



*Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture*

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August 28, 2020

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Coastal Sage

Ramon Murray, ASLA  
Murray Design Group, Inc.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Dear Professor Ewan:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 30-31, 2020 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Arizona State University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2022, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Gilbert Holmes  
University of LaVerne College of Law

Tom Jacobs  
Mid-America Regional Council

Lucinda McDade, Ph.D.  
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

The interim report should provide an update on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. In accordance with LAAB policy, programs have up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of this Action Letter. If the RAA(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

ASLA Representative

Leonard Hopper, FASLA  
Weintraub Diaz, LLC

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2026. Accordingly, the MLA program at Arizona State University is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2026.

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA  
University of Oregon

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA  
Mark Thomas

Director

Kristopher Pritchard

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Reporting template. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Lyndes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joy" being more prominent and the last name "Lyndes" following in a similar style.

Joy Lyndes, ASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Michael M. Crow, President

**Arizona State University  
MLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
July 30-31, 2020**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Develop educational goals and objectives that are student-based and outcome-based instead of activity-based. There should be separate educational objectives for the BSLA and MLA programs (Standard 1).
2. The Landscape Architecture Program's continued development of the Long Range Plan needs to sustain its momentum preserving a balance between the success and growth of the program with success of the students and graduates. It should reflect differences between the BSLA and MLA programs with a formal process for the regular review and renewal of the Plan and the measurement of progress toward achieving the educational goals and objectives. While there is progress from the last review, the newly developed LRP remains vague. The plan still needs to clearly articulate goals with corresponding objectives and identify initiatives and tactics for achieving objectives, along with quantifiable metrics and other types of evidence to demonstrate success (Standard 1).
3. Revise course objectives and learning outcomes for LAA 345 / LAP 598 Professional Practice Seminar and revise course content to detail the licensure process and better reflect contemporary landscape architecture practices including those in private firms, public agencies and institutions (Standard 3).
4. Address insufficient student outcomes for LTC 344 Landscape Architecture – Construction II and ensure that irrigation, labelling, and dimensioning achieve satisfactory levels (Standard 3).
5. Develop an assessment plan that allows the program to examine objectives directly relevant to the landscape architecture BOK's. This could happen via a rubric or other assessment tool during reviews (Standard 4).
6. Maintain a specific program alumni registry and include current employment, professional activity, post-graduate studies (if applicable), and significant accomplishments (Standard 6).

**Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board**

**Interim Report**

**Date:**

**Section 1.**

**Name of Institution:**

**Name of Department:**

**Name of Program:**

**Date of Decision Letter:**

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**Section 2.**

**Recommendation Affecting Accreditation:** (Describe verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

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**Section 3.**

**Action Taken by Program:** (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)