



Regional Plan Association

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

235 East 45th Street

New York, New York 10017

(212) 682-7750

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For Further Information:

Sheldon Pollack
(212) 682-7750 (office)
(212) 751-5748 (home)

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NORTON EDUCATION FUND ANNOUNCED BY REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION AT DINNER HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT, PLANNING PIONEER

Formation of the Charles McKim Norton Education Fund was announced last night at a 70th birthday dinner honoring Mr. Norton for his 40 years of planning leadership in the United States and the world.

The Fund was announced by William M. Ellinghaus, Vice Chairman of American Telephone and Telegraph and Chairman of Regional Plan Association. Mr. Norton headed the Regional Plan staff from 1940 to 1969. He remains Counsel to the Association and a member of its Executive Committee.

Mr. Ellinghaus explained that the Fund would allow "the best minds assisted by the best graduate students in the country" to work on problems of the New York Region. He predicted that the fellows and interns and the Regional Plan Association staff would be enriched by the program.

The dinner for 250 friends, family and professional and civic colleagues was held at The University Club, 1 West 54th Street, in New York City. (Attendance list attached.) Hosts were Marian and Andrew Heiskell--she is a Director of The New York Times, he is Chairman of Time, Inc.--who have worked with Mr. Norton on several projects over the past two decades.

While heading Regional Plan's staff, Mr. Norton twice was appointed by the President to six-year terms on the National Capital Planning Commission, which plans for Washington, D. C. He also has been a member of the Visiting Committees to the planning schools of Harvard, Yale and Princeton and an adviser to the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 1971, Mr. Norton received the gold medal of the American Society of Planning Officials and in 1972, the Distinguished Service Award of the American Institute of Planners, one of 11 persons to have received the top honor of the nation's two national planning organizations.

The American Institute of Planners Award referred to Mr. Norton as a "shaper of the philosophy and practice of metropolitan planning throughout the United States" who "for over three decades has built a private volunteer organization to the point where its recommendations strongly influence governmental decisions and where officials at every level of government seek and respect its advice..."

The American Society of Planning Officials award stated, "Few men in public life have shaped American thinking in the field of planned metropolitan development more surely than Charles McKim Norton. For the past 31 years his has been a major influence in and upon the changing New York metropolitan region, and upon the wider field of planning concepts and planning laws. As a concept-formulator and ideological executive, as an insider, public spokesman, recruiter, and fund-raiser, he has helped consistently to cohere the thoughts, the careers, and the laws which make it possible today to hope that such vast metropolitan areas as New York may survive, and that their inhabitants may aspire to and enjoy the good life...."

"Kim Norton has brought continuity, structure, and good order both to his own career and to the theory and practice of metropolitan planning...."

"His contributions have been intellectual, financial, and highly personal, but not always in the public eye. Many of his early years went into civic battles involved in fostering projects of the first Regional Plan. A second preoccupation in those decades was the promotion of local and county planning in the three-state region...he became a master of the fine art of working tenaciously behind the scenes to keep the machinery for public persuasion and negotiation in good running order...."

"He became expert in land-use laws of the three states... and saw many of his editorial judgments picked up by the law courts in their decisions. He consistently sought to have planning proceed by law and not by man's whim. And consistently he saw all the processes of metropolitan change taking place in a physical environment that needed all the protection possible. To such long-term interests of the public he was able to focus the energies of a region."

Mr. Norton is a resident of Princeton, New Jersey.

Regional Plan Association began in 1922 as the Committee on the Plan for New York and Its Environs of the Russell Sage Foundation, chaired by Mr. Norton's father, Charles Dyer Norton, who also had been instrumental in the development of the famous Burnham Plan for Chicago. The product of the Committee was the world's first regional plan.

American Society of Planning Officials

MAY 1971

ASPO medal award to Charles McKim Norton

The ASPO Medal Award was presented to Charles McKim Norton at the annual ASPO Planning Conference in New Orleans. The citation reads as follows:

As men think, so shall they act. Few men in public life have shaped American thinking in the field of planned metropolitan development more surely than Charles McKim Norton. For the past 31 years his has been a major influence in and upon the changing New York metropolitan region, and upon the wider field of planning concepts and planning laws. As a concept-formulator and ideological executive, as an insider, public spokesman, recruiter, and fund-raiser, he has helped consistently to cohere the thoughts, the careers, and the laws which make it possible today to hope that such vast metropolitan areas as New York may survive; and that their inhabitants may aspire to and enjoy the good life.

Kim Norton has brought continuity, structure, and good order both to his own career and to the theory and practice of metropolitan planning. For over a half-century now the Norton name has been associated with the planning of great cities. His father was active in promoting the first Chicago City Plan and in fund-raising for the first Regional Plan of New York and its environs in 1923. And for the past 31 years Kim Norton has been successively Executive Vice-President (1940-64), President (1964-70), and Counsel to the Regional Plan Association of New York.

Early in his career—after graduating summa cum laude from Harvard in 1929 following with a law degree there in 1932—Kim Norton joined the staff of the National Resources Planning Board and worked under the late Frederick Delano, an early model of the highly responsible and independent citizen in public life which Kim Norton was to become. Later Kim Norton was to serve two six-year terms as a presidential appointee to the National Capital Planning Commission.

No other person has been closer to the carrying out of the first Regional Plan of 1922 for New York than Kim Norton.

His contributions have been intellectual, financial, and highly personal, but not always in the public eye. Many of his early years went into civic battles involved in fostering projects of the first Regional Plan. A second preoccupation in those decades was the promotion of local and county planning in the three-state region with its 22 counties and 550 municipalities.

After 1957 when the Regional Plan Association turned its major focus onto metropolitan planning, it sponsored the monumental Harvard Studies under Raymond Vernon; and the development of the Second Regional Plan for New York. Here was unfolded the concept of encouraging future metropolitan growth through multi-purpose regional centers or growth-nodes. Norton was active in taking the facts to the people—using questionnaires and TV feedback techniques to enlist the ideas of thousands of citizens. In the process he worked to enlist local officials and others to carry out key proposals of the plan. In all this he became a master of the fine art of working tenaciously behind the scenes to keep the machinery for public persuasion and negotiation in good running order.

In the process, Kim Norton became an example of the new species of Metropolitan Man, living successively in Long Island, New York City, and in New Jersey, learning his regional lessons on foot, as a commuter and as a citizen involved in many levels of regional affairs. He became expert in land-use laws of the three states, edited the Regional Plan Association's quarterly *Zoning Bulletin*, and saw many of his editorial judgments picked up by the law courts in their decisions. He consistently sought to have planning proceed by law and not by man's whim. And consistently he saw all the processes of metropolitan change taking place in a physical environment that needed all the protection possible. To such long-term interests of the public he was able to focus the energies of a region.