

MICHAEL WOO
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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley. Master of City Planning, 1975. (Thesis title: Regional Reform to Control Development: The Link between Planning and Politics in the San Francisco Bay Area.)

University of California, Santa Cruz. Politics and Urban Studies (independent major). B.A., 1973. Awarded general college honors.

URBAN PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles City Planning Commission. Commissioner, 2005 – present.

- Co-chair of Commission’s Land Use and Transportation Committee.
- Helped Commission President draft the “Do Real Planning” principles adopted in 2006.
- Initiated moratorium on new off-site signage including electronic billboards and “wrap-around” advertising (enacted).
- Initiated review of health effects of breathing polluted air in residential developments near freeways (pending).

Smart Growth America. Chairman, Board of Directors, 2006 – present. Guided Board process for selecting a successor to the organization’s founder, interviewing candidates, and negotiating employment terms with new President/CEO.

ClimatePlan. Consultant, 2008 – present. Advising statewide coalition (advocating land use changes to fight climate change) on Southern California stakeholder outreach and strategy, 2008 – present.

Summit Western Corporation LLC. Co-managing member (of committee representing investors in Mandarin Plaza shopping center in L.A. Chinatown), 2004 – present.

Flexcar (formerly the nation’s leading for-profit provider of hourly car rentals serving transit-dependent commuters, now part of Zipcar). Los Angeles General Manager, 2002 – 2003. Oversaw launch of car-sharing operations in the Southern California market; hired, fired, and supervised staff.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) (nation’s largest nonprofit financial intermediary supporting affordable housing and community economic development). Director of Los Angeles Programs, 1998 – 2000. Led efforts to stabilize funding and program direction of L.A. office.

Los Angeles City Council. Council Member, Thirteenth District (Hollywood, Hollywood Hills, Silver Lake, Echo Park, Los Feliz, Sherman Oak, Studio City), 1985 – 1993.

- Served as Vice-Chairman of the City Council’s Planning and Land Use Committee and Chair of the Council Transportation and Traffic Committee.

- Guided all major land use planning, redevelopment, and transportation policy decisions in the Council District during that period, including:
 - Drafting and adoption of the Hollywood Redevelopment Plan
 - Revision of the Hollywood Community Plan
 - Choice of the route and station locations for the Metro Red Line subway
 - Discretionary decisions on major residential and commercial development projects.

HONORS

American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter. Honorary Fellow, 2008.

UC Santa Cruz Alumni Achievement Award, 1993 – 1994.

Los Angeles Urban League. Social Responsibility Award, 1991.

FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE

Farmers Kitchen project of Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles. Currently overseeing identification and cultivation of major individual, corporate, and government funding sources. Initiated outreach resulting in \$400,000 grant from the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency, 2007.

Los Angeles Chinese Food Festival. Founder and producer. Enlisted Nestle USA Corporation and Ten Ren Tea Company as sponsors and raised grant funds from Wells Fargo Bank to support Monterey Bay Aquarium “safe seafood” brochure 2004 – 2005.

Livable Places. Raised \$300,000 in seed money from the James Irvine Foundation (one of the last smart growth/sustainable development grants made by the foundation), 2000.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Health Sector Initiative. Raised grant funds from the California Endowment (the Endowment’s first grant to LISC), 2000.

LISC Los Angeles office. Raised operating support grant funds (and below-market-rate loan funds) from national and local banks and foundations, 1998 - 2000. Funders included:

- Bank of America
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Union Bank
- City National Bank
- Manufacturers Bank
- Republic Bank
- Washington Mutual
- The California Community Foundation
- The National Community Development Initiative (NCDI) consortium whose participants included the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the FannieMae Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Prudential Financial, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Political campaign fundraising, including direct solicitation of donors, donor cultivation, and working with professional fundraising staff. Raised \$3.5 million in individual and corporate donations from around the country in 1993 Mayoral campaign.

GRANTMAKING AND LENDING EXPERIENCE

Lingnan Foundation. Member, Board of Trustees, 2007 – 2008.

Wilbur and Beth Woo Family Foundation. President, Board of Directors, 2000 - present.

QueensCare Charitable Division. Member, Board of Directors, 1998 - present.

National Community Investment Fund (NCIF). Member, Board of Trustees, 1998 – 2001.

