Geospatial Data Act Update

On GIS Day, last November 15, a revised Geospatial Data Act of 2017 was introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This bill, if enacted, will give the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) statutory authority to coordinate all geospatial data activities in the executive branch of the federal government. In addition it gives FGDC lead responsibility for coordinating federal partnerships with willing state and local governments, private firms, educational institutions, and non-profits to standardize and exchange geospatial data that is important to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The FGDC duties include:

• Introduces Congressional oversight into the coordination, standards, implementation and use of geospatial data and services by all covered federal agencies to increase standardization and integration and reduce redundancy.
• Statutorily establishes the FGDC in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) with the OMB Director as its Chair and the Secretary of the Interior as its Vice Chair. Currently the FGDC is located in the Department of the Interior who is Chair with OMB as Vice Chair.

Provisions of the Act
The Geospatial Data Act of 2017 (GDA) establishes the responsibilities of the FGDC, the federal agencies, and the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) over geospatial data activities, and gives them the force of federal statute. To summarize, the GDA codifies the following:

- Statutorily establishes the FGDC lead responsibility for coordinating federal partnerships with willing state and local governments, private firms, educational institutions, and non-profits to standardize and exchange geospatial data that is important to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.
- Establishing and overseeing the coordinated management and implementation of National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) geospatial theme datasets; establishing and reviewing federal agency compliance with geospatial standards; operating the publicly available GeoPlatform; coordinating federal data activities more efficient and effective. This is an important bill that URISA can fully support and is good for URISA members and the larger geospatial community. This article summarizes the provisions of the bill and the history of its development.
The Backstory

In 2015 the Geospatial Data Act was first introduced in the 114th Congress. The bill intended to codify activities that have been guided by Executive Orders 12906 and 13286 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16 to coordinate, standardize, and reduce duplication of federal agencies use and procurement of geospatial data and services. Studies by the Government Accountability Office and others have shown limited success by the Executive branch in this endeavor. Many in Congress believe that the governance and coordination of federal geospatial data activities should be subject to Congressional oversight to be more effective. Although supported by URISA and other geospatial organizations, the bill ran into opposition primarily from the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS). That opposition caused the bill to be placed on hold and ultimately died.

A similar bill was introduced in the 115th Congress on May 25, 2017 with a modified definition of geospatial data in Section 2 and two new sections (Sections 11 & 12) that added new procurement related language. Many believed the added language would be detrimental for some GIS firms bidding on federal geospatial contracts. The procurement related language was first noted by the Association of American Geographers (AAG). The Policy Advisory Committee followed up with analysis of their own that indicated, left unchanged, all federal geospatial activity could potentially fall under the definition of Surveying and Mapping and thus be subject to the Brooks Act in which Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) procurement requirements would put the GIS community at a distinct disadvantage.

Although this consequence was unintended by the GDA authors, it nonetheless highlighted the issue that adding procurement language to the bill would create problems for the geospatial community. It was our position that adding such language was unnecessary, as the Federal Acquisition Regulations already covered these issues. COGO reviewed the GDA of 2017 this summer and many of its members had the same issues as URISA. COGO formed a subcommittee to look into revising the added language but could not come to an agreement. Since COGO requires unanimous consent, it was unable to support the GDA of 2017 as it was first introduced.

URISA, AAG, NSGIC and other geospatial organizations began working with Senator Hatch’s office (the lead sponsor) to produce a version of the GDA that we could all support. On November 15 a new version of the GDA of 2017 was introduced in the Senate as S.2128 and in the House as H.R.4395. The new bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Mark Warner (D-VA) with cosponsors Heller (R-NV), Wyden (D-OR), Boozman (R-AR) and Klobuchar (D-MN). The sponsors of H.R.4395 are Representatives Westerman (R-AR4) and Moulton (D-MA6). As of this writing, the older versions remain on the website, but the newer versions are now online at the links below and are the versions that you should follow.

This is only a brief summary of the legislation. As of this writing, both the Senate and House bills are identical. You can read the current versions of the Geospatial Data Act of 2017 at:

• Senate Bill (S.2128)
• House Bill (H.R.4395)

In summary, URISA members are encouraged to contact their Senators and Representatives to urge support for the revised Geospatial Data Act of 2017 and recommend they become a cosponsor, as the more cosponsors the better the chance of getting a hearing in committee and ultimately enacting the bills.

Written by URISA Policy Advisory Committee Members: Glenn O’Grady (Chair), Ed Wells, and Cy Smith
Peculiarities of time

Albeit discouraging, thinking about GIS in terms of constraints helps us better assess the return on investment of any project that we undertake. The greatest constraint that any of us face in our professional life is time. In an idealized world, a GIS team can only spend approximately 40 hours per person from their productivity bank, most of which is already disbursed by taking on the many maintenance and upkeep tasks that keep a good GIS humming along. How do we maximize our weekly allowance of productive, actionable hours? What do we do in the face of a deficit?

Our City recently ran into a rather thorny issue that threatened to be a productivity bank-busting expenditure: we needed suite numbers. Some numeric context: in the past 30 years, our City has gone from a quaint County-seat of 20,000 to a bustling extension of the DFW metroplex with an estimated population of more than 175,000 and encompasses nearly 68 square miles. We issue an average of 40,000 permits per year and document more than 12,000 code enforcement cases. This year we are making the transition to an all-digital workflow; based off of a combination of our parcel layer and the more than 68,000 points that make up our address layer. A permit or case can’t be handed out without a unique address from our GIS. We needed suite numbers.

The first one to sound the warning klaxon was Mike, one of the managers of the Code department. An intimidating man who gets the job done by thinking through the details, his desire to do the job correctly is only outpaced by his fear that it might not get done at all. Like the genesis of many daunting tasks, I immediately felt my stomach churn and my anxieties run wild as I tried to comprehend the magnitude of the problem, calculate the steps to complete this request, and the requisite working hours that I would need to feed this data monster. Questions rushed through my internal monologue:

- How many actual? Approximate? What percent of our total addresses?
- Does this data already exist somewhere? Who would have it?
- Do we need to create it? How? What datasets can help us?
- Where are they physically at?

Punctuated between these questions, I kept coming back to the phrase, “boots on the ground.” It’s direct, conveys the need for physical observation, and with the militaristic connotation sounds a bit heroic—-at least more heroic than City work is generally considered. Sans boots, we might have been able to grab some information to create a reasonably complete set of suites, but why create an inferior dataset?

The year is 2017. We have mobile devices, door-to-door routing, and a GIS capable of incredible accuracy. Why would we stack all the address points on top of each other? Why not put those points exactly where they go?, on the specific part of the building in question? Why burn a few minutes of each inspector’s time looking for where they’re going, when our GIS data (read through the new software) could route them right to the front door? It may have been faster in the short-term to do the job half-right, but in the long-term, I’d be directly responsible for slowly bleeding the productivity bank of another department through the micro-transactions of wasted time.

