



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

---

Kristopher Pritchard  
Accreditation and Education  
Programs Manager

August 17, 2015

Board Members

Practitioners

Rodney Swink, FASLA

Joy Lyndes, ASLA  
Coastal Sage

Karl Von Bieberstein, FASLA  
Newman Jackson Bieberstein

Educators

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA, Chair  
Kansas State University

Ned Crankshaw, ASLA  
University of Kentucky

Gary Kesler, FASLA  
Pennsylvania State University

Public Representatives

Linda Battram

Lucinda McDade, Ph.D.

Tom Jacobs

ASLA Representative

Leonard Hopper, FASLA

CELA Representative

Kenneth Brooks, FASLA  
Arizona State University

CLARB Representative

Tom Sherry, ASLA

Denise Hoffman Brandt, ASLA  
Director of Landscape Architecture / Associate Professor  
Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture  
The City College of New York  
141 Convent Avenue, Room 3M 24A  
New York, New York 10031

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 17-18, 2015 meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the first professional MLA degree at The City College of New York. This status is subject to review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2021. Accordingly, the MLA program is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2021.

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

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in annual reports) and suggestions for improvement (to be responded to in annual reports). 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 that reads "Stephanie Rolley".

Stephanie Rolley, FASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Lisa S. Coico, President

**The City College of New York  
MLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
July 17-18, 2015**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Include learning objectives and learning outcomes for all course syllabi in a consistent format that enables their assessment from multiple perspectives, including: faculty peer assessments, visiting reviewers, students, alumni, and practicing professionals. Use these assessments routinely to review and revise individual courses and the curriculum (Standard 1).

**Suggestions for Improvements**

1. Conduct assessments of learning objectives consistently and explicitly in course and curriculum review - as currently done in written summaries of reviewer's comments on students' work and organized by course learning objectives (Standard 1).
2. Work actively with the School and College development offices to support additional scholarships for student tuition and other expenses (Standard 2).
3. Extend the current faculty mentor program to provide career advising for Associate Professors seeking promotion to full professor (Standard 2).
4. Consider the development of advanced distributional electives in construction technology, novel ecologies, and socio-political systems (Standard 3).
5. Encourage faculty to seek training from the City College Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects on opportunities and procedures for securing funded research (Standard 5).
6. Increase the utilization and effectiveness of the Professional Advisory Board (Standard 6).
7. Identify discrete avenues for alumni giving to the Program and increase the outreach to alumni and other potential supporters (Standard 6).
8. Seek additional storage space in support of model shop activities, in anticipation of expressed expanded digital fabrication capacity (Standard 7).