

KC METRO CONNECTION



American Planning Association
Missouri Chapter | Kansas Chapter
Kansas City Metro Section

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Kansas City Metro Section of the Missouri Chapter and
Kansas Chapter of the American Planning Association

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Letter from the KC-APA President

APA Members and Affiliates,

Welcome to 2017! The KC-APA board and its volunteers have been working hard to bring new, exciting opportunities to our membership in this new year. I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of these opportunities.

KC-APA is excited to partner with [KC Design Week](#) to provide CM credit events during the week of April 6th – 13th including the opening night keynote speaker: [Jason Roberts](#). Later in 2017, KC-APA will be offering our premier event for the year: *The 2017 Planning Symposium*. And, of course, we will continue to offer monthly educational events and webinars.

On March 15th, KC-APA will host its *Annual Planning Celebration at the Boulevard Brewery* to thank our 2017 sponsors. If you are a KC-APA member, your admission is free. What is changing this year, however, is you can now bring your significant other to the event at no additional cost!

As for the colleges and universities in our region, KC-APA will continue to offer scholarships, resume workshops and opportunities for students to network with planning professionals. If your office is looking for local talent for jobs or internships, the KC-APA website is the perfect platform for getting the word out to these students.

Lastly, I encourage you to get involved with APA by joining one of our committees. Do you have an event or an article that you'd like KC-APA to promote? Send it to us and we will promote it through our website and social media outlets. Stay up to date on all the events by checking our **new [website](#)**, liking us on [Facebook](#) and following us on [Twitter](#).

My best wishes to you personally and professionally in 2017.

Sincerely,



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KC-APA President

KC-APA February Event | Planning Law

PLANNING LAW.
DRONES & MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS
+ LAND USE LITIGATION
 February 16th from 4:30 - 6:00 PM
 Located at Thou Mayest Upstairs Event Space
 419 E 18th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108

\$15 Member \$25 Non-Member \$10 Student
 *Prices include one drink

Presentation by: **WHITE GOSS**
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Contact micah.starr@wilsonco.com with questions



- What a municipality can do to regulate the use of drones and what a municipality must do before it utilizes drones to enhance public health, safety, and welfare.
- The realities of land use litigation and how to keep it from getting out of hand.

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date | KC-APA 9th Annual Planning Celebration at Boulevard Brewery

Save the Date for the KC-APA Annual Meeting at Boulevard on March 15 from 5:00pm - 9:00pm. Members are welcome to bring guests, so get it on their calendar too.



Save the Date | KC Design Week 2017

2017 Kansas City Design Week will take place April 6th – 13th. Mark off your calendars for opening night (April 6th) featuring Jason Roberts with the [Better Block Foundation](#). He will be talking about design through community engagement. In the meantime you can check out a past [TEDx](#) of his on how to build a better block. Other items of interest to planners include a green infrastructure tour, sketch walk workshop, community installations and loads of delicious drinks and food. Stay tuned for more information on a timeline of events for the week,



Member Highlight: Babette Macy

Babette Macy’s interest in planning started in college while studying architecture at the University of Kansas. During her urban planning courses, she was drawn to the economic development and planning side of the business of the built environment. Her time serving on the Planning Commission has allowed her to tie her personal interests with her professional background to impact the community.



Babette Macy was appointed to the Kansas City Missouri Planning Commission in 2006 by Mayor Kay Barnes. At the time of her appointment, she was the only woman serving on the Planning Commission. In 2011, Babette was appointed the first female Chair of the Planning Commission by Mayor Sly James and today, five of the eight commissioners are women.

“Serving on the commission has been rewarding both personally and professionally. Professionally, I’ve learned a tremendous amount about the development process, which has been invaluable in working with architects, engineers and contractors. Personally, it has allowed me to be an active civic partner in my community, which has been very rewarding,” said Macy. “Over the past 10 years, I’ve had the opportunity to see many of the projects built that we’ve approved, and many of them have been catalytic projects, spurring development and enhancing the community.”

Babette is currently the Director of Business Development for the Kansas City practice of HOK. The global architecture firm has designed more than 8 million-sq.-ft. of urban space in downtown Kansas City, including transformative projects like the Power & Light District, 27th & Gillham, Brookside 51 and Polsinelli Plaza Vista.

Babette is married and a proud mother of three incredibly talented children.

Kansas Legislative Update

The 2017 Kansas Legislature, with a larger moderate Republican and Democrat presence in both the House and Senate, convened on January 9th. Major issues facing the Kansas Legislature this year will be the state government’s \$350 million revenue shortfall, with larger projected deficits in future years due to structural imbalances in the budget. Approaches to be considered are likely to include one-time fixes, and a mixture of both cuts and revenues, both in the short-term and long term. Additional revenue is proposed by the Governor from tax increases on sales of cigarettes, liquor, wine and beer.

