

# Resource Websites for Planners

## A Guide for Students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning Cal Poly Pomona

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The websites below include content platforms, public policy think tanks and research organizations, professional membership associations, nonprofits, foundations, and government agencies that may be of interest to planners. They could be useful for networking, job searches, and research for classes. These listings are not exhaustive but provide an overview of the wide diversity of the planning field and its role at international, national, state, and local levels. Further, they reflect progressive, conservative, and nonpartisan theories and practices. In most cases, the descriptive text comes directly from the website.

### **CONTENT PLATFORMS**

**211** is the one-stop connection to **free and low-cost vital community services** through a toll-free 3-digit phone number, an **online database and directory of resources**, and a 24-hour call center staffed by highly trained specialists. **211LA** has created a public data dashboard showing what people's needs are by zip code who are contacting its hotline. Explore the data by hovering over the map and table for information or use the filters to narrow the information.

<https://www.211la.org/data> | <https://211sb.org/about/> | <https://connectriverside.org/> | <https://www.211oc.org/>

**Bloomberg CityLab** reports on the world's cities, communities, and neighborhoods and how they work, the challenges they face, and the solutions they need. Its daily newsletter provides content on **urban trends and innovations shaping the future of cities**.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/citylab>

**California Planning & Development Report** is a monthly periodical on planning and development issues in California. <https://www.cp-dr.com/>

**Cal-Atlas** site **facilitates the coordinated and sustainable development, maintenance, licensing and sharing of geospatial data and web map services** by California government agencies, partners and stakeholders to provide integrated and effective California Spatial Data Infrastructure. <https://cgia.org/cgia-collaboration/gis-data-sharing/cal-atlas-geospatial-clearinghouse/>

**Cyurbia Urban Planning and Placement Community** is a site where people share their experiences and thoughts about **urban planning practice and planning adjacent topics**.

<https://www.cyurbia.org/>

**The Global Grid** is a destination for **local environmental design news and perspectives on architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, urban planning and related news** every weekday. It publishes news specific to the town or city in which the author resides or is travelling. <https://theglobalgrid.org/about/>

**International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** is a global non-governmental organisation associated with UNESCO. Its mission is to **promote the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's monuments, building complexes and sites**. It participates in the development of doctrine and the evolution and distribution of ideas and conducts advocacy. ICOMOS is an Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO. <https://www.icomos.org/en>

**Planetizen** is an **independent resource for people passionate about planning** and related fields. It provides news, editorials, job postings, online courses, books, and product sales. You can also sign up for a daily planning news compilation email. <https://www.planetizen.com/>

**PreservationDirectory.com** is an **online resource for historic preservation, building restoration and cultural resource management in the United States and Canada**. It fosters the preservation of historic buildings, historic downtowns and neighborhoods, cultural resources and to promote heritage tourism by facilitating communication among historic preservation professionals and the general public. <https://www.preservationdirectory.com/HistoricalPreservation/Home.aspx>

**Railvolution** organizes conferences to be the place to connect and share with cross-sector stakeholders dedicated to building more livable communities through transit. <https://railvolution.org>

**SmartCitiesWorld** is a platform for **sharing ideas to solve urban challenges** that enable us to live in more resilient, sustainable, safe, and prosperous environments. <https://www.smartcitiesworld.net/home>

**Smart Growth America** empowers communities through **technical assistance, advocacy and thought leadership to create livable places, healthy people, and shared prosperity**. The nonprofit works with elected officials at all levels, real estate developers, chambers of commerce, transportation and urban planning professionals, and residents to improve everyday life for people across the country through better development. <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/our-vision/our-work>

**Smart Growth Network** encourages **development that boost the economy, enhances community vitality and protects the environment** through its network of partners in government, business, and civic organizations. It is a clearinghouse for information about smart growth strategies and hosts Smart Growth Online, an extensive array of smart growth-related news, events, information, research, presentations, and publications. The website is a project of the Maryland Department of Planning and was previously funded by the U.S. EPA Office of Sustainable Communities. <https://smartgrowth.org/>

**SprawlWatch Clearinghouse**. The **Sprawl Watch** Clearinghouse is a resource center which provides information on sprawl, smart growth and livable communities. <http://www.sprawlwatch.org/>

## **PUBLIC POLICY THINK TANKS AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS**

The **Advancement Project California** is a multi-racial, multi-generational racial justice organization with expertise in research, advocacy, and policy. It works with partners and communities to **expand educational opportunities for California's children; create healthy and safe neighborhoods; ensure communities of color have a voice in our democracy; strengthen movement-building; and shift public investments** toward programs that benefit all Californians—not just the privileged few. <https://www.advancementprojectca.org/what-we-do>

