Governance and Administration

- The move is official! Today staff returned to work for the first time in the new space. Staff phones and emails are unchanged. Mail should continue to be sent to 636 Eye St. NW, Washington, DC 20001 (with the exception of overnight mail). The redesign of the ASLA Center for Landscape Architects is scheduled to take a minimum of six months. Check the ASLA website and future Leaders E-Expresses for updates.

- The annual planning meetings wrapped up last Friday. President Chad Danos, FASLA, and President-Elect Vaughn Rinner, FASLA, and EVP Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA, met with staff to discuss the departments’ 2016 program goals. Danos also presented a “Get to Know Me” PowerPoint as well as handed out Length of Service Awards to several staff. In addition, Danos, Rinner, Somerville, and PR and Communications Director Terry Poltrack attended the National Building Museum’s (NBM) annual Christmas celebration last week. The event provided the opportunity to network with Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers, Secretary of the Commission on Fine Arts Thomas Luebke, and National Endowment for the Arts Design Director Jason Schupbach, as well as NBM President Chase Rynd, Hon. ASLA.

- President Danos recently visited the student chapter at Louisiana State University with Education Director Susan Apollonio.

- EVP Somerville and Education Manager Kris Pritchard had a conference call with the Presidents’ Council executives last week to discuss the agenda for the upcoming meeting in late January.

- Last week, EVP Somerville and Federal Government Affairs Director Roxanne Blackwell met with Representative Chris Van Hollen (MD) for a discussion that focused on sustainability, resiliency, and the ASLA Green Street Demonstration Project. The meeting also provided an opportunity to encourage the congressman’s leadership on key ASLA federal priorities, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which expired on September 30.

- Last week, as part of the Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project, EVP Somerville and Secretary Curt Millay, ASLA, met with the developer of the 600 Massachusetts Avenue project, Design Workshop, GGN, and Wiles Mensch to resolve issues with the proposed green infrastructure design and permitted construction drawings.

- EVP Somerville and Public Relations and Communications Director Terry Poltrack attended the American Architecture Foundation’s Oculus Award Luncheon last week.

- The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has held two conference calls recently to begin its year-long review. Based on direction from the Board at the annual meeting, the committee began by looking at language for adding a non-voting associate member to the Board. Proposed Bylaws revisions will be presented to the Board for action at midyear.
EVP Somerville and Resource Development Director Ron Sears were interviewed by a foundation consultant for the American Planning Association. APA is surveying association experiences and best practices with foundations prior to a relaunch of its own foundation.

Resource Development

- Pledges to the campaign for the ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture are now $908,728 or 61 percent of the goal of $1.5 million. Contributions to the ASLA Annual Fund total $10,294 to date. Learn more about the campaign or make a pledge at Center for Landscape Architecture Campaign. Learn more about the Annual Fund at ASLA Annual Fund.

Finance, Meetings, and Business Operations

- CFO Mike O’Brien is closing out November 2015 and reporting results later this week.

Government Affairs

- On December 4, President Obama signed a five-year highway bill into law. The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act allocates $305 billion to improve America’s roads, bridges, public transit, and rail transportation systems. The FAST Act continues the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Additional FAST Act provisions include the adoption of a national complete streets policy, and encourage states to use integrated vegetation management practices on federal rights-of-way to enhance pollinator habitats.

- This week, Congress reached a deal on a fiscal year (FY) 2016 omnibus spending package. Good news: ASLA worked with congressional champions and coalition partners to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is included in the negotiated package. The legislation appropriates $450 million for LWCF, with more than 50 percent directed to state and local recreation, conservation, and battlefield protection programs. These funds will help ensure that public land is protected and available for recreation. Congress is scheduled to complete its work on the spending bill by December 22. President Obama is expected to sign the bill once it arrives to the Oval Office.

- Government Affairs is seeking nominations for the ASLA Advocacy Awards Program, which recognizes chapters and members for outstanding achievements in furthering the advocacy objectives of the Society in 2015. All nominations must be submitted by the chapter president using Survey Monkey, and are due no later than Friday, February 29. For questions regarding the advocacy awards program, contact Government Affairs.

