

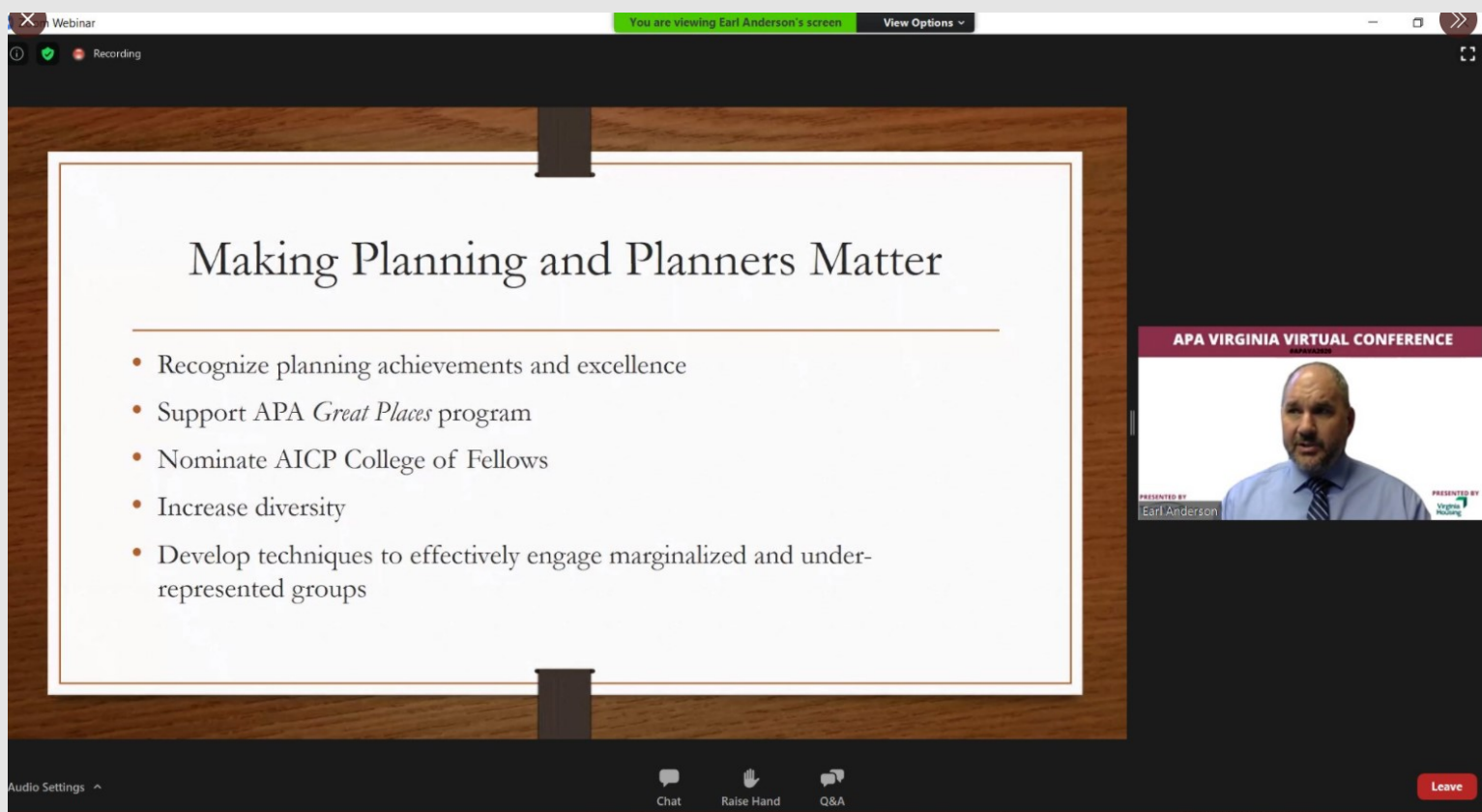
NEWSBRIEF

A Publication of the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association

Winter 2020/2021

Vol. 19 Issue 1

How the #APAVA20 Annual Conference Went Virtual!



