Preparations are underway for the BOT summer webinar which take place on August 9 at 2 p.m. EDT. This will be the only webinar prior to the annual meeting but it will be recorded for those who cannot participate. It will be posted on the Board meeting agenda page following the webinar. Please contact Corporate Secretary Curt Millay if you have any questions.

The call for potential national officer candidates is open until Friday, August 12. Please submit nominations for the 2017-2018 Communications VP, Education VP, Government Affairs VP, and President-Elect positions to Secretary Millay by the above deadline.

EVP Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA, will take part in a panel discussion on August 8 about how the WELL standard shaped the design of the new ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture. The event will take place at AIA DC from 6-8 p.m. The WELL Building Standard®, administered by the International WELL Building Institute™ (IWBI), is an evidence-based system for measuring, certifying and monitoring the performance of a building’s features that impact the health and well-being of its occupants.

EVP Somerville was recently interviewed by Kresge Foundation consultants about ASLA's and landscape architects' knowledge of and initiatives related to climate change. The Kresge Foundation is assessing needs and opportunities for supporting resilient communities; findings will help the Foundation target its grants.

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 until November. Based on structural engineer Silman’s recommendations, Contractor Coakley & Williams is performing additional shoring and will be able to begin interior stair demolition this week. Most of the VRV ductwork is in place, framing and electrical continues throughout the building. Once the excavation and installation of the cistern is complete later this week, work will begin on the exterior garden stair.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee met last Friday to begin review of the Chapter Model Constitution and Bylaws. The recommended revisions will be presented to the Board of Trustees at their annual meeting in New Orleans.

Finance, Meetings, and Business Operations

Southern hospitality at its best in Louisiana! A special thank you goes out to Momma Danos and her boys President Chad Danos, FASLA, Tate, and Dago (close friend), our fishing guides, and to Crosby Tugs for a bayou lunch of fresh crabs, corn, and sausage. The ASLA fishing team (Chad, Pam Zweifel, Past-President Richard Zweifel, FASLA, Finance VP Jeff Townsend, FASLA, and CFO Mike O’Brien) did well catching all the fish the bayou offered. Supper included the catch of the day and lots of fish stories. This was a great and relaxing adventure after a very successful Executive Committee meeting. Thank you, Chad!

Annual meeting registration is pacing with last year’s numbers with more than 2,700 registered to date and seven of the 15 field sessions sold out. Tickets to the Council of Fellows Investiture Dinner are also selling fast. Collected revenues account for more than 69 percent of the registration and ticket revenue goal.
The annual meeting room blocks have reached 84 percent capacity. Meeting staff are working with the ASLA housing bureau to secure additional discounted rooms in the official ASLA room block between now and the September advanced rate deadline. Continue to encourage members to book the block and beware of housing poachers. For housing assistance call Experient at 800-424-5249.

Revenue for 2016 EXPO represents 87 percent of the budget.

Advertising contracts for Landscape Architecture Magazine remained at 90 percent of the budget.

**Government Affairs**

ASLA has joined with allied organizations and other members of the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition in sending a letter to the leaders of the House/Senate Conference Committee on S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 urging them to include a National Park Service (NPS) centennial package in the final conference report. NPS celebrates its centennial anniversary on August 25, and Congress has not completed its action on a centennial package.

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) will conduct the webinar Vulnerable Road Users Safety: What Cities Can Do To Make Things Better? on September 27 from 2-3:30 p.m. EDT. The webinar will discuss how to improve the safety of vulnerable road users, who are more likely to be severely injured if involved in a crash. Road users include pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, children and the senior population, and people with special needs. The number of vulnerable road users is expected to increase as cities increase their multimodal infrastructure investments.

Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funding! The FAST Act authorized TTPSF as a set aside of not more than 2 percent of the funds made available under the TTP for FY 2016. Eligible projects include strategies, activities, and projects on a public road that are consistent with a state strategic highway safety plan and correct or improve a hazardous road location or feature, or address a highway safety problem. The FHWA plans to conduct outreach regarding the TTPSF in the form of a Webinar on August 3 at 2 p.m. EDT. For further information, please contact Russell Garcia, TTPSF Program Manager, phone, (202) 366-9815.

The first-ever Complete Streets conference, Street Lights: Illuminating Implementation and Equity in Complete Streets, will take place on November 15, 2016, in Sacramento, CA. The day-long conference will be a chance for transportation planners and engineers, community, equity, and health advocates, local officials, and Complete Streets practitioners to share ideas, brainstorm solutions, and celebrate the success of the Complete Streets movement. The conference comes at an incredibly exciting time, as Congress recently included Complete Streets language in its new federal transportation law and almost 1,000 local Complete Streets policies are in place nationwide.

