“We are each other’s harvest; we are each other’s business; we are each other’s magnitude and bond.” - Gwendolyn Brooks

Greetings WP+D Members and Friends,

**Now and Always, WP+D Stands for Racial Equity**

Dear Members, Alumnae, and Friends of Women in Planning + Development,

We are practitioners of urban planning, a field in which it is not only inaccurate but irresponsible to treat our country’s heritage of systemic racism as a historical footnote. The modern American city would not exist without racism. Our profession has complicitly perpetuated racism and division through redlining, uneven investment, and problematic policing in neighborhoods. Despite hard-won victories, including successful efforts by activists in Chicago that led to nation-wide policy changes, the events of the past week bring to mind the saying: “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”

Women in Planning + Development - our Board of Directors, members, alumnae, guest speakers and friends - includes Black women and women of color whose lived experience is deeper than a textbook-level understanding of racism and its impact on our cities. This is an especially painful time for members of our community, and we the WP+D Board of Directors extend our heartfelt support to you. More importantly, we stand in solidarity with you.

Over the next month, WP+D is renewing our commitment to racial equity and will use our platform, which brings together hundreds of women planners throughout the region and beyond, to provide a space for discussion, to amplify anti-racist voices, and to share resources to leverage this historic moment and make a positive, lasting impact through action rather than just a statement. Stay tuned for the announcement of our next online gathering, in June.

WP+D is also re-committing to examining our own practices to ensure that they align with our commitment to racial equity and that we intentionally cultivate opportunities for and amplify the voices of those who have been historically silenced and marginalized.

In solidarity,

The Women in Planning + Development Board of Directors

*Please find full statement on our website.*

**Board positions are now open!** The Board reflects the wide variety of personal and professional backgrounds of the members of WP+D. We encourage women of all backgrounds to apply!

New Board members will be presented at the Summer’s Annual Membership event.
RECENT EVENT RECAPS

Spring Professional Development workshop

On April, WP+D hosted our first virtual Spring Development workshop via Zoom. It was great. The attendees had break out sessions while learning about the work conflict management. Thank you to Pari Karim and Larrissa Hacinski with Center for Conflict Resolution and all twenty-nine of the amazing and impressive women who attended! See you at our next professional development workshop in the fall 2020!

Small Networking Lunches

Small Networking Lunches this year have featured guests in housing policy, advocacy, research, design, economic development, and more! To highlight just a couple of these fascinating women, we kicked off with our April’s guest Alderman Maria Hadden, Alderman of the 49th Ward. In May, we had Ciere Boatright, Vice President, Real Estate and Inclusion for Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, Inc. In June, the we had Anna Lee, Director of Community Impact for the Chicago Community Trust, this June! We’ll see you at the next one!

WP+D Bookclub

The brand new WP+D Book Club was launched last year and has been a hit! In May, members met virtually to discuss Liz Fosslien and Molly West Duffy’s No hard Feelings: The Secret Power of Embracing Emotions at Work. If you are finding you have a bit more time to catch up on reading and you’re hungry to connect with fellow professional women, sign up for our next session in July- stay tuned for details!

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

Please join us in educating and fighting against racism.

Anti-Racist Resources- Airtable Universe

Black Lives Matter(BLM)-Airtable

Ways To Help BLM