreign concept prior to the pandemic, especially when some board members struggle to just put their cellphones on mute! However, Louisville Metro has successfully been hosting virtual public meetings and, in fact, attendance has been higher than in-person meetings. The mute button is still an issue though! I feel I have been able to communicate better with applicants and community members due to the convenience of virtual platforms. However, it is important to consider that not all community members have access to technology and alternative means for engagement must be provided.

**What was your primary method of staying “in the loop” with area planners and other industry professionals, particularly in the absence of the usual networking events and conferences?**

I primarily use social media and virtual meeting formats, such as Zoom or WebEx,

to remain familiar with other area planners, regional projects, and industry professionals. I have attended several webinars that I likely wouldn't have been able to attend if it were not hosted digitally. I do miss in-person interaction and I think it is more difficult to meet new people on a virtual platform, however there are many ways in which social media and virtual meetings have increased interaction and accessibility.

**What topic/issue is most alive for you in this moment as a planning professional?**

The ongoing pandemic and social movement have immensely influenced my intentions as a planning professional. Time will tell how the pandemic shifts trends on density, public transit and shared public spaces, but the fight for racial justice will continue to be, and needs to be, a component of all future urban planning decisions.

**Would you or someone in your network want to be featured in our next Planner Spotlight?**



Use [this link](#) to access the Planner spotlight submission form, which includes information on the content needed for each feature and questions to guide responses.



Send completed form along with any supplemental content such as photos, graphics, tables, etc. to our team at [info@apaky.org](mailto:info@apaky.org).



# *The William Bowdy Award* **Dennis Gordon, FAICP**



**Dennis Gordon, FAICP,** has been awarded The William Bowdy Award of Outstanding Lifetime Achievement by a Kentucky Planner.

## **Career Highlights:**

- 45 years of professional planning practice,
- Over 40-years of planning leadership at the Director / Executive Director level.
- President of the Indiana and Kentucky chapters of the American Planning Association (APA).
- National-level leadership on the APA Board of Directors.
- Secretary of the APA Board of Directors.
- Inducted into the Certified Planners College of Fellows (FAICP) in 2001.

**Dedication to the Profession.** Dennis Gordon, FAICP, exemplifies what it means to be a planner and serves as a model that future professionals should strive to achieve. In his career of nearly 50-years he has actively worked to make the communities he serves better places that are more well-prepared to face the future. Mr. Gordon has spent twenty-seven of his forty-five-year planning career within the Commonwealth. He served as the Kentucky APA chapter president as well as the Indiana chapter president during the late eighties and early 1990s. Following this service, he went on to serve the APA at the national level.

In addition to his work with APA at the chapter and national level, Mr. Gordon has constantly worked to further planning and share his experiences in the profession. He has written numerous published articles and spoken a countless national, state, and local conference throughout his tenure. His breadth of knowledge has led him to be a resource on topics like citizen engagement, zoning flexibility, and planning for community growth. Additionally, from 1991-1995, Mr. Gordon also served as an adjunct professor within the Department of Urban Planning at his alma mater, Ball State University. During his tenure at PDS, he has fostered a robust relationship with local universities to support co-op programs and hire both planning and GIS interns.

**Challenging the Status Quo.** Mr. Gordon has never been one to accept that just because something has historically been done one way that it needs to continue down that same path. In his first Director role at Hardin County, he was instrumental in establishing the community's first comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, and subdivision regulations. In 1988, Mr. Gordon took on a new role as the Executive Director

of Allen County (IN) Department of Planning Services. His efforts here helped solidify his acceptance into the Certified Planners College of Fellows in 2001. Mr. Gordon returned to the Commonwealth in 2002 to begin his role of Executive Director of the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission (NKAPC, now PDS). Upon accepting this role, he replaced the namesake of this award, Mr. William Bowdy, FAICP— unquestionably a large role to fill. Mr. Gordon introduced an agencywide mission statement and core values to help set a clear direction for staff.

