Concern for Recent Changes to the 2020 Census

URISA is gravely concerned that the rush to complete the 2020 Census within its original timeline, despite the operational interruption due to COVID-19, will result in an incomplete and inaccurate count, especially among minority populations. This will negatively impact state and local governments for years to come. Plus the recent direction by the President to use existing government records to statistically estimate the number of illegal aliens and to subtract that number from the population counts for the data to be provided for state and local redistricting is unproven and inconsistent with past practices. Whether or not this is constitutional, it’s already having an impact to further depress the overall response.

Why does a complete and accurate census matter? The census has a myriad of uses for federal, state, and local agencies plus non-profits and the private sector. Here are just some of ways the census is used:

- Accurate census data is important to GIS professionals in many areas like planning, public health, emergency response, social service management, etc.
- The decennial census provides the benchmark for state and local population estimates and forecasts.
- The allocation of hundreds of billion dollars in federal funding to programs such as Medicaid, Head Start, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and various block grants to name a few.
- The private sector is also a major user of census data such as to analyze and define markets and service areas, demographic profiles, broadband coverage mapping, and many more.

However, the initial and primary use for the census is for reapportionment. The Constitution mandates that a census be taken every ten years on April 1 so that “Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed” (from the 14th Amendment text that removed the “three fifths of all other Persons” (i.e. slaves) from the original).

As the country grew by adding states and population, the number of Representatives grew from the original 65 in 1789 to 141 when the 1800 census counted 5,308,483 people (including 893,602 slaves) to 391 in 1911 when the 1900 census counted 76,212,168 people and just before New Mexico and Arizona were admitted to the Union. Also in 1911, Congress passed the Apportionment Act of 1911 which limited the total number of continued on page 2
Representatives to 435 plus 1 each for New Mexico and Arizona for a total of 435. The Reapportionment Act of 1929, which continues to be in effect, established 435 Representatives as a permanent total and a method to reapportion districts among the states to meet that total. So even though the U.S. population has grown from 92,228,486 in 1910 to 308,745,538 in 2010, a difference of some 216 million, the total number of seats available in the House of Representatives remains at 435. The 2019 population estimate of 328 million promises that the 2020 Census will continue the national growth.

Every ten years the country must reapportion those 435 Congressional districts among the 50 states. States with increases in population will get additional districts but to do that other states with population decreases or no changes will lose districts to keep the total at 435. Undercounting a state’s population could cost it Congressional districts even though their population might have grown but the increase wasn’t counted correctly. The number of a state’s Congressional districts also determine its number of votes in the Electoral College which is determined by adding the two Senate seats to the district count for an overall total of 538 (including three for the District of Columbia).

As indicated above, the Constitution specified “counting whole number of persons” only excluding Indians not taxed. It doesn’t qualify that those persons should be citizens. One would assume if it originally included counting slaves at a rate of three fifths, the Constitution wouldn’t have considered them to be citizens either. URISA continues to support a full count of the U.S. Population, regardless of their citizenship, to get a complete picture of the demographic profile and to fulfill the Constitutional mandate.

The Census Bureau takes great care to plan and field test the census including the questions it asks, the collection methodology, the data processing, and making sure its geography is up to date. A major reason the Supreme Court recently disallowed the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census questionnaire was its last minute addition and lack of field testing. Now the Administration has added several more wrinkles as the census is still being collected.

The 2020 Census has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic along with everything else. The Census Bureau suspended field operations in mid-March with a phased restart beginning in May. Nonresponse follow-up operations started in mid-July when at the time of this writing the response rate is just under 63%. This is the first census that uses the Internet and smart phones as the primary methods for people to respond but many minority communities lack adequate access. Physical questionnaires can still be requested and returned by mail but as in previous censuses it often takes an enumerator visiting the household to finally get a response. It is this phase of the census that is being most directly impacted.

However, the two recent actions by the Administration noted above have called into question whether the Census Bureau will be able to complete a true and accurate census. In the first action, on July 21, 2020 the President issued a Memorandum directing the Census Bureau to reduce the population counts it provides to the states for redistricting by an estimated number of illegal aliens that is derived from administrative records. Not only is this directive contrary to the language in the Constitution but the methodology has yet to be identified let alone tested.

Since congressional districts were last apportioned using a complete census count, including illegal aliens, this action will have the same effect as an undercount if a state has a large illegal alien population. Pew Research had a recent article examining the potential impact of the President’s Memorandum and surmised that by removing unauthorized immigrants from the apportionment count three states would lose congressional districts and three states would gain them. There have already been several lawsuits filed to overturn this directive.

This action and the earlier attempt by the Administration to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census is having a negative effect on minority communities to support the census. Recent media reports uncover a sense of distrust in the privacy of the information and a questioning of whether the census really matters to them even to those who are citizens.

In the second action which is still being fleshed out, the President is directing the Census Bureau to complete the census and data files on the original timeline despite the Census Bureau’s initial request to Congress for a delay of four months to recover from the interruption of activities due to COVID-19. While the Constitution mandates who to count and when, it leaves it up to Congress to determine the how. Federal law establishes that the redistricting tabulation totals be delivered to the President by December 31 (nine months from April 1) and delivered to each state by March 30, 2021. Since these dates are in statute, the Congress is able to change it.

As of this writing, it is unclear what will happen and what dates the Census Bureau will finally adhere to. Initially, the Census Bureau indicated that it was requesting a four-month delay in delivering the redistricting data and an extension of field operations to October 31. At a July 29, 2020 House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing four former Census Bureau directors supported the extension and believed it vital to achieving a complete count. House Bill H.R. 7974 has been introduced that would grant that extension and prevent field operations from ending prior to October 31, 2020. However, the Census Bureau has abandoned the extension request and is now rushing to complete field operations, including all in-person follow ups, by September 30.

URISA will continue to monitor the 2020 Census situation and speak out when warranted. URISA has already added its support to several letters to Congress by the nonpartisan The Census Project concerning adequate census funding and the citizenship question. All URISA members should be very concerned as these actions affects your states and communities as well. Please stay informed and add your support to insuring a complete and accurate census and a valid redistricting. The Census Project is one source for following this issue as well as a number of national and local organizations and the media.

This article was written by URISA’s Policy Advisory Committee.


