



*Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture*

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Board Members

August 11, 2023

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Dear Professor Kew:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 10, 2023, meeting considered the deferred action taken at the July 2022 meeting on the initial accreditation of the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at University of Cincinnati and decided to grant initial accreditation for a period of four (4) years. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2025, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

At its July 2022 meeting, the LAAB deferred action on initial accreditation until the Summer of 2023 and required University of Cincinnati to host a follow-up accreditation review during the Spring of 2023 to demonstrate the progress being made by the program to overcome its deficiencies. The program was also required to submit a response and documentation demonstrating compliance in all the areas outlined in the Recommendations Affecting Accreditation (Recommendations) which accompanied the follow-up review.

In April 2023, a visiting team of two evaluators, who were a part of the 2022 Initial Accreditation Team, revisited the program to assess progress toward meeting the LAAB Accreditation Standards (Standards). Since the program was not required to submit an updated Self-Evaluation Report (SER), the visiting team's April 2023 review focused primarily on the issues highlighted in the August 2022 LAAB Action Letter and the program's progress in addressing the Recommendations.

As reflected in the Visiting Team Report, the program has made significant progress since Summer of 2022. In addition to the development and adoption of policies and procedures related to program governance, administration and autonomy, and facilities' improvements, long-range and strategic planning has been initiated at the college and program levels.

The actions taken by the University of Cincinnati since the Summer of 2022 and demonstrated during the April 2023 accreditation visit address the issues and concerns stated by LAAB in the deferral letter. Based on those corrections and updates, LAAB believes a four-year initial accreditation period will allow the program enough time to effectively implement these structural and operational adjustments.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The four-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2027. Accordingly, the MLA program at University of Cincinnati is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2027.

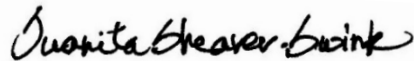
In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

Enclosed is a list of Recommendations (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out below) and an Interim Reporting template. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

The interim report should provide an update, with documentation demonstrating compliance when necessary, on each Recommendation in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. In accordance with LAAB policy, programs have up to two years to resolve their Recommendation(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the Recommendation(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of this Accreditation Action Letter. If the Recommendation(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer-term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Accreditation Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,



Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Neville G. Pinto, President

**University of Cincinnati**  
**MLA Program**  
**LAAB Meeting**  
**July 10, 2023**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. To substantiate the establishment of strategic planning at all levels of the College and assure alignment of mutual goals regarding the MLA Program (Standard 1):
  - a. The College of Architecture shall send the LAAB a DRAFT of the College Long Range Plan for LAAB review of compliance with Standard 1; and
  - b. The School of Planning shall provide LAAB a RATIFIED version of the SOP Long Range Plan for review of compliance with the Standard 1.
2. In the new digital displays for DAAP offices and other room allocations, the display menu needs to be modified to reflect Landscape Architecture as a specific entity in the listing of offices/programs (Standard 7).

**Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board**

**Interim Report**

**Submitted By:**

**Submission Date:**

**Section 1.**

**Name of Institution:**

**Name of Department:**

**Name of Program:**

**Date of Decision Letter:**

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**Section 2.**

**Recommendation Affecting Accreditation:** (Copy/paste verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

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**Section 3.**

**Action Taken by Program:** (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)

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**Section 4.**

**Prior Action Taken by Program:** (If applicable, attach any prior Interim Report related to the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)