

# Committed to the Future

t seems improbable now, looking back, that the events of 2021 were confined to a single year. On so many levels, it was a meaningful year momentous, challenging, and, above all, uplifting. Recall that as the year began, our community was still very much in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, feeling the effects of isolation on our profession and on our daily lives in profound ways. Consider how far we have come.

The impact of our forced isolation was only deepened by the ironic truth that, at its core, the work of landscape architects is intersectional. Our members are charged with transforming spaces and curating experiences at the interstices between our environment and our day-to-day lives. We bring communities together, root people to place, and pull meaning out of our surroundings. The mission of ASLA sits at the crossroads of many of the most urgent issues facing society today — climate action, environmental justice, racial equity, and historic preservation.

In that respect, 2021 was a year in which we returned to the places where our lives and our livelihoods intersect. We were humbled and amazed by the way our community, staff, and partners came together to successfully stage the ASLA 2021 Conference on Landscape Architecture safely against the looming threat of yet another COVID-19 surge. The return to in-person gatherings provided emotional sustenance to those in attendance, and over four days in Nashville, we experienced hope in the face of adversity,

once again proving that our organization and our members could meet the challenges of our day.

We were encouraged by the response to our 10-year vision and 2022–2024 Strategic Plan and energized by the outpouring of support we received following the launch of our Racial Equity Plan of Action. We also re-engaged with the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) in 2021 to combine efforts on the global climate action front. Those efforts represent our promise to serve our members, the profession at large, and the public good. As an organization, ASLA is in as strong a position as ever to continue fighting on all fronts for innovative and sustainable community solutions.

Looking ahead, ASLA's commitment to the future reflects the commitments we made in the past to protect and promote the public well-being. When our organization was founded in 1899, life expectancy among men and women was less than 50 years. Landscape architecture was a public necessity, closely linked to public health. Landscapes today play no less vital a role in our society, woven into neighborhoods, in cities and rural places, providing respite, boosting mental and physical health and welfare, and promoting equitable access to clean air, water, and soil.

I am grateful to our members and our Board of Trustees for the opportunity to engage in this transformative, purpose-driven service to our members, partners, and communities.

Torey Carter-Conneen ASLA Chief Executive Officer



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ASLA 2021 Professional Urban Design Award

The CityArchRiver Project, St. Louis, Missouri

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates/Alex MacLean

# Finding Our Future

With the 2022–2024 Strategic Plan, ASLA is charting a bold new course for the future that focuses on the needs of our members while advancing the profession.

### ASLA MISSION:

### ASLA FUND MISSION:

Empowering our members to design a sustainable and equitable world through landscape architecture.

Investing in global, social, and environmental change through the art and science of landscape architecture.



# How We Got Here

tASLA, we've long known that there is an evolving relationship between our communities, the profession we work in, and the planet on which we live. And that relationship has formed a cornerstone of our design philosophies. As the understanding of landscape architecture's impact on our society grows larger, reaching ASLA's full potential for positive change must be our collective focus.

Over the course of a year, ASLA leadership collaborated to develop a strategic plan that will help us reach our potential. We began by listening — to both the membership and leadership of ASLA. We considered where we need to go as an organization and how best to serve the members and the profession. We held informal conversations, monthly town hall meetings with members, a series of

one-on-one interviews and focus groups, and virtual — and, thankfully, some in-person meetings with our chapters.

Two things became clear during this process: the ASLA mission statement wasn't reflective of what we are about as an organization, and there was a need to clarify ASLA's role as a member association versus the role of the ASLA Fund.

So, as a result of this process, we updated our core mission statement and developed a separate one for the ASLA Fund.

In response to all of the insights gleaned from our information gathering, we developed the ASLA 2030 Vision. Member input is the foundation of this vision as it painted a picture of where we are going — an exciting future for ASLA and the profession that will require all of us working together to make it a reality.

"While the plan launched in November 2021, we're already seeing progress being made on multiple fronts."

