Meg Storrow, ASLA
Principal, Storrow Kinsella
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: Service

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Indiana Chapter of ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Meg Storrow, ASLA, for your consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For 30 years, Meg Storrow has worked with community groups and professional organizations to improve neighborhoods and advance the profession of landscape architecture. Her brand of service and advocacy centers on bettering the system from within. She gets involved in an existing neighborhood, organization, or board, and then uses her professional skills, sociability, and work ethic to better the entire community. Meg has participated in at least one pro-bono meeting nearly every week of her entire thirty-year career. At times, her volunteer workload has exceeded 30 hours per week—above and beyond her full time landscape architectural practice.

Meg’s service has positively affected a wide range of people and professions in a variety of ways:

• Her forest and watershed preservation work in Columbus, Indiana, educated her neighbors and the city about the value of landscape architecture in land use planning decisions.

• Her critical role in passage of the Indiana licensure act convinced allied professionals of the importance of landscape architects in multi-disciplinary projects and protected landscape architects’ skills statewide.

• Her neighborhood advocacy in Indianapolis opened the door to the ongoing involvement of landscape architects in major projects in the city.

Her decades-long service has shown landscape architecture in the best possible light: as a profession that can solve technical problems and improve quality of life by gaining consensus among and within groups. Meg’s ability to work within established frameworks to bring change has shown landscape architects to be ethical, forward-thinking, creative, and generous.
In 1985 Meg moved from the east coast to Columbus, Indiana, and a year later co-founded Storrow Kinsella Partnership. Very quickly she went beyond her everyday project load to help her lakeside community face down an environmental threat quite literally in its backyard. Grandview Lake, 10 miles west of Columbus, was an unincorporated community of 316 homes surrounded by a 1750-acre hardwood forest. That wooded tract was still owned by creditors of the bankrupted developer and one day was sold without warning to a timber company. Meg quickly learned that other than voluntary guidelines for timbering on private land, there were no effective environmental regulations in place to protect the resource.

For two years Meg worked tirelessly (for free), applying her knowledge of planning, regulation, and design—gained from education in and practice of landscape architecture—to forestall the clear-cutting of the watershed. She then mobilized the community to collectively raise $1 million to purchase the 840 acre watershed, un-harvested, from the timber company and then develop mechanisms for its appropriate use and protection. Elevated to the community association’s board presidency, Meg, on a pro bono basis, guided the community in its implementation of erosion control, tributary sedimentation basins, and a trail network, designing and overseeing that work. Meg’s advocacy and knowledge raised the perception of landscape architecture among her neighbors and in the community as a whole.

As a result of her visibility in the community, Meg was invited to participate in Leadership Bartholomew County’s class of 1987. This then-innovative nine-month leadership training program was developed to inspire a network of community leaders.

Her activism and advocacy continued throughout the ten years she worked in Columbus, including innumerable presentations on the value of landscape architecture to garden clubs and downtown development committees, as well as playful activities that raised awareness of landscape and landscape architecture. In one instance, Meg worked with the city and the public library to temporarily close the street between two of the city’s landmark modernist buildings and cover it with a gigantic sand pile. Children commandeered that space to create a sculpted garden. The next summer Meg organized another place-making event in which children created sculptures and shelters from live willow branches harvested from the Driftwood River floodplain. Those late 80’s early 90’s events predate many of the street-closure placemaking ideas in wide circulation today, like PARK(ing)
Day and Open Streets. Meg’s activities in Columbus helped neighborhoods and the community as a whole understand the power of collaboration and design in shaping environments. Some of those children credit their later decisions to become landscape architects to those experiences and to Meg’s example. Some even worked as interns in the Storrow Kinsella office.

Just as Meg’s particular expertise as a landscape architect was critical for the preservation of Grandview Woods, it also showed the entire city that landscape architecture inspires collaboration, connectivity, and celebration, well beyond infill plantings around star architect-designed buildings. All of these examples were accomplished above and beyond Meg’s professional workload. They are true examples of service, performed on nights, weekends, and early mornings.

**THE INDIANA PRACTICE ACT**

While in Columbus, Meg served as president of the Indiana Chapter of ASLA. This direct service to the profession was the gateway to her involvement in changing Indiana’s Title Act to its first Practice Act. As with her advocacy in watershed and forest preservation, Meg got involved by working for change from the inside. She inaugurated joint annual meetings with the local AIA chapter, and created an annual awards program.

Appointed to the Indiana State Board of Registration for Architects and Landscape Architects in 1990 (and becoming its chair in 1996), she overcame the prevalent protectionist “silo-thinking” to which design professions were subscribing. She performed four critical tasks as part of her pro bono service to the profession that eventually led to the passage of an Indiana Practice Act:

- She worked with architects to build support for equal legislation and debunk the myth that landscape architectural registration would weaken architectural registration;
- She used her board position to call joint meetings with other professionals (like engineers and surveyors) to further bolster a coalition;
- She resurrected the Indiana Federation of Landscape Architects, a lobbying arm of the professional organization, then raised money from local businesses to hire a lobbying firm charged with advocating for the practice act at the state house; and
- She went beyond merely pushing for the act and also reconsidered what the act should require.

One of the things that I most remember about Meg’s service was that a Practice Act was her goal when she joined the Indiana Board - and ten years later a Practice Act became reality. To Meg, service means you can make a difference to the future of the profession because the work is important and actually causes change. Her contributions are longstanding and heroic.

Malcolm Cairns, FASLA
Professor of Landscape Architecture,
Ball State University

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**SERVICE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

(continued)

2000 Outstanding Service Award: Indiana Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

2000 Distinguished Service Award: Indiana State Board of Registration

**PUBLICATIONS / RESEARCH**


Presenter, Landscape and Patronage Symposium, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, sponsored by The Cultural Landscape Foundation, December 2006; Topic: A Tale of Two Post War Cities: Columbus and New Harmony, Indiana

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**SERVICE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (continued)**

2000 Outstanding Service Award: Indiana Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

2000 Distinguished Service Award: Indiana State Board of Registration

**PUBLICATIONS / RESEARCH**


Presenter, Landscape and Patronage Symposium, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, sponsored by The Cultural Landscape Foundation, December 2006; Topic: A Tale of Two Post War Cities: Columbus and New Harmony, Indiana

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**SERVICE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (continued)**

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**PUBLICATIONS / RESEARCH**


Presenter, Landscape and Patronage Symposium, Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, sponsored by The Cultural Landscape Foundation, December 2006; Topic: A Tale of Two Post War Cities: Columbus and New Harmony, Indiana
Meg Storrow, ASLA

The thinking in this latter task arose from Meg’s service as a CLARB volunteer. From 1991 to 1996 she served as both a L.A.R.E. Exam Grader and on the L.A.R.E. Exam Committee. In 1997 she participated in drafting the first CLARB Strategic Plan and followed through on implementation of the plan by serving on the CLARB Outreach Committee as the CLARB representative to the ASLA Licensure Committee, and as a member of the Partnership for the Advancement of Licensure (PAL). Between the years of 1998 and 2002 she also served as the Regional II Alternate Regional Director on the Nominations Committee and as Regional 22 Director. The CLARB and PAL committee work exposed her to differences between regions and made her question a typical young professional’s sequence of experience, exam-taking, and registration. She collaborated with academics at Ball State University and then advocated for an Indiana Practice Act that allowed an applicant to take the exam whenever they felt ready, while simultaneously achieving progress on their professional experience requirement. This increased employment for entry-level landscape architects, because there was no stigma attached to whether someone had passed, failed, or sat for the exam.

During that multi-year process, Meg continued to operate her firm, now Storrow Kinsella Associates, and moved the firm to Indianapolis in 1996. Like her work in Columbus, the practice act service at times constituted an additional full-time, though pro-bono, job, accomplished in addition to her regular work hours. Not only is the practice act a critical law for landscape architects throughout Indiana, Meg’s advocacy also improved the perception of landscape architects by other design professionals. Meg hosted “reconciliation meetings” with engineers, surveyors, and other allied professionals, during which the landscape architecture profession was often denigrated and belittled. Meg, in her calm, collected way, used the processes in place to the best advantage of landscape architects. By carefully staying the course, educating while advocating, and outworking everyone else, Meg was able to turn perceptions around.

