



American Planning Association

Creating Great Communities for All

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Sustainable Chinatown Initiative Receives National Planning Award

*American Planning Association recognizes 20 communities for best practices
in planning and urban design.*

CHICAGO – The [Sustainable Chinatown Initiative](#), a cross-sector effort between the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC), San Francisco Planning Department, San Francisco Department of the Environment and Enterprise Community Partners in San Francisco, has received the American Planning Association (APA) Gold 2019 National Planning Achievement Award for Environmental Planning. The award honors efforts to create more sustainable and greener communities that reduce the impact of development on the natural environment and improve environmental quality.

A predominantly low-income community with a rich 150-year-plus history, San Francisco's Chinatown neighborhood is one of the last affordable neighborhoods in an increasingly expensive city and is threatened by mounting environmental and displacement challenges. Sustainable Chinatown began in 2014 as a collaborative to improve sustainability and resilience while protecting the community's unique culture and history, creating more affordable and resource-efficient housing, and improving access to public space and other services.

"Chinatown is a community known for its deeply-rooted social institutions, cultural influence, and perseverance through periods of turmoil," said John Rahaim, director of the San Francisco Planning Department. "This initiative is reflective of the neighborhood's closely-held values and traditions; a result of civic participation and philanthropic partners working together to preserve and strengthen the very things that define its common heart."

Norman Fong, CCDC's Executive Director, added, "I am proud of the impact Sustainable Chinatown has had on our community. We have amazing partners in SF Planning, Department of the Environment, and Enterprise. At Chinatown CDC we believe in the 4 Ps—people, planning, place and power. Together we are empowering the people in Chinatown to plan for the future and care for the place we call home."

Current Sustainable Chinatown projects include the renovation of the Ping Yuen affordable housing developments (including water and energy efficiency improvements and a \$1.5 million solar photovoltaic installation), community education on sustainability and resilience topics, efforts to introduce greening and stormwater infrastructure throughout Chinatown, and a

proposed “Resilience Hub” to help the neighborhood prepare for climate change and other natural and man-made disasters.

“The Sustainable Chinatown Initiative successfully integrates economic, social and sustainable planning practices,” said Wendy Shabay, AICP, 2019 Awards Jury chair. “The initiative provides a vision for the future, but also ensures there is strong partner accountability.”

The final report for the initiative, *Strategies for a Sustainable Chinatown*, includes the following components:

Part I – Strategies for a Sustainable Chinatown: Six critical areas of work intended to complement the efforts of CCDC, other nonprofit organizations, and the city by maintaining affordability, sustaining Chinatown’s unique culture, and improving environmental health and sustainability.

Part II – Sustainable Chinatown Dashboard and Baseline Assessment: An in-depth, innovative profile of environmental sustainability and demographic trends in Chinatown that can be monitored over time to track progress in meeting city and neighborhood goals.

Each year, APA recognizes outstanding efforts in planning and planning leadership through its National Planning Excellence and Achievement Awards. The two-tier awards are selected through a juried process. Excellence Award recipients are the highest honor and Achievement Awards recognize accomplishments in areas of specialization within the planning profession. The awards recognize outstanding community plans, planning programs and initiatives, public education efforts, and individuals for their leadership on planning issues for more than 50 years.

In addition to San Francisco, APA honors the following 2019 Achievement Award recipients:

Best Practice

- Gold– WEDG: The Blue Movement to Design Better Waterfronts; Waterfront Alliance; New York, New York
- Silver – City of Clovis – Cottage Home Program; Clovis, California
- Silver – SMART Parks: A Toolkit; UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, Principle Investigator Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris; Los Angeles, California
- Silver – Planning Commission Online Public Hearings; Lakewood, Colorado
- Silver – Engage 2017: Housing, Parking & Natural Resources; Town of Jackson / Teton County, Wyoming

Economic Development Planning

- Silver – Port NOLA Strategic Master Plan; Port of New Orleans, Louisiana
- Silver – Los Alamos Tourism Strategic Plan; Los Alamos, New Mexico

Grassroots Initiative

- Gold – Stoneham Transportation Advocacy Committee; Stoneham, Massachusetts

Implementation

- Gold – The Van Aken District; Shaker Heights, Ohio

Public Outreach

- Gold – People’s Planning Academy; Department of Metropolitan Development; Indianapolis, Indiana
- Silver – Go Human Tactical Urbanism Demonstration Events; Southern California
- Silver – Parker the Planner, a City Planning Story; Madeline Dahleimer (Peck), Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Burnsville, Minnesota

Resilience

- Gold – Climate Ready Boston Report; Boston, Massachusetts
- Silver – Tropical Storm Irene Flood Buyouts; Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission; Vermont
- Silver – Liberty County Strategic Plan; Liberty County, Texas

Transportation

- Gold – Multimobility Planning on the Cellular Level; Stantec Consulting Services Inc./Tahoe Transportation District; Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada
- Silver – Downtown St. Louis Multimodal Transportation Plan; St. Louis, Missouri
- Silver – Cache County Trails and Active Transportation Master Plan; Cache County, Utah

Urban Design

- Gold – Downtown Allentown Development and Urban Design Plan; Allentown, Pennsylvania

The 2019 National Planning Award recipients will be honored at a special luncheon during APA’s [National Planning Conference](#) in San Francisco on April 15, 2019. The recipients will also be featured in the May issue of *Planning* magazine. For a complete list and summary of all the APA 2019 National Planning Excellence and Achievement Award recipients, visit www.planning.org/awards/2019.

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The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides vital leadership in creating great communities for all. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the profession of planning, offering better choices for where and how people work and live. The 42,000 APA members work in concert with community residents, civic leaders and business interests to create communities that enrich people’s lives. Through its philanthropic work, APA’s Foundation helps to reduce economic and social barriers to good planning. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Learn more at www.planning.org.