The screenshot shows a virtual conference interface. The main content is a presentation slide with a white background and a dark border, set against a wood-grain background. The slide title is "Making Planning and Planners Matter". Below the title is a list of five bullet points. To the right of the slide is a video feed of a man in a blue shirt and tie, identified as Earl Anderson. The video feed has a red header that says "APA VIRGINIA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE" and "PRESENTED BY Earl Anderson". The interface includes a top bar with "Webinar", "You are viewing Earl Anderson's screen", and "View Options". A bottom bar contains "Audio Settings", "Chat", "Raise Hand", "Q&A", and a "Leave" button.

Webinar You are viewing Earl Anderson's screen View Options

Recording

Making Planning and Planners Matter

- Recognize planning achievements and excellence
- Support APA *Great Places* program
- Nominate AICP College of Fellows
- Increase diversity
- Develop techniques to effectively engage marginalized and under-represented groups

APA VIRGINIA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY Earl Anderson

Audio Settings Chat Raise Hand Q&A Leave



American Planning Association
Virginia Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

Cover Photo:

APA Virginia President, Earl Anderson, AICP, during a virtual session of the #APAVA2020 Annual Conference; Photo by: Nick Rogers, AICP, CZA
APA Virginia Board Member

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Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association

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- Editor** Krissy Walentisch
- Contributing Writers** Gina DiCicco, Donald Whipple, Robert Narvaez, Nick Rogers, Earl Anderson, Lark Washington, Shaina Shaffer

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

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About Newsbrief

Newsbrief is the flagship publication for the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association, and serves as a robust repository for in-depth analyses of issues and events that are relevant to Virginia Planners. If you have an interesting topic or case study that you think would benefit APA Virginia Chapter members, please consider contributing to the Newsbrief by submitting a request to have your article published.

Contact Newsbrief@APAVirginia.com for all inquiries.

Visit virginia.planning.org for general information. Find us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/APAVirginia; **Twitter** @APA_Virginia; **Instagram** @APA_Virginia; and the APA Virginia **YouTube** channel.

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NEWS *from* *the* BOARD

By Gina DiCicco

APA Virginia Sections

Have you ever been involved in your local APA Virginia Section? Do you want to get involved? I'm here to tell you why you should!

First, I'd like to introduce myself: I'm Gina DiCicco, the new Vice President of Sections for APA Virginia. Prior to taking on this role, I served as the Co-Director for the Central Section (a role which I still maintain), and before that I was active in the Young Planners Group in the Richmond and Fredericksburg areas. Currently I serve as a Land Conservation Specialist for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, but I also have experience working in floodplain management and planning on military installations. I have lived in various parts of Virginia, growing up in Northern Virginia, attending universities in Harrisonburg and Charlottesville, working in Fredericksburg, and finally moving to Richmond where I have lived and worked for the past four years. I am a Virginia girl through and through, and happy to be getting more active in planning in the commonwealth by joining the APA Virginia Board.

Having been involved in the Central Section, I can tell you that Sections offer a great way to engage with planners in your area. Section events can be both educational and social. They provide a great chance to chat with other planners in your area that may be encountering similar challenges and opportunities to those you find in your community. Sections can also provide a forum for structured discussions, panels, or presentations about hot topics facing the region. Educational events like these may be eligible for continuing maintenance credits for AICP certified planners. In recent years in the Central Section, we have had events focused on public transportation, dockless scooters, public art, Vision Zero, and more!

The state is divided into nine sections. Not sure which Section you are in? Visit the Sections page on APA Virginia's website! You can learn more about each section, including a full list of included localities, by clicking on the section names on the left side of the Sections page.

In order to make APA Virginia Sections all they can be, we need more Section Directors! Currently, we are in need of Directors for the following Sections:

- Chesapeake
- Hampton Roads
- Piedmont
- Roanoke/New River Valley
- Shenandoah Valley
- Southside
- Southwest



NEWS *from the* BOARD

A Section Director's main role is to organize events for their section. Ideally directors will plan at least one event per quarter. This is a great opportunity to get engaged with planners in your region! The position is fairly flexible and Directors can plan events that they find interesting. Events can vary to include happy hours, panel discussions, webinars, movie nights, book clubs, and field trips. Even during the pandemic, some Sections have continued to host virtual happy hours and webinars. In addition, Section Directors are the local face of APA Virginia and help to keep those in the Section in the loop about APA Virginia activities. Sections may also have Co-

Directors to help share the responsibilities of the position. You can find some information about the Section Director position in the FAQ portion of the APA Virginia Sections page. For more information about becoming a Section Director or to volunteer for the position, please email me at sections@apavirginia.com. I hope to see you all at Section events soon!

