

SCAG/Arup Are Using a P3 to Help an Undergrad: 2017 SCAG/Arup Undergraduate \$5,000 Scholarship Recipient Younsook “Audrey” Jang



Public-private partnerships (P3s) are all the rage. They are fast becoming the innovative delivery methodology of choice in a wide range of disciplines. But this year WTS-LA is helping two entities put together an unusual P3 in education. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and Arup have joined forces to create the 2017 SCAG/Arup \$5,000 Scholarship that will be awarded at the 2017 WTS-LA Scholarship and Awards Dinner.

Founded in 1965, SCAG doesn't defy classification. Actually, it's got many. Under California state law it is a Joint Powers Authority as well as a Regional Transportation Planning Agency, and a Council of Governments. According to the federal government, it's a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). In essence, though, it is a consortium of local governments and agencies that voluntarily convene to address a wide range of regional issues. And it works.

Encompassing six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura), SCAG administers 191 cities in an area covering more than 38,000 square miles. It develops long-range regional transportation plans, including sustainable-communities strategy and growth-forecast components, regional transportation improvement programs, regional housing needs allocations, and a portion of the South Coast Air Quality management plans. Governed by an Executive Committee, SCAG is divided into a Regional Council with 86 members. It also has a particular focus on transportation. SCAG also contains six county transportation commissions that hold the primary responsibility for programming and implementing transportation projects, programs, and services in their respective counties. In addition, Native American tribes and Air Districts also receive representation on SCAG's Regional Council and Policy Committees, according to SCAG bylaws. Of course, SCAG has also been a longtime supporter of WTS and WTS-LA.

Founded in 1946 with an enduring set of values, Arup's unique trust ownership fosters a distinctive culture and intellectual independence that encourages collaboration. A legacy of founder Ove Arup, this philosophy informs every Arup project, allowing its 13,000 professionals to develop meaningful ideas and deliver results that frequently surpass client expectations in more than 35 countries around the globe. And what is true globally is equally true locally.

With more than 200 professionals in Los Angeles alone, Arup established its Southern California practice in 1986. Offering a comprehensive range of engineering consulting services, Arup provides a broad



spectrum of expertise including everything from planning and feasibility studies to detailed design and site support services. Working with government at all levels, Arup also partners effectively with universities and colleges, non-profit foundations and cultural establishments, developers, and healthcare providers to contribute significantly to the ongoing improvement of life in Southern California, across the US, and abroad. Their range of expertise includes large, complex projects such as courthouses and other federal government projects, museums, performing arts and other cultural venues, commercial and mixed-use developments, libraries, hospitals and laboratories, and much more. And all of these efforts benefit considerably from Arup's integrated design approach. But Arup's expertise doesn't stop there.

The firm is also recognized for its active commitment and best practices in promoting gender equality. This year Arup became the first engineering consultancy to receive certification from Ernst & Young's *National Equality Standard* for its efforts in equality, after a rigorous and complex assessment that included analysis, staff interviews, site visits, documentation review, etc. In addition, Arup has been a stalwart supporter of WTS-LA and its mission to advance women in transportation.

Public-private partnerships are all the rage, as they should be. But this year, SCAG and Arup decided to join forces in an unusual public-private collaboration to create a scholarship that further demonstrates their commitment to advancing women in transportation. This \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving young undergraduate student who embodies the ideals of both entities and the spirit of cooperation they formed. And that deserving young woman is Younsook "Audrey" Jang.

2017 SCAG/Arup Undergraduate \$5,000 Scholarship Recipient: Younsook "Audrey" Jang

Younsook "Audrey" Jang is a long-distance runner. And through her avocation she found her vocation. "I have inhaled petroleum particles from the 101, ogled at the front yards in Hancock Park, stepped on broken glass and freshly painted asphalt. I've seen how freeway construction, a bus stop, or subway extension can transform one neighborhood from blight to hip and back. I want to be an urban planner in order to balance the spatial inequalities that I observe." A junior at Pomona College, Jang is studying public policy analysis, and looks to pursue joint graduate degrees in urban planning and law. More specifically, she wants to revise zoning laws to help reshape American cities around pedestrian and public transit thoroughways. A believer in New Urbanism, she is quite concerned about how those principles are often inequitably applied. She looks to remedy that. But her quest has not been easy.

"My interest in this career path started when I read an excerpt from *City of Quartz* for a random art history class. My school lacks a planning department, and it has been difficult to identify peers or mentors with similar interests. Much of what I know about planning, I gained by my own initiative, albeit with help from the mentors I do have. I've scoured department listings for planning-related offerings, flooded my media diet with urban policy and design-related podcasts, and stalked LinkedIn for informational interviewees... I want to participate in an immersive program that will help me over the learning curve for hard skills, as well as introduce me to the network of professional and aspiring planners."

Seemingly like an unstoppable force, Jang possesses the unique identifiable quality for success—grit. Once she determines what her goal is, she sets out immediately and strategically to get it, while remaining loyal to its societal value. And that sounds very much like principles that govern both SCAG and Arup as well.