Tom Mroz, FASLA ASLA 2021 President

# What the Future Holds

he plan articulates a vision of the organization's future, updates our mission statement, redefines the role of the ASLA Fund, and identifies five focus areas that will direct our strategy to ensure we achieve the future we imagine (Community, Connection, Innovation, Scale, and Voice). Some of the milestones we will achieve by 2024 are:

- **Improve** our member experience by updating our technology platform, making joining, renewing, and accessing tailored content easier for members.
- **Expand** the demographics of ASLA by attracting more members from underrepresented communities and increased professional memberships.

- with ASLA.
- **Conduct** a sustainability audit for for meeting our long-term goal of bv 2040.
- categories and introduce a new

"While the plan just launched in November 2021, we're already seeing progress being made on multiple fronts," Mroz said,

• **Improve** the linkage and transition for student members as they move into their post-academic relationship

the 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture to establish a baseline achieving net-zero carbon emissions

• **Review and revise** our membership updated membership dues structure to increase overall member value.

pointing to a newly established program that provides funding for women of color to obtain their licenses, as well as the launch of a climate action task force and advisory group focused on the overhaul of ASLA's membership dues structure.

But there's still more work to do: driving this kind of transformation will take time and it will require paradigm shifts, a diversity of backgrounds and thinking, and a passionate will to change to be successful. Our members have spoken, and we are committed to integrating this work into the fabric of our organization and our profession. We believe this plan brings us a step closer to delivering on our promise to lead change in our profession, in the design community, and the world.

# Leading a New Era ofInfrastructure

Last year's passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes provisions that will allow landscape architects to take the lead on projects nationwide.

or years, ASLA and landscape architects have been urging policy makers and other stakeholders to address the country's infrastructure deficits in a holistic manner that not only repairs these critical services in a more resilient manner, but also addresses climate change, biodiversity, equity, and inclusion.

While the profession and ASLA have made great strides in achieving these goals, passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, is by far the most far-reaching step in achieving ASLA's recommended paradigm shift.

The IIJA provides unprecedented funding to modernize traditional infrastructure such as roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, airports, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. However, it also makes groundbreaking investments in more innovative forms of infrastructure like active transportation, public lands, and broadband; provides the largest investment to address climate change; and takes critical steps to ensure environmental social justice for underserved communities.

# **How Landscape Architects** Helped Shape the Bill

ASLA kicked off the 117th Congress by sending a set of comprehensive policy recommendations, *Landscape Architects* Design Vibrant, Resilient, and Just Commu*nities for All*, to the Biden administration and Congress, and followed up with a set of specific transportation policy and funding recommendations, *Landscape Architects* Design Multimodal Transportation Networks for All. ASLA's advocacy efforts, including grassroots, coalition, and direct advocacy, resulted in a final infrastructure package that includes several of ASLA's recommendations.

Specifically, the measure includes increased funding and policy changes to strengthen critical active transportation programs like the Transportation Alternatives, Safe Routes to School, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and National Scenic Byways programs; Complete Streets and Vision Zero programs; and provisions to elevate context sensitive solutions, protect wildlife corridors, and removal of harmful highway projects in underserved communities.

The measure also addresses fixing our nation's water systems, including providing additional resources for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and promoting the use of nature-based solutions to meet clean water goals. The law also includes funding and policy enhancements for our national parks and other public lands — all ASLA policy recommendations.



With passage of the IIJA, millions of additional dollars will now be available for landscape architects to access to plan and design resilient, cost-effective, and healthy infrastructure projects across the nation.

### What This Means for Our Profession

With passage of the IIJA, millions of additional dollars will now be available for landscape architects to access to plan and design resilient, cost-effective, and healthy infrastructure projects across the nation.

More than half of the available federal funding will be distributed to the states to determine specific projects within their jurisdiction, requiring continued advocacy at the state and local levels. ASLA provides its members detailed step-by-step information from the federal agencies and the White House on how to apply for the remaining available federal funding.

Throughout the years, ASLA has worked with policy makers to ensure that legislation and regulations allow landscape architects to continue to be leaders in planning and designing community infrastructure.

