

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



MORE INFO :

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

02

Message from President

08

Communications

03

Mission & Board

09

Notable Partnerships & Speakers

04

Budget

12

Regional Representative +
Emerging Planners' Report

06

Chapter Membership

16

Student Representatives

Message From Our President

Lynda Eisenberg, AICP



2023 Reflection

The Maryland APA chapter is back on “track” and actively engaging in planning activities! We have made conscious efforts to resume normal activities and hosted several successful events in 2023. Let’s take a closer look at some of the notable events from the year and what’s in store for 2024:

Hosting Secretaries of MDP and MDOT in June brought together these key decision-makers for a robust discussion with the membership. It provided valuable insight to the new state leadership and how we as planners can help lead the way to help with climate change resiliency, housing instability, and multi-modal transportation growth.

Co-hosting a reception at NPC 23 (with the National Capitol Chapter and Federal Planning Division): Collaborating with other chapters and divisions enhanced networking opportunities and knowledge sharing. The reception was an amazing platform for networking in our region to help foster collaboration and partnership. Home for the Holidays Event: Featured state and local elected officials, as well as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD DHCD), this event focused on community development and housing issues. It’s heartening to see planners engaging with policymakers.

Finally, we honored long-time planners in our chapter who contributed to the profession in transformational and long-lasting ways. I wish Jenny Plummer-Welker, Jaqueline Rouse and Helen Spinelli all the best in their next adventure, and thank you for your service to the chapter and the profession.

Looking ahead to 2024, your chapter has exciting plans:

APA MD & MPCA Annual Conference (October 20-22, 2024): The first combined conference by the Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA MD) will focus on collaboration between citizen planning boards and professional planners. It’s a chance to tackle 21st-century challenges together. Don’t miss Two-Tracks One Goal!

As planners, we are entrusted with creating communities that we all collectively care about, ones that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and vibrant. My hope is the Maryland Chapter imbibes these values and continues to move the state and profession forward.

“A land full of places that are not worth caring about may soon be a nation and a way of life that is not worth defending.” James Howard Kunstler

Lynda Eisenberg, AICP

President, APA Maryland Chapter
Director, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

APA Maryland Chapter

Mission and Board Members



Mission Statement

The mission of the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) is to make great communities happen in Maryland by offering continuing professional development and other valuable services to our members that will enable them to excel in their practice. We advocate for excellence in planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing our members with the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

2023 Executive Committee

President: Lynda Eisenberg, AICP
President Elect: Vacant
Vice-President: Vacant
Secretary: Sarah Diehl, AICP
Treasurer: Chris Jakubiak, AICP
Past President: Helen Spinelli, AICP
Professional Development: Jaquelyn Rouse, AICP

Regional Representatives

- **Statewide:** Richard Hall, AICP
- **Western Maryland:** Alan Feinberg, AICP
- **Eastern Shore:** Stephen O'Connor, AICP
- **Southern Maryland:** Olivia Vidotto
- **Baltimore Metro Area:** Michael Bayer, AICP

Faculty Representatives

Morgan State University: Siddhartha Sen, Ph.D.
University of Maryland: Clara E. Irazábul Zurita, Ph.D.
Salisbury University: Amal Ali, Ph.D.

Student Representatives

Morgan State University: Stefani Spector
University of Maryland: Sam Gordon

Appointed Officers

Emerging Planners Group: Jasmine Forbes, AICP
Webmaster: Andrew Bernish, AICP | GISP
MD Dept of Planning Rep: Joe Griffiths, AICP

Business Manager

April Smith

Chapter Budget

2023 Expense Summary

the 2023 Budget for the Chapter was approved. The total revenues for the year include: \$29,520 whereas the estimated expenditures totaled \$31,020. This left a differenced of approximately \$1,500.

There were several things that weren't budgeted but seen as priorities. In order to continue to advertise the organization and but the word out, there were promotional items created for the 2023 National Conference.

