



HARVARD URBAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME



The [Harvard Urban Planning Organization \(HUPO\)](#) and I would like to first and foremost welcome all of our incoming urban planning students to the Graduate School of Design. We are delighted that you have decided to join the Master's of Urban Planning program and assure you that HUPO will do all it can to ensure you have a great experience at the GSD. We also welcome back all of the second year students; we hope you had a great summer of work, travel, and leisure.

With this first newsletter we want to re-introduce ourselves to the MUP class and give you a run-down of some of the events and activities that are scheduled for this academic year. Since our foundation in 2014 HUPO has been working to enhance the educational and professional development of the urban planning students. We have done this in a number of formal and informal ways. For example, we coordinate sessions with the Loeb Fellows; provide information on American Planning Association (APA) events; sponsor pecha-kucha learning exchange nights; and host happy hours throughout the year. HUPO strives to make your time at Harvard productive and worthwhile and values a strong relationship with the class. Therefore, we welcome your feedback and your ideas.

The majority of this newsletter has been dedicated to learning about everyone's summer internships and activities. Whether it was researching CO2 emissions with the World Bank in Vietnam, or mapping socially-vulnerable communities with FEMA in Washington, D.C., this summer was one for the records! In this newsletter we are excited to share with you some upcoming events at the GSD, Harvard-wide, and in the greater Boston area. We are also providing additional resources for those shopping for classes the first few weeks of school, amongst many other things.

Stay with us and expect more!

Andrés Quinche, Communication Chair

EVENTS



While we understand your course work might take over your life as the semester moves on, we do encourage you to participate in the numerous events hosted not only at Harvard, but city-wide. We have provided a short list of some upcoming events that might be of interest to the class. If you have additional suggestions, please do not hesitate to let us know. Also make sure you are constantly checking our website for updates on upcoming events.

September 2016

[Museum of Fine Arts, First Fridays](#)

Friday, September 2nd at 6pm

[American Planning Association, North New England Planning Conference](#)

Tuesday, September 6 through Thursday, September 8 all day

[Exhibition Opening: "Contemporary Architecture in China"](#)

Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30pm

[Office for Urbanization: "Heliomorphism"](#)

Thursday, September 15 at 6:30pm

[Harvard Urban Planning Organization, PARKing Day](#)

Friday, September 16th all day

[Urban Housing Unit Exhibit](#)

All of September

2016 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS



George Washington Bridge Site Visit

During the summer, a majority of MUP students completed research, internships, fellowships, or study abroad. The 2017 class worked with numerous organization representing academia, public, and private sector. Five students share with us their summer experience.

Erica Rothman

Port Authority of NY & NJ

New York, NY

This summer, I worked as an intern at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in the Chief Operating Officer's Storm Mitigation and Resilience Office (SMRO). The Port Authority is a public, bi-state agency that manages multiple airports, tunnels, and transit stations. The SMRO unit was formed immediately following Hurricane Sandy in 2012 to coordinate storm recovery efforts, and is now also working on longer-term resiliency projects in anticipation of future "superstorms" like Sandy.

My individual projects included developing internal progress reports that I presented directly to the COO with my boss; working on a team to crunch our quarterly and yearly financials that went up to the CFO; finalizing the department's "Lessons Learned and Best Practices Report" that summarizes the recommendations we are making to the board to streamline procedures necessary to obtain grant funds from FEMA and the FTA; sitting in on lots of meetings between my department and FEMA state representatives to negotiate

recovery funding; helping lay the groundwork for the development of an agency-wide resilience plan in the coming year; and day-to-day tasks as they came up, like writing memos, sorting operational cost codes, making presentations, and the like.

Though all this work wasn't a perfect match for my interests, and the job wasn't necessarily "planning" in the sense we understand from studio, I found it valuable to learn how a massive public agency works. The politics and institutional barriers that frame the work of initiating projects, getting money, or making initiatives for change are unfathomably complex, and I was forced to acknowledge in a real-world setting all the potential limitations on a planner's capacity to serve the public. That's a dark takeaway - but I really did enjoy the internship, particularly working with a relatively new unit that is in the process of expanding, taking on a broader scope of work, and facilitating an institution's long-term vision to ensure the ongoing health of the region's critical infrastructure.