8. **H.R.7974 - To modify the deadline for completing the 2020 decennial census of population and related tabulations, and for other purposes,** Accessed August 13, 2020, CONGRESS.GOV [https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7974xt?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22maloney%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=2](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7974xt?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22maloney%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=2)


URISA is pleased to announce the results of its 2020 URISA Board of Directors’ election. Brent Jones will serve in the position of President-Elect and Kathryn Brewer, Xan Fredericks, and Steve Steinberg will serve as Directors. They will all begin their three-year terms at the conclusion of GIS-Pro 2020 which will be presented virtually this year.

Brent Jones, PE, PLS, Global Manager, Land Records/Cadastre, Esri, Vienna, Virginia
“I am honored to serve URISA as President-Elect. URISA has a long and storied history of delivering exemplary conferences and educational opportunities as well as important guidance and significant support for geospatial professionals’ careers.

URISA has been a model organization with a unique ability to deliver a dynamic inclusive networking environment. In these difficult times, URISA has a renewed commitment to be inclusive with networking and volunteer opportunities at all levels of the organization.

With such rapidly-changing technology, URISA has been a model, stable, ongoing voice with policy issues keeping members informed with pertinent information on issues facing GIS professionals. It has been the go-to organization for those beginning their GIS careers with limitless opportunities to contribute as part of the award-winning Vanguard Cabinet.

I look forward to contributing to the growing, committed URISA community of GIS professionals.”

Brent will serve as President-Elect for one year and his term as President will begin at the conclusion of GIS-Pro 2021.

Newly-elected URISA Board of Directors:

Kathryn Brewer, GISP
Principal/GIS Project Manager
Spatial Relationships LLC
Boston Massachusetts

Xan Fredericks, GISP
Lidar Coordinator/Associate National Map Liaison
US Geological Survey
St Petersburg, Florida

Steven J. Steinberg, Ph.D., MPA, GISP
Geographic Information Officer (GIO)
County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Kevin Mickey was elected by the membership as President-Elect last year and will begin his term as President of URISA at the conclusion of GIS-Pro 2020. Keri Brennan will become Immediate Past-President at that time.

Keri Brennan, GISP, ENP
Benchmark Geospatial
Indianapolis, Indiana

At the close of GIS-Pro 2020, the terms of service for these URISA Board members will conclude and we thank them all, in advance, for their amazing dedication and service to URISA:

Immediate Past-President:
Kim McDonough, GISP
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Nashville, Tennessee

Board Secretary:
Bryan Townsend, GISP
York County
York, South Carolina

Lynn Dupont, GISP, ASLA
Regional Planning Commission
New Orleans, Louisiana

Michael (Glenn) O’Grady, GISP
Planning Commission Chairman (Retired)
City of Encinitas, California
The URISA Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG) awards were first presented in 1981 to recognize outstanding achievement by government agencies in the use of geospatial information technology. This exemplary achievement is defined as the effective application of computer technologies and geospatial data that can be measured in terms of improved government service delivery and increased benefits to citizens. The award competition is international in nature and open to all public agencies at the local, regional, state/provincial and federal levels.

Since their commencement almost 40 years ago, the ESIG awards have gained considerable prestige and there is always substantial publicity given to the winning systems – both by URISA as well as the nominating jurisdictions concerned. In many cases, the awards have been the key to enabling further budget support to be provided for the systems, as well as in-house acknowledgment and acceptance of their excellence.

Nominations are made in one of two categories: Enterprise Systems which are used by multiple agencies, and Single Process Systems which are used by one agency. Nominations are required to address specific award criteria associated with system design, system implementation; organizational impact and use of resources to create the system.

The number of nominations received varies from year to year and in 2020 a total of eight nominations were received – no doubt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Four entries were received in the two categories.

A volunteer ESIG Awards Committee is formed each year to handle the submission judging tasks and this year there were 16 people serving on the committee, with one of those acting as chair (Dr. Gary Hunter, URISA GIS Hall of Fame Inductee, 2006).

In 2020, all entries were independently reviewed by four assessors in the first round of judging, and the highest scoring entries progressed to the second round of the competition where they were each reviewed by another eight assessors. As a result, each entry in the final round of judging received 12 independent scores and the average score for each submission was then calculated to determine the winners in each category and the close runners-up which would merit a distinguished system prize. Accordingly, the final results of the 2020 ESIG Awards are:

**Single Process Systems**
- **Winner:** City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department – Interactive Pavement Maintenance Dashboard
  Submitted by: Curtis Pulford, GIS Coordinator, City of Phoenix – Street Transportation Department, Phoenix, Arizona
- **Distinguished System:** Town of Flower Mound, Texas – Citizen Camera Program
  Submitted by: Nicole Dogan, GISP, Senior GIS Analyst, Town of Flower Mound, Texas

**Enterprise Systems**
- **Winner:** Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department – Enterprise GIS Portal Implementation
  Submitted by: Danny Thorpe, Systems Administrator III, Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department, West Palm Beach, Florida
- **Distinguished System:** Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission – PGAtlas
  Submitted by: Michael Shean, GISP, GIS Supervisor, Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

The following summaries of the two winning submissions are taken directly from the judges’ comments on the respective entries.

**Single Process Winner: City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department – Interactive Pavement Maintenance Dashboard**
The City of Phoenix has developed a pavement management application to help design and implement an effective five-year maintenance program that makes best use of the available funds. The application has also enabled excellent communication between the city and its taxpayers by helping to illustrate how funds are being used to improve the city’s streets. Additionally, city staff have leveraged the application to streamline their workflows, with the result that the application has helped the City achieve its Accelerated Pavement Maintenance Program by allowing it to triple its annual

**Enterprise Winner: Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department – Enterprise GIS Portal Implementation**

The City of Phoenix has developed a pavement management application to help design and implement an effective five-year maintenance program that makes best use of the available funds. The application has also enabled excellent communication between the city and its taxpayers by helping to illustrate how funds are being used to improve the city’s streets. Additionally, city staff have leveraged the application to streamline their workflows, with the result that the application has helped the City achieve its Accelerated Pavement Maintenance Program by allowing it to triple its annual...
paving output over previous years.

Not only does the process promote citizen engagement, but crowd-sourcing the data has enabled citizens to share their concerns and later see the resulting impacts. Crowd-sourcing has also saved the City significant resources in attempting to gather some of the information itself (such as reporting pavement problems). Additionally, the application operates in both the English and Spanish languages which ensures good accessibility for the Phoenix community.

The deployment of desktop and mobile versions of the application has helped increase the overall user experience, especially since so many people now access their information via mobile devices. There is a very nice use of images in the GIS story map to make the topic of street maintenance more understandable to the uninitiated, and there is a nice dashboard too that doesn’t need instructions to figure out how to use it.

