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
News and More

Volume II. No. 10
October 2017

Let us feature your story, event or resource in HCN Connect!

Do you have a plan, program or endeavor designed to improve your community’s health?
Do you have a resource you would like to share with the HCN? Please let us know!

Please submit ideas for the next publication by: October 30, 2017

Contact
Salomeh Wagaw, MPH swagaw@rivcocha.org (951) 358-5557
Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP mvazquez@rivcocha.org (951) 358-7171

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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.
SB 1000 Toolkit: Planning for Healthy Communities

Via the California Environmental Justice Alliance

A history of poor and discriminatory land use practices has put the majority of polluting industries in the backyards of the most disenfranchised local communities, right next to homes and schools. Consequently, low-income communities and communities of color are more likely to suffer from exposure to toxic chemicals, leading to higher rates of asthma, birth defects and cancers. For years, CEJA has been advancing state legislation to remedy these environmental injustices.

Equitable land use planning is now more likely to become a reality through SB 1000, “The Planning for Healthy Communities Act”, authored by Senator Connie Leyva and co-sponsored by the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCEA) in 2016. Under SB 1000, cities and counties are required to adopt an Environmental Justice element, or integrate EJ-related policies, objectives, and goals throughout other elements of their General Plan. The bill also includes a process for communities to become meaningfully involved in the decision-making processes that govern land use planning in their neighborhoods.

The SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit, prepared collaboratively by CEJA and PlaceWorks Inc., is a guidance document intended for local governments, planners, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders who will be working to develop an Environmental Justice Element or a set of environmental justice policies for their General Plans to meet the requirements of SB 1000. Download the Executive Summary here.

This toolkit provides background information on the requirements of SB 1000, then walks users through a process to identify “disadvantaged” or “EJ” communities with the most current tools. The toolkit also provides best practices for promoting meaningful community engagement throughout the EJ planning process, and guidance on how to develop environmental justice objectives and policies in General Plans. Finally, this resource presents five case studies to showcase different approaches on planning for environmental justice across California and considers potential funding sources to support local governments’ work on an Environmental Justice Element or related policies. Taken as a whole, this toolkit aims to help governments fulfill the requirements of SB 1000 and develop an environmentally just General Plan that addresses the needs of disadvantaged and EJ communities as well as helping to ensure legal defensibility.

Some of the features of the SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit include:

- **Introducing planning processes to the community.** How to explain to the public and decision-makers what the process is intended to accomplish and how the community will be involved.
- **Identifying disadvantaged communities.** Learn how CalEnviroScreen and other statewide or regional resources to identify DACs can be used as tools that can be easily navigated by local planners.
- **Engaging the community.** We show how engagement can be accessible, transparent, and responsive to all stakeholders, and how to use a range of creative strategies to include all voices, such as storytelling, walking tours, social media, listening sessions.
- **Developing goals, objectives, and policies.** How to address topics such as pollution exposure, air quality, food access, public facilities, and programs that prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities.
- **Refining and adopting EJ goals, objectives, and policies.** With this toolkit, planners can begin to revise or draft an EJ Element incorporating community and decision-maker feedback.

This toolkit will ensure that local governments and community residents can work together to proactively plan for and address environmental justice concerns at the outset when developing the long-term goals, policies, and visions to guide the future growth of their cities. Our hope is that this toolkit will provide useful strategies to prevent the unhealthy mix of industry, homes, and residents, and promote policies that improve the health and well-being of our state’s most vulnerable communities.
Sixteen years ago, I attended my first APA California Chapter Conference in the city of Sacramento. I had just completed my BA in Urban Studies and Planning from Cal State Northridge. I was there to present my student paper focused on the evolution of the City of Los Angeles examined through the city planning lens. Last week, I returned to California’s capital to once again attend this year’s conference. This time around, I was quite busy doing all kinds of things, including speaking at two sessions, giving a presentation to the APA California Board of Directors, participating in a Soapbox session, attending panel discussions, meeting old and new friends and examining our work as planners through the lens of public health. Here are some highlights I’d like to share:

Diversity Summit

According to the conference's program, the 2017 Diversity Summit focused on how planners can better support vulnerable communities from displacement due to political, economic or social forces. It included a review of Sacramento’s urban renewal history and how it has resulted in changing neighborhoods and culture throughout the city during the past six decades. The focus was on recent successes and continued challenges from urban renewal and how the City was able to become Time Magazine’s most “inclusive large city” in the early 2000s. Ultimately, the goal was to have a robust discussion on lessons learned and what issues and challenges planners need to consider during their daily work. The panel included Dan Amsden, AICP, Director of Sacramento Operations at MIG Inc.; Chris Lango, a filmmaker; Yolanda Moses, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Excellence, and Executive Director for Conflict Resolution at the University of California, Riverside; and Katie Valenzuela Garcia who is Principal Consultant, Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies as speakers.

