



UTAH PLANNER

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION



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INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE

The theme of the Utah APA 2025 Spring Conference is "Cultivating Community," which will take place in Logan, Utah. Logan and its neighboring communities have a rich agricultural heritage established by Mormon pioneers and continue to uphold this tradition today. This heritage was further enhanced by the founding of the Agricultural College of Utah in 1888, which later became Utah State University, renowned for its strong agricultural programs and support for farmers across the state.

Over the years, the region has seen growth in agricultural production and industry, alongside residential and economic development. The communities in this area strive to balance their rural traditions with the future needs of their growing populations. They aim to create policies that ensure new developments "fit within the environment rather than on top of it" (Randall Arendt), all while preserving their sense of community and heritage.

We hope you will join us this spring as we explore these vital topics and more in beautiful Logan.

CALL FOR CONTENT

As you read this, know that any APA Utah member can contribute. If you have ideas for an article or are willing to write one yourself just reach out to Ted (ted@wfrc.org) and Nicole (admin@apautah.org).

To be great planners we need to share our stories not just with each other but also with the broader community.

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JUDY FLORES: H.A.F. BASE COMMUNITY PLANNER

Interview by J. Kirby Snideman, AICP

Judy Flores is the Community Planner at Hill Air Force Base located in northern Utah, just south of Ogden. Hill Air Force Base operates much like a small city, complete with housing, schools, medical facilities, stores, and recreational areas. It has its own infrastructure, including roads, utilities, and emergency services. However, unlike a typical city, everything on base is structured around "the mission," meaning that land use, development, and daily operations are carefully planned to enhance military readiness and base-specific objectives. As a Community Planner, Judy is tasked with helping to manage the base's development.

Read the full message at [this link](#).



A NEW VOICE IN THE PLANNING PROFESSION

Interview by Brittney Harris

Introducing Eli Staggs.

We're excited to welcome Eli Staggs, a recent graduate from BYU (December 2024), who has joined PSOMAS to begin his professional planning career. Eli's educational journey reflects the broad scope of the planning profession and the powerful role that education plays in shaping a career path.

Read the full message at [this link](#).



STEPHEN NELSON, AICP - PLANNERS ON THE MOVE

Interview by Brittney Harris

Stephen Nelson recently transitioned from Cache County Director of Development Services to West Haven Community Development Director. His move was driven by a desire for new opportunities and to engage more closely with the community he serves. He values assisting individuals and communities, which motivates his career choices. He describes the role of a City Planner as one that shapes the future, balancing opportunities while preserving a community's unique qualities.

Stephen's advice to new planners emphasizes the importance of collaboration. Building strong relationships with the public and decision-makers can lead to successful planning outcomes.

Stephen is one of our dedicated APA Utah members who is making a lasting impact across the state!



PLANNING RESOURCES AND TOOLS - SENSE OF SPACE

Are you interested in giving your town, city, county, downtown area, specific neighborhoods, new business district, park or other space "a sense of space"? Utah State University has put together some great resources and tools to help you navigate "Placemaking & Placekeeping". Visit their [website](#) to help get you started. Another useful web resource is the [New Urban Network](#) that covers topics ranging from smart growth to walkable communities.

Do you have a favorite resource or tool for creating a sense of space or for cultivating communities? Please share it with us! You can email admin@apautah.org. We would love to hear from you!



USING STREETS TO REBUILD COMMUNITIES: 6 LESSONS FOR UTAH'S CITY PLANNERS

Across Utah, cities and towns are experiencing rapid growth, increased traffic, and shifting community needs. As planners, we have an opportunity to rethink how our streets function—not just as conduits for cars but as places that support economic vitality, social interaction, and safe, multi-modal transportation. The Project for Public Spaces' report, *Using Streets to Rebuild Communities*, highlights strategies for reclaiming streets as vibrant public spaces. More recently, cities across the U.S. have embraced Open Streets initiatives as a powerful placemaking tool to foster community engagement and economic revitalization.

Read the full article at [this link](#).



FAMINE AND FEAST AT THE GATEWAY

While the Gateway was revolutionary in Utah, the development was part of a national trend at the turn of the century of organizing new retail development around *lifestyle centers*, and they were popping up all over the country at the time. Designed to be ersatz downtowns, they were actually highly curated spaces – functionally shopping malls, only outdoors.

Read the full article at [this link](#).



The Gateway of old, featuring Barnes and Noble, Urban Outfitters, and Utah's first Apple Store. Image Credit: [The Gardner Group](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR UTAH PLANNERS

March 26: APA UT & ULCT- Annual Legislative Update



March 31: APA UT Meet Up NPC25

April 10: Back Scene tour of Salt Lake International Airport



PLANNING WEBCAST SERIES

The live webcasts are held every Friday from 1:00–2:30 PM ET, and recordings are also available. Don't miss these upcoming sessions:

Food Systems

- April 18: Beyond the Rainbow Crosswalk: LGBTQ+ Preservation
- April 18: Web Skills & Platforms for Planners

May 7-9: APA UT Spring Conference, Logan Utah



**Save the Date: APA UT Fall
Conference
SLC, UT
Oct 9-10, 2024**