Gina DiCicco is APA Virginia's Vice President of Sections and a Land Conservation Specialist with Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation.

In Memoriam

By Earl Anderson, AICP

Terrance L. Harrington, AICP (1956 – 2021)



Former APA Virginia Chapter President and AICP Commissioner Terry Harrington passed away suddenly on February 16th after struggling with Parkinson's disease for more than twenty years. Terry was a well-known and respected planner throughout Virginia through his work in private practice and local government, as well as his service to the American Planning Association.

A native of Rochester, New York, Terry received his bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY Plattsburgh, and a graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech. He worked as a planner for the Town of Blacksburg (1981 – 1989) and as Director of Planning for Roanoke

County Virginia (1989 – 2001) before entering private practice, where he advised numerous Virginia localities. The later part of his career included working for the Town of Lexington and Franklin County.

Terry was committed to serving the public and advancing the careers of his fellow planners. He served for twelve years on the APA Virginia Chapter Board, including as President (1994 – 1996) and Chapter Professional Development Officer (2000 – 2004). In 2004 he was elected as Region II representative to the AICP Commission, where he served as chair/co-chair of AICP's Exam Committee. Terry also served on the board of the Virginia Citizens Planning Association and was a Planning Accreditation Board site visitor.

Terry will be remembered for his commitment to planning, his leadership, mentorship, generosity, and thoughtfulness. He was a wonderful and funny guy, a dedicated planner, and a good friend to the APA Virginia Chapter and APA/AICP. He will be missed by his family and his fellow planners throughout the Commonwealth.

[Obituary Link](#)

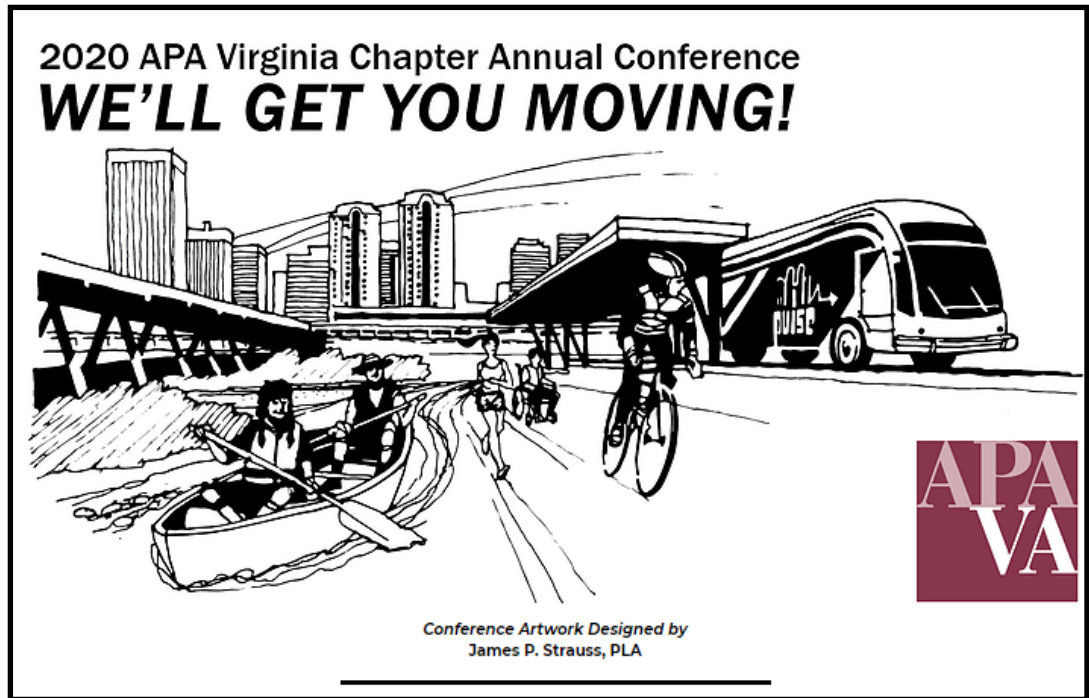
2020 Virginia Chapter Annual Conference Reflection

By Donald Whipple, AICP

To celebrate the APA Virginia Chapter's 50th year, the Annual Conference was to take place in our state's capitol, Richmond, Virginia; however, as we are all aware 2020 had different plans. No question this has been a challenging year where we have had to change the way we traditionally have done just about everything and the annual conference was not spared. It's not the way we intended to mark the milestone of our Chapter's 50th anniversary, but we were faced with a challenge we had not yet undertaken, a virtual conference. Despite these very complex times, with over 300 registrants and abundant CM credits opportunities, the virtual conference was a great success.