The **American Enterprise Institute** is a public policy think tank dedicated to **defending human dignity, expanding human potential, and building a freer and safer world.** <https://www.aei.org/>

**Brookings Institution** is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to **conduct in-depth research that leads to new ideas for solving problems facing society at the local, national and global level.** <https://www.brookings.edu/>

**ChangeLab Solutions** is a national organization that **advances equitable laws and policies to ensure healthy lives for all.** The nonprofit prioritizes communities whose residents are at highest risk for poor health. Its multidisciplinary team of lawyers, planners, policy analysts, and other professionals work with state and local governments, advocacy organizations, and anchor institutions to create thriving communities. <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/>

**Institute for Local Government** is a California nonprofit that **empowers local government leaders and delivers real-world expertise** to help them navigate complex issues, increase their capacity, and build trust in their communities. Its publication, *Understanding the Basics of Land Use Planning: Glossary of Land Use and Planning Terms*, is a valuable resource for novice planners. The Subject Areas page is a good place to learn about current and emergency trends and hot topics facing local governments. <https://www.ca-ilg.org/>

**PolicyLink** is a national research and action institute **advancing racial and economic equity** by Lifting Up What Works®. The Oakland-based nonprofit spotlights local innovators working to create an equitable economy, healthy communities of opportunity, and a just society. Its publications and tools can be downloaded from their website for free. <https://www.policylink.org/>

**RAND Corporation** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan and public interest research organization that develops **solutions to public policy challenges to help makes communities throughout the world safer and more secure, healthier and more prosperous.** RAND brings together researchers and utilizes analytical tools and rigorous methods to develop objective policy solutions that are fact-based and actionable. <https://www.rand.org/>

**Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank dedicated to **informing and improving public policy in California** through independent, objective, nonpartisan research. Topics addressed are major areas of California's budget and key long-term challenges. <https://www.ppic.org/about-ppic/>

**Wilson Center** is a non-partisan policy forum for tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue to inform actionable ideas for the policy community.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/about-the-wilson-center>

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATIONS**

**American Planning Association (APA)** provides leadership in the development of vital communities for all by **advocating excellence in planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and providing members with the tools and support to ethically meet the challenges of growth and change.** Its Career Center has comprehensive resource for new planners and those wishing to advance their careers including **[A Guide for the Idealist](#)** where CPP Professor Richard Willson, FAICP, shares insights into the blend of idealism and realism needed to thrive in the planning workplace. There are chapters in Los Angeles, Orange County and Inland Empire. <https://www.planning.org/aboutapa/>

**American Association of Port Authorities** is the unified **voice of the seaport industry** in the Americas, representing more than 130 public port authorities in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America. **AAPA empowers its member seaport leaders and maritime professionals serve global customers and create economic and social value for their communities through advocacy and public outreach to influence public policy issues** such as security, trade, transportation, infrastructure, environmental and other issues related to port development and operations. <https://www.aapa-ports.org/>

**American Public Transportation Association (APTA)** leads public transportation in a new mobility era, advocating to **connect and build thriving communities.** Membership benefits include advocacy initiatives, peer-to-peer networking, thought leadership, professional development and knowledge building, and best practices. <https://www.apta.com/about/>

**American Public Works Association (APWA)** is a network of professionals throughout North America which **provides access to resources, education and training programs in public works.** <https://www.apwa.net/>

**Architects, Designers, Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR)** advocates for a society where investments are made in buildings that lift people up, and where willful human rights abuses are a thing of the past. ADSPR brings design professionals together to work for peace, environmental protection, ecological building, social justice, and the development of healthy communities. <https://www.adpsr.org/>

**Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)** is a community of practitioners working to create more walkable, bikeable places. The membership organization fosters peer knowledge sharing, advance technical expertise, and support the professional development of our members who work in government, consulting firms, and in non-profit organizations in the fields of transportation planning and engineering, urban design and planning, public health and active living. <https://www.apbp.org/membership1>

**California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED)** is California's premier economic development association and is one of the largest economic development associations in

the country. It teaches economic developers, local elected officials, and state representatives the value of economic development and how it is used to grow businesses, generate revenue to support community development programs, and retain and create quality jobs. <https://caled.org/>

**California Downtown Association** represents diversified businesses throughout California within its network of downtown associations, cities, chambers of commerce, business improvements districts, voluntary merchant associations, supportive vendors and consultants. The nonprofit's primary **purpose is to exchange information pertinent to business districts and to formulate solutions to mutually shared problems to facilitate the long-term preservation and prosperity of business districts.** <https://californiadowntown.com/>

