



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

---

Board Members

August 11, 2023

Educators

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

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Allan Shearer, Ph.D., FASLA  
University of Texas at Austin

Haley Blakeman, FASLA  
Assistant Professor and Associate Director  
Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture  
College of Art + Design  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Practitioners

Erin Degutis, ASLA, RLA  
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Dale Jaeger, FASLA, PLA  
WLA Studio

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA  
LAAB Chair

Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams  
Howard University

Patty Reece  
The Volland Store

David N. Yellen  
University of Miami School of Law

ASLA Representative

Kona Gray, FASLA  
EDSA

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren., ASLA  
LAAB Chair-Elect  
Pennsylvania State University

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA  
LAAB Secretary  
Mark Thomas

Director

Kristopher Pritchard

Dear Professor Blakeman:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 10, 2023, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional BLA degree at Louisiana State University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2025, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

The interim report should provide an update, with documentation demonstrating compliance when necessary, 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.

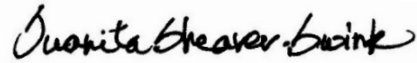
Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2029. Accordingly, the BLA program at Louisiana State University is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2029.

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.

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 that reads "Juanita Shearer-Swink". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular background.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: William F. Tate IV, President  
Alkis Tsolakis, Dean

**Louisiana State University  
BLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
July 10, 2023**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Update the Long-range strategic plan and assessment protocols and use them to evaluate progress towards School mission and goals (Standard 1).
2. Update the LAAB-required public information on the School's website (Standard 1).
3. Increased BLA student enrollment has coincided with numerous faculty vacancies to result in some student/faculty ratios in BLA studios that exceed LAAB standards. Since faculty instructional assignments to cover both BLA and MLA courses come from the same collective pool of faculty, it is important to make sure that there are sufficient total FTE instructional resources to meet the expected LAAB student/faculty ratios in both BLA and MLA studio courses (Standard 2).
4. The University and School should work together to develop competitive faculty salaries and improved faculty retention (Standard 5).

**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:**

---

**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.)

---

**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)

---

**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)