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CPAA

COMMUNITY PLANNING
ASSOCIATION of ALBERTA

E-NOTICE

November 7, 2024.

Welcome to the October Edition of CPAA News!

In this edition, we're excited to share highlights from our recent CPAA Student Network events at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta, along with insights from a planning student's reflections on European urban design. We're also pleased to introduce two of our board members and announce registration for the 2025 CPAA Conference, with links to secure your spot and book accommodations. Let's dive in!

Exciting News from the CPAA Student Network Events!

We're thrilled to report that our recent gatherings with planning students, practitioners, and faculty at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta were an incredible success! With over 50 students at the University of Calgary and 80 at the University of Alberta, the events buzzed with energy, sparking insightful discussions and valuable networking connections. Students gained insights into upcoming conferences, student awards, and the pivotal roles APPI and CPAA play in our field.

Coming Soon! Our next event is planned for the University of Lethbridge this November. Stay tuned for details, and a huge thank you to everyone who made these events happen!

What Alberta's Municipalities Can Learn from European Urban Planning: A Student's Perspective

- *By Alexander Cooke, BA Urban and Regional Planning, University of Alberta*

Barcelona has a unique advantage that fosters a high degree of social interaction and community bonds in its urban spaces—something municipalities across Alberta could learn from. The “not-so-secret” ingredients that allow for dynamic communities to thrive are the availability of numerous third spaces and ensuring walkability within a dynamic, mixed-use environment.



When discussing third spaces, parks, plazas, beaches, and community areas often come to mind. Barcelona is fortunate to have a wealth of these spaces throughout the city, including the renowned Parc de la Ciutadella and Barceloneta Beach. While these locations are vital components of Barcelona's community life and serve as hubs for social activity, one of the more unique third spaces I experienced was the Bunkers El Carmel, or simply "The Bunkers." Situated in the hills, far from the main tourist areas, The Bunkers are an old artillery post leftover from the Spanish Civil War that has been transformed into an informal viewpoint overlooking the entire city. My hostel organized a day trip to this remote site for a picnic in the summer heat. When we arrived, various members of the local community and groups of travelers were already there, admiring the incredible view and socializing with one another. I joined in, exchanging stories with fellow travelers as we shared our adventures in this vibrant Catalan city. Even in areas far removed from more established third spaces in central Barcelona, spontaneous, makeshift third spaces like The Bunkers foster a sense of community in unexpected places.

Albertan cities could benefit by not only increasing conventional third spaces in established urban areas but also improving pedestrian infrastructure and accessibility to "hidden gems" within cities. Enhancing connections within river valleys and constructing community-based infrastructure—such as park benches, gazebos, and picnic tables near scenic viewpoints—could create new third spaces and encourage urban exploration within local communities.

A key aspect of creating a vibrant urban environment that supports social interaction in public spaces is promoting walkability and diverse land use. While this presents challenges for predominantly North American car-centric cities, Barcelona's urban form predates the car by centuries. Walking through Barcelona, the streets felt distinctly alive as restaurant patios and shops buzzed with people catching up with friends or chatting on benches about their day. This was a stark contrast to a typical Albertan city, where social interaction in urban areas is less common and usually confined to more pedestrian-friendly areas, like Whyte Avenue in Edmonton or Stephen Avenue in Calgary. This street-level social activity is supported by a lively mix of family-run grocery stores, hair salons, restaurants, cafés, and antique shops located on the ground floors of medium-density apartment buildings. This mixed-use, walkable environment could be replicated in neighborhoods across Alberta, rather than being restricted to city centers or entertainment zones. While the result doesn't need to rival the scale of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, even small steps—like opening a cozy coffee shop within a neighborhood and improving pedestrian access—could lay the foundation for community spaces that bring people together and recreate the special ambiance that makes cities like Barcelona so unique.

Secure Your Spot at the 2025 CPAA conference!

Our 2025 CPAA Conference is set to be an event to remember. Now is the time to book your conference spot and reserve your hotel accommodations!

- **Conference Registration:** [Register Here](#)
- **Hotel Booking:** [Reserve your room here](#)

Hotel Booking Cutoff Date: March 29, 2025

Don't miss out—be sure to secure your room by the cutoff date to guarantee your stay!

Meet the CPAA Board of Directors

Introducing Daniel MacGregor, our 2024/2025 Vice-Chair (South)

Daniel MacGregor is a dedicated planner with over 15 years of experience in planning and land development. His work spans both public and private sectors, including international roles, bringing a wealth of diverse experience. Currently with Stantec in Calgary, Daniel's approach to planning is collaborative and people-focused, reflecting his passion for building effective teams. Originally from Halifax, he graduated from Dalhousie University and brings a unique, broad perspective to CPAA.



Introducing Kristen Harder, Board of Directors Member

Kristen Harder, a Planner and Project Manager with V3 Companies, has over six years of experience in policy development and municipal approvals. She discovered her passion for urban planning at Red Deer College, leading her to pursue a Bachelor's in Urban Studies from the University of Calgary and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Toronto Metropolitan University. Kristen's work is solutions-oriented, with a special focus on enhancing efficiency in municipal processes. Outside work, you'll find her camping, traveling, or enjoying a good book during the winter months.



Call for Member Spotlights

Celebrate Our CPAA Community's Achievements!

Do you know a fellow CPAA member who has made outstanding contributions to their community or achieved something remarkable? We want to hear from you!

We're launching a **Member Spotlight** feature in our upcoming newsletters to celebrate the successes and achievements of our members. Whether it's a project they've led, a unique accomplishment, or an inspiring story, we want to share it with the CPAA community!

How to Nominate:

- Send us an email with the member's name, a brief description of their achievement, and why you think they deserve to be featured.
- Email your nominations to cpaa@cpaa.biz by November 25, 2024 for them to be featured in the November newsletter.

Let's recognize and celebrate the great work happening across our community. We look forward to your submissions!

Stay Tuned for More!

Look out for future newsletters where we'll introduce more members of our Board of Directors and provide updates on upcoming CPAA events and initiatives.

Thank you for being a valued member of the CPAA community!

If you have any questions regarding sponsorship or registration please contact Winifred Uwakwe, CPAA Secretary at 780-432-6387 or at cpaa@cpaa.biz.

COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA
Our mission is to provide opportunities to share, promote and encourage
community planning among a full range of stakeholders.

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