April 27, 2016

Governance and Administration

- The midyear meeting is less than a month away and the Board agenda materials have been posted. Please contact Corporate Secretary Curt Millay, ASLA, with additional questions regarding the agenda or materials posted; contact Meetings Manager Kelli Bland for housing-related questions.

- President Chad Danos, FASLA, and ASLA Representative to IFLA Shawn Kelly, FASLA, were in Turin, Italy, for the IFLA World Council and Congress meetings last week.

- President-Elect Vaughn Rinner, FASLA, presented an update on ASLA initiatives at the Prairie Gateway Awards Gala at Kansas State University. While in Manhattan she also met with some of the officers of the Kansas State Student Chapter and made a presentation to the second and third year landscape architecture students, describing the many programs the ASLA has for students and emerging professionals as well as the process for and importance of gaining licensure.

- Please click on the links to review the bios and concept and aims statements for 2017 president-elect candidates Greg Miller, ASLA, and Gary A. Brown, FASLA. You can also review Miller’s answer to the first of three candidate questions and his answer to the second here. Brown’s answer to the first question is here and his second here. The final question and responses will run in LAND next week. Voting begins shortly after the midyear meeting, which starts on May 18.

- Pledges to the campaign for the ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture now total $1,022,024 on the way to the $1.5 million goal. Click the link for the list of donors to date. To suggest firms who have yet to pledge, please contact Director Ron Sears, phone, 202-216-2369.

- The Council of Fellows has notified all 2016 nominees as well as chapter presidents with jury results. A press release announcing the 2016 class appeared in the April 19 issue of LAND.

- Staff continue to meet regularly with Gensler, Coakley Williams, and Akridge to discuss progress on the ASLA Center. Agencies have given final sign off for the District Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the building permit is expected this week. Coakley Williams is completing demolition of the headquarters under a demo permit. Staff also met with Oehme, van Sweden to review and discuss the proposed monitoring system for the green roof and cistern for the ASLA Center.

- A meeting was held with representatives from the D.C. Department of Energy and the Environment to update them on the revised scope of the Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project, to learn more about the agency’s stormwater credit trading program, and how to inform ASLA members about the program. Corporate Secretary Millay, Professional Practice Manager Linette Straus, and State Government Affairs Director Elizabeth Hebron participated.

- Staff held a stakeholder meeting on the Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project on April 19 for neighbors and property owners to discuss a concept plan for the 600 block of Eye Street. Steven Spears, FASLA, of Design Workshop, and Mark Focht, FASLA, past president of ASLA, attended the meeting. Later in the day, ASLA staff, Spears, and Focht met with leadership of the Downtown DC BID to discuss possibilities for Chinatown Park, which is adjacent to the 600 block of Eye Street, NW.
Several staff attended the 28th Annual Quest for Excellence Conference, hosted by the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program in Baltimore April 3-6. Current and past winners shared their strategies in implementing positive organizational change across a spectrum of management targets, from strategy, to operations, to customer service and engagement, to workforce.

Finance, Meetings, and Business Operations

- CFO Mike O'Brien has closed out March 2016 and reported the results to the Executive Committee and the Finance and Investments Committee. The results are in line with the plan.
- The audit continues as CFO O'Brien works to finalize the draft financial statements in a conference call with Vice President of Finance Jeffrey Townsend, FASLA, Audit Committee Chairman Thomas Mroz, ASLA, and other members of the Audit Committee next Tuesday.
- The 2016 LAM advertising contracts totaled 82 percent of the budget.
- The 2016 EXPO booth sales continue with 78 percent of the floor sold. This week the sales team are travel to 2016 LIGHTFAIR in San Diego.