2016 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Clara Fraden

AHMM Architects

London, United Kingdom

I worked on a live bid for a 25-acre masterplan in Manchester, UK over the summer. Manchester City Council, the local authority, launched a tender process to enter into a joint venture partnership on the site nine years ago, and after various delays, the competition came down to three final bidders this year.

I was hired by an architecture firm (London-based AHMM), who was hired by a developer (London-based Urban&Civic), to determine who the proposed development intends to serve. I answered questions like: Who will live in the 1,300+ new homes? What types of commercial activity will the development cater toward? What temporary uses will the site build throughout the development process 1-30 years out?

To answer these questions, I read reports on trends and projections for the city and scoured local/regional/national news sources; hung out in the city, observing major thoroughways, transit hubs, public spaces, etc.; studied international precedents for mixed-used development and conducted interviews with residents and experts.

I really enjoyed working with an interdisciplinary team of architects, landscape architects, engineers, developers and public officials; but was weary that understanding who the development intended to serve was left to an intern to research and propose at the very end of the bid process.



2016 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS



Vietnam CO₂ Research Initiative

Howaida Kamel
The World Bank
Washington, D.C.

Transport-related emissions account for 20% of overall energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and 60% of all transport emissions are attributed to road transport. While there are methods to induce shifts from passenger cars to other means of public transit, there is no equivalent methodology to look at road freight transportation (a.k.a. trucks) in the same manner.

That said, this summer I worked with the Global Lead for Climate Change at the World Bank in D.C. to develop an agenda for regulatory reform in the trucking sector that would incentivize and permit the use of faster, better and fuller trucks and have the dual impact of lowering logistics costs and reducing the fuel-intensity of the transport sector. The work I was responsible for included (i) an analytical survey of the performance of trucks and their emission standards in BRICS countries, and (ii) identifying the barriers to efficiency in the trucking sector and the relevant policy levers that effect them.

The best and most intimidating part about my internship experience was that I was given this project to complete on my own. I very quickly became a “trucking expert” and had the autonomy to decide what factors would be most beneficial to survey on a country level diagnostic. I was even given the opportunity to travel to Vietnam for two weeks to test out the framework and provide recommendations for future policy actions to the Ministry of Transport. It was daunting walking into the meetings with only a translator and speaking on behalf of the World Bank, but it was a real confidence boost to know that I have the skills required to discuss government policy and reform measures.

2016 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Kevin Symcox

George Kaiser Family Foundation

Tulsa, Oklahoma

This summer I interned with the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF), a large philanthropic organization dedicated to early childhood education, social justice, and civic enhancement in Tulsa, Oklahoma. GKFF is an extraordinary group that has had an enormous impact on Tulsa since its founding in the mid-2000s.

I worked directly with GKFF and two partner organizations. At GKFF I was part of the Civic Enhancement Team, a group coordinating physical investments in Tulsa. The CE Team is also leading the construction of A Gathering Place, a \$350,000,000 marquee park along the Arkansas River that will be the largest private donation to a park district in US history. On the CE Team I was active in early site planning for a major development in a currently vacant area of downtown and participated in construction meetings for A Gathering Place.

My other two projects were partnerships with Growing Together, a community development group in a distressed-but-stabilizing inner city neighborhood, and the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce. With Growing Together I worked on planning for scattered-site affordable housing, which presents new challenges when compared with traditional multi-family affordable housing. With the Tulsa Chamber I generated leads for potential employers to attract to a 100 acre industrial site with an attached \$10,000,000 subsidy in a historically disadvantaged part of the city.

This summer I got to see three distinct but equally important segments of Tulsa's future – rebuilding downtown, rebuilding the neighborhoods, and rebuilding the economy. I got to meet other big dreamers who “get” cities and are working to build an urban future. It was overall a fantastic experience.



Tulsa, Oklahoma Baseball Game

COURSE RESOURCES



For those first year students with room in your schedules for electives, and for the second year students still struggling to choose a class from the myriad of options, we have you covered. Throughout the years students have been providing their feedback on multiple courses at the GSD, and Harvard-wide. Below you may find the links to these documents. We hope these are useful in narrowing down your choices for this and next semester.

Course Reviews

[Graduate School of Design](#)

[John F. Kennedy School of Government](#)

[MIT School of Architecture + Planning](#)



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