



**ASLA Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network (HP-PPN)  
Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) Subcommittee and  
Chapter Liaisons Year-End Meeting  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 12 Noon ET**

**HALS Subcommittee**

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**Other Attendees**

Allison Crosbie	Amy Hoffman	Andrea M. Danchi	Andrea Weber	Andy Rowell
Becca Flemer	Brian Horton	David Post	Douglas Nelson	Duane Dietz
Frederick Wells	Graham Sones	Gregory De Vries	James Ward	Jose Leal
Josh DeSpain	Joy Lyndes	Ken Horinko	Kent Watson	Kimball Erdman
Laura Knott	Laurie Matthews	M Elise Huggins	Megan Turner	Melinda Gustin
Patricia O'Donnell	Patricia Tratebas	Rachel Edmonds	Richard Powell	Sarah Coleman
Sarah Coleman	Tricia Keffer	Wendie McAllaster		

**Notes**

1. Introductions

2. Old / Continuing Business

- a. Status of the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualification Standards

The field of Historical Landscape Architecture was added to the document in 1997, but since then it has only been a "draft." As a result, many states do not recognize HLAs as historic preservation professionals and issue mitigation contracts to historic architects or archeologists instead. The NPS has been working toward revising the draft and finalizing it since about 2008, when HALS Subcommittee members pushed. Recently, an agreement has been reached with the DOI Office of the Solicitor. The approach is good, but some minor changes are needed. Someone has been hired to assist with this process. Once complete, the internal review may proceed, which will include the Office of Tribal Relations and American Cultures (TRAC).

- b. Update - NPS Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) Chief Position

It was advertised on USAJobs.com this summer. It has been vacant for almost 3 years. Interviews should occur soon. The HALS and HAER Program Manager positions remain vacant. HALS for 2 years, HAER for over 15 years. As the only HALS employee, Chris Stevens is also acting as HALS Program Manager.

### 3. New Business

#### a. HALS Coordinator Annual Report

- i. Recognition of Gratitude – HALS is unique with our mighty Liaison network! HABS and HAER do not have such a network. Thank you to all of the HALS liaisons, because HALS is a small program, and we could not accomplish so much without volunteers in every state.
- ii. There are only four vacant Chapter HALS Liaison positions: Kansas (Prairie Gateway), Nebraska (Great Plains), Oklahoma, and Wyoming (Colorado). Wyoming and Colorado share one chapter. Ann Mullins represents Colorado and would like to have a partner to represent Wyoming.
- iii. There are only 3 states without any HALS documentation: Montana, North Dakota, and New Hampshire and only 2 US Territories: Guam and US Virgin Islands. A group from Montana recently submitted draft HALS documentation.

The top ten states for the number of HALS documentation records are: CA with 195, VA with 78, OK with 55, DC with 43, PA with 36, AZ with 30, HI with 27, MD with 26, FL with 26, and SC with 23.

- iv. Summary of 2020 HALS Annual Report (HALS Liaison Survey Responses)  
24 HALS Liaisons responded to the survey (AL, AR, CA-Northern, CA-San Diego, CA-Southern, CO/WY, FL, HI, ID/MT, IL, IN, MA, MD, MN, MS, NV, NY-Upstate, OR, RI, SC, TN, VT, WI), and 3 others responded informally through email saying they had no HALS activity this year to report.

**The summary of the HALS Liaison Survey Responses with observations and takeaways is included in the Appendix of these meeting notes.**

#### b. Heritage Documentation Programs Run 3 Annual Documentation Competitions:

- i. HALS Challenge  
[https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/HALS\\_Challenge.html](https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/HALS_Challenge.html)
- ii. Charles E. Peterson Prize  
<https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/peterson.htm>
- iii. Leicester B. Holland Prize  
<https://www.nps.gov/hdp/competitions/holland.htm>
- iv. On average over the last 5 years, contest entries account for 14% of the documentation entering the HABS/HAER/HALS Collection at the Library of Congress! Donations average 5%, and Federal Mitigation averages 36%.

#### c. 2021 HALS Challenge Theme: ***Historic Black Landscapes***

[The 2021 HALS Challenge: Historic Black Landscapes](#) – The Field (asla.org)

[Competitions](#) | HABS/HAER/HALS (nps.gov)

[HALS Challenge](#) | HABS/HAER/HALS (nps.gov)

Black people have built and shaped the American landscape in immeasurable ways.

Examining these histories and spaces will expand our understanding of America's past and future. From plantations to segregated cities, the nation's landscapes retain the physical

manifestations of our racist history. Yet historic Black landscapes also represent creative achievements and reflect Black culture, as seen in residential gardens, parks, and college campuses across this country. Documenting historic Black landscapes will reveal patterns of community that have been built over the course of four hundred years.