Government Affairs

- The registration period for Advocacy Day 2016 is now closed. Thank you to everyone who registered, Advocacy Day 2016 preparation is well underway!
- On April 21, ASLA hosted its second of three Advocacy Day training webinars, Learning the Issues: Policies Important to Landscape Architects, and 58 advocates tuned in to prepare for Advocacy Day. The third and final Advocacy Day training webinar, Ask the Experts, will be held on Tuesday, May 10 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT.
- ASLA celebrated a great victory last week with Senate passage of permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Senate passed the Energy Policy Modernization Act (S. 2012), which includes the bipartisan compromise reached by Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (AK) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (WA) to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The measure will now go to conference with the House’s North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act.
- ASLA has joined in supporting a series of water infrastructure bills recently introduced by Senator Ben Cardin (MD). ASLA provided a letter of support for the series of bills, which include a proposal to triple the funding of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. These federal assistance programs include funds for green infrastructure projects in communities nationwide.
- The ASLA Government Affairs iAdvocate Network petition requesting North Carolina licensed landscape architects to be included as qualified to prepare and submit applications under a newly proposed fast-track stormwater permitting process garnered 1,052 signatures. While no technical differences exist between the stormwater general permitting and proposed fast-track process, the fast-track proposed rules would prohibit landscape architects from activities for which they are approved to practice elsewhere throughout the proposed stormwater rules and in current practice. A decision on the proposed rules is anticipated within the next several months.
- As previously reported, a bill to revise key sections of the Nebraska Professional Landscape Architects Act recently ran into a stumbling block. However, this was not due to the introduction
of a resolution in Nebraska’s Unicameral Legislature calling for an interim study to examine whether Nebraska’s occupational licensing boards are exposed to liability under antitrust laws as a result of the Supreme Court decision in the *North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners vs. Federal Trade Commission*. Instead, it was based upon an erroneous perception by at least two senators on the committee that the bill established new regulation rather than being revisions to existing regulation. The Nebraska State Board of Landscape Architects decided at its April 26 meeting to move forward and reintroduce the legislation in the 2017 session.

- ASLA continues to utilize the [iAdvocate Network](#) to send messages to policymakers and to update members on webinars, federal grant opportunities, policy reports, and other information. So far this year, **1,835 ASLA advocates used the Network to send 4,554 messages** to policymakers on issues important to the profession, including 1,700 messages on LWCF, 1,565 messages to Arizona state lawmakers to prevent deregulation of landscape architecture in the state, and others.

- The U.S. Department of Transportation hosted the webinar Federal Financing to Build Active Transportation Networks today, which **included a discussion of transportation infrastructure funding and financing**, specifically, the Build America Transportation Investment Center and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Investment Act, both of which offer tools and support for projects.

- Today, Director of NACTO’s Designing Cities Initiative, Dr. John Renne, Director of the Center for Urban and Environment Solutions (CUES), and Associate Professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning and Design hosted a webinar to discuss NACTO’s new Transit Street Design Guide. The webinar focused on how the new Transit Street Design Guide can help streets of every size be redesigned to create great transit streets, supporting strong neighborhoods and downtowns.

*Landscape Architecture Magazine*

- The **May issue of LAM**, at a robust 188 pages, is going out to members and readers this week. The cover features the new MAX Orange Line in Portland, Oregon, with landscape design led by Mayer-Reed with ZGF and numerous other firms. The issue also has features on the MassArt campus plaza design in Boston by *Ground, Inc.*, and a look back at the Lovelace Garden in California by the landscape architect Isabelle C. Greene, FASLA, written by Lisa Gimmy, ASLA. As a preview to the Landscape Architecture Foundation’s 50th anniversary gathering in June, the issue brings five essays written by landscape architects as latter-day replies to the Declaration of Concern delivered by Ian McHarg, Grady Clay, and others in June 1966. And continuing LAM’s yearlong observance of the National Park Service centenary, Daniel Howe, FASLA, writes of recent large-scale landscape conservation efforts surrounding the Appalachian Trail.

*Public Relations and Communications*

- ASLA participated in an April 22 **student career fair at the Hart Middle School** in Washington, D.C. This event is one of three undertaken by ASLA and the Potomac Chapter as part of their participation in the **D.C. Public Schools’ Adopt-a-School Program**. Michael Hill, ASLA, landscape architect with the U.S. Forest Service and a past Diversity Summit member, and Dennis R. Nola, ASLA, chair of the landscape architecture undergraduate program at the University of Maryland, also participated.