**California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP)** is non-profit membership organization of public and private sector professionals with a common interest in serving the principles underlying the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) **to enhance, maintain and protect the quality of natural and human environments.** It strives to improve the processing and implementation of environmental assessment, analysis, public disclosure, and reporting. <https://www.califaep.org/>

**California Planning Roundtable (CPR)** is an organization of experienced planning professionals who are members of the American Planning Association (APA). Its mission is to advance the practice of planning through innovation and leadership. Each year, the Roundtable chooses one or more timely and significant California planning issues for study and publishes the results of the inquiries in papers or articles that are widely distributed to California planners, the California legislature, and local public officials. It also organizes and conducts panels and other presentations for the APA California Chapter annual conferences. The Roundtable also funds three student scholarships annually through the California Planning Foundation. <https://cproundtable.org/about/>

**Cities Alliance** provides **direct operational support to urban programmes aimed at reducing urban poverty and gender inequality.** It focuses on countries grappling with rapid urban growth, particularly in secondary cities where the needs are greatest and resources the least. It also serves as the international platform that convenes countries and diverse organisations seeking to engage, learn and to share their specialised knowledge, expertise and resources in support of a common vision and advocacy. <https://www.citiesalliance.org/how-we-work/our-operations>

**Community Development Society** is a national and international network of researchers, practitioners, and policy makers with an **interest in community development.** The Society provides its professional and citizen members with provisions and services to enhance professional development. <https://www.comm-dev.org/about-us>

**Congress for New Urbanism (CNU)** champions **walkable urbanism** by providing resources, education, and technical assistance to create socially just, economically robust, environmentally resilient, and people centered places. It unites the movement as a connector, convener, alliance builder, and teaching platform. <https://www.cnu.org/who-we-are/organization>

**Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA)** provides a collaborative, multidisciplinary community to connect theory, research, teaching, and practice to recognize, create

and **advocate for environments that are responsive to diverse human needs.**

<https://www.edra.org/#>

**Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE)** Developing a network of government focusing on racial equity is critically important to getting to different outcomes in our communities. The goal must be beyond closing the gaps; we must lift up overall outcomes, focusing efforts those who are faring worst. Deeply racialized systems are costly and depress outcomes and life chances for us collectively. To advance equity, government must focus not only on individual programs, but also on policy and institutional strategies that are driving the production of inequities.

The following six strategies are critical: use a racial equity framework; build organizational capacity; implement racial equity tools; be data-driven; partner with other institutions and communities; and operate with urgency and accountability. <https://www.racialequityalliance.org>

**International Association for Community Development (IACD)** is a global multi-disciplinary **network for community development professionals** who are engaged in the organisation, education and empowerment of people within their communities. <https://www.iacdglobal.org/>

**International City/County Management Association (ICMA)** seeks to be the leading association of **local government professionals** throughout the world. It offers membership, professional development programs, research, publications, data and information, technical assistance, and training to city, town, and county chief administrative officers, their staffs, and other organizations. <https://icma.org/about-icma>

**International Downtown Association** champions vital and livable urban centers. Through its network of diverse practitioners, its rich body of knowledge, and its unique capacity to nurture community-building partnerships, IDA **provides tools, intelligence and strategies for creating healthy and dynamic centers that anchor the well-being of towns, cities and regions of the world.** It connects diverse practitioners who transform cities into healthy and vibrant urban places. <https://downtown.org/>

**International Economic Development Council (IEDC)** is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers in a wide variety of settings with educational programs, information, and networking. IEDC supports its members to promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. <https://www.iedconline.org/>

**International Society of City and Regional Planners** is a global association brings together 800+ individual members from more than 85 countries, who work in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Members share a common interest in cooperation and international networking in order to **facilitate the improvement of our cities and territories through planning practice, training, research, and education.** <https://isocarp.org/institute/about-institute/>

**International Urban Planning and Environment Association (IUPEA)** aims to foster dialogue on issues of urban environmental planning and sustainable urban development, and to help develop practical solutions. <https://www.iupea.org/>

**International Council of Shopping (ICSC)** ensures the retail and real estate industry is broadly recognized for the integral role it plays in the social, civic and economic vibrancy of communities across the globe. It serves its members through events and professional development, and by building relationships and dialogue with decision-makers in the public sector. <https://www.icsc.com/>

**Institute of Transportation Engineers.** An international membership association of transportation professionals who work to improve mobility and safety for all transportation system users and help build smart and livable communities. <https://www.ite.org>

