

MAP'S ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025





2024 – 2025 MAP President's Message

Dear Michigan Association of Planning Members,

This has been a year of meaningful progress and purposeful action for the Michigan Association of Planning. As I conclude my term as MAP President, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable year we have shared and the important groundwork we have laid for Michigan's planning future. Each year, our board convenes to examine the state of planning in Michigan, set policy priorities, and listen to our members and partners. This year, those traditions took on new depth and purpose.

One of our most valuable traditions is our linkage meetings, which remain central to MAP's culture of inquiry and engagement. These sessions, whether focused on a specific policy theme or designed as member listening sessions, allow the board to go beyond day-to-day operations and gain insight into the needs, concerns, and aspirations of planners across the state. Through dialogue with industry experts and direct feedback from members, we are able to test assumptions, surface emerging issues, and ensure that MAP's governance policies and advocacy efforts truly reflect the voices of those we serve.

Building on two years of dedicated research and dialogue, the MAP board advanced its bold, multi-year policy direction: A Comprehensive Framework for Michigan's Future. Through our linkage work, we have learned that Michigan faces unique demographic trends, climate and resilience challenges, evolving economic conditions, and land-consumptive development pressures. We also see critical gaps in state policy and investment that require unprecedented coordination and capacity-building. Our vision is to help shift Michigan's planning paradigm, from siloed, parochial decision-making to collaborative, statewide solutions grounded in planning principles. With this comprehensive framework, we aim to partner with state agencies, regional organizations, local governments, and planning allies to create policy tools and investments that strengthen Michigan communities and ensure resilient, equitable growth.

This year also marked a revolutionary evolution for MAP: the establishment of the Michigan Black Planning Professionals (MBPP) specialty group. Formally launched in 2024, MBPP has already convened two dynamic education series events, exploring the role of faith-based organizations in community development and the critical intersection of broadband and planning. MBPP is more than a program; it is a movement that strengthens MAP by cultivating deeper relationships within Michigan's planning ecosystem, drawing more planners of color into our organization, and creating the professional network and mentorship opportunities that help retain and support planners of color for the long term. This bold initiative reflects MAP's commitment to equity and inclusion, ensuring that diverse voices and experiences help shape Michigan's planning future.

It has truly been a year of learning and exploration, from statewide demographic studies to climate and economic analysis, from examining planning models in other states to deep engagement with our own members, and now through the transformative lens of MBPP. These conversations and discoveries have laid the foundation for policy products and advocacy strategies that will carry well beyond my tenure.

As you read this annual report, I hope you are as inspired as I am by the work of our board, our exceptional staff, and the countless volunteers and partners who have contributed their time and expertise. Together, we are positioning MAP and Michigan for a stronger, more equitable, and more resilient future.

Serving as president during this period of growth and transformation has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my professional life. Thank you for your trust, your insight, and your commitment to creating great communities for all.

With gratitude and anticipation,
Shari Williams
President, Michigan Association of Planning
2024–2025



2024 – 2025 Annual Report | Executive Director Message

Dear MAP Members, Supporters, Communities and Friends,

Thank you for making 2024 – 2025 yet another remarkable year for MAP, for planning and planners, and for the steadfast partners without whom we couldn't produce a fraction of what we do. From the MAP board, who provides the overarching big thinking and policy direction for MAP, to committee members who implement the board and staff vision, and volunteers who write articles, help at events, heed our calls to legislative action and more, we are stronger and more successful because of your commitment, expertise, engagement and support. Our partners at state agencies like MSHDA, MEDC, EGLE/CMP, and MDOT/SR2S recognize MAP's unique access to planners and elected officials and invest in MAP developed tools and resources that advance both MAP's and the state agencies goals and priorities. Synergistic partnerships, indeed.

Together we contributed to the advancement of MAP's mission to provide information, education and advocacy to community leaders, partners and collaborators.

MAP delivered all of the traditional membership benefits over the last year that we usually do, like the annual conference, Spring Regional Workshops for officials, delivery of grant funded tools and resources to help planners and officials implement best practices to create quality communities, and advocacy in Lansing. And we added programs and products that create even more value for your membership investment.