- Plans are underway for the **2016 Diversity Summit** and invitations have been sent to the six returning and six new participants for the July 8-10 event in Washington, D.C. Also returning this year are Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, as facilitator, and Kona Gray, ASLA, representing the Landscape Architecture Foundation.
World Landscape Architecture Month is setting new records! So far, 4,639 social-media image posts with #WLAM2016 have reached 3.4 million people. Twenty-five countries have participated thus far.

Dirt Editor Jared Green covered the talk by Cooper Hewitt National Design winner Margie Ruddick, ASLA, at the National Building Museum.

Tables have been removed from hundreds of pages on asla.org in preparation to move to a more responsive website this summer.

Planning and design work is underway to convert the Green Roof Education site (The Roof is Growing!) into a responsive framework while maintaining the character of the original site. By doing so, the four presentations on the environment will become web searchable updated.

Member and Chapter Services

The CPC Midyear Meeting agenda has been finalized and posted to CPC Central. A pre-meeting CPC survey was distributed to the chapter presidents to gather additional information for facilitated workshops. The meeting presentations will focus on Ensuring the Legacy of the Profession and Membership Retention and Engagement.

On April 13, chapter leaders received the bimonthly Leadership Link, produced by the Leadership Development Committee. This issue provided tips on how to identify new and emerging leaders in the chapters.

On April 14, an email was sent to the 675 student members with a 2016 graduation date reminding them of their free associate member benefit. Reminder emails will be sent in May and June.

Education and LAAB

The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System™ (LA CES™) has 225 active providers offering 1,657 courses. There are two new provider applications pending review.

EVP Somerville, Education Programs Director Susan Apollonio and Accreditation and Education Programs Manager Kristopher Pritchard met with Melissa Moritz, deputy director, Office of STEM for the U.S. Department of Education and Ramon Bartheley, Science Policy Fellow with the America Association for the Advancement of Science. Discussion topics included how the Department of Education supports students and teachers in STEM and how to ensure recognition of landscape architecture as a STEM discipline.

The Committee on Education (COE) held its April conference call on Thursday, April 21. Chair Sean Rotar, ASLA, and Manager Pritchard led the call and provided an opportunity for each of the three subcommittees to report progress on their work. The three subcommittees are focused on recruitment of future professionals, enrollment monitoring and information dissemination, and creation of a model curricula for elementary and secondary education.

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) ROVE Teams continue conducting accreditation reviews for spring 2016. Illinois Institute of Technology (MLA) and Temple University (BSLA) had their reviews conducted over the last two weeks. Programs reviewed during spring 2016 are scheduled to be considered at the LAAB summer 2016 meeting.
Professional Practice

- Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, met with the NEA Creative Placemaking Colloquium Steering Committee via conference call. As part of the committee, ASLA participated with project partners Trust for Public Land and City Parks Alliance in the planning of a colloquium to build knowledge about creative placemaking in parks, scheduled to take place in Philadelphia on June 2-3.

- The Children’s Outdoor Environments PPN hosted a new Online Learning presentation—Intentional Design Strategies to Reconnect Children to Nature, which offered 1.0 PDH. Thirty-nine attendees participated.

- The second quarterly Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) Subcommittee call took place April 19, led by Chair Chris Stevens, ASLA. Topics reviewed included the promotion of the 2016 HALS Challenge; the participation of subcommittee member Thaisa Way, ASLA, in the PBS documentary 10 Parks That Changed America; and updates to the Documented Historic Landscapes: Full List of HALS Sites & HALS Highlights webpage. This site features the full list of documented HALS sites, with links to the documentation on the Library of Congress’ website. There are currently 700 HALS documented landscapes, up from 466 sites when this page was created in 2014. New is a HALS map, which includes 525 sites (all sites for which latitude and longitude data are available).

- On April 14, the PPN Council held its quarterly conference call to discuss upcoming PPN events, Online Learning (focusing on the new Student & Emerging Professional SPOTLIGHT mini-series), and the planning of PPN meetings and events for the annual meeting in New Orleans. Professional Practice VP Hunter Beckham, FASLA and 16 PPN chairs representing 11 of ASLA’s 20 PPNs participated. Manager Balon and Coordinator Alexandra Hay facilitated.

Deadlines and Reminders

- For the rest of April, members may post one free intern position (per firm, agency, or organization) on JobLink.

- The Leadership Calendar can be accessed on the web.