**League of California Cities** is an association of California city officials who work together to enhance their knowledge and skills, exchange information, and combine resources so that they may influence **policy decisions that affect cities**. The Hot Issues page lists the legislative bills and policies of interest to cities and the organization's membership and is a good way to stay current on current and emerging trends. <https://www.cacities.org/>

**National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA)** leads the community development field and its partners in shaping and influencing strategies that advance community prosperity. <https://www.naceda.org/mission-and-vision>

**NAHRO** is a membership organization of housing and community development providers and professionals throughout the U.S. who create and manage affordable housing for low- and middle-income families and vibrant communities that enhance the quality of life for all. <https://www.nahro.org/>

**National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)** provides advocacy, education, research, and training for the nation's regional development organizations. The association and its members **promote regional strategies, partnerships, and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life across America's local communities**. <https://www.nado.org/>

**National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)** is an association of 81 major North American cities and transit agencies formed to **exchange transportation ideas, insights, and practices and cooperatively approach national transportation issues**. <https://nacto.org/>

**National Community Development Association (NCDA)** is a bi-partisan nonprofit organization comprised of local governments across the country that administer federally-supported community development, economic development, and affordable housing programs, including programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs. NCDA **provides timely, direct information and training to its members on federal housing and community development programs and serves as a national clearinghouse of ideas for local government officials and federal policy makers on pertinent national issues** affecting America's communities. <https://ncdaonline.org/>

**Planners Network** is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who **promote fundamental change in political and economic systems**. <http://www.plannersnetwork.org/>

**Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH)** facilitates development of affordable homes across southern California by advancing effective public policies, sustainable financial resources, strong member organizations, and beneficial partnerships. Its core members are nonprofit developers who provide below market-rate homes for low-to-extremely-low income community members and for people experiencing homelessness. <http://www.scanph.org/mission>

**Southern California Building Industry Association (BIASC)** is an advocate for building industry leaders committed to a better future for California by building communities, creating jobs and ensuring housing opportunities for everyone. <https://biasc.org/>

**Society for College and University Planning (SCUP)** provides its members in higher education to share perspectives, resources, best practices, and fresh ideas that turn challenges into **solutions through integrated planning**. <https://www.scup.org/>

Transportation Research Board (TRB). TRB provides leadership in transportation improvements and innovation through trusted, timely, impartial, and evidence-based information exchange, research, and advice regarding all modes of transportation. For example, committees, researchers, and staff are currently focused on advancing resilient infrastructure, exploring transformational technology, and caring for the public's health and safety. Efforts: research, convening, and advising. <https://www.nationalacademies.org/trb/transportation-research-board>

**Urban Affairs Association (UAA)** is the international professional organization for urban scholars, researchers, and public service professionals. It is dedicated to creating interdisciplinary spaces for engaging in intellectual and practical discussions about urban life. Through theoretical, empirical, and action-oriented research, the UAA fosters diverse activities to understand and shape a more just and equitable urban world. <https://urbanaffairsassociation.org/>

**Urban and Regional Planning (URP) Alumni Chapter of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona** is dedicated to **strengthening the connections between URP alumni and the entire URP community**. Chartered in 1994, the chapter was formed to assist alumni in furthering their personal and professional, growth and development. <https://env.cpp.edu/urp/alumni-urp>

**Urban and Regional Information System Association (URISA)** is a multi-disciplinary geospatial organization that provides professional education and training, a vibrant and connected community, advocacy for geospatial challenges and issues, and essential resources. URISA fosters excellence in GIS and engages geospatial professionals throughout their careers. <https://www.urisa.org/>

**Urban Land Institute** provides leadership in the **responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities**. It is the oldest and largest network of cross-disciplinary real estate and land use experts in the world. It offers an array of benefits to its members and its case studies highlight real ULI member projects and developments that are innovative in their approach

and employ best practices in real estate and development. There is a Los Angeles chapter <https://la.uli.org/about/> and Orange County/Inland Empire chapter <https://orangecounty.uli.org/>

## **NONPROFITS**

**Abode Communities** is a nonprofit social enterprise that has been rooted in community development throughout the State of California since 1968. More than an affordable housing provider, its work **fosters a culture of housing inclusion** by integrating families and individuals with neighborhoods so communities at-large can thrive. <https://abodecommunities.org/about-us/purpose-principles/>

**Affordable Living for the Aging (ALA)** provides affordable housing, supportive services, and alternative housing options for low-income and formerly homeless seniors. <http://www.alaseniorliving.org/about-us>

