

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PLANNING?

There are many ways to determine if a career in planning is right for you. If your University sponsors a Career Day, practicing planners may well attend. Seek them out and ask what they do and what their focus is. Question whether your interests and objectives match up with the different kinds of planning jobs they have or can tell you about. Attend a local APA or CIP meeting; these are always open to the public. Introduce yourself to some of the planners present and discuss their jobs and responsibilities; ask if a planning job would allow you to achieve your personal goals.

You can also read about a host of planning issues and how planners are addressing them in *Planning*, the magazine published by the American Planning Association. Canadian students will find *Plan Canada*, the magazine published by the Canadian Institute of Planners, to be equally useful. Both magazines feature the latest developments in planning. Your University or city library may have copies; you can also read selected *Planning* articles on-line at the APA website:

**[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)**

The CIP has a series, Planners at Work, on their website which includes case studies illustrating the value of professional planning:

**[www.cip-icu.ca/](http://www.cip-icu.ca/)**

To more thoroughly research different kinds of planning jobs, and to explore in greater depth a variety of important planning topics, find the latest edition of *The Practice of Local Government Planning*, published by the International City Management Association (ICMA); many libraries will have a copy. The ICMA book has individual chapters by different authors; each explains what a certain type of planner does or explores a major planning issue. There are chapters on land use, environmental, transportation, economic development, housing, health, and other planning specializations as well as chapters which discuss important planning concerns which often cross specializations or require the collaboration of different kinds of planners.

You may also find it helpful to learn about the careers of a cross-section of practicing planners. In the next few pages you can read about the career paths, background, and education of six professional planners across the United States. Note how varied their experiences and the substantive issues which they address.

## **DOUGLAS CHASE**



Mr. Chase is the Planning Director of the City of Medical Lake, Washington, a community of under 4,000 people. As Planning Director he oversees the City's current and long range planning programs. He is responsible for the development and implementation of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) which requires local jurisdictions facing rapid population growth to meet significant planning requirements and guidelines. Because the community is small, he has a wide variety of duties which include planning for economic development, utility infrastructure, housing needs, transportation, and solid waste management. He also evaluates land use proposals for conformity to established plans and reviews local inter-governmental agreements. Mr. Chase was previously a planner with the Douglas County (WA) Planning Department; while a planning student he served an internship with Douglas County, working directly with the public on land use issues. He has a Bachelors in Urban and Regional Planning from Eastern Washington University.

## **FERNANDO COSTA**



Mr. Costa is the Director of Planning for the City of Forth Worth; under his direction the City Planning Department provides information and advice to the City Manager, the City Council, and other City officials which assist them in making decisions about the City's growth and development. Mr. Costa serves as an advisor on planning issues to other US cities through the Urban Land Institute's Advisory Services Program. Mr. Costa served as an officer in the US Army Corps of Engineers, as Director of Planning for the Middle Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission and as Director of Planning for the City of Atlanta. He has Bachelors and Masters degrees in engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and a Master of City Planning, also from Georgia Tech. Mr. Costa is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and served as Vice Chair of the Planning Accreditation Board which accredits urban and regional planning programs in the US and Canada.

## MITCHELL J. SILVER



Mr. Silver is a partner in the private planning firm, *Abeles Phillips Preiss and Shapiro* where he specializes in consensus-building and community- and neighborhood-based planning issues in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Before joining the private firm, Mr. Silver served as Director of the Northern Manhattan Office of the Manhattan Borough President where he directed the preparation of many community redevelopment plans currently underway in Harlem. Prior to that he served as an urban planner in the New York City Planning Department and as a land use specialist on the staff of the Manhattan Borough President. Mr. Silver has also taught city planning courses at Hunter College, the Pratt Institute, and Brooklyn College. He has a Bachelors degree in architecture from the Pratt Institute and a Masters degree in Urban Planning from Hunter College. Mr. Silver is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is currently the President of the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the American Planning Association.

## ANATALIO UBALDE



Mr. Ubalde is a planner with the City of Vallejo (CA) Economic Development Division where his responsibilities include business recruitment and retention and downtown and waterfront redevelopment. He uses innovative applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in solving important planning problems; his work on web-based GIS has won awards from the Council for Urban Economic Development and from the American Economic Development Council. Mr. Ubalde has published on several subjects including Filipino-American architecture, design, and planning. He was drawn to planning by two concerns: he recognized that minority communities need advocacy and research skills in planning, and, he felt that planning was changing rapidly and that innovative technology was at the heart of that change. Mr. Ubalde has a BA in Architecture and a Masters in City Planning, both from the University of California, Berkeley.

## **KAREN S. WALZ**



Ms. Walz is the principal of *Strategic Community Solutions*, a private planning firm which specializes in consensus based planning, dispute resolution, public participation, and sustainable communities. She has helped develop a strategic plan for Dallas, create a new biotech center, and achieve city-county agreements on regional development patterns in Arizona and Colorado. Ms. Walz is also the Executive Director of a non-profit corporation, *The Dallas Plan*, which works with the entire Dallas community on long range planning and implementation. Ms. Walz previously worked on the planning staffs of Austin (TX), Boston (MA) and San Jose (CA); before forming her own firm she was the Director of Planning for the national law firm of Freilich, Leitner, and Carlisle. She has a BS in Environmental Earth Sciences from Stanford and a Masters in Community and Regional Planning from Harvard University. Ms. Walz is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is currently President of the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association.

## **LAVON WILLIAMS**



Ms. Williams is the Chief Planner for Neighborhood Services of the Orange County (FLA) Planning Department where she advocates for neighborhood issues and concerns and provides redevelopment and preservation guidance to community residents. She serves as a neighborhood liaison with local governments, providing a conduit for citizens to communicate with public decision makers. In addition Ms. Williams assists neighborhood groups by helping to conduct special studies and prepare small area plans. Her interest in a planning career was sparked by an urban studies course which made clear to her the profound impact of planning principles on community change and growth. Ms. Williams has a BA in Political Science and History from the University of North Florida, a Masters in Public Administration and a Masters of Science in Planning, both from Florida State University.