Due to the annual meeting, the Leaders E-Express will move by one week. The next edition will be on November 18—the annual meeting outcomes edition.

Governance and Administration

- President Richard Zweifel, FASLA, was the keynote and presenter at the Arkansas Chapter’s annual awards banquet in Fayetteville. The conference’s theme was “Outdoor Environments: Inclusive Design and Materiality.”
- President-Elect Chad Danos, FASLA, was in Seattle discussing landscape and ecology with University of Washington’s landscape architecture class. Later he presented on the “Influence of Landscape” to an audience of over 100 participants at the Victor Stanley Lecture Series for the ASLA Washington Chapter.
- President-Elect Danos was the keynote speaker and award presenter for the South Carolina Chapter in Charleston. Danos presented on the “State of ASLA” at the awards banquet. He also participated in the chapter’s annual conference where they celebrated 35 years of landscape architecture in South Carolina.
- Immediate Past President Mark Focht, FASLA, was in Miami visiting Florida International University’s Student Chapter. Focht presented “Green City, Clean Waters: The Philadelphia Story,” which was followed by a reception. He also dined with the student chapter at breakfast for more discussion, which was followed by a social with the Florida Chapter ExComm, FIU faculty and student leadership. Focht also attended the Florida Chapter Executive Committee business brunch.
- Immediate Past President Focht presented at Penn State University’s Professional Practice class on Wednesday and Thursday. In addition, Focht was inducted on Wednesday evening as a University Alumni Fellow by the PSU president. This is the highest honor offered by the university to its graduates.
- Professional Practice VP Kay Williams, FASLA, was the keynote speaker at the Tennessee Chapter’s annual meeting. Williams presented an introduction to SITES®.
- EVP Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA, represented ASLA at a meet-and-greet event for Denise Roth, new Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration. Somerville updated Roth and Public Buildings Commissioner Norman Dong on SITES®, as well as ASLA’s work on green infrastructure, resilience, and pollinator protection.
- EVP Somerville and Government Affairs Manager Mark Cason represented ASLA at the Pollinator VIP Reception at the U.S. Department of the Interior to honor the Pollinator Advocate Award winners.
- EVP Somerville and Corporate Secretary Curt Millay, ASLA, attended a meeting hosted by the DC Business Improvement District (BID) to reactivate the Chinatown Park, which is owned by the National Park Service.
- Pledges for the campaign for the ASLA Center stand at $880,241 or 59 percent of goal. Please stop by the ASLA Center desk at the annual meeting to learn more about the campaign.
- The green roof is still being visited although it’s going into the dormant season. In the past weeks, the roof was visited by a landscape architect from China; a Fellow from Italy who is studying at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.; another from Taiwan; Harvard U grad students; a couple from South Carolina; and first
grade students from Washington, D.C., who will be building a green roof from a shoebox based on their visit. And lastly, a couple from Pennsylvania; it was the wife’s first green roof tour and her husband stated, “now you can scratch it off your bucket list.” The continuous loop green roof video really works as lots of people view it and come in for a tour.

- Past President Barry Starke, FASLA, and EVP Somerville participated in the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) Board meeting and presentation of awards yesterday. Somerville received the RNRF Chairman’s Award for Service to the Foundation.

Finance, Meetings, and Publishing

- At one week from the annual meeting, more than 5,000 have registered. That’s 123 percent of the annual budgeted goal, still exceeding the registration and revenue numbers for the past seven years! Nine field sessions are sold out and tickets to the ASLA Council of Fellows Investiture Dinner are almost at capacity. Field session, workshop, and event tickets are not sold at the door. Purchase tickets online now or onsite at registration while tickets last for the LARE workshop, the SITES workshop, the remaining seven field sessions, the PPN Reception, The Edible Landscape Celebration, and The President’s Dinner.

- Revenue for the 2015 EXPO is at 110 percent of the budget.

- Advertising contracts for Landscape Architecture Magazine remain at 96 percent of the budget.

Landscape Architecture Magazine

- The 2015 LAM Reader Survey is live and will be up through the annual meeting, until mid-November. The survey, which is here on surveymonkey.com, is done every two years. The editorial staff will be promoting the survey heavily in Chicago and elsewhere. Please encourage members to take the survey if you find the opportunity!

- The November issue of LAM, the year’s biggest at 256 pages, will be heading for the annual meeting. The features include several projects in Chicago: Maggie Daley Park, by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; Palmisano Park by Site Design Group and D.I.R.T. Studio; and the Wood House by Coen + Partners; as well as the Public Media Commons in St. Louis, which won DLANDstudio and its collaborators a 2015 ASLA Professional Honor Award for General Design; a profile of the practitioner and educator Diane Jones Allen, ASLA, and her focus on environmental justice; and the story about the reintroduction of bison to the Nachusa Grasslands in northwestern Illinois as part of a prairie restoration. Also in this issue is a fascinating interview with the author Peter Annin about the success so far of the Great Lakes Compact.