LISC Los Angeles office. Oversaw grantmaking and lending program for local community development corporations, 1998 – 2000.

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE

Member, Regional Targets Advisory Committee, 2009. Appointed by California Air Resources Board as one of 21 members of a new statewide advisory committee established under authority of SB 375 to recommend greenhouse gas emission reduction targets based upon local land use and transportation policy changes in each region of California.

Western States Director, Corporation for National Service, 1994 – 1996. Appointed by President Clinton.

Candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles, 1993. Out of 24 candidates in the original field, was one of the top two contenders, ultimately receiving 46 percent of the citywide vote.

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA). Chairman, Board of Directors, 1995 – present.

KCRW Foundation. Member of the Board of Directors, 1995 - present.

Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center. Chairman, Governing Board, 1998 – present.

California Food Policy Advocates. Member of the Board of Directors 2003 - present.

CAUSE (Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment). Member of the Board of Directors, 2000 – Feb. 2009.

Cathay Bank Community Advisory Board. Member, 2006 - present.

Pitzer College President's Council. Member, 2005 - 2006.

UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research (now the School of Public Affairs). Senior Fellow, 1999 – 2000.

California Citizens Commission on Higher Education. Member, 1997 – 1998. Irvine Foundation funded the blue-ribbon commission (co-chaired by Harold Williams, former Dean of the UCLA Graduate School of Management, and John Slaughter, former President of Occidental College) to develop recommendations for updating the California Master Plan for Higher Education.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Southern California. School of Policy, Planning, and Development.

Adjunct Professor/Adjunct Instructor, 2001 – present. Currently teaching two

sections of the undergraduate introduction to urban planning and development and a graduate course in “The Social Context of Planning.” Also coordinating the Comprehensive Examination for Master of Planning students to be given in April 2009.

University of California, Los Angeles. Department of Urban Planning. Adjunct Instructor, 2006 – 2007. Taught combined graduate and undergraduate seminars on “China’s Urban Sustainability Challenges.”

Harvard University. John F. Kennedy School of Government. Fellow, Institute of Politics, Fall 1993. Led weekly discussion group for Harvard undergraduates comparing mayoral election process in Los Angeles and New York City.

EXPERIENCE WITH ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, DESIGN, AND THE ARTS

Mural Conservancy. Member of the Board of Directors, 1993 – present. Invited to participate after calling public attention to destruction of Kent Twitchell mural on Temple Street.

American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter. Public Member of the Board of Directors, 2007 - present.

Farmlab. Consultant on sustainable urban development, 2006 – 2007. Developed “eco-econ” proposal for the use of the 31.5-acre Los Angeles State Historic Park site near downtown Los Angeles.

Grand Performances. Member of the Board of Directors, 2000 - 2005.

The Jazz Bakery. Member of the Board of Directors, 1999.

Los Angeles Conservancy. Member of the Board of Directors, 1998 - 2003.

Asian American Friends of the Center Theatre Group. Honorary Chairman, 1993.

American Arts Alliance. Member of the Board of Directors, 1990. Represented the Alliance at “The Arts and Government: Questions for the Nineties” conference at Arden House (Harriman, NY) organized by the American Assembly; panelist on “The Coming Competition for Resources,” November 1990.

Neutra Family. Worked with Dion Neutra and other members of the Neutra family to rename a street in Silver Lake as “Neutra Place,” late 1980s.

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). Supported design competition operated by MOCA (with entries from architects Adele Naude Santos, Craig Hodgetts and Ming Fung, Eric Owen Moss, Itsuko Hasegawa, Toyo Ito, and Robert Mangurian) in conjunction with “Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of the Case Study Houses” exhibition (1989 – 1990); persuaded the Community Redevelopment Agency and the City of Los Angeles Dept. of General Services to provide financial support for construction of a prototype 40-unit very-low-income affordable housing project at La Brea and Franklin Avenues; and shepherded the project through a grueling permit approval, construction, and community mediation process.

Hollywood Redevelopment Project. At the outset of the redevelopment process (1986), initiated Hollywood Design Review Committee involving design professionals in review of proposed projects. Supported set-aside of tax-increment and Metro construction funds for public art in Hollywood.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

American Planning Association.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lingnan (University) College, Sun Yat-Sen University (Guangzhou, China) and Lingnan University (Hong Kong). Represented Lingnan Foundation Board of Trustees at 120th anniversary (November 2008) of the original Lingnan College, and spent a week touring the network of graduate, undergraduate, and secondary school programs in Guangzhou and Hong Kong and meeting members of the elaborate international Lingnan alumni network.

