2018 ASLA SDD PPN meeting in Philadelphia

This is a summary of the notes that were taken during the breakout session related to each of the three questions.

Question 1

- **Are there any barriers or challenges to SITES uptake?**
  - Municipal silos
  - Cost and efficiency concerns
  - Maintenance obstacles
  - Flexibility and willingness to discuss options regarding thresholds for opting in to the project.
  - What am I getting out of this, increase in unit sale value?
  - Cost of materials
  - Knowledge of material sources.
  - Contractor knowledge of SITES
  - Clients opinion of cost/benefit
  - Existing regulations exceed SITES/LEED
  - Client education and cost
  - Return on investment
  - Landscape Architects educating themselves, time to research
  - How does it apply to single family residential?
  - Advantages to expediting public plan approval process
  - Better integration of SITES, LEED and ENVISION
  - Direction that sounds good but negatively impacts maintenance
  - Not enough metrics to sell the ‘way’ for economics
  - Lack of knowledge in the industry that SITES exists

- **What solutions would you propose?**
  - Bridge science papers to practice
  - Drop the word ‘sustainable’ from sustainable design.
  - Willingness to customize the process to promote innovation.
  - Views, retaining existing trees.
  - Check with Siri and google
  - Social media
  - Involvement in local regulatory environment
  - Draft code/manual
  - Masterplan assistance
  - Client organization presentation on benefits. Parks & Rec, ULI etc...
  - Needs stronger marketing campaign for awareness
  - Needs more incentives for clients to want it
  - Needs more adoption by cities as requirement
Question 2

- **What sustainability policies and programs are available in your city?**
  - Cincinnati green roof
  - Turf concerns – long term cost.
    - Will Howard with Stack Rock Group mentioned a Case Study on turf removal he would be willing to share/discuss.
  - Austin Functional Green Program, Ecosystem services and Value
    - Heather Venhaus may be willing to discuss this with our PPN if asked.
  - IGCC – mandatory
  - LEED and SITES – voluntary
  - Tree saving, stormwater quantity (not Quality) – mandatory
  - In Anne Arundal County MD, many strict regulations exist for development within the ‘critical area’. Nothing is individual in code for SITES but it should be.
  - Green Factor – City of Seattle (plant based) -mandatory
  - State water code ordinance ‘MAWA’ - mandatory
  - Bay Friendly landscapes (mostly ecology and plant based) San Francisco – mandatory for guidelines/voluntary for rating system.
  - Living building challenge in Seattle
  - Greenpoint or LEED for new buildings has a landscape baseline.

Question 3

- **What do you see as the direction of sustainable design across the country?**
  - How do we become more carbon neutral?
    - Greg Simmons in Park City UT has Carbon Calculator knowledge and experience from a Range land project he may be willing to share with our PPN. Contact info can come from Will Howard at Stack Rock Group.
  - Pushing nursery trades and soil specification to improve overall practices
  - Focusing on coastal adaptation and flood management
  - Define SITES role in value engineering stage
  - Better integration and feedback of research and analysis to evaluate scoring in SITES as adaptive management
  - Sustainable design and redesign are the only way to maximize existing amenities
  - Trend – ROI – also quicker sales minimizing initial capital outlay or investment.
  - Interest and understanding is continually growing
  - Trend – disinterest in LEED
  - Trend – Client just interested in getting certified.
  - Bifurcation and then consolidation
  - Bigger picture thinking versus/plus sustainable site design
  - Restoration versus green building
  - Difficulty between ‘smart growth and density’ versus ‘green infrastructure and open space’
  - More focus on water quality.
- Sustainability needs to include resiliency to climate change and increased storm frequency and loads.
- Need for more parks and awareness
- Regional need to look at green infrastructure
- Impacts from disasters, climate, insurance
- Focus related to air quality, heat island, fires, sea level rise
- Adopting principles of SITES will increase as we understand it is needed
- Break out of silos – regions, disciplines, government sectors
- Trend – Climate mitigation planning
- Trend – More sustainable design projects
- Trend – Knowledge of drought, more purple piping, water is a valuable resource