One important resource shared during the summit was a short film on the history of redevelopment in the City of Sacramento. The documentary depicts Sacramento’s success as a national model for reconfiguring the build environment in downtowns across America through financial schemes that included a minuscule, or not at all, concern for the displacement of people of color, minorities and the poor.

California Planners4Health Initiative

For the past few months, I have been involved with the California Planners4Health Initiative along with a group other dedicated volunteers and our project manager Linda Khamoushian. As part of completing the initial phase of this exciting initiative, I presented a proposed strategic plan to the APA California Board of Directors. This document is intended to ensure that California planners have the tools, are well informed and connected to continue to advance the healthy communities movement at the local and state levels. The presentation was well-received and the topic will be revisited for consideration during the Board’s annual retreat once the grant’s final report is completed.

Story Telling for Planners

My friend James Castaneda invited me to be on a panel he had been wanting to assemble for a long time in which planners could share examples of how story-telling approaches could be used in planning processes. During the session, I was given the opportunity to share a photovoice created by high school students from the eastern Coachella Valley as part of the Land Use Planning Awareness (LUPA) project we have developed at the Department of Public Health in Riverside County. My other friend James Rojas who was also part of the panel shared how his Place It! method can be used as a story telling strategy. He also secured participation of John Moody, Creative Director at Invisible Cities Studio who share excerpts of his short films including one from LA in which people’s stories are intertwined with the built environment. To read more, click here.
2017 marked the first year that the International Cycling Safety Conference was held outside of Europe and inside of California’s own City of Davis. Over 150 researchers, professionals, and bicycle advocates from around the world gathered on September 21st – 23rd to learn from the various sessions and presentations addressing cycling safety.

The conference’s key note speakers included Emiko Atherton (National Complete Streets Coalition Director), Peter G. Furth (Professor of Civic and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University), and Bill Schultheiss (VP and Principal Engineer at Toole Design Group). Their presentations had a unifying message; to design complete streets that would address the needs of the most vulnerable users, cyclists and pedestrians. Based on the examples and research the speakers presented, the priority that the United States places on vehicular traffic became evident. We must take a multidisciplinary approach to address the issues this has caused.

Since the City of Davis is considered as the “Bicycling Capital of the United States,” it was appropriate for the city to host the conference this year as it celebrates its 50th anniversary for becoming the first US city to install bicycle lanes on city streets. This bike friendly infrastructure and the connectivity of the bike paths made it easy to ride over 35 miles in the three days that I was there, and it gave me satisfaction to be able to experience first hand what can be achieved when cities also prioritize non-motorized users.

Locally, as the County of Riverside works towards increasing active transportation, I invite you to participate in our Riverside County Active Transportation Network whose goal is “to improve the quality of life in Riverside County through the expansion of active modes of transportation that create economic opportunities, improve overall health and safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and reduce congestion.” Our next meeting is scheduled on November 15, 2017. I look forward to working towards creating a more pedestrian and bike friendly county with the knowledge I have obtained. For RivCoATN information, please email dramirez@rivcocha.org.
Apply for Technical Assistance to Create Healthy, Economically Vibrant Communities

• Local Food, Local Places 2017-2018 Application
  Local Foods, Local Places helps communities reinvest in existing neighborhoods and revitalize downtowns through the development of local food systems. To date, nearly 80 communities have benefited from assistance with support from EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority.
  Learn how to apply for the Local Foods, Local Places Program: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places-2017-2018-application

• Healthy Places for Healthy People 2017-2018 Call for Applications
  Healthy Places for Healthy People helps community leaders and health care partners focus on health as an economic driver and catalyst for downtown and neighborhood revitalization. Health care partners include community health centers (including Federally Qualified Health Centers), nonprofit hospitals and other health care facilities. To date, 10 communities have benefited from assistance with support from EPA and the Appalachian Regional Commission. Healthy Places for Healthy People provides assistance for communities that are economically challenged, including those in rural Appalachia.
  Learn how to apply for the Healthy Places for Healthy People Program: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/healthy-places-healthy-people-2017-2018-application


Community Change Grant
Apply today!

America Walks is excited to extend another round of community change micro grants to individuals and communities interested in improving the public sphere for walking or otherwise helping to make walking more commonplace.

This program awards up to $1,500 to fund or help to catalyze smaller-scale, low-cost projects and programs that increase the prevalence of walking, expand the diversity of people and organizations working to advance walkability, and help to make walking safer, easier, and more fun for all community members. Advocates must be diligent in making sure that every community member has access to the many benefits of walking and walkability, and it is our hope that these funds can help with that.

