Governance and Administration

- President Chad Danos, FASLA, President-Elect Vaughn Rinner, FASLA, EVP Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA, and Education Programs Manager Kris Pritchard participated in the Presidents’ Council meeting in Ottawa last weekend along with the leaders of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architecture, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board, and Landscape Architecture Foundation. (See Education section for additional details.)

- A kick-off meeting was held yesterday with the ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture general contractor (Coakley Williams Construction), architect Gensler, and project manager Akridge. Discussions included project schedule review, project controls and communications, and site logistics.

- Staff participated in a conference call with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julian Castro following the announcement of the winners of the National Disaster Resilience Competition. One billion dollars has been awarded to 13 states/communities for resilient infrastructure and housing projects. Green infrastructure, wetlands restoration, and other landscape architecture approaches are incorporated in many of the winning proposals.

- The Council of Fellows Jury met via conference call recently to demo the new online review and scoring system as well go over juror guidelines and instructions. The jurors will begin review this week of the 78 nominations received this year and will meet in person on March 11 to make final selections.

- Pledges to the campaign for the Center for Landscape Architecture now total $974,623 or 65 percent of the goal of $1.5 million. Please contact Director Ron Sears for more information.

Finance, Meetings, and Business Operations

- CFO Mike O’Brien and the accounting staff are closing out December and preparing audit schedules.

- Meetings and Special Programs Director DePass is on medical leave until March 7 at the earliest. Please direct all meetings-related inquiries to Meetings and Special Programs Manager Kelli Bland, (202) 216-2328.

- The 2016 EXPO has sold 60 percent of the available square footage for the New Orleans show.

- After the preliminary work that took place two weeks ago, the audit begins February 20.

- Planning continues for the Executive Committee’s Winter Meeting, February 19-20.
The 2016 EXPO has sold 60 percent (no change from previously reported) of the available square footage for the New Orleans show.

Advertising contracts for *Landscape Architecture Magazine* increased by 5 percent this week and represent 76 percent of the budget.

**Government Affairs**

Last week, the U.S. Senate began consideration of the Energy Policy Modernization Act (EPMA) that includes a bipartisan compromise reached by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski (AK) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (WA) to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Recently, amendments were filed to strike or weaken the Murkowski-Cantwell LWCF proposal. ASLA activated the iAdvocate Network to request that members take action to oppose any amendments attacking the LWCF provision in the bill. Thus far, 312 members sent 640 messages urging support for the Murkowski-Cantwell LWCF provision. ASLA also sent a letter to all senate offices urging them to oppose any amendments attacking the LWCF provision. As of press time, senators had not voted on the LWCF amendments and the EPMA was still being considered on the Senate floor.

ASLA joined with public lands and conservation organizations in sending a letter to the U.S. Senate urging them to oppose Amendment 3023 to the EPMA authored by Senator Mike Lee (UT) that would gut the Antiquities Act to block the designation any new public lands as national monuments.

On February 2, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights held a hearing entitled, “License to Compete: Occupational Licensing and the State Action Doctrine.” The hearing examined how state licensing boards controlled by active market participants can affect competition and the role of antitrust law in preventing consumer harm after the Supreme Court’s decision in North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. FTC. Senators questioned panelists on the growth of state licensing boards, disparity between licensing laws in the states, the impact on job mobility, and the economic impact of licensing on low and moderate income workers. The subcommittee intends to monitor further Federal Trade Commission actions and examine the federal government’s role in state occupational licensing.

Submissions for all ASLA Advocacy Awards nominations are due no later than February 29. For questions regarding the advocacy award program, please email Mark Cason; phone (202) 216-2370.

ASLA activated the iAdvocate Network to send an information alert to members about a new report released by the Environmental Protection Agency’s Green Infrastructure program, which summarizes tools, strategies, and lessons learned from green infrastructure projects across the country.

**Public Relations and Communications**

Public Relations Manager Karen Grajales and Coordinator J.R. Taylor are working with Dan Protes, a writer and producer for PBS, to plan a promotional event for the *10 Parks That Changed America*
documentary series in late March. Protess was also connected to the New York Chapter to plan a similar event in New York City.

- The call for nominations for ASLA 2016 Honors is open until March 25, so please be thinking about deserving candidates to nominate for the medals, Landscape Architecture Firm Award, Community Service Award, and Honorary Membership. Individual professional members and chapters may make nominations. Guidelines for each honor are posted online. Should you have any questions, please contact Honors and Awards Coordinator Carolyn Mitchell.

- Starting February 1, ASLA is once again offering members a free internship posting on JobLink during the months of February, March, and April. An email and LAND article will promote this opportunity next week. There are currently 88 JobLink postings.

- The Call for Entries for the 2016 Professional and Student Awards is now open and once again the award program is online. Entry submissions and payment must be received by March 18 for the Professional Awards and May 13 for the Student Awards. The press release announcing the call was posted on ASLA’s website and disseminated to the media.

- A press release announcing the fourth quarter 2015 Business Quarterly survey findings was distributed February 2 via several wire services.