The application has changed the way the City interacts with its internal departments by sharing out vital information that used to be difficult to access to allow for better and more efficient planning of new projects – with the result that far less time is spent by staff researching the fundamental information they need for their work.

However, its greatest impact is considered to be the way it has changed how the City communicates with the public.

In summary, this is considered to be an outstanding application. It has a very focused purpose and has demonstrated significant ROI ranging from the engagement it has fostered through to the internal government efficiency it has created, as well as spreading the awareness of the power and value of GIS throughout the organization. The application was well thought out and planned, using the right technology and embracing the end-user community and crowd sourcing. It is a great example of GIS not only leading but also changing how municipal business gets done.

Enterprise System Winner: Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department – Enterprise GIS Portal Implementation

Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department designed and implemented its Enterprise GIS Portal to centrally distribute and manage its infrastructure access, its web applications, access to as-built documents and system administration. In addition, it made the major change from its first-generation GIS to the adoption of new generation, innovative GIS technology that is streamlined, web-based and user-friendly.

The County needed to move to a better system that was available both online and 24/7 every day of the year, so that real time changes to the water system could be easily viewed by users in both the field and office. This is quite different to the previous system that did not provide automatic data updates to its many users.

However, with the new system they see now real time changes as they occur, and these are available without the need for separate data downloads. Clearly, the new portal is a great leap forward from the previous, older GIS technology – making data more readily available to a wider audience of users.

The benefits of having a portable, digital solution are evident in terms of accessibility and streamlining of processes. The portal eliminates the ‘silos-effect’ and allows any person in the organization to gather data independently, thereby creating a self-sustaining system of autonomy. The asset savings are also notable, with far less need for desktop/hardware support and the elimination of time-consuming manual synchronization of datasets across the organization.

The number of different departments that were able to leverage the enterprise portal is exemplary, and even departments that would not usually think spatially to solve a problem can now often find the answers they need with relative ease. One of the biggest impacts is in the cross referencing of data to identify future problems with water main breaks, and it would seem the portal has transformed the way water utilities will be managed in the future – transforming themselves from ‘fire-fighting’ to proactive spatial tracking of incidents and historical issues.

Overall, it is considered to be a well thought out and enacted system that has had a major impact on many departments. The ability to directly access real-time data is essential in such an agency and the savings in staff time and effort are also significant.

In summary, this is an excellent example of an enterprise system that is modernizing information delivery, business processes and improving the overall effectiveness of an agency.

The accomplishments will be recognized during GIS-Pro 2020. In addition, each system may be highlighted in an upcoming URISA webinar series.

To review the winning submissions for this year’s ESIG Awards, visit http://www.urisa.org/awards/exemplary-systems-in-government/.

For details about GIS-Pro 2020, visit www.gis-pro.org
“We are going to have a sales contest this month. The winners will get to enter next month’s contest and will have the honor to continue working with me!”

It was supposed to be a joke. Frank loved to joke with people, but he usually stayed away from injecting humor into his writing, especially at work. Today was different, he thought the team could use a chuckle. He added those two sentences at the end of an otherwise important email to his team. It was an afterthought that popped into his mind as he was re-reading his email. It would be an edit that he wished he had not made.

Molly, a salesperson who struggled to make her quota, read the email and nervously pinged her colleague Nancy. “What do you think Frank meant by that sentence at the end of the email? Do you think he’s going to cut jobs?”

Nancy was curious now too. She forwarded the email string to her co-worker, Brenda adding her query.

Brenda had another take. She was convinced that Frank was leaving the company after analyzing the confusing comment. To quell her curiosity, she forwarded the email string to Lou.

The confusion ended after Lou ventured into Frank’s office to gain clarity. He shared with Frank that many on the team were talking about ‘the comment.’ Frank was surprised at the misunderstanding. He regretted adding that clever comment to his email – words that were only added while editing his original message. Frank was astonished that two meaningless sentences captured his team’s imagination, causing them to miss the relevant message he intended to deliver.

Make sure your message is not missed. Here are three tips for editing your email messages before sending:

Tip #1
Subtract don’t add
When reviewing your email before sending, focus on deleting any unnecessary verbiage. Avoid adding words. Adding colorful commentary, or amusing comments rarely adds to the information you share via email. On the contrary, it can lead to misunderstanding, confusion and even anger.

Why this matters – A recent study found that 64% of people report having either sent or received an email that resulted in unintended anger or confusion. By sticking to facts, you minimize the risk of such adverse reactions. Conciseness is key - aim to deliver your message in as few words as possible.

Tip #2
Be Intentional
When editing your email before sending, be intentional in your use of language. Does your word choice aid the overall aim of the message? This is the time to review and rewrite any sentences that may convey ambiguous or vague meanings!

Why this matters - Most employee’s inboxes are inundated with email daily. Even worse, many of these emails don’t add value. A 2012 study found that 86 percent of the emails we receive are useless. Being intentional about word choice contributes to creating an email that is useful to your reader.

Tip #3
Avoid humor
Levity can reduce stress, lower burnout rates, and increase engagement in the workplace. In written communication however, humor can be problematic. Humor happens in the delivery – it depends on your inflection and emphasis. However, readers cannot hear your delivery. Written communication lacks non-verbal cues to provide the necessary context for your message.

Why this matters - When employees are interrupted at work, it takes them about 23 minutes to get back on task. When you add humor to your email, you risk misinterpretation. When your reader is left to question the intended meaning of your message, it takes more time. Thus, the interruption your email causes can increase exponentially.

Writing and reading emails consume a considerable chunk of time for many employees each day. The average knowledge worker spends 28 percent of their day responding to email. That amount of time increases when the message is confusing or ambiguous. By following these three tips, you can save your readers time and increase the likelihood that your intended message is delivered. Not to mention minimizing adverse reactions – assuming you want people to like you more, not less!

About the Author:
Dr. Julie Miller is President of Business Writing That Counts! Over the past 30 years, more than 750,000 people have participated in Business Writing That Counts! on-site and online writing courses and walked away with dramatically improved writing skills. Dr. Julie and her team are focused on increasing our clients’ bottom line by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of employees’ writing. Contact her at www.businesswritingthatcounts.com.
This book is a highly detailed guide on how to utilize existing GIS data, including land use categories, to extrapolate costs and impacts of potential future development. It gives very detailed instructions on how to combine and create new data layers to optimize the process. By utilizing real world examples, it provides a variety of site-specific examples which may work for a municipality. There are colored map plates included which help illustrate the layer combinations and results. Although the GIS principles are not new, they are well explained, so that someone with intermediate GIS knowledge could utilize their GIS data in the process. The incorporation of fiscal records and planning methodologies with the GIS data provides the GIS staff new tools to utilize optimize the value of the output.