Unfortunately, a new governor in 2000 removed her from the Board of Registration because of that professional advocacy. But today landscape architecture is a highly respected profession in Indiana, something that all agree was less true before Meg’s ten-year tenure of service on the state board. While Meg is quick to interject that the Title Act success, like all her professional and service efforts, resulted from the hard work of many collaborators, the evidence of her leadership is clear.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Since 1998 (even during her time on the state board), Meg has worked pro bono in her own historic neighborhood within the Northeast Quadrant of downtown Indianapolis. The Riley Area Development Corporation (RADC) is a non-profit CDC that since 1979 had been pioneering sustainable mixed use and affordable housing development within its former blighted and impoverished downtown district. After confronting its director for his beautification committee’s tree-topping practices, Meg was invited to join its board to lend her expertise. Meg quickly became a hard working volunteer on RADC’s urban design committee, bringing her design and collaboration expertise to help integrate new development within the historic pattern of walkable streets and structures. Partly as a result, in 2001 Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson named Riley one of the city’s inaugural Cultural Districts. Meg continues to serve RADC as an active board member as it expands its mission beyond that success to the more economically challenged districts beyond the now thriving core.

Meg’s official role with RADC is as the representative of Chatham Arch Historic Neighborhood, where she lives and to which she also contributes ample service. In 2004, Meg was asked by the Chatham neighborhood association president to guide development of a Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan to help it address ongoing historic property renovations, new development reviews, and potential threats to its historic fabric. The request in itself proves that Meg had established her own and the profession of landscape architecture’s credibility as community builders. In the process of managing neighborhood mapping and visioning (still pro bono) by a variety of committees she
Meg Storrow, ASLA

assembled, she quickly discovered that the existing foundational Historic Preservation Plan prepared in 1982 was woefully inadequate. It was full of “shoulds” but had little teeth to prevent things like utility or development work from tearing up historic brick alleys or limestone curbs, nor clear guidance for the increasingly frequent rezoning requests. So, just as she did in Columbus nearly two decades earlier, Meg galvanized the neighborhood to take charge by rewriting the preservation plan (with the City’s blessing and real assistance this time).

During a year of weekly 7am meetings, before starting her paid work, Meg and her collaborators hammered out the essential elements of the plan. The final plan successfully garnered support from a majority of local residents and businesses (a condition for adoption) and also was extended beyond the Chatham Arch neighborhood to adjacent areas with similar issues. It took more than two years of work and refinement before being adopted by the City but, as proof of the power of collaboration, it became a unified document that melded multiple residential and commercial districts of varying character into a combined district with uniform policies and procedures.

The Chatham Arch Urban Design Committee is now the go-to body for developers and the recognized screener for projects that go before the city’s Historic Preservation Commission for final action. Backed up and informed by a solid document and immersed in several years of urban design process, neighbors from a variety of backgrounds have become such expert citizen planners that Meg is now just one of many. Those hard working committee members are the core of a fully engaged neighborhood that exists in large part because of Meg’s expertise, advocacy, and example of service. And again, it must be stressed that all this was accomplished not as paid consulting work, but with Meg’s pro-bono hours.

During her nearly 20 years in Indianapolis (and another ten in Columbus before that), Meg has worked tirelessly for the betterment of communities. She has worked within the system, establishing herself as a trusted expert within community groups, neighborhood boards, regional nonprofits, and professional organizations. Her pro-bono workload has been significant: at least one meeting per week for nearly thirty years and at times more than 30 hours per week. And she has done all this in the context of operating her own successful landscape architecture office, which at its peak had 13 employees and was working on planning and design projects all over Indiana.

For 30 years, Meg has volunteered her landscape architectural expertise to help communities preserve and protect what is meaningful to them. Meg’s service has changed the perception of landscape architecture in those communities. From residents in Columbus and Indianapolis neighborhoods to business owners in Chatham Arch to Indiana’s engineers, surveyors, and architects to municipal staff and elected officials, people across Indiana and the Midwest know--thanks to Meg--what landscape architecture is and what benefits it can bring.

For her decades of community advocacy, and for the resultant wide advancement of the landscape architecture profession, I believe Meg Storrow is worthy of induction into the ASLA Council of Fellows.

Jonathon Geels, President, Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Pamela Linn, ASLA, for your consideration.

In her 20-year landscape architecture career Pam Linn leads by example through her activities both personally and professionally. Her positive impact on future practitioners, policy makers, colleagues, and the community is measured through her significant contributions to the greater good of the profession of landscape architecture in Wisconsin, and doing so in a way that has raised the voice of the landscape architect on a national stage. She demonstrates the character, knowledge, and accomplishment that make her an outstanding leader and represents the best the profession has to offer.

Pam’s passion for landscape architecture drives her exemplary and diversified volunteerism. Pam is an advocate for landscape architects with federal and local policy makers, fighting to ensure funding for public open spaces. It is this passion that led her into public practice, where she implements policies she actively campaigns for every day. Pam’s vision and unwavering enthusiasm for parks and preservation, as well as her selfless dedication to the public have made a lasting impact.

In addition to her leadership in the profession, government and community, it’s a natural progression that she focuses her attention on our future generations. She serves as a role model and advocate who commits the necessary time and resources to improve the visibility of the profession with K-12 students. She has mentored and introduced generations of potential practitioners, clients, and policy makers to the profession of landscape architecture.

Leadership in Growing the Profession

Pamela Linn has positioned herself as a strong leader and a role model, demonstrating to her peers and charges what it means to be the consummate professional landscape architect. Over her 20-year career, Pam has come to realize that the shortage of landscape architects, coupled with the increasing demand for competencies and skill-sets of the profession, presents an important opportunity to make a difference.

Perry Howard’s motto as president of the ASLA was, “each one reach one, each one teach one.” Knowing that with full participation at this rate, landscape architects around the country would connect with less than 1% of the student population. Although Pam knew she was having an impact, she realized her efforts needed to become more systematic, she started taking a strategic approach to work with her fellow practitioners to cultivate the next generation of practitioners.
In her current position as ASLA Vice President of Communications Pam has taken on a leadership role in developing and implementing career development/visibility outreach for K-12 students. Some of her significant leadership initiatives include:

- Pam developed the Career Discovery Packet program and worked with ASLA staff to produce a folder that individual chapters could distribute to grade schools nation-wide. In 2014 approximately 42 chapters distributed packets to schools during National Landscape Architecture Month.

- She worked with the students at LABash to create a synergy of mentorship and visibility with one generation bringing up the next. 67 students signed up and distributed career discovery packets to schools in their hometowns during National Landscape Architecture Month in 2014.

- In an effort to increase diversity she encouraged chapters to deliver career packets and offer program presentations in urban schools and those with a diverse student body.

- Pam is a champion for growing the next generation of practitioners and she makes a deliberate effort to emphasize these career discovery activities at the national ASLA visibility summits.

- Pam is leveraging her position as ASLA Vice President of Communications, introducing an initiative to develop a database of visibility programs and new content for K-12 career discovery, with updated content intended to be shared with ASLA chapters throughout the country.

Pam has also been active at the Chapter level for more than 10 years promoting career discovery:

- She speaks at chapter events encouraging members to present career discovery programs in their community schools. She teaches dozens of chapter members how to get involved in schools and provides collateral materials to share.

- At the University of Wisconsin Department of Landscape Architecture, she participates in portfolio reviews, juries student work, she is a guest speaker, creates volunteer opportunities for students with the ASLA chapter and works to develop scholarship programs.

- She has mentored students and emerging professionals as interns in her professional practice with Waukesha County and the City of Green Bay. Many of her charges have gone on to become involved in the ASLA, including the president of the Minnesota and Maryland ASLA chapters.

Pam has provided workshops herself for years and recruited other ASLA members. The students have enthusiastically responded on how they now want to be a landscape architect when they grow up. Career Expo has been a huge success thanks to the sustained efforts of presenters like Pam Linn who have provided hands-on career workshops for over 1,000 middle school students. Pam Linn is certainly deserving of recognition and election to the Council of Fellows.

Jon Pritchett
Career Development Services Coordinator
Waukesha County Technical College
Career Expo Chairperson
Pamela Linn, ASLA

Pam has initiated and directly conducted Introduction to Landscape Architecture programs reaching over 1,000 K-12 students in Wisconsin. She is personally active in developing programs for career fairs, middle school and high school classes, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts badges, and she led students in the design and planting of bird and butterfly gardens on school grounds.