In 2005, PDS launched the One Stop Shop program to provide efficient and effective professional code administration services to the 19 jurisdictions within Kenton County on a contractual basis. Under Gordon's leadership, the Long-Range Planning department began working shortly thereafter to begin a completely new comprehensive plan. This plan, now known as Direction 2030, was groundbreaking for Kenton County and the profession on national level. The plan content itself was a breath-of-fresh-air for the County, which had not benefited from new Goals and Objectives or completely new

content since 1972. The plan was revolutionary on a national scale because it was one of the first in the country to only exist online. Mr. Gordon could have just been satisfied with the status quo, but instead challenged his teams to think differently and be bold. Today, that same boldness continues with the Zoning for the 21st Century (Z21) project. This effort seeks to coordinate the 20 different zoning ordinances found with Kenton County and help set clearer expectations for those wishing to build and make improvements in Kenton County. Even as he has announced his retirement for August 2020 he continues to push the envelope and challenge people to strive for excellence.

Throughout his tenure in professional planning, Mr. Gordon has always had the best interests of his community and furthering the profession in mind. His lifetime of work exemplifies the William Bowdy Award and he should undoubtedly be awarded with this honor.

**This feature was originally written by APA-KY Region 4 Representative, Rachel Comte, and shared on apaky.org on Aug. 17, 2020.**



# Become an APA KY Chapter *Member*

## Mission Statement

"APA Kentucky shall promote planning throughout the Commonwealth to enhance the quality of life for all Kentuckians."

## What is APA Kentucky?

The Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA KY) is a non-profit professional organization that supports the work of planners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as other organizations and individuals interested in planning.

APA Kentucky represents more than 400 planners, government officials and citizens involved in urban and rural planning issues. Our members are involved on a daily basis in formulating local and state planning policies.

Members receive up-to-date communications regarding professional development events, legislative bill proposals and planning issues.



## Who are APA Kentucky Members?

Planners - Architects - Engineers - Citizens - Landscape Architects -  
Land Use Attorneys - Students and Educators - Geographers -  
Public Agency Professionals - Planning Commissioners



# APA Kentucky Has Its Rewards

*APA Kentucky provides up-to-date information to members via:*

*Website— [apaky.org](http://apaky.org)*

*Newsletters*

*Legislative Updates*

*Email Updates*

*APA Kentucky provides professional development opportunities, including:*

*AICP Exam Study Courses*

*Two Annual Conferences*

*Regional Events and Conferences*

*Planning Commissioner Training*

*Certification Maintenance (CM) Credit-Opportunities*

*Student Member Program*

*APA Kentucky members receive:*

*State Chapter Voting Opportunities*

*Job and RFP/RFQ Announcements*

*Resume Posting*

## Becoming a Member

*There are two ways to join APA Kentucky*

### APA Membership

Kentucky members of the American Planning Association are automatically registered as APA Kentucky Chapter members. As an incentive for students to join APA, APA-KY will pay half of the APA membership dues.

**Contact Shawn Dikes for details at:  
[shawn.dikes@hdrinc.com](mailto:shawn.dikes@hdrinc.com)**

**For dues information and to join, visit:  
[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)**

If you are unfamiliar with APA, consider a chapter-only membership. An APA Kentucky Chapter Only Membership is only \$35/year.







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Join the conversation on social media!



## 2021 APA-KY *Events*

- RESCHEDULED - APA-KY Spring Conference 2020 at Lake Barkley State Resort, Sept. 22-24, 2021
- For more information on future events for 2021, please visit the APA-KY website [apaky.org/events](http://apaky.org/events)

### Have a planning-related story that you would like us to share?

APA-KY is always seeking new and exciting content to share with our network of planners and the broader Kentucky community.

We are interested in collecting your stories and experiences that relate to urban and community planning in the Commonwealth, whether you are a member of the public, a city/municipal planner, or an industry professional in a planning-related field.

Please submit any content ideas via email to:

[info@apaky.org](mailto:info@apaky.org).

### Many thanks to members of our public outreach team for their work!

If you have any suggestions for ways to improve the design and accessibility of APA-KY's publications, please feel free to reach out!



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