



PRESS RELEASE



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Experts Applaud City Planning’s Excellence and Innovation in Housing and Public Engagement

LOS ANGELES—The [Southern California Association of Governments \(SCAG\)](#) and the [Los Angeles section of the American Planning Association \(APA Los Angeles\)](#) have recognized City Planning with a combined total of six awards. The awards honor City Planning's work in the categories of housing, community empowerment, urban design, project review, communications, and neighborhood planning.

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|  Awards | Communications | Neighborhood Planning |
| | Community Engagement | Project Review |
| | Housing | Urban Design |

City Planning received SCAG's 2020 Award of Merit in the Housing Innovation category for the [Transit Oriented Communities \(TOC\) Incentive Program](#), developed in cooperation with the City Planning Commission and elected officials. In the last two years, the TOC Incentive Program has driven much of the housing production in Los Angeles, accounting for nearly 30,000 proposed new units since its inception in September 2017. In 2019 alone, more than 14,500 new units—42 percent of all proposed housing in the City—were proposed through the TOC Incentive Program. Of those units, 20 percent have been set aside as affordable, with half of those affordable units reserved exclusively for Extremely Low Income (ELI) households (those earning \$31,300 or less, for a family of four).



"I'm so proud of our staff and the steps that they've taken to provide safe, secure, and affordable housing for countless individuals—many of whom struggle to pay rent," said Director of City Planning Vince Bertoni. "The success of this program is the result of the shared leadership of our City Planning Commission, Mayor, and City Council, each of whom have supported us in our efforts to increase access to quality housing at all income levels. Now more than ever, we need affordable housing. It's of critical importance to the well-being of our neighborhoods and the upward economic mobility of our residents."

City Planning was also recognized earlier today by APA Los Angeles—a professional association representing urban planners, planning commissioners, and related professionals across Los Angeles County. The Department is the 2020 recipient of three outstanding achievement awards, as well as two awards of merit.

Award of Excellence: Planning Agency
City Planning

Award of Excellence: Communications Initiative
Print and Digital Publications

Award of Excellence: Neighborhood Planning
Exposition Corridor Transit Neighborhood Plan

Award of Merit: Opportunity & Empowerment
LGBT Center's Anita May Rosenstein Campus

Award of Merit: Urban Design
Citywide Design Guidelines

These awards honor the hard work and professionalism of the City Planning staff who advance new land use policies, review project applications, and conduct community outreach. They highlight the Department's recent successes in fostering a culture that values transparency and enjoys closer ties to Los Angeles's communities.

About SCAG

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.



About APA Los Angeles

APA Los Angeles is one of eight local sections of the American Planning Association's California Chapter, with more than 1,500 members in Los Angeles County. APA provides leadership in the development of vital communities for all by advocating excellence in planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and providing its members with the tools and support necessary to ethically meet the challenges of growth and change.

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