The RCHCN mission is to make the healthy choice the easy choice in all Riverside County cities through the advancement of health in all policies.

HCN Connect is dedicated to keeping our community informed about the contributions that individuals and organizations are making to improve community and individual health in the Riverside county region.

Contact
Salomeh Wagaw, MPH
swagaw@rivcocha.org
(951) 358-5557

Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP
mvazquez@rivcocha.org
(951) 366-7171

Volume II. No. 12
December 2017
Hundreds experience a more biker-, pedestrian-friendly Village in Old Town La Quinta

Via Sherry Barkas, The Desert Sun

Adam and Laura May have three small children they are raising in La Quinta and like to go for walks as a family. They especially enjoy when their 3-year-old can walk along with them.

But streets aren’t always child friendly which means their son often has to stay in his stroller.

On Saturday, they saw and experienced the more pedestrian friendly streets they are looking for, joining hundreds of others in attending the La Quinta and Southern California Association of Governments’ Go Human hosted “Village Make.”

“I love it. I think it’s great,” Adam May said, standing at the intersection of Calle Tampico and Avenida Bermudas.

For four hours Saturday, people like the Mays got to test out temporary street improvements which included a reduction of traffic lanes and wider bike lanes on Calle Tampico, and a roundabout at the intersection of Avenida Bermudas – one of five planned for the area.

READ MORE: Go Human to put on Village Make in La Quinta

An alleyway that connects the north side of the Village was closed to vehicles and turned into an artistically painted and decorated walking path to draw more people to the restaurants and art studios in that area.

An alleyway that connects the north side of the Village was closed to vehicles and turned into an artistically painted and decorated walking path to draw more people to the restaurants and art studios in that area.

“I really liked that. I felt safe letting my 3-year-old son get out of his stroller and walk with us in the alley area,” Adam May said.

“There are too many areas of the Village that we don’t go to because there could be cars and the little ones might dart into traffic,” he said.

People were riding their bikes, walking or relaxing in small pop-up parks where they could play board games or just sit on temporary street furniture and take in the sights and sounds of bands playing in two locations.

People were also invited to demonstrate their artistic talents at various locations, including just outside Sm’art Studio at the corner of Calle Estado and Avenida Bermudas.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to educate people that there’s more of the Village,” studio co-founder Alana Marston said.

La Quinta is designated as a Healthy Eating, Active Living – HEAL – city, and has made a commitment to promote health and wellness and has bike lanes throughout the city and popular walking and hiking paths.

Village build-out plans take that a step further while also making the Village and Old Town – which is privately owned by Wells Marvin – more of a gathering place, Mayor Linda Evans said.

SM’ART: Studio in La Quinta inspires budding artists

“The whole purpose of Village Make is to be interactive so people can actually walk the alley and envision what art murals would be like on the backs of buildings; how to activate a back patio of a restaurant when they only have front seating and expand and enhance its services so it connects with other industries and businesses,” Evans said.

To read more, click here.

Desert Sun reporter Sherry Barkas covers the cities of La Quinta, Indian Wells, Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert. She can be reached at sherry.barkas@thedesertsun.com or (760) 778-4694. Follow her on Twitter @TDSsherry
The LUPA Project was ready for another adventurous day (on August 14th, 2017) as Daisy E. Ramirez—Health Educator at Riverside University System-Public Health (RUHS-PH)—and I headed to downtown Riverside for our LUPA Field day with the REC Route students. The REC Route stands for Recreation, Education and Culture and is aimed towards offering free and accessible transportation to youth from the eastern Coachella Valley so they can “access various recreation and enrichment activities”.

Adventure No.1

We began our field day at the Board Chambers located in the County Administration Center in downtown Riverside. As we walked into the Board chambers, I felt nostalgic as in 2015 in that same place I was presented with the Young Lady of the year award for District IV. I was thrilled to see other youth like myself enter such a paramount room.

As the youth were seated into the audience chairs their expressions reflected amazement at the grandness of the chamber. The Clerk of the Board, Kecia Harper-Ihem gave us a presentation of the operations that occur within the chamber and encouraged the youth to stay involved and strive to one day have an opportunity to become one of the future Supervisors for the County of Riverside. She even invited them to the dais where the Supervisors conduct their agenda and proceedings.