When spatial isn’t special

The GIS solution for this project was straightforward enough to be featured on any homework assignment focusing on field verification: group points derived from matching primary address fields, grid index features, make data-driven pages, and print. For those of us using ESRI products, the next step would be to spin up a feature service with editable layers, and then to decide between ArcCollector or the Web App Builder for the input format. However, the more I thought through the workflow, the more I had a nagging feeling that I wasn’t going to be the one doing any of this work.

Sixty-five grid squares and 778 potential suite addresses later, I came to a realization: this project was too big for my current workload. Sure I could work through my lunch every day for the next few months, but there wasn’t any guarantee that I’d be able to get it done in time. I still thought that boots on the ground was the best way to complete this project, but I accepted that they wouldn’t be my own two boots.

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Like many GIS professionals, I am often guilty of an obsession with novelty. The drone, the cloud, the next upgrade. Constantly chasing the horizon can cause us to neglect the wealth of resources that we have on hand—the most important, human resources. While spatial workers may be in short supply in many organizations, field staff, especially those that participate in revenue generation, are more abundant.

The Code Enforcement Officers were all over the City, all day, every day. They were driving past these facilities, and at times, initiating cases involving them. These people know our geographic area in a way more intimate than our GIS staff; forgoing bird’s eye for eye-level. Who better to empower than the people most familiar with the City?

Another mistake common to our trade is to assume that what we do is some sort of techno-wizardry. The spatial skillset is a framework that serves as a force multiplier for organizations. We should be enabling the best practices in our respective organizations; less Atlas, more Prometheus; less author, more printing press; less autocratic, more pragmatic.

Understandably, this is easier said than done. Many GIS professionals are accustomed to project stewardship from inception to completion. Giving up control requires trusting other members within your organization; more importantly, it requires an admission that a GIS person is not necessarily...
required to perform GIS work. The sooner that these requirements are realized, the sooner your GIS productivity bank can decrease non-critical expenditures and increase your weekly allowance of actionable hours.

Flexibility
My plan was elegant, sweeping, and utterly dismissive of how Code Enforcement conducts their business. I had started my GIS career as part of a consulting firm, and as any good consultant is wont to do, I scheduled a presentation to show off the deliverables. 36x36 inch maps, printed excel sheets, and a suit jacket with khakis---for consultants, it’s a thing.

I had just finished presenting my plan. Each Code Enforcement Officer would spend approximately one hour a week investigating address sites. Documentation would be simple. Literally pen and paper. These pages then sent via inter-office mail to the GIS team that handled addressing.

In his usual no-nonsense style, Code Enforcement Mike told me, yeah that’s just not possible.

I thought a 3% time expenditure across the board was modest payment for such a large initiative. Because this wasn’t my department, and I was still fairly new to the City, I carefully replied, that I didn’t have a proverbial dog in the fight. My interests lay in making sure Code got what they needed.

Mike pointed out, this is our busiest time of year. Our guys literally don’t have any time to spare.

I hadn’t considered this. Code cases pile up in the summer. When the weather’s warm, people come outside, the grass grows, and violations abound. Our metrics are tight. All calls responded to within a day. Mike’s team never missed this goal. Their productivity bank didn’t have a moment to spare.

But I’m not saying we can’t do it. We’ve got this guy, Briggs. We hired him part-time to take care of the mosquito trap workflow and removing nuisance signage.

The urgency behind the much-publicized Zika virus outbreaks last year had us all braced for the worst. It was forward-thinking to request additional staff for this year’s mosquito season; re-prioritizing Briggs’ schedule reduced their bandwidth, but it made the address suites mapping possible.

Mike finished vouching, this way, everything’s going to be done the exact same way.

I agreed with Mike’s assessment. On first glance, we might be losing speed, but we’d be gaining standardization; one submission format would increase the accuracy in translating the paper observations to the GIS by the addressing team.

I’m hanging this map up on my wall and we’re going to mark continued on page 6

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off each square as it comes in. I’ll keep you posted. With that, we shook hands and I returned to my office.

Added Benefits
For the next two months, Mike’s guy, Briggs diligently mapped all the address suites throughout the City. In the end, the work was less than heroic, and it so happened that there were only two boots on the ground. In the peak heat of the summer his boots walked retail centers, his boots went into office buildings. Briggs wasn’t self-taught GIS, he never had a university course.

He did his job, he drove the City, and he wrote down what he saw. At the end of the project, he had visited 218 buildings and recorded 1,362 suites.

Possession of a completed unique addressing layer let us continue business as usual. We met the minimum requirements for the new software. That’s good. Now, however, the increased granularity of our newly augmented address suites dataset allows door-to-door routing for emergency services to any location in the City. That’s great. Because for these crews, the micro-transactions of wasted time can easily mean lives lost. For them, Briggs shoring up their productivity bank is the definition of heroic. I just showed up with some maps.
Why GIS-Pro is THE Conference for GIS Professionals

By Wendy Peloquin, GISP, GIS-Pro 2017 Conference Chair

Every year URISA hosts its annual conference, GIS-Pro. The conference travels to a new location every year in the US or Canada, attracting attendees from across the world. In 2017, GIS-Pro had more than 400 attendees from ten countries, including attendees from 37 US States and four Canadian Provinces. About half were first time attendees! Welcome to the URISA family!

As an active member of the GIS community, this was my fifth year attending. After my first GIS-Pro, I quickly regret missing so many past conferences and not getting involved sooner. That year, I began volunteering on the Conference Planning Committee. This year I had the pleasure of serving as the Conference Chair. This was made more fun, given that it was hosted in my current town, Jacksonville, Florida.

I have had the opportunity of attending many different conferences throughout my career and I can tell you that every GIS conference is different. Each one has its own charm, audience, and benefits. However, for me, none of them have been quite like GIS-Pro. Yes, a lot of personal preference comes into play when comparing conferences, as each one offers something unique, but what attracts so many people to GIS-Pro? The answer is simple, it is THE conference for GIS Professionals.

Now you may be asking, what makes GIS-Pro “THE” conference for GIS Professionals? Let’s start with a definition of a professional. According to Merriam-Webster, a professional is “engaged in one of the learned professions”. The key word in that definition is engaged. I, myself, have been guilty of attending a conference and going through the motions. However, I have found at GIS-Pro that so many of the attendees are actively engaged, not just at GIS-Pro, but also within URISA.

GIS-Pro is filled with opportunities to get engaged, and is centered around learning opportunities and networking. There truly is something for everyone. The conference week kicks off with a large selection of workshops. The workshops are focused on best practices for hot topics within the industry. This year GIS-Pro offered its first ever workshop on UAS Operational Requirements for GIS Professionals and expanded the NextGen 9-1-1 & GIS Workflow workshop to include a session on NextGen 9-1-1 Data Hacks for finding anomalies and how to fix them. You may ask why URISA teaches best practices, instead of the technical aspect? As an organization, URISA strives to be vendor and software neutral, as there are many of each in the GIS community. But the main reason is that a Professional should understand the “why” and much as the “how”.