This book provides good situational examples. It explains the pros and cons to various planning approaches based on municipal variations. It provides color and black and white maps for illustrations along with graphs, tables, and ArcMap models. If I was going to process spatial planning and fiscal impact by utilizing GIS data. I would absolutely want to consult this book.

Chapter 1: Describes the Spatial Planning and Fiscal Impact Analysis Method (SPFIAM) in relation to other fiscal impact analysis methods. Looks into definition, concepts and a utilizing a parcel level database. Investigates the major limitations of non-spatial analysis methods and goes into detail on how the spatial method works.

Chapter 2: Delves into the way fiscal impact and planning analysis have been done historically; average costing methods and marginal fiscal impact methods are compared against more modern methods and then looks into the future of fiscal impacts.

Chapter 3: Compares actual studies using the SPFIAM in relation to other non-spatial methods. Looks at a series of assumptions and compares real world the results. There is a good use of tabular data to explain the comparisons.

Chapter 4: In depth investigation into a Municipalities Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to determine what needs to be incorporated into the spatial data. Uses two cities as examples of utilizing the fiscal data with spatial data and goes into the changes you may need to make for cities by region: Northeast, South and West of the USA. Looks into incorporating general versus enterprise funds from municipal budget. Considers annually stable costs as well as capital improvement and special revenues.

Chapter 5: Looks into what essential attribute data you will need to include in spatial data to enable spatial modeling to produce valuable fiscal output. Reviews a comprehensive list of attributes and why the data is important and limitations of data types/age etc.

Chapter 6: A very important chapter that takes an in depth look at multipliers used to impact each parcel. Uses Bloomington, IL as an example. Separating out operating revenue and operating expenditure items as either reoccurring or variable sums.

Chapter 7: Again Bloomington, IL. is used as the example to show how the fiscal impact was determined. Describes the additional calculations to be done utilizing spatial data with amended fields and how to automate what would otherwise be a tedious process. About 20 color maps are illustrated in this chapter.

Chapter 8: Delves into the ways parcel data can be analyzed to calculate a school’s fiscal impact. It looks at combining the parcel data with other readily available spatial data and recent developments as an indicator of future development projections.

Chapter 9: Focuses on how to project the fiscal impact of new developments based on the existing impact of developments. Looks into the fiscal impact projections by comparing two methods: Comparable Developments and Factor Based. Illustrates how the data can show significant patterns within the city, fiscal and interactions between land use and demographic factors.

Chapter 10: Looks into marginal impact of sprawl and the best method of analysis for fiscal planning. It explains how an estimate is the best use of, and provides least strain on, municipal resources.

Chapter 11: This chapter reviews how to go about creating an Enterprise SPFIAM. It lists out stages and issues with GIS development, revenues, expenditures, and demographics. How the system could be tweaked and built upon for years to come moving forward.

Chapter 12: In conclusion, this very complex book aims to encourage the reader to pursue this analysis method. Ultimately bringing municipal operators together to estimate fiscal impact but also eliminate duplication and build towards greater efficiency.

Reviewed by Nicole Dogan, GISP, Senior GIS Analyst, Town of Flower Mound, Texas
The purpose of the Vanguard Cabinet is to engage young and emerging professionals through collaboration, innovation, and networking in the geospatial community. Vanguard Cabinet members include individuals that are appointed through an annual application process conducted by URISA’s Leadership Development Committee. Applicants must apply with their resume, answer an application questionnaire, and provide a letter of recommendation. Appointments are restricted to members of URISA who are 35 years and younger at the beginning of their 3-year term. Once an individual has been selected as a Vanguard Cabinet member, they confirm the responsibility to serve on the cabinet for the duration of their 3-year term as an active participant, which includes attending the monthly calls.

There are 3 subcommittees within the Vanguard Cabinet: Outreach, Mentoring, and GIS-Pro.

The Outreach subcommittee includes three main areas of focus: content creation, distribution, and coordination. Each of these pillars is essential to the Outreach subcommittee and the other two subcommittees. The Content Creation group gathers information from the Mentoring and GIS-Pro subcommittees and additional events and conferences and creates content like flyers, pictures, icons, verbiage, and taglines for social media and email posting. The Distribution group takes these content pieces and promotes the content on social media platforms: LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. They are also in charge of our bi-monthly LinkedIn article, the quarterly podcast partnership with Directions Magazine, and our website blog. The Coordination group collaborates with the URISA Chapters to assist them with their young professional activities by promoting their events to gain participants and provides the chapters with updates about the Vanguard Cabinet activities. This is the start of a two-way dialogue between the URISA chapters and the Vanguard Cabinet. The hope is to grow these relationships
over the coming years and assist chapters with adding a Young Professional Liaison role to their chapter that would coordinate with the Vanguard Cabinet, much like the Chapter Relations and Development Council acts as the conduit between the chapters and the URISA board. The other piece to the Coordination group is the partnership between the universities that have GIS degrees and certificates. The Vanguard Cabinet is trying to outreach to these universities to engage these students as they ‘transition from dorm room to board room’ as our previous Chair Rachel Rodriguez said. This effort brings these students into the GIS professional workforce with guidance like resume builder workshops, how to present at and attend conferences, updating your social media presence, and other workshops and presentations.

The Mentoring subcommittee hosts a Mentoring Program to create mutually beneficial relationships between mentors and mentees. Many individuals are fortunate to develop organic mentor/mentee relationships over the course of their careers. For those who have not had the opportunity to develop one of these organic mentor/mentee relationships, the program seeks to foster these continuing relationships between both young and emerging professionals to seasoned veterans in the GIS profession. In order to make this program successful, the Mentoring subcommittee also provides materials to help guide these matches and monitor the process to learn what characterizes successful mentoring relationships.

The GIS-Pro subcommittee assists with young and emerging professional activities at URISA’s Annual GIS-Pro Conference including:
- hosting a pre-conference social on the night before the conference starts,
- assisting with the young professional tract program (Inspiring the Future of GIS),
- establishing the annual Vanguard Cabinet Digital Competition that provides a platform for young professionals to compete for registration to GIS-Pro and present their work during the lightning talk session at GIS-Pro,
- coordinating student volunteers for GIS-Pro activities including registration, workshop technical issues, and other tasks during the conference,
- and coordinating with the Outreach subcommittee to market the conference.

