June 22, 2016

Governance and Administration

- President Chad Danos, FASLA, and EVP Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA, will be attending the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Advocacy Summit, tomorrow-Saturday. Danos will be presenting on ASLA’s top priorities of advocacy and public awareness, with an emphasis on green infrastructure, active transportation, and resilience.

- President-Elect Vaughn Rinner, FASLA, will be representing ASLA at the National Society of Professional Engineers’ Board meeting on Sunday, June 26. Rinner will be speaking about ASLA’s priorities such as advocacy and SITES®, as well as the Center for Landscape Architecture and Green Street Demonstration Project.

- EVP Somerville participated in the Sustainable Cities working group at the CGI (Clinton Global Initiative) America 2016 in Atlanta on June 13-15. Follow-up will include a collaborative effort to compile green infrastructure case studies that address challenges of interagency collaboration and demonstrate financing options.

- EVP Somerville also recently participated in the LAF Summit on Landscape Architecture and Future in Philadelphia. She was a panelist on “Capacity Organizations” with Stephanie Rolley, FASLA, as moderator. President Danos, Past President Zweifel, and Editor McKee also attended.

Finance, Meetings, and Business Operations

- Finance VP Jeffrey Townsend, Finance VP-Elect Tom Mroz, Finance and Investments Committee Chair Jim Wolterman and CFO Mike O’Brien presented the May financial results to the committee on Thursday, which are in line with expectations.

- The annual meeting registration is pacing ahead of last year’s numbers with more than 2,400 registered and three field sessions sold out! It’s not too late to save. Register by September 16 for advanced rate pricing and book your hotel in the official room block to save up to $75 off your registration fees.

- To date, 24 schools have signed up to participate in this year’s Alumni Tailgate. The new schools since the last posting include: Auburn University, Ball State University, Pennsylvania State University, Rutgers University, State University of New York, University of Colorado Denver, University of Oregon, University of Rhode Island, and University of Washington. Encourage your alma mater to sign up for this October 22 Mardi Gras-themed event held on the EXPO floor during the annual meeting.

- As a member of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau Customer Advisory Board, Meetings and Special Programs Director Joyce DePass will be attending their board meeting today and tomorrow.

- The 2016 LAM advertising contracts totaled 86 percent of the budget.

- The 2016 EXPO booth sales totaled 84 percent of the budget sold.
Government Affairs

- Recently, D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson introduced the “Regulation of Landscape Architecture and Professional Design Firms Act of 2016,” legislation establishing landscape architecture licensing in the District of Columbia. Two landscape architects would join four architects, two interior designers, and one consumer member on the new “Board of Architecture, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture.” The Potomac Chapter and ASLA will continue their advocacy efforts with the D.C. Council to promote passage of the bill.

- In light of the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, ASLA sent the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation policy recommendations to help shape the future of the national historic preservation program. The policy recommendations dealt with strengthening the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) program to achieve even greater success during the next 50 years.

- Last week, both House and Senate committees considered their fiscal year 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bills, which made significant cuts to many Department of Interior and environmental programs. Most notably, the current House proposal includes only $322 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – a 30 percent cut from last fiscal year. ASLA sent a letter to all members of the House Appropriations Committee urging them to include at least $450 million for the LWCF, which is equal to FY16 funding levels.

- ASLA joined several partner organizations in sending a letter to selected members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health to express support for H.R. 1499, the Physical Activity Recommendations for Americans Act. The Act would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide ongoing research and guidance for best practices and issues related to physical activity for children, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities. The bill would also require federal agencies to promote the recommendations when carrying out any federal health program.

- The iAdvocate Network was activated to inform members about the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) $120,000,000 grant opportunity for the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program. Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support the implementation of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans that are expected to replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood; improve education outcomes and intergenerational mobility for youth through services and supports delivered directly to youth and their families. The deadline to apply is June 28.

- On June 28, Smart Growth America is hosting a free webinar on its new report Amazing Place, which details how six cities are using a place-based approach to economic development. The free webinar will include discussion of what strategies those cities are using, and will provide ideas for communities anywhere to do place-based economic development of their own.