Now in its third year, these grants to-date have provided catalytic assistance with innovative projects across the country, from maps that help encourage residents to explore their neighborhoods on foot to murals that help to enliven the pedestrian realm to targeted advertising that has helped to get the word out about existing walking programs. We’re excited to see what you come up with!

This program is possible with support from partners of the Every Body Walk! Collaborative, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and other generous sponsors.

Learn more about the grant program here.
Planning for the California Trails & Greenways 2018 is well underway and we are now actively seeking proposals for (1) the optional pre-conference workshops taking place Tuesday, March 27, 2018; (2) the educational breakout sessions taking place Wednesday and Thursday, March 28 and 29, 2018; and (3) professional, volunteer and merit awards being presented on Thursday, March 29, 2018. Workshop and session presenters will receive $25 off conference registration. Award recipients will be hosted at the Awards Dinner. Download more information and proposal/nominations forms below.

Workshops
Pre-conference workshops are generally day-long events providing hands-on or field learning experiences. Proposals may include any of the full range of topics and skills required to plan, construct, manage and interpret trails. Pre-conference workshops offered at past conferences can be reviewed in the archives here. Download the workshop proposal form.

Sessions
Educational break-out sessions are one hour and cover the full range of trail and greenway topics. Please note that the sessions are highly competitive and only well-developed and highly relevant proposals presented by qualified experts will be accepted. Past sessions can be reviewed in the archives here. Download the session proposal form.

Awards
The California Trails & Greenways 2018 Awards Program is an opportunity to bring acknowledgement and appreciation to the individuals, organizations, agencies, and businesses that, through their hard work, integrity, and social responsibility, have made outstanding contributions that promote, enhance, or expand public awareness and use of trails and greenways in California during calendar year 2017. Each award recipient will receive one complimentary ticket to the awards event on Thursday, March 29, 2018.

All nominees must exemplify integrity, and social and environmental responsibility. Nominees must meet the criteria of the award. Failure to demonstrate that the nominee meets these criteria may disqualify the nomination. Nominations within each category will be ranked by the judges from lowest to highest based on the responses to the narrative questions. The nominee with the highest ranking within each category will be that category’s award recipient. NOTE, the "award year" is the full calendar year of 2017. Decisions by the Awards Committee are considered final.
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 provide: 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)

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**Riverside County Health Coalition General Membership Meeting**

This meeting will focus on the Creating Healthy Communities priority area of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Access to affordable, healthy food options is an essential component of a healthy community. In Riverside County, some communities face barriers to accessing healthy foods due to income, transportation and density of grocery stores. As we strive to improve the health and well-being of our communities, multi-sector collaboration is needed to improve the availability and affordability of healthy food in Riverside County. For more information, please contact: Dianne Leibrandt, dleibrandt@rivcocha.org.

**When:**
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 from 10 a.m. – noon.

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

Click [here](#) to RSVP!

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**State of the Latino Health Event**

The Latino Health Collaborative, a program of Reach Out, will be hosting a State of the Latino Health event in the upcoming weeks. The purpose of the event is to bring together everyone in the community in both San Bernardino and Riverside County to discuss health issues in a holistic approach related to general socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions. The topics of discussion will be focused on Nutrition, Education, Work Environment, Unemployment, Healthcare Services, and Housing. We would like to welcome members of the community in Public Health, Workforce Development, School District, Housing, Faith-based, College Students, Residents, etc. to participate and share your insights related to your fields.

If you or anyone you many know is interested in attending this event, please click [here](#) to subscribe to our Constant Contact list to receive updates.

For more information, please contact Celina Lopez, Latino Health Collaborative Manager at (909)982-8641 or by email at celina.lopez@we-reachout.org.
Abstract:
The city of Riverside’s rich history is clearly manifested in its built and natural environments. Unquestionably, the Mission Inn is the most prominent and celebrated landmark tied to a romanticized narrative that lead to the emergence of one of the largest global economies in the world: the State of California.

This year’s symposium will explore Riverside’s agrarian origins that permitted the creation of wealth through farming, land speculation, real estate and entertainment. Through different perspectives, speakers will explore contributions in planning, design and art from visionaries whose common denominator is the Mission Inn.

Partial List of Speakers:
- **Patrick Brien;** Executive Director, Riverside Arts Council
- **Erin L. Gettis, M. Arch, Associate AIA;** City Historic Preservation Officer and Principal Planner, City of Riverside
- **Steve Lech;** Historian, Author
- **Mark Roberson, M. Arch, AIA;** Dean, College of Architecture, Visual Arts & Design at California Baptist University, Professor of Architecture

When:
Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Where:
Mission Inn Hotel & Spa
3649 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside CA 92501

Click [here](#) to RSVP.
**There is a cost associated with the event and a max of 75 attendees.**