The week is then filled with an abundance of attendee presentations, URISA committee meetings, keynote speakers, student competitions, learning labs, volunteer opportunities, and networking opportunities. During the opening and closing keynotes, we got to hear from local professionals on UAS/drones and the GIS program at Kennedy Space Center. At GIS-Pro, we try to have a networking opportunity every day and not just at the end of the conference. We want to make sure that people can meet and build new relationships throughout the week. Networking opportunities included a young professional social, exhibit hall networking social, a networking bingo game, Esri User Group meeting, a geocaching poker run, a social at a local restaurant and candy store (Sweet Pete’s), and a Mapathon. Attendees volunteered at the Mapathon supporting projects of the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT). Throughout the years, I have made many new friends at GIS-Pro. Each of these friends have a unique perspective in the field of GIS, as they are all at different stages in their career, as well as different sectors of GIS.

In 2017, the Conference Planning Committee also introduced tracks. These tracks were focused on the GISP exam, leadership and management, young professionals, and emerging technologies. This gave attendees the opportunity to attend sessions that were focused on an area of interest and build on topics throughout the week, as well as a variety of sessions to attend. If you would like to share your story, I encourage you to submit an abstract. Or if you know someone doing great work, please reach out to them and encourage them to submit an abstract as well. The attendee presentations are only as diverse, interesting, and unique as the abstracts that are submitted. To check out all of the things you missed, please check out the GIS-Pro 2017 Conference Program (https://gispro2017.sched.com/).

If you have never attended GIS-Pro, I encourage you come and experience it for yourself. And for those of you that have attended, please remember that your feedback is invaluable. If GIS-Pro is going to continue to be THE conference for GIS Professionals, we need to hear from you.

If you want to get more engaged in the Conference, the Conference Planning Committee is always looking for volunteers. Please contact Wendy Nelson if you are interested in volunteering on the Conference Planning Committee. If you want to get engaged in URISA, I promise you that there is an opportunity for everyone and the current volunteers will be more than willing to help you find your place in the organization.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Palm Springs in 2018 (http://www.urisa.org/gis-pro)!
Why does your organization exist, and why should anyone care? Organizations exist to perform—period. Be for-profit or non-profit, they all exist to do something, make a product, or supply a service.

Today, many employers say they’re having trouble retaining their younger employees—specifically Millennials. At 82 million strong, Millennials are the workforce of the future. Studies have shown they want to work where they can make a difference and contribute to something bigger than themselves.

It’s imperative to realize that the people in your organization—especially young people—are the fuel to your long-term success, and the one person who affects that outcome more than any other is the frontline manager. Fortunately, there are five defined pillars of success that managers can rely on to help them succeed in their aim to boost employee retention.

- **Engage employees with a compelling vision of what is expected, and provide the mission to achieve that vision.** Why? What’s in it for the employee to want to achieve for you? People respond when they are doing or contributing to something bigger than themselves. When national crises such as earthquakes or hurricanes occur, people are driven to volunteer not because they have to, but because they want to. Your vision and the culture you create are the reasons you exist.

- **Tell your people that without them doing what they do you wouldn’t achieve the results that you desire.** The way employees view a job and its role in their life is evolving. Employees don’t just come to work for a paycheck. They seek a purpose, the opportunity to do what they do best every day, and to lead a life they desire for their families and themselves.

- **Make decisions based on productivity.** By keeping your eye on the goal and having your people similarly focused, everyone will understand why certain decisions are made and can buy in. If disagreements occur in discussions they are welcomed because they are focused on achieving a better outcome toward the end objective. When disagreements occur, be sure to ask what the ultimate goal is.

- **Motivate every team member to take action.** People are more likely to take action if they know what is expected of them. When expectations are clearly defined, employees are less likely to disappoint their manager or their peers. Employees will work together without your direction or approval when they all know what is expected and have bought into achieving the desired results. Most people are going to live up or down to their perception of the expectations of them. If your people don’t know what is expected, don’t be surprised by what you get.

- **Have the assertiveness to drive outcomes.** Are you more concerned with the process or the outcome? Managers are in place to strive for positive outcomes. Employees may find ways to produce an outcome that the manager never thought of. Provide employees the freedom to experiment and try new ways of doing things. Keep progress results in front of the employees. If they do not see the progress they are making as a team, they will lose interest over time and productivity will wain.

When your staff see that their work is making a difference they will continue to contribute. If you avoid providing appropriate feedback on your employees’ progress, you’ll immediate notice a decline in the contributions of team members. Remember, feedback is the breakfast of champions—be generous with your thoughts and expectations.

- **Create a culture that you want.** Culture impacts every aspect of how you get things done, from hiring and developing the talents of the employees to customer service. Define your desired culture and then take it from words to actions. If you don’t like the culture you currently have or the results that you are currently obtaining, you are the only person who can change it. Your actions have to mirror what you desire. Do you allow the negative behavior to go unchallenged? Realize negative behavior brings down all your good employees. Your employees are watching and if they see you doing nothing, your lack of action has sent a powerful message. You don’t care!

Employees are not going to care if the manager doesn’t care. When employees know that the manager truly cares about them as a people, they will walk through fire for the manager. When people believe the manager doesn’t care the employees will let the manager walk off a cliff. This caring gets to the heart of employee engagement.

By creating a workplace where people want to come to...
work instead because they have to come to work managers will see positive changes. Most people don’t wake up in the morning and say, “I think I will do a bad job today.” Help them achieve the results necessary for the organization, but in a way that each and every employee’s contribution is recognized and appreciated.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Jan Makela is an executive coach, highly-sought after speaker, and best-selling author of Cracking the Code to Success and Be the Manager People Won’t Leave. Jan has a long and successful history of working with companies to ensure quality hiring and training practices. His specialty revolves around strength-based leadership development, with a particular focus on working with senior and mid-level executives, business owners, and professionals. For more information on Jan Makela, please visit www.StrengthBasedLeadership.net.

Wondering about the 2017 URISA GIS Salary Survey? We’re putting the finishing touches on it. It’s quite comprehensive with more than 3,000 responses! A pre-order opportunity will be available shortly with the complete publication coming in the new year.

Early registration discounts through January 15!
K-12 is Evolving with the Science of Where
Highlights from GIS-Pro’s High-School Student Competition by Kara Utter and Tory Elmore, URISA Vanguard Cabinet

“WE WANT TO SEE MORE.”
It is difficult to count how many times we received this encouraging feedback in Jacksonville this year. The newly implemented ‘High School Geospatial Poster Competition’ captivated GIS professionals, leaving lasting impressions that were echoed throughout the remainder of the conference week.

As URISA’s Vanguard Cabinet of Young Professionals, it is common that we facilitate university student competitions during GIS-Pro. This year, we were lucky to have an energetic voice in Tory Elmore, advocating that we extend our invitation to local high schools. When asked about her passion towards these young students, she responded:

“In my role as a Vanguard Cabinet member, I wanted to extend our impact beyond the traditional outreach to young professionals and college students. I wanted to showcase the work being done by our youngest spatial analysts, and encourage classroom teachers, after-school programs, and non-profit educators to incorporate GIS into their curricula. This year’s competition is just the tip of the iceberg, but I hope it will inspire students and educators alike to take advantage of Mr. Dangermond’s generosity and explore their world through a spatial lens.”