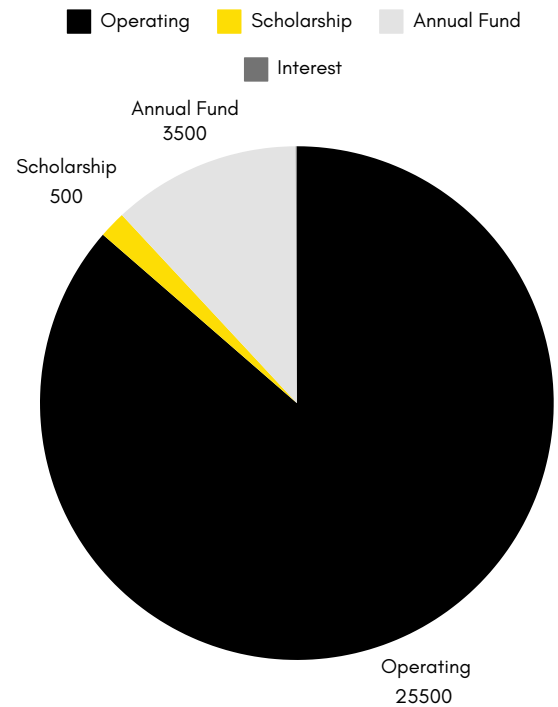
By holding events and utilizing Eventbrite, fundraising was contributed to the scholarship fund that was not originally anticipated as well.

2023 Budgeted Expenditures

Communications	\$550
Conferences/Training	\$5,000
Pro Development	\$1,500
MD Future Planner Fund	\$8,000
Executive Board Mtg	\$500
Activities & Pro Development	\$1,250
Regional Support	\$2,500
Association Support	\$1,300
Miscellaneous	\$4,420
Contract Support	\$6,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$31,020

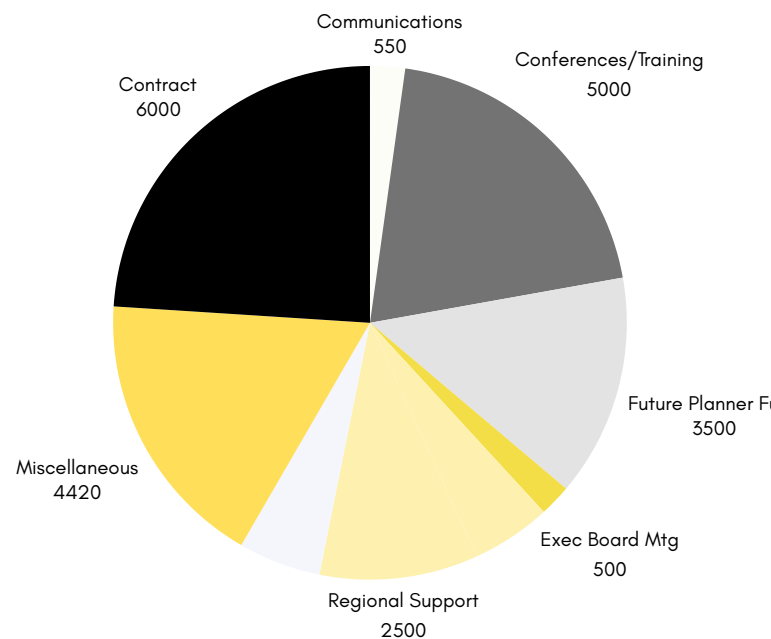
2023 Revenues

(Dollar Amount)



2023 Expenditures

(Dollar Amount)



Secretary Flora and Secretary Wiedefeld
Meet & Greet | June 15, 2023



Chapter Membership

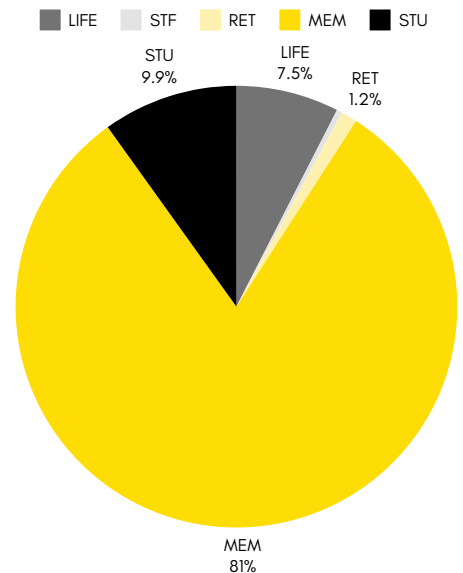
Lynda Eisenberg, AICP

The Chapter roster consisted of 505 dues paying members. Of these members, the following were in these categories:

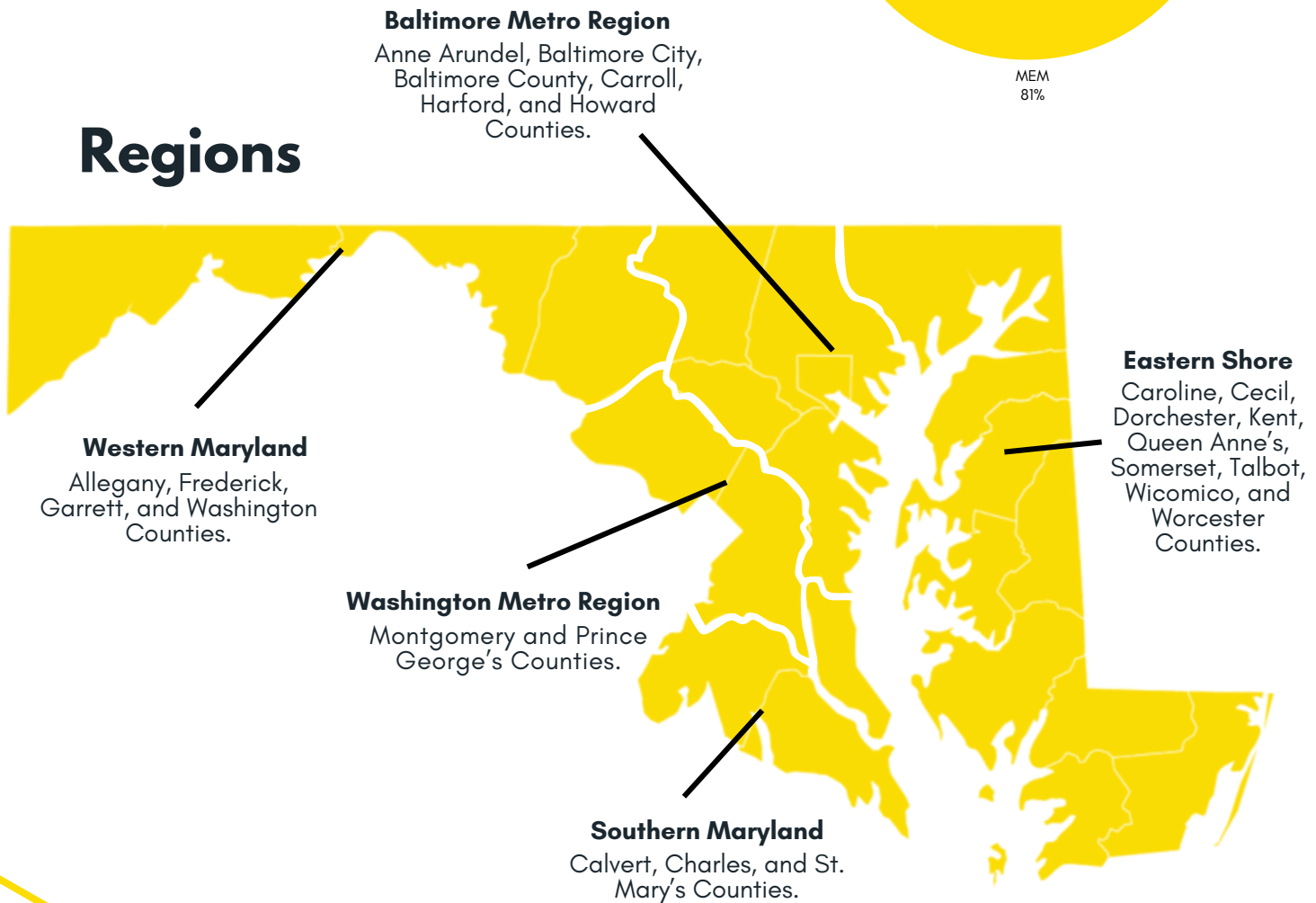
- STF (0.4%) Unknown
- RET (1.2%) APA Retired Member
- LIFE (7.5%) Lifetime Member
- STU (9.9%) APA Student
- MEM (81%) APA Regular Member

In 2023, the chapter proudly endorsed 2 member for FAICP! These members of the Chapter have made many contributions to the chapter and the state of Maryland in the field of Planning.