With the theme, **"We'll Get You Moving!"**, the conference material focused on alternative modes of transportation, and the many innovations and opportunities that are available to localities. Transportation plays a key role in how our communities and neighborhoods are designed and function. Transportation options, or lack thereof, influence economic mobility, social equity, public health, climate change, recreation, and virtually every other aspect of day to day living. Twenty first century plans must address transportation challenges and innovations to ensure the vision we establish for our communities remain viable and equitable. Although we were not able to offer the typical social aspects of an in-person conference, such as receptions, networking opportunities, and the mobile tours and workshops, we were able to offer many conference sessions that were on-theme and on-point. There were a number of transit-related sessions and related sessions on how transportation impacts the environment, housing, economy, diversity, zoning, placing making, etc.

Julie Timm, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) and former Chapter Board member, delivered the keynote address, *"And Then Came 2020"*. Julie provided an overview of the exceptional success of the GRTC in building ridership and support for transit in 2018 and 2019 along with higher density land use development through the launch of an award winning Urban Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System and associated transit network re-design in the pre-COVID world as well as the impact of COVID on the system. Carson



Bise, AICP, President, TischlerBise, Inc. spoke on *"Fiscal and Economic Resiliency in Uncertain Times."* As most local governments were finally enjoying tax revenue that had returned to pre-Great Recession levels in real dollars, along came COVID-19. Carson explored the relationship between growth and fiscal/economic sustainability, discussed the local government response to COVID 19 revenue impacts, and the inevitable pressure from the development community to reduce fees. Another keynote, *"The Enduring Legacy of Inequitable Exposure to Urban Heat in US Cities,"* led by Jeremy Scott Hoffman, Ph.D, Chief Scientist, Science Museum of Virginia and Catherine Ariel Mingoya, MCP, M.Ed, Director of Capacity Building, Groundworks USA spoke on the studies of extreme urban heat within US cities that consistently identify communities of color living in the hottest areas, which are in turn more vulnerable to the longer and stronger heat waves of a changing climate.

Coming up in 2021, we are very hopeful the Annual Chapter Conference will be able to be held in person again. We will be planning to meet in Historic Williamsburg. Representing the Historic Triangle, the 2021 host committee will be a combined effort of the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County. We are in need of volunteers to assist with conference planning, so interested volunteers should contact me at chapter.affairs@apavirginia.com.

Donald Whipple, AICP is APA Virginia's Vice President of Chapter Affairs and Chief Planner with the City of Hampton's Department of Community Development.

APA Virginia's Awards Program Recapping 2020, and Looking Ahead to this Summer

By Nick Rogers, AICP, CZA

APA Virginia's 2020 Annual Conference showcased the Chapter's Awards Program just like it has in years past – with a live Awards Ceremony, presented by Awards Committee Chair Whitney Sokolowski, AICP, showcasing a suite of amazing planning throughout Virginia.

Congratulations to our 2020 Awards Program recipients!

Commonwealth Plan of the Year	2040 Comprehensive Plan (City of Manassas)
Commonwealth Plan of the Year	Denbigh-Warwick Area Plan (City of Newport News)
Old Dominion Innovative Approaches Award	Public Schools Planning Workshops for Oak Grove Center Plan (Roanoke County)
Old Dominion Innovative Approaches Award	Manassas Community Conversations (City of Manassas)
Resilient Virginia Community of the Year Award	Sea Level Wise Program (City of Virginia Beach)
Red Clay Award for Development of the Year	Railroad Cottages (City of Falls Church)
Commonwealth Connectors Award	Virginia Breeze Intercity Bus Service (Department of Rail and Public Transit)
Dogwood Award for Citizen Planners of the Year	Olde Huntersville Plan Book (City of Norfolk)

The Chapter recognized two legislators as Cardinal Award winners, which can be awarded to state or local elected officials who have made celebrated planning achievements during their time in office. The first is Botetourt County Board of Supervisors Chairman Billy W. Martin, Sr., who helped establish Urban Development Areas, expand workforce housing opportunities, and increase the number of industrial sites during his four terms on the Board.



enforced for decades, to be permanently expunged from a property's deed.

