

Highlighted Sessions by Professional Practice Network

September 16–18, 2026 · Los Angeles, CA

Leadership and Mentorship PPN

Focus: Personal skills, resilience, leadership capacity, and mentorship at every career stage.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

WED-C07

The PM Playbook: Leadership Across Scale and Sector

 Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM PT

Project management leadership is shaped by context—public accountability, funding systems, regulatory pressures, and organizational structure. Through perspectives from public agency, interdisciplinary, and single-discipline practice, this session examines how PMs navigate different systems of decision-making and responsibility—offering practical insight, tips, and direction for leading effectively across sectors.

1.50 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

WED-C01

In Conversation: David Rubin, FASLA + Sara Zewde, ASLA

 Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM PT

For years, ASLA has invited landscape architecture firms to pull back the curtain on their work, culture, and creative process through our beloved "Inside the LA Studio" series. This year, we are turning the format on its head.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

THUR-A09

Behind Closed Doors: Candid Lessons from Women Who Founded Design Firms

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM PT

Women are launching landscape architecture firms at growing rates, yet the realities of ownership remain largely unspoken. This candid panel brings together three founders to share hard-earned lessons on capital, credibility, leadership, and balance—offering honest insights, practical strategies, and encouragement for emerging and mid-career professionals pursuing firm ownership.

1.25 PDH [View Session Details →](#)

THUR-A06

Jack of All Trades or Master of One? Landscape Practice Today

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM PT

Today's landscape architects are expected to do it all—or do one thing exceptionally well. This session explores the evolving distinction between generalists and specialists in practice, examining career paths, firm structures, and project delivery models. Join a candid discussion on how diverse skillsets shape design quality, collaboration, and professional growth.

1.50 PDH

[View Session Details →](#)

THUR-B07

How It Started...How It's Going: Stories and Struggles in Practice

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Photos of impeccable landscapes earn accolades, but they can mask the hard decisions, false starts, trials, and tribulations of everyday practice. Three women leaders from different generations and geographies trace the arc of their careers, sharing stories and struggles from the frontlines of practice that can inspire all to persevere.

1.50 PDH

[View Session Details →](#)

THUR-C09

Say It So It Lands: Speaking Tools for Landscape Architects

 Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM PT

Learn practical tools to speak with clarity under pressure. This session combines live coaching, presence frameworks, and simple on-the-spot speaking structures to help landscape architects, especially introverted or anxious speakers, build confidence. Featuring insights from TBG's Idea Lab on how communication skills can strengthen culture and expand leadership across firms.

1.50 PDH

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

FRI-A10

Breadth and Depth: Building Organizational Capacity from Emerging Practices to Legacy Firms

 Friday, September 18, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM PT

How can landscape architects build the capacity to adapt in a profession facing rapid change? This session brings emerging, mid-size, and legacy firm perspectives to compare how organizational scale shapes the balance between specialist depth and generalist breadth, and how that balance can position both practices and individuals to evolve.

1.25 PDH

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FRI-A08

Beyond Firm Ownership: How Leadership Transition Really Happens

 Friday, September 18, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM PT

Becoming a firm owner brings additional opportunity and compensation, yet in many firms the role is largely undefined. Without new responsibilities or clear expectations, new firm owners may continue in their previous roles, lacking authentic transition to firm leadership. Attendees will leave this session understanding strategies for meaningful leadership transition.

1.25 PDH

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FRI-B08

"No One Wants to Work Anymore": Between Labor and Purpose

 Friday, September 18, 2026 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM PT

As society rethinks labor, value, equity, and purpose, this session brings together emerging professionals and industry leaders together to explore change, build empathy, redefine success, and co-create a resilient, relevant, and human-centered future for landscape architecture rooted in shared accountability and collective imagination.

1.25 PDH

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FRI-D07

Front-loading Success: Defining Value During Project Pursuits

 Friday, September 18, 2026 | 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM PT

Scope and fee alone don't secure a win or define success. This session pulls back the curtain on the creative decision making behind the pursuit process, highlighting how intentional front-end strategy – clear value definition, smart positioning, and selective pursuits – leads to stronger outcomes and long-term organizational strength.

1.50 PDH

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Questions? Visit asla.org or aslaconference.com

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