Studies suggest that spatial learning is a critical part of youth education, where spatial skills uniquely predict STEM achievement and attainment and “spatially enriched education could pay substantial dividends in increasing participation in [STEM fields],” (Uttal et. al 2012). As GIS has become increasingly accessible and user-friendly, particularly with the development of web GIS platforms, it has become a new tool for building spatial awareness in the next generation of GIS users. ESRI’s contribution to the ConnectED initiative- the provision of ArcGIS Online accounts and ArcGIS Pro licenses to every school in the US- adds up to a $1 billion investment in future GIS professionals. Students all over the country are now using GIS to understand the world around them, to address and solve problems in their communities, from littering to handicapped accessibility and beyond.

As online GIS platforms increase in popularity and influence, it seems only natural that younger generations would show an exceptional level of understanding and proficiency within them. Each of the 13 high school students invited to participate in the competition brought with them a bright-eyed look of excitement and a poster, which was a modified version of their online mapping project.

Many GIS professionals found the maps in their posters to be impressive and the professionalism expressed by the students to be refreshing. Some were left speechless at the variety and depth of research involved, comparing their projects to master’s theses. Carl Anderson, GISP and Past President of URISA, was one such GIS professional and could be seen engaging each student throughout the afternoon of the competition. He found their love for geospatial to be invigorating, expressing that, “their depth of knowledge and topic understanding was beyond anything I had ever seen from people at their age.”

As the time to tally scores and announce winners grew near, the interested crowd of GIS professionals grew larger.

1st place of $500 and a student Esri license went to 8th grader Navya Tripathi from Lincoln Middle School/Buchholz High School, Gainesville, for her project titled, “Story Map of Hurricane Irma – An Account of Its Path, Damage and Response.”

2nd place of $250 and a student Esri license went to senior Crosby Middleton from Creekside High School, St. Johns, for his project titled, “Beach Erosion in Florida.” To view his award-winning project, use the following link: http://arcg.is/1juKLD.
was encouraging for the students to see conference attendees standing witness for the announcement:

As much as the presence of the students influenced the vigor and excitement behind GIS-Pro, the impact of engaged GIS professionals on the students was equally as well-received. When asked about his experience, Crosby said that, “Attending the GIS-Pro conference was a first experience for me, and it was amazing! I learned even more applications for GIS. Receiving feedback on my project by GIS professionals was very constructive. I loved the positive, yet competitive, environment of the student competition. Overall, the conference taught me a lot about the possible applications and fields involved in GIS.”

Due to its success, promise of opportunity and the countless requests for it to continue, the competition will be implemented again at GIS-Pro & CalGIS 2018 in Palm Springs, California.

A special thank you to Northern Rockies URISA for sponsoring the cash awards and to Esri for providing the student licenses. Thank you also to the guest judges who joined two of our own board members for the poster reviews.
As the holidays approach and everything is abuzz, URISA is working on finishing another great year full of activity and setting the future vision for our organization. In my first column as president, I wanted to share a few milestones of our journey as an organization and how we got to where we are today, highlighting where we are heading and invite you to participate as we head into the New Year.

Who & What is URISA?
For those of you that already know much of this information… go forth and share who we are as an organization and all the great things that URISA has done! As we head into an exciting transformative year from URISA to a OneURISA (described further down in the letter) it’s always a good idea to revisit and understand where we’ve been and how we got to where we are today…

Our Vision:
URISA connects people and resources in the geospatial community.

Our Mission:
URISA is a multi-disciplinary geospatial organization that provides professional education and training, a vibrant and connected community, advocacy for geospatial challenges and issues, and essential resources. URISA fosters excellence in GIS and engages geospatial professionals throughout their careers.

URISA holds a rich history and has played a foundational role in the geospatial industry. From its first meetings in 1963 to officially forming as an organization in 1966 in Berkeley, California, URISA has evolved into an organization that has grown over the last 51 years to include 1500 international members, over 26 URISA Chapters and several worldwide affiliations.

At the core of URISA are its members and the professional and personal relationships it brings. There is a legacy of individuals and partners who have dedicated countless hours in making URISA what it is today. For me personally, URISA is more than a professional organization; it is a family that you choose to be a part of. To get involved at a deep level means that you have folks from all over the nation and internationally that you can count on beyond professional connections.

An organization of “latitudinous” accomplishments
Over a half century, URISA has been busy a pioneer in the industry and supported GIS professionals.

I encourage all of our membership and those interested in learning more about URISA’s formation and the organization’s many contributions over the years to dive into http://www.urisa.org/about-us/our-story/ and in particular a special publication honoring URISA’s 50 years entitled “Foundations of Urban and Regional Information Systems and Geographic Information Systems and Science.”
Celebrating our key accomplishments this year…

So, what’s been happening this year? It’s hard to capture all the great work that is being done by our dedicated members but I will highlight a few key accomplishments.

- A new Strategic Plan (adopted)
- OneURISA Model Blueprint (adopted)
- OneURISA Chapter Survey
- URISA Leadership Academy (expanded offerings)
- GISCorps (extensive volunteer efforts to support 2017 natural disasters and more)
- Salary Survey (to be released soon)
- NEW URISA website (launching soon)
- GIS and Transit Conference
- NEW High School Poster Competition at GIS-Pro led by the Vanguard Cabinet
- All the amazing work across 13 subcommittees and task forces
- Established a Strategic Planning/Subcommittee Leadership Joint Collaboration Effort
- Key and supportive role in advocacy for the practice and our members
- Supporting NextGen911, the National Address Standard, National Parcel Database, NSDI Strategic Framework

Our future organization...putting plans into action (yep I’m a planner by discipline)

Throughout 2017 we have been busy laying the foundation to move us into our future organization. In 2018, we are moving those plans further into action.

2017-2018 Strategic Plan

The Strategic Planning Committee is defined in the URISA By-laws (304.3) and is charged with maintaining URISA’s strategic plan. The current version of the strategic plan was adopted by the URISA Board of Directors at the October 26, 2017 meeting in Jacksonville, Florida.

Focus Areas and Strategic Outcomes

The purpose of the plan is to focus URISA’s limited resources on achieving specific strategic outcomes, that support the mission and vision of URISA. The Strategic Planning Committee has defined three focus areas for URISA. Each focus area is assigned strategic outcomes, that support the programs and initiatives of URISA. These strategic outcomes are supported by strategic objectives, that are further assigned specific short (0-3 months), medium (3-6 months), and long-range actions (6-12 months).

- Sustain and strengthen the URISA organization
  a. Create OneURISA
  b. Strengthen and enhance chapters
  c. Launch a new urisa.org website
  d. Expand and create a rewarding volunteer experience
  e. Build a stronger presence and infrastructure for GISCorps, within URISA

- Promote, protect, and grow the GIS profession
  a. Advocate for the GIS profession
  b. Provide industry guidelines and best practices
  c. Increase GMI value and use of the GIS Capability Maturity Assessment tool

- Support GIS professionals at all stages of their careers with essential training and resources
  a. Enhance the quality and value of GIS-Pro Annual Conference
  b. Increase the quality and quantity of webinars and remote training
  c. Ensure the viability of URISA specialty conferences
  d. Continue to provide and expand GIS management and leadership training through the URISA GIS Leadership Academy
  e. Increase support for GISCI and the GISP certification
  f. Provide meaningful opportunities for young professionals through collaboration with the Vanguard Cabinet

The short, medium, and long-range actions for each strategic objective have been assigned to administrative, committee, and task force units within URISA. It is the URISA Board of Directors’ intent to constantly review and realign tasks in the strategic plan based on recommendations from the strategic planning committee. A copy of the plan can be found on URISA’s website.

