

Alumni Panel Discussion

6:30-7:30pm

“SFSU Alumni at Work: Urban Planning and Policy in the Bay Area”

Professor Ayse Pamuk, Moderator

Panel Participant Bios

Joanne Brion has over 20 years of experience in urban economics and planning and is principal of Brion & Associates, a Bay Area urban economics consulting firm. Her first experience in planning was a six month internship at SF Planning Dept where she worked on the South of Market Plan and conducted an artist live/work survey. During her last two years at SFSU, she work at ESA part-time and continued after graduation for one year before going to graduate school. She earned her B.A. in Urban Studies in 1986. During graduate school at NYU she worked as a RA for the Urban Research Institute and for the Regional Plan Association. After graduate school she returned to the Bay Area and secured a job at Economic & Planning Systems, where she worked for 10 years. Thereafter she started her own urban economics consulting firm in 2000. Ms. Brion’s expertise includes fiscal impact studies, development impact fee nexus studies, financial analysis, demographic analysis and public policy analysis. She has managed about 100 various studies over her career. She has developed a niche in child care and local government policy and is currently assisting cities and counties developing child care impact fee studies. (See www.brionassociates.com for more information)

Kevin Kitchingham has been financing and developing affordable housing projects in Northern California for the last few years. For the last couple for years he has been working as a Project Manager for the Housing Services Affiliate of the Bernal Heights Neighborhoods Center. In December he broke ground on Bishop Swing Community House, 135 units of supportive housing for homeless adults at 10th and Folsom which is scheduled to open in June of 2009. His areas of professional expertise range from tax credit and bond financing to green building and sustainable development policy. Kevin has a BA in Urban Studies from San Francisco State University (2004) and has been fortunate enough to work with number of program graduates in his role as an affordable housing developer.

Matthew Lee earned his BS in Business Administration at San Francisco State University (SFSU) in 2001 and he went back to SFSU earned a second BA in Urban Studies in 2005. He is a Transit Planner at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency’s (SFMTA) Muni Service Planning Section. At the SFMTA, his responsibilities includes transit stops and route planning, and he works with various Muni operations and other MTA planning staff on issues affecting Muni service, pedestrian safety and traffic calming. He has been with the Muni Service Planning section since 2004, starting as an intern working on corridor studies such as Stockton Street and Potrero Avenue, and later as a planner developing Muni route extensions. He is currently working on the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) and also on the temporary Transbay Terminal.

Jessica Look is currently a graduate student at UC Berkeley's Department of City and Regional Planning. She is focusing her studies on Community Participatory Design but interested in planning/land use law and housing policy as well. Jessica also works in the Community Planning Program at Asian Neighborhood Design a comprehensive community planning, urban design and policy assistance program intended to build the capacity of local stakeholders. She has provided technical assistance to various groups such as the West SoMa Citizen's Planning Task force, San Francisco Mayor's Office of Community Development and to the SF Mayor's Office of Housing. She received her BA in 2003 in Urban Studies from SFSU and has worked at various local housing and community development agencies, including Oakland Community Housing and Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center. She values the experience of Senior Seminar and of the support of the faculty at SFSU.

Karna Wong graduated from the Urban Studies Program in 1992 and subsequently worked for the City of Oakland Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development. She then moved to "The Big Apple" to attend New York University (NYU) for a Masters in Urban Planning. After graduating from NYU, Karna relocated to Washington, D.C. and worked on Capitol Hill for the U.S. House of Representatives. She began her career at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1995 and over the past twelve years has worked in the Office of Policy Development and Research (Washington, D.C.), Office of Housing Santa Ana Homeownership Center (Santa Ana, CA), and Office of Community Planning and Development (San Francisco, CA). At present, she is Consolidated Planning Specialist at the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Karna has been active in the Urban Studies Program, supervising interns and guest lecturing. Karna currently lives in a renovated warehouse loft in downtown Oakland and stays busy through community service and political activism. Her e-mail address is: Karna.L.Wong@hud.gov