Shenzhen (China) Municipal Government. Organized month-long training programs for three delegations of middle-level Shenzhen officials hosted by USC's International Public Policy and Management Program, 2007 – 2008.

Virginia Tech. Invited to participate in international planning meeting for “A Suburban World? Global Decentralization and the New Metropolis,” Riva San Vitale conference center, Switzerland, May 2006.

Xicheng District Government (Beijing, China). Organized month-long training program for district government delegation of officials hosted by the City of Pasadena, 2006.

China Academy of Urban Planning and Design. Initiated reciprocal relationship (starting in 2006) between Academy and UCLA Department of Urban Planning resulting in UCLA graduate student interns spending summers working in Beijing and Academy staff members spending an academic year in special training at UCLA.

UCLA Anderson School of Management. On behalf of family foundation, oversaw Anderson School (and other UCLA entities) use of endowment funds to organize and host annual Wilbur K. Woo Greater China Business Conference, 2003 – present.

University of Southern California. School of Policy, Planning, and Development. Co-instructor of 2005 “Beijing Lab,” bringing 31 SPPD graduate students to Beijing for one-month collaborative program with Peking University School of Government focusing on urban planning problems in the Xicheng District of Beijing.

French-American Foundation. Participant in Young Leaders Program, 1994 – 1995.

PUBLICATIONS

“Big Bright Blight: City Hall needs a drastic battle plan to safeguard the visual landscape of our neighborhoods.” Los Angeles Times (January 7, 2009).

“Congestion Pricing: A Bold Attack on Urban Paralysis” (commissioned by Los Angeles Times op-ed editor but not published due to space limitations, written December 12, 2007).

“Prescription for Urban Sprawl: Adapting Smart Growth Strategies to a Big City.” Published as Chapter 1.3 in Chavan, A., Peralta, C., and Steins, C., eds. Planetizen Contemporary Debates in Urban Planning. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2007.

“The Cornfield: New Ideas for a Sustainable Urban Park” published by Farmlab in July 2007. Digital copy of the Cornfield proposal and videocast of the July 2007

- public announcement of the document accessible online at:
<http://farmlab.org/2007/07/download-pdf-cornfield-new-ideas-for.html>.
- “An Above-Ground Solution for Wilshire Traffic” (co-authored with Christian Peralta). Los Angeles Times (November 18, 2006).
- “L.A. All Over Again” (analysis of U.S. and China demand for oil in aftermath of unsuccessful CNOOC bid to acquire UNOCAL). Los Angeles Times (August 7, 2005).
- “The Asian Edge? It’s Confucius.” Los Angeles Times (March 13, 2005).

INVITED LECTURES AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

- Association for Commuter Transportation. Featured speaker on “Transportation, Cities, and Climate Change” at annual regional conference, April 2009 (forthcoming).
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Member of panel on “Science and the Federal Economic Stimulus: What’s Behind New Public Policies” at conference on “Senate Bill 375 and Southern California Summit: Climate Change, Economy and Infrastructure -- Public Policies that Shape our Future,” April 2009 (forthcoming).
- UC Berkeley. Institute of Urban and Regional Development. Member of panel on “Sustainable Growth and Affordable Housing,” March 2009 (forthcoming).
- L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). 2009 Transportation Demand Management Technology and Innovation Symposium. Panel moderator, February 2009.
- UCLA School of Law. Emmett Center on Climate Change and the Environment. Panelist, “SB 375 Panel and Roundtable Discussion on Implementing California’s New Anti-Sprawl Law,” January 2009.
- Lingnan Foundation Lunch Series (New York City). Lecture on land use and urban transportation policy in Chinese cities, December 2008.
- Sierra Club Eaton Canyon Chapter (Pasadena). Lecture on sustainable urban development in China, November 2008.
- California Chapter, American Planning Association (Hollywood). Moderator and presenter at “Smart Growth Meets Smart Eating” and “Car-Sharing: Reassessing Its Prospects and Requirements in California” panels at statewide conference, September 2008.
- Downtown Film Festival – Los Angeles. Member of panel on “Urban Parks in L.A.: Rethinking the Formula,” August 2008.
- Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) (Los Angeles). Lecture for Asian Pacific American civic engagement training, August 2008.
- Green L.A. (Los Angeles) Statewide ballot initiatives forum. Moderator, August 2008.
- China Planning Network (Beijing) (invited). “A Missing Linkage between Land Use and Transportation Decisions: The Case of California’s Debate on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions,” July 2008.
- Zocalo Public Square Lecture Series (Los Angeles). “How Will China Emerge from the Rubble?” Organizer and moderator, June 2008.
- Local Government Commission (California). Workshop on “CEQA and Climate Change: Partnering with Local Agencies to Combat Global Warming.” Local

