



# PLANNER EMERITUS NETWORK BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

## **John H. Anderson - PEN board member**



John enjoyed working as a technical artist/writer, industrial designer, and urban planner. Though semi-retired, John still enjoys these multiple careers

In the early '70s he felt that urban planning offered an interesting new subject and skill set. He received a certificate and commendation from Orange Coast College and was immediately hired by the City of Anaheim where he began to learn the professional planning practice. He was soon promoted to Advanced Planning Manager - leading a wide variety of major programs/projects and earning APA Section awards for a major Sphere of Influence study, a complex regional trail link/replacement wetlands habitat, and People Mover System study/proposal and Scholarship (SciArc). Previous to planning, he was nominated for a prestigious Outstanding Technology Award while working at JPL's large radio antenna stations.

He received several grants for innovative computer applications including statistical analysis//mapping, and early use of web technology. These technologies lead to a unique Anaheim Atlas, a set of low-cost 11" by 30" (foldable to 8-1/2") blueprints comprising manual/computer graphics/text exhibits depicting and describing key environmental factors, General Plan/Zoning, land use, infrastructure, demographics, etc. A weekly new overlay showed current/planned infrastructure, zoning submittals and any other currently relevant data. Copies of the Atlas and many of John's renderings, studies and videos permanently reside in the Anaheim Heritage Museum. The Anaheim Atlas system was awarded a State APA Chapter honor in 2011.

After his Anaheim "retirement" John continued to enjoy his various overlapping careers. As a contract planner he provided planning administrative, logistic and planning services to newly incorporated cities including Dana Point, Laguna Hills and Laguna Niguel and to established cities including Yorba Linda and Pomona. Independently, he provided HCDBG-GPS data analysis/mapping products to over 20 local cities. Currently, John has focused on self-directed study of human nature and its special relationships to public health, safety and well-being. He is preparing to co-teach a one week Climate Change & Urban Planning class at the UCI Youth Summer Academy, where he has previously taught Innovation, Inventors Workshop, and Design. Build. Fly. As an Air Force Auxiliary Captain and Senior Aerospace Education Officer, John routinely teaches similar STEM classes for AF Auxiliary cadets nationwide via interactive live webcasts, Edwards AFB, Vandenberg Space Force Base and a variety of regional venues. At 88, John feels lucky to actively "play" with his varied interests and skill sets - including after several years absence, serving once again on the PEN Board.