The Vanguard Cabinet holds monthly meetings for the entire Cabinet and each of its Subcommittees. The main VC monthly meeting is an opportunity to share what each subcommittee is working on and clarify any cross-collaboration efforts. In addition, each subcommittee holds its own monthly meetings where members work on various tasks and projects.

The application process takes place annually and members of the Vanguard Cabinet are always looking for new faces to be appointed. The Vanguard Cabinet looks for five uniquely qualified applicants each year that will round out the Vanguard Cabinet and provide their expertise in guiding the future of GIS professionals.

Are you on social media? URISA is (except for Instagram... does anyone want to volunteer to take that on?)

- Join our Facebook Group & Like/Follow the URISA Page
- Join our LinkedIn Group & Follow the URISA Page
- Follow URISA on Twitter

URISA’s GISCorps:
- Join the Facebook Group & Like/Follow the URISA GISCorps Page
- Follow the GISCorps LinkedIn Page
- Follow GISCorps on Twitter

URISA’s Vanguard Cabinet:
- Join the Facebook Group & Like/Follow the URISA Vanguard Cabinet Page
- Follow the VC LinkedIn Page
- Follow the Vanguard Cabinet on Twitter

And there are tons of URISA Chapters on Social Media. We’ll start a laundry list soon, but if you search for “URISA” in any of the platforms, chapter accounts pop up.
The inaugural Virtual URISA GIS Leadership Academy that took place August 3-7 exceeded our expectations! For those of you who have attended an in-person Academy over the past 13 years, you know the importance of the discussions, interactions, and networking during those five days. Participants work through problems together and become longtime professional connections.

Making the switch to a virtual GLA due to COVID-19 was a bit stressful to be honest. We weren’t sure that we could recreate that experience virtually. But we did it!

Thank goodness for the amazing faculty and coordinators who stepped up to the plate as soon as we made the decision to postpone the Minneapolis Academy in early April. For a few months, they worked together to adjust the material, exercises, and discussions to effectively deliver the important concepts and ideas in a virtual environment.

We can’t thank this group of URISA volunteer superstars enough!

Carl Anderson, GISP, New Light Technologies
Instructor - Sessions 1,2

Keri Brennan, GISP, ENP, Benchmark Geospatial
Virtual GLA Coordinator & Storyteller

Melisa Caric Lee, GISP, Compass Rose GIS
Instructor - Sessions 1, 2

Xan Fredricks, GISP, USGS
Facilitator and Session 3 Co-Instructor

Dianne Haley, GISP, DMH GIS Consulting
Session 3 Coordinator

Ashley Hitt, GISP, Connected Nation
Coordinator - Sessions 1, 2

Brett Horr, GISP, Town of York, Maine
Instructor - Session 3, 4, 5

Allen Ibaugh, AICP, GISP, Data Transfer Solutions
Instructor & Coordinator - Sessions 3, 4, 5

Randal Krejcarek, GISP, Wilsey Ham
Instructor & Coordinator - Sessions 1, 2

David Lanter, GISP, CISA, Temple University, Fox School
Coordinator & Instructor - Session 1

John Nolte, GISP, Denver
Instructor - Sessions 1, 2

Wendy Peloquin, GISP, GISinc
Session 2 Facilitator

Steve Steinberg, PhD, GISP, County of Los Angeles, California
Instructor - Sessions 3, 4, 5

We limited participation to 30 but still had an amazing cross-section of disciplines and locations. Participants were from Italy, Ontario, and 18 US states and work for local/state/provincial/federal government, private sector, and academia.

Speaking of the participants, the event was a success because of your willingness to commit to five days of training and actively engage in the conversation. Like the instructors, you were all multi-tasking during breaks taking care of work, children, and dogs!

GIS leaders are dealing with increased demand, budget implications, fear, and unknowns in the age of COVID-19. It is a stressful time and we applaud you (and your organizations) for committing to your professional development.

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Congratulations to the inaugural Virtual URISA GIS Leadership Academy graduates and all of your ever-changing interesting Zoom backgrounds!

We did miss continuing discussions during coffee breaks and shared lunches. And informal conversations and exploring the host city together during evening networking, but it worked.

Best early testimonials:

“This is GIS Group Therapy!”
“What a great experience! I think the virtual experience was very high quality and you should consider making this a permanent option.”

We will spend the next few weeks reviewing the feedback and will make tweaks and suggested improvements. Now that we’ve postponed the St. Pete (FL) GLA to join Minneapolis and Portland in 2021, we will add another virtual GLA to the calendar in Q4 (likely November), and perhaps again in early 2021 depending on travel restrictions and safety.

Thanks again to everyone involved for your commitment and participation!
President’s Corner
Keri Brennan, president@urisa.org

Resilience in the face of unexpected challenges

When I assumed the role of President of URISA in New Orleans in October of 2019, I made a comment about wanting the year of my presidency to be a quiet one. So, I put it out there…

Beginning in March, we made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel the GIS/ValTech (formerly GIS/CAMA) Conference in Louisville, KY. In the first few weeks of March it was still unclear how challenging the COVID-19 pandemic would be, but the right decision was to cancel the event. There had been positive cases at the hotel in the weeks prior, our attendees, speakers, and sponsors — along with the URISA staff who were set to travel to Louisville to support the event — were all potentially in harm’s way.

After that, as more in-person events were canceled and 2020 became the year of the pandemic, the URISA leadership had to change the narrative for our year. I am proud to say that eight months into 2020, the URISA staff, Board of Directors and especially the membership has changed the narrative of the course of the year for URISA.

What did we do to change the narrative? Well, like almost everyone, URISA staff adapted to working from home to support our membership and mission. With nearly all of HQ’s processes already being cloud-based (thanks to good planning over the years), staff did not miss a beat to ensure that your URISA experience remains the same.

During this time, URISA’s annual financial audit also took place. A ‘clean’ audit with no adjustments, the results were extremely positive. 2019 was a very successful year for the organization. We are continuing to build reserves while operating lean and efficiently.

Our Executive Director, Wendy Nelson, purchases conference cancellation insurance each year to protect our events in case of natural disasters (earthquakes, hurricanes) or events such as war. She also adds additional coverage for terrorism and pandemics. Such pandemic coverage will likely be cost-prohibitive moving forward but thank goodness we have professional staff running URISA. (The claims process is involved. We already received proceeds for one event and are in a much better position than many organizations that did not have such foresight.) Kudos to our amazing staff.