Government Affairs staff is finalizing preparations for the 2016 Advocacy Summit. Representatives from 30 ASLA chapters will be gathering in Indianapolis, IN, August 12-14, to discuss the importance of advocacy, develop new advocacy skills, learn about recent state licensure threats, responses, and developments at the federal level. The event will also include a welcome by U.S. Senator Donnelly’s office as well as a guest speaker from the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. A tour with local elected officials of landscape architecture projects in downtown Indianapolis and along the Indianapolis Cultural Trail will also take place.
Member and Chapter Services

- The Membership team is preparing for a new membership drive that will focus on lapsed members. The multifaceted campaign will reach out to those whose membership has lapsed within the past five years. The mailing list will be sent to chapters to facilitate coordinated outreach.

- On August 3, the LARE Prep Committee met to discuss upcoming workshops. Two workshops are planned at the annual meeting, including one session dedicated to preparation for Section 4. The committee is also preparing a new webinar offering to focus on test-taking skills and strategies.

- Staff is currently in the process of notifying the individuals selected by President-Elect Vaughn Rinner, FASLA, to serve on the new Student Advisory Committee and Associate Advisory Committee. The competition was fierce, and an effort is being made to find additional committee volunteer opportunities for those who were not selected.

Public Relations and Communications

- Senior Communications Manager Jared Green was in Toronto July 29-31 to produce a virtual reality firm in Underpass Park. The film will be narrated by Greg Smallenberg of Phillips Farenvaag Smallenberg (PFS Studio) in Vancouver, one of Canada’s leading landscape architects, and will be produced by Ian Tuason, a Toronto-based VR film maker. This film is believed to be one of the very first—if not the first—examples of virtual reality used for landscape architecture.

- Public Relations Manager Karen Grajales and Coordinator J.R. Taylor discussed PR strategies for the annual meeting during a phone call last week with Gregory M. Grandy, ASLA, of the Louisiana Chapter.

Education Programs and LAAB

- The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) met July 22-23 for their Summer 2016 board meeting. LAAB reviewed six renewal of 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). Accreditation letters will be sent to the programs within 30 days of the close of the meeting.

- The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System™ (LA CES™) has 223 active providers offering 1,304 courses. There are two new provider applications pending review.

Professional Practice

- The Biophilic DC initiative working group met to detail the vision statement and the goals for what DC will seek to accomplish in its commitment to making Washington a biophilic city. Also identified was the need to develop a strategic plan and to invite additional partner agencies and organizations to participate in the discussions. Manager Linette Straus, ASLA, represented ASLA.

- The ASLA SITES AP Exam Prep work group met last week to discuss the webinar format development and content for the series, which is set to launch late August/early September.

- The steering committee for the Urban Topic Area of the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit recently met via conference call to discuss the availability of the toolkit 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). Manager Straus and Coordinator Ali Hay represented ASLA. Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, also regularly contributes to this effort. **ASLA’s contribution will focus on urban issues and case studies for the topic area.**

- On July 21 the National Planning Committee for the 2017 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference started the weekly conference call session review process. ASLA is an organizational member of the committee. Manager Balon participated in this call and the review of the Land Preservation, Community Resilience, and Health categories.

- On July 20, the first meeting took place of a newly formed ASLA Work group to contribute to the evaluation and revision of ASHRAE Codes, (specifically 189.1). The group is comprised of several ASLA members who have had experience and are familiar with standards and code writing as well as Managers Balon, Straus and Cason and Director Cahill. For this first meeting the group was addressed by Susan Gitlin, Sustainability Officer for the EPA and member of the ASHRAE workgroup, who provided background information and stressed the importance of ASLA’s participation as subject matter experts to achieve the appropriate revision of the existing codes.

- On July 21, The Planting Design PPN hosted a new Online Learning presentation, *Planting Design for Pollinators: Choosing the Best Plants and Using Them Effectively*, which offered 1.0 PDH. Forty attendees participated. On July 28, The Landscape – Land Use Planning PPN hosted a new Online Learning presentation, *Scottsdale Cycle the Arts*, which offered 1.5 PDH. The Online Learning summer series will conclude with the presentation of *The Social Engineering of Flood Recovery* hosted by the Ecology + Restoration PPN on August 3 at 2 p.m. EDT. For additional information and registration, refer to the Online Learning live presentations.

**Deadlines and Reminders**

- The **BOT summer webinar** will take place on August 9 at 2 p.m. EDT.

- The **call for potential national officer candidates** is open until **Friday, August 12**.

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