Governance and Administration

**Exciting News!** *Landscape Architecture Magazine* has won three Association Media & Publishing EXCEL awards. The magazine won awards in its size category (10,001-20,000 circulation) for Design Excellence (general) and for two feature article designs—the story about Maggie Daley Park in Chicago by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (“We’ve Got Fun. And Foam.”) and the story about the Public Media Commons in St. Louis by dlandstudio (“Street Theater”), both of which appeared in the November 2015 issue. Kudos to the whole team, especially Art Director Chris McGee!

- President Chad Danos, FASLA, and EVP Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA, met with APA Executive Director Jim Drinan and President Carol Rhea, FAICP, last week at the **American Planning Association’s National Planning Conference** in Phoenix. Discussion topics included possible ASLA participation with APA at **U.N. Habitat III**, to be held this fall in Ecuador, collaboration on health and the built environment, possible APA participation in the Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project, and federal advocacy priorities.

- President Danos, Immediate Past President Richard Zweifel, FASLA, ASLA IFLA Representative Shawn Kelly, FASLA, and EVP Somerville held a conference call recently to discuss the upcoming IFLA meeting in Italy. Zweifel provided a briefing on issues discussed at the 2015 IFLA Council meeting. Danos and Kelly will represent ASLA at the IFLA meeting in mid-April.

- EVP Somerville met with CLARB on Monday to discuss its definition of health, safety, and welfare, and how it pertains to CLARB’s goals?

- Prior to Somerville’s meeting, President-elect Vaughn Rinner, FASLA, and State Government Affairs Director Elizabeth Hebron recently participated in two CLARB Model Law task force meetings. The task force is revising the CLARB model law to better reflect today’s regulatory environment. Throughout this spring and summer the task force will continue to draft, meet, and seek advice from a larger advisory committee. The draft bill will be available for comment and further revisions this fall.

- **Planning and preparations for the midyear meetings** are continuing. The **joint BOT/CPC lunch** will again feature a panel of leadership from other industry groups. The focus this year will be on climate change. On the lighter side, **Trustee Marq Truscott, FASLA**, is providing a Midyear Challenge Cup for the BOT/CPC kickball game.

- Director Hebron, *Landscape Architecture Magazine* Editor Bard McKee, and Public Relations and Communications Director Terry Poltrack 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.

- **Staff held the biweekly ASLA Center construction meeting to discuss the status of the building permit.** The D.C. Department of Energy and the Environment and the Chinatown Design Review Subcommittee have both given final signoff on their portions of the permit and answers to remaining
inquiries on fire safety were given to the District Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs last week for finalization.

- Work is underway to prepare for an April 19 stakeholder meeting on the Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project and for a meeting with the leadership of the D.C. Business Improvement District to provide ideas for Chinatown Park and discuss the Green Street Project.

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

- Secretary Curt Millay, Professional Practice Managers Linette Strauss, and Shawn Balon, ASLA, visited the offices of Nixon Peabody this morning to see the law firm’s recent LEED Platinum renovation including a three-story living wall and other biophilic features.

Government Affairs

- Advocacy Day 2016 is Thursday, May 19, and ASLA is hosting a series of training webinars to prepare advocates for their congressional meetings. Register for the first webinar, What to Know Before You Go: Tools & Tips for Effective Capitol Hill Meetings, to be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. EDT. The second webinar, Learning the Issues: Policies Important to Landscape Architects, will be next Thursday, April 21, at 2 p.m. EDT.

- On April 2, ASLA presented an education session, Planting Resilience Among Design Disciplines, during the American Planning Association’s 2016 National Planning Conference in Phoenix. The session, moderated by Government Affairs Manager Mark Cason, included Danielle Bilot, Assoc. ASLA, Dr. Dwane Jones, AICP, and Mia Blanchett, AIA, and showcased how urban planning plays a prominent role in providing public health solutions; research on how providing habitat for pollinators can bolster production of urban agriculture yields and create a purpose for underused land; and how design professionals are using innovative planting applications to ensure the nation’s urban centers can become and remain resilient.

