

## URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 26, 2021

It's hard to believe we only have three weeks left until the last day of classes. We noticed that the past few weeks have been especially challenging and stressful, go outside, enjoy the warmer weather, and meet friends.

Graduating students, first of all, congratulations on submitting your first drafts of the thesis. March 31 is the deadline to [submit your information](#) for commencement slides. Make sure to update your diploma address on SSOL too.

We are collecting submissions for the **Spring 2021 Semester-in-Review Newsletter**. This serves as the main repository for our department's work this semester and we encourage all to share any updates and reflections. Please submit through this [form](#) by April 12.

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Join the [HPD Alumni Discussion](#) tonight at 8 PM with **Eddy Almonte** (19'), Neighborhood Planner at HPD; **Jen Jacobs-Guzman** (07'), Chief of Staff, New Construction at HPD; and **Francis Yu** (19'), Housing Fellow at HPD/HDC. They will share their career path and information about public sector jobs in the city government

Join the [APA/AICP Exam Workshop](#) tomorrow, March 27 from 9 AM to 11 AM. MSUP alumni **Alex Wallach** (12') and **Anna Stokes** (19') will share information about AICP organization and certification.

**Prof. Weiping Wu** and **Emily Junker** will be hosting a [Pre-Registration Advising Session](#) to answer questions about Fall 2021 classes on Friday, April 2 at 7 PM.

Our program is sponsoring students to attend the [Regional Planning Association \(RPA\) Assembly](#) taking place on May 3 to May 7. Every year, the RPA convenes policy experts, public officials, business leaders, and influential advocates to debate bold solutions to the tri-state metropolitan region's most pressing challenges.

Discounted student tickets are available for \$25 until May 1. Continuing MSUP students can sign up for sponsorship by the UP Program to attend the assembly on [this form](#). Please sign up by April 1.

SIPA Career Services is hosting the **Career Series: Urban and Social Policy** event on Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30 PM. Panelists from the NYC government (HPD, Health, Mayor's Office, DoT), NYCEDC, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and others will speak to students. Register [here](#) in advance and use this [Zoom link](#) to join.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION UPDATES



### Urban China Network (UCN)

UCN launched a student initiative: [Urban Reflections on COVID-19](#), co-organized by [Columbia Global Centers | Beijing](#) and Columbia University. This student initiative asks participants to discuss the phenomenon and heuristic solutions within the field of Chinese Urbanism, and to provide ideas of how to manage this crisis in a post-pandemic future. The initiative seeks creative and in-depth insights and discussions that identify urban issues and solutions related to COVID-19 in China. All submissions are required to include any elements of Chinese Urbanism, whether the work is a comparative thinking, an idea developed or inspired by planning in China or on the Chinese Urbanism itself. First-prize will receive \$1,000 awards and Second-price pieces will receive \$200 awards. For more information, please contact [urbanchinanetwork@gmail.com](mailto:urbanchinanetwork@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING GSAPP EVENTS



### Stop Go Pivot (Real Estate Conference)

Friday, March 26

Today is the second day of the annual MSRED conference at GSAPP. [Three events today](#) will address the opportunities and challenges in a distressed urban environment, strategies to create resilient communities in the pandemic, and hear directly from industry leaders on their experience navigating a crisis.

### Mabel O. Wilson

6 PM, Monday, March 29

GSAPP professor Mabel O. Wilson will deliver a [lecture](#) with response by Dean [Amale Andraos](#). She recently co-curated the *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America* exhibition at the MoMA and co-edited a recent book, *Race and Modern Architecture*. She has been at the forefront of exploring race relations in the built environment.

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS



### 2021 TDC-MIT Transportation and Infrastructure Summit

*"Reconnecting Communities"*

APR 19, 2021 10AM—5PM



### After the Joe Biden Election: Which Reset for Climate Policy?

11 AM, Monday, March 29

Join the event hosted by the Earth Institute, SIPA and the Alliance Program (Columbia University and Sciences Po) discussing changes in climate policy in the [Joe Biden administration](#). [Jonathan Elkind](#), Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy; [Scott Barrett](#), Vice-Dean of SIPA; and [Brendan Devlin](#), Directorate General for Energy at the European Commission will be in discussion.

### Food For Thought: Building Diversity in the Manhattanville Community

12 PM, Wednesday, March 31

Since 2003, Columbia began working with leaders in West Harlem to develop a long-term campus plan. This event will highlight Columbia's efforts to create a diversity plan, development of the Community Benefits Agreements, and share goals and achievements of campus expansion built with the local community in mind.

### David N. Dinkins Leadership & Public Policy Forum

5 PM, Tuesday, March 30

The annual conference at SIPA named after the [first \(and only\)](#) African American Mayor elected in New York City will hold its second online event. NY Attorney General [Letitia James](#), Professor, [Basil Smikle](#), and Daughter of the Movement [Stacy Lynch](#) will be in conversation with [Michael Butler](#), 98th Mayor of Philadelphia, and [David N. Dinkins](#), Professor of Professional Practice in Urban and Public Affairs at SIPA.

### 2021 TDC-MIT Transportation and Infrastructure Summit

Monday, April 19

This year's summit features keynote presentations from [Leslie Richards](#) (General Manager, SEPTA) and [Dr. Shawn Wilson](#) (Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development), as well as panel discussions addressing the theme of "Reconnecting Communities". The summit panels feature industry leaders from the public and private sectors and cover such topics as transportation equity, COVID-19 recovery, uniting urban and rural priorities, and transportation sustainability. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni can register for free at [tinyurl.com/tdcmit2021](https://tinyurl.com/tdcmit2021). Contact [tdcsummit@mit.edu](mailto:tdcsummit@mit.edu) for any questions or comments.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

[Housing Bias: An undercover investigation found widespread bias against tenants receiving Section 8 federal housing assistance.](#)

[Asian Americans and Racism: In a year of criminal justice reforms, attacks on Asian Americans are raising questions about the right way to protect a community against racism.](#)

## MENTORS OFFICE HOURS

Writing Mentor (Geon Woo Lee) Office Hours are available both Tuesday (8-10pm) and Wednesday (5-7pm) this semester, subject to change. Please sign-up for a 45-minute time slot via [Calendly](#). Walk-Ins are allowed only for the last 30-minutes.

Digital Mentor (Elaine Hsieh) Office hours are available both Monday (1-3pm), Thursday (9-11am), and Friday (12-2pm) this semester, subject to change. Please sign-up via [Calendly](#). Walk-Ins are also allowed, priority will be given to those who sign-up.

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