"Landscape architects have always been at the forefront of successfully designing active transportation networks and other infrastructure projects, using climateresilient strategies and nature-based solutions, and ensuring meaningful community engagement — all to create healthy, vibrant, safe, and just communities," says Torey Carter-Conneen, chief executive officer for ASLA. "The IIJA represents the culmination of ASLA's many years of research, policy work, and advocacy efforts toward creating significantly more opportunities for landscape architects."

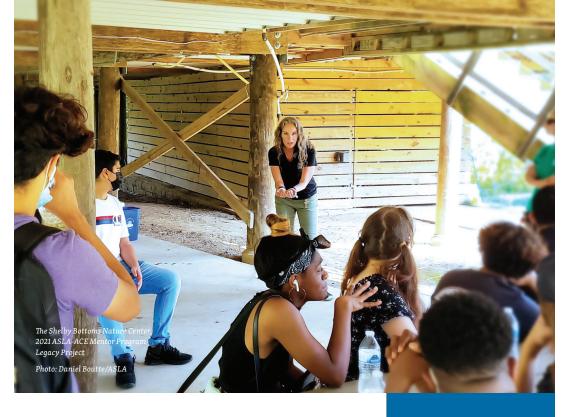
and scape architecture is a STEM discipline, but it tends to be overlooked in K–12 education. In fact, many landscape architects don't discover the profession until college.

ASLA wants to change that. But it would take an organizational shift: moving toward a truly international effort to scale up AS-LA's educational outreach efforts. It would mean high visibility and access to the people directly connected with elementary and secondary education, including teachers, school counselors, after-school leaders, and, of course, the students themselves.

ASLA's DREAM BIG with Design, A Showcase of Landscape Architecture and PreK–12 Design Learning, was the successful culmination of this new effort.

The two-day virtual event featured landscape architecture and hands-on student learning just in time to kick off the school year. Held September 23–24, the free summit included 45 prerecorded sessions in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and American Sign Language. Students and teachers could join live to interact with the presenters, or they could use the materials, including ASLA member-created lesson plans, on their own schedule.

And it's that accessibility that makes DREAM BIG with Design



even more special, especially in September 2021, when many educators were unsure whether their classrooms would be inperson or online.

More than 900 participants teachers, students, ASLA members, and more — joined the event from Illinois, Connecticut, Texas, Washington, D.C., Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, Nevada, and even Peru.

For the 700 student attendees, the event provided an inspiration to dream big. After all, what could be bigger than designing theme parks for Walt Disney and LEGOLAND theme parks? Students learned firsthand

about the daily life of Disney Imagineers, using Minecraft to explore design solutions, and how to bring landscape architecture into webtoons.

These students have unlocked a new potential STEM career path, one that is built on creativity, innovation, and resilience. And they'll have the opportunity to keep dreaming, thanks to ASLA's 2022 Career Discovery and Diversity programming, including a recently held special screening of the PBS Nature and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios film *My Garden of a* Thousand Bees in April and a series of DREAM BIG with Minecraft camps set to launch in May.

#### **DREAM BIG:** By the Numbers

2 Days 217 Teachers 21 Classes 700+ Students

9 States



### **Building Blocks**

DREAM BIG wasn't ASLA's only event to reach K–12 students across the country last year. As part of the organization's Career Discovery and Diversity efforts, ASLA hosted its first high school Minecraft Design Competition in June 2021.

Never heard of Minecraft? In the hugely popular video game, players design and break apart blocks in three-dimensional worlds to create community spaces and structures. It's also a highly effective tool for introducing students to landscape architecture.

The pilot event, designed in conjunction with Missouri's Park University, included three diverse high schools in Miami, New York City, and Washington, D.C. The competition tasked teams with designing and building a local park, with the guidance of ASLA mentors.

ASLA judges evaluated the designs, noting whether they solved an identified problem, used outdoor space effectively, considered community needs, and more. Students from Miami's Design and Architecture Senior High School won first place for their redesign of Concord Park.