Pam has a goal to see that every K-12 student has more than just an understanding of what landscape architecture is; that they develop an emotional connection to their everyday places and spaces designed by landscape architects.

Leadership in Advocacy

As ASLA Wisconsin Chapter President Pam’s leadership was instrumental in the successful upgrade from title to practice licensure for landscape architects. As legislation worked through legislative committee, the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation firmly opposed the Chapter’s efforts. Pam effectively validated the value of practice legislation for landscape architects. The result was that the WGIF not only understood our need for practice legislation, but became a partner and ally in the legislative process.

Relationship building turned out to be the key to passing this legislation. Pam worked diligently to foster dialog with allied professionals affected by the practice act including architects, engineers and planners as the bill worked its way through legislative committees and hearings. She effectively promoted the case for the legislation in more than two dozen meetings with State Senators and Assembly Representatives. Pam provided key testimony in 2008 and again in 2009 at Wisconsin State Assembly hearings. She was honored to attend the Governor’s signing ceremony, as the Bill, ACT 123, became law in January of 2010.

Pam served on the national licensure and government affairs committees for the ASLA. She attended ASLA lobby day on Capitol Hill in Washington DC each year from 2003-2014 and she has developed a close relationship with the Wisconsin legislators, lobbying for the landscape architect issues, open spaces and public lands. In 2014 she successfully nominated and secured letters of support for Wisconsin Congressman Tom Petri as an honorary member of the ASLA for his long-standing support of transportation initiatives.

Pam’s advocacy efforts continue with her commitment to the ASLA advocacy network. She continues to foster support among her counterparts via advocacy alerts, most recently she generated a synopsis of the recent Governor’s budget and how it affects the practice of landscape architecture. She has been constant promoter taking every opportunity at chapter events to outline why it is important to be an advocate. She created a program to celebrate the most active advocates chapter meetings. With Pam’s encouragement at the chapter level, ASLA Wisconsin ranked seventh among ASLA Chapters in 2011 in federal advocacy, outpacing chapters with two and three times the number of members.
Leadership in Stewardship

Pam has preserved over 1,300 acres of open space through her work with the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use. Pam leveraged her position with the county to secure grants to acquire land that otherwise would have been developed as residential tract housing. She developed regional plans that provide a framework for Park & Open Space acquisition. Some of her key professional accomplishments include:

- During her tenure with Waukesha County, Pam oversaw the purchase of 1270 acres of land, collaborating with local government, the State of Wisconsin and local conservation agencies to preserve an additional 497 acres of land.
- Pam wrote successful grant proposals and received over $3.1 million dollars in funds for parkland acquisition, and she secured another $1 million in grants for county development projects.

Pam embraces stewardship of the land and natural resources at the core of the landscape architect’s mission. She is a champion for preserving the open spaces and parkland that are an integral part of the fabric of our healthy communities.

Leadership in Cultivating Allies

Developing relationships within the professional community and among allied professions are at the heart of Pam’s work. It is these positive alliances that increase Wisconsin landscape architects presence as groundbreaking leaders in planning and design. Pam initiated a partnership with the licensed allied professions in Wisconsin to help pass continuing education requirements for the professional license. In recognition of Pam’s essential leadership in this matter, she was approached by these groups to provide key testimony at the bill’s hearing in front of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

As a result of her leadership efforts the ASLA Wisconsin Chapter successfully partnered with Wisconsin American Planning Association on joint conferences from 2007-2011. She has developed an ongoing relationship with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. She presented a whimsical look at landscape architecture for AIA Wisconsin’s Pecha Kucha night, she volunteered with the Milwaukee Chapter Architects for Humanity to design a neighborhood pocket park, and she recently worked with the AIA Wisconsin to display the Wisconsin ASLA award winning projects at their state convention.
Chapter Letter of Support

The motto of the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is “We Grow Leaders.” We have the distinct privilege of working with Pam Linn, an individual that embodies this motto of leadership. Through her daily involvement, enthusiasm, outreach, motivation, fiduciary oversight, and persistence, Pam has helped advance the Wisconsin chapter to its elevated stature today.

Like a successful coach whose players and assistant coaches go on to lead other teams, through Pam’s encouragement, members of the Wisconsin ASLA committees have taken on leadership roles in the ASLA and other professional organizations. Pam challenged me to ‘step up’ into chapter leadership, a decision I’ve always appreciated. Serving as Chapter President and representing our profession on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter has been one of the most rewarding facets of my career.

Her long-time contributions to the ASLA, in addition to her leadership in growing the professions, are particularly noteworthy. Perhaps one of Pam’s most important achievements as Chapter President was returning the organization to solid legal & financial ground. Under Pam’s leadership she incorporated the chapter, reorganized and modernized the chapter finances and worked with accounting professionals to limit exposure to tax liabilities. She influenced support of the Practice Act upgrade in Wisconsin, she developed the current format of a two-day Wisconsin ASLA Annual Conference, she prepared and received CIP grants, secured licensure grants, created the Wisconsin Advocacy Award, created the golf tournament scholarship fund, designed and implemented dozens of National Landscape Architecture Month activities, and numerous other initiatives.

Pam’s service to the Wisconsin ASLA as Trustee continued that level of leadership and contribution. Through her leadership we have grown more visible as a chapter. With sound finances, a solid professional practice law in Wisconsin, effective continuing education programs and consistent membership and participation, Pam has ensured the Wisconsin ASLA with a legacy that will continue for generations of practitioners.

Pam’s outstanding leadership and enthusiasm have brought visibility to the profession of landscape architecture, inspired future practitioners and advocates, and have had a positive impact on the environment.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Pamela Linn, ASLA, for your consideration for election to the Council of Fellows.

Sincerely,

Jay Gehler, PLA, ASLA
Wisconsin Chapter President
Elena Brescia, RLA, ASLA  
Partner, SCAPE/LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PLLC  
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: SERVICE

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of the ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Elena Brescia, ASLA, for your consideration.

Executive Summary:
Elena has been serving voluntarily for the ASLA and pro-bono for interdisciplinary organizations continuously for 15 of her 22 years as a professional. She served on the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of the ASLA for six years and, concurrently, as a representative of the Chapter on the Executive Committee of the interdisciplinary design coalition New York New Visions for Rebuilding Lower Manhattan. She served on the New York State Council of Landscape Architects. Currently, she serves on New York’s interdisciplinary arts and design coalition, the Fine Arts Federation of New York, on which she has served for the past nine years as a Director, an Officer, and as President. Her service has engaged many influential groups and has had a positive impact on the field of Landscape Architecture; it has increased recognition for the field in the City and among affiliated design disciplines.

Elena attended the Graduate School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania where she earned a Master of Landscape Architecture in 1993. She entered the professional world directly after graduating and has formed her professional experience at institutions of New York Landscape Architecture, including Quennell Rothschild Associates and Edmund Hollander Design, as well as the Landscape Architectural division of Rogers Marvel Architects. Her work has led to the formation of and partnership in SCAPE / Landscape Architecture with Kate Orff, ASLA.

Chapter Service – ASLA NY Chapter
Elena was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter of the ASLA in 2000. She volunteered her service for six years and started by taking over the publication of the faltering and outdated quarterly newsletter, Terrain. As editor-in-chief, she greatly improved the newsletter by aggressively soliciting articles and advertising. Elena recognized the importance of branding and redesigned the newsletter with a new logo and masthead and brought in articles covering a variety of topics ranging from current and historical design to Chapter events – who doesn’t like to see their picture in the paper? Her efforts engaged members, promoted readership, and expanded the advertising base.

At the time of Elena’s initial involvement in ASLA-NY, the chapter was experiencing a prolonged lull in funding and member participation. Elena was instrumental in the chapter’s turnaround as she advocated for participation among her peers, increasing membership. Her interdisciplinary commitments and relationships (see below) increased support from our professional peers. She was instrumental in the creation of a Chapter Website and the reinstitution of several ASLA-NY traditions that bolstered Chapter involvement and fundraising abilities, including Holiday Parties, Awards Juries, and the President’s Dinner.

