Dear Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects:

This is the fourth of my Fellows Business Updates for 2006, designed to keep you informed about the activities of the Council and the progress of our key initiatives. In this quarter’s message, I’ll focus on Fellows’ activities that were held in conjunction with the 2006 ASLA Annual Meeting, and several upcoming deadlines. This update includes information on the 2006 Fellows Investiture Dinner held October 7 and the 2006 Fellows Business Lunch held on October 8 in Minneapolis; a status report on the Fellows Database Project; a report on the ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarship Endowment; and a reminder about the Nominations for the Class of Fellows for 2007, as well as the Council of Fellows Nominating Committee for 2007. I would also like to ask for feedback from the Council of Fellows about the format for our annual business meeting.

During the 2006 ASLA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, I had the humbling experience of assisting outgoing President Dennis Carmichael, FASLA in the induction of 31 new Fellows at the Fellows Investiture Dinner. We continue to improve this event with each passing year, and it was a true honor to share the stage with the accomplished group that comprises the 2006 Class of Fellows. I’d like to extend a special thanks to Gloria Garcia, ASLA’s Director of Meetings and Special Programs, for her team’s exceptional work on behalf of the Fellows in producing such a memorable evening.

At the Fellows Business Lunch we addressed a variety of issues which you can read about in the meeting minutes. Of particular note, we presented the second annual ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarship, and received an update on the Fellows Database Project. You may recall that the database project was started by the late ASLA Fellow Jot Carpenter, and is being continued in his memory through an allocation made by the Council of Fellows from the Fellows Fund. Phase I of the database project was completed in 2005. Phase II, which consisted of entering individual Fellows’ information, was completed this year. All living Fellows will be contacted shortly by letter so that you will have the opportunity to review your record for accuracy and completeness. Future phases of the work will begin next year, and will be reported on at the next Fellows business meeting. To date, just under 50% of the $10,000 allocated have been spent, so the project is under budget and on schedule.

ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarship Endowment Fundraising: Pledges and contributions for the endowment have reached $131,000, thanks to the many Fellows who have pledged at or above the challenge level of $1000 over a three year period. Council of Fellows Executive Committee Member-at-Large Mary Ann Lasch, FASLA has offered to spearhead the campaign to bring the endowment up to our goal of $200,000. Barbara Faga, FASLA has offered to assist. Other Fellows who would like to be involved in this effort should contact Mary Ann at mary_ann_lasch@gensler.com. As the fundraising for the scholarship endowment continues, we hope to reach 100% participation from the ASLA Fellows, whether at the challenge level or
another amount. For full details on the ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarship, please go to the LAF website. For information about how to make a pledge, please see the pledge form on the ASLA website.

Nominations for the Fellows Class of 2007: Remember that the call for nominations has been posted on the Fellows page of the ASLA website. Nominations are due February 16, 2007. Many of you assist your Chapters with the important effort of selecting nominees and preparing nominations, and we thank you for this. You’ll see that there are a few clarifications and improvements this year, clearly marked in the guidelines, as we continue to strive for the best possible nomination and selection process. The jury for 2007 includes: Jury Chair Dennis Otsuji, FASLA; Barbara Faga, FASLA; Peter Pollack, FASLA; Katharine Emery, FASLA; and Len Hopper, FASLA.

2007 Nominating Committee for CoF Officers: In early 2007, the Council of Fellows Executive Committee will select a Nominating Committee whose responsibility will be to recommend a slate of candidates for Chair-elect-elect and Secretary of the Council of Fellows. Next summer, the entire Council will vote by mail to elect the new officers. They, along with current Chair-elect Rodney Swink, FASLA will be sworn-in at the 2007 Fellows business meeting. Please let me know by December 31, 2006 if you want to recommend a Fellow to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Request for Feedback on Fellows Business Meeting Format: A number of Fellows have suggested that we seek to expand participation in the business meeting, especially by new Fellows, by having a more moderately-priced luncheon. I’d like to hear from you about this idea. We know that many Fellows appreciate the opportunity to visit with their colleagues from around the country at the Fellows business lunch. What is your preference? Table service as we have been doing, a simpler lunch with a lower cost, or a business meeting with no lunch and no charge? Please reply to this message with your thoughts, and we’ll tally the preferences and comments before making a decision about the format for the 2007 meeting.

I look forward to continuing to serve as the Council of Fellows Chair during 2007, and welcome your feedback on any of these issues or other topics of interest to the ASLA Fellows.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Fox, FASLA
Chair, Council of Fellows
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