As APA Virginia Board of Directors member and Hanover County Planning Director David Maloney stated at the Awards Ceremony, "For too long, discrimination in home ownership has been a primary factor in creating social and economic disparities for African Americans and other cultural and religious minority communities. Although such covenants have long been held unconstitutional, the vestiges of past discriminatory practices have shamefully remained in these recorded documents."



In the General Assembly, the Chapter chose the [Honorable Del. Lamont Bagby](#) (D – Henrico) as this year's state Cardinal Award winner. Amongst other milestones in his career in the House of Delegates and before that on the Henrico County School Board, Delegate Bagby was the chief patron for [House Bill 788](#), which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2020 and signed by Governor Northam last year.

The 2020 Awards Ceremony demonstrated yet again how Virginia's three planning schools – [University of Virginia](#), [Virginia Tech](#), and [Virginia Commonwealth University](#) (no ranking here that's for members to debate among themselves!) continue to launch new planning careers year in and year out. APA Virginia is distinctly pleased to name each of the following students as Outstanding Student Award winners:

- **Virginia Commonwealth University**
Kearra Bright (undergraduate)
Amelie Rives (graduate)



The bill requires racially and ethnically discriminatory restrictive covenants, already prohibited by state statute from being

2020 Annual Conference Recap

- **University of Virginia**
Anna Drumheller (undergraduate)
Hunter Berry (graduate)
- **Virginia Tech**
Melissa Cameron (National Capital)
Amelia Ray Hulshult (Blacksburg)



The Chapter supports the award-winning localities through promotion on APA Virginia's social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)), and Communications Director Julie Chop spearheads the creation of press releases to announce the awards for each award winner's media market. We've been very fortunate to highlight award winners' work in our monthly [Your Hour with APA Virginia webinar series](#), brought to our membership through sponsorship by [The Berkley Group](#).

Finally, we wouldn't have an Awards Program without the help from our Awards Committee – planners from around Virginia

who supported the Chapter by volunteering their time to review, rank and score the nominations and to work with the Awards Chair to determine the ultimate winners. The 2020 Awards Committee included Sally Morgan, AICP (City of Bristol, VA), Martha Mason Semmes, FAICP (Town of Hamilton), Alex Baruch (James City County), Bryce Johnson (Loudoun County). In advance of our [2021 Annual Conference](#), the Call for Nominations is now open for this year's Awards Program. Do you have a planning project, study, initiative or program that is worthy of statewide recognition? Do you have local planners and appointed or elected officials in your region who have been champions for great planning? Submit your nominations now via APA Virginia's website [by clicking here!](#)



Nick Rogers, AICP, CZA (@NickRoge), is APA Virginia's Vice President of External Affairs, and a Principal Planner with Arlington County's Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development.

Engaging Anti-Racism in Planning Education

By Robert Narvaez, AICP

Virginia Tech Urban Affairs and Planning Engaging Anti-Racism in Planning Education, and Starting Community Scholars Program

Following the events of the summer of 2020, including protests against police brutality following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others, Virginia Tech's Urban Affairs and Planning program (UAP) has been working to strengthen its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. In addition, a group of faculty and students are working together to examine how "anti-racism" specifically can be incorporated into the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) curriculum.

Recently, UAP established a Community Scholars Program to financially support selected MURP students. In addition, the Community Scholars Program will pair the recipient with a professional mentor, who will help guide their graduate study and professional development, as well as offer support navigating a profession which remains majority-white.

UAP has updated a memorandum of understanding with the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA VA) to work together toward diversity and inclusion goals for the planning profession, including commitments for the Community Scholars Program and recognition of the importance of anti-racism in practice. APA VA members interested in serving

as mentors in this program are encouraged to contact VT UAP faculty member Theodore Lim (tclim@vt.edu) or APA VA Diversity Director Robert Narvaez (robertc.narvaez@gmail.com).

Over the summer, student groups at Virginia Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies and in the Urban Affairs and Planning program took the initiative to suggest that "anti-racism" specifically be addressed within the curriculum. Anti-racism goals may be related to those of diversity and inclusion, but additionally require the active dismantling of the systemic racism that is deeply embedded in our society.