The President’s Dinner is the signature event of ASLA-NY for which we owe great debt to Elena and her efforts to re-engage members. During her time on the Executive Committee, Elena re-energized the annual fundraising dinner, which honors individuals outside the profession who have brought Landscape Architecture into the public eye. The first dinner Elena
Elena Brescia, RLA, ASLA

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

2006-present
Fine Arts Federation of New York, Honorary, Vice President
2009-2014: President
2007-2009: Secretary
2006-2007: Director

2014 NYASLA Chapter Awards, Jury Member

2001-2007
New York New Visions Coalition of Design Professionals, Executive Committee, NYASLA Chapter Representative

2007 NYASLA Chapter Awards, Jury Member

2005-2006
New York State Council of Landscape Architects, Downstate Member Representative

2004 Re-Envisioning Peter Cooper Park, The Cooper Union, Charette Member

2000-2006
New York Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects, Executive Committee

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

National Awards
1993, Certificate of Honor, American Society of Landscape Architects

Regional/Local Awards
2014, Commendation for Service, Fine Arts Federation of New York
2006, President’s Leadership Award, NY Chapter ASLA
2002, Distinguished Contributions, NY Chapter ASLA

I have known Elena Brescia for more than 20 years - ever since she came to work for us as a recent graduate. She has always been a team player, putting process and results ahead of personal recognition, and her work is first class. Her involvement with the ASLA-NY, her representation of ASLA-NY on New York New York New Visions, and now, her leadership of the Fine Arts Federation have served to keep Landscape Architecture in the regional conversation with other design professionals and the City Administration.

Nicholas Quennell, FASLA
Partner
Quennell Rothschild and Partners LLP
Fine Arts Federation Associates of the Art Commission

helped organize honored Adrian Benepe, then Commissioner of the NYC DPR; the second honored Christo and Jeanne-Claude, who had recently mounted the hugely successful The Gates installation in Central Park, which had a world-wide audience. Among her contributions to the night, Elena was instrumental in orchestrating the donation of Wolfgang Volz’s professional art photographs of The Gates to the Museum of the City of New York on behalf of the Chapter. The gift ensures that the historic event and the Chapter’s role in shaping the City will be a part of the City’s history and available to all visitors to the Museum, increasing the prominence and visibility of Landscape Architecture.

Elena worked consistently for the time she was on the board, and afterward, to assist with the President’s Dinner. The event has grown so rapidly that larger spaces had to be found several times. The participation and excitement within the Chapter has raised the prominence of our field with allied disciplines in the City, many of whom attend the dinner as well.

Elena’s efforts during her six years with ASLA-NY enabled the Chapter to search for and hire its first Executive Director, and helped set the stage for the Chapter’s current initiatives such as Continuing Education courses and Awards Programs.

Elena also participated most recently in the Chapter’s 100 Year Anniversary Short Film, which highlights historical events and persons that helped shape Landscape Architecture in NYC, key accomplishments of our Chapter and members, and what the future holds for our profession. This video was first shown at our last President’s Dinner in November 2014.

Chapter Service – New York State Council of Landscape Architects

Elena’s reputation for technical expertise and negotiating skills led to the invitation to become a member of the New York State Council of Landscape Architects (NYSCLA). NYSCLA maintains a relationship with the State Department of Education and the Office of the Professions, and lobbies the State Legislature on licensure and matters important to the profession.

Elena spent a year, as a volunteer, on the board during critical discussions about Continuing Education for Landscape Architects, which had previously not been required in New York State. She reviewed and edited the text of the bill which instituted these requirements; the legislation was passed during her year of service. The passing of the legislation brought Landscape Architecture on par with allied professions in New York State, and has led to increased participation of the membership in Chapter events, especially Continuing Education programs.
After the September 11th attacks in New York City, design professions came together in an unprecedented way to form the pro-bono New York New Visions Coalition of Design Professionals (NYNV) which as a consortium studied the impact of the event on the urban fabric of the city and the implications of different redevelopment scenarios. NYNV was comprised of representatives of more than 20 professional and civic organizations. Elena was the ASLA-NY representative on the Coalition and worked pro-bono to study and advocate for public space to City and State agencies charged with redevelopment. These studies guided and informed planning and redevelopment policies for the WTC site.

Elena was asked by the Chapter President at the time to participate in the initial workshops with the design committees during which recommended recovery scenarios were developed. The process of revisioning Lower Manhattan was truly a collaborative effort; Elena had significant impact on shaping of the discussion of public open space and creating a more connected Downtown.

In the Coalition's *Principles for the Rebuilding of Lower Manhattan, New York New Visions*, published in 2002 and delivered to the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC), Elena wrote about the need for public open space and transit connectivity in Downtown. These efforts directly influenced the decision to develop the Fulton Center transit hub and PATH stations and improve crosstown connections both above and below grade. The Coalition team met many times with the LMDC to discuss the opportunities for connectivity, both in terms of mass transit and the pedestrian realm. Elena stressed the need to maintain crosstown connectivity and visual corridors. This focus on preserving open space and view corridors influenced the development of the World Trade Center Memorial as an open space. Elena's contributions to the overall planning effort, including the written portions of the report pertaining to landscape and public open space, as well as her participation in behind-the-scenes meetings, helped shape the future of Lower Manhattan, with many recommendations being realized in the past several years.

After the *Principles for the Rebuilding of Lower Manhattan* was published, Elena was asked to maintain the Chapter’s relationship with NYNV by representing the ASLA-NY on the Coalition’s Executive Committee. She served pro-bono for seven years and continued to meet monthly with the Board, participated in meetings and press conferences with the LMDC, and advocated for landscape concerns. Elena kept Landscape Architecture at the table during a critical phase of the discussions and directly influenced the development of a rebuilding strategy for the destroyed urban core of one of the most important cities in the world.

NYNV was recognized for its work by the New York Building Congress in 2004 with the bestowal of the George L. Fox Public Service Award.

**Interdisciplinary Service – New York New Visions**

As Co-Chair of NYNV, representing the American Planning Association, I worked with Elena Brescia for four critical years during which NYNV advised the LMDC, produced planning principles, and spoke out in public forums, Charette, and hearings on behalf of sound planning and excellence in urban design. Due in great part to the intelligence and commitment of Ms. Brescia, ASLA was one of its strongest and most consistent participants.

She was an uncompromising spokesperson for the importance of open space and urban design during years of volunteer effort.

Marcie Kesner, AICP
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Elena Brescia, RLA, ASLA

Interdisciplinary Service – The Fine Arts Federation of New York

In 2006, Elena was invited to become a Director on the Board of The Fine Arts Federation of New York (FAF), on which she has served voluntarily for the past nine years. This multi-disciplinary group is a consortium of the Fine Arts and Design Professions in New York City, organized in 1895. The express purpose of the group is “ensuring united action by the Art Societies in all matters affecting their common interests; and to foster and protect the artistic interests of the community.” Today, the organization is the only alliance of its kind acting on behalf of the city’s art and design professions in support of a well-designed public realm.

During the Federation’s 120-year history, it has brought together over 20 of the City’s art and design organizations. The Federation’s most critical role is to nominate candidates for the Public Design Commission (PDC) and the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) which, respectively, review all permanent works of art, architecture, and landscape architecture proposed on public land and all work within landmarked districts in the City. The City’s Administration is bound by City Charter to select Public Design Commissioners from the nominees put forward by the Fine Arts Federation.

When Elena became Secretary, she advocated for the inclusion of a landscape architect on the LPC to appropriately advise on the public spaces of historic districts. After lengthy discussions about the jurisdictions and review processes of both the PDC and LPC, Elena drafted a letter, approved by all constituent organizations, to the Mayor and the LPC recommending that LPC include a Landscape Architect on the Commission, and urging that the PDC review landscape projects in historic districts. These initiatives are under consideration by the City’s Administration.

After three years, Elena was nominated for and elected President. She recognized that the strength of the Federation lay in the collaboration of its constituent organizations, and that they needed to be sitting directly at the table. Elena’s first initiative as President was the reorganization of the Federation’s structure with the goal of engaging influential members of the constituent groups to be active Directors. Under Elena’s guidance and direction, the Board revisited its Constitution, and changed its make-up from 20 members with no direct connection to the FAF’s constituent groups to a Board consisting of direct representatives of those organizations, including a Board member from the ASLA-NY, as well as independent members. The achievement required convincing the Executive Directors of the different constituent organizations to commit key individuals to the FAF Board. During her first year, four new Directors joined the Board; in subsequent years the board has become even more fully engaged, with 10 of the 13 organizations represented; a new organization was attracted to and joined the FAF just this past year. With the reorganized Board of Directors and their increased influence with their constituent groups, the FAF returned to prominence as an allied group of design and art professionals that has the stature to approach public agencies for conversations about and review of public projects. City agencies such as the Departments of City Planning (DCP) and Transportation (DOT) have engaged with the Federation to discuss planning and development initiatives throughout the City.