One URISA

For those of you that were able to attend GIS-Pro in Jacksonville, you already heard the biggest announcement and excitement for the year as presented by Tripp Corbin, Immediate Past President. As described earlier, URISA has been steadily growing the organization for the past 50 plus years with a long history of supporting and helping grow the geospatial industry. As a commitment to that continued growth, URISA will be embarking on a long time (over 15 years) vision of a unified membership model. In preparation, the Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) was formed...
more than 5 years ago with the two primary purposes of 1) representing Chapter interests within URISA and 2) working toward a plan to implement a OneURISA concept. The CAB submitted the draft idea to Board 4 ½ years ago to provide starting point and the Board adopted the OneURISA Blueprint in June of this year based on the CAB proposal.

As a unified membership model, similar to many other professional organizations, OneURISA is designed to provide many benefits to individual members, chapters and URISA international. A key feature of the OneURISA model is that it empowers all our members, Chapter members and International members alike, by making them part of the same organization. Unfortunately, it is currently possible to be a member of a Chapter but not a member of URISA International or a member of URISA International but not a member of a Chapter. This causes us all to miss out on opportunities to connect, interact, and share experiences and knowledge that we would have if all of the members of Chapters and URISA were part of one organization. OneURISA will eliminate these missed opportunities and provide more value to all of us as URISA members, including:

• Access to a larger professional network.
• Belonging to a stronger organization with a more influential voice to address issues important to the profession and community. There is power in numbers and we have opportunities to make a positive impact on the GIS profession on many fronts.
• Having a voice on local, national and international stages through URISA and our affiliations with groups such as the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO), the United Nations, National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), and others to address issues facing the profession.
• More opportunities to earn contribution points for GISP certification.
• URISA International publications such as The GIS Professional and URISA Digest.
• Discounts on URISA events such as GIS-Pro, GIS Leadership Academy, and specialty conferences.
• Voting in URISA International elections, running for office, and serving on committees.
• One stop shop for membership sign-up, renewal and information.

OneURISA Next Steps:
Implementation Plan
Now that we know what we are building, we can begin the process of determining how we will build it. This will include a financial and systems analysis, communication and marketing plan, and discussion with legal and financial experts to make sure everything URISA wants to do provides the best possible protection to the membership, Chapters and the International organization. There will be a continuing review of the blueprint as more information from these activities becomes available which will ultimately evolve into an implementation plan for URISA and the Chapters. The full transformation will be completed by 2020. Implementation will be staged with a few chapters at a time and a Tech Assist Team will be in place to help make the transition.

More information can be found on the URISA website http://www.urisa.org/chapters/oneurisa/.

GIS-Pro & CalGIS 2018
Going back to California roots, GIS-Pro will be held October 9-12, 2018 in Palm Springs, California, in partnership with our four California URISA Chapters and the California Geographic Information Association (CGIA). Our 2018 conference will be kicking it off with a keynote speaker that you might just be familiar with, Jack Dangermond, Esri. Please join us for this exciting opportunity and make your plans now to attend!

A final reflection...
Finally, I can’t help but reflect back on 2017 and the necessity and importance of moving ahead. This year has certainly presented its challenges for many, across all spectrums, yet has also brought some true watershed moments when boldness begins to transform the way we move forward. On a personal note, it has brought the awareness to more closely align with the things you believe in and how the collective strength of many can become a singular and stronger voice. In a similar way, as URISA continues its journey, it will be the premier geospatial professional organization for its members with a focus on a global scale, advocating for our profession and associations/organizations, educating members on critical and current technology and policy issues, supporting women, young professionals and a diverse spectrum of professionals in geospatial technology and sciences, connecting people and resources, and providing opportunities for members to make powerful contributions well beyond the organization.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a very safe and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you at a URISA event in 2018. Feel free to contact me at ttownsend@planning-communities.com if you would like to discuss URISA initiatives and activities or wish to share new ideas.
Getting to Know URISA: Professional Education Committee

The Professional Education Committee was formed in 2015 to establish URISA guidelines and criteria for professional educational materials that offer guidance on technical skills and best practices related to the GIS profession.

Much of the committee’s time and energy for the past two years has been spent developing, maintaining, and promoting URISA workshops. These workshops have long been recognized as one of the most valuable components of the URISA GIS Pro conference and are frequently offered throughout the year as well. This important work will continue and we are always looking for suggestions for new workshops as well as individuals interested in becoming workshop instructors.

In 2018 we will strive to build on the success we have had to date. In addition to growing our workshop portfolio, we are also developing many new additional educational products. For example, we are currently working on redesigning the GIS Professional to have a fresh new look, we have begun work on a series of FAQs that will highlight relevant issues and policies and provide guidance on how you can obtain more information about these topics, and we are working on scheduling lots of webinars that will address topics ranging from how to prepare for the GISP exam to how to apply best practices in GIS application.

We recently transformed the committee’s structure in order to better facilitate these ideas and to encourage engagement of volunteers from across the URISA membership. We have established a Strategic Oversight Team (SOT) which establishes workgroups and is responsible for determining priorities. Each workgroup is responsible for completing a very specific set of tasks that typically lead to a product such as a new workshop or publication. These tasks often require only a small amount of time to complete. This is especially important for busy volunteers who can quickly see the results of their efforts with a minimal effort. In addition, because GIS is a rapidly changing technology, it is important that we all have timely and current information in order to fully understand and leverage new developments. The new structure is designed to ensure that new materials are available to our colleagues in the GIS community on an ongoing basis.

Joining a workgroup is an excellent way to get started as a URISA volunteer. It is also an opportunity for those of you who have been long time URISA members to share your knowledge. You can participate in a focused group with a very specific task. You don’t have to promise 6 years of your life, your first born child, or your every vacation day in order to contribute. New workgroups are being established on an ongoing basis so there is almost certainly an opportunity for you to become engaged in something that you find interesting and meaningful.

The committee expects to be publishing FAQs starting in the next GIS Professional, so be on the watch for those. Each committee in URISA will be appearing in a Getting to Know URISA column over the next year, so if you don’t see something interesting from us, look for the next article. The strength of URISA is in the knowledge of its members and their willingness to collaborate, therefore we look forward to your input in the future.

So how do you get involved? Just ask! Email Kevin Mickey at kmickey@iupui.edu.