Some new entries in our portfolio this fiscal year included a 7-Part Pro-housing webinar series that ran from January to September 2025; a day long, multi partnered workshop in Marquette in May that drew 80 officials and planners; and a Detroit Transit Tour that included transport on the People Mover, a People Mover Control Center tour, and presentations on the top floor of the glorious and historic Guardian Building. In addition to educational programming, we worked closely with Representative Kristian Grant on a housing bill package and strengthened relationships with other pro-housing organizations. We secured new grants including a partner project with the Michigan Disability Network (MDA) to develop a Planning and Zoning Best Practice Guide for Inclusive Design, technical support for various MSHDA supported Regional Housing Partnerships, and completion of an MEDC funded Planning and Zoning Toolkit for Child Care that was initiated last fiscal year. And we evolved the National Zoning Atlas initiative that was piloted last year in the Grand Rapids Tri County area into a Michigan Zoning MAP that MAP will develop and manage, providing an even more robust and usable product that will help Michigan municipalities with the distinct zoning reforms needed in your communities.

Deep gratitude to all who have both influenced and benefitted from our work. Your MAP staff and board of directors take seriously their commitment to you, and to providing you with the policy, resources, and support you need to create quality communities.

Andrea Brown, AICP
Executive Director, Michigan Association of Planning

Membership by the Numbers

2775	Group (Community) Members
1162	Planning Commissioners
753	APA Members
450	AICP Certified Planners
345	Students
215	Individual Members
134	Corporate Members
46	Zoning Administrators
16	FAICP Members
13	Emerging Planning Professionals
8	AICP Candidates
6	MAP Staffers
1	MAP Executive Director



CORPORATE

MEMBERS

2024 - 2025

Beckett & Raeder Inc.

Carlisle | Wortman

Associates, Inc.

CIB Planning

DTE Energy

Fahey Schultz Burzych

Rhodes, PLC

Fishbeck

Giffels Webster

ITC Holdings Corporation

Mannik Smith Group

McKenna

MEDC-Michigan Economic

Development Corporation

MSHDA

OHM Advisors

Progressive Companies

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Smith Group, Inc.

Spalding DeDecker

Wade-Trim

WSP



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

2024 - 2025

Richard Carlisle, FAICP
Stephen Cassin, AICP
William Hartwig
Steve Langworthy
Gregory Need
Phillip McKenna, AICP
Gerald Rowe, PCP

Emily Palacios, JD
Kurt Schindler, FAICP
Andrew Schmidt, AICP
David Scurto, AICP
Norm Tyler, FAICP
Mark Wyckoff, FAICP

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

2024 - 2025

Rodney Arroyo, FAICP
Lisa Easterwood, CST.

Christopher Graham, ASLA



MAP BOARD

October 2024 -- September 2025

Shari Williams, President

Detroit Future City | swilliams@detroitfuturecity.com

Christina Anderson, AICP, Vice President

City of Kalamazoo | andersonc@kalamazoocity.org

Scott Kree, Secretary | Treasurer

Oakland County | krees@oakgov.com

Jill Bahm, AICP, Professional Development Officer

Giffels Webster | jbahm@giffelswebster.com

Mohamed Ayoub, Past President

City of Westland | mayoub@cityofwestland.com

Keith Baker, AICP

City of Coldwater | kbaker@coldwater.org

Trudy Galla, FAICP

Fishbeck | tgalla@fishbeck.com

Christopher Germain, AICP

Lake Superior Community Partnership | cgermain@marquette.org

Mandy Grewal, PhD

Pittsfield Township | grewalm7226@gmail.com

Kristen Gundersen, AICP

City of St. Joseph | kgundersen@sjcity.com

Ex Officio Members

Kami Pothukuchi, PhD, Faculty

Wayne State University | k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu

Kevin Martin, Elected Official

Van Buren Township | martinkevin34@yahoo.com

Student Members

Eli Fikkema

Michigan State University | flikkem5@msu.edu

Ankita Shukla

Michigan State University | shuklaa5@msu.edu



MAP Board Policy, Planning, and Progress 2024 - 2025

The MAP Board is responsible for establishing the organization's policy direction, and throughout 2024 – 2025 focused on A Statewide Framework for Planning and Collaboration. Rather than concentrating on a single policy theme as it has in the past – housing, transportation, infrastructure – the board looked to develop a more comprehensive, planning centered approach that considers improved coordination, accountability, and support among state, regional and local agencies, organizations and municipalities.

To that end, the Board invited experts and influencer to board meetings, engaged members by soliciting input at 2024 Annual Conference during an interactive session, and published an issue of the Michigan Planner detailing their vision and progress (March/April 2025 issue).

The MAP Board has initiated an action plan to advance planning goals that connect systems at the state, regional and local level, and will include robust engagement with MAP members and other key stakeholders. Look for this work to continue into 2026.