Inaugural PreK-12 Summit highlights the possibilities of a career in landscape architecture to more than 700 students.

# **DREAM BIG** with Design

# Standout Sessions



NextGen Landscape Architecture: Unleashing Student Creativity and Engagement with Minecraft



LEGOLAND Florida: YES We Design Theme Parks!



Webtooning and Gesture Drawing with Jia



**Building Worlds** Landscape Architecture at Walt Disney Imagineering

# "These are the next generation oflandscape architects."

Eugenia Martin, FASLA ASLA 2022 President

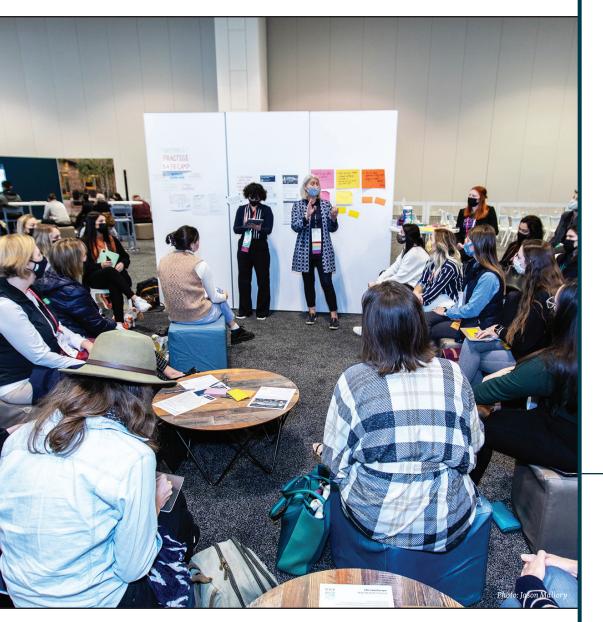
### **DREAM BIG** with Design 2022

PREK - 5TH GRADE DAY September 22

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL DAY September 23

Register today at asla.org/dreambig.aspx





# **Designing** Shared Spaces

The ASLA 2021 Conference on Landscape Architecture featured new approaches to inclusive design. or many members, attending the annual ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture renews their passion for the profession. It's a chance to take a step back, reflect, and learn from the best in the business. And because of the COVID-19 pandemic, that connection had never been more necessary.

After taking necessary safety precautions, ASLA successfully convened the 2021 Conference on Landscape Architecture with more than 4,000 participants at Nashville's Music City Center, November 19–22.

From the field sessions to the EXPO floor, the energy and excitement were obvious. Attendees and presenters alike were thrilled to be back in person — making those special connections, with new friends or old classmates, in the hallways between presentations.

# By the Numbers

4,000+

23 <sub>Sponsors</sub>

96 Education sessions

355 Speakers

234 EXPO exhibitors

700+

Please join us November 11–14 in San Francisco for the ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture.

Register at aslaconference.com



# A Healthy Return to In-Person Events

ASLA contracted with TN Event Health to create a healthy environment for all registrants, including verifying vaccination cards, temperature checks, and masking.

The 2021 conference focused on inclusive design with the theme "Designing Shared Spaces." Landscape architects are increasingly being called upon to ensure the long-term health of their communities. Consequently, the conference showcased multilayered plans and designs that improve community health, increase resilience to climate change, and address long-standing inequities in our society.

The conference featured more than 350 speakers in seven education tracks and celebrated award-winning work.

Participants chose different types of educational experiences, from 60-minute sessions to half-day workshops, all tailored to fulfill professional development requirements.

Attendees from around the world also visited local landscape architecture



AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE The ASLA Professional and Student Awards honor the best in landscape architecture from around the globe.

See 2021's student and professional winners at **asla.org/2021awards** 

projects curated by the ASLA Tennessee Host Chapter-field session committee. These field sessions highlighted Nashville's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), riverfront development, historic city parks, and other unique Nashville landscapes.