**American Leadership Forum (ALF)** is a nonprofit whose mission is to **join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good through a yearlong Fellows Program** in which leaders can engage in dialogue, explore differences, and build relationships. ALF strengthens Fellows' capacity to address public issues collaboratively and builds a strong leadership network to **work for positive change in our community**. In **California's Central Valley**, they have created a network that brings together a broad cross-section of leaders committed to building a stronger community. <https://www.alfgreatvalley.org/overview-mission/>

**American Farmland Trust** protects agricultural land, promotes environmentally sound farming practices, and keeps farmers on the land. It is the only national agricultural organization that approaches its projects, research and advocacy work in a comprehensive, holistic manner. <http://www.farmland.org>

**Arts and Planning Toolkit** is a project of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency serving Metro Boston. It offers an array of **tools and strategies to help planners advance arts and culture as both a catalyst for and an essential component of community development**. The Toolkit presents a menu of strategies grounded in case studies of real projects that are exemplary of how arts and culture can be an effective component of planning, community development, land use, housing, transportation, economic development, public health, and public safety projects and initiatives. <https://artsandplanning.mapc.org/>

**California Calls** is an alliance of grassroots, community-based organizations spanning urban, rural and suburban counties across the state to **engage, educate and motivate new and infrequent voters** among young people, from communities of color, and from poor and working class neighborhoods to make California's electorate reflect our state's diverse population. Using a bottom-up approach, the nonprofit organizes voters most impacted by budget cuts and deteriorating public services in support of systemic, progressive solutions to the state's fiscal crisis. <http://www.cacalls.org/who-we-are/mission-statement/>

**California Reinvestment Coalition** builds an inclusive and fair economy that meets the needs of communities of color and low-income communities by **ensuring that banks and other**

**corporations invest and conduct business in our communities in a just and equitable manner.** <http://calreinvest.org/about/>

**California Wildlife Conversation Board (WCB)** manages the state's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. WCB is placed with California Department of Fish and Wildlife and **administers a capital outlay program for wildlife conservation and related public recreation.** It is a separate and independent Board with authority and funding to carry out an acquisition and development program including land acquisition, habitat restoration and development of wildlife oriented public access facilities. <https://wcb.ca.gov/About>

**CalMatters** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit journalism venture committed to explaining **how California's state Capitol works and why it matters.** <https://calmatters.org/about/>

**Center for Biodiversity** works to **secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction.** The nonprofit uses science, law and creative media to protect the lands, waters and climate that species need to survive. <https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/about/>

**Child Care and Sustainable Community Development** is a Family Friendly Communities Briefing Papers 01. Prepared by the American Planning Association, as part of a collaborative project with Cornell University Linking Economic Development and Child Care Project, with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Peppercorn Foundation. [https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/download\\_pdf/Importance-of-Ensuring-Adequate-Child-Care.pdf](https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/publication/download_pdf/Importance-of-Ensuring-Adequate-Child-Care.pdf)

**CicLAvia** catalyzes vibrant public spaces, active transportation and good health through **car-free streets.** <https://www.ciclavia.org/>

**Climate Resolve** builds collaborations to **champion equitable climate solutions.** It connects communities, organizations and policymakers to address a global problem with local action. The nonprofit inclusively develops practical initiatives that reduce climate pollution and prepare for climate impacts. Using our collective power to tackle climate change, we are creating a thriving California that is just and resilient and inspiring others to act. <https://www.climateresolve.org/>

**Community Places's toolkit provides information for planning and designing community engagement.** The materials are based on the Scottish Participatory Initiatives Community Mapping and Action Planning <http://scottishparticipatoryinitiatives.co.uk>. <https://www.communityplanningtoolkit.org/sites/default/files/Engagement.pdf>

**Community-Wealth.org** is a project of The Democracy Collaborative to advance a new understanding of democracy for the 21st century. It brings together, for the first time, **information about the broad range of community wealth strategies, policies, models, and innovations** in the U.S to revitalize communities in a sustainable manner. <https://community-wealth.org/>

**Disability Rights California (DRC)** is a nonprofit legal services organization founded in 1978 that advocates, educates, investigates and litigates to advance the rights, dignity, equal opportunities, and choices for all people with disabilities. <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-we-do/priorities>

**EcoAgriculture Partners** is the leading nonprofit champion of **integrated landscape management**, helping communities and organizations grow healthy and resilient places from the grassroots up. It enables partnerships to connect people in long-term collaboration, access finance and influence policy to advance integrated landscape management in East Africa, Brazil, East and Southeast Asia, Mesoamerica, and the U.S. <https://ecoagriculture.org/about/>

**Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)** is a national nonprofit network of organizations working together to **advance a sustainable environment while creating high-road -- sustainable, just and inclusive -- economies** with opportunities for all. ECC develops energy, green infrastructure and other sustainable development projects that not only contribute to the resilience of our metropolitan regions but also ensure an equity stake for low-income communities of color in the green economy. <http://emeraldcities.org/about/the-organization>

**Food Tank** is a nonprofit **building a global community for safe, healthy, nourished eaters**. We aim to educate, inspire, advocate, and create change. We spotlight and support environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable ways of alleviating hunger, obesity, and poverty and create networks of people, organizations, and content to push for food system change. <https://foodtank.com/about>

**Foundation for Intentional Community (FIC)** curates a **directory of over 1,000 intentional communities worldwide, as well as supplies resources, runs educational events and promotes community classifieds**. It defines an intentional community as a group of people who have chosen to live together or share resources on the basis of common values of cooperation and sustainability such as communes, ecovillage, cohousing, co-living or a student co-op. FIC <https://www.ic.org/> A local example is Los Angeles EcoVillage Institute. <http://laecovillage.org/>

**Generations United** improves the lives of children, youth, and older people through **intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs** for the enduring benefit of all. The website includes a resource toolkit for intergenerational program planners. It draws from the 30+ years of experience of The Intergenerational Center at Temple University in designing, implementing, evaluating and teaching about intergenerational programs. <https://www.gu.org/resources/connecting-generations-strengthening-communities-a-toolkit-for-intergenerational-program-planners/>

**Growing Food Connections** aims to address the concerns of struggling family farmers and underserved community residents by building capacity of local governments and their partners to **create, implement and sustain food system policies and plans that both promote food access and foster a healthy agricultural sector**. The project is assessing how local governments are using policy and planning tools to foster connections between family farmers and underserved community residents and is sharing knowledge, resources and tools to bring about change. Funded by a federal grant, its work is carried out by an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional team of researchers and practitioners to integrate research, education and extension to grow food connections across communities. The website provides access to research, education, planning and policy, databases, resources, events, and news. <https://growingfoodconnections.org/>

**Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)** promotes **environmentally sustainable and equitable transportation in cities worldwide**. It fosters innovation through technical expertise, direct advocacy, and policy guidance to mitigate the impacts of climate change,

improve air quality, and support prosperous, sustainable, and equitable cities.  
<https://www.itdp.org/about/>

**KYCC (Koreatown Youth and Community Center)** serves the evolving needs of the Korean American population in the greater Los Angeles area as well as the multiethnic Koreatown community. Its programs and services are directed toward recently immigrated, economically disadvantaged youth and families, and **promote community socioeconomic empowerment**.  
<https://www.kyccla.org/services/community-economic-development-ced/>

**LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)** is an advocacy organization dedicated to building a new economy for all. Combining dynamic research, innovative public policy, and strategic organizing of broad alliances, LAANE **promotes a new economic approach based on good jobs, thriving communities, and a healthy environment**. <https://laane.org/about-laane/>

**Learning for Sustainability** provides **on-line facilitation resources** for those working with complex issues. It showcases the wide range of activities, skills and processes that collectively support constructive engagement, co-design, adaptation, and reflective practice. The site framework has been developed through the course of work by Will Allen PhD and its resources are open access and freely available. <https://learningforsustainability.net/facilitation/>

**Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)** promotes **cleantech climate action and community** by bringing people together to develop solutions that will transform our city and change the world. It incubates 30-40 startups annually and transforming markets. Located at the La Kretz Innovation Campus, this state-of-the-art training center houses the Advanced Prototyping Center where entrepreneurs can design, build, test and certify innovative products, with access to over \$11M worth of tools, labs and shops. <https://lincubator.org/team/>

**Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority** is an independent, joint powers authority between the County and City of Los Angeles. It is the lead agency in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, which the regional planning body that **coordinates housing and services for homeless families and individuals in Los Angeles County**. It coordinates and manages over \$400 million annually in federal, state, county, and city funds for programs that provide shelter, housing, and services to people experiencing homelessness. <https://www.lahsa.org/about>

**Los Angeles River Corporation** is a nonprofit promoting the **integration of design and infrastructure to bring people, water and nature together across all 51 miles of the LA River**. Its **LA River Index** is a compilation of 25 years of research completed by other organizations to create a free online resource for the public to use to evaluate projects for the river. It includes an analysis of new and existing studies and master plans of the LA River and data on flood risk management, water recharge, water quality, Greenhouse Gases, ecology & habitat, open space & parks, public health & social equity, transportation, and programming. <https://www.riverla.org/>

**Los Angeles Urban League** serves, educates and empowers **African Americans and other minorities to secure economic self-reliance and civil rights** by providing targeted social programs and advocating for issues that benefit our communities. <https://laul.org/>

**National Community Renaissance® (National CORE)** is a **nonprofit affordable housing developer creating healthy communities** that thrive and prosper for many generations to come.