- On October 22, LAM Editor Brad McKee took part on a panel at the Scenic America conference at the National Press Club here in Washington. The occasion is the 50th Anniversary of the White House Conference on Natural Beauty and the beginnings of Lady Bird Johnson’s conservation agenda as First Lady. Scenic America members were also reviewing a draft white paper meant to reinvigorate the scenic beauty and conservation movement at the national, state, and local levels. Also on the panel were Jeffrey Soule of the American Planning Association; Thomas Smith of the American Society of Civil Engineers; Anne Neal of the Garden Club of America; Ned Sullivan of Scenic Hudson. Attending the conference also were Past Presidents Barry Starke, FASLA, and Darwina Neal, FASLA, as well as Adrian Benepe, Honorary ASLA.
Government Affairs

- On October 22, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously passed a six-year surface transportation measure, H.R. 3763, the *Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act (STRA)* Act. As in the recently passed Senate DRIVE Act, the House bill includes several critical transportation priorities for ASLA, including a Complete Streets provision that ensures a more comprehensive approach to road design and safety for everyone, language to encourage pollinator-friendly habitats in federal rights-of-way, and active transportation programs important to landscape architects. ASLA continues to work with legislators and coalition members to achieve these priorities in final surface transportation law.

- On Saturday, October 24, President Barack Obama took to the airways to demand that Congress reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) without delay. In his weekly address to the nation, Obama noted that the law expired on September 30, and criticized both the House and Senate for failing to act on legislation to revise or extend LWCF. ASLA urges all its members to continue to fight for LWCF by reaching out to your legislators on Capitol Hill to SEND YOUR MESSAGES and/or TWEETS expressing your concern for continuing LWCF.

- On October 23, Manager Cason participated in a stakeholder meeting on pollinator health at the White House. The meeting, hosted by the Executive Office of the President in conjunction with the National Pollinator Garden Network, focused on efforts related to protecting pollinator habitat consistent with the *Presidential Memorandum – Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators*. Attendees shared individual insights and discussed how to rally key stakeholders to improve the health of pollinators.

- At the request of the Taiwanese Society of Landscape Architects, ASLA provided a letter of support for legislation to regulate the profession and establish an education program for landscape architecture in Taiwan. The letter also included background and current information on landscape architecture licensure in the United States.

- The U.S. Access Board will host a free webinar on November 5 from 2:30 – 4:00 EST and will cover access to trails. This session will review requirements for trails that the Board issued in 2013 as part of a supplementary rule on outdoor areas developed by the federal government. These provisions, while applicable to national parks and other federal lands covered by the Architectural Barriers Act, can be used as a resource in addressing access to trails on other types of sites. Representatives from the Board and the National Park Service will conduct the session. For more information, including registration instructions, visit www.accessibilityonline.org. Webinar attendees can earn continuing education credits (CEUs). Questions can be submitted in advance of the session (total limited to 25) or can be posed during the webinar.

- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a request for comments on proposed revisions to the 13 controlling criteria for the design of projects on the National Highway System that require a design exception when not met. The purpose of the revisions is to ease some of the federally mandated design standards to make it easier for communities of all sizes to design and build streets that are safer for everyone. ASLA encourages members to review the proposed revisions and submit comments to FHWA. You may submit or retrieve comments online through the Federal eRulemaking portal at: http://www.regulations.gov. Comments must be received on or before December 7. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable. For questions about the program discussed herein, contact Elizabeth Hilton, Geometric Design Engineer, FHWA Office of Program Administration; phone, (512) 536-5970.

- Request for Applications – the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Cooperative Forestry staff, requests applications for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP). This is a competitive...
grant program whereby local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses and provide community benefits such as sustainable forest management, environmental benefits including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat; benefits from forest-based educational programs; benefits from serving as models of effective forest stewardship; and recreational benefits secured with public access. All applications, either hardcopy or electronic, must be received by State Foresters or Tribal governments by January 15, 2016. Click HERE for more information.

Public Relations and Communications

- The New American Garden: The Landscape Architecture of Oehme, van Sweden, a joint exhibit by the Cultural Landscape Foundation and the National Building Museum, opened to the public recently. The exhibit showcases the pair’s “self-sustaining, meadow-like landscapes” that later became known as the New American Garden and runs through World Landscape Architecture Month to May 1, 2016. LAM is the media partner of the exhibition. ASLA is its education partner. This is one of the biggest exhibits in NBM history to focus on the profession. EVP Somerville and PR and Communications Director Terry Poltrack attended a VIP, while LAM Editor McKee, CFO Mike O’Brien, and Senior Communications Manager Jared Green attended the press preview.