505 Members



Regions





**National Planning Conference
Joint Reception | April 1, 2023**



Chapter Communications

The Chapter was able to communicate with members of the organization in various ways including Facebook, Instagram, and Email. In order to connect with chapter members and others who have elected to be a part of the listserv, MailChimp services were also utilized.

Social Media:

There were several things highlighted on social media including other relevant events on Instagram stories throughout the year. notable highlights on Instagram and Facebook include:

1. *Student Representative:* University of Maryland's Student representative was highlighted on social media and through our e-mail notifications.
2. *National Conference Joint Reception:* Encouraged members to attend
3. *Message to Morgan State*
4. *Chapter Events*

MailChimp:

Bi-monthly (ever other month) communication was sent out to members to keep them abreast of what was occurring with the organization.

There are currently 1,161 Subscribers to the Mail Chimp ListServ. The open rate for emails that are sent out is roughly 45%

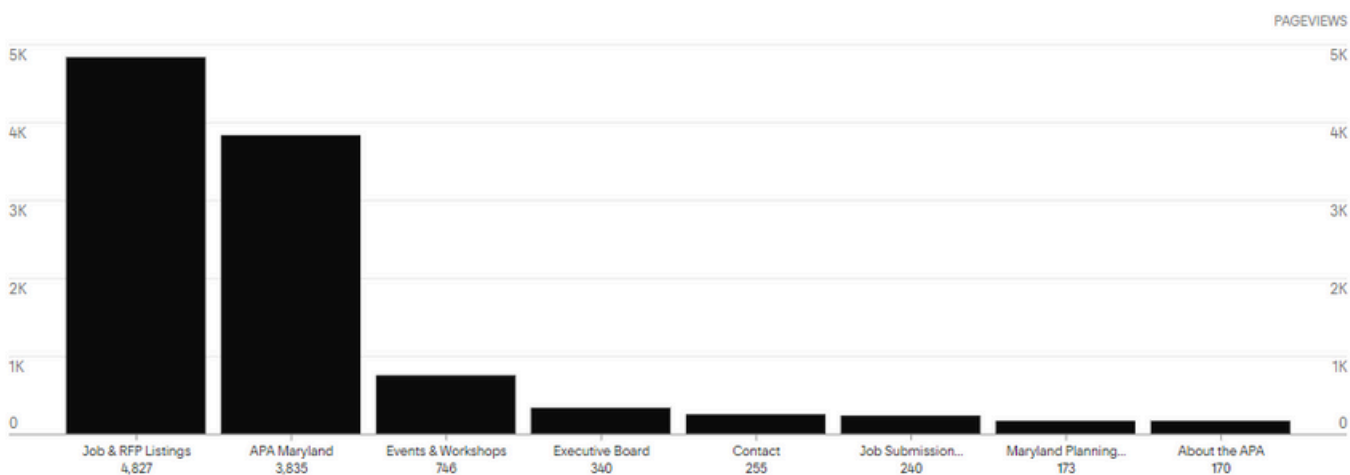
1,161 Subscribers

Website:

The Chapter's webpage continues to be a great source for connecting people to jobs and RFPs. The job posting page continues to get the most engagement. In 2023, there were 4, 827 views to this page. The site totaled 12,743 views.

Top Pageviews ?

Jan 1–Dec 31, 2023 • 83% of 12,743 Pageviews -1% yr/yr



Notable Partnerships & Speakers

In order to keep members engaged, the chapter worked to engaged several speakers that could keep members knowledgeable

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

Jake Day
Secretary of Housing & Community Development

Flora, AICP
Secretary of Planning
Maryland Department of Planning

Paul Wiedefeld
Secretary of Transportation
Maryland Department of Transportation

Clarence K. Lam
Senator

Jessica Feldmark
Delegate

Christina Rigby
Council Chair

**Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Brick Industries
Maryland Department of Planning**



National Conference Reception Collaboration

Chapter Recognitions

Because of their many years of service to the chapter and the field of planning, the following individuals were recognized by the APA Maryland Chapter.

