

## Karen S. Walz FAICP

Karen S. Walz FAICP is the Principal in Strategic Community Solutions, a professional consulting firm that provides clients with creative, practical products that help build successful and sustainable communities. The firm's focus is on projects that shape the future, engage the public and enhance sustainability. It works with clients to help them create and clarify their own visions for the future and to then agree on mission statements, goals and other priority actions to achieve that vision.

Ms. Walz brings over 30 years of professional analysis, strategic planning, community involvement and policy recommendation expertise to her projects. Her work experience includes East and West coast communities, as well as Texas, the Midwest and Western U.S.; client communities range from towns of a few thousand population to cities with over one million residents and counties covering 13,000 square miles. Ms. Walz is the Project Manager for "Vision North Texas", a coalition of private, public and non-profit organizations carrying out a regional visioning initiative for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Other current or recent clients include the cities of Allen, Benbrook, Dallas, Denton, Fredericksburg, Garland, Irving, Prosper, Richardson, San Antonio and Trophy Club, Texas, the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the non-profit The Trinity Trust Foundation. Ms. Walz co-chairs the American Planning Association's team that developed land use policy for APA's Climate Change Policy Guide (adopted April 2008) and the APA's Green Infrastructure team for its "Rebuilding America" national infrastructure initiative.

Among her publications are "A Step-by-Step Guide to Sustainability" in the July 2007 issue of *Planning* magazine and "Metroplex Dallas Inner-Ring Suburbs" (co-authored with Dennis Wilson) in the book *Regenerating Older Suburbs* published by ULI Press. She authored two articles appearing in the April 2008 edition of *Urban Land* magazine, including the regional overview for the ULI Spring Forum meeting.

Karen Walz was inducted as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners in 2006. She served as President of the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association from 2001 to 2003 and as President of the Greater Dallas Planning Council in 2004 and 2005. Ms. Walz' work has been recognized by numerous awards and commendations, including Dallas' highest urban design recognition (The Kessler Award), selection as an Honorary Member of the Texas Society of Architects, an Honorary Member of AIA Dallas and an Honorary Member of AIA Fort Worth.

Karen S. Walz received a Bachelor of Science degree with distinction in Environmental Earth Sciences from Stanford University and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

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