Landscape Architecture Magazine

- The July issue of LAM is in production. The cover story features an interview with Anthony Acciavatti about his work on the book Ganges Water Machine: Designing New India’s Ancient River, and provides a fascinating account of his analysis and mapping work on the Ganges River. Also in features are an assessment, after 10 years, of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, built in Boston atop the Big Dig, by Mark Hough, FASLA; a story about the building of the new Croton Reservoir in the upper
Bronx, with a driving range atop it designed by Ken Smith Workshop. And Fred Bernstein writes an essay on the current exhibition about Roberto Burle Marx at the Jewish Museum in New York. Also in this issue: an essay by Rebecca Leonard, ASLA, of Design Workshop, on ways landscape architects can aid homeless people in the public realm; an interview with Margie Ruddick and Thomas Rainer, ASLA, on their respective new books on wild landscape design; and a piece on landscape architects coding and scripting as part of their digital design processes.

Member and Chapter Services

- On June 8, chapter leaders received the bimonthly Leadership Link, produced by the Leadership Development Committee. This issue provided tips on serving on ASLA national committees.

- The LARE Prep, Member Services, and Leadership Development Committees met via conference call last week to continue working on their respective 2016 projects, which include student chapter engagement best practices, chapter tools for engaging emerging professionals, and future LARE Prep webinars.

- Overall membership growth remains modest and steady, with the exception of Associate members. After a large spike in members (6.9 percent increase in 2015), the growth has leveled off. Conversely, after a large drop in Student members in 2015 (7.3 percent), there appears to be a stabilization of that membership group.

<table>
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<th>Member Type</th>
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Public Relations and Communications

- The Honors and Awards Advisory Committee met by phone to discuss updates to the judging criteria for the Research Awards. The changes were recommended by Forster Ndubisi, FASLA, and Bo Yang, representing LAF and CELA respectively, on the professional awards jury for the research category, and Lee-Ann Milburn, FASLA, who was full member of the jury this year.

- Aaron King, a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, has joined the team as a summer intern. He will be contributing to The Dirt and compiling a resilience report, among other assignments.

- Dirt Editor Jared Green attended the Congress for New Urbanism summit in Detroit, covered sessions, and toured an urban farm created by ASLA members Ken Weikal and Beth Hagenbuch. From there, he went onto the New Landscape Declaration, a summit hosted by the Landscape Architecture Foundation, Green and UPenn MLA student Nate Wooten, Student ASLA, covered the discussions – here’s part 1 and part 2. More posts are coming from both conferences.
Education Programs and LAAB

- The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System™ (LA CES™) has 221 active providers offering 1,087 courses. There are two new provider applications pending review.

- The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) completed the Spring 2016 accreditation reviews. All Visiting Team Reports have been sent to the programs. Programs reviewed during spring 2016 are scheduled to be considered at the LAAB Summer 2016 Board Meeting.

- The Committee on Education (COE) held its June conference call on Thursday, June 16, to allow the three subcommittees to report progress on the work they’ve accomplished so far. The three subcommittees focus on recruitment of future professionals, enrollment monitoring and information dissemination, and creation of a model curricula for elementary and secondary education. Chair Sean Rotar, ASLA and Accreditation and Education Programs Manager Pritchard led the call.

Professional Practice

- On June 16, several staff participated in the Biophilic DC discussion and offered ways for increased education and awareness. Manager Linette Straus, ASLA, gave an overview of SITES®, highlighting how it seamlessly complements biophilic design. Increased green infrastructure and more flexible standards were identified as action items to pursue with District agencies in order to accomplish the Biophilic DC goals. The Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project was suggested as a pilot project to show how biophilic design can successfully be implemented on an urban street. Additional District projects were also highlighted as both potentially applicable for SITES as well as for integrating biophilic design. The meeting was hosted by the District of Columbia Department of Environment and Energy (DOEE). Education Director Susan Apollonio and Professional Practice Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, also participated.

- Managers Straus and Balon, and Coordinator Ali Hay participated in the steering committee call for the Urban Topic Area of the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. ASLA’s contribution will focus on urban issues and case studies for the topic area. Balon and Straus shared their write-ups on the urban subtopics of social equity and water and wastewater. The toolkit will be available to the general public as an effort led by the White House’s Office of Science and Technology and Policy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

- The Public Practice Advisory Committee met via conference call to discuss opportunities for engagement by landscape architects especially those in the public sector with middle school students. An excellent example is the Future City Competition. PPAC Chair Irene Ogata, ASLA, is a mentor in the 2016 Future City Competition Arizona region. This is a competition sponsored by the engineering profession. In Tucson, the landscape architects and planners have become the mentors, but do invite the engineers to participate! The theme for 2016 is the Power of Public Space.

Deadlines and Reminders

- The Leadership Calendar can be accessed on the web.