We then headed to the Planning Department where Riverside County’s Principal Planner, John Hildebrand talked to the youth about the planner’s advocacy role for healthy and sustainable communities. He explained to the youth how the general plan plays out when planners plan communities and how in their everyday life they see elements of the general plan. The meeting with John was meant to mentally prepare them so that throughout the field day they could identify elements of the general plan and built environment as we visited different sites.

Adventure No.2

Our next stop was the Harada House a National Historic Landmark located on 3356 Lemon St, home to Jukuchi and Ken Harada. They were two Japanese immigrants who in 1915 challenged the Alien Land Law and won the right to keep their home. Ironically, in 1940 the Haradas were taken to an internment camp in Utah and forced to leave their home behind. As we drove to our next stop, we asked them to envision themselves as Japanese Americans being rounded and transported to an internment camp without much explanation but based on their ethnicity.

Adventure No.3

The next stop was Tio’s Tacos. This Mexican restaurant is owned and operated by local artist Martin Sanchez who art installations are created out of recycled and salvaged materials. This location was a site to visit because we wanted the youth to experience Riverside’s local art. As we took pictures and explored the “outdoor museum,” we sensed the youth’s gratitude for having the opportunity and accessibility to enjoy local Mexican art and culture. We proceeded to have lunch and discussed the connections among the locations we visited and the planning elements John presented to the youth before we embarked on our field day.

Adventure No.4

After lunch, we visited the Parent Navel Tree: A Landmark created to protect the first citrus fruit ever grown in California. The purpose of going to this location was to highlight the importance that landmarks have in our communities. In this case, the youth was able to see how the City of Riverside has conserved the Parent Navel Tree for almost 200 years after its plantation for all visitors and residents to see.

Continued on next page…
Our last stop was one of the RUHS facilities, the Health Administration Building (HAB). We began our tour by touring the Public Health Lab where one of the lab’s staffers went over the lab’s mission and responsibilities. He asked the youth about disease outbreaks that occurred in their area and educated them about healthy habits they can practice to stay healthy and prevent disease outbreaks. Although, many of us were equally terrified as we were intrigued, the goal of the lab tour was to expose the youth to the diversity of functions within public health.

We continued the tour with a presentation by epidemiologist Salomeh Wagaw who gave us a brief overview of the epidemiology branch. Salomeh engaged the youth by sharing her experiences as an epidemiologist and the departments association with public health. Additionally, while touring the Injury Prevention Services branch we learned about different programs such as: Teen Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program, Low Cost Car Seat Program, and Safe Routes to School program. We then proceeded to our last stop, the Public Health Administration offices.

While in the administration office we were introduced to Chief Health Strategist, Michael Osur. Michael gave us a warm welcome and spoke with the youth about their ambitions and how he got his start in land use planning issues. He explained that because of his leadership on the Healthy Riverside County Initiative, the American Planning Association presented him with a National Planning Excellence Award.

We concluded our LUPA field day with a Planning 101 presentation by Healthy Communities Planner, Miguel Vasquez. Miguel presented a planning exercise consisting of designing our ideal communities with toys. Each student had a chance to share the concepts behind their model.

As a team Daisy, Miguel and I enjoyed the opportunity bring to life the art that is planning within our own county and with local youth! I am thrilled to have been able to be part of this LUPA adventure and anticipate introducing more youth to Land Use Planning in the future.

---

From Healthy People 2020 Stories from the Field, a series highlighting communities across the Nation that are addressing the Leading Health Indicators (LHIs)

Healthy People 2020 At Work in the Community: Human Rights and Health Collective

The Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN), a resident-led, community-based organization in Downtown and South Los Angeles, developed the Human Rights and Health Collective Project to address housing issues that impacted the health of low-income residents. In addition to teaching peer-to-peer educators how to navigate through regulatory or compliant housing processes, empower other residents to get involved, and engage landlords to change practices, the Human Rights and Health Collective also taught residents about the importance of fresh foods and how they could increase their access to fresh foods through community and rooftop gardens.

Many of the peer-to-peer trainings focused on teaching residents about the importance of shifting the relationships between housing authorities or other landlords and low-income residents from an adversarial one to a cooperative one. "It took everyone working together to improve the conditions in my building, like no hot water and no heat," said Wesley Walker, another participant who became a peer educator. "In the process, we learned even more about how to improve our health."

