

39th Annual Meeting—Chicago, Illinois—March 4–7, 2009
Renaissance Chicago Hotel

Contesting and Sustaining the City: Neighborhood, Region, or World?

“Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir [one’s] blood. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a nobler, logical diagram once recorded, will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing... Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty,” Daniel Burnham.

This was the message put forward at the turn of the century by Chicago visionaries who sought to bring order to what they saw as a chaotic and dangerous urban arena. The “well designed” city would be comprehensively planned, with regional transportation systems linking city to suburb, with accessible public parks and civic centers, widened streets, well-placed iconic structures and pleasantly designed water fronts. The “well planned” city would enable sustainable growth and keep populations contented within a visually appealing urban form. The “city beautiful” movement sought to integrate the aesthetic and the pragmatic. In Chicago such plans came together in 1909 in the Plan of Chicago, better known as the “Burnham Plan,” and it is considered by many to be one of the most influential urban plans ever conceived.

And yet, with all their ambitious ideals, others have considered plans such as these to be projects led by corporate interests seeking to control and contain the voices of an increasingly vocal urban working class and minority population. In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jane Jacobs was especially critical of these early reform efforts, writing that, “There is a quality even meaner than outright ugliness or disorder, and this meaner quality is the dishonest mask of pretended order, achieved by ignoring or suppressing the real order that is struggling to exist (15).”

One century later, and policymakers, planners and scholars continue to debate the question of how we should govern our cities. If we should plan our cities. What place should aesthetic design hold in the process? Whom should we be building our cities for? And with whom should we be making these kinds of decisions? The twin forces of globalization and urbanization generate new contests among city dwellers, and new challenges for policy makers seeking to build the socially inclusive, environmentally sound and economically sustainable city. The search for competitive advantage between neighborhoods, cities and regions leads policy makers to focus more and more of their attentions on projects geared to enhance “quality of life.” However, as the gaps between rich and poor continue to grow, the question that is left is, “For whom do we craft our urban world?” As policy makers seek to enhance their economic position locally, nationally and internationally, they are faced with a variety of tradeoffs—leaving winners and losers. Contesting and sustaining the city is the theme for the 39th Annual Meeting of the UAA in Chicago, a perfect location for us to consider whether cities should be tamed, sustained or nurtured. And if so, by and for whom?

We encourage proposals that focus on the conference theme as well as submissions on the array of research topics typically found at UAA conferences (**e.g., urban health, transport, environmental issues, education, housing, neighborhoods, population change, immigration, crime/violence, poverty/welfare, race/ethnicity, gender relations, economic development, urban theory, urban finance, urban politics, planning, growth management, globalization and cities, technology and urban society**).

Proposal Deadline—October 1, 2008

Proposals can be submitted for papers, panels (a group of 3–5 formal papers with moderator), colloquies (formal discussions without papers) and breakfast roundtables (informal discussions). UAA submission policies limit participants to one presentation/session role per annual meeting. However, participants can be co-authors on multiple papers. Proposal submissions are accepted only on-line at the UAA website: www.udel.edu/uaa.

Registration Policy and Rates

All participants (faculty, students, and practitioners) must pay the appropriate fees for their membership category. There are no one-day registration rates. Registration is completed on-line via the UAA website (www.udel.edu/uaa) by credit card, personal check or institutional check. Rates have not been set for the 2009 Annual Meeting. However, 2008 rates were \$350/\$405/\$195 (member/nonmember/student) for early registrants. Registration fees cover three receptions, two lunches, three breakfasts and five coffee breaks. Registration opens November 17, 2008

Hotel Accommodations and Rates

The 39th Annual Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Chicago Hotel. UAA is pleased to offer conference attendants a discounted rate at the Renaissance: \$169 single/\$199 double, not including state and local taxes (currently 15.4%). Reservations can be made on-line at the UAA website (www.udel.edu/uaa Click Annual Meeting) beginning October 1, 2008.

Exhibitors

Exhibit space is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Early contact with the UAA Office is advised. Fee information and space reservations can be made through Shelly Tillinghast (shelviat@udel.edu).

Local Host Committee

David Perry, *University of Illinois at Chicago* (Chair)
Karen Mossberger, *University of Illinois at Chicago*
Michael Pagano, *University of Illinois at Chicago*
Curtis Winkle, *University of Illinois at Chicago*
Dennis Judd, *University of Illinois at Chicago*

Program Committee

Jill Simone Gross, *Hunter College, City University of New York* (Chair)
Gregory Andranovich, *California State University, Los Angeles*
Claire Poitras, *INRS-Urbanisation, Culture et Société*
Jocelyn Taliaferro, *North Carolina State University*
Michael Timberlake, *University of Utah*

UAA Office—University of Delaware

Margaret Wilder, UAA Executive Director
Kay DeLaMater, Administrative Coordinator
Shelly Tillinghast, Conference Event Planner

Important Dates and Deadlines

2009 Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting (March 4-7, 2009; Chicago, Illinois)
October 1, 2008: Deadline for submitting a proposal
November 17, 2008: Acceptance/rejection notices sent; registration opens
December 15, 2008: Early registration payment deadline
January 12, 2009: Persons on the program must register AND pay fees by this date

UAA website: www.udel.edu/uaa (conference registration, hotel reservations, etc.). Questions: 302-831-1681 (country code 001) or e-mail: uaa-conf@udel.edu.