

**Candidate, Vice Director of Finance  
American Planning Association, Los Angeles Section**

**Kristen Asp, AICP  
Glendale Planning Department  
[kasp@ci.glendale.ca.us](mailto:kasp@ci.glendale.ca.us)**

Professional Background and Education

- Senior Planner, City of Glendale
- Assistant Planner/Planning Technician, City of Calabasas, 1997 – 2000
- Los Angeles Section American Planning Association
  - Vice Director of Finance and Records 2001 – present
- Member of the American Institute of Certified Planners
- M.A. – Organizational Leadership – Woodbury University, Burbank, CA
- B.S. – City and Regional Planning – Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA

As the Vice Director of Finance I am part of the LAAPA team that makes events, programs, and the annual awards program run smoothly. All members benefit from our exceptional awards programs, professional development seminars, and various other programs of interest to planners. My goal is to keep the Board on budget and find ways to provide further services. Additionally, the 2008 State Conference in Hollywood will be exciting for the Los Angeles Section and I would like to continue to my efforts with that team. I am proud to be part of this strong team which I have served with for the past seven years. I hope to continue as Vice Director of Finance with your support.

**Candidate, Vice Director of Professional Development  
American Planning Association, Los Angeles Section**

**Dev Vrat, AICP  
Senior Urban and Environmental Planner  
URS Corporation  
[dev\\_vrat@urscorp.com](mailto:dev_vrat@urscorp.com)**

Vote for me! I believe it's very important for LA-APA to provide professional development opportunities for our local APA members especially in light of the new AICP Maintenance Program. I really enjoy planning and executing professional development training sessions and assisting Kevin Keller, Kim Christensen, Rony Giron and the entire LA-APA board in providing this service to members. I also work to author articles about these professional development activities for our LA-APA newsletter so that all members can get some benefit, even if they are unable to attend our professional development sessions.

**Candidate, Vice Director of Programs  
American Planning Association, Los Angeles Section**

**Gabriela Juarez**  
**City of Los Angeles Planning Department**  
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As Vice Director of Programs, I would bring a schedule of programming that would explore the gamut of planning opportunities and challenges that exist in the great metropolis of Los Angeles. Programs would include activities such as multi-modal mobile tours, seminars, and, of course, networking opportunities in scenic venues that showcase L.A. My goal would be to offer a new facet and deeper understanding of our urban issues both to new planners as well as planners that feel they've "been there and done that" through these various activities. I would like to also create a space and opportunity for us to learn from each other given that we are not usually afforded the chance otherwise.

I have an extensive background in programming and planning going back to my undergraduate days at UCSD where I was very active in student government. I was also the Chair for the Urban Planning Student Association at UCLA as a graduate student where I organized several mixers and various events for professional enhancement and networking opportunities. I currently work for the City of Los Angeles, Community Planning Bureau where I have been exercising my creative bone to develop innovative outreach strategies for community engagement and participation. If elected, I promise to bring new, interesting and fun planning programs to take the LA APA chapter up to a whole new level.

**Candidate, Vice-Director At-Large (Awards)  
American Planning Association, Los Angeles Section**

**Gunnar Hand, AICP  
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning  
[gunnarhand@hotmail.com](mailto:gunnarhand@hotmail.com)**

As Vice-Director At-Large (Awards) for LA-APA, I believe there is substantial opportunity to expand existing programs and develop new opportunities to cross the professional divide between planners, urban designers, architects, landscape architects, and engineers to enhance the discourse within the planning profession. With an increasingly interdisciplinary awards program, the LA-APA has the potential to become the beacon of collaboration while recognizing planning professionals who have sought opportunities to align with other professions directly involved in improving the built environment. Ultimately, we as planners can accelerate our mutual goals of community betterment through information sharing, the recognition of exceptional work, and the enhancement of our professional discourse. By creating these mechanisms of inclusion, the LA-APA can join together with a much broader coalition of concerned professionals, leveraging our relationships, and meet our goals to improve the built environment.