- ASLA has joined with allied and partner organizations in sending a letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders urging them to increase the allocation for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee to provide increased funding to fight and prevent wildfires and to support funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

- LWCF Competitive Grants Now Available. The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) is a $15 million national competitive grant program that targets underserved communities with an emphasis on innovation and partnerships that leverage funding in support of expanding or enhancing outdoor recreation. The ORLP is offered by the National Park Service and is a stand-alone initiative, funded through the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program. Applications are due May 20. More information and applications are available here.

- The Safe Routes to School National Partnership has developed state report cards that provide a snapshot of how supportive each state is of walking, bicycling, and physical activity for children and adults as of 2016. The report cards primarily look at state policy focusing on four key areas: Complete Streets and Active Transportation, Safe Routes to School and Active Transportation Funding, Active Neighborhoods and Schools, and State Physical Activity Planning and Support. Learn about your state’s report card or view the complete report.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the release of the Integrating Human Health and Well-Being with Ecosystem Services Request for Applications (RFA). This RFA goal is to fund community-based research that will foster better understanding of how human and well-being are interconnected with—and depend on—ecosystem services. The Integrating Human Health and Well-Being with Ecosystem Services RFA is part of EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research program. For more information, contact Ron Josephson for eligibility questions or Anne Sergeant for technical questions. Applications are due April 21.

The National Recreation and Park Association has just opened the call for applications for the Great Urban Parks Campaign model project grants. The grant program seeks to fund replicable green stormwater infrastructure projects in parks located in underserved communities. Grants will be awarded up to $575,000 and projects must be completed by fall 2017. Applications are due April 29.

Updating the Nebraska Landscape Architects Practice Act recently ran into a stumbling block when it failed to be voted on in committee. While no public opposition was noted during a hearing on the bill or by any committee members, the motion to pass the legislation, LB788, failed to receive a second and did not advance. The reason behind no seconding of the motion became clear this week when a resolution was introduced calling for a study committee to examine whether the state licensing boards meet the antitrust standards set forth in the recent Supreme Court North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission decision and to examine the state of occupational licensing in NE and its impact on labor, businesses, and job creation. Additionally, the initial concern about the bill raised by NE planners was on the agenda for discussion at the APA-ASLA leadership meeting in Arizona.

Federal Government Affairs Director Roxanne Blackwell, Hon. ASLA, participated in the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation's (RNRF) Committee on Program Development Meeting to discuss and plan for upcoming meetings and forum. RNRF will host a spring meeting on harnessing big data on water resources, including evaluating a water risk mapping tool. The committee also discussed plans for their annual winter congress that will address data collection, analysis, application, and sharing for the environmental field.

Director Hebron and Government Affairs Coordinator Cheyenne Williams participated in LABASH 2016 from April 6-9, where they focused on increasing students interest in advocacy, participation on iAdvocate, and number of followers on Twitter at @ASLA_Advocacy.

On Monday, Director Hebron participated in the Midwest Joint Licensure Caucus quarterly call, where discussions centered around updates on licensure advocacy in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois. CLARB representatives also discussed the Licensure Task Analysis Survey.

Public Relations and Communications

The Professional Awards jury met April 7-9 to assess the 456 entries received. Chair was Kona Gray, ASLA. Joining the jury to consider the research category were Forster Ndubisi, FASLA, representing the Landscape Architecture Foundation, and Bo Yang, ASLA, representing CELA. Altogether, 30 entries were chosen to be recognized.

Honors nominations are being readied for review by the Executive Committee before being forwarded to the Board of Trustees. This year, 35 nominations were received, the same number as last year.
Public Relations and Communications Coordinator J.R. Taylor attended LA Bash this year in Columbus, Ohio, and provided social media coverage of the event.

“10 Parks That Changed America” aired April 12 on PBS. DVDs of the program have been sent to various ASLA chapters for viewing parties that will take place this week. So far, 19 chapters have committed to hosting such events.

Two survey emails were sent to members this week recently: CLARB’s Job Task Analysis survey and Jobs for the Future NatureWORKS National Urban Green Infrastructure Contractor Survey.

The Dirt quarterly blast of popular posts for spring 2016 went out to all members. Two new Dirt posts were featured in The Huffington Post’s Tech and Impact sections; and ArchNewsNow and Planetizen picked up a post on new visions for Baltimore’s future.