MAP Board by the Numbers

11 Regular Meetings

6 Linkage Meetings

- August 2024 – meeting with Michigan Association of Region's Executive Directors to begin partnership conversations
- November 2024 – Work Session, strategy to advance the comprehensive framework
- January 2025 – Board Annual Retreat, established 2025 Work Plan, identified linkage experts with whom to engage to advance the framework
- February 21, 2025 - Joint Meeting with Board leadership committees - Government Relations and Law - to establish related actions to advance the framework.
- April 2025 – Second partner meeting with Michigan Association of Regions to solidify relationship, and establish common goals. Began planning Fall 2025 collaborative session at the MAP fall conference.
- June 2025 – Work Session, develop content for fall conference session

1 Annual Budget approved

1 Executive Committee - Term September 2024 - October 2025

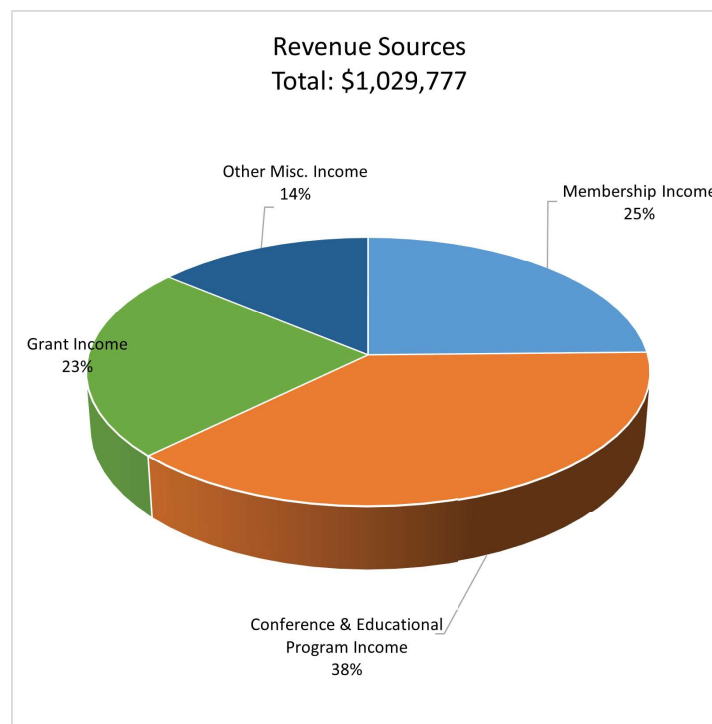
President Shari Williams | Vice President Christina Anderson, AICP | Secretary
Treasurer Scott Kree | Professional Development Officer Jill Bahm, AICP

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024 – 2025

The Michigan Association of Planning ended fiscal year 2024 - 2025 on solid financial footing, with a “profit” of \$61,685. Our budget is divided into 2 components: General Operations and Grants.

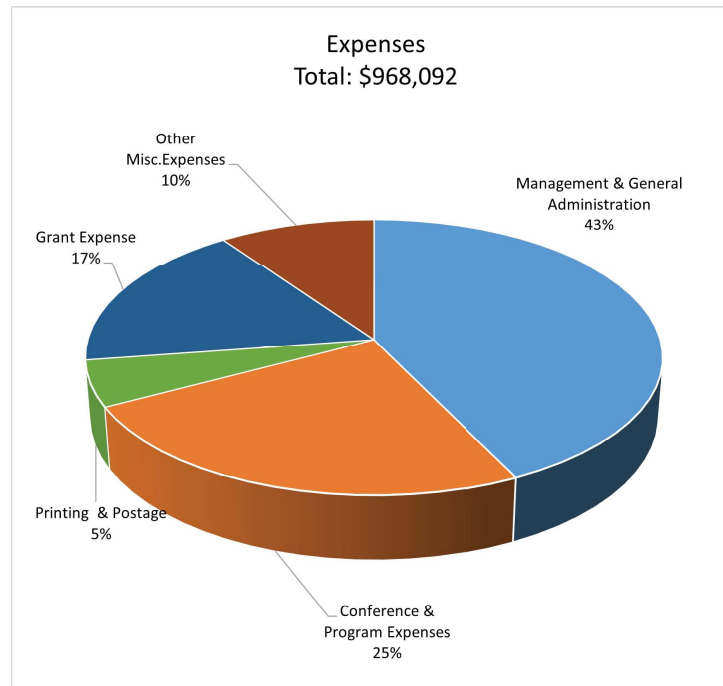
Revenues, including both general operations and grants, totaled \$1,029,777

- About 25% of our revenues are from membership dues, including APA and Chapter Only memberships
- 38% of revenues are from conference and education program income
- Approximately 23% comes from Grants
- And the remaining 14% comes from sponsorships, book and publications sales, Michigan Planner calling cards, and other misc. income sources



Expenses, including both general operations and grants, totaled \$968,092.