- PR staff helped set up an interview between Andrew Kohr, ASLA, and Lynn Porter, architecture and engineering editor with the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, for a January 19 article on a proposed pedestrian and bike corridor in Bellevue, Washington.

- Public Relations Manager Karen Grajales attended the bimonthly meeting of the D.C. Environmental Education Consortium, and was also reelected outreach chair. Agenda topics included presentations by Sarah Bodor, director of policy and affiliate relations for the North American Association for Environmental Education, and Science Director James Rountree, D.C. Public Schools.

- The web team completed a move to an upgraded cloud environment for ASLA.org. The new environment is expected to further improve performance and uptime.

- Three new Dirt posts were republished on The Huffington Post, and ArchNewsNow picked up a post on HUD’s $1 billion National Resilient Design Competition.

**Member and Chapter Services**

- As of February 2, ASLA membership is holding steady with modest growth of 0.7 percent. Growth in full and associate membership has been strong, showing a 2.5 percent and 7.8 percent increase, respectively.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Member Type</th>
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<th>2/2/2016</th>
<th>Change %</th>
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<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student &amp; Student Affiliate</td>
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<tr>
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- On Monday, chapter leaders received the monthly Membership Minute, which provided tips on how the chapters can recruit lapsed members to rejoin.

- The Emerging Professionals Committee met via conference call yesterday. The committee began planning for the 2016 committee year, which will focus on direct outreach to emerging professionals and expanding the tools available to chapters.

- Email reminders to “Renew Your Membership” were sent to the following open renewal periods with valid emails:
  o 157 “Sorry to See you Go” members with an November expiration date (90-day grace period concludes on February 29)
  o 618 “Renew Online” members with a February expiration date
  o 379 “Due to Renew Yesterday” email to January 31 non-renewals
  o 163 “Staying Connected” email to October non-renewals (lapsed on January 31).

**Education and LAAB**

- The annual meeting education session call for presentations closed yesterday with 416 education session proposals and 20 field session proposals submitted. The Annual Meeting Education Advisory Committee will now begin scoring these as the next step in the selection process.

- The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System™ (LA CES™) has 222 active providers offering 1,579 courses. There are two new provider applications pending review.

- Accreditation and Education Programs Manager Kristopher Pritchard met with Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) Chair Laura Rasar King (Executive Director of Council of Education for Public Health) at ASPA’s office in Maryland on January 14. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss and understand another accrediting agency’s operations and best practices. This will allow the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) to continue implementing improvements to its accreditation process.
LAAB Chair Gary Kesler, FASLA, Incoming Chair Ned Crankshaw, ASLA, and Manager Pritchard participated in the 2016 President's Council Meeting hosted by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects in Ottawa, Canada on Friday, January 29. In addition to providing the council with LAAB’s top three priorities for this upcoming year, LAAB provided the first draft of the Landscape Architecture Dashboard which was created by Past Chair Stephanie Rolley, FASLA. This dashboard uses data from ASLA, CLARB, CSLA, and LAAB to understand and look at the state of the profession of landscape architecture in both diversity and growth of the profession.

Professional Practice

- After previous surveys on PPN members’ favorite spaces, career paths in landscape architecture, and inspired design, Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, and Coordinator Ali Hay are once again collecting opinions and responses from PPN members. This year’s set of questions was put together with the assistance of the PPN leadership. If you are a PPN member and have not yet completed this brief survey, please take a few minutes to do so. The responses will be described in the “PPN News” section of LAND and used to spark ideas for the Online Learning series or The Field.

- ASLA is once again taking the lead with the parklets planning committee for the 2016 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference taking place February 11-13 in Portland. On January 28, Manager Balon held a conference call with the committee to finalize the planning process. Five parklets will be designed and displayed during the conference. The organizations involved include the Local Government Commission, U.S. Forest Service, PlaceMatters, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, City of Oregon’s Urban Design Studio, Toole Design Group, Greater Places, and DOTankDC.

- On January 19, the Historic Preservation PPN’s Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) Subcommittee held its first quarterly conference call to review highlights from the 2015 ASLA Annual Meeting & EXPO, upcoming milestones including the National Parks Service’s Centennial and National Historic Preservation Act’s fiftieth anniversary, and promotion for the 2016 HALS Challenge, Documenting National Register Listed Landscapes. The deadline for HALS Challenge submissions is July 31.

- Manager Linette Straus submitted an educational session proposal and workshop on SITES for the 2016 annual meeting. The educational session topic addresses early planning for maintenance and performance of sustainable sites with a focus on performance monitoring. The workshop will be a review of SITES with a focus on the submittal process and will include a field session component with visits to SITES projects in the New Orleans area.

- In January, 36 Online Learning tests were submitted, up from 28 submitted in January 2015. Also, 19 LATIS exams were submitted, a slight decrease from the 33 exams submitted in January 2015.

- The current number of PPN members is 13,001—a decrease of 142 members from last month, but compared to 2015 members, membership is 440 members higher.

Deadlines and Reminders

- The Leadership Calendar can be accessed on the web.