Get Involved

Current FAQ Workgroups:
• Geospatial Data Act
• NextGEN 911
• Address Data Management
• 2020 Census

Other Workgroups:
• GIS Exam Prep
• GIS Professional
• GIS & Ethics
• Workshop Maintenance

Contact:
Kevin Mickey (Chair) kmickey@iupui.edu
Welcome New URISA Members

Joseph Candlish—Janus Global Operations, LLC—Knoxville, TN
Jason Clemis, GISP—Forsyth County—Cumming, GA
Kevin DeRouen—Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District—Sammamish, WA
Jennifer Dinwoodie—Sarasota County Government—Sarasota, FL
Garret Giordano—Littleton, CO
Erin Jones —City of Lynchburg—Lynchburg, VA
Carl Larsen—Norfolk, VA
Pauline Loughlin, GISP—City of Philadelphia—Philadelphia, PA
Amy Macpherson, GISP—Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks, Geophysical Institute—Fairbanks, AK
Karen Maloof—Norfolk, MA
Roland Martin, CGeog (GIS), FRGS—Arup—Los Angeles, CA
Miklos Nadas, GISP—Brown & Caldwell—Independence, OH
Jordan Niedwiecki —Pond—Madison, AL
Michael Oropeza —OroTec—Pompano Beach, FL
Jonathan Perez —Michael Baker International—Carmichael, CA
Kristina Perikly, GISP—City of Scottsdale—Scottsdale, AZ
Sean Phayakapong—City of Oceanside—Oceanside, CA
Mary Phillips—Woolpert—Jacksonville, NC
Bryan Price—St. Clair County, AL—Ashville, AL
Linda Prosperie, GISP—Texas Dept. of Public Safety—Austin, TX
Yoko Rader—Huntington Beach, CA
Anna Riling—Durango,
Cordula Robinson —Northeastern University—Boston, MA
Jessica Sandoval—Sacramento, CA
Shama Sheth—Brampton, ON Canada
Bradan Warns—New Braunfels, TX
Rentonia Williams —American Cancer Society—Atlanta, GA

The discounted early rate for Columbus is available until January 15.
The discounted early rate for SLC is available until March 15.

Is GIS Leadership & Management Training on your Professional Development To-Do List?
You’ve got two opportunities (so far) to attend the popular URISA GIS Leadership Academy in 2018.

URISA GIS Leadership Academy
April 9-13, 2018
Columbus, Ohio

The discounted early rate for Columbus is available until January 15.
The discounted early rate for SLC is available until March 15.

Make your plans early! http://www.urisa.org/education-events/urisa-gis-leadership-academy/
Mobile Government Strategy: Take GIS to the Field and Back

Turn a routine data collection expedition into a data goldmine with GIS. From the very moment that your crew heads into the field, geo-powered data guides and simplifies their tasks. Data collection is exact and instantly useful back in the office. A perfect suite of apps, all working together to make your field operations smooth and efficient.

Next time, send your field crew out with ArcGIS, the mapping and analytics platform with a mobile strategy built in.

Learn more about building a government strategy with GIS at go.esri.com/URISA-mobile.
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Cityworks provides users with a web GIS-centric solution that helps them manage, track, and analyze your infrastructure maintenance and risk assessment. Cityworks includes an integrated permitting and community services management system to include activities done across residential, commercial, and other community infrastructure.

Since 1996, Cityworks | Azteca Systems, LLC has created and designed public asset management software for cities, counties, utilities, and authorities (i.e. local government). Cityworks pioneered the web GIS-centric paradigm and approach for public asset management to help organizations improve service and maintain the public infrastructure. Cityworks is a major software system used by organizations throughout North America and Internationally for managing utilities, public works, parks, planning and development, and airports. Daily, Cityworks is used by over 40,000 public sector employees to service and maintain the vital public assets for communities with a combined population of more than 80 million people.

For more information please go to cityworks.com

Esri

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Since 1969, Esri® has been helping organizations map and model our world. Esri’s GIS software tools and methodologies enable them to effectively analyze and manage their geographic information and make better decisions. They are supported by our experienced and knowledgeable staff and extensive network of business partners and international distributors. A full-service GIS company, Esri supports the implementation of GIS technology on the desktop, servers, online services, and mobile devices. These GIS solutions are flexible, customizable, and easy to use. Esri software is used by hundreds of thousands of organizations who apply GIS to solve problems and make our world a better place to live. We pay close attention to our users to ensure they have the best tools possible to accomplish their missions. A comprehensive suite of training options offered worldwide helps our users fully leverage their GIS. Esri is a socially conscious business, actively supporting organizations involved in education, conservation, sustainable development, and humanitarian affairs.

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www.thedrivingdutchman.com

Cyclomedia is the market leader in systematic imaging of large-scale environments from cities to complete countries. Cyclomedia’s smart imagery solution creates Cycloramas — 360-degree panoramic photos — with high accuracy, providing current and clear views of street-level environments.

The Cyclomedia recording system is like no other. It uses patented technology to determine the exact position and orientation of every picture taken. By creating a dense network of geometric street images, Cycloramas are always focused on the correct address or feature from multiple vantage points.

Our solution revolutionizes the way asset and property assessment is managed and reported. It reduces field visits and provides accurate feature measurements with convenient spot-checking. It simplifies maintenance and enables automated inventory and controlled processes. It also saves valuable resources while simplifying the decision-making process, improving operations and increasing efficiency.

Gold Corporate Partners

For information about URISA Partnership, please visit:
http://www.urisa.org/about-us/become-a-urisa-partner/ or contact Wendy Nelson at URISA Headquarters.

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Website: http://www.hexagongeospatial.com Hexagon Geospatial helps you make sense of the dynamically changing world. Hexagon Geospatial provides geospatial technology products and platforms to our customers, channel partners, and Hexagon businesses.
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- Public Safety and Homeland Security
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- GlobeSpotter Cloud – Secure, scalable hosting service managed by Cyclomedia that’s free to customers.
- GlobeSpotter Server – Locally hosted option supporting all Cyclomedia’s content and software.

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Headquartered in Orlando, DTS is a leader in asset management, geographic information systems, and transportation planning. We specialize in creating solutions to help clients automate their worlds, reduce their workload and organize their data through customized technology. DTS is comprised of seven divisions, each with its own scope of services. Often however, a single project spans several divisions before completion because we uniquely offer all the necessary cutting-edge services, integrated within one company.

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monitor and manage utility poles, underground cables, utility pipelines, bridges, runway infrastructure and other assets. MICAP is free and available via the App Store and Google Play.

- Local watershed assessment at the push of a button
  iWATR (Integrated Watershed Assessment Tool for Restoration) is a mobile app-based innovation developed by Michael Baker International’s water services team to add speed, capability – and value – to provide an easy-to-use assessment tool for any city, county or state planner across the U.S. to develop or better manage local land. The app combines GPS features and data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other government sources, to compile local data at the push of a few buttons. It tabulates a comprehensive assessment, and provides several solution options with cost estimates to solve specific water quality-impairment problems in watersheds areas.

- Analyzing bridge data with ease
  iUSBridges, is a geographic information system (GIS)-based app that allows users to locate nearby bridges, explore details of those bridges, save information on favorite bridges, and share feedback. iUSBridges uses data retrieved from the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) National Bridge Inventory. State departments of transportation provide updated bridge information on a cyclical basis to the FHWA.