Eugenia Martin, FASLA, was installed as ASLA President during the annual Presidents Dinner. She is the 11th female president of the Society. Emily O'Mahoney, FASLA, will serve as as President-Elect. Tom Mroz, FASLA, will continue to serve as Immediate Past President for one year.

Past President for one year. Also installed were incoming vice presidents Joy Kuebler, ASLA, to lead Government Affairs and Ebru Ozer, ASLA, to lead Education. Communications Vice President Jeanne Lukenda, ASLA; Finance Vice President Tamas Deak, FASLA; Membership Vice President Bradley McCauley, ASLA; and Professional Practice Vice President Adrian Smith, FASLA, will continue to serve in their roles.

# **Standout Sessions**



Design with Disabled People Now: Including Disabled People in the Design Process



Storytelling Through Design: Honoring Diverse Voices

ASLA Tennesession commitnighlighted Black Colleges s), riverfront ty parks, and andscapes. LA, was lent during the er. She is the che Society. LA, will serve as Mroz, FASLA, Immediate

#### **Student Attendees Grow the Field**

ASLA has increased its outreach to landscape architecture programs to reduce barriers to student participation. Through the ASLA Fund, more than 600 students, many of them first-time attendees, were sponsored to attend the conference and experience the unmatched knowledge and networking of this four-day event.

So which topics were top of mind for the next generation of landscape architects? They included sessions that tackled justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and changing the culture in practice. Students and emerging professionals are seeking new ways to apply their skills beyond traditional practice and are looking to redefine leadership in practice. The conference offered a valuable opportunity for students to meet and speak to professionals they admire and to make connections for future job prospects.





Mitigating the Carbon Footprint of Concrete



Debunking "Green Gentrification": How Public Space Investment Delivers Environmental Equity and Justice



Designing the Green New Deal Initiative: Demystifying Design and Policy



Community Voices, Community Landscapes: Shaping Design Processes Abroad and at Home



Building Great Ideas: Art, Science, and Reality in Design Through Construction



Equity in Nature: Transforming Neglected Urban Land in Baltimore into Bliss Meadows

# **Connections** Across the Community



# What Is SKILL ED?

More than 400 landscape architecture professionals and students came together June 22-24, 2021, to invest in their career development. The virtual practice management program included more than 20 sessions highlighting skills crucial to career growth — education that is not always gained in day-today work.

The Attendees: Full professional members who wanted to advance to higher levels within their firm or practice, including 116 ASLA Student Members who received free registration thanks to generous member donations. **On the Agenda**: Business and leadership training, including business development, marketing, and professional contracts.

# How We're Advancing **Climate Action**

How can landscape architects shape the future of our communities through climate advocacy? As always, we're moving past theory and focusing on aggressive action and impressive impact and our members are leading the way.

In 2021, the ASLA Climate Action Committee launched a new guide, Climate Action Now: A Landscape Architect's Guide to Climate Advocacy, to help landscape architecture professionals become more impactful climate advocates.

### **LOOKING FORWARD:**

A New ASLA Climate Action Plan **Who**: A task force, led by Climate Action

Committee member Pamela Conrad, ASLA What: A new ASLA Climate Action Plan focusing on member education, equitable mitigation, and adaptation goals When: Debuting at the ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture in November

# **Our Eyes and Ears**

ASLA's 49 chapters are the lifeblood of our organization, spearheading local efforts to advance the landscape architecture profession in civic, educational, and public spheres, nationwide.

70% are LA CES™

providers, with the

74% of chapters

reported positive

licensure boards.

in 2021.

Texas Chapter becoming

an education provider"

relationships with state

67% of chapters saw an increase in membership in 2021.

#### Morethan 40% of chapters

pursued Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives in 2021 up from 22% in 2019.

◀ Photo: Jason Mallory



▲ ASLA 2021 Professional General Design Honor Award, Suining South Riverfront Park, Suining City, Sichuan Province, China. ECOLAND Planning and Design Corp./ Arch-Exist Photography

# The Power of Action

ASLA solidified its commitment to move our profession toward a more just and inclusive community in its Racial Equity Plan of Action. Released in March, the plan outlines a fivepoint strategy to achieve these critical goals.

