

Michael La Place AICP, PP

Experience

Planning Director, Princeton, New Jersey. Responsible for the direction of all aspects of planning and development functions in Princeton. This includes conducting planning studies, collecting and presenting data, providing information and advising the public, the Municipal Council, Planning Board and other land-use committees. Management and organization of resources necessary to accomplish the goals, policies and objectives of the Princeton Master Plan and guiding the updating of the plan as needed. Coordination of comprehensive campus planning activities with Princeton University, the Institute for Advanced Study and other local institutions. Advocating for and implementing urban design, transportation, affordable housing, historic preservation and economic development initiatives. January 2019 to the present.

Planning Director, Passaic County, New Jersey. Executive manager of the Passaic County Planning & Economic Development Department, involved with land use planning, development review, urban design, housing and transportation initiatives throughout the county's 16 municipalities. Supervised the divisions of Planning-GIS, Economic Development, Housing and County Historian. Provided administrative and technical support to the Board of Chosen Freeholders (combined legislative - executive body), the County Administrator, Planning Board and committees for Agriculture, Open Space, History & Tourism and Brownfields Redevelopment. Management of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and served as the County's liaison for the Highlands Commission and the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan. As Director, worked closely with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for northern New Jersey and served as an officer of the Passaic County Affordable Housing Corporation. February 2007 - January 2019.

Director of Planning & Zoning, City of Burlington, Vermont. Supervised department responsible for land use, urban design and transportation planning for the largest city in Vermont. As Director, worked with the Planning Commission, Development Review Board and the Design Advisory Board, as well as the Mayor, the City Council, community groups, other officials and special interest groups. Major smart growth projects involved waterfront redevelopment, downtown and various mixed-use initiatives, streetscape enhancements and the comprehensive revision of the zoning code. July 2005 to February 2007.

Senior Planning Consultant, Clarke Caton Hintz PC, Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, Trenton, New Jersey. Senior Planner responsible for providing comprehensive planning and urban design services to client municipalities. Managed special projects such as the *Southern New Jersey Waterfront Master Plan*. February - June 2005.

Community Development Director, Township of Plainsboro, Plainsboro, New Jersey. Department head responsible for the administration of planning, zoning, urban design, economic development, construction code, engineering, housing, welfare and social services. Provided direct supervision of division managers, consultants and support staff and general management for the 24 member department staff. Worked closely with the Township Administrator, the

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Township Clerk and other department heads, the Mayor and Township Committee and various volunteer boards and committees involved in economic development, transportation, open space acquisition and historic preservation. Worked directly with the private sector, such as the developer of Plainsboro's mixed-use Village Center, representatives of major corporations located in the Princeton Forrestal Center in Plainsboro and with Princeton University, the Township's largest landowner. October 2000 - October 2004.

Executive Director, Downtown Westfield Corporation, Inc. (DWC, Westfield, New Jersey. Served as administrator for the Business Improvement District of the Town of Westfield. Management of the district's extensive program of economic development, urban design, preservation, promotions, marketing and volunteer initiatives. Worked closely with Mayor and Town Council, Town Administrator, Town Engineer and other municipal staff members, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Historic Preservation Commission, Architectural Review Board and the Westfield Housing Commission. Served as first executive director of DWC and was successful in completing projects on time and within budget. These projects included a comprehensive downtown improvement plan, seasonal promotional events, regional advertising for downtown Westfield, a comprehensive signage system and historic building facade renovations. Westfield received the Great American Main Street Award in 1994. September 1997 - October 2000.

Long-Range Planning Director, Department of Planning and Code Administration, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland. Supervisor of Long-Range Planning Team charged with the development and adoption of elements of the City of Gaithersburg Master Plan, including comprehensive plans for neighborhoods, transportation, community facilities, urban design and a vision plan for the smart growth of the city. Worked closely with the Mayor and City Council, City Manager, Planning Board, Zoning Board, all municipal departments and with the public. Responsible for preparation of city ordinances, work schedules, staffing of citizen committees and the development of land use proposals for plan revisions mandated by state law. Participated in the city's annual budget process, the Economic Development Committee and in many citywide projects and initiatives. January 1996 - August 1997.

Assistant Planner, Department of Planning and Community Development, Township of Montclair, New Jersey. Reviewed land development plans and provided administrative and technical support to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and Historic Preservation Commission. Prepared municipal ordinances for adoption by Planning Board and Township Council and applications for funding of municipal projects through the Community Development Block Grant program. Design review and management of central business district facade renovation grant program. Served as municipal liaison to New Jersey Transit and to other regional and state agencies. July 1990 - December 1995.

New York/New Jersey Legislative Assistant, Government, Community and Public Affairs Department, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, New York, NY. Based in the World Trade Center, provided staff support to the agency's New York and New Jersey legislative representatives. Developed and implemented strategies on legislative matters, prepared position papers (internal and external) and tracked legislation of interest to the Port Authority and the bi-state region. August 1989 to June 1990.

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Management Training Program, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. One-year program of management skills development. Four assignments: 1RANSCOM (Transportation Operations Coordinating Committee), Newark International Airport, Washington, DC office and the Employee Services office, World Trade Center, New York City. August 1988 to July 1989.

Education

Master of Urban and Regional Planning, Community Planning & Design, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, The George Washington University, Washington, DC. 1989.

Bachelor of Arts, American Studies, concentration in Architecture and Urban Development. The George Washington University, Washington, DC. 1985. Dean's List, Departmental Honors.

Certification

AICP - American Institute of Certified Planners, (#013001), 1997.

PP - Professional Planner, State of New Jersey, (#33L100546700), 1998

County Administrators Program certificate, Rutgers University, 2016.

Awards

New Jersey Future. Smart Growth Planning Award. *Great Falls (Historic District & area) Circulation Study, Passaic County, NJ. 2018.*

American Planning Association (APA) - NJ Chapter. Excellence Award for Implementation. *Passaic County Transportation Plan. 2017.*

New Jersey Preservation Awards (2). *Restoration of the Dey Mansion. 2016 and nomination of the Passaic County Court House & Annex to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. 2015.*

Smart Growth Award, New Jersey Future. *"Moving Passaic County," The Transportation Element of the Passaic County Master Plan. 2013.*

Historic Preservation Stewardship Award, City of Paterson, NJ. 2012.

Smart Growth Award, New Jersey Future. *Morris Canal Greenway Feasibility Study, Passaic County, NJ. 2012.*

Distinguished Award, American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEq). *Morris Canal Greenway Feasibility Study, Passaic County, NJ. 2012.*

APA - NJ Chapter. Smart Growth Plan Implementation Award. *Molly Ann Brook Watershed Management Plan, Passaic County, NJ. 2011.*

APA - NJ Chapter. Smart Growth Award. *Madison Avenue Rail Corridor Development Plan, Paterson, NJ. 2010.*

Special Commendation, Westfield Historic Preservation Commission. *Westfield, NJ. June 2000.*

Montclair (ND) Chamber of Commerce Service Award. 1995.

National Project Award, American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). *"Parks and Paths for People: A Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan for Annapolis, Maryland." Client: City of Annapolis, Maryland, 1988.*

Member

Westfield, NJ: Planning Board, Downtown Westfield Corp., Historic Preservation Comm.

New Jersey County Planners Association (President 2013).

The George Washington University Alumni Association (Board of Directors, 2008-2015).