July 20, 2016

Executive Offices

- President-Elect Vaughn Rinner, FASLA, met with staff yesterday to discuss the volunteer committee appointments process. Decisions on the appointees will be finalized next month. All committee members will begin their new terms immediately after the annual meeting.

- The summer Executive Committee meeting will be taking place on Friday and Saturday in Baton Rouge, LA. Among the topics are this year’s SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) assessment; progress survey results; federal legislative priorities for 2017/2018; a climate change and resilience discussion; initial plans for 2017; Public Relations Committee review; and an administrative policy review. A follow-up to the meeting will be a Programs and Operations Report webinar for the Board of Trustees next month.

- The call for potential national officer candidates is open until Friday, August 12. You may submit your nominations for 2017-2018 Communications VP, Education VP, Government Affairs VP, and President-Elect to Corporate Secretary Curt Millay, ASLA.

- EVP Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA, Corporate Secretary Millay, and Manager Linette Straus, ASLA, met with D.C. Director of Asian and Pacific Islander Liaison David Doh and a representative of a local Advisory Neighborhood Commission to discuss collaboration on the design of Chinatown Park and its twin bowtie park.

- Work is proceeding and is on budget for the ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture, although completion of the project and the staff move back into the building will likely be delayed into November. Contractor Coakley & Williams identified some problems in the existing steel connections and structural engineer Silman was called in to assess. Silman has identified needed fixes, which are underway, and recommended testing of all types of existing bolts used in the building structure to ensure they meet required ASTM ratings. That testing is underway.

Finance, Meetings, and Business Operations

- The June financial results will be presented to the Finance and Investments Committee tomorrow via conference call and to the Executive Committee on Friday during their Summer meeting. The results are in-line with expectations.

- The 2016 LAM advertising contracts totaled 90 percent of the budget.

- The 2016 EXPO booth sales continue with 85 percent of the budget sold.

- Annual meeting registration is pacing with last year’s numbers with more than 2,600 registered and six of the 15 field sessions already sold out. Tickets to the Council of Fellows Investiture Dinner are also selling fast. 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.

Government Affairs

- Congress left Washington last week to begin its seven-week recess. Before leaving, the House passed H.R. 5538, the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Interior-Environment spending bill, by a vote of 231-196, mostly along party lines. The measure provides increased funding for the National Park Service
and Centennial activities, but also makes significant cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Environmental Protection Agency’s climate change and other environmental programs. The Senate has not taken action on its FY 2017 Interior-Environment spending bill, so it is unclear if a final bill will reach the president’s desk.

- And since Congress has recessed for seven weeks, this is a good time to reach out to your legislators—federal, state, and local—to invite them to a site tour of a landscape architecture project. ASLA has developed the Guide to Hosting Tours with Elected Officials, a step-by-step guide to help chapters successfully host site tours. Many legislators set aside time in August and October to meet with constituents for tours and other meetings. If your chapter is interested in hosting a site tour, please contact Government Affairs Manager Mark Cason; phone, 202-216-2370.

- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is requesting grant applications for the FHWA’s Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds (TTPSF). The intent of the TTPSF is to prevent and reduce deaths or serious injuries in transportation-related crashes on tribal lands where statistics are consistently higher than the rest of the nation as a whole. The projects could include safe pedestrian infrastructure. The deadline to apply is September 16 at 11:59 PM EDT. For further information concerning this notice please contact Russell Garcia, TTPSF Program Manager via email or phone, (202) 366-9815.

- The Federal Highway Administration has developed the Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Performance Management Guidebook in an effort to provide sample performance objectives and measures that states, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and project sponsors may consider as they administer, implement, and evaluate TAP projects and program outcomes. The guidebook promotes voluntary best practices to ensure program transparency and accountability, but does not establish requirements or standards. The guidebook aligns with the national goals and GHWA’s Transportation Management measures.

Landscape Architecture Magazine

- The exciting August issue of LAM is off to press this week, with a focus on the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service! Given ASLA’s founding role in NPS’s creation, the entire feature section is devoted to new projects in national parks, including two icons, Grand Canyon and Grand Teton, as well as one of the newest parks, Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, in New Jersey. The feature section also contains a portfolio on national park roads. The Foreground section brings the latest installment of the very well received Office section, on ways firm principals regard RFPs and RFQs; a piece on the Mission 66 legacy in the national parks, and a look at an effort led by a landscape architect, Steven Clarke, ASLA, to revitalize the Westside section of Las Vegas, a historically African American community. In the Back section is an essay on the remarkable leave-no-trace ethos of the Burning Man festival, a book review of Beyond the City: Resource Extraction Urbanism in South America by Felipe Correa.

- We regret to report that Constance Casey, our wonderful Species columnist of five years, is ending her much-loved column to take a writing position with Audubon magazine (an excellent magazine, if you have not seen it lately). The LAM staff will be considering new ways to cover plants, animals, and habitat regularly.

