

# STUDENT CONNECT

ASLA Student Advisory Committee's Newsletter

For Student Members - By Student Members

November 2019



American Society of  
Landscape Architects

**"I truly think the world is an inspiring place and we just have to open our eyes to see it."**

**- April Phillips, FASLA**

Hello everyone!

School is in full swing and the first day of fall has quickly come and gone. Each fall season I am reminded of all colors the leaves turn, the taste of my daily cup of hot chocolate and most importantly the annual ASLA conference on Landscape Architecture! I have attended the annual ASLA conference the past three years and now consider myself a seasoned expert. I am here to share with you all of the wonderful events and networking opportunities that the ASLA conference has to offer students.

The first ASLA annual conference I attended was in 2016 and that year it was hosted in New Orleans, Louisiana. I had just started graduate school two months prior and it was safe to say that I was still getting use to being back in a classroom and not at all prepared for whirlwind of fast paced energy with like minded people. I was very fortunate that the annual conference that year was only about an hour away otherwise I might have passed on the experience. At the time I did not know what the ASLA conference on Landscape Architecture really was and how valuable it can be to experience it as a student. I strongly urge you to attend this years conference in San Diego to find out for yourself. Below are some tips I have learned along the way that I hope will make you more prepared for the experience than I was the first time around.

I sincerely hope you have as much at the conferences as I do and make the most out of your attendee experience as a student!

Respectfully,

Taylor Fehmel, Student Advisory Committee Member, ASLA

## Navigating the Annual Conference

**Advice for tackling San Diego like a pro:**

### Do not be Afraid to say Hello!

Everyone loves students, and guess what professional landscape architects want to meet you! To professionals students are their future employees, the new generation of innovative thinkers and in my opinion, soon to be rulers of the design world. Do not be afraid to approach someone you recognize to ask a question, tell them you were inspired by a project they did or even say hi! I am sure your have heard your professors tell you before how small the landscape architecture world is, and you never know, the person you introduced yourself to may be your colleague one day.

### Take Notes

I was so unprepared for my first annual conference that I did not even bring my sketchbook. What a mistake that was because there was so much valuable information between the lectures, panel discussions and expo it was hard to remember it all. The landscape architects you will get to see present are inspiring and you will get to see first hand why it is so important to be apart of this organization.

### Sign up for the Portfolio Review

NEVER miss out on a chance for someone to review your portfolio and give you feedback. Professional LA's attending the conference volunteer their time to give their honest opinion. In the field of landscape architecture, your portfolio tells a lot about who we are and sometimes can make or break a hiring decision. Even though I suggest only presenting your portfolio in tip top shape, its OK to just ask for feedback on layout, content, and style. You never know someone may offer you a job or internship on the spot!

### Do your Research!

This is also life advice, but as students we should ass be educating ourselves on what is current in field of landscape architecture. With the ASLA conference app you can plan your conference schedule prior to that day so it will be easy to prepare prior to the sessions. I suggest reading up on both the topics and people you are planning on seeing present, this will help you retain the information you hear and may even inspire your next studio project.

### Attend the Emerging Professionals Reception

I personally had so much fun at the past Emerging Professionals reception in Philadelphia. I was able to meet so many students attending other schools from all over the country . It was a great feeling to meet all these people who have similar passions and ideas but we are experiencing them in completely different ways. I know that the other students I met last year are future leaders in landscape architecture, friends and even coworkers, being in that room really solidified what it means to be apart of the ASLA community.

## The Student Perspective

**Past Student Attendees**

**"The ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture is an incredible venue for students to network, socialize, and learn. The education sessions feature the field's leading professionals and cover an incredibly diverse range of topics, providing exposure to new ideas and helping to bridge the gap between school and practice."**

**- Andrew Wright, Student ASLA  
Louisiana State University**



Student "Meadow Keepers" from @asla\_lsu volunteer collecting seeds to sow a future meadow

**Does your student chapter have any volunteer events coming up?**

Respond: Tag an instagram post **#studentASLA** or email: **membership@asla.org** with pictures and/or responses to be featured in our next newsletter!

### Looking Ahead

Nov 15-18 - 2019 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture - San Diego, CA  
Nov 15 - Student Climate Crisis Forum - 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm  
Nov 15 - Emerging Professionals Reception at the Conference - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Nov 16 - Emerging Professionals Portfolio Review at the Conference EXPO

**Questions?**  
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