For one such engagement, Elena organized a meeting with the NYC DOT to discuss their Plaza Program, an effort by the City to work with not-for-profit groups to create neighborhood plazas throughout the City to transform underused streets into vibrant, social public spaces. The FAF enthusiastically supported the initiative. After lively discussion, Elena led the critique of the program’s outreach efforts to the outer boroughs of the City, and expressed concern about the quality of the installed work. Since that time, several more Plazas have been implemented in the poorer neighborhoods of the City, heeding the FAF’s call for broader outreach.

I fully endorse Elena’s elevation to Fellow for her contributions to bettering her profession and the City of New York. We served together on the board of the Fine Arts Federation. As a Director, an Officer, and now as President, Elena has brought this organization into the 21st century. Of particular value has been her political savvy in engaging the Mayor’s Office to ensure that the arts and design professions maintain their relevance and representation in City process. Elena is a highly effective advocate for the interests of her profession, and a defender of the public good. There is no one other who I could recommend more highly for Fellowship.

Tomas Rossant, AIA
Partner
Ennead Architects
Past President, FAF
For another, just last year, Elena invited the DCP to present to the Board the controversial East Midtown Rezoning proposal under study by the Department. The lively interdisciplinary discussion resulted in the Board commenting formally to the Department, requesting that the study consider and respond to several concerns, including: whether economic studies had shown a needed zoning change; whether the quality of the public realm would be improved; whether there was a strategy for the historical resources; and concern that the infrastructure improvements seem piecemeal. The discussion and formal comment impacted City Planning’s decision to halt the Rezoning proposal – a big win in the eyes of the constituent groups and many New Yorkers.

The FAF’s Annual Meetings have also attracted record audiences during Elena’s tenure, as she has brought timely discussions to the constituency. She invited engaging speakers such as Wendy Feuer of the NYC DOT, who discussed current initiatives in “Sitting in Traffic: Embedding Art in Public Infrastructure,” 2011; Kent Barwick discussed the historic development of “Preservation and the Public Realm” in 2013. Elena presented the FAF’s Bronze Medal for Lifetime Achievements, designed by the renowned sculptor Victor David Brenner in 1904, to Richard Moylan, President of Green-Wood Cemetery, for bringing life once again to the historic Cemetery by opening it to the public. Most recently, Elena engaged Tom Finkelpearl, newly appointed Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, to describe and discuss the new Administration’s plans for cultural engagement of the city’s residents.

Maintaining the integrity of the PDC and the LPC is the Federation’s most important role. The FAF is mandated by City Charter to present to the Mayor candidates for professional and lay positions on the PDC. During her first term as President, Elena led the Board’s search for and nomination of several noted individuals for service on the PDC. Those who were selected include the sculptor Maria Elena Gonzalez and real estate academician Philip Aarons.

With the installation of a new City Administration this past year, Elena led the FAF process of nominating individuals of all professions to serve for the new Administration. Elena’s leadership in the nomination process will directly shape the voice of the Public Design Commission and the projects built in New York for many years.

As the first Landscape Architect to helm the Fine Arts Federation, Elena has regained the prominence of the Federation, increased the exposure of Landscape Architecture, and heightened the role of the profession in the shaping of public space in New York. Her work with the Federation has elevated the recognition of Landscape Architecture by the City’s Administration. For the first time in many years, the Mayor’s Office publicly recognized the FAF as the source of nominees to the PDC, a direct testament to Elena’s dedication to the elevation of design in the public discourse.

For her continuous and lengthy service to the profession of Landscape Architecture and dedication to serving the public with her volunteer and pro-bono work, and particularly for her ability to bring disparate groups together and advance common causes, the ASLA-NY enthusiastically nominates Elena Brescia for elevation to Fellowship for Service.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nitzky, RLA, ASLA; President ASLA-NY

Mary Zervos, ASLA; COF Nomination Chair ASLA-NY

American Society of Landscape Architects, New York Chapter
On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, it is my privilege to nominate Thomas R. Doolittle, ASLA, for your consideration.

Service Within the Profession
Over 25 years of continuous service to the American Society of Landscape Architects, Tom has held numerous roles and offices at both the national and chapter level. At the national level, Tom recently completed a two-year term as ASLA Vice President of Government Affairs. His focus centered on building approaches to make the ASLA’s and landscape architects’ legislative initiatives attractive to an increasingly conservative Congress. He worked to ensure that the makeup of critical committees, most notably the Government Affairs Advisory Committee, included members who represented all sides of the political spectrum. He pushed the staff and members to make sure they considered how issues of greatest interest to landscape architects would be viewed by both parties, and encouraged development of language and arguments that brought home the value of any legislation to all sides. The outcomes of this approach to developing bipartisan initiatives are evident in the success the Society’s Government Affairs Team had during the past year: the successful defense of the Transportation Alternatives Program, ensuring this critical stream of funding to support landscape architects around the country, and the passage of the BEE Act, which advocates for the design of transportation corridors that sustain the pollinator population. His work on these and other transportation-related issues culminated in the passage of a new long-term highway funding bill that includes these programs that are critical to landscape architects. Tom came to the vice president position well-versed in legislative
advocacy: he served as chair of the Licensure and Government Affairs Advisory committees, was a member of the Policy Committee, and participated in more than a dozen federal Advocacy Days on Capitol Hill. Outside the government affairs arena, Tom also served ASLA as chairman of the Chapter Presidents Council and on the Continuing Education Task Force and the LACES Application Review and Monitoring committees.

At the chapter level, he has served as trustee, president, and treasurer, chaired several committees, including licensure and fund-raising, and supported the chapter in other roles. Through each of these positions and assignments, a consistent theme in Tom’s service was to elevate the visibility of the profession and to ensure the long-term stability of the organization through policy development and strategic planning.

An example of Tom’s service to the profession came with the 100th anniversary celebration of the ASLA, culminating in the 1999 Annual Meeting in Boston, which coincided with his term as chapter president. Tom served as the Host Chapter Committee co-chair for the meeting, involving himself in the early stages of planning for the Centennial and working on both the list of events that ASLA was planning as a build-up to the meeting and the preparations for the meeting itself. He developed a structure of twelve committees dealing not only with the standard tasks of any host chapter, such as tours, special events, and the host chapter booth, but also addressing the ASLA’s Medallion program, the 100 Parks program, and the many other visibility events and activities that supported the year of celebration. In this category, he made appearances on local television to promote the Medallion program, and conducted interviews with print media about the upcoming Centennial meeting. One of his proudest accomplishments was the installation of banners proclaiming the Centennial on several major boulevards in and around Boston by the state’s Metropolitan District Commission (now the Department of Conservation and Recreation), owner and manager of some of Boston’s most important and historic landscapes. Tom oversaw nearly 100 volunteers, making sure deadlines were met, activities were coordinated, and that all these efforts stayed within the chapter’s budget. The results were extraordinary: the 1999 Boston Annual Meeting was one of the largest ever held, the exposure for the profession in the Boston area was unprecedented, and the overall prominence of landscape architects was significantly enhanced.