- LAM Editor Brad McKee accepted an invitation to join the advocacy committee of Rock Creek Conservancy, which defends the Rock Creek Park watershed from its headwaters from Maryland to the Potomac River. The committee keeps watch, comments, works in coalitions, and takes other action on developments around the watershed. The goal in joining is to bring a landscape architecture perspective to the diverse expertise of the committee in stewardship of the park, the creek, and its...
tributaries--and to develop knowledge of local multi-jurisdictional affairs. McKee’s first meeting was July 19 and involved a variety of development, stormwater, and resource issues in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

Member and Chapter Services

- The Emerging Professionals and Member Services 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.

- The 2016 second quarter new member survey was emailed on July 8 to 422 new members processed from April 1 – June 30 (excluded rejoins).

- Full and Student Membership growth remains modest and steady. However, after a large spike in Associated members (6.9 percent increase in 2015), the growth is declining.

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Public Relations and Communications

- The fourth ASLA Diversity Summit was held July 9-10 at ASLA’s temporary headquarters, with six returning and six new participants. Also attending were Kona Gray, ASLA, of EDSA, representing the Landscape Architecture Foundation; Joel Albizo, Hon. ASLA, of Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, representing CLARB; Marq Truscott, FASLA, California Sierra Trustee, representing the Council of Fellows; and Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, serving as moderator. It was a spirited, very constructive meeting. ASLA Summer Intern Aaron King, Student ASLA, has written up the proceedings, which will be shared once finalized.

- The second-quarter Business Quarterly survey shows continued stability for the profession, though hiring plans took a small dip. Findings will be released next week.

- An op-ed from Billy Fleming, Student ASLA, a PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania, has proven very popular, with more than 3,000 reads. It was reposted to PennDesign’s website.

- Work continues on preparing ASLA.org to be fully responsive. The font sizes on the website have been increased from 13px to 16px.

Education Programs and LAAB

- The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System™ (LA CES™) has 221 active providers offering 1,216 courses. There are no new provider applications pending review.
Director Susan Apollonio will attend the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) 2016 Summer Workshop, which will focus on the unprecedented challenges facing accreditation. Built around key questions for accreditation and its major constituents, the workshop will address: What is the space that accreditation will occupy going forward and what constituent needs can realistically be met?

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) will meet this Friday and Saturday for its 2016 board meeting. LAAB will review the renewal of six accreditation programs, including: Illinois Institute of Technology (MLA); North Carolina State University (MLA); Temple University (BSLA); University of Arkansas (BLA); University of New Mexico (MLA); and University of Washington (MLA).

Professional Practice

For the past year, the Tree and Soil Research Subcommittee has been working on ways to engage ASLA members in tree and soil research. This includes making the existing research more accessible to members, helping to incorporate research into their own practice, and encouraging members to participate in new research efforts. This week, ASLA launched the Tree and Soil Research Blog to the Professional Practice Committee to be “beta testers” of the blog. Members have been asked to visit the site, ask questions and/or comment to the posts that have been developed, and consider posting their own articles on the blog specific to soil and tree research.

The Children’s Outdoor Environments PPN hosted a new Online Learning presentation, Engaging Youth in Creative Place Making, on July 13, which offered 1.0 PDH. Twenty attendees participated. The presentation has been added to the catalog of recordings, which now includes 96 presentations. Upcoming live Online Learning presentations for which registration is open include: Planting Design for Pollinators: Choosing the Best Plants and Using Them Effectively on July 21, Scottsdale Cycle the Arts on July 28, and The Social Engineering of Flood Recovery on August 3.

On July 14, the PPN Council held its quarterly conference call to discuss Online Learning (focusing on the new Student & Emerging Professional SPOTLIGHT mini-series taking place in August), and the planning of PPN meetings and events for the annual meeting in New Orleans. PPN Council Chair Keven Graham, FASLA, Professional Practice VP Hunter Beckham, FASLA, and 9 PPN chairs representing eight of ASLA’s 20 PPNs participated. In the “PPN Happenings,” when chairs share updates from their PPNs, opportunities for inter-PPN collaboration at the annual meeting and with collaborative Online Learning webinars were highlighted. Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, and Coordinator Alexandra Hay facilitated.

On July 12, Manager Balon met with Jason Lowengrub, UX Designer at Attain, to review and comment on the existing EPA National Stormwater Calculator Desktop App. Manager Balon brought a perspective on how landscape architecture professionals would use the desktop app and discussed revisions and upgrades that would be beneficial for professionals and community members when designing the next version of the app.

Manager Balon met with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Creative Placemaking Colloquium Steering Committee via conference call. The committee, including project partners Trust for Public Land and City Parks Alliance, discussed planning and ideas for the field guide focusing on creative placemaking in parks that will be designed and organized from the discussions and knowledge built at the creative placemaking colloquium held in Philadelphia on June 2-3.
Deadlines and Reminders

- The **call for potential national officer candidates** is open until **Friday, August 12**. Submit nominations for 2017-2018 VP Communications, VP Education, and/or VP Government Affairs as well as President-Elect to Corporate Secretary **Millay**.

- The **Leadership Calendar** can be accessed on the web.