For more information, click here.

Bronze Corporate Partners

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Our clients leverage our expertise and rely on our long history of proven performance to develop geo-related solutions, including Geographic Information Services, GPS survey and map grade data collection, geo-enabled photogrammetry, aerial imagery analysis and processing, and cloud mapping.

As a trusted partner, we collaborate with our clients to identify their goals and deliver solutions and products that exceed expectations. Our team’s cutting-edge technical capabilities meet the emerging survey, mapping, data collection, and application development needs of our clients, building on a strong foundation of experience and proven ability to perform and execute multiple, simultaneous task orders.

Learn more: Featured Projects

GeoDecisions

Since 1986, GeoDecisions has partnered with clients throughout the U.S. and abroad to design, develop, and deploy leading edge, disruptive GIS tools and applications that improve decision-making. Backed by Gannett Fleming, our rock-solid engineering parent company established in 1915, we combine the best talent and resources from across our firm to deliver the best business solutions.

Planning, budgeting, managing assets and data, and optimizing resources are critically important in today’s global economy. At GeoDecisions, we provide the data management and mapping technology tools and products that help clients successfully navigate change. Our geospatial information technology (IT) offerings empower organizations to make more informed business decisions and improve their bottom line.

Partnering with industry leaders such as Esri, our turnkey approach encompasses strategic planning and implementation design all the way through system integration and testing. Our foundation for success is based on the belief that the true power of GIS lies in the integration of diverse information technologies, data formats, and systems. From cloud computing and mobile technologies to Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) offerings built on the Esri® platform, our location-based IT solutions provide next-generation reporting, visibility, and analytics.

GeoDecisions believes that all IT projects require vision and considerable leadership to be completed successfully, on time, and on budget. By championing a philosophy vested in partnering, collaboration, and shared goals, GeoDecisions’ staff makes every effort to work with all parties who will use a system. We strive to recommend the best-fit solutions for our clients, based on the balance of available funding and personnel versus desired functionality.

GeoDecisions is ISO 9001:2008-certified and employs more than 80 IT and geographic information system (GIS) professionals operating out of 9 offices. Our staff is engaged in IT consulting and in the design, development, and deployment of data repositories and geospatial and Web-enabled information management systems. GeoDecisions IT solutions are flexible, scalable, and resusable.

Our business specialties benefit the logistics and fleet management, insurance and financial, municipal and facility asset management, transportation, and utility markets.

Our team includes subject matter experts with advanced certifications who keep their fingers on the pulse of geo-spatial technology. Through industry leadership, ongoing training, and a unique blend of talent, GeoDecisions professionals work to exceed client expectations every day. Our vision identifies and mitigates risk, resulting in more effective project collaboration, on-time delivery, and success.

Valtus Imagery

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At Valtus, our focus - and our passion - is the storage and online distribution of large imagery and LiDAR datasets. Yes...our passion. Nowhere will you find a group of technicians more committed to (and enthusiastic about) the prompt and seamless delivery of imagery that brings value to customers’ businesses.

As pioneers of industry leading Content as a Service (CaaS) and Cloud Solutions, our passion for providing Internet access to imagery has been growing strong since 1995.

Valtus is part of Hexagon (Nordic exchange HEXA B; www.hexagon.com), a leading global provider of design, measurement and visualisation technologies that enable customers to design, measure and position objects, and process and present data.
Applied Ecology, Inc.

Located in Brevard County, Applied Ecology is knowledgeable and experienced in working with clients in the central and south Florida area. Our location has allowed us to be highly involved in the Indian River Lagoon TDML process, and preserving some of the most precious natural resources of the Tampa Bay and Indian River Lagoon estuaries. We serve municipalities and other businesses that cater to public clients and are experts in their fields. Applied Ecology, Inc. is a small, woman-owned business with 40 years of combined specialized experience in:

- GIS
- Remote sensing
- Project management
- Complex data and database management
- Statistical analyses
- Software tool development

We focus on serving public clients in:

- Environmental resource management
- Ecological studies
- Water resources
- Stormwater management
- Utilities

AEI has the experience and skills to plan studies that cross multiple disciplines. Please see the key staff qualifications and project examples to see the level of expertise a small team

- Data management
- Custom programming
- Database creation
- High-level spatial and statistical analyses
- Report writing

We take pride in being a highly responsive business that delivers quality products on-time!

Bad Elf

AFFORDABLE GPS SOLUTIONS. COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRY SUPPORT.

Bad Elf specializes in the design and manufacture of affordable and reliable high-performance GNSS receivers for GIS mapping and field data collection. All of our products are lightweight, portable, and provide a battery life of twenty-four hours for a full day of data collection activities. Our complete product line offers a range of capabilities and accuracy (from 2.5 meters to 1 meter) to match your requirements.

Bad Elf products work seamlessly with most GIS and mapping apps in the iTunes App Store or the Google Play Store. Bad Elf also supports Android and Windows devices, providing streaming location data in standard NMEA sentences. Our Bluetooth GNSS Surveyor provides high-accuracy (~1 meter), multi-constellation support (GPS, GLONASS, QZSS), SBAS (WAAS/EGNOS/MSAS), and universal Bluetooth connectivity (iOS, Android, Windows). The free Bad Elf Utility app for iOS includes DGPS and post-processing workflows.

We are forging strong relationships with GIS app developers taking advantage of our products’ advanced hardware features through our Bad Elf Developer program. There are no restrictions on how you use your data. We believe in open standards. Any device that can connect to a Bad Elf GNSS receiver via Bluetooth will be able to consume data directly from our GNSS accessories. Your data. Your way.

Geocove

Geocove helps agencies solve the problem of where. Geocove provides spatial technology solutions to government agencies and utilities to help them collect, manage, visualize and share information. We provide insight into problems and solutions for decision makers, users and the public. We also make seriously cool map apps. So how does your GIS program work for you? info@geocove.com

GeoTechVision

With offices in Kingston, Jamaica (876-970-5686) and Georgetown, Guyana (592-227-0433) www.geotechvision.com

GeoTechVision focuses on “Delivering Value through Innovative Solutions!” We have been assisting Caribbean Businesses, Agencies and Government Ministries to develop and effectively use spatial intelligence in critical decision making! We are very involved with establishing Geographic Information Systems, GPS and Mobility products and solutions, as well as marketing our own “Geo” brand tablet. We consider Human Capacity Building as very critical - right from the classroom to the work environment. Hence our Classroom Management Solution and our strong focus on Training and Development in all our engagements. Our other consulting services include Project Management, Information Security Advisory, Process Audit and Assurance, Business Analysis and Enterprise GIS solution planning and Implementation.
sets, models and change detection reports 10x faster than with traditional methods.

By creating HD 3D maps in the earliest stages of projects, our clients are able to increase the NVP of projects by lowering the time to completion and reducing and deferring survey programs until the later stages of a project. Additionally, clients with existing assets to manage benefit from our centralized on-line business-to-business services to manage their rapid feature extraction and mapping programs. Eliminating the inefficient traditional person to person sales and manual data handling processes. Our al-a-carte on-line tools allow asset owners to individually direct and manage their mapping projects, resulting in quicker turnaround times and lower costs overall.