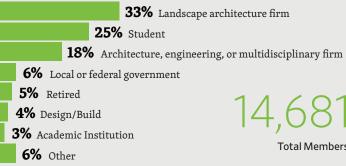
- 1. Diversifying the Pipeline: Equipping our students and institutions to lead in this work
- 2. Acknowledging Racism in the Profession and Honoring the Forgotten: Making it clear where we stand and where we aim to go
- 3. Reshaping the Conversation and Transforming Frameworks: Establishing enduring structures for the journey ahead
- 4. Leading Through Education, Conversation, and Policy: Developing and disseminating content on advancing racial equity
- 5. Accountability: Maintaining meaningful, measurable progress

# The Defense of State Licensure

In the past six years, the landscape architecture industry has faced a significant anti-occupational licensing movement. These reform proposals largely focus on reducing mobility barriers and requiring regular reviews of licensed occupations. ASLA worked closely with the Illinois Chapter to

enact Senate Bill 214, the Landscape Architecture Registration Act, which was signed into law on August 6, 2021. The ASLA Licensure Committee also provided recommendations to the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards to develop a Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture.

# **ASLA Member Employment By the Numbers**



Landscape Architecture Magazine celebrated its 111th year of publication with several hard-earned honors. The magazine functions both as a survey of the most compelling endeavors currently taking place in landscape architecture and an important communications tool, allowing ASLA to share policy developments affecting professional practice, design innovation, climate justice, and conservation with its members.

# 2021 EXCEL AWARDS

The EXCEL Awards is the largest program recognizing excellence and leadership in association media, publishing, marketing, and communication.

Design Excellence: Gold February/March/April 2020

"Have Van, Will Garden"

General Excellence: Silver March/April/May 2020

# An Award-Winning Magazine for Our Members

Feature Article Design: Gold

#### 2021 JESSE H. NEAL AWARDS

Since 1955, the Jesse H. Neal Awards have been the most prestigious editorial honors in the field of specialized journalism.

Best Overall Art Direction/Design "The Wild World of Terremoto," "Have Van, Will Garden," and "The Thin Green Line"

Best Single Article "Lethal Glass Landscapes" by Jeff Link

**Best Profile** "Hell of Fun (Claude Cormier)" by Brian Barth

• **Jennifer Reut** was named editor in chief of Landscape Architecture Magazine, ASLA's award-winning monthly magazine, in October 2021. She is only the third woman to head the magazine since its founding in 1910.

#### ▶ PARTNER HIGHLIGHT Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL)

ASLA's strategic partnership with ARPL helps insert our industry's voice in the national dialogue on occupational licensure. ASLA's internal efforts, combined with those of ARPL, provide a strong foundation to promote and defend licensure.

215

The number of occupational licensing bills the State Government Affairs team tracked in 2021.

Total Members

# Mentorship

ASLA's Mentorship Program is a unique online networking and career development tool that connects ASLA student and associate members with full professional members.

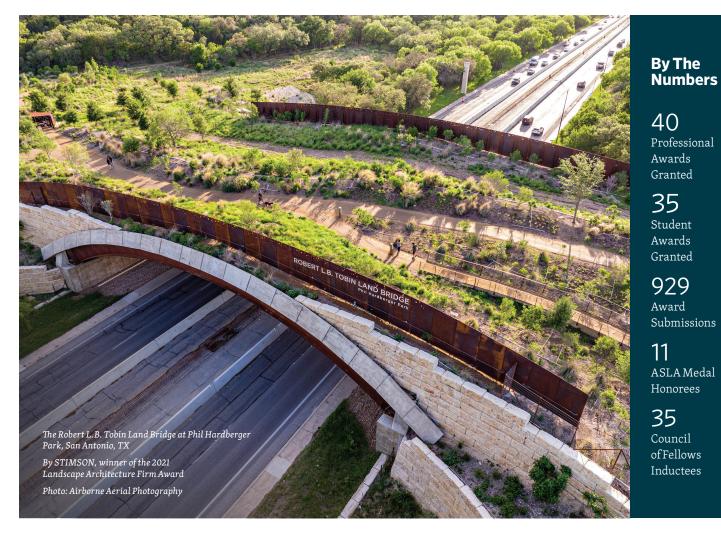
Total ASLA Mentoring Relationships



Completed Mentorships

# Recognizing Excellence

Our award winners represent the best of our profession's present and its future.