It supports families and seniors by providing housing communities that are affordable, safe, and of the highest quality. National CORE enhances neighborhood stability through long-term management and maintenance, as well as industry-leading services such as senior wellness, preschool and afterschool programs, and family financial training. It's Hope through Housing Foundation provides high-quality services for our residents to improve their lives and their communities. <https://nationalcore.org/about-us/>

**National Institute of Standards and Technology's Community Resilience Planning Guide** is a six-step disaster resilience risk management guide and its companion tools, including the Economic Decision Guide, to provide a practical approach for communities to integrate resilience into their local planning activities that impacts buildings, public utilities and other infrastructure and for local governments to review or improve their emergency management, hazard mitigation and recovery plans. <https://www.nist.gov/industry-impacts/community-resilience-planning-resources>

**The Nature Conservancy** is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive. Its **work** tackles **Climate Change**, **protects Land and Water**, **provides Food and Water Sustainably** and **builds Healthy Cities**. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/>

**New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing.** The recommended reforms in this report, which are intended to create accountability and build better relationships between law enforcement and communities of color, stem from President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. <https://www.obama.org/toolkit/>

**Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles County (NHS)** serves as a **catalyst for local residents, business and government representatives to work together to build stronger neighborhoods**, improve the quality of life for low to moderate income families and revitalize communities into neighborhoods of choice. NHS strengthens communities by developing and maintaining quality affordable housing, creating and preserving affordable homeownership opportunities, supporting local leaders, providing financial education and increasing the financial independence of families and people in need. <https://nhslacounty.org/about-us/>

**Participatory Action Research Guide for Facilitators** is a resource document for the **training and capacity building of facilitators who conduct participatory action research (PAR)** in the CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS). AAS aims to improve the lives of poor and vulnerable people reliant on aquatic and agricultural systems for their livelihoods, through collaborative, inclusive PAR with communities and other stakeholders. The PAR approach is a dialogic method of inquiry that creates new insights and understanding for both facilitators and participants; and it is an iterative structure that focuses on praxis – research leading to action and reflection, that informs further rounds of research. [https://digitalarchive.worldfishcenter.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12348/739/3827\\_AAS-2014-46.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://digitalarchive.worldfishcenter.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12348/739/3827_AAS-2014-46.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

**Public Health Institute (PHI)** accelerates the impact of public health globally through efforts to **improve health, equity and wellness** with new research, strengthen key partnerships and programs, and advance sound public health policies. It builds community power to transform health

through three key roles: as a fiscal sponsor, as a thought leader and as a partner.

<https://www.phi.org/our-work/>

**Public Matters** is a Los-Angeles-based creative studio where artists, educators, designers, facilitators, public engagement specialists, and media production professionals committed to equity, engage in collaborative creative acts for public good. The social enterprise **advises clients and partners on proactive education and engagement strategies that transform the culture, practice, and experience of civic participation in communities of color aimed to address the trust gap between institutions and agencies and historically marginalized neighborhoods and communities.** Public Matters sponsors the Urban Futures Lab, a two-year paid fellowship, training and mentorship program for young adults ages 18-26 who are committed to social change.

<http://publicmattersgroup.com/>

**Project for Public Spaces (PPS)** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to **helping people create and sustain public spaces** that build strong communities. It is the central hub of the global placemaking movement, connecting people to ideas, resources, expertise, and partners who see place as the key to addressing our greatest challenges. <https://www.pps.org/about>

**National Trust for Historic Preservation** has led the movement to save America's historic places. A privately funded nonprofit organization, it **works to save America's historic sites; tell the full American story; build stronger communities; and invest in preservation's future.**

<https://savingplaces.org/we-are-saving-places>

**NeighborWorks America** creates **opportunities for people to live in affordable homes, improve their lives and strengthen their communities.** It offers programs and support to help network organizations establish and maintain healthy operations, measure the reach of their efforts, expand their programs to meet community needs, and move toward long-term stability and growth. The nonprofit builds the skills, supplements the resources and amplifies the reach of network organizations so they can empower more individuals and transform more communities than they could on their own. <https://www.neighborworks.org/>

**PACE – Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment** is a community development corporation that **creates economic solutions to meet the challenges of employment, education, housing, the environment, and business development** in the Pacific Asian and other diverse communities.

<https://pacela.org/about/>

**Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)** is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization (MPO), representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of **planning and policy initiatives to encourage a more sustainable Southern California** now and in the future.