- 43% of our actual expenses go towards management and general administrative costs like wages for general program areas, rent, and technical support (our membership data base, events platform, and communications systems).
- 25% of the budget supports conference and education program expenses
- Grant expenses are 17% of total expenses.
- The 15% balance of expense category includes printing, postage, and other miscellaneous expenses.



Overall profit across the combined budgets for fiscal year 2024 - 2025 was \$61,685

A Word About Grants

Grant revenue is 17% of our overall revenues, and allows us to advance our mission, develop relationships with state agencies and other funding organizations, create tools and resources to provide planners and officials with innovative tools and solutions, and stretches your membership investment.

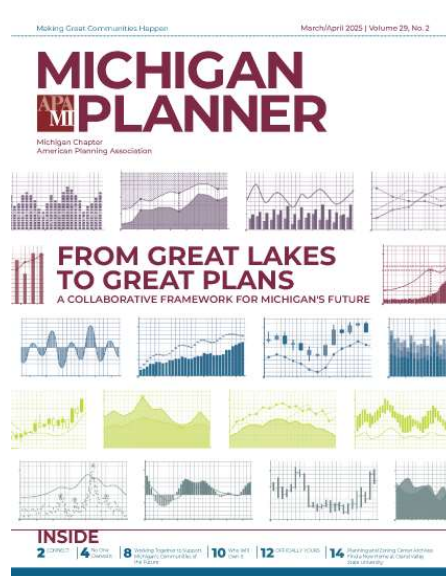
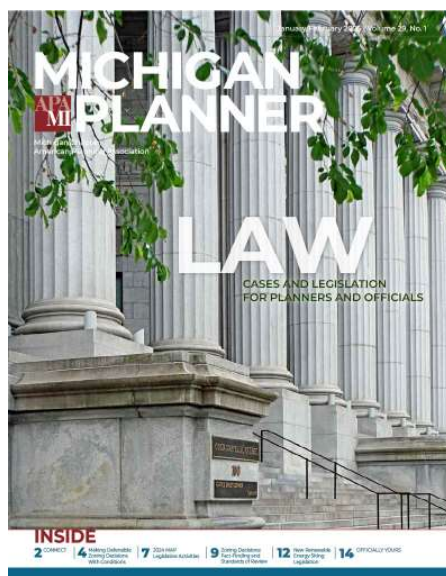
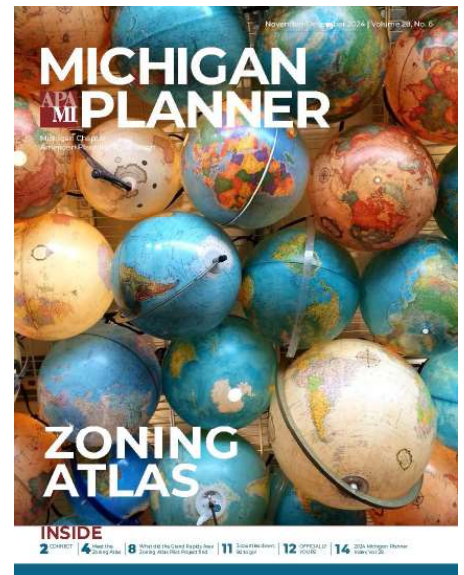
MAP managed the following grants this past fiscal year:

- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and its Safe Routes to School Program |Transportation Bonanza 17
- MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy | Coastal Management Program Coastal Management Program | Coastal Compendium and Coastal Clinics
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and its Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Program | Technical assistance, training, curriculum development
- RSTEP (Renewable Energy Academy) through MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – SPAN grant
- MEDC Child Care (Planning and Zoning Toolkit)
- MSHDA Inclusive Design (Planning and Zoning Toolkit)

Event Attendance by the Numbers 2024 – 2025

577	Planning Michigan Conference 2024
504	On Site Workshops
485	Regional Workshops
453	Pro-Housing Webinar Series
341	Transportation Bonanza
288	Zoning Atlas Pilot Webinar
123	Student Conference
117	Spring Institute
106	Child Care Webinar
101	Renewable Energy Webinar
74	Emerging Planning Professional Events
35	Detroit Transit All Day Event
30	Oak Park Walking Tour
26	Michigan Black Professional Planner Series
20	Renewable Energy Training for Planners in Private Practice

MICHIGAN PLANNER MAGAZINE



Grants and Special Projects

2024 – 2025

MDOT & Safe Routes 2 School (SR2S) – Transportation Bonanza (TB) 17 – Now in its 17th year, TB 2025 was a virtual event over two days that attracted 336 participants. Now on a rotating in person / virtual format every other year, TB continues to provide high level content for planners, engineers, transportation policy staff, and health professionals. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been a programming and financial partner for 5 years expanding the audience even further.

Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) - MAP continues its strong partnership with the MEDC's Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program by delivering on-demand training to help RRC communities build capacity and knowledge to create great communities. MAP further leveraged the MEDC investment to cover development of original training products that specifically highlight planning, zoning and development best practices that advance redevelopment. Funding covered the creation of Stand by Your Plan, and Uses By Right webinars. In addition, MAP initiated a Planning and Zoning for Child Care project in partnership with McKenna to provide tools, resources and a communications guide for Michigan municipalities to increase understanding and contemporize regulations to support child care facility development, the dearth of which is an economic development barrier.

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) - MSHDA recognizes the critical role of planning and zoning to increase housing supply and followed up its investment in the Zoning Reform Toolkit (ZRT) with 2 additional projects that spanned this fiscal year. We finished the Zoning Reform Stories and Studies in October 2024 (most of the work was conducted last fiscal year) - a supplement to the ZRT - which told the stories of Michigan municipalities that are implementing reforms identified in the ZRT. We also secured funding for a partner project with Michigan Disability

Network (MDN) and the Disability Advocates of Kent County (DAKC) to create Planning and Zoning Toolkit for Inclusive Design, along with a design charette that will result in a pattern book, making accessible housing easier to plan, zone for, and build.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and its Coastal Management and its Coastal Management Program (EGLE CMP) -

MAP's relationship with the CMP spans nearly two decades, and our most recent initiative, the Coastal Compendium, collected the most relevant best practices, case studies, and solutions for shoreline protection into a single on-line resource. The product culminates years of partner product development into a single web-based resource.

Renewable Energy Academy – Since last year, MAP has worked with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and partners 5 Lakes, UM Graham Sustainability Institute: Center for EmPowering Communities, and Michigan State University Extension to generate new materials and services to further empower the decision-making capacity of any interested party on the topic of large-scale renewable energy. MAP manages workshops and mobile tours, and the printing and dissemination of the updated Planning and Zoning for Solar Energy Systems.

Michigan Zoning MAP (formerly the Michigan Zoning Atlas) - After piloting the Michigan Zoning Atlas in 2023 – 2024 in the Grand Rapids Tri County Area, and establishing MAP as the State lead for the National Zoning Atlas, the Michigan Association of Planning pivoted in summer 2025 and will be working with partners to develop our own more robust statewide zoning map with more fields and layers, allowing municipalities to analyze zoning for more than just housing metrics (which was the NZA sole purpose).



HOUSING

MAP's focus on housing policy and programming has not waned since it was identified by the MAP board as its policy priority topic in 2021. MAP staff have continued to develop and deliver products – how to guides, webinars, summits, and magazine articles – to planners to help drive local change. In addition, we've upped our advocacy game in Lansing in recent years and provided direct technical advice and support to legislative leaders advancing housing bills, and worked with American Planning Association on a media event in Lansing.

Context for Recent Housing Initiatives

In January, 2021 the Michigan Association of Planning's Board of Directors began what would become a 4-year-and-counting focus on housing as a policy priority that continues today. During those years MAP immersed itself in the topic, asking first: What can Planners do to increase housing supply, and how can MAP provide the tools, and the policy and legislative framework, to help? We secured MSHDA funding in 2021 to develop a **Zoning Reform Toolkit for Housing Choice and Supply**, which was hard launched in June 2022. This collection of 15 regulatory and process reforms to be implemented at the local level was widely distributed and has been cited as a key resource guide by planners across Michigan who took to heart the Toolkit recommendations and began the hard work of local reform.

In 2023, we surveyed our members about their zoning reform experiences and shared these stories – and struggles - in another MSHDA funded project, **Zoning Reform Stories & Studies**, completed in June of that year. We highlighted 25 municipalities that were doing the hard work of local reform and demonstrated that Michigan municipalities took seriously their responsibility to plan and zone for a greater variety of housing types to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Both publications remain in high demand and have been cited by planners across the state as an invaluable tool to guide local regulatory reforms to expand housing supply.

We piloted the **Michigan Zoning Atlas**, funded by MEDC, University of Michigan Taubman College, and Kent County ARPA funds in 2023, which was completed for the Grand Rapids Tri-county area in fall 2024. We have since evolved the Atlas into a Michigan Zoning MAP, which we are building and managing to provide even more information and data on the interactive MAP than the National Zoning Atlas can. The Michigan Zoning MAP is an interactive, online map compiled from zoning ordinances and maps of Michigan municipalities. This tool gives new power to planners and elected and appointed officials, housing advocates, investors, and developers by making zoning more accessible, reducing confusion, and increasing public participation in a wide variety of land use decisions.