  - The Dirt’s Jared Green reviewed the new exhibition New American Garden, and the post was picked up in ArchNewsNow.

  - Director Poltrack, Professional Practice Managing Director Susan Cahill, Hon. ASLA, and LAM Editor McKee developed suggested revisions for the 2017 Economic Census form regarding the landscape architecture profession. After reviewing and editing the 2012 questionnaire, the team distributed it to other relevant staff for additional feedback and sent to the Department of Commerce to meet the October 31 deadline.

  - Participation rates in the Business Quarterly surveys continue to be a challenge. The third quarter survey had just 256 respondents from a delivered list of 3,080 firm contacts, an 8.3 percent response rate. Results show a flattening of growth. A press release about the third quarter 2015 Business Quarterly survey was distributed October 27 via several wire services.

  - The Dirt has hit a new milestone – 3.5 million pageviews (and an estimated 1 million visitors) since its relaunch in 2009. The Dirt has some 6,500 weekly email and RSS followers and has garnered nearly 2,400 comments. The Dirt traffic is up nearly 8 percent over last year.

  - The Dirt Editor Green attended the Urban Thinkers’ Campus and the Urban Journalism Academy in New York City, a conference organized by the Municipal Arts Society, New School, and University of Pennsylvania. The focus of the conference was input into Habitat III – the New Urban Agenda. Discussions were around social justice, sustainable urban water infrastructure, and urban journalism.

  - Planetizen picked up the Dirt story on Ecotrust’s new Redd on Salmon Street project.

Member and Chapter Services

- The final preparations are underway for the Chapter Presidents Council Meeting in Chicago. Topics on the agenda include student and faculty engagement, leadership development, and chapter tools and resources.

- ASLA is hosting the 2015 Emerging Professionals Portfolio Review during the annual meeting. The Emerging Professionals Committee is seeking volunteer reviewers. Reviews will take place on Saturday, November 7 and Sunday, November 8 from 9:00am-5pm. Review time slots are for two hours. Reviewers will be placed in
pairs and provide six, 20-minute reviews to students, recent graduates and emerging professionals. Four reviewers are still needed. To participate, click here.

- Current membership numbers:

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Education Programs and LAAB

- The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System™ (LA CES™) has 213 active providers offering 1,592 courses. There is one new provider application pending review.

- Education Programs Director Susan Apollonio and Accreditation and Education Programs Manager Kristopher Pritchard conducted a conference call with USGBC staff on October 14, to refine the discussion points that will be presented to the COE and LA Program Chairs meeting during the annual meeting. Topics will include SITES and discussion of other USGBC initiatives related to higher education such as LEED Lab with a possible focus on SITES.

- LAAB conducted program site visits at Texas Tech University (MLA) October 18-21, University of Rhode Island (BLA), and Kansas State University (MLA) October 25-28, and will be conducting a program site visit at University of Michigan (MLA) November 1-4.

Professional Practice

- On October 15, the PPN Council held its fourth quarterly conference call to review highlights from the past quarter’s Online Learning webinars and Field posts and to go over the annual meeting’s upcoming PPN events: the PPN Networking Reception on Friday, November 6; the 20 individual PPN meetings on Saturday and Sunday; and the PPN Council meeting on Sunday evening. The chairs of the Education & Practice, International Practice, Landscape Architecture & Transportation, and Women in Landscape Architecture PPNs also shared updates as part of the “PN Happenings” part of the call.

- A series of special programs is now underway to mark the 75th anniversary of Dumbarton Oaks and, on October 15, the Garden and Landscape Studies program hosted its first event of the academic year: a lecture by Luke Morgan of Monash University on “The Monster in the Garden: Early Modern Landscape Design and the Grotesque.” Professional Practice Coordinator Ali Hay attended. Next month, Dumbarton Oaks will host a Frontiers in Urban Landscape Research Graduate Workshop as part of a new program in urban landscape studies, which will bring scholars and designers together to explore the history and future of urban
Landscapes. Invited scholars include Kathleen John-Alder, ASLA, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, Rutgers University; Jack Sullivan, FASLA, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Maryland; and Thaisa Way, ASLA, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington.

**Deadlines and Reminders**

- Daylight Saving Time ends this weekend. Don’t forget to set your clocks in order to be at the conference on time. 😊

- The Leadership Calendar can be accessed on the web.