More specifically, this project addressed Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities within the Healthy People 2020 topic area of Environmental Health by reducing the proportion of occupied housing units that have moderate or severe physical problems and improving the housing situation of more than 600 units. In addition, the project addressed food insecurity within the Healthy People 2020 topic area of Nutrition and Weight Status.

To read more, click here.
The SHAPE Data Portal

SHAPE Riverside County is sponsored by the Riverside University Health System - Public Health, a department of the County of Riverside. To learn more, please visit: [http://www.shaperivco.org/](http://www.shaperivco.org/)

### WHAT DO YOU NEED?
- Health Data
- Demographic Data
- Healthy People 2020 Tracker
- SocioNeeds Index
- Compare Indicators
- Locate Reports
- Find Promising Practices
- Needs Assessment Guide

**Current CEQA Guidelines Update**

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research is pleased to announce the availability of the following documents related to the Guidelines Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act:

- A comprehensive package of proposed amendments to the CEQA Guidelines
- A "Thematic Responses to Comments" document explaining some of the major themes in the comments that OPR received on this package and the thematic responses to those concerns
- A "Frequently Asked Questions" document answering some specific questions that OPR commonly received during the public review process
- A technical advisory on evaluating transportation impacts
- The public comments received during the public review process
- The technical research supporting the proposal

A list of the numerous stakeholder groups OPR met with or held briefings for over the past four years. All of these documents and additional information are available on OPR's website at [http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/](http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/). The comprehensive package of proposed amendments also includes the proposed update to the analysis of transportation impacts pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 743. Specific information about SB 743 is available at [http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/sb-743/](http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/sb-743/).

The Natural Resources Agency will soon begin the formal administrative rulemaking process under the Administrative Procedure Act. Notice of future activity on the CEQA Guidelines will be posted on OPR's website and distributed through the CEQA Guidelines List Serve. Please sign-up to stay connected. The Natural Resources Agency will also post updated information about the rulemaking process on its website: [http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/](http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/).

OPR plans on opening public comment on these Guidelines in the next few weeks and will hold at least one public hearing before the proposal becomes final, with the Guidelines going into effect sometime in 2018.
Nominate the best Complete Streets initiatives of 2017

Last chance to submit nominations for the best complete streets initiative of 2017!

Do you know of a project, plan, policy, event, demonstration, person, committee, task force, etc. that exemplifies Complete Streets? Fill out this brief nomination form by December 15th so we can select and highlight winners in the Best Complete Streets Policies of 2017 report that we’ll be releasing in 2018.

Has your community recently passed a new Complete Streets policy? Each year the Coalition releases an analysis and ranking of the best Complete Streets policies in the country based on 10 policy elements that were established more than a decade ago. The upcoming 2017 report will be the last one using our old policy elements. Next year, as we prep for the 2018 report, we will be using a brand new framework, released just a few weeks ago, to analyze and rank Complete Streets policies.

National Complete Streets Coalition collects city, county, regional, and state policies for documentation in our Policy Atlas and Inventory and our Best Complete Streets Policies reports. For inclusion in these resources, please send a PDF copy of your policy to nazeez@smartgrowthamerica.org.

Also, if you have a Complete Streets Implementation Committee and/or Complete Streets Coalition in your community. Let us know! We’re collecting an atlas.

Apply Today for Free Technical Assistance on Active Transportation Projects in California

Application Deadline: Friday, December 15 at 5 p.m. PT (accepted on a rolling basis until then)

If you are working in California to make streets safer or to increase access to schools and parks so that children and families in your community can have more opportunities for physical activity – we can help!

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership can assist your efforts to make your community a place where kids can easily be active and healthy. We are offering long-term, free technical assistance to a disadvantaged community in California that are working to obtain funding to support of walking, bicycling and Safe Routes to School. We are specifically interested in helping communities seeking funding from the State’s Active Transportation Program in either the 2018 or 2019 cycles.

Eligibility is limited to those who are eligible to apply to the State of California’s Active Transportation Program, but who have not previously received ATP funding for this project. At the current time, eligible applicants include local government agencies, school districts and other government entities. Nonprofits and community-based organizations are ineligible to apply, but can partner with a government agency on this application. Please see the draft 2018 ATP Guidelines for information on eligibility and the type of projects available for funding. Applicants must also be willing and able to commit staff time and availability to the project during the technical assistance period.