Not only have we switched to a work from home model, but we have engaged technology in ways that we previously never done. Zoom calls are now the norm (as with most people these days) and we have adapted to being a much more nimble and agile group.

As of July, it became obvious that all in person events for 2020 needed to be canceled. With the dedication and hard work of staff and volunteers we have been working hard to deliver quality educational opportunities and member benefits in an online and virtual environment.

On August 3-7 we delivered our first virtual GIS Leadership Academy (GLA), which had been scheduled to be in Minneapolis in June and in Portland in August. The event sold out in three days and was delivered utilizing the Zoom platform. Many attendees mentioned that attending an in-person GLA was never in their organization’s budget with added travel costs and such, but an instructor led online course made it possible for them to attend and have a great leadership experience. The remaining Academy was to take place in St. Petersberg, Florida in November. Like the other two, it has now been postponed to 2021. We will certainly host another virtual program in its place.

One of the things that we have had to do is face our fears. As an association, are we able to deliver what the membership needs? Are we in a position to continue to deliver the highest quality education and networking opportunities in the industry? I will tell you that these issues, the health of the geospatial community as a whole and the changing landscape of the world today has weighed heavily on the URISA Board and staff members. However, as I mentioned above, we have faced our fears, helped our members to adapt to a changing landscape and are actively working to make URISA an even better organization for our membership through virtual events like GIS-Pro and through the work of our amazing committees who are delivering member benefits in virtual offerings of courses, writing position papers and advocating for the geospatial community while following important legislative issues at both the federal and state levels.

In preparing to write this article I did some research on resiliency and found that there are things that you can do to build resilience both on a personal level and as an association. We need to change our narrative, which is something that we have done and done well. We also need to face our fears and although COVID-19 is a very scary virus, and the downturn in the economy is difficult for so many of us, we are not allowing that to be our only story. URISA memberships have actually increased during the pandemic, which is a testament to what we offer our members, from education and networking opportunities to a sense of community in a difficult time.

The next thing that we need to do is practice self-compassion both personally and professionally. Being mindful of all of our challenges, without judgement and with kindness is a trait that I know URISA members have an abundance of, as I have been on the receiving end of such kindness this year. We need to all remember...
that this pandemic is, in the grand scheme of things, a moment of suffering that will pass and we will come out of it eventually, to a different but hopefully brighter world.

As URISA members, it is important to know that you are not alone in this pandemic. We have a strong and engaged community that is here to support each other. Visit URISA Connect in order to engage with your fellow GIS Professionals in meaningful discussions on a plethora of topics. I would also ask that each one of you are kind to yourself, especially during these difficult times. Having a kinder attitude towards ourselves and our fellow man will help us to understand, accept and change the world.

So as my year as your President quickly comes to a close, I would like to ask each and every one of you to take a moment to reflect on how resilient we have been in 2020 and how much further we can go. Be kind, patient and engaged. By being involved in URISA, you will find a strong, active and engaged community that will always support each other. I have enjoyed being your President, it is an honour that I will always keep close to my heart and I hope that through our efforts this year, myself and the Board of Directors along with the URISA staff have served you well. It has been a challenge, but one that I believe we have met head on and have delivered for each and every one of you.

President’s Corner continued from page 13

URISA Podcasts

Recent URISA Podcasts you may have missed (in partnership with Directions Magazine):

- Young GIS Professionals’ Perspectives on Professional Organizations
- How do you stay up to date and deal with software or workflow changes?
- What You Need to Know about GISP Certification - Requirements, Benefits and Study Tips
- Dealing with Transitions in Your Geospatial Career
- Mentoring - Advantages and Challenges
- What’s Next for GIS Professionals after the 2020 Census?
- Just added Why should you take a closer look into Open Source GIS?
As most of life has seemingly gone more virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so too has URISA’s annual GIS-Pro Conference for 2020. Originally slated as an in-person event in Baltimore, the conference planning committee has been hard at work over the last few months transitioning several aspects of GIS-Pro to a virtual format.

While we were looking forward to being together in Baltimore this fall, having a virtual GIS-Pro has presented many opportunities we are excited to share. The schedule has been extended with more conference days, but shorter hours each day than there would be in person. Instead of a single workshop day before GIS-Pro, there will be multiple days of workshops both before and after GIS-Pro. And if travel restrictions or budget concerns have been an issue in the past, GIS-Pro 2020 is more attainable than ever in a virtual format.

**Keynote Speakers**

GIS-Pro 2020 has a great lineup of keynote speakers you won’t want to miss. Chris Vaughan, Geospatial Information Officer for FEMA, has established an integrated geospatial workforce across the agency and is advancing innovative technologies within the emergency management community. Juliana Blackwell, Director of NOAA’s National Geodetic Survey, is responsible for positioning activities in the US and oversees the management and delivery of the National Spatial Reference System, which will be updated over the next few years. Former Governor of Maryland Martin O’Malley, who has written a book called “Smarter Government: How to Govern for Results in the Information Age,” is a prime example of how elected officials can utilize geospatial technologies for understanding and improvements.

**Breakout Sessions**

The conference planning committee has been working to curate presentations and panels that are of the utmost importance to the work we do as geospatial professionals. Items such as GIS Supporting Health and Human Services, Equity and Social Justice, and Ethics in GIS are just some of the hot topics to be presented at GIS-Pro 2020 – how GIS is being used to better understand and track COVID-19, how dashboards are facilitating local discussions, how to map civil unrest and work to improve opportunities for all, and how the Code of Ethics should guide geospatial activities and transparency. Full program tracks on connected topics will be presented, including GIS Leadership and Management, Community Resilience and Sustainability, and Inspiring the Future of GIS.

**Workshops**

There will be several opportunities for professional education, including workshops that will be offered mostly as three-hour courses during the week before and the week after GIS-Pro. Workshop instructors have been transitioning their content to produce the workshops into meaningful virtual experiences. Planned workshops include the following:

- NextGen911 & the GIS Workflow
- Emergency Management
- Best Practices for GIS Project Planning and Management
- Microsoft Project™ Software Tutorial
- Experimental Learning Techniques to be More Effective
- Introduction to GIS for Equity & Social Justice
- Navigating a Virtual Landscape for your GIS Career
- Building Community Using Geospatial Tools
- Unpacking the NENA NextGen911 GIS Data Model
- Changes Afoot After 2022: State Plane and the Death of the US Survey Foot
- Preparing for GISP Certification
- Coordinate Systems and Projections

**Young Professionals and Students**

URISA’s Vanguard Cabinet, an advisory board of young GIS professionals, has also been hard at work planning activities, presentations, and competitions for students and young professionals. The 2020 University Student and Young Professional Digital Competition took place on August 25, with the top three presenters being awarded GIS-Pro registration. They have also developed a workshop on “Navigating a Virtual Landscape for your GIS Career,” a true reflection of adapting to the new experiences, interview, and hiring processes now underway. Within the Inspiring the Future of GIS program track,

Continued on page 16
there will be panels and presentations on grad school, mentoring, transitioning from a student to a professional, and developing your GIS community.