- Jacqueline Rouse
- Helen Spinelli, AICP
- Jenny Plummer-Walker



Helen Spinelli, AICP & Jenny Plummer-Walker

Professional Development + Networking

Events and Activities

2023 Events + Highlights

Throughout the year, the chapter has hosted and co-hosted several events

January

Announced new executive committee members including new President, Lynda Eisenberg!

April

Joint Reception at NPC 2023
Philadelphia, PA
Collaborated with APC NCA, APA Federal, the National Trust for Historic Preservation

June

Meet and Greet + Happy Hour with Maryland's Secretary Rebecca Flora, Flora, AICP, LEED ND / BD + C (Secretary of Planning) and Secretary Wiedefeld (Secretary of Transportation)

September

Promoted the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation's inaugural Karl F.G. Du Puy Lecture in Urban Design

October

Promoted the Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA) Annual Statewide Conference

November

A Home for the Holidays
Columbia, Maryland



APA National Planning Conference + Reception
April 1, 2023



Executive Board Members
November 29, 2023

Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration

Webinars

The Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaboration is a joint venture of the Maryland, National Capital Area, Virginia and West Virginia Chapters along with the Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Planning Commissioners Association, Rural Planning Caucus of Virginia and West Virginia University's Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic. The intent is to address topics that may be of interest to people involved in planning at all levels across multiple regions.



February

Land Use Law Update

Discussed significant court cases that impact land use planners.

April

Maryland Department of Planning's Compatible Use and Development with Military Installations

Discussed best practices and resources for collaboration.

May

Planning for Clean Water: Chesapeake Bay Tributary Summaries and Data Dashboard.

Chesapeake Bay tools for accessing synthesis information for non-tidal water quality.

October

Off the Shelf and Into Action, How to Create an Implementable Comprehensive Plan

covered "implementable comprehensive plan" approach - principles and steps communities can employ to create plans elected officials and others can embrace and implement.

November

High-Resolution Land Use/Land Use Cover and Its Applications to Land Use Planning

Explored the Chesapeake Bay Program's 1-meter resolution Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) data and how it can be used by local land use planners.

Regional Representatives

Region Highlights and Trends

Each representative was asked to provide relevant information regarding their respective regions. If a representative didn't host an event, they were asked to provide information about efforts they supported, trends in their regions and/or things that should be on everyone's radar regarding that region.



Southern Maryland
Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties.

Olivia Vidotta, Planner III **Calvert County** **Southern Maryland**

A new bridge is proposed to replace the current Thomas Johnson Bridge in Solomons between Calvert and St. Mary's counties. A St. Mary's County Commissioner launched a survey asking for community input on a potential toll bridge built by a private company. 93% of 2,257 people who voted were in opposition. The responses were from St. Mary's County, Calvert County, other counties within Maryland and 16 responses outside of Maryland. Discussion of a new bridge is still ongoing with future updates expected.

Calvert County Government is working on updating the Zoning Ordinance along with Master Plan updates. The draft is available online and there are public outreach sessions being held for review and comment.

A spring 2024 one-day conference is being planned to review agricultural uses with zoning restrictions and the solutions; A fall 2024 one-day conference is being planned to look at the challenges for commercial development and review other jurisdictions updated or proposed regulations and policies for commercial development.



Eastern Shore
Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

Stephen O'Connor, AICP **Eastern Shore Representative**

Stephen worked on promoting the chapter throughout the network of Eastern Shore planners in opportunities that are common to their shared interests. This includes the Critical Area 40 year summit, Maryland Association of Counties summer conference, Maryland Planning Commissioners Association conference, Planners affiliate, NPC in addition to chapter activities and events; A fall 2024 one-day conference is being planned to look at the challenges for commercial development and review other jurisdictions updated or proposed regulations and policies for commercial development.

Regional Representatives

Region Highlights and Trends



Western Maryland

Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties.