The student-faculty group's work is on-going and has prioritized the Community Scholars Program to diversify the student body and provide additional support for students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

Robert Narvaez, AICP is APA Virginia's Director of Diversity, and a Specialist with Markon Solutions.

Creating A New *Public Art Policy* for the City of Falls Church

By Shaina Shaffer, CFM, ENV SP, LEED GA

“Incorporating arts and culture in a community is an essential foundation for developing and building a sense of place.”

The City of Falls Church has a rich history and is recognized as a special place in Northern Virginia. City staff, the City’s Arts & Humanities Council, and other groups have done a lot of work over the years to celebrate the community’s character. Looking to build upon past work, the City of Falls Church engaged University of Virginia Masters of Urban and Environmental Planning Degree Candidates (“Student Consultants”) to create the City’s first official Public Art policy.



The Student Consultants worked closely with the late Barb Cram, Chair of the Arts & Humanities Council. Barb was an enthusiastic community volunteer, involved in numerous arts and

culture efforts in the City over the years. She participated in site visits and tours with the students, providing background information and input that was instrumental to this project.

The Student Consultants thoroughly researched best practices for successful public art programs across the country and incorporated that research into the draft policy. The Student Consultants further made recommendations for the implementation of this policy and resulting public art program. These recommendations are both pragmatic for the near future, as well as visionary for the long-term, and include many actions that will guide public art in Falls Church as a public art program is developed.

The final report and policy creates an extensive process aimed at preserving and enhancing the City’s local identity while advancing a creative community vision that can continuously evolve and embrace new ideas. The policy’s long-range vision

underscores the following four foundational cornerstones for the City’s future public art program:

A Commitment to Community - The City of Falls Church is committed to its community and delegates space for the open participation and involvement of all its community members.

A Commitment to Artists as Contributors - The City of Falls Church is committed to artists as contributors who are able to use public art as a medium to express their own interpretation of the unique community character of Falls Church.

A Commitment to Storytelling - The City of Falls Church is committed to public art as a method of storytelling that celebrates its unique culture, history and identity through diverse mediums from art walks, to murals, to sculpture and vibrant public spaces.

A Commitment to Equity - The City of Falls Church is committed to equity through the acknowledgement of and proactive efforts to address historical inequalities through public art. Public art and community events are accessible and thoughtful of the representation of multiple and often marginalized narratives.

The Student Consultants’ work has been well-received by City staff, Planning Commission, and Arts & Humanities Council. It will be helpful in advancing public art initiatives in the City and serves as a solid foundation the City can use to develop a final policy and future public art master plan. The policy will be discussed at a City Council work session later this fall. The [full report](#) can be found in the City’s Planning Library.

Shaina Shaffer, CFM, ENV SP, LEED GA is a Planner with the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development Services for the City of Falls Church, Virginia.



What We Can Do About the *Eviction Crisis*

By Lark Washington

Evaluating Eviction Data in Richmond, Virginia and Addressing Solutions

In the spring of 2018, the *New York Times* published an article showing Richmond, Virginia as having the second highest eviction rate in the country for large cities. It also highlighted that Virginia has five of the top ten large cities with the highest eviction rates. Decisionmakers were horrified to learn the severity of displacement and housing instability right here in the Commonwealth. However, when I interviewed community organizers and advocates who worked with rent-burdened tenants they were not shocked at all. The pandemic has brought even more urgency and vulnerability to these tenants. The story of eviction in Virginia includes a lack of coordination of services, lack of investment in affordable housing development and preservation, lack of data transparency on the local level, and lack of political will.

Researchers are working hard to figure out why Virginia is particularly bad at preventing evictions, but we know generally the populations that are being affected as well as the neigh-

borhoods being hit hardest. Black neighborhoods are bearing the brunt of this crisis in a way that is not just explained by poverty. [Research by RVA Eviction Lab](#) has shown race to be a stronger predictor of eviction rates than income. We know that Black women with children are associated with higher eviction rates and the life-altering consequences of an eviction: losing your home, job, community, social ties, and financial security. A tenant having an eviction on their rental history determines whether they can sign a lease to rent again and usually means that they are relegated to substandard housing – even years after the event has happened. The eviction crisis is part of the terrible legacy of white supremacy and its repeated disadvantages towards Black and low-income residents—from redlining, urban renewal, the foreclosure crisis, and now evictions. And the same neighborhoods that experienced the financially draining impacts of redlining 50 years ago are today experiencing the highest eviction rates (see the maps below).