## Awards
Each year, URISA recognizes members for their contributions to the association and the community at large. URISA also recognizes government agencies that have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in the use of geospatial information technology that have improved the delivery and quality of government services (Exemplary Systems in Government Awards), and the URISA GIS Hall of Fame recognizes and honors esteemed leaders of the geospatial community. This year, we will celebrate four ESIG award winners, volunteers who made some great contributions to URISA, and we will be inducting a new member in the URISA GIS Hall of Fame!

## Silent Auction
For the past two years at GIS-Pro, there has been a silent auction held to benefit GISCorps, with over $6,500 raised to further the GISCorps mission! This year, we are transitioning to a virtual silent auction that will take place after GIS-Pro, starting on GIS Day (November 18) and running through Giving Tuesday (December 1). If you are interested in donating any items, books, services, or just about anything to help the fundraising efforts, please contact info@urisa.org. More details on the silent auction to come!

## GIS-Pro 2021
GIS-Pro 2021 • Baltimore, MD • October 3-6, 2021

Connections
One of the reasons people continue to be URISA members and continue to come back to GIS-Pro year after year are the connections. Connections with individuals, organizations, and professionals who want to impact their communities through geospatial technology. While it will be different than the in-person connections and introductions that are usually made at GIS-Pro, there will be plenty of opportunities to connect with fellow attendees, thought leaders, and solution providers. Through virtual coffee and solutions, lunch and learns, evening networking events and more, GIS-Pro will facilitate the connections you need to find your next innovation, to find solutions to challenges, and maybe even find your next career move.

While not an in-person event in 2020, URISA’s GIS-Pro annual conference will continue to provide the opportunities geospatial professionals have come to expect from URISA. The conference chairs are excited to present a robust program with hot topic panels and presentations, comprehensive educational offerings, featured keynote speakers, and the opportunities to connect and grow our industry. Be sure to check out all the details at http://www.gis-pro.org. We hope to “see” you at GIS-Pro!

Ashley Hitt, Conference Chair
Judy Colby-George, Program Chair
Randal Krejcarek, Associate Program Chair

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Welcome New URISA Members

Megumi Aisu — Toyono-gun, Osaka, Japan
Ryan Arias Delafosse — Paris, France
Kwasi Asamoah-Twum — University of California—Olivette, MO
Alex Baker — Palm Beach County Water Utilities—Lake Worth, FL
Clarence Bodmer — San Diego, CA
Lassaad Bouassida, GISP — ST2i—Tunis, Tunisia
Theresa Burcsu, GISP — State of Oregon—, OR
Josiah Burkett — GeoTech Vision Enterprise—Kingston, St Andrew Jamaica
Ashley Burns, GISP — Las Vegas, NV
Kacey Burton — Camp Point, IL
Rachel Byrd — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Louisville, KY
Isaac Cabrera — Elk Grove, CA
Raelyn Caldwell — City of Petaluma—Petaluma, CA
Michael Campbell, GISP — St. Johns County—St Augustine, FL
Brian Cardner — Occidental Petroleum Corp—Houston, TX
Kyle Carswell — Georgia College & State University—Lawrenceville, GA
Paul Christensen — Clarendon County Assessors Office—Manning, SC
Stephanie Conner, GISP — HDR—Vienna, VA
Casey Conrad — City of Charleston—Charleston, SC
Kiersten Corr — KCoordinates, LLC—Golden, CO
Jakob Cutter — Walton, KY
Chris Domkowski — City of Grand Junction Co—Grand Junction, CO
Erin Dudley — E. Holdings Inc—Wilkinsburg, PA
Kevin Dunlop, GISP — Prince William County—Woodbridge, VA
Lara Duran — University of Colorado—Denver, CO
Olivia Eaton — Stafford County—Fredericksburg, VA
Shereen Feldman — City of Cape Coral—Cape Coral, FL
Faisal Fiaz — Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs—Riyadh, Ar Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Michael Forehand — Schneider Geospatial—Cordele, GA
Sandy Gagne, GISP — City of Charleston—Charleston, SC
Charles Garcia — Collin College—Frisco, TX
Eileen Goff, GISP — Geomorph Information Systems, LLC—San Diego, CA
Courtney Granite — City of Las Cruces—Las Cruces, NM
Logan Hants — Colorado State University—Saraland, AL
Jamal Harvey — King George, VA
Dan Henderson, GISP, CFM, PMP — Esri—Sacramento, CA
Nathan Holman — InterDev—Decatur, GA
Robyn Howell — City of Charleston—Charleston, SC
Joshua Johnson — Collin College—Frisco, TX
Kristin Johnston, GISP — Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority—RDU Airport, NC
Cindy Kamigaki — Town of Frederick—Frederick, CO
Smriti Kandel — Kentucky State University—Frankfort, KY
Indra Sharan KC, GISP — USAID Nepal/ MEL Project, Camris International—Kathmandu, Nepal
Paul Keidel — University of Arizona—TUCSON, AZ
Jennifer Larsen — University of Central Florida—Sebastian, FL
Daniel Leibowitz — Los Angeles, CA
Norman Levine — College of Charleston—Charleston, SC
Jarrod Loerzel — National Institute of Standards and Technology—Buda, IL
Thera Lombardi — Innovate! Inc.—Salisbury, MD
Erin Mara — CountryMark Refining & Logistics—Mt. Vernon, IN
Michele Mascia — Cagliari, Italy
Michael McDaniel — Pacific Agricultural Survey LLC—Salem, OR
Mark McGuire, GISP — Tarrant Regional Water District—Fort Worth, TX
Ryan McKenna — Brantford, ON Canada
Rodney Miceli, GISP — Kentucky Department of Revenue—Frankfort, KY
Thomas Moore, GISP — Seattle, WA
Elizabeth Morris, GISP — JMT Technology Group—Riverdale, MD
Lucas Musewe, GISP — Star Consultant, LLC—Pittsburgh, PA
Ariann Nassel — The University of Alabama at Birmingham—Birmingham, AL
Curtis Nowlan — Alberta Health Services—Calgary, AB Canada
Trevor Oatts — Columbus, OH
Siddharth Pandey — Dewberry—Fairfax, VA
Hyewon Park — California State University—, CA
Brent Patenge — FPO, AP
Amy Perdreauville — Collin College—Frisco, TX
Chris Petzold — City of Las Cruces—Las Cruces, NM
Angel Pitts — FPO, Japan
Brian Pokrant — City of Charleston—Charleston, SC
Graham Pope, GISP — AEL Environment—Mississauga, ON Canada
Jason Preuett — Eagle Environmental Services, Inc.—Greenwell Springs, LA
Michael Quant — Los Angeles Metro—Los Angeles, CA
Andrew Sauls — City of Houston—Houston, TX
Maithili Sawane — Collin College—Frisco, TX