Building from the successes of a pilot program and a partnership with a national organization, we now have the technical expertise and on-the-ground experience to take the Michigan Zoning MAP statewide. A statewide campaign is underway to code the entire state (see the November December 2024 issue of the Michigan Planner for full coverage on the Michigan Zoning Atlas), on a county-by-county basis.

MAP Housing Policies

In 2024 – 2025 MAP developed several housing policies that would drive our advocacy, policy, and programmatic work.

MAP Housing Platform - The Housing Platform was developed by the MAP Law Committee and adopted by the MAP board and highlights specific legislative actions to expand housing supply including advocacy to include a Housing Element of a Master Plan into the MPEA (enacted December 2024); support for ADU's; allowing duplexes in single family zones; reducing parking requirements; and pushing for mixed use development.

Housing Action Agenda – Modeled after the American Planning Association's Housing Action Agenda, we customized this policy for Michigan specific issues. It was adopted by the MAP Board in June 2025.

MAP Legislative Platform - The MAP Legislative Platform was adopted on November 15, 2024. The platform is updated annually to include the most important planning and zoning priorities we hope to advance, or that we expect to be introduced by the state legislature. Housing was a top priority included in the platform, and echoed the items included in the Housing Platform, among many other issues.

Statewide Housing Initiatives

Our MAP Housing Policies followed right along with the development of the Zoning Reform Toolkits and the Michigan Zoning MAP. Implementation of the MSHDA Statewide Housing Plan, adopted in 2023, continues, and MAP staff provided technical support to several Regional Housing Partnerships, the entities created by MSHDA to implement the plan. MSHDA's Housing Ready Grant initiative demonstrated their continued recognition of the value of planning and zoning to increase housing supply, and MAP was influential in integrating these ideas into the Statewide Housing plan in 2023 as a member of the Advisory Council that guided development of the plan.

All these guiding policy documents amplify the need for both state and local reforms to increase housing supply.

All the while we continued to develop and deliver workshops to help planners and municipal leaders more deeply understand the housing crisis being experienced across the state, and to introduce and reinforce the myriad tools and strategies local government can use to add local housing. Our Housing in Four Parts (Planning for Housing, Stand by Your Plan, Zoning Reform, and ADU's) was delivered in early 2023 and in 20245 – 2025 we built on that content to run an even more robust training series that covered everything from Brownfield TIF for Housing, Housing Element of the Master Plan, Housing Finance for Planners, Missing Middle Housing, and more.

MAP remains committed to continuing to provide planners and elected and appointed officials with the tools, resources and advocacy they need to expand housing supply locally.

ADVOCACY

2024 – 2025 was a busy year legislatively for MAP. After focusing our attention on building a policy platform to support our advocacy efforts for housing, we were heartened to see a series of housing bills advance. This would be the first package of housing bills in a generation. We also responded to bills on Land Divisions and Sand & Gravel. We testified, wrote letters, launched calls to members.

Housing Bills

MAP supported the Housing Element of a Master Plan bill, which was enacted, and each of the 4 subsequent bills, and provided Representative Grant's office with technical advice to improve them.

HB 5557, Housing Element of a Master Plan -- Representative Grant introduced the first of what would be a total of 5 housing bills. The PEA was amended by PA 153 of 2024 and now legally requires master plans to include a housing elements. This legislation mandates that local governments assess current and future housing needs and develop strategies to meet them, promoting a diverse range of housing types, costs, and affordability. The amendments also require planning commissions to be representative of housing interests within the community. This first bill, enacted in November 2024, would set the stage for 4 additional housing bills.

HB 6097 Permit Duplexes in Single Family Zones -- Michigan's housing stock is dominated by single family detached housing, many of which are located on large lots. Medium density housing is much rarer and can be a means to lower cost burden, and provide a pathway to ownership. Duplexes are considered "gentle density" and would have little or no impact on surrounding properties.

HB 6252 Revise Protest Petition Requirements -- In fact, MAP supports fully eliminating protest petition rights in Michigan, and so the limitations in this bill were a step in the right direction.

HB 6096 Prohibit Requirements for Repeat Studies -- Most measures that increase certainty to all participants in the development process, and minimize procedural abuses, are worthy of support. Streamlining development review processes is a best practice included in MAPs Zoning Reform Toolkit, and is recognized as a means to decrease the time it takes to secure development approval.