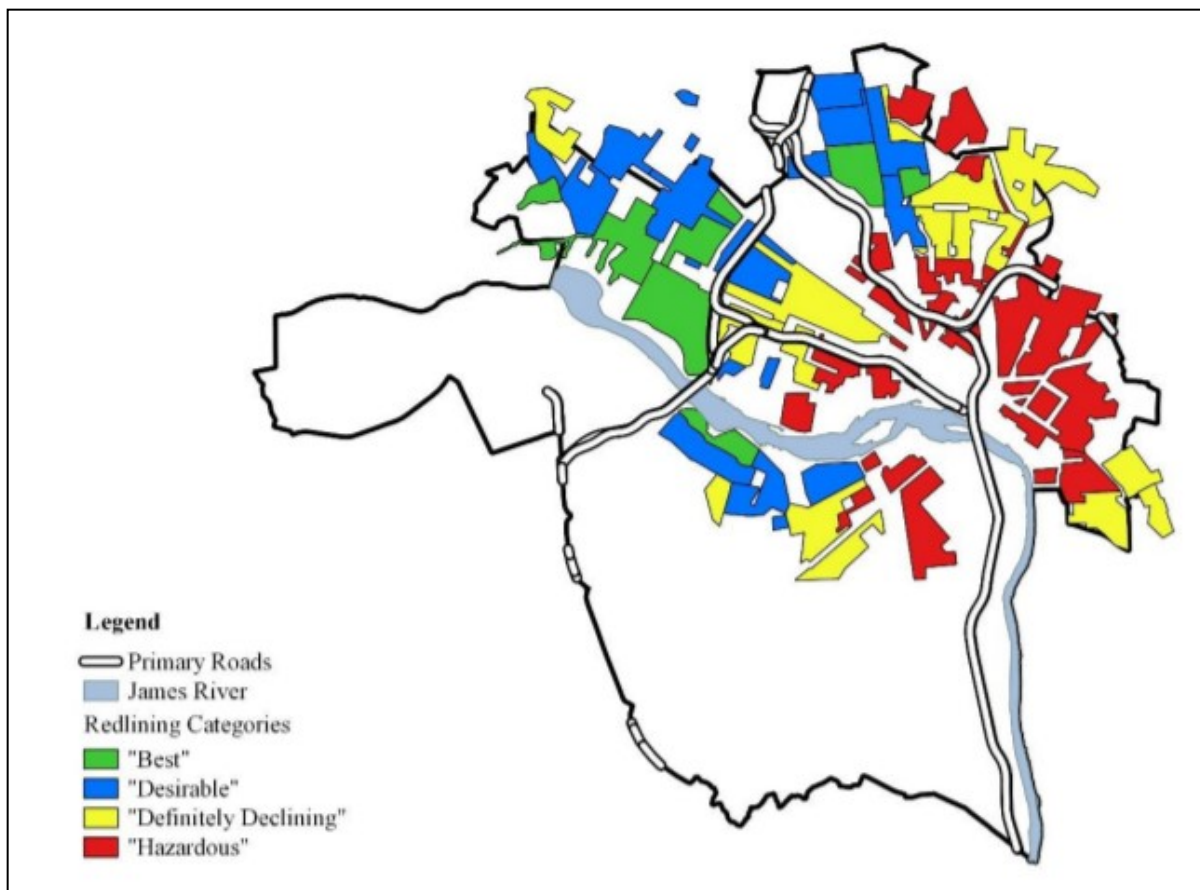


Figure 1. Redlining Map of Richmond, 1937 (data source¹)