Tom has consistently sought new and creative ways to serve the chapter and advance its mission and visibility. He has long held an interest in the potential for visibility for landscape architecture at ABX (Architecture Boston Expo), a regional conference for the design and construction professions sponsored and organized by the Boston Society of Architects. While Tom had led several sessions at the meeting over the years, the presence of landscape architecture in this event had

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**Representative Project Experience**

- Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, Revere Transit Facility and Streetscape Project; Gilbane Building Company, Owner’s Project Manager
- Harvard University; Allston Campus Program, Infrastructure Program; Gilbane Building Company, Project Manager
- City of Rochester, NY, Port of Rochester Master Plan; Sasaki Associates, Senior Project Manager
- City of Corpus Christi, TX, Bayfront Park Phase I; Sasaki Associates, Senior Project Manager
- Massachusetts Highway Dept., Chittown Park Schematic Design; Carol R. Johnson Associates, Principal-in-Charge

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**Member, Continuing Education Task Force, 2007 – 2008**

**Member, ASLA Policy Committee, 2009 – 2011**

**Member, ASLA Licensure Committee, 2001 – 2013**

**Member, ASLA Board of Trustees, 2007 – 2013**

**Co-Chair, ASLA Annual Meeting Host Chapter Committee, 1999**

**President, Boston Society of Landscape Architects, 1998 – 1999**

**Treasurer, Boston Society of Landscape Architects, 1991 – 1995**

**Chair, Boston Society of Landscape Architects Licensure Committee, 2003 – 2013**

**Member, WalkBoston Board of Directors, 2001 – 2011**

**Co-Chair, WalkBoston Advocacy Committee, 2007-2008**

**Chair, National Advisory Committee, Easter Seals Project ACTION Accessible Pedestrian Environment Materials/Projects Review and Analysis, 2006**

**Tom Doolittle’s service to ASLA during our Centennial Celebration was unsurpassed and made a large contribution to the success of the event. As president of the Boston Chapter in 1999, Tom worked tirelessly for two years leading up to the celebration, organizing both on the national and chapter level, coordinating every detail for the ASLA Annual Meeting in Boston. Tom’s dedication to serving ASLA and the profession of landscape during the Centennial Celebration is in and of its self worthy of this high recognition.**

Barry Starke, FASLA
Past President, ASLA

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**Thomas R. Doolittle, ASLA**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Vassar Street Streetscape Improvement Project; Carol R. Johnson Associates, Principal-in-Charge
Ohio Dept. of Transportation, Maumee River Crossing; Carol R. Johnson Associates, Principal-in-Charge
Central Artery/Tunnel Project, Central Area Streetscape Preliminary Design; Carol R. Johnson Associates, Lead Landscape Architect
Nashville Dept. of Public Works, Church Street and Capitol Boulevard Reconstruction; Carol R. Johnson Associates, Principal-in-Charge
Chicago Dept. of Transportation, Lower Wacker Drive Reconstruction; Carol R. Johnson Associates, Principal-in-Charge
Ball State University College of Architecture and Planning, Alumni Society Award of Outstanding Achievement, 2003
Ohio Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects, Merit Award, Maumee River Crossing Reuse Areas Concept Report, Toledo, OH, 2002; Carol R. Johnson Associates, Principal-in-Charge
Ohio Planning Conference of the American Planning Association, Award for Contribution and Excellence, Focused Built Project Category, Maumee River Crossing Reuse Areas Concept Report, Toledo, OH, 2001; Carol R. Johnson Associates, Principal-in-Charge
International Downtown Association, Award of Merit, Central Artery Tunnel Project Surface Transportation Action Forum and Streetscape Design, Boston, MA, 1997

Thomas R. Doolittle, ASLA

been spotty, with only occasional workshops about the profession or led by landscape architects, and those efforts often poorly coordinated. In 2003, Tom led the development of a series of workshops to be presented by landscape architects addressing key issues confronting the design professions, and focusing on how landscape architects can be a critical part of the solution to many problems facing urban development. The effort was wildly successful, bringing unprecedented numbers of landscape architects to participate in the sessions and the conference in general, as well as putting the profession firmly into the ongoing dialogue with the other design professions at a level it had not held in many years. Tom continued to work over the next several years to maintain the presence of landscape architecture at ABX; that work ultimately evolved into the Landscape Architecture Symposium, an annual feature of the conference that is highly valued by its organizers and design professionals of all disciplines.

Volunteering Outside the Profession

In 2002, Tom joined the board of directors of WalkBoston, one of the nation’s foremost pedestrian advocacy groups. He served on the board for ten years, assisting with several important initiatives and projects that the organization undertook. Most significant was the review of development and infrastructure projects proposed for Boston and the surrounding communities, providing commentary on the quality of the pedestrian environment they were proposing, and making recommendations to improve it. In one instance, the first major real estate developments in downtown Boston following completion of the Central Artery included a vehicular drop-off that would have significantly impacted the pedestrian zone and compromised the streetscape environment. Tom developed potential alternate solutions, and helped WalkBoston negotiate a new approach that met the functional needs while maintaining an appropriate pedestrian path and the continuity of the surrounding streetscape. Tom’s volunteer service as a board member of WalkBoston helped protect and sustain the city’s walkability standards and demonstrated how landscape architects can play a central role in improving the city’s quality of life.

During his term on the board of WalkBoston, Tom also served as chair of the advocacy and government affairs committee. In this role, he reviewed prospective legislation in Massachusetts and provided commentary regarding its impact on pedestrians and pedestrian environments. His skills and knowledge as a landscape architect were critical to the board in assessing the implications of new rules and regulations affecting development and transportation policy. He met with legislators, agency administrators and other officials to help guide them on issues such as complete streets and sidewalk usage. He even worked on developing model regulations for towns, such as sidewalk snow clearing and other matters critical to maintaining a walkable environment.
Since leaving the board of directors, Tom has continued to work as a volunteer with WalkBoston on projects where a landscape architect’s input is critical to creating accessible, enjoyable pedestrian environments. Most recently, Tom assisted WalkBoston on the development of a pedestrian system for the town of Bolton, a small community approximately thirty miles west of Boston. The plan proposed by Tom and WalkBoston prioritizes a series of pathway developments to create a system of walking loops, allowing residents to connect to important destinations and also to walk for health and other benefits.

Tom has also found opportunities to promote the profession and give back to the community at the same time. Tom’s former employer, The Gilbane Building Company, has a deep commitment to making pro bono contributions to the communities where its projects are located. During his time with the company, Tom had the opportunity to assist in the reconstruction of a veteran’s garden at the Providence, RI, Veteran’s Administration Medical Center where Gilbane was completing the construction of a new wing. Tom, on his own time, prepared plans for rebuilding the vegetable gardening beds, seating areas, and other amenities that made up the garden. The plan was constructed through a volunteer event organized by the hospital project team. The outcome of the work has been gratefully received by the veterans and the hospital. It will be a benefit to the community for years to come.

Presentations Advancing the State of the Profession

Much of Tom’s professional work over the past twenty years has been on urban infrastructure and streetscape projects, most notably the Central Artery/Tunnel Project in Boston, the reconstruction of Vassar Street on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) campus in Cambridge, MA, and the Maumee River Crossing project in Toledo, OH. Through these projects, Tom has developed considerable expertise in designing streetscapes that are inviting, comfortable and accommodating to users of all abilities, as well as embracing all different modes of transportation. Tom has had the opportunity to share this experience and expertise through presentations to major transportation-focused organizations and conferences, most notably the National Pedestrian Conference, the Transportation Research Board, and Walk21. The presentations focused on the skills that landscape architects bring to the design of cities and urban spaces, creating streetscapes and pedestrian spaces that are more walkable, more sustainable, and better adapted to dynamic urban settings. The presentations were also delivered to mixed audiences of architects, engineers, planners and non-design professionals, providing an opportunity to spread the word on how landscape architects can lead and make significant contributions in very diverse and technically complicated projects.

Example:

ASLA Annual Meeting, San Diego, Funding Green Infrastructure, 2011
ASLA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Funding Green Solutions: The Investor’s Viewpoint on Sustainability, 2010
ASLA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Working Effectively with the Owner’s Representative, 2007
American Planning Association, Annual Meeting, San Francisco: When Highways are Main Streets, 2005
ASLA Annual Meeting, New Orleans: Vassar Streetscape Project (poster session), 2003
Ball State University, Muncie, IN, Distinguished Alumni Lecture: Recent Work, 2003
American Society of Irrigation Consultants, Annual Meeting, Boston: Implications of the CA/T Project, 1999

Presentations Advancing the State of the Profession

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Thomas R. Doolittle, ASLA

For the past twenty-five years, Tom’s commitment to the profession of landscape architecture has been evident in his work within ASLA, both at the chapter and national levels. He has also been a tireless advocate for landscape architecture and its values by reaching out to other design, civic and professional organizations outside the profession. Whether speaking to a committee of landscape architects, a community meeting, a non-profit advocacy group or a national conference of design professionals, his belief in his profession and his determination to increase the visibility and expand the reach of landscape architects is clearly evident.

The BSLA has been a significant benefactor of that commitment. The organization would not have been able to achieve what it has over the past two decades, nor would landscape architects have established as strong a presence in Boston and New England, without his efforts. When Tom first came onto the chapter’s executive committee as treasurer, its finances were in a shambles. Tom quickly revamped the financial systems, putting into place new policies on revenue, expenditures, and accounting, that reversed the trend and started the chapter on the path to financial health once again. Many of the policies and methods that Tom developed are still in place, and are the underlying reason why the chapter has a solid financial footing today.