Host (Master of Ceremonies) and panelist on local policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, May 2008.

Milken Institute Global Conference (Beverly Hills). Panelist on urbanization in China and India, April 2008.

Pasadena Playhouse District (Business Improvement District). Lecture: "The 'Un-Mall'," March 2008.

Xiangfan University (Xiangfan, China). Lecture: "Main Currents in American Culture and Politics," March 2008.

California State University Los Angeles. Pat Brown Institute. Panelist on "Building a Framework for Equitable Urban Growth," November 2007.

American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter. Panelist on "The New Science of Parking," September 2007.

Office of Councilman Jose Huizar. Community Planning Workshop for Northeast Los Angeles. Presentation on smart growth, urban design, and transit-oriented development, August 2007.

China Planning Network (Beijing). "China's Love Affair with the Automobile: Compatible with a Sustainable Urbanism?," August 2007.

International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association (City of Industry). Keynote speech to 20th annual meeting, May 2007.

California Healthy Cities Conference/California Endowment. Speech on "Building Support for Affordable Housing," April 2007.

California State University Dominguez Hills. Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society. Lecture on public service opportunities, April 2007.

Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP). Keynote speaker at three leadership training programs for Asian Pacific Americans in Stockton, Fresno, and Oakland, California, March – April, 2007.

New Partners for Smart Growth conference (Los Angeles). Speech on smart growth opportunities in Los Angeles, February 2007.

UCLA School of Public Affairs. Leon Hoffman Urban Technology Conference. Lecture: "Is Paradise Sustainable?," October 2006.

Cornell University. Department of City and Regional Planning Colloquium Series. Lecture on "Smart Growth Planning and Dumb Growth Politics: Issues of Sustainable Urban Development in Los Angeles and China." August 2006.

Culinary Historians of Southern California. Panelist on Chinese-American food traditions in Los Angeles, June 2006.

New Schools, Better Neighborhoods/The California Endowment "Unhealthy by Design?" conference. Moderator of panel on farmers markets, June 2006.

Occidental College. Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Week keynote speech, April 2006.

Yale University. School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Lecture to Yale land use seminar on sustainable urban development in China, April 2006.

Yo San University (Los Angeles). Graduation ceremony (traditional Chinese medicine practitioners) keynote address, March 2006.

Peking University. Lecture on sustainable urban development, November 2005.

Beijing Municipal Institute of City Planning and Design. Lecture on impact of rapid motorization of urban transportation upon urban form, November 2005.

UC Irvine. Urban Planning Seminar Series. Lecture on sustainable urban development in China, October 2005.

Nanjing University. Lecture: "Political Challenges and Economic Opportunities Raised by Urban Growth in Los Angeles and Other U.S. Cities," April 2005.

Westside Urban Forum. Moderator of Los Angeles Mayoral candidates forum, February 2005.

Westside Urban Forum (Los Angeles). Lecture: "Back to Square One: The National and Global Context for Airport Expansion," December 2003.

Mazon (foundation). California Hunger and Policy Conference. Moderator of panel on California budget cuts, November 2003.

College of Environmental Design, U.C. Berkeley. Alumni panelist ("On What Do We Dwell?") at CED anniversary celebration, September 2003.

California State University Northridge. Center for Southern California Studies 15th Annual "Envisioning California" conference. Panelist on "Sustainable Communities," September 2003.

Chinese-American Citizens Alliance. 47th Biennial National Convention (Pasadena). Featured speaker, August 2003.

References provided upon request.