HB 6095 Minimum Residential Parking Requirements -- Capping minimum parking requirements will contribute to lowering the cost to build housing. Requiring the builder to provide parking with new housing construction adds significant cost to new housing units, which are passed on directly to consumers.



MAP and

the American Planning Association (APA)

The Michigan Association of Planning is the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association. Most of MAP's professional planners belong to, and pay their dues through, the APA, and as a part of that membership investment receive Michigan Chapter benefits in addition to those offered by the APA. MAP Chapter Only members do not receive APA benefits and pay their dues directly to MAP.

During the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year, MAP staff have been involved in a number of APA initiatives, lending our expertise and perspective to APA work. These include:

It Takes a Planner – In July 2024, MAP and the APA partnered on a legislative media event to introduce MAP, and its planning and zoning expertise, to Michigan legislators. Building on a housing action agenda - MAP's policy and program priority since 2021 - Representatives Grant and Aragona, along with state agency leads from MSHDA and the Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP), and planners from the City of Grand Rapids, populated panels highlighting legislative priorities and local regulatory reforms with an audience of stakeholders including Michigan legislators, state agencies, government organizations, and municipalities. The media event launched MAP as a “go to” expert for housing issues in Lansing.

APA Component Collaboration – APA launched this initiative to help them understand the current state of services provided to its components: the Chapters, the Divisions, the Student Representative Organization (SRO), and Chapter Executives and Administrators (CEA). MAP Executive Director Brown was appointed to represent the CEA's. Launched in early 2025, the components meet monthly to identify gaps, and determine a desired future state.

FAICP Committee – MAP's FAICP Committee is composed of Michigan FAICP's and they identify appropriate nominees, and provide mentorship to develop nominations. Operating on a biannual schedule, 3 nominees were supported this cycle.

Chapter President's Council (CPC) and Professional Development Officer (PDO) - Two members of the MAP Board serve as liaisons to the American Planning Association through their roles as CPC and PDO. The CPC is held by the board Vice President/President/Past President over a 3 year term. Christina Anderson, AICP, began her term in fall 2024, and will continue through fall 2027. Responsibilities include attendance at two in person meetings (one at the National Planning Conference in the spring and a second in the fall). CPC representatives from all 48 APA Chapters inform and influence APA policy, Chapter success, and co-learning. The PDO is responsible for the Chapter professional development activities, and works closely with the MAP Deputy Director Amy Jordan to ensure certification maintenance credits are appropriately programmed, and provides assistance to candidates seeking the AICP credential. The PDO meets annually in person at the national planning conference and regularly via zoom.

Policy and Advocacy Liaison – APA supports a robust policy and advocacy support system which includes monthly calls where chapter legislative liaisons discuss state strategies to advance planning and zoning legislation, problem solve, and learn from each other. The Liaisons meet annually in person each December for training and collaboration, meeting this fiscal year in December 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia. Executive Director Brown serves in this role, with advice and guidance from the MAP law Committee.

National Planning Conference (NPC) | 2026 Detroit - For the first time since 1972 (before APA was APA!), Detroit will be hosting the NPC! The MAP Board appointed the NPC Destination City Chair, Dara O'Byrne, AICP, in January 2025 to oversee destination city responsibilities. Co-chairs were appointed for three working committees: Mobile Workshops, Orientation Tours, and Destination City Activities, and planning is underway. The conference is April 25 to 28, 2026 at the Detroit Marriott and Huntington Place in downtown Detroit.

APA Board and AICP Commission – In an effort to integrate Michigan's voice into APA Board and AICP Commission leadership conversations, MAP has proactively implemented a recruitment strategy to secure Michigan planners for national leadership ballots. This was successfully accomplished with the election of Suzanne Schulz, FAICP, Progressive Companies, onto the AICP Commission in 2023. We are proud to provide strong Michigan talent to APA national deliberations.

FAICP RECIPIENTS 2024

Induction to the AICP College of Fellows is the highest honor the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member.

Fellows of AICP are nominated and selected by their peers to recognize and honor their outstanding contributions as a professional planner. The outcomes of their individual efforts left demonstrably significant and transformational improvements to the field of planning and the communities they served. All Fellows are long-time members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, and community service and leadership.

In 2024, three of our planning leaders received this prestigious recognition from the American Planning Association.

Rodney (Rod) Arroyo, FAICP

As a lifelong learner and enthusiastic advocate for people and places, Rod Arroyo has sought to innovate and advance the way planners approach community planning. His work transformed zoning codes to be user friendly and accessible, and his plans resulted in the creation of better places and boosted economic growth. Rod's innovative educational efforts led to advancement of the profession through graduate coursework, sharing best practices, and offering hands-on learning opportunities.