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Welcome New Educational Institution Partner

Cleveland State University’s Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs is proud to offer GIS education through its courses, certificate programs and professional development offerings. Our students come from a variety of disciplines – urban planning, economic development, public health and safety, engineering, and environmental sciences to name a few. Our faculty are experts in spatial data analysis using ESRI products, open source GISs and related programs such as R. The College administers the GIS Certificate Program (UG & Grad) and offers professional development trainings in GIS. The Levin College of Urban Affairs also houses the Northern Ohio Data and Information Service (NODIS). NODIS provides data analysis, mapping and programming services, technical assistance and training, and is designated by the State of Ohio and the U.S. Bureau of the Census as the regional data center for northern Ohio. The Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University is recognized as one of the best public affairs colleges in the nation according to US News & World Report. Levin is ranked 3rd in the US in the specialty of Urban Planning and Policy, and ranked 13th and 20th in the specialties of Local Government Management and Nonprofit Management, respectively. The Levin College offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional development programs in fields that guide and advance vibrant and sustainable communities, including urban studies, public administration, urban planning, environmental studies, nonprofit management, and organizational leadership. Levin’s engaged learning approach — a powerful combination of instruction and real-world experiences, including internships and mentoring — ensures our students graduate fully prepared to thrive in meaningful careers.

Philip Schroeder — Cypress, TX
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Grant Smith — Geographic Society of Chicago — Pal Alto, CA
Kristin Snyder — Timnath, CO
Janet Stewart — WeLoveLearning — Ottawa, ON Canada
Andrea Suriano — Collin College — Frisco, TX
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Myra Tetteh — Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan — Detroit, MI
Danny Thorpe — Palm Beach County Water Utilities — West Palm Beach, FL
Kelly Tomlinson — Dallas, TX

Nadine Trahan — Astoria, NY
Phuong Tran — University of California — Garden Grove, CA
Yian Tuan — Claremont Graduate University — Rowland Heights, CA
Miles Van Denburg — Clark University — Worcester, MA
Sharon Wallace, GISP — City of Cape Coral — Cape Coral, FL
Meguire Wieger — Johns Hopkins University — Fort Worth, TX
Nicholas Willette — Saginaw, TX
Laurie Williams, GISP — Marin County — Novato, CA

Educational Institution
Collin College — Frisco, TX

Government Agency
City of Cape Coral — Cape Coral, FL
City of Charleston — Charleston, SC
City of Las Cruces — Las Cruces, NM
URISA’s Vanguard Cabinet is pleased to announce the results of the 2020 University Student and Young Professional Digital Competition.

Eligible participants must be enrolled in a college or university, be a recent graduate (spring or summer 2020), or a young or emerging geospatial professional with fewer than five years of experience. The competition is limited to projects that utilize web and mobile platforms, such as ArcGIS Online, Tableau, Mapbox, or Power BI. Projects should showcase the visualization functions of these platforms while also demonstrating knowledge and proficiency in spatial analytics, cartographic design, and/or geospatial techniques.

Abstract submissions were reviewed and five finalists were invited to present their projects to a panel of judges and enthusiastic URISA members on August 25, 2020:

- **COVID-19 Dashboard, San Diego**: Presented by Xiangchen Zhao, University of California, San Diego, Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute, La Jolla, California
- **Ahmedabad Solid Waste Management**: Presented by Tej Chavda, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India
- **Teen Pregnancy in Kenya**: Presented by Joy Christine Nduta, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
- **Calgary Traffic Incidents Operation Reporting and Dashboard**: Ralph Renso Ronquillo, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Calgary, Alberta
- **US Return-to-Play COVID-19 Map**: Presented by Kimberly Korzym, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana

The five finalists all receive complimentary URISA membership.

**Event Judges:**
- Keri Brennan, GISP, ENP - Benchmark Geospatial LLC, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Xan Fredericks, GISP - US Geological Survey, St Petersburg, Florida
- John Nolte, GISP - Denver Water, Denver, Colorado

Usually only the top three presentations would receive complimentary registration to GIS-Pro. Because all five presentations were outstanding, the judges decided to also award each presenter with complimentary GIS-Pro 2020 registration.

We enthusiastically look forward to following their careers!

The Vanguard Cabinet (VC) is an advisory board made up of passionate, young (35 years of age or younger) geospatial professionals who strive to engage young practitioners, increase their numbers in the organization, and better understand the concerns facing these future leaders of the geospatial community. The VC’s mission is to collaborate with URISA’s Board of Directors and URISA committees in creating and promoting programs and policies of benefit to young professionals and to enhance overall innovation, collaboration, networking, and professional development opportunities.

The top three projects presented were:
- **Winner**: Xiangchen Zhao - COVID-19 Dashboard, San Diego
- **Second Place**: Tej Chavda - Ahmedabad Solid Waste Management
- **Third Place**: Kim Korzym - US Return-to-Play COVID-19
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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 COVID-19 Disruptions Calendar!

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GIs-Pro 2020: URISA’s 58th Annual Conference
Presented virtually

**NEW November 2020**
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Presented virtually

**March 15-18, 2021**
GIS/ValTech 2021
New Orleans, Louisiana

**June 7-11, 2021**
URISA GIS Leadership Academy
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**August 16-20, 2021**
URISA GIS Leadership Academy
Portland, Oregon

**November 8-12, 2021**
URISA GIS Leadership Academy
St. Petersburg, Florida

**October 3-6, 2021**
GIS-Pro 2021
Baltimore, Maryland

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Disclaimer: The GIS Professional provides a venue for sharing ideas and opinions about topics of importance to the GIS community that are generally consistent with the views of URISA. We appreciate the contributions of all authors, while acknowledging that their views may not be entirely consistent with those of URISA and its affiliates.

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