



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

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Board Members

April 18, 2022

Educators

Lynn Ewanow  
LAAB Chair  
Kansas State University

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA  
California State Polytechnic University

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

C. Timothy Baird, FASLA, PLA  
Professor and Chair  
Landscape Architecture Department  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14853

Dear Professor Baird:

Practitioners

Erin Degutis, ASLA, RLA  
Duke Energy

Dale Jaeger, FASLA  
WLA Studio

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA  
LAAB Chair-Elect

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its March 14-15, 2022, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Cornell University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2023, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Gilbert Holmes  
University of LaVerne College of Law

Derrek Niec-Williams  
Howard University

Patty Reece  
The Volland Store

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 Accreditation 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 Accreditation 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

Kona Gray, FASLA  
EDSA

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA  
LAAB Secretary  
Pennsylvania State University

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2027. Accordingly, the MLA program at Cornell University is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2027.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA  
Mark Thomas

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.

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,

*Lynn M. Ewanow*

Lynn Ewanow  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Martha E. Pollack, President

**Cornell University  
MLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
March 14-15, 2022**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Develop and execute the Recommendations Affecting Accreditation from the previous visits (related to advisory board and makerspace) (Standard 1).
2. Review and update MLA syllabi for consistency to assure that all syllabi include educational objectives, course content, and the criteria and methods that will be used to evaluate student performance (Standard 3).
3. Update MLA Handbook, program literature and web information to show that the 90-credit first-professional degree track and the 60-credit post-professional degree track are alternative pathways to earning the MLA degree (Standard 3).
4. Develop a system for regular review of the MLA curriculum and student outcomes that incorporates student input and feedback and documents efforts for program improvement (Standard 3).
5. Engage professional practitioners with students (Standard 6).
6. Establish a process or practice to document community engagement and service-learning activities and share on social media platforms and newsletters to promote the work of the department (Standard 6).
7. Complete the construction and installation of the makerspace (Standard 7).
8. Implement improvements to the presentation space and remodeling to address ADA issues (mezzanine access and restroom upgrade) (Standard 7).

**Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board**

**Interim Report**

**Submitted By:**

**Submission 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:** (Copy/paste 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)

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**Section 4.**

**Prior Action Taken by Program:** (If applicable, attach any prior Interim Report related to the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)