## Introduction

Annual reports are used by the Sections Committee to assess the health of a Section, measure the Section’s vitality, and identify processes, programs, or initiatives that could serve as a model for other Sections. In addition, they serve to provide institutional memory, socialize new Section leaders, and promote transparency to Section members.

This annual report covers the period of Section activity from September 2022 to August 2023 and a fiscal year from January 2023 to December 2023. This portion of the report will be shared publicly.

## Section Governance

Provide details of your Section’s governance activity during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

### Business Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes from the Section business meeting which include a count of members present and summary of decisions made at this meeting. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

I. Introduction and Remarks (Mary)
II. AWARDS (15 Mins) [List of awardees recorded in another section of the report]
III. Secretary Treasury Report (Yuki)

(1) Section finances remain stable and strong. As of May 31, 2023, the section had $34,423 in its ASA account, which is a slight increase by $471 from the same time in 2022, when the section balance was $33,952. During 2021-2022 there was a one-time significant increase in the section income from the Royalty Income from the publisher of City&Community, though it was much smaller this year at only $233.84. Other than that, our income derives from dues ($557 collected so far for this year) and our section’s annual budget allocation from ASA that is also based on membership ($2,267). The funds are used for our annual reception, reimbursements for various section expenses such as the award plaques and initiatives at the annual meetings, and to build a reserve that might be used to address expenses related to City&Community. We spent $1500 to support five graduate students ($300 each) for their travel expenses to the annual meeting.

For this year’s annual meeting, we faced challenges of increased cost in every category when compared to previous years. The following expected spending will post after the meeting;
- $5,798.80 for the reception ($2,327 deposit already paid)
- $531 for award plaques plus shipping for the awardees not attending the business meeting
- $100 for the council breakfast/coffee

The journal, whose budget is tracked separately from the overall section budget, has $15,168 in its ASA account as of May 31, 2023, which is up $854 from the previous year at the same time at $14,314. We have received Editorial Office Support of $12,000 from *City & Community*’s publisher SAGE Publications out of $24,000 scheduled for the fiscal year 2023. The journal account accrued $485 in publication income this year, down slightly $77 from the previous year, but close to the pre-pandemic year ($510 in 2020), bringing the total journal income to $12,562. We have spent $12,240 for editorial office expenses through May 31, 2023, at the same rate as the previous year. Any remaining funds will be coupled with assets and carried over to 2023.

**2. Membership.** As of August 7, 2023 we have 558 members, which is just short the 600-member threshold that would qualify us for four regular sessions at the next annual meetings. This is smaller than 601 last year at the same time, following the trend of general decline in the section membership we have been experiencing during 2020. We thank the outreach by the membership retention efforts by the members of the committee, and will continue to monitor the membership number for next year in hopes that we can reach the 600-member by September 1, 2023.

Overall, the financial state of the section is healthy and strong, but with an increasing cost for reception and declining membership, there may be room for reconsidering how to balance the financial stability and creating opportunities for younger scholars and scholars without financial resources to stay engaged with the section.

Sincerely,

Yuki Kato

IV. *City & Community* Report (By Richard E. Ocejo, Editor)

**Introduction**

Last year was a stable and successful one for the journal. The quality and impact of our papers on the discipline and field of urban studies continued to improve. We expanded the initiatives we started in 2021, the first year of my editorship, and began some new ones. Our ASA section, Community and Urban Sociology, has expressed approval of the journal’s initiatives and performance, and we have managed to get section members more involved in the journal’s activities. *City & Community* is on a steady rise.

**Manuscript Submissions and Decisions**

In 2022, 225 total manuscripts were submitted to the journal. Of these, 16 were accepted, 53 were invited to revise and resubmit, 63 were rejected, and 93 were rejected without review (that is, “desk rejected”). The latter number is high because *City & Community* is well-known among the large community of scholars and practitioners in the broad field of urban studies. We therefore regularly receive submissions from authors with backgrounds in such disciplines as urban planning,
architecture, and policy that are not intellectual fits for the journal and do not conform to our guidelines.

Among the 171 new (that is, first) submissions to the journal, 78 (or 45.6%) were sent out for peer review and the rest were rejected without review. Among those that underwent the peer review process, 47 (60.3%) were rejected outright, and 31 (39.8%) were invited to revise and resubmit.

Among the 53 submissions that were invited revisions, 16 (29.6%) were accepted, 21 (38.9%) were invited to revise and resubmit, and 16 (29.6%) were rejected. First, of these 53 invitations, 30 were for first revisions. Two (6.7%) of these 30 were accepted, 13 (43.3%) were once again invited to revise and resubmit, and 15 (50%) were rejected. Second, of these 53 invitations, 14 were for second revisions. Of these 14, 7 (50%) were accepted, 6 (42.9%) were invited to once again revise and resubmit, and 1 (7.1%) was rejected. Finally, of these 53 invitations, 9 were for third and/or fourth revisions. Of these 9, 7 (77.8%) were accepted and 2 (22.2%) were once again invited to revise and resubmit.