**MGP**

701 Lee Street Suite 1020
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Tel: (847) 656-5698
info@mgpinc.com
www.mgpinc.com

MGP is an information systems services company that specializes in geo-spatial solutions. Our comprehensive range of geographic, data modeling, and business process solutions provide you new opportunities to find a better way. We believe that innovation creates opportunity and collaboration breeds success. MGP was formed as a shared business model in which clients are partners. This philosophy enables significant cost savings and makes it possible for any client, regardless of size, to get where they need to go. MGP is the managing partner of the GIS Consortium.

**Planning Communities, LLC**

9131 Anson Way, Suite 304
Raleigh, North Carolina 27615
919-803-6862 (Office)
919-882-1206 (Fax)
contactus@planningcommunities.com
towsend@planningcommunities.com

Planning Communities, LLC provides a wide range of multi-disciplinary planning services for local, state and federal agencies, tribal nations and community organizations. Community, transportation, environmental and GIS services include local/regional planning, visioning/scenario planning, land use, socioeconomic, market and cost-benefit analysis, community asset mapping, tool/application support and development, process improvement/integration, consensus-building and facilitation.

Headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, Planning Communities has additional offices in Charlotte (NC) and Seattle (WA). Planning Communities is a North Carolina certified Small Professional Service Firm (SPSF) and is certified as a DBE in North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida and Delaware.

**Spatial Relationships, LLC**

800 Boylston St #990756
Boston MA 02199
(BS7) 400-8920

Contact:
Kathryn Brewer
James Armstrong

Spatial Relationships, LLC is a consulting firm that provides on-demand teams of expert Geospatial Professionals to ensure organizations have the capability to deliver on existing and future goals, manage business risk, and increase profitability.

Think of us as your geospatial concierge. Our “concierge services” provide resources and solutions for planned or abrupt disruptions as well as future projects. These can include:
- Being a key person down — planned leave or unexpected departure
- Technical requirements — fill skills, knowledge and training gaps
- Budget constraints — less than anticipated funds for the same scope of work
- Capacity constraints — completing urgent priorities for overbooked staff

Spatial Relationships, LLC was born out of the necessity to create new flexible and affordable ways to work that support organizations to manage ever-increasing demands as well as the need to support the community of Geospatial Professionals.

**Synergy Systems & Services**

Synergy is an Asian American owned MBE with an excellent track record of government contracting. Established 2002 and based in Maryland we have come a long way from providing data support services at Maryland State Highway Administration to providing services such as Database Management, GIS Data Creation, GIS application development and support, Software Engineering and Business Process Consulting to its distinguished clients in various Government Agencies. We take pride in all our work and take every effort to ensure the satisfaction of our clients.

**Temporal Geo Analytics**

P.O. Box 181431
Denver, CO 80218
Phone: 720-235-0390
info@TGAmaps.com

Temporal Geo Analytics, Inc. (TGA) is a Land Use and Environmental Litigation consulting firm. We have expertise in using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to develop, manage, and distribute complex spatial databases, as well as creating the presentation-quality visualizations and graphics needed for natural resource litigation and land use projects.

TGA specializes in the analysis of multifaceted land use issues and environmental impacts over time. TGA is expert at acquiring and integrating historic and current spatial data to build the critical information you need to represent your case.

Using GIS, we transform complex issues into defensible, authoritative, and easily understood maps and graphics. Our clientele consists primarily of natural resource and environmental attorneys, oil and gas companies, mining companies, and land developers.

Leveraging GIS for Environmental, Natural Resource, and Land Use Planning is our core expertise. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) integrate and overlay unlimited layers of themed spatial and tabular data to illustrate and reveal patterns, context, and the intrinsic qualities of any location. A GIS is also a powerful analysis tool capable of querying data for location and its relationship to overall context. At TGA, we have an intimate understanding of these tools and their capabilities.

Working with you and other experts, we build a completely defensible, dynamic analysis data platform with interactive visualizations and related tables that clearly represent the qualities of your project and its relationship to larger political, environmental, and regional contexts.
Wellar Consulting services include design and evaluation of education and training courses and curricula for GI Systems and GIScience programs; advice and workshops on the development of quantitative measures to assess information system and transportation system performance; critical reviews of IS and GIS RFPs; seminars on the safety and security aspects of interdependent infrastructures; professional opinion on land use planning and zoning issues; and, expert opinion on liability for safety-related incidents involving pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicle operators.

Educational Institution Members

USC Spatial Sciences Institute

Since its founding in 2010, the USC Spatial Sciences Institute has been using the power of spatial thinking and literacy – the ability to connect place and space – to help address global challenges, including those connected with population growth, urbanization, environmental sustainability, and human well-being. Through its innovative academic programs, the Spatial Sciences Institute educates and trains today’s leaders capable of deploying the “science of where” in every possible discipline and industry. Members of our internationally-recognized faculty contribute to the rapidly-evolving body of geospatial knowledge. From our home base in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, we collaborate with faculty colleagues throughout the University of Southern California and with other prestigious institutions around the world on funded research that links SSI faculty and students with decision makers and citizens and knowledge with action. We promote the analysis, modeling, and visualization of location-based data through interdisciplinary use-inspired and integrated research and teaching.

Roster of Academic Programs:

• B.S. in GeoDesign
• Spatial Studies minor
• Human Security and Geospatial Intelligence minor
• Online Graduate Programs in Geographic Information Science and Technology
• Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science and Technology

Temple University, Fox School of Business - Philadelphia, PA

Increase your capabilities with the Fox Master of Science in IT Auditing and Cyber Security and gain the knowledge to assess and control organizational cyber risks and protect data and information assets. Learn from experts in the field through our industry-proven curriculum, featuring built-in preparation for Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) or Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification. Flexible class formats enable you to choose the option that works best for you: online, face-to-face, or a hybrid of both.

• Master of Science in IT Auditing and Cyber Security
• Graduate Certificate in IT Auditing and Cyber Security

North Carolina State University - Center for Geospatial Analysis

• Master of Geospatial Information Science and Technology (MGIST)
• Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Information Science (GIS)

Auburn University

• Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Systems
• Master of Science in Geographic Information Systems

Lakeland Community College — Kirtland, OH

• Geography and Geospatial Technology - Associate of Applied Science and certificate programs

RFP Distribution

URISA members, remember that URISA will distribute your RFP/RFQ announcements to our corporate and business members at no charge. Simply email your announcement to info@urisa.org (Subject: RFP Service) and we’ll send it right out for you!
Mark Your Calendar!

**March 19-22, 2018**
2018 GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference
Houston, Texas

**April 9-13, 2018**
URISA GIS Leadership Academy
Columbus, Ohio

**July 23-27, 2018**
URISA GIS Leadership Academy
Salt Lake City, Utah

**October 9-12, 2018**
GIS-Pro & CalGIS 2018
Palm Springs, California

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**GIS-Pro & CalGIS 2018**
October 9-12, 2018
Palm Springs, California

Save the Date!