



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

March 25, 2025

Educators

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
LAAB Chair-Elect
California State Polytechnic University

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA
University of Nevada Las Vegas

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

Practitioners

Mark Hough, FASLA
Duke University

Susan Jacobson, FASLA, PLA
The Morton Arboretum

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Public Representatives

Derek Niec-Williams
LAAB Secretary
Howard University

Chelina Odert, Hon. ASLA
Kounkuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen
University of Miami School of Law

ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP
MIG

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair
Pennsylvania State University

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

Gale Fulton, ASLA
Director and Associate Professor
School of Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture + Design
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Knoxville, TN 37996

Dear Professor Fulton,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 26, 2025, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by December 1, 2026, 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) from this Final Action Letter 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 date of this Final 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 Final 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 December 31, 2030. Accordingly, the MLA program at University of Tennessee, Knoxville is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2030.

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 Report 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 blue ink, reading "Roxi J. Thoren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Donde Plowman, Ph.D., Chancellor

**University of Tennessee, Knoxville
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 26, 2025**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Develop goals and metrics for tracking the advancement of diversity within the program, as defined by the program to meet its mission and goals (Standard 1).

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 the 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)