Meetings

To date, 10 schools have signed up to participate in this year’s Alumni Tailgate. Scheduled for Saturday, October 22, this Mardi Gras themed event will be held on the EXPO floor during the annual meeting. Encourage your alma mater to sign up! Participating schools include: Arizona State University, Cal Poly Pomona, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Purdue University, University of Idaho, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland, University of Minnesota, and Virginia Tech.

Meetings Director Joyce DePass visited Los Angeles last week to initiate the logistical plan for convention space assignments and overflow hotels for the 2017 annual meeting.

Member and Chapter Services

ASLA President Chad Danos, FASLA, Membership Vice President Keith Wilson, ASLA, Student Chapter Representative Chelsea Keith, Student ASLA, were joined by a cross-section of ASLA staff at the 2016 LABash conference, hosted by Ohio State University April 7-9. ASLA was a sponsor of the event.

As of April 10, ASLA membership is showing a modest growth of 0.3 percent. Growth in full and associate membership is steady, showing a 1.7 percent and 1.1 percent increase, respectively. Last year, student membership dropped sharply, but current data shows this decline is moderating. Key segments include:

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<td>Full Member</td>
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<td>Associate</td>
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<td>All Members</td>
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On March 7, chapter leaders received the monthly **Membership Minute**, which provided tips on how chapters can build their prospects list and recruit new members. Chapter leaders also received their monthly chapter renewal reports.

The **Emerging Professionals and LARE Prep Committees** met via conference call last week to begin working on their respective 2016 projects. Both committees continue to work on their goals and projects for the coming year.

The **2016 first quarter new member survey** was emailed on April 8 to 630 new members processed from January 1 – March 31 (excluded rejoins). The **2015 lapsed member survey** was sent on April 11 to 1,958 members whose membership lapsed during 2015.

**Education and LAAB**

The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System™ (LA CES™) has 228 active providers offering 1,593 courses. There is 1 new provider application pending review.

Accreditation and Education Programs Manager Kristopher Pritchard represented the **Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB)** last week at the **Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) Spring Conference** in Chicago. There were over 100 accreditation professionals in attendance. The theme and presentations focused around consistency and fairness in accreditation, training for board members and volunteers, and risk management.

**LAAB ROVE Teams** continue conducting accreditation reviews for spring 2016. **University of Arkansas (BLA)** had their review conducted last week. **Programs reviewed during spring 2016 are scheduled to be considered at the LAAB Summer 2016 Board Meeting.**

**Professional Practice**

On April 11, Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, participated on the Smart Growth Network (SGN) Steering Committee quarterly conference call. The discussion included a brainstorm of potential webinars for SGN, a recap from the American Planning Association (APA) Conference, and website survey ideas for the [Smart Growth Network](http://www.smartgrowth.org) website.

The **11th Annual Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference** in Baltimore last week focused on measuring impact and exploring how issues of land use planning, transportation, and community development play out in college towns and on college campuses. Manager Linette Straus, ASLA, presented a SITES® overview in a panel session entitled, “Creating a Campus Landscape that Enhances Environment and Community.” Highlights from the conference included a Washington, D.C., Campus tour that looked at numerous sustainable projects and installations such as the retrofitting of the pool filtration system at the University of Maryland (UMD). UMD retrofitted their pool filtration system to be able to utilize sphagnum moss in place of chemicals to maintain their indoor pools. By using a moss-based infiltration system, they were able to reduce their pool chemical usage by 40 percent and their water consumption by 75 percent with a savings of $6,663 per year. Other sustainable efforts included native species planting designs, rooftop agriculture, aquaponics, community gardens, and stormwater retention designed plazas.

On April 20, the **Children’s Outdoor Environments PPN** will host the next [Online Learning](http://www.asla.org) presentation, Intentional Design Strategies to Reconnect Children to Nature, led by Jennie Sumrell and Tom Norquist. Attendees may earn 1.0 PDH through LA CES.
ASLA’s Online Learning is excited to introduce the Student & Emerging Professional SPOTLIGHT mini-series giving Student and Associate ASLA members the opportunity to work with a Professional Practice Network (PPN) Mentor in creating a presentation for ASLA’s Online Learning series. For additional information on the SPOTLIGHT mini-series, please visit the Call for Proposals form which will close on Monday, May 16.

Deadlines and Reminders

- For the rest of April, members may post one free intern position per firm, agency, or organization.
- The Leadership Calendar can be accessed on the web.