A legislative committee is also currently working a bill to repeal the LLC state income tax exemption which benefits 330,000 throughout the state. This exemption has been blamed for the structural imbalance in the state budget. Brownback has expressed support for “modest targeted tax increases” although he does not support a complete overhaul of his tax policy.

and water challenges.

We will continue to monitor issues to the planning profession and report accordingly as necessary.

Missouri Legislative Update

The Missouri House and Senate opened the 2017 Legislative Session on January 4, 2017 swearing in 163 members of the House and 18 members of the Senate. In his opening address, Speaker of the House, Representative Todd Richardson (R-Poplar Bluff) outlined House legislative priorities for the session. Speaker Richardson's address focused on right to work, tort reform, economic development, education reform, and regulation of ride sharing (Uber and Lyft). The Speaker indicated that right-to-work legislation will move swiftly through the legislative process.

January 2017 Committee Updates

- **Prevailing Wages** – The Senate Committee on General Laws heard testimony this week on two Prevailing Wage Bills. Senate Bill 29 defines maintenance and repair and exempts this type of work from the prevailing wage law. Senate Bill 20 would simply repeal the law and eliminate prevailing wages.
- **Municipal Courts** – The Senate-Judiciary/Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee held a hearing on Senate Bill 81 related to municipal court community service alternative provisions enacted in 2016 in Senate Bill 572. Currently no associated costs for community service can be charged to a defendant. This bill would allow defendants to be charged for costs.
- **Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft)** – The Senate-Transportation/Infrastructure/Pub. Safety Committee held a hearing on Senate Bill 185 which enacts a regulatory scheme for “Transportation network companies” (“TNCs”). The bill provides that TNCs and TNC drivers are not common carriers, contract carriers, motor carriers, taxicab service or association, or for-hire vehicle services. TNC drivers need not register their vehicles as commercial or for-hire. The bill also preempts local regulation of TNCs, instead requiring these companies to acquire a permit from the Missouri Department of Revenue and pay an annual \$5,000 fee. No per-car or per-driver fees may be charged by a municipality. TNCs must maintain agents within the state of Missouri. This act provides that the statutes relating to regional taxicab districts shall not apply to TNCs, TNC drivers, or TNC services.
- **Sales Tax on Deliveries** – The Senate Ways and Means voted the SCS Senate Bill 16 “do pass” this week by a vote of 5-0. This bill seeks to clarify in the law that sales and use taxes should not be charged on delivery services. In a recent court decision delivery fees were ruled to be taxable. Before the ruling these fees were not subject to the state and local sales tax.
- **Public Safety** – The House Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety heard three bills this week aimed at protecting the lives of police officers, fire fighters and emergency responders. Two of the bills (House Bill 302 and House Bill 228) establish a Blue Alert System, a program which would send out suspect information across the state in relation to crimes committed against police officers. The third bill (House Bill 57) seeks to redefine the definition of a hate crime to include certain crimes against law enforcement officers and first responders.

Sponsor Highlight: SWT Design



For more than 20 years, SWT Design has developed a diverse and award-winning portfolio of outdoor spaces, approaching planning and design as a living, breathing thing with a passion for innovation. Collaboration, vision, and curiosity spur a design process that we use to solve even the most complex and challenging design problems. As such, our team of landscape architects, urban designers, and planners has become leaders in their respective disciplines, creating value with each project while focusing on environmental responsibility, social justice, and economic improvement.

More than a metaphor, LIVING DESIGN™ describes our philosophy, approach and values as a firm. We're bigpicture thinkers, collaborators, and innovators. We're focused on solving design problems for the long-term, creating solutions that are responsive to an ever-changing environment and global economy. Inspiration starts from within. Whether in the office or at home, every member of our team personifies these principles, and our studios are a living laboratory for sustainable best practices. But more importantly, LIVING DESIGN™ describes our process. From the moment we begin a project, we're looking at how the site is performing in its current state. As we progress through a project's lifecycle, measurements are set to ensure that the end result can be successfully measured. Because for us, design is always a living, breathing thing.

For more information on SWT Design, please contact Cale Doornbos at 816.221.0825 or caled@swtdesign.com.

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Visit our site: www.swtdesign.com

Successful KC-APA Program - City of Tomorrow



We had a successful program the afternoon of Monday, January 23, 2016. The program was "City of Tomorrow: Kansas City's Postwar Urban Renewal" and librarian Michael Wells of the Missouri Valley Special Collections department of the Kansas City Public Library presented his research and exhibit covering post World War II blight and renewal efforts in Kansas City. 31 professionals from around the region attended the program. Thank you to everyone on the Program Committee who helped organize and make this event a success!

Job Opportunities

The following jobs have been recently posted to the KC APA's website. [Click here](#) to view the current openings.

Job Opportunities

- **Planner/Senior Planner**

[Please Visit Our Site at www.kc-apa.org](http://www.kc-apa.org)

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