To apply, simply describe your community need in detail on the application form available here. Our staff of experts will review and score the applications and select a community for this opportunity. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, but are due December 15, 2017, by 5pm PT. If you have any questions during the application process, please contact Jonathan Matz, California Senior Policy Manager: jonathan@saferoutespartnership.org
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a Real World Examples Grid as part of the Community Preventive Services Task Force's Built Environment Recommendation to Increase Physical Activity. The document features combined built environment intervention approaches that connect activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations that are safe and convenient for people of all abilities to walk, run, bike, skate, or use wheelchairs. By pairing together multimodal transportation systems and land use and environmental design, studies have shown increases in physical activity levels among community members. Included in the CDC’s examples is the Watts Neighborhood in Los Angeles, which established a network of walking paths with public art. The CDC’s Real World Examples Grid is available here.
Planners talk about shapes and shaping all the time. Phrases like, “the shape of things to come”, or how “plans shaped a community”, are part of everyday conversation. For the 2018 APA California Conference, we’re seeking sessions about how something you did changed the shape of a community. Perhaps you shaped something that changed you, or even our profession. We want to hear about projects or ideas that have transformed, or shape-shifted, unexpectedly. And of course, we want to hear about shapes that were intended to be one thing, but ended up as another. Mostly we want to hear about your ideas for the shape of the future, and your plans to get us all there.

Conference Tracks
- **Planning for Inclusion** – One Size Fits All? - As California continues to evolve as a wonderfully diverse state, how do we ensure that planning safeguards the physical character and diversity of a community? How do planners provide opportunities to address affordability and shape the equitable redevelopment of communities for all? Is it possible to plan for inclusion while avoiding homogeneity?
- **Interfaces: Where Things Collide** - What happens when different priorities exert force on one another (e.g. environmental protection vs. the affordable housing crisis)? How is the approach to planning changing in the midst of increased pressure at the intersections of competing needs and priorities?
- **Solutions and Innovation** - Planning has a role in shaping solutions, crossing borders, and inspiring innovation. We seek out new partnerships and creative approaches to challenges. When faced with new methods and technology, do we find the same results? How does the need for sustainable solutions lead to lasting results for places and people?
- **Good Intentions, Unintended Consequences** - Whether it is a community initiative, project goal, or regulation, it all starts with good intentions - sometimes the best of intentions. When the unintended consequences start to overshadow good intentions, do you stop and question, stay the course, change direction, or withdraw?

Session Format and Moderator Information
While considering how to shape your session, also consider using a unique delivery. Would a healthy debate or design charrette help draw out the important concepts? How could you better engage your audience in the topic? Would a little amateur acting illustrate a point, or shape the discussion? As you shape your proposal, know that this conference is open to presentations that are out of the ordinary. While sessions should be proposed as 90-minutes in length, would attendees benefit if your session could be presented over two session blocks for a total of 3 hours - what unique format or type of engagement would the longer session allow attendees participate in?

All submittals must be made online by January 31, 2018 (click here to submit). Emailed, faxed, or mailed submittals will not be accepted. If you have questions about submitting a proposal, contact the Programs Subcommittee Co-Chairs: either Anna McPherson, AICP, at AMcPherson@sandiego.gov, or Mark Teague, AICP, at Teague@PlaceWorks.com.

Please note that this is not the pathway for Student Program or Mobile Workshop proposals. Those subcommittees are working separately to develop their programs. If you have a Student Program idea please email Melanie Tylke at melanietylke@gmail.com, or a Mobile Workshop idea can be sent to Brian Grover at bgrover@dudek.com.

Proposal Contents
All sessions proposals submitted must provide:
Session Title, Summary, Abstract, Session Type, Panelist Bios and Contact Information
Our Certified Farmers Market aligns with the mission of the County’s Culture of Health and the CEO’s Goal to improve health and promote livable communities through partnerships, policies, systems and initiatives. It is also one of the strategic goals of the Healthy Riverside County Initiative for healthy eating.

Vendors will be providing: fruits, vegetables, eggs, berries, oils, honey, bread, flowers...and much more!

County Administrative Center

**When:**
Every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Where:**
Located in the courtyard of the County Administrative Center (4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA 92501), on the corner of Lemon and 10th Street.

