

Intersections

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Fun and Games — and Planning



Meredith Hildreth, AICP, zoning administrator for Roswell, New Mexico, helps students construct pinwheels and learn about wind farms and wind-generated energy. Photo by Ryan Scherzinger, AICP.

That's what you get when 20 volunteer planners, two partner organizations, and more than 100 K–8 students get together for a one-of-a-kind, interactive workshop called "Youth: Empowering Leaders of Today." The goal of the event was twofold: to teach students about urban planning and meaningful civic engagement, and for participating planners to learn the value of, and the skills necessary for, planning alongside young people.

The event, held May 20 in conjunction with NPC18 in New Orleans, was created through a strong partnership between APA's Community Planning Assistance Teams program, nonprofit organization [YEP! Youth Engagement Planning](#), and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Louisiana.

The workshop was organized around 10 hands-on activity stations for youth to move between, each of which emphasized a different aspect of community involvement in the planning process — from learning planning vocabulary to transportation routing to cooperative decision making to zoning.

The event gave planners an exciting opportunity to learn the subject matter, practice it with the guidance of facilitators, and then immediately perform what they had just learned. Not to mention, everyone had a great time. Good work (and play), y'all.

For more on this event and the organizations involved, check out this [APA blog post](#) by written by YEP! Founder, **Corrin Wendell**, AICP, and vice president, **Monica Tibbits-Nutt**, AICP, LEED AP BD+C.