We are very excited to announce this especially topical theme. I hope it will lead to exciting opportunities for collaboration with other ASLA groups like Black Landscape Architects Network (BLAN). <https://blacklanetwork.com/>

*Played Video: National Park Service Short Film “Twenty & Odd” Exploring 400 years of the African American Experience*

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/africanamericanheritage/twenty-and-odd.htm>

Developed by a group of NPS staff and interns, this film explores the trauma, resilience, and beauty of the African American experience in our country. Through its voice and imagery, the film advances messages of African American empowerment, remembrance, education, inspiration, and engagement in iconic places stewarded by the National Park Service.

Some useful and inspiring resources:

[African American Heritage](#) | U.S. National Park Service

[Commemorating 400 Years of African American Heritage](#) | U.S. National Park Service

[African American History: Places and People](#) | National Trust for Historic Preservation

[Telling Our Full Story](#) | National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO)

d. 2022 HALS Challenge Theme: *Olmsted Landscapes*

Anne "Dede" Neal Petri, President and CEO National Association for Olmsted Parks, Managing Partner, Olmsted 200, is very excited to help us promote this theme in 2022 in honor of Olmsted's 200th birthday.

Participants will have the opportunity to document parks, gardens, communities, estates, and campuses designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the Olmsted Brothers, and the Olmsted firm. Olmsted Archives: <https://www.nps.gov/frla/olmstedarchives.htm>

e. 2020 HALS Challenge: *Vanishing or Lost Landscapes* Results. Announcement of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.

[The 2020 HALS Challenge Winners: Vanishing or Lost Landscapes](#) – The Field (asla.org)  
[HALS Challenge](#) | HABS/HAER/HALS (nps.gov)

The theme for the 11th annual HALS Challenge was *Vanishing or Lost Landscapes*. Thank you to all entrants for expanding the HALS collection and raising awareness of the historic landscapes they documented. Again, LAM graciously provided full-page ads for the 2020 HALS Challenge in the April and May Issues. HALS received 27 entries from 11 states.

**1st Place**

**Harvard Botanic Garden, HALS MA-6 (Cambridge, MA)**

Allison A. Crosbie, Preservation Administrator, Cambridge Historical Commission  
*one of the earliest botanical gardens in the United States and significant for its association with Asa Gray (1810- 1888), a prominent botanist, educator, and writer*

Allison Crosbie: “It's fantastic. All the research I did, I found so much more than I thought it was going to find out about it. And one of the great things was Harvard digitized all their yearly reports, so I was able to comb through it and find some great information. But now it's an apartment complex dating back to the 1940s, and RBG lived there when she was at Harvard Law.”

## 2nd Place (Tie)

### **Jerome Relocation Center, HALS AR-9** (Jerome, Chicot and Drew Counties, Arkansas)

This HALS report and accompanying maps were completed by a team from the Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design and the Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies, both of the University of Arkansas. The project was led by faculty member Kimball Erdman, with the assistance of fellow faculty member Greg Herman, staff member Angie Payne, and students Justice Barnes, Trevor Brown, Vanessa Castaneda, Nate Cole, Amanda Davidson, Alec Fischer, Chloe Harris, Cayla McGrail, Mary Nell Miskin, Kelsey Mork, Stephen Sines, and Jenna Whitmire.

*Farm Security Administration (FSA) farming community, War Relocation Authority (WRA) Japanese internment center, United States prisoner of war (POW) camp housing German soldiers and officers.*

Kimball Erdman: "The team will be very happy to hear it. We've been working on Japanese American internment camps, ever since I got to Arkansas just over 10 years ago. It's our first time focusing on Jerome. We've done a lot of work. This is part of a much larger project that involves a website."

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### **University Mound Nursery, HALS CA-153** (San Francisco, CA)

Stacy Farr and Eleanor Cox

*commercial flower-growing industry (floriculture), it includes the last extant commercial greenhouses in a district was known as the city's Garden District.*

## 3rd Place

### **Henry Schumacher Farm, HALS WI-19** (Waunakee, Dane County, Wisconsin)

Megan Turner with photographs by Rona Neri

*a significant local farm, preserved as an educational and historic landscape focused on restoring the property's remnant prairie, one of the most threatened natural communities regionally and globally*

Megan Turner: "Hey, it's very exciting. Yeah, I'm glad the dog finally stopped chewing on the Christmas tree for this moment."

## **The 23 other outstanding entries (alphabetical by state):**

White County Farmers Market, HALS AR-10, Bald Knob, Arkansas

By Lisa Floryshak, Instructor, Arkansas State University-Beebe

Mildred Jackson Elementary/High School, HALS AR-11, Hughes, Arkansas

By Phoebe Lashae Haynes, PhD Student

Dyess Colony, HALS AR-8, Dyess, Arkansas

By Shobhithan Kandasamy, Arkansas State University

Tucson Origins Heritage Site, HALS AZ-26, Tucson, Arizona

By University of Arizona students Abdullah Alabdullatif, Penelope Cottrell-Crawford, Fallon Murphