FRI-Bo7: Lighting—More than Meets the Eye

This multi-disciplinary panel investigates the tension between roadway-focused lighting standards and pedestrian-focused approaches and goals. The panel will share their experiences working with agencies to make comfortable, walkable streets after dark. This session covers the value of lighting design early in projects, maintenance, safety, lessons learned and insight to successes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

— Understand the underlying reasons for current street lighting design and infrastructure requirements.

— Understand the jurisdiction’s challenges with lighting systems including maintenance and replacement.

— Learn the value of incorporating a lighting designer on your team early

— Examine strategies for working with owners, jurisdictions, design teams and maintenance crews in implementing lighting designs that may be new to them.
Panelists: Lesley Bain, FAIA  
Seattle WA  
Lesley Bain, FAIA, is a passionate advocate for public space and walkable, activated cities. An architect and urban designer, she is the founder of Framework Cultural Placemaking in Seattle. Lesley works with neighborhoods, agencies and institutions to transform streets and alleys into people-centered places. Her work in the public realm includes urban design, street concept plans, design guidelines and campus plans. She is co-author of Living Streets: Strategies for Crafting Public Space.

Panelist: Darby Watson  
San Francisco CA  
Darby Watson builds upon years of experience in the public and private sectors in her current position. She leads teams of engineers and planners who design and develop pedestrian, bicycle and traffic calming projects for the City of San Francisco. She coordinates between agencies within the city as well as bridging the inter-agency needs and goals with transit, traffic engineering, signals and public works. While at the City of Seattle, Darby wrote the citywide pedestrian lighting plan in coordination with Seattle City Light and Seattle Department of Transportation.

Panelist: Dave Rodgers, PE, LEED-AP  
Seattle WA  
Dave Rodgers is a principal civil engineer with SvR Design Company with 23 years of experience in environmental engineering, civil engineering and construction administration. Dave, as a civil engineer at SvR Design, has the benefit of being surrounded by and influenced by landscape architects on a daily basis. Dave’s experience ranges from pocket parks and small streetscape projects to large urban and transit-oriented neighborhood redevelopments integrating transit, pedestrian, bicycle, and utility infrastructure. Dave is a contributing author of Living Streets: Strategies for Crafting Public Space.

Moderator: Eric Kramer, ASLA  
Cambridge MA  
Eric Kramer is a Principal of Reed Hilderbrand and has designed numerous landscapes associated with the renewal and enrichment of campuses, cities and institutions. His works include Boston’s Central Warf Plaza, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City and the newly completed Clark Institute in Williamstown, MA. He edited Visible/Invisible, the firms award winning monograph.
OUTLINE

I. The Challenge: Lighting for Cars or Lighting for People
   A. The promise of Complete Streets & a pedestrian-centric public realm
   B. Conflicts between current standards and lighting objectives from a designer’s view
   C. Fighting the system — how do you talk to engineers and regulators?
   D. Introduction to case studies

II. Talking the Talk, Meeting the Challenges and Solving the Problems: Three Case Studies
    Planning, Design and Construction

   A. Light quality and the numbers
      1. Understanding why standards are the way they are
      2. Thinking from a regulator’s point of view
      3. Re-telling the story of lighting design goals
      4. Engaging lighting consultants
   B. Beyond Steel vs. Aluminum Cobra heads
      1. Why cobra heads don’t create great pedestrian areas
      2. New hardware that will create a great pedestrian environment
      3. Beyond streetlights and other strategies when all else fails
   C. Political Strategies
      1. Public private partnerships
      2. Partnerships between departments and jurisdictions
      3. Lighting design and planning — changing the standards

III. Take home lessons and Conclusions

IV. Discussion / Q&A