Trudy Galla, FAICP

Trudy Galla served in the Planning & Community Development department in Leelanau County for 35 years; 26 years as its Director. Her contributions include leading a citizen driven Leelanau General Plan, successfully advocating for state legislation passed to allow a 'flat fee' per household for recycling and waste reduction programs, and cleaning up and redeveloping contaminated sites. She recently retired as a Senior Brownfield Specialist with Fishbeck.

Kurt Schindler, FAICP

Kurt Schindler is from rural Northern Michigan, where he served as Planning Director in Manistee County, then Land Use Educator for MSU Extension. Kurt is known for groundbreaking work in economic development, form-based zoning, placemaking, ground and surface water protection, practitioner training, and co-authoring MSU Extension's Citizen Planner and Zoning Administrator certificate programs. Schindler was president of APA Michigan's predecessor board and was awarded Outstanding Professional Planner and Life Membership by the Michigan Chapter.

Rod, Trudy, and Kurt join the ranks of Michigan's 18 other FAICPs.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024

PROJECT AWARDS

Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan

City of Howell 2023-2028 Master Plan: *City of Howell and Carlisle | Wortman, Associates, Inc.*

Sanilac County Master Plan: *Sanilac County and Beckett & Raeder, Inc.*

Outstanding Planning Project: Public Outreach

Youth Civic and Community Engagement Course: *City of Ann Arbor*

Outstanding Planning Project: Transportation Planning

Downtown Ann Arbor Bikeway Loop: *City of Ann Arbor and SmithGroup*

Outstanding Planning Project: Urban Design

Caledonia M-37 Corridor Sub-Area Plan: *Caledonia Township and Beckett & Raeder, Inc.*

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Amplifying the Voices of Quilombola Communities through Community-Based Tourism and Cultural

Preservation: *University of Michigan*

Power in Partnership: *University of Michigan*

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award

Ladybug Sustainable Communities: *Michigan State University*

Morningside Housing Revitalization Strategy: *Michigan State University*

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Life Member Award

Mark Wyckoff, FAICP

President's Award

Michael Reddy

AWARD RECIPIENTS

2025

PROJECT AWARDS

Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan

Best Benton Harbor Community Plan: *City of Benton Harbor, McKenna and Toole Design*

The City of Big Rapids Master Plan: *City of Big Rapids and Williams & Works*

Outstanding Planning Project: Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff

Oxford Trails: *City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc. and Progressive Companies*

Outstanding Planning Project: Best Practice

Ludington Unified Development Ordinance: *City of Ludington and McKenna*

Outstanding Planning Project: Economic Planning and Development

City of Adrian Downtown Development Authority Development and TIF Plan: *City of Adrian and McKenna*

Outstanding Planning Project: Grassroots Initiative

Hana's Garden: *Oxford Township and Carlisle | Wortman Associates, Inc.*

Outstanding Planning Project: Implementation

Big Beaver Road: *City of Troy and Carlisle | Wortman Associates, Inc.*

Outstanding Planning Project: Public Outreach

Rebuilding Berkley's Zoning Ordinance: *City of Berkley and Carlisle | Wortman Associates, Inc.*

Outstanding Planning Project: Resilience and Sustainability

Sterling Heights Climate Action Plan: *Fresh Coast Climate Solutions and City of Sterling Heights*

Outstanding Planning Project: Urban Design

Lyon Square: *City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., Progressive Companies, and Rockford*

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Creating Connections: A Terminus Relocation Proposal: *University of Michigan*

Developing Solutions for Brownfield Renewable Energy in Michigan: *University of Michigan*

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award

2025 Sustainable Agriculture, Food Systems & Rural Environments Plan: *Livingston County*

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Helen S. Willis Outstanding Commissioner Award

Pat Kelly, Sharon Township

Helen Foss Award

Robert "Bob" Tasior, Oscoda Township

Planning Advocate Award

Mayor Joseph G. Kuspa, City of Southgate

President's Award

Ashley Williams Clark

MAP STAFF

Executive Director

Andrea Brown, AICP
abrown@planningmi.org

Deputy Director

Amy Miller Jordan
ajordan@planningmi.org

Director of Programs and Communication

Leah DuMouchel, AICP
ldumouchel@planningmi.org

Director of Operations

Rachel Goldstein
rgoldstein@planningmi.org

Research and Programs Specialist

Andy Larsen, AICP Candidate
alarsen@planningmi.org

Research and Data Specialist

Philip Rentschler
prentschr@planningmi.org

Director of Information and Programs

Amy M. Vansen, AICP
avansen@planningmi.org