<http://www.scag.ca.gov/about/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Rail~Volution** engages in thoughtful discussions with change makers and influencers, share ideas and breakthroughs, frustrations and inspiration, about **building livable communities with transit.** The nonprofit's annual conference brings together professionals in public transportation, transit-oriented development, placemaking and community development fields for place-based events.

<https://railvolution.org/about/>

**TELACU** utilizes a unique business **model for community and economic development**. Each and every business TELACU owns and operates has a double bottom line – profitability that is inseparable from social impact. The parent, non-profit CDC owns and operates a Family of Companies called TELACU Industries. These for-profit businesses not only provide valuable products and services to the community; but they also provide the economic means for TELACU to sustain its non-profit community-focused entities. <https://telacu.com/telacu-story/about-telacu/>

**TransForm** promotes **walkable communities** with excellent transportation choices to connect people of all incomes to opportunity, keep California affordable, and help solve our climate crisis. With diverse partners the nonprofit engages communities in planning, runs innovative programs and wins policy change at the local, regional and state levels. <https://www.transformca.org/landing-page/our-approach>

**Trust for Public Land** is a national nonprofit that **helps communities raise funds, conduct research and planning, acquire and protect land, and design and renovate parks, playgrounds, trails and gardens**. <https://www.tpl.org/about>

**United Way of the Inland Valleys** unites people, ideas, and resources with our community to improve lives. <https://uwiv.org/>

**United Way Los Angeles** fights the root causes of poverty by preparing students for high school graduation, college, and the workforce; housing homeless neighbors; and guiding hard-working families towards economic mobility. <https://www.unitedwayla.org/en/>

**Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC)** provides **services that are relevant to the community in a way that is responsible, resourceful and compassionate**. Some of its current projects include major housing complex for homeless families, cultivating Mudtown Farms, an urban agriculture initiative that will bring cutting edge economic and environmental sustainability, establishing a permanent civil rights exhibition and creating a public policy institute dedicated to the study, planning and development of the Central Avenue Corridor and the surrounding area. <http://www.wlcac.org/our-present.htm>

## **FOUNDATIONS**

**California Community Foundation** makes a difference through advocacy, outreach and community investments that leads to **positive systemic change that strengthens Los Angeles County communities**. It is currently making grants in the areas of education, immigration, health, and housing. <https://www.calfund.org/about-ccf/>

**California Endowment** is the largest private health foundation in California. Its mission is to **expand access to affordable, quality health care** for underserved individuals and communities and promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. The nonprofit has a number of programs to improve health including a 10-year 1 \$billion-funded *Building Healthy Communities* and statewide awareness and engagement campaigns. <https://www.calendow.org/>

**California Planning Foundation** is a nonprofit, charitable corporation with the **goal of furthering the professional practice of planning in California**. It provides scholarships and awards to university students in financial need and fosters professional development through the sponsorship of workshops, publications, research studies and other continuing educational and professional programs. <https://californiaplanningfoundation.org/>

**Prince's Foundation** champions a sustainable approach to how we live our lives and build our homes, teach traditional arts and skills and restore historic sites, or by looking after places to visit for everyone to enjoy. <https://princes-foundation.org/about>

## **SELECTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

Many government agencies at the Federal, State, County, and Special District level may be of interest. They are too many to list, but here are some examples.

**California Office of Planning and Research (OPR)** is part of the Office of the Governor. It provides **long-range planning and research and constitutes the comprehensive state planning agency**. Among its functions are coordination of federal grants for environmental goals, statewide environmental monitoring, creation and adoption of General Plan Guidelines, drafting of CEQA Guidelines (for adoption by the Secretary of Natural Resources) and serving as the state clearinghouse for distribution and review of CEQA documents, operation of the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program, and coordination with US military for land use and other issues. <https://opr.ca.gov/about/>

**Caltrans** manages more than 50,000 miles of California's highway and freeway lanes, provides inter-city rail services, permits more than 400 public-use airports and special-use hospital heliports, and works with local agencies. The State department seeks to **create a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability**, with programs in Aeronautics, Highway Transportation, Mass Transportation, Transportation Planning, Administration and the Equipment Service Center. <https://dot.ca.gov/about-caltrans>

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** website provides information on grant programs, regulations, policies and management. The [HUD Exchange](#) provides a hub for the latest [Consolidated Plan and eCon Planning Suite resources, updates, and information](#) to help states and local jurisdictions to assess their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions. The website features resources such as the [Green Homes and communities](#) and [Community Resilience](#) to find address energy, environmental, and sustainable development challenges. <https://www.hud.gov/topics>