



Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, representing nearly 15,000 members. The Society’s mission is to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.

Importantly, sustainability has been part of ASLA’s mission since its founding and is an overarching value that informs all of the Society’s programs and operations. ASLA has been a leader in demonstrating the benefits of green infrastructure and resilient development practices through the creation of its own green roof, co-development of the SITES® Rating System, and the creation of publicly-accessible sustainable design resources.

ASLA has 49 chapters, representing all 50 states, and U.S. territories, plus 81 student chapters and seven student affiliate chapters. ASLA members live in 57 countries around the world.

ASLA’s MISSION

Landscape architects lead the planning, design, and stewardship of healthy, equitable, safe, and resilient environments. The Society’s mission is to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.

ASLA’s VISION

Healthy, beautiful, and resilient places for all.

ASLA’s VALUES

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Diversity
- Leadership
- Stewardship

ASLA’s CULTURE

- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Member-focused
- Accountable
- Volunteer-supported

ASLA has nearly 15,000 members, including ...

10,000 Full Members

1,400 Associate Members

160 International Members

170 Honorary Members

1,300 Student Members

300 Student Affiliate Members

100 Corporate Members

Where do ASLA’s members work?

39% work in landscape architecture firms.

22% work in multi-disciplinary firms.

10% are students.

8% work for federal, state, or local government agencies.

6% work in design/build firms.

3% have academic careers.

12% work in a variety of other settings.

ASLA’s programs and operations are grounded in the core values of **sustainability** and **stewardship** and a commitment to promoting **equity** and **diversity**.

The Society’s strategic objectives on behalf of its members include:

- Advancing the visibility and influence of the profession
- Serving and supporting its members
- Shaping the future of the profession
- Effective governance and management



THE PROFESSION AT A GLANCE

Landscape architects analyze, plan, design, manage, and nurture the built and natural environments, and have a significant impact on communities and the quality of life.

While almost 25,000 people work in the landscape architecture field in the United States, approximately 16,400 landscape architects are formally licensed as landscape architects.

Licensure is required in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, making landscape architecture one of only around 60 professions to be licensed in all 50 states. Each state sets its own requirements for licensure and the licensing process is administered by the state licensing board. All states require candidates to pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination, or LARE, which is administered by the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB).

In What Ways Do Landscape Architects Shape the Built and Natural Environments?

Academic campuses • Conservation • Corporate and commercial projects • Gardens and arboreta • Government planning and design • Green infrastructure • Historic preservation and restoration • Hospitality and resorts • Interior landscapes • Land planning • Landscape art • Monuments • Parks and recreation • Playgrounds • Public policy • Reclamation • Residential landscapes • Resilience and climate change mitigation • Security design • Storm water management • Streetscapes and public spaces • Teaching and writing • Therapeutic gardens • Transportation corridors • Urban planning and design

The Education of a Landscape Architect

There are two undergraduate professional degrees for landscape architects: Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) and Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA). These usually require four or five years of study in design, construction techniques, art, history, and natural and social sciences. There are also two types of accredited graduate-degree programs:

The three-year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) option is for those who hold an undergraduate degree in a field other than landscape architecture and intend to become landscape architecture practitioners., and a five or five-plus year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) for those without an undergraduate degree.

Other, non-accredited programs are also offered, such as the MA/MS in Landscape Architecture, which is for persons who want to conduct research in landscape architecture but do not seek to be registered professionals; programs by schools that are candidates for accreditation; and certificate programs.

Seventy universities offer 52 MLA and 44 BLA programs accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB).

To learn more about ASLA,
landscape architects, and
landscape architecture, visit

[asla.org](https://www.asla.org)