For the past few years, I have had the opportunity to work with many different professionals beyond our field and I am often concerned by the lack of information or understanding of planning. As a regional planner with the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, I have collaborated with a diverse range of interests and professionals. The political reality of my position has acutely raised my desire for improved interaction among the various disciplines. As a writer for a professional architecture publication, I have worked with many in the design field, and I have tracked the trends of local, national, and international competitions that pertain to our field for several years. Additionally, I have worked on fundraising campaigns, juried school projects, and sat on grant review panels allowing me to see a broad range of the work being done by planners throughout our city and country.

I believe that it is imperative for our profession to reach out to all who are engaged in the built environment, and a new approach to our Awards program is a great opportunity to increase awareness of the incredible work already being done by many. Additional programs can be set up to further promote collaboration and information sharing among those in a rapidly changing professional environment. Consensus building is a pillar of our profession, and as such it is our duty to reach out to all who are engaged in the built environment and develop a plan to align our shared goals and objectives. Thank you for your consideration.

**Candidate, Vice Director At-large (Awards)**  
**American Planning Association, Los Angeles Section**

**Brittanya Murillo**  
**City of Los Angeles Housing Department**  
[bmurillo@lahd.lacity.org](mailto:bmurillo@lahd.lacity.org)

- Education: MCP from MIT; BA from U.C. Berkeley
- Select Work History: Los Angeles Housing Department – Policy & Planning Unit (current); Enterprise Home Ownership Partners (EHOP); National City Community Development Corporation; MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning; Transportation and Land Use Collaborative (TLUC); California Department of Housing & Community Development; Legal Aid Society of San Diego

It was when the conference series that I managed, “Latino New Urbanism,” received an award from the APA LA Section that I first became familiar with the local effort to recognize planning excellence. The Awards and yearly reception are an opportunity to showcase what is best in our local planning community. The diversity of award categories and awardees reflect that the LA Section: (1) remains current with the vast array of planning efforts in a region as large as this one and (2) recognizes the importance of the contributions to planning from academia, grassroots organizations and non-traditional planners.

I hope to partner with the Vice-Director at large, Gerald Wells, to continue to select the individuals and projects that advance our profession and to plan the annual signature awards event. My experience in managing large projects and with event planning logistics make me a strong candidate to accomplish the work that is required to execute the Awards project. I am excited to join in this effort and look forward to sharing in this LA Section tradition.

**Candidate, Vice Director At-Large (Awards)  
American Planning Association, Los Angeles Section**

**Maritza Przekop**  
**Los Angeles City Planning Department**  
[maritza.przekop@lacity.org](mailto:maritza.przekop@lacity.org)

I'm honored to submit an interest statement in support of the nomination of the LA-APA for the Vice-Director At-Large (Awards Program).

This year, as part of the 2007 LA-APA Awards Program, I had the unique opportunity to participate as one of the judges for the annual Los Angeles Section awards ceremony, which recognized local planning work that typified excellence in planning.

In that capacity, I recognized that the volunteer work assisting the award program is critical in order to preserve the highest standards of planning and design in our community. In that role if given the consideration by the APA members, I would bring 25-years of experience from the private sector in the areas of architecture, urban design, transportation planning, entitlements and community affairs. I currently work with the City of Los Angeles Community Planning Bureau in the Site Plan Review/ Plan Approvals Unit, and participate in two very important programs relevant to current policies in our city: "Walkability and Green Building Design". I'm interested in making a difference "one project at a time."

I have lived in Los Angeles since emigrating from El Salvador in 1977, and received a Bachelor of Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture in Los Angeles, California in 1980. In May 1982, I attended the Master's of Architecture and Urban Design program at the University of California Los Angeles.

I have been active in education, planning and land uses issues and recently served as a Board of Directors and Chair of the Urban Planning and Land Use Committee for the Mar Vista Community Council from 2003 to 2005. I'm a member of the steering committee for the Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils representing the South-west area of Los Angeles. I also serve as Chair of the Empowerment of Congress Committee for Planning and Land Uses for CD-11 and received the 2007 Pioneer Women Award an honor received from Councilman Bill Rosendahl and the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women.

It will be an honor to assist, as an APA member, the important role of recognizing the efforts of development that advocates the values of good community planning, advancing a higher standard for our region.

Thank you again for your consideration.