ach year, ASLA recognizes and celebrates the best of the landscape architecture profession its lifelong champions, community advocates, prolific thinkers, and emerging stars. Their work urges the profession forward, demonstrating the power of landscape architecture to reshape the world around us, ignite ideas, spark conversations, and spur us toward a more equitable future.

Selected by ASLA's Board of Trustees, the ASLA honors represent the highest awards presented each year. Congratulations to each of our winners!

#### The ASLA Medal

The ASLA Medal is the highest honor ASLA can be tow upon a landscape architect whose lifetime achievements and contributions to the profession have had a unique and lasting impact on the welfare of the public and the environment.



#### Darwina L. Neal, FASLA

Darwina L. Neal, FASLA, who died last fall, dedicated her 44-year career to promoting landscape architecture through advocacy and stewardship both as a public servant with the National Park Service and a volunteer for numerous local, national, and international entities. She was a friend to many in the landscape architecture community and a strong advocate for equity, preservation, and female leadership in the profession. Even after she retired from public service, Darwina continued her life's work, advocating for the protection of historic landscapes.

# **The Strength** in Our Numbers

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our community and the continued diversification of our work, the state of the organization is strong.

The year 2021 was an important time of transition and growth for ASLA. With the COVID-19 pandemic still affecting the lives and livelihood of our members, we embarked on campaigns that reaffirmed our commitment to bringing value and resources to our community that support, inspire, and promote the landscape architecture profession to prominence in public life.

Despite obvious challenges, we managed to gain ground on several fronts including membership, where we retained and grew our numbers close to expectation and, in fact, expanded our outreach efforts within both educational and professional spheres. In 2022, we expect to return to and potentially exceed our 2019 operating capacity.

### Figures

These figures represent the financial position of the organization and tell a story of passion, creativity, resilience, and innovation of our community, staff, and volunteers, and the allocation of resources. including your support.

### YTD TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT

# \$9,972,406 2020 2021

The successful annual conference contributed nearly **\$1 million** to the overall increase in revenue from the previous year, which allows us to provide new resources and expand our investments in communications and advocacy.



**The ASLA Design Medal** Thomas Oslund, FASLA

Minneapolis, MN By Thomas Oslund, FASLA

Thomas Oslund, FASLA, is principal/partner and director of design for Minneapolis-based 02 Design. Throughout his career, he has designed projects in countries around the world, earning more than five dozen national and international awards. But some of his most impactful works include projects he and his firm have undertaken locally. These include the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, the General Mills campus, and the Minnesota History Center. Tom's pursuit of simplicity, both in form and expression, is a hallmark of his approach and part of what makes him worthy of this high recognition.

**The Community** Service Award Ernie (Ernest) Wong, FASLA

The Jot D. Carpenter **Teaching Medal** Lolly Tai, FASLA

The LaGasse Medal Barrett Kays, FASLA

The Landscape Architecture Firm Award STIMSON

#### The Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence

Potomac Chapter ASLA Advocacy Committee

# **The Olmsted Medal**

NYC Playgrounds Program

#### The ASLA Emerging **Professional Medal**

Magdalena Aravena, ASLA

The President's Medal Kona A. Gray, FASLA

51% 22% Member General & Services & \$12,972,690 Administrative Education 27% Communication & Advocacy

# ASLA2022 DESIGNING A BETTER

**SAVE THE DATE** November 11-14, 2022

ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture

Moscone Center, San Francisco

aslaconference.com

American Society of Landscape Architects

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