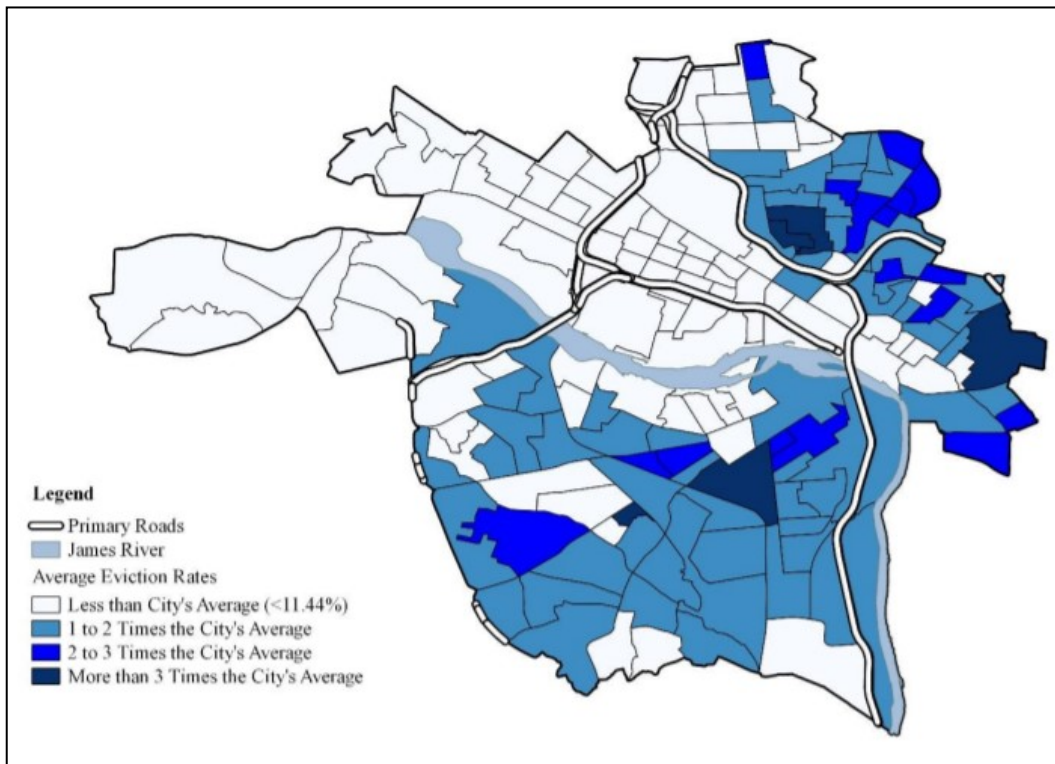


Figure 2. Average Eviction Rates by Census Block Group, 2016 (data source²)

As a planner I must remind myself and others that we can do something about this. The work to adequately address the eviction crisis must include partnering with impacted communities and other housing stakeholders. Planners can help coordinate collaboration between housing organizations and community members and work with communities to develop actions that advance affordable housing policy. It is crucial that we support community organizers in working with BIPOC communities to ensure that they are the leading voices in addressing housing needs.

Also, we must get creative about increasing investment in affordable housing development and preservation. Many cities have set up affordable housing trust funds to incentivize the construction of new units, but it is important that they are adequately funded. Alongside developing more affordable homes, it is just as important to preserve existing affordable homes. Even though preservation is usually thought of as only home rehab and repair, eviction prevention and diversion are also an important part of preserving affordable housing. The adoption of inclusionary zoning would help make sure that affordable housing is part of any new residential development. City-owned land and tax delinquent properties can be donated to a community land trust who can lease the land to homeowners or tenants in order to preserve long-term affordability. Emergency rent assistance should also be part of this investment to prioritize tenants staying in their home in the event of an unforeseen loss of income. An in-person and online one-stop tenant center would be beneficial in coordinating and publicizing community resources.

Lastly, it is important to democratize data in order to learn

what factors drive high eviction rates. More available data from the local levels can help inform communities about what creates the environment for widespread displacement. Available data—primarily from RVA Eviction Lab and Princeton University's Eviction Lab—has been clear that race is a significant factor in eviction rates so anti-racism work should be a crucial part of the response. In a more transparent situation, the court system might release eviction data on a monthly basis. Data informs the community members and decisionmakers, but it is important to partner with impacted communities to increase the political will of implementing these actions. Decisionmakers must know that these actions are supported by the residents and that there is a true need for them. These actions can help build trust and power with these communities and make us better planners for our fellow neighbors.

References

- Data Source 1: Nelson, R. et al. (October 2019). Mapping Inequality. Retrieved from <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=5/39.1/-94.58&text=downloads>.
- Data Source 2: Eviction Lab. (2018). Data Downloads. Retrieved from <https://datadownloads.evictionlab.org/>.



Lark Washington is a Community Development Specialist at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development in Richmond, Virginia.