- Last week, Cheyenne Williams started as the new Government Affairs Coordinator. In this position, Williams will oversee the iAdvocate Network and ASLA advocacy social media, coordinate the work of the government affairs committees, and perform state and federal tracking and other assignments in the department. Prior to joining ASLA, Williams served as the grassroots manager for the Parkinson’s Action Network.
The January issue of LAM has gone to the printer. It will bring a cover feature on the new Buhl Community Park in Pittsburgh by Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture. Another feature looks at the details of the Fayetteville: Food City sustainable urban agriculture plan, which won a 2015 ASLA Professional Award for Analysis & Planning. Another winner, 300 Ivy in San Francisco, is also covered in features, having won a 2015 ASLA Award in the Residential category. And, not least, our feature well presents several national parks that rank as superlative in some way—this feature kicks off LAM’s planned coverage of national parks leading up to the August centennial of the National Park Service. Finally, an essay in the Back section explores the complicated trail of discovery that led scientists in the 1940s to Metasequoia glyptostroboides, the dawn redwood.

Public Relations and Communications

All 49 chapters have committed to sending representatives to the Public Awareness Summit January 8-10, in Charleston, South Carolina. In addition, Chris Saunders, a veteran of the Diversity Summit, will attend to represent that group’s perspectives, and COF Chair Marq Truscott is paying his own way to observe.

Work has begun on the 2016 professional and student awards call for entries brochure and website. Once the final jurors are confirmed, the brochure will go to press, and the juries will be announced.

ArchNewsNow picked up Heidi Petersen’s post on the Chicago Biennial, the post on the role of landscape architects in gentrification, and The Dirt’s annual best books list. Streetsblog picked up a post on what landscape architects can learn from Hollywood.

Three new Dirt posts were reposted to The Huffington Post.

Public Relations Manager Karen Grajales and Public Relations and Communications Coordinator J.R. Taylor hosted a conference call to advance the adopt-a-school partnership with Hart Middle School in Washington, D.C. Participants also included Darryl Clay, director of school operations, Hart Middle School, and Dena Kennett, ASLA, president, Potomac Chapter.

A statement was issued celebrating the passage of the FAST Act comprehensive transportation bill.

Honor and Awards Coordinator Carolyn Mitchell donated awards-video CDs/DVDS and award entry-binders to various schools with the help of LAAB Administrator Kris Pritchard.

An awards database of ASLA winning projects is being established with search by Honor and Awards Coordinator Mitchell and Research/Collections Analyst Brooke Hinrichs.

Member and Chapter Services

On December 7, chapter leaders received the monthly Membership Minute, which focused on tools available to chapters for membership recruitment and retention efforts. Chapter leaders received
the bimonthly Leadership Link on December 9, which provides leadership development ideas. The topic of the latest installement was titled, *Connecting with Retired Professionals*.

- As of today, ASLA has 15,486 members, a growth of 1.79 percent in 2015 and 0.13 percent growth since the same time last year:

<table>
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<th>12/16/2015</th>
<th>12/31/2014</th>
<th>Change Since 12/31/2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student &amp; Student Affiliate</td>
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**Education and LAAB**

- The *Call for Presentations* for the 2016 ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO opened December 8. An email was sent to all current, former, and prospective members as well as allied organizations and professionals. The call is was promoted through a media release, in *LAND*, and on ASLA’s social networking sites. The deadline to submit a proposal for consideration is January 28, 2016.

- The Annual Meeting Education Advisory Committee met via conference call on December 9 to continue education session planning for the 2016 annual meeting in New Orleans.

- Administrator Emily O’Connor completed the reporting of the 2015 annual meeting session attendance to the Florida State Board of Landscape Architecture and the American Institute of Architects.

- The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System™ (LA CES™) has 219 active providers offering 1,588 courses. There is one new provider application pending review.
Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) Chair Stephanie Rolley, FASLA, and Accreditation and Education Programs Manager Kristopher Pritchard, participated on a conference call with representatives from CLARB and CELA to discuss alumni licensure data by program on Wednesday, December 16.

**Professional Practice**

- On December 3, Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, attended the Smart Growth Network Partners Meeting at the American Planning Association (APA) in Washington, D.C. Balon provided updates to the group on the following: the building renovation; the annual meeting; the Call for Presentations for next year’s meeting in New Orleans; and the recent accomplishments for ASLA and landscape architects pertaining to the transportation and pollinator bills.

- ASLA’s list of Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documented sites has been updated. Since ASLA first shared this list online in 2014, more than 200 sites have been added. There are 689 sites on the current list. California (161 HALS reports), Virginia (60), and Oklahoma (55) have the most documented sites.

**Deadlines and Reminders**

- The Leadership Calendar can be accessed on the web.