For us in the Boston chapter, Tom exemplifies the idea of service to the profession. In fact, we will be featuring an article about Tom’s involvement with the chapter in the spring edition of our bi-annual publication, Fieldbook (which, by the way, was another one of Tom’s ideas). We strongly endorse Tom’s nomination, and hope that the Council of Fellows will recognize, as we do, that his service to the profession has been exceptional and is deserving of the honor.

Sincerely,

Cheri Ruane, ASLA

Boston Society of Landscape Architects
Kenneth Bates, ASLA
Landscape Architect, Durango Custom Works, LLC
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: SERVICE

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Florida Chapter of ASLA, it is a privilege to nominate Kenneth Bates, ASLA, for your consideration for elevation to the Council of Fellows for his contribution of Service to the Society and the profession of landscape architecture.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Kenn has served the landscape architecture profession continuously since graduating with his BLA degree 17 years ago. His service to the profession as a leader, mentor, and advocate on the local, state, and national level through ASLA chapter and national committees, 12 years of ASLA chapter executive committee work in Florida and Colorado, and Chair of the ASLA Chapter Presidents Council have resulted in an expanded public awareness and recognition of landscape architecture. He embodies a contagious “Go Big” spirit throughout his many volunteer accomplishments that leaves behind a memorable impression of a landscape architect. His tenacity to improve and build upon the foundations of the profession and society set a high bar of excellence for emerging and seasoned professionals alike to follow.

PASSION & DRIVE
Throughout Kenn’s career as a landscape architect, his greatest passion, and greatest joy has been the creation of places that make a difference in their users’ lives. As a young boy, Kenn was initially inspired, when a family vacation to Florida took them to Cypress Gardens, Florida’s original theme park. He enjoyed the lush, tropical gardens and the shaded garden spaces under magnificent Southern Live Oak trees. This trip was an awakening of sorts, as it truly inspired him to the value of a great landscape. It became a treasured memory throughout his life.

Thirty-one years later, Kenn had the opportunity to revisit what remained of the now defunct Cypress Gardens, this time as a landscape architect about to embark on the creation of a new park on those same hallowed grounds. As Project Manager, Kenn was a team leader and directly involved in the creation of something new, but his past relationship to the site always kept him thinking of the experiences he had had there as a youth. He ensured that the team understood the value of that place and that some of the character of the old park would carry over to be a part of the new place as well. After many of the existing buildings were renovated, 80% of the trees were saved, 20 huge specimens relocated, the old concrete recycled and the shiny new park opened, Kenn returned yet again, this time with his wife and young son, so that they could experience the joy of this place together as a family as he had done as a boy. The joy that Kenn felt as a landscape architect and as a parent, as his son ran around just as excited and inspired by what his dad had built was just like the joy that Kenn felt when he was there as a boy. This was an incredible moment along his path; a moment that reinforced, and underscored everything he stood for as a professional. This is Kenn’s passion. This is what drives, and has driven everything he does as a landscape architect.

“...Kenn was initially inspired, when a family vacation to Florida took them to Cypress Gardens, Florida’s original theme park. He enjoyed the lush, tropical gardens and the shaded garden spaces under magnificent Southern Live Oak trees. This trip was an awakening of sorts, as it truly inspired him to the value of a great landscape. It became a treasured memory throughout his life. Thirty-one years later, Kenn had the opportunity to revisit what remained of the now defunct Cypress Gardens, this time as a landscape architect about to embark on the creation of a new park on those same hallowed grounds. As Project Manager, Kenn was a team leader and directly involved in the creation of something new, but his past relationship to the site always kept him thinking of the experiences he had had there as a youth. He ensured that the team understood the value of that place and that some of the character of the old park would carry over to be a part of the new place as well. After many of the existing buildings were renovated, 80% of the trees were saved, 20 huge specimens relocated, the old concrete recycled and the shiny new park opened, Kenn returned yet again, this time with his wife and young son, so that they could experience the joy of this place together as a family as he had done as a boy. The joy that Kenn felt as a landscape architect and as a parent, as his son ran around just as excited and inspired by what his dad had built was just like the joy that Kenn felt when he was there as a boy. This was an incredible moment along his path; a moment that reinforced, and underscored everything he stood for as a professional. This is Kenn’s passion. This is what drives, and has driven everything he does as a landscape architect.

Rodney Swink, FASLA, PLA
Landscape Architect
The Office of Rodney Swink
Kenneth Bates, ASLA

CRITICAL LEADERSHIP

Kenn’s ongoing commitment to the profession as an effective and dedicated leader drew the attention of then ASLA President-Elect Tom Tavella, who selected him to serve as Chair of the ASLA Chapter Presidents Council (CPC). As CPC Chair, Kenn built upon a commitment to provide leaders with tangible resources such as rejuvenating the midyear and annual meetings with components geared toward improved knowledge sharing between chapters. He chose presentation topics to improve focus and clarity, highlighted topic experts throughout ASLA, and facilitated group discussions that resulted in valuable tools Chapter Presidents could utilize to improve their chapters and inspire new leaders.

In the early weeks of the 2011 Florida state legislative session, a surprise bill was filed in the House which sought to deregulate landscape architects along with over two dozen other professions and industries. ASLA had just achieved licensure in all fifty states, and the loss of licensure in Florida would have been devastating for landscape architects across the country as other states watched the drama unfold. When faced with a potentially dangerous blow to the profession, Kenn, as Florida Chapter President, implemented and executed a targeted emergency advocacy campaign to stop the bill from becoming law. First, the bill appeared unstoppable as it moved rapidly through various House committees in just the first few days. Kenn immediately recognized the severity and put his advocacy plan in motion. First, he called upon all chapter leaders, chapter Government Affairs (GAC), and ASLA government affairs staff. He called all ten section chairs and asked each to inform every Florida Chapter member directly by telephone (nearly 950 at the time). He coordinated the release of daily status updates via email and chapter website to the membership. Kenn personally called over 35 legislators to request their support in defending licensure of landscape architects. The end result of Kenn’s grassroots campaign was estimated at 3,000 contacts to state legislators and the governor within the first 72 hours, 10,000 impressions over the first week, and ultimately removal of landscape architects from the proposed bill by the end of the second week. The campaign’s detailed plan and cohesive message, swiftness in response, depth of member AND non-member action, and positive outcome became a case study resource for other ASLA chapters, and Kenn was invited to present the advocacy campaign to the ASLA Chapter Presidents Council.

Throughout his 17 years of Service to the Society including 10 years on the Florida Chapter executive committee, Kenn has made it his core value to share his passion and belief in the profession and to instill his drive to achieve something bigger in the eyes of the public in the next group of leaders.

Kenn has held leadership positions ranging from committee chair, to Member-at-Large, to Chapter President. As President, his leadership and vision resulted in organizational improvements that led to increased member engagement and leader accountability. In 2008, Kenn collaborated on a chapter assessment which identified strengths and weaknesses, and provided guidance to chapter leaders for
Kenneth Bates, ASLA

improvement of communication with members and leadership responsibilities. His leadership and contributions to a reorganization of all chapter standing and ad hoc committees allowed them to align with specific goals of the chapter’s long-term strategic plan, creating a more streamlined system that supported and reinforced the value of ASLA membership. Committee descriptions and responsibilities were clarified, which attracted new volunteers and chairs. The new organization was so successful that when Kenn became President-elect and de facto nominating committee chair, he led the committee in filling a 13 position nomination slate with 26 candidates and identifying chairs for all active chapter committees. Inspired by Kenn’s passion for ASLA and community service, 17 of these candidates became future chapter leaders including 5 Presidents and 2 Trustees.

In late 2013, Kenn and his family moved to Colorado, where he immediately volunteered to fill an ASLA Colorado Chapter leadership vacancy, and is embarking on a new path of service to the profession. Kenn now leads all ASLA Colorado chapter programs in the West Area, including 66 members in an area covering roughly 28,000 square miles from the Continental Divide to the western state line. Through his efforts, he has activated members and identified a core team of local points-of-contact to assist in organizing activities and events throughout the different valleys.