Using the traditional ASA indicator for the acceptance rate (the number of accepted manuscripts divided by the number of overall decisions, multiplied by 100), the acceptance rate at *City & Community* for 2021 was 7.1%. If we instead calculate the acceptance rate as accepted papers divided by final decisions, multiplied by 100 (as suggested by England in the March 2009 issue of Footnotes), the acceptance rate was 12.1%.

Finally, we learned last year that the journal’s Impact Factor (from 2021, the most recent year available) is now 2.252, which is the highest in the journal’s history. It is up from 1.722 in 2020 and 1.113 in 2019. The 5-year Impact Factor is now 2.456.

**Editorial Board**

Last year we once again diversified the editorial board even further. The 2021 board consisted of: 14 men (47%) and 16 women (53%); 19 White (63%) and 11 racial/ethnic minorities (37%); and of these 11 minority board members, 7 are African American, 2 Hispanic/Latino(a), and 2 Asian/Asian American. Last year’s board consisted of 13 men (43.3%) and 17 women (56.7%); 15 White (50%) and 15 from racial minority groups (50%); and of these board members 8 are African American, 4 Hispanic/Latino(a), and 3 Asian/Asian American. And of these 30, 4 are deputy editors who help review manuscripts and 2 are book review co-editors.

**Special Issues**

Special issues are important for the journal because they expose urban sociology to audiences outside of the subfield and allow scholars to use urban sociological theory to address significant questions in sociology and society.

For the 2022 September issue we published a special issue entitled “Urban Processes Under Racial Capitalism,” with Prentiss Dantzler (who is also a deputy editor for the journal), Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, and Junia Howell serving as guest editors. Along with an introductory essay by the guest editors and four original peer-reviewed
articles, the special issue also features a concluding commentary by Robert Vargas. The issue got broad and positive attention.

In January 2022, ASA approved a Call for Abstracts for a new special issue entitled “Environmentalizing Urban Sociology,” with Hillary Angelo (also a board member) and Miriam Greenberg (a former board member) as guest editors. The papers they selected have been going through the peer-review process and we expect this special issue to be published in late 2023.

Finally, we have been accepting papers for a special issue entitled “W. E. B. Du Bois and Urban Sociology: The Philadelphia Negro at 125 Years,” with Freedren Blume Oeur and Zawadi Rucks-Ahidiana (also a board member) serving as guest editors. We hope to publish it some time in 2024.

Initiatives and Features

Webinar Series. Last year we started a webinar series with a primary aim of professional development for early career scholars. It focuses on the basics of academic journal publishing. Topics have included writing manuscripts (“How to Write (and Not Write) Journal Articles: A City & Community Perspective”), reviewing manuscripts (“How to be a Reviewer: Reviewing Papers for Journals”), and revising and resubmitting (“Great, but Now What? How to Handle R&Rs”). We ran five events in this series, and I conducted each of them with assistance from Daniela Tagtachian, the journal’s managing editor. All events were well attended with hundreds of registrants, most of whom were doctoral students and junior faculty. We plan on regularly hosting virtual events on these and other topics in the years to come.

Professional Development. Launched on January 1, 2021, the Urban Scholars Development Program is a formal mentoring program for young urban researchers. Aimed at graduate students, post-docs, and recent graduates, this program formalizes City & Community’s existing reputation as a welcoming journal for up-and-coming scholars. We are particularly interested in supporting underrepresented scholars through this program. We recruited 15 faculty mentors and have matched 9 mentees to faculty mentors since it began. Two mentees were assigned mentors in 2022. Five of our mentees have been women and six have been students of color. We hope this program helps cultivate the next generation of urban scholars while improving the quality of submissions to the journal.

Podcasts. ASA’s interviews with authors who publish in City & Community are posted on our website. I am also a host of “New Books in Sociology,” a channel on the “New Books Network,” for which I conduct podcast interviews with book authors. I have been periodically interviewing urban sociologists about their recent books, giving them, the journal, and the subfield some broader attention. I also recruited two other hosts to join us in promoting urban books whose authors they interview. This initiative is being conducted in collaboration with CUSS. We hope both podcasts endeavors generate some additional attention for the journal and the work we publish.
Social Media. The City & Community twitter account (@CiCoJournal) was active throughout the year. We have increased our number of followers to 1,554.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

I made improving diversity, equity, and inclusion at the journal a priority when I began my editorship, and this continued in 2021. Along with the mentoring program and our efforts to diversify the editorial board and expand the discourse through special issues, we have also been gathering data on who our authors and reviewers are since late 2021. These data come from voluntary surveys we include in the auto-emails we send through the submission system. We’re still compiling them. Our aim is to figure out who we’re getting papers from and who’s reviewing papers for us in terms of race, ethnicity, type of institution, region of the world, and various other factors to see who is being excluded and where we can improve. We’ve been doing this independently and are also working with ASA’s DEI initiative for journal editors.