Riverside University Health System - Medical Center

**When:**
Every Thursday (except major holidays) from 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Where:**
Located steps from the Cactus Avenue entrance of the Medical Center (26520 Cactus Avenue, Moreno Valley, CA 9255)

2018 General Membership Meeting Schedule

We are pleased to announce our 2018 Meeting Schedule!

The Riverside County Health Coalition Mission:

The Riverside County Health Coalition is a public and private partnership whose mission it is to promote, improve, and sustain social and physical environments for healthy eating behaviors and active lifestyles for wellness through policy development and advocacy, environmental change, and community empowerment in Riverside County. To fulfill its mission, the Riverside County Health Coalition will gather, support, and mobilize partners from multiple domains; provide leadership and vision; and coordinate county-wide efforts in the promotion of healthier living throughout our county.

- Wednesday, January 17, 2018
- Wednesday, April 18, 2018
- Wednesday, July 18, 2018
- Wednesday, October 17, 2018

**Time:**
10 to 12 p.m. (9:45 registration)

**Where:**
Moreno Valley Towngate Community Center
13100 Arbor Park Lane
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

We look forward to seeing you in 2018!
UCLA Extension
32nd Annual Land Use Law & Planning Conference

UCLA Extension’s annual Land Use and Planning Conference is the leading source of information on California land use legislation, case law, and the emerging issues that frame land use and development practices in the nation’s most populous state. The program’s unique cross-discipline approach explores the full range of perspectives drawn from the land use planning, legal, development, and environment communities, and demonstrates how these factors influence the day-to-day work of planners, developers, environmental regulators, and attorneys.

When: Friday, January 19, 2018 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Millennium Biltmore Hotel
506 S Grand Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90071

For more information, here.

Walking Towards Justice Online Discussion
The Criminal Justice System’s Impact on Walking and Walkability in Low-Income and Communities of Color

To provide an open platform for discussion and aid in identifying potential solutions to improve walkability for ALL, America Walks has launched a new social equity-inspired online discussion series, Walking Towards Justice. Walking Towards Justice is a discussion series that integrates literature into a discussion regarding the intersectionality of mobility, race, class, gender, and politics.

In our second episode, we will be exploring the devastating impacts that social injustice within our legal system has had on people of color and low-income communities. Using the text The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander as a framework for the conversation, our panel of experts and advocates will discuss discrimination within our criminal justice system and how it intersects with the work (e.g., Vision Zero, safety outreach and education, equitable enforcement, etc.) being done by walkability advocates.

Webinar Featured Text: “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander

When: Thursday, January 18th, 2018 at 11 a.m. Pacific

Register here.
NEW for 2018, the New Partners for Smart Growth™ Conference program will feature eight thematic tracks — each focusing on a set of topics strongly connected to timely community issues and challenges, with smart growth and equity as the threads woven between and throughout each track.

The 2018 program will allow participants to go deeper into a topic, while continuing to connect back to broader placemaking efforts with a multidisciplinary group of partners tackling community challenges. Each track will provide participants the opportunity to move through a series of connected sessions with a multidisciplinary peer cohort of practitioners that all leave with an implementation strategy, new tools, models and templates to integrate into their work.

Participants, as always, will be able to attend sessions across tracks – picking and choosing which topics and sessions will provide them the most value – based on their subject interests, experience level or what they want to take away from the conference to apply in their communities back home. Coordinated keynotes and networking activities will also be included throughout the program to ensure that participants are learning and networking with a broad, multidisciplinary national audience.

Sessions within each track are organized by session type. Learn more about session types.

Thematic Track:
- Building Capacity in Small Towns and Rural Communities
- “One Water” for Resilient Communities
- Adapting to a Changing Climate
- Improving Transportation and Accessibility and Connectivity
- Designing Healthy Communities
- Creating Housing for Everyone
- Planning and Designing Smart-Growth Communities
- Inclusive Prosperity of People and Place

When:
February 1 – 3, 2018
San Francisco, California

Register here.

Early bird rates have been extended until December 20!

Special Offer to HCN Subscribers!
Use the code: NP18BlueZones to receive an additional 10% OFF of any full conference (non-speaker) registration. (i.e., 10% off the early-bird Public Sector rate of $420, a savings of $42!)

Thank you for reading
HCN Connect!