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS

Kenn has believed throughout his career that relationship building and advocacy is critical for the continuance of the profession. He has been an active participant in ASLA’s National Advocacy Day six times— including twice at his own expense because he believed in the value that it provided to the profession and Society. Each time, he built rapport with legislators and their staff members to garner support on issues critical to landscape architects and sustainable communities. Due to his ongoing presence, success of his advocacy efforts were seen when Senator Bill Nelson (FL) co-sponsored the Complete Streets Act of 2009, Safe Routes to School Program Reauthorization Act in 2011, Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2011, and Safe Streets Act of 2014. These legislative actions and Kenn’s commitment to them contributed to Senator Nelson being recognized as an ASLA Honorary Member in 2014.

As chair of the Florida Landscape Architecture Committee of Continuing Existence (FLACCE), Kenn led the only advocacy organization providing the resources necessary to promote and advance landscape architecture in Florida. Under Kenn’s leadership, membership grew with fundraising contributions totaling nearly $10,000 for 2011. The funds raised were used to strengthen relationships with “Friends of Landscape Architecture” such as State Senator Greg Evers and State Representative Jimmy Patronis. During the 2011 FLASLA Annual Meeting, as Chapter President, Kenn organized discussions including key chapter leaders and then ASLA President-Elect Susan Hatchell with Senator Evers and Representative Patronis in reinforcing the role of landscape architects in designing for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. As a result of those discussions, both legislators have been steadfast allies and publicly support the profession.

“A hallmark of service to one’s profession is the manner by which one’s clear vision is leveraged to fortify and sustain organizational relationships. Kenn Bates achieved exactly that. With measured guidance and unquestioned integrity, he was the catalyst in strengthening the ties between FLASLA and FNGLA. A gifted and natural leader, Kenn’s influential advocacy has attained much to protect and promote the shared interests of landscape architects and other Florida nursery and landscape industry professionals.”

Ben Bolusky
CEO
Florida Nursery, Grower & Landscape Association
Kenneth Bates, ASLA

As a chapter leader, Kenn strove for the recognition of key public officials and allied professionals significant to the growth of Florida landscape architecture and the protection of its sensitive environments. During his tenure as President, Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) founder and outspoken landscape architecture licensure advocate Roy S. Rood was nominated by the Florida Chapter and inducted as ASLA Honorary Member. As a result, the relationship between FLASLA and FNGLA, the largest landscape related trade organization in the state with nearly 2,000 member firms, typically more antagonistic than cooperative, is now stronger than ever. Mr. Rood’s Honorary ASLA became the catalyst for improved cooperation and a visibly stronger unified landscape industry in Florida. As a direct result of this improved relationship, FNGLA acted as an important advocacy ally and publicly supported landscape architects during the attack on licensure that occurred during Kenn’s Presidency.

RAISING THE BAR

Shortly after entering the profession, Kenn made a commitment to be involved, not just as a member of the Society, but to become a passionate leader. His first experience was as a media coordinator for the chapter annual design awards program. Beginning with this position, Kenn made the effort to rethink old, outdated chapter programs and provide new goals designed to improve the visibility and expand the brand and presence of landscape architecture to the public.

The long-term impacts of Kenn’s efforts for the Chapter are noticeable in the quality and international recognition that the Florida Chapter has received for their annual design awards program. When Kenn first volunteered on the awards committee, entrants followed submission criteria that were not easily compatible with emerging digital technology of the time, and out of sync with similar design award programs in other states. Awards were given in a hotel ballroom at the chapter’s annual meeting amongst other landscape architects, the occasional project owner, and a handful of conference attendees who could afford the pricey ticket. Media releases or public recognition were few and far between. Under Kenn’s leadership, the chapter design awards program was simplified and aligned with the national ASLA design awards program, encouraging practitioners to enter both. Kenn saw design award juries as an opportunity to further expand visibility by inviting government officials and media experts to evaluate projects alongside allied professionals, educators, and landscape architects from Florida and other states. As chair of the committee, Kenn also led the redesign of the program to change the focus from internal recognition, to the public celebration and exhibition of the works of the award winning landscape architects. Kenn produced theatrical-style awards galas that were held in public venues such as Lake Eola Park in Orlando, The Village of Baytowne Wharf at Sandestin, and The Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville. His stipulation was simple, awards gala admission was free of charge to all award recipients and project owners, their guests, and the public.

As a result of Kenn’s leadership over a ten-year period, project entries increased on average by 235% and awards bestowed increased by 221%; illustrating a greater recognition of notable projects designed by Florida registered landscape architects around the world. During those ten years, over 700 projects were entered into the
Kenneth Bates, ASLA

program with 265 of those projects being recognized as exemplary works of landscape architecture. To celebrate every award and recognition, Kenn and his team wrote press releases and distributed them to over 750 media contacts throughout Florida, increasing the Chapter’s visibility immensely to the general public.

In addition, Kenn created, and was designer and editor of a new “coffee table” Chapter annual Design Awards Book that showcased the award winning projects of the year resulting in an increased visibility of the profession; and raised over $38,500 in advertising revenue. This glossy publication became a sought after public communications piece each year and was a key instrument in illustrating to state legislators and the public the knowledge, skills, and abilities of landscape architects to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare. During the licensure challenge it was especially useful. During its seven year run, 31,500 publication copies were produced; over 26,000 were distributed statewide and nationally to government leaders, municipal decision makers, universities, and allied professionals, giving Florida ASLA an incredibly powerful advocacy tool in telling the story of landscape architecture, and the value of our profession.

Seeing an opportunity to strengthen the connection between the Chapter and students of landscape architecture, Kenn led the addition of a student component to the Chapter Awards Program in 2005, recognizing significant design solutions by students at an accredited landscape architecture program at a Florida college or university. The student awards aim is to promote individual work as well as encouraging multi-disciplinary approaches. Students receive real-world learning experience by developing a clear and concise submittal presentation. As a result, teaching faculty encouraged students to enter their work, and under Kenn’s leadership of the program, 116 student projects were entered and 30 of those were bestowed recognition. These students benefited greatly from the professional exposure and the opportunity for having their work critically evaluated by practitioners, and provided them with critical knowledge on what it takes to submit for awards, and what goes into award winning design.

In an effort to reinforce ASLA’s core values of careful stewardship, thoughtful planning, and artful design, Kenn further improved the awards program by adding the Environmental Sustainability Honor. Since its inclusion in 2006, nine highly visible projects have been honored including community parks, a university campus masterplan, a municipal wetland park, a sustainable golf course, a research institute campus, and an ecolodge.

In 2010, to honor the legacy and impacts of a key landscape architect in Florida’s history, Kenn wrote and led the creation of the Edward D. Stone, Jr. Landmark Award. The award recognizes significant community projects that have retained their original design integrity and contribute significantly to the public realm of the community in which they are located.

MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION
Kenn’s promotion of landscape architecture extends beyond his significant professional service as illustrated above, and into the community. For over 5 years, he has provided pro bono mentorship through the Boy Scouts of America program to boys and young men working toward earning the prestigious Eagle Scout honor, an award Kenn earned nearly 25 years ago. Becoming an Eagle Scout prepared Kenn for community service while leading others, and he is paying that back. He has introduced young Cub Scouts to landscape architecture while a past den leader and current assistant cubmaster of thirty boys. He shares his love for the outdoors by planning and leading activities for these boys to have their own memorable experiences in significant landscapes within their community. He recently led a Cub Scout Pack program where 4th grade Scouts each received a free annual pass to enjoy all National Parks with their families. To kick off the program, Kenn led a 3-mile hike at Mesa Verde National Park along narrow rock shelves, through deep valleys, and past ancient Puebloan cliff dwellings. It left a visible impact on every boy that they will carry with them throughout their lives. Kenn also volunteers as a Boy Scout merit badge counselor for a district that serves roughly 600 Boy Scouts. He brings his knowledge and expertise to the Landscape Architecture, Drafting, Environmental Science, Soil and Water Conservation, and Sustainability merit badges.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
In conclusion, the Florida Chapter hereby presents the nomination of Kenn Bates to the Council of Fellows. Whether it be his unending devotion to increasing the visibility of the profession, his passion for leading the chapter in good times and in times of crisis, or proudly participating at the national level as Chapter Presidents Council Chair, Kenn is the quintessential example of selfless service to the profession for FLASLA’s emerging professionals and membership. I, as well as the Executive Committee of the Florida Chapter of ASLA, enthusiastically support Kenn Bates for elevation to the ASLA Council of Fellows.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Haigh, ASLA
President, ASLA Florida Chapter