Alan Feinberg Independent Planner

The pandemic was largely responsible for creating the Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaborative (MAPC) when we reached out to support West Virginia and involve other surrounding state chapters. It has been a huge boon to planning in the region with many training courses produced. It is particularly important in an area like western Maryland where professional planners are few and far between, which has made the role of representing them particularly challenging.

One of MAPC's webinars was very relevant in dealing with a different approach to implementable comprehensive planning. Two veteran Pennsylvania planners wrote this book: *Off the Shelf and Into Action*. It has demonstrated its effectiveness in several communities in the state and will probably be useful in Maryland.

The reliance on citizen planners is key to their owning and shaping their own communities. Remote areas like West Virginia have been an outstanding example of the necessity of educating and engaging citizen planners. This is why establishing more community planning academies is becoming essential in both rural and urban places.

The Maryland Planning Commissioner's fall conference was a terrific way to meet and work with a broad and diverse number of citizens already deeply involved with their communities and important connections were made. Also, MD-APA participated in the two-day Mobilize Frederick Climate Conference and was well received by a diverse group of people who weren't quite aware of all we do. There are more events like this that offer an opportunity to talk to 'regular people about how planning affects their lives and how they can participate.

**Holiday Gathering:
A Home for the Holidays**
November 29, 2023



Emerging Planners Group (EPG)

Organization Highlights and Trends



Jasmine Forbes, AICP

Chair, Emerging Planners Group

Jasmine supported the group by attending monthly executive committee. In order to get the group up and running, Jasmine drafted a mentorship program that would connect seasoned planners with Emerging Planners. Though there was not much traction with this initiative, the goal is to come up with other ideas and ways to support emerging planners throughout the state of Maryland.

Faculty Representatives

Organization Highlights and Trends



Dr. Siddhartha Sen

Morgan State University

Catering for City Planning Super Jury Presentations (May 2023) was co-sponsored by MD APA and School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P) at Morgan. The semester culminating review of student work from various Spring 2023 courses and capstone professional projects. APA members comprised most of the visiting jury members.



Amal K. Ali, PhD

Program Director & Professor, Urban & Regional Planning (URPL) Program | Salisbury University (SU)

Dr. Ali has led the URPL Program & Smart Growth Club to support the Planning profession and education. In 2023, the URPL Program organized a major public event in which Jake Day, Maryland Secretary of Housing and Community Development was the guest speaker. Through his lecture titled, "A Bright Future for MD Communities: Creating Lovable Places and Opportunity for All," Secretary Day explained major state policies to address current housing needs and challenges.

To help URPL students develop their professional skills and prepare for careers in Planning, Dr. Ali coordinated the Planning Internship Program sponsored by the Maryland Department of Planning and Department of Natural Resources. Also, she administered the Elkins Internship Award to provide financial support for students performing internships in Planning. Thus, 2023 was a very productive year for SU future planners.

Student Representatives

Organization Highlights and Trends



Sam Gordon

Student Representative
University of Maryland

The APA Maryland Chapter continues to serve as a strong year-in and year-out supporter of the Master of Community Planning (MCP) program at the University of Maryland, College Park. It has been an exciting time on university campuses across the country this past year as classes and other educational opportunities have been returning to their traditional in-person format. Thanks to the generous financial support from the APA Maryland Chapter and the program department, the 2023 Graduate Student Planning Association had the opportunity to send 8 students to Philadelphia for the annual APA National Planning Conference in April. With it being only the second National Planning Conference to be held in person since 2019 due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, this kind of in-person learning and networking opportunity was impactful and had been sorely missed by our current generation of students. The return of these kinds of opportunities has led to greater levels of engagement from the MCP student body throughout the year for social, professional, and academic events. We look forward to continuing this momentum into 2024. Thank you for the support!



Students Pictured Left to Right: Sam Gordon, Maura Dwyer, Salma Haoudi, Angela Brooks, Alanna Anderson, Pamela Owusu Nkwantabisah, Dominique Gebru, Hoang Edullantes

**Holiday Gathering:
A Home for the Holidays**
November 29, 2023



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Report Created by: April Smith