V. Remarks from the Incoming Chair (Elena)
VI. Other Business

Council Meeting
Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes of all council meetings. Minutes must include a list of council members present and a summary of decisions made. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

I. Introductions and Remarks (Mary Fischer)
II. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report (Yuki Kato, same as the business meeting)
III. City and Community Report (Richard Ocejo, same as the business meeting)
   • Emphasis on DEI (e.g., board selection as collaborative process - requires bylaw changes)
IV. Publications Committee Report (Theo Greene)
   • Grad student representative needed in publication committee
V. Remarks from Incoming Chair (Elena Vesselinov)

At the Council Meeting I spoke about my experience serving the section as Nominations Chair and preparing the 2023 nominations slate of leadership positions. My remarks were based on a memo I shared with the CUSS Council on February 1, 2023, following my recruitment efforts. I reported to CUSS Council that it took considerable effort to recruit a diverse group of candidates. I proposed to the Council members that all future efforts in the section for recruiting leadership nominations, as well as members of all other committees in the section can no longer be based on soliciting volunteers alone. The traditional way of recruiting leaders and committee members in the section has been through soliciting volunteers and that is no longer a viable option if we want to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion.

After a sustained effort on my part in soliciting the input from Council members and many others in the wider academic community, I succeeded in ensuring diversity in the composition of the nominees: 37.5 percent were non-white, 12.5 percent were members of the LGBTQ+ community, 42.9 percent are early career scholars (excluding the 2 Ph.D. students, running for student representative).
VI. Other business

- Park Award renaming process
  - How to solicit feedback/encourage conversation
  - Google Form to take the temperature.
  - Recruitment process challenges for leadership/committee roles (with DEI consideration)

Awards

Provide a list of Section awards and awardees conferred in the past year.

**Robert E. Park Book Award**
Co-Winners:


Honorable Mention:

**Jane Addams Article Award**

**Best Student Paper Award**
Winner:

Honorable mention:

**Publicly Engaged Scholar Award**
Winner: Derek Hyra, American University

**Robert and Helen Lynd Lifetime Achievement Award**
Winner: Lance Freeman, University of Pennsylvania

2023 Finances

Provide a narrative on how the 2023 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2023. Please account for any substantive differences.

Reception cost nearly one thousand dollars more than the budgeted amount, likely reflecting the inflation and the increased cost of venues. But aside from the reception, our expenses stayed within the budget.
The Previous Year
Describe Section activities during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

Provide an overview of the Section’s communications with its members and include explanation of how your communication strategy meets the goals and values of the Section. Include links to the section website, newsletters, and any other electronic media used.

ASA shifted to ASA connect this year so much of our communications were through this platform. Although members were able to post their own materials, many still chose to route communications through the chair.

CUSS also maintains its own website, which is another venue through which members can communicate and keep up to date on current research being conducted by members. https://comurb.org/

Newsletter articles are posted on Comurb.org, in addition to being distributed via the listserv. The communications team also shares links to material via Twitter (@ComUrbASA), and Facebook (CUSS). We are always looking for essays or op-ed pieces that promote community and urban sociology. Pieces can cover new research, teaching and pedagogy, or community activism.

Describe the Section’s diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. What steps were taken this year to achieve those goals?

Our new official DEI chair and committee worked with each of our CUSS committees to rethink our processes and practices so that we can better serve our existing members, as well as attract new scholars and scholarship to our community.

As far as steps we have taken this year towards this end, a major initiative we instituted was revamping our awards process to make it more transparent and equitable. We created a submissions portal in google from which all award submissions are now routed. A standardized set of questions, as well as blinded submissions where possible are now in place to facilitate a more unbiased assessment of applicants’ work.

Provide an overview of the section’s programming at the annual meeting and include explanation of how this programming meets the goals and values of the section (e.g. intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, inclusion).

We hosted a reception the night prior to our section session day, which was well attended with over 150 attendees and offered members an opportunity to network. Our section sponsored sessions covered a range of topics that represent the broad research interests of our members.

Section-sponsored sessions
• Climate Change, Urban Inequality, and the Future of Cities
• Critical Approaches to the Study of Policing of Urban Spaces
• Education and Urban Inequality
• Reimagining Urban and Community Sociology through Data Science
• Section Refereed Roundtables (12 tables)

Reception (The Post, 129 S 30th St, Philadelphia, PA 19104)

Provide an overview of the Section’s programmatic activities outside of the Annual Meeting (e.g. webinars, networking events, mentoring initiatives, resources for dissemination) and include explanation of this programming meets the goals and values of the Section.

Our journal City and Community hosted several webinars over the past year, providing opportunities for early career scholars to learn more about the publication process, including how to write a manuscript, how to revise manuscripts that have received an R&R, and how to be an effective reviewer. The journal has also hosted two virtual panel sessions on racial capitalism in the city and black urban sociology. These events provide opportunities for professional development for members as well further our goals of fostering diversity and inclusion.