Climate Action, In Action

ASLA is empowering our members to take bold climate action through landscape architecture.

Connections Across the Community

A window into the world of ASLA and our members

Recognizing Excellence

ASLA’s award winners represent our profession’s best; plus, a snapshot of ASLA’s financial position

Advancing Policy, Creating Progress

ASLA made a difference for landscape architecture at state and federal levels

Designing a Better Future

ASLA’s annual conference celebrated the impact of landscape architecture and charted a path forward

Engaging the Next Generation

Nurturing tomorrow’s industry leaders through connections, education, and support

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Climate Action, In Action

ASLA is empowering our members to design a sustainable and equitable world through landscape architecture.

1 Launching Our Climate Action Plan and Climate Action Field Guide for ASLA Members

At the ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture, ASLA introduced the Climate Action Plan, which sets ambitious goals for ASLA, and the Climate Action Field Guide for ASLA Members, which provides tools and resources for members to take action in their firms and organizations. The plan, which will direct all ASLA climate-related programs and investments through 2030, is centered on three goals:

• Practice: Scale up climate-positive approaches
• Equity: Empower communities to achieve climate justice
• Advocacy: Build coalitions for climate action

The plan outlines a bold vision for the profession. By 2040, all landscape architecture projects will simultaneously:

• Achieve zero embodied and operational emissions and increase carbon sequestration
• Provide significant economic benefits in the form of measurable ecosystem services, health co-benefits, sequestration, and green jobs
• Address: climate injustices, empower communities, and increase equitable distribution of climate investments
• Restore ecosystems and increase and protect biodiversity

“We envision communities becoming healthier and economically stronger because they have committed to drawing down carbon, restoring ecosystems, increasing biodiversity, and reducing reliance on vehicles,” said ASLA President Eugenia Martin, FASLA.

ASLA also urged national governments to take greater action to protect biodiversity. In 2022, in advance of the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 in Montreal, ASLA urged governments to commit to ambitious global conservation and biodiversity goals, including protecting at least 30 percent of terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems by 2030 (30x30).

2 Attaining UN Observer Status

For the first time, ASLA secured observer status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Achieving this status was a process that took more than a year and culminated in ASLA receiving blue zone passes made available only to government representatives and select delegates of observer organizations for COP27, which was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022.


Conrad and Voraakhom pushed for transformative climate action and called for a more significant commitment by governments to the 2040 vision and goals of the ASLA Climate Action Plan. ASLA advocated for equitable investment in nature-based solutions to increase carbon drawdown and reduce emissions while supporting health, biodiversity, and resilience.

3 Joining the IFLA World Congress

ASLA’s leadership attended the International Federation of Landscape Architects World Congress, held in Ongangiu, South Korea, in 2022. ASLA CEO Torey Carter-Conneen was invited to be a keynote speaker at IFLA’s 2023 World Congress, which is set to be held in Kenya and Switzerland.

Carter-Conneen has been invited to be a keynote speaker at IFLA’s 2023 World Congress. Speaking at Economist Impact’s Sustainability Impact Week US, ASLA CEO Torey Carter-Conneen participated in a panel titled “Leading the transition to carbon-neutral housing” at Economist Impact’s Sustainability Summit Week US. The panel focused on reducing residential energy use, which accounts for approximately 20 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Carter-Conneen spoke about how landscape architects can reduce residential energy use by designing the community and site scales. He pointed out how the nature-based solutions landscape architects plan and design — from urban tree canopies to green roofs and stormwater capture — solve multiple climate issues at once.

4 Speaking at Economist Impact’s Sustainability Week

To download the full Climate Action Plan or the executive summary, visit asla.org/climate.
ASLA is committed to nurturing tomorrow’s landscape architects through connections, education, and support.

**Engaging the Next Generation**

The future of landscape architecture lies within the passion, energy, and creativity of the students and young professionals entering the field. That’s why ASLA is taking steps to foster connections that empower young people getting their start in the profession.

To do this, ASLA is partnering with a leading social network in the industry, encouraging students to participate in our annual conference, and helping recent graduates transition from student membership to professional membership in ASLA. These efforts will help ASLA and the landscape architecture profession flourish, both in 2023 and in the years and decades to come.

**ASLA, Land8, and LABash Boost Support to Students and Emerging Professionals**

Land8, founded by emerging ASLA professionals in 2008, is a social networking platform for landscape architects and one of the top online resources for people in the profession. Landscape architects can use Land8 to read articles, ask questions, find jobs, conduct research, seek design inspiration, network, and access resources. The LABash Conference, since 2019, is the annual student-led gathering for landscape architecture students.

In 2022, ASLA, Land8, and LABash formed an alliance to expand our collective ability to raise awareness and understanding of the profession. The union strengthens the landscape architecture community at every level, from postsecondary education through professional leadership.

Land8 helps to raise awareness of the profession among its 20,000 international and domestic subscribers and its 1.5 million followers on social media. And in 2022, LABash held its first in-person conference since 2019 with more than 300 students gathering in Baton Rouge at Louisiana State University.

“Working together will advance our shared missions of promoting the work of landscape architects to a global audience,” said President Eugenia Martin, FAASLA.

**Students Smash Conference Participation Record**

ASLA invited landscape architecture students to attend the ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture for free in exchange for volunteering four or more hours during the annual conference. More than 900 students attended the conference in San Francisco, a number that is expected to grow for the 2023 conference in Minneapolis in October.

The 2022 conference offered more than 120 courses in eight educational tracks over four days, along with hands-on access to products from 245 manufacturers and suppliers in the EXPO.

The conference gave students the opportunity to:
- Learn more about the profession at workshops, field sessions, and lectures
- Network with landscape architecture professionals
- Attend the LABash Block Party and other sponsored events
- Meet and interview with firms that are hiring
- Receive portfolio reviews with landscape architecture professionals

Students learned from emerging and experienced professionals on a wide range of topics, including:

- Making an impact through nontraditional career pathways
- Climate advocacy in practice
- Design detail and material innovation
- Workplace equity and inclusivity
- In-demand skill sets to advance the profession
- Drone-aided design and other technologies driving change
- Innovation in practice
- Climate advocacy
- Design detail and material innovation
- Workplace equity and inclusivity

**Providing Tools, Pathways to Membership for Graduating Students**

Landscape architecture students qualify for free ASLA membership until they graduate. ASLA holds a virtual graduation celebration hosted by the ASLA President and CEO. With the celebration we are building the path from student to professional membership.

Even before graduation, ASLA student members receive many benefits that can help them launch their careers, such as:
- Membership in their local professional chapter based on their zip code, which gives them additional opportunities to network and engage
- Membership in one of 20 Professional Practice Networks so that they can learn more about specialized areas such as water conservation, sustainable design, or historic preservation
- Membership in student communities
- Mentorship from an ASLA member who can support their professional growth
- Portfolio review, virtually or with their local chapter, to best position them for career opportunities
- Access to ASLA surveys that can help them understand market demand
- Access to ASLA SKILL | ED program resources to develop their leadership capacity
- Membership in student communities
- Mentorship from an ASLA member who can support their professional growth
San Francisco provided the perfect backdrop for the ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture, held Nov. 11–14 at the Moscone Center. More than 6,000 attendees from all over the world converged on the City by the Bay for four days of education, networking, and inspiration. The conference program featured more than 120 courses along eight education tracks, representing the most important topics in the profession today.

Speakers showcased how landscape architects are leading the charge for more equitable, healthy, safe, and resilient communities across the country and around the globe. Practitioners and educators joined together to visualize the futures we want to see — sharing case studies and best practices among the profession and across disciplines to design a better future.

The ASLA Climate Action Plan was launched during the general session, setting ambitious new goals for the profession. The keynote, “The Blue-Green Connection: Water and Land in Climate Action,” featured Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, marine biologist, policy expert, and writer, in conversation with Kate Orff, FASLA, and Emily O’Mahoney, FASLA, for the ASLA Legacy Project for 2023–2024 were all women. In her speech, O’Mahoney implored audience members to remember what an important profession landscape architecture is and will continue to be in the future. “We are heading toward a world where everyone knows what landscape architecture is,” she says. “Just imagine — a better world through landscape architecture!”

Another historic moment at last year’s conference took place at the President’s Dinner, when Emily O’Mahoney, FASLA, was installed as ASLA President. The occasion marked the first time in ASLA history in which the immediate past president, president, and president-elect (SuLin Katowitz, FASLA, for 2023–2024) were all women. In her speech, O’Mahoney shared her passion for and critical work on ocean justice policy and spotlighted how everyone can tap into their own unique skills and superpowers to contribute to climate action, amplifying and sharpening the solutions that already exist.

The ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture celebrated the future of landscape architecture and our collective impact.

**Designing a Better Future**

*Just imagine — a better world through landscape architecture!*

— Emily O’Mahoney, ASLA 2023 President

**Changing of the Guard**

Another historic moment at last year’s conference took place at the President’s Dinner, when Emily O’Mahoney, FASLA, was installed as ASLA President. The occasion marked the first time in ASLA history in which the immediate past president, president, and president-elect (SuLin Katowitz, FASLA, for 2023–2024) were all women. In her speech, O’Mahoney implored audience members to remember what an important profession landscape architecture is and will continue to be in the future. “We are heading toward a world where everyone knows what landscape architecture is,” she says. “Just imagine — a better world through landscape architecture! We are moving to make a difference. A difference to membership, a difference to the profession, an asset to climate change action, and a difference to the world.”

**The Conference at a Glance**

6,000+ attendees

$3,000+ donated to the ASLA Legacy Project

1,000+ first-time attendees

900+ student volunteers

500+ speakers

245+ exhibitors and sponsors

120+ education sessions

**Leaving a Legacy**

Each year ASLA organizes a Legacy Project as a gift to the host city of the annual Conference on Landscape Architecture. The site for the 2022 project was the Golden Gate Greenway in one of San Francisco’s core neighborhoods, the Tenderloin District. While a very ethnically diverse neighborhood, it has often been neglected. ASLA’s Northern California Chapter assembled a project team that included high school students, landscape architecture students from the University of California, Davis, UC Berkeley, and San Francisco City College, and landscape architects from various firms in the Bay Area. ASLA members mentored Bay Area high school students during a two-day design charrette, contributing to master plan concepts by designing parklets, play areas, furniture prototypes, and ground surfacing patterns.
ASLA made a difference at the state and federal levels of government in 2022.

Advancing Policy, Creating Progress

Landscape Architects Advancing Climate Justice

In September 2022, ASLA held its first virtual advocacy day when 116 members used web-conferencing to meet with their U.S. representatives and senators to urge support for issues important to the profession. The theme for advocacy day was “Landscape Architects Advancing Climate Justice,” with participants advocating for legislation — the Excess Urban Heat Mitigation and Outdoors for All acts — that will address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on underserved communities. The new virtual format allowed for a more diverse group of ASLA advocates to participate in advocacy day without having to travel to Washington, D.C.

Inflation Reduction Act

In August 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden. The $369 billion legislation is the country’s most comprehensive response to the climate crisis to date and includes plans for reducing carbon emissions, strengthening climate resilience, and lowering energy costs.

The act notably recognizes the important role landscape architecture plays in addressing climate change — from active transportation projects like Complete Streets and recreational trails to nature-based water infrastructure, community tree planting, ecosystem restoration, and more. Significant funding for programs and projects traditionally led by landscape architects in the act include:

- **$2 Billion**
  - to encourage the use of construction materials that have substantially lower levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions in landscape architecture projects, including reimbursements.

- **$1.5 Billion**
  - for competitive grants through the Urban and Community Forestry Program for tree planting and related activities.

- **$19.4 Billion**
  - to invest in climate-smart agriculture practices and land interests that promote soil carbon improvements and carbon sequestration.

- **$2.6 Billion**
  - for grants, technical assistance, and cooperative agreements that enable coastal communities to prepare for extreme storms and other conditions resulting from our changing climate.

- **$3 Billion**
  - to improve walkability, safety, and affordable transportation access through context-sensitive projects.

- **$4 Billion**
  - for grants, contracts, or financial assistance to states affected by drought, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin and other basins experiencing comparable levels of long-term drought.

- **$32.5 Billion**
  - for landscape architecture programs/projects.

Defense of Licensure

For the past seven years, the landscape architecture industry has faced significant opposition from the anti-occupational licensing movement. Across the U.S., anti-occupational licensing groups have introduced hundreds of bills aimed at deregulating occupational licensing or instituting reform measures that would result in weakened licensing requirements.

“An association, we believe the public’s best interest. Therefore should be required to have the proper education and knowledge to act in the public’s best interest.”

Since 2016, nearly every state in the nation has encountered anti-occupational licensing legislation. In 2022 alone, more than 200 bills were introduced in state legislatures. To defend against the most problematic bills, ASLA worked closely with chapters in New Mexico, Louisiana, Idaho, Montana, and Colorado to develop strategies for amending or defeating the bills. We were successful in all of these states.

Illinois Title Act Reinstated

After a nearly three-year hiatus, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) began accepting applications for landscape architecture licensing on Oct. 18, 2022. That’s because, in 2019, within hours of the anticipated passage of the Title Act reauthorization, FBI agents raided the Illinois state capitol, shutting down legislative proceedings for the rest of the year. And because Illinois is a sunset state, that meant licensing had to be shut down until the legislation was reauthorized.

Of course, COVID-19 furthered legislative sessions in 2020, and 2021 brought its own challenges, further delaying the Title Act from being reinstated.

ASLA supported the Illinois Chapter through it all and, finally, in 2022 they were able to come to an agreement with IDFPR on updated language for the Landscape Architecture Registration Act.
ASLA Earns WELL Gold Certification

In June 2022, ASLA’s Center for Landscape Architecture became the first WELL Certified Gold project in Washington, D.C. and the largest WELL Certified project to date in the nation’s capital. Awarded by the International WELL Building Institute, the certification marries best practices in design and construction with evidence-based research to promote healthier, sustainable, and more equitable environments for the people who live or work in them.

ASLA worked with architecture firm Gensler and landscape architecture firm Oehme, van Sweden to renovate the center to include:
- Enhanced natural lighting with low-glare workstations
- Optimal water filtration and a rainwater catchment system
- Increased ventilation for better air quality
- Collaborative work spaces
- Multiple opportunities for fitness
- Natural materials and comfortable furnishings to promote cognitive and mental health
- Green roof and canopy

Landscape Architecture Magazine Wins Honors

Landscape Architecture Magazine won two Jesse H. Neal Awards, the most prestigious honors in specialized journalism, in 2022 — Best Cover and Best Art Direction for a Single Article. The magazine was also a finalist in four additional categories — Best Climate Change Coverage, Best Overall Art Direction, Best Profile, and Best Art Direction for a Single Article.

The EXCEL Awards, which recognize design and editorial excellence in association media, honored the magazine with six awards in the circulation category of 10,001 to 20,000. At the 2022 EXCEL Awards Gala in June, the magazine took home the following honors:
- Gold: Design Excellence and Feature Article Design
- Silver: Feature Article Design, General Excellence, and Cover (Manipulated Media)
- Bronze: Feature Article

ASLA Awards Archived at the Library of Congress

In January 2022, the Library of Congress announced it would begin archiving ASLA’s annual Professional Award-winning projects, marking the first time that works of landscape architecture will be displayed at the library on an equal footing with the other design professions.

“By preserving our profession’s most important work, the Library of Congress will enable the public to understand the enormous role our professionals play today in improving lives throughout the nation — from protecting our environment from climate change to providing racially equitable and nature-based solutions to our aging urban communities,” said ASLA President Eugenia Martin, FASLA.

Adding materials from ASLA to the national library will not only establish an enduring position for landscape architecture but also help distinguish the work of landscape architects.

Chapter Updates

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.
- 80 percent of chapters have a leadership position dedicated to emerging professional 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.

ASLA Member Employment by the Numbers

- 33% Landscape architecture firm
- 25% Student
- 18% Architecture, engineering, or multidisciplinary firm
- 5% Local, state, or federal government
- 5% Retired
- 4% Design/build
- 2% Academic institution
- 8% Other

Total Members as of Dec. 31, 2022: 15,395
Thanks to the success of the ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture, which contributed an additional $600,000 over 2021, we can provide new resources and expand our investments in education, advocacy, and communication.

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.

For 30 years, Shawn Kelly, FASLA, has nurtured the future of landscape architecture as an educator and a mentor, working at both the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Kelly Design Group, LLC. He has also lectured widely on the importance of working with Indigenous communities to create equity and justice. His accomplished career and his three decades of service to ASLA make Kelly worthy of this recognition.

Laura Solano, FASLA, a partner at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, has been involved in many of the firm’s award-winning projects. She is a nationally recognized expert in landscape technology, and she lectures nationwide on the potential to create overlap between landscape design, technology, and science. She taught for more than 25 years at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. Solano’s distinguished career sets her apart from her peers and makes her deserving of this award.

Shawn Kelly, FASLA, receives the ASLA Medal from President Eugenia Martin, FASLA. Photo by Korey Davis Photography.

ASLA’s Board of Trustees selects outstanding professionals in our industry to be recognized as honor and medal winners each year. Awards are made possible by the ASLA Fund, the 501(c)(3) charitable foundation managed by the organization that invests contributions from ASLA members and supporters into global, social, and environmental change through the art and science of landscape architecture. Here are the recipients for 2022:

**The ASLA Medal**
Shawn Kelly, FASLA

The ASLA Medal is the highest honor ASLA can bestow 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.

For 30 years, Shawn Kelly, FASLA, has nurtured the future of landscape architecture as an educator and a mentor, working at both the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Kelly Design Group, LLC. He has also lectured widely on the importance of working with Indigenous communities to create equity and justice. His accomplished career and his three decades of service to ASLA make Kelly worthy of this recognition.

**The Olmsted Medal**
Laura Solano, FASLA

Laura Solano, FASLA, a partner at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, has been involved in many of the firm’s award-winning projects. She is a nationally recognized expert in landscape technology, and she lectures nationwide on the potential to create overlap between landscape design, technology, and science. She taught for more than 25 years at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. Solano’s distinguished career sets her apart from her peers and makes her deserving of this award.

Laura Solano, FASLA, receives the ASLA Design Medal from President Eugenia Martin, FASLA. Photo by Korey Davis Photography.

ASLA’s award winners represent our profession’s best.

**By the Numbers**

28 Professional Awards Granted
19 Student Awards Granted
965 Award Submissions
10 ASLA Medal Honorees
27 Council of Fellows Inductees

Do you know an ASLA member whose work in advancing our profession deserves wide recognition? Nominate them for an ASLA Honor or Medal at asla.org/honors.

**The Strength in Our Numbers**

Thanks to the passion, creativity, and resilience of every member of our community, 2022 was a year of growth and success for ASLA.
**ASLA 2023**

**SAVE THE DATE**

October 27-30, 2023

ASLA 2023 Conference on Landscape Architecture

Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis

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**President (November 2022 – November 2023)**
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