



About the Awards Program

The purpose of the American Planning Association, California Chapter, Northern Section Awards Program is to encourage quality in planning and increase the public's awareness of the planning profession through recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field. Each year, the Northern Section bestows Planning Awards to honor the most outstanding efforts in planning in the Section. The program honors innovative plans and projects, distinguished APA members, and lay contributors to planning and achievements of the Northern Section. Often, our Section winners ascend to win awards at the State and National levels!

2020 Northern Section Awards



We want to extend a warm thank you to our jurors. They were able to quickly adapt to our new format. We appreciate your service:

- **Florentina Craciun**, AICP, City and County of San Francisco Senior Environmental Planner
- **Rod Jeung**, AECOM Principal/Environmental Planning Director.
- **Darcy Kremin**, AICP, Rincon Consultants Environmental Planning Practice Leader
- **Andrew Mogensen**, AICP City of San Leandro Planning Manager

State Awards

State Awards Applications are due **June 12**. The application, as well as the chapter approval process is online this year. The information can be found here: <https://www.apacalifornia.org/events/awards-program/> Please email awards@norcalapa.org if you have any questions for the State Application or if we can be of any assistance.

Presentations

We would like to expand on our gala and virtual happy hour with presentations on your efforts. If you are interested in participating in a webinar type presentation to discuss your plans and efforts please email us at awards@norcalapa.org

Gala

As you are all aware, we are postponing our celebration due to the global pandemic. We are currently working on a virtual celebration, details to come.

Winner Highlights

While all the applications we received this year were excellent, we would like to highlight a few of our outstanding winners. We believe the plans outlined below contain fresh ideas that are transferable to other communities and represent guidebooks toward a more inclusive, accessible and equitable planning future. 2020 Award Winners.

CITY OF SALINAS – ALISAL VIBRANCY PLAN

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – ADVANCING DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Created with equity at its core, it is an action-oriented, community-driven plan to alleviate and reverse decades of neglect and underinvestment, and it is an opportunity to improve the quality of life for residents by building upon the social and cultural wealth of the Alisal. [See the Plan.](#)

VTA BART SILICON VALLEY PHASE II TOD COMMUNITIES PLAYBOOKS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – BEST PRACTICES

The Playbooks present a holistic, phased road map for the Cities of San José and Santa Clara to leverage this once-in-a-century public investment and elevate the station areas to become dense, equitable, and resilient urban centers. [See the playbooks.](#)

SANTA CLARA LAFCO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH MEDIA PLAN

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – COMMUNICATION INITIATIVE

The FIRST ever communications initiative by any LAFCO in the state, the communications and Outreach Plan is a comprehensive and proactive strategy for outreach and communications to help Santa Clara LAFCO better fulfill its role and address the common unfamiliarity with and misperception of LAFCO's purpose. [Media plan information here.](#)

BAYVIEW COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – OPPORTUNITY AND EMPOWERMENT AWARD

When planning has been at the heart of so much harm against the residents of Bayview-Hunters Point, how do we use planning to begin remedying those harms? And how do we convince residents subjected to years of empty promises that a new project is worthy of their trust?

The Bayview Community Based Transportation Plan (Bayview CBTP), adopted in February 2020, represents a new commitment to the long-underserved Bayview- Hunters Point community in the southeast corner of San Francisco. With a process deeply rooted in community partnership, the Bayview CBTP sought to center the voice of the community and reflect the needs, challenges, and values of residents in every project and plan recommendation. [Transportation plan here.](#)

Award Winners

Academic Award

- **Award of Excellence – San Jose State University, Graduate Student Urban Planning Team, Fall 2018/Spring 2019.**

Team: Instructors Rick Kos, AICP & Jason Su / Graduate Urban Planning Capstone Studio Team in Fall 2018/Spring 2019

Advancing Diversity and Social Change

- **Award of Excellence – Alisal Vibrancy Plan**
Team: City of Salinas and the Alisal Community

Best Practices

- Award of Excellence – VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Transit Oriented Community Playbooks
Team: VTA / Perkins and Will / Strategic Economics / Kimley Horn / Nelson Nygaard / BKF Engineers / CHS

Communications Initiative

- **Award of Excellence – Santa Clara LAFCO Communications and Outreach Plan and Materials**
Team: Santa Clara LAFCO

Comprehensive Plan – Large Jurisdiction

- **Award of Merit – City of Hayward – Downtown Specific Plan**
Team: City of Hayward & Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.

Comprehensive Plan – Small Jurisdiction

- **Award of Excellence – East Whisman Precise Plan**
Team: City of Mountain View / Raimi +Associates / Community Design + Architecture / Strategic Economics/ Fehr & Peers / Siefel Consulting / David J Powers and Associates / Schaaf + Wheeler
- **Award of Merit – Downtown Los Altos Vision Plan**
Team: City of Los Altos & RRM Design Group

Economic and Planning Development

- **Award of Merit – City of Sand City / Sand City Vibrancy Plan**
Team: City of Sand City / EMC Planning Group /Applied Development Economics

Hard Won Victory

- **Award of Excellence – Northern Waterfront Initiative Strategic Action Plan**
Team: Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development & Craft Consulting

Innovation in Green Community Planning

- **Award of Excellence – Collect & Connect – Resilient South City**
Team: Hassell / Deltares / Goudappel / Lotus Water / Civic Edge / Idyllist / Hatch / Page & Turnbull / Brown and Caldwell / San Bruno Mountain Watch / South San Francisco Historical Society / San Mateo Youth Leadership Institute
- **Award of Merit – Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline**
Team: East Bay Regional Park District & Caltrans

Opportunity and Empowerment

- **Award of Excellence – Bayview Community Based Transportation Plan**
Team: San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency / Christopher Kidd / Ariel Ward / BMAGIC / Hunters Point Family / CYC / El Centro Bayview / BAYCAT
- **Award of Merit – Kottinger Gardens**
Team: Dahlin Group Architecture Planning / MidPen Housing / City of Pleasanton

Planning Agency

- **Award of Excellence – City of Salinas Community Development Department**
Team: City of Salinas Community Development Department
- **Award of Merit – City of Walnut Creek Planning Division**
Team: Ozzy Arce / Cara Bautista-Rao / Ethan Bindernagel AICP / Alan Carreon / Jeanine Cavalli / Haley Croffoot AICP / Margot Ernst / Simar Gill / Jessica Gonzalez / Chip Griffin, Greg Kapovich / Ken Nodder /

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Team: City of Salinas Community Development Department
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Planning and Health

- **Award of Excellence – Integrating Health in All Policies Framework into the City of Santa Cruz**
Team: City of Santa Cruz / Former Mayor Martine Watkins / Sustainability and Climate Action Manager Dr. Tiffany Wise- West

Planning Pioneer

- **Award of Excellence – Robert E Doyle**
Team: East Bay Regional Park District

Urban Design

- **Award of Excellence – San Jose Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards**
Team: City of San Jose / Skidmore, Owings & Merrill / Leila Hakimzadeh / John Beutler / Timothy Rood / Ellen Lou
- **Award of Merit – Potrero Power Station Design for Development**
Team: Associate Capital / Perkins and Will / CMG

Please contact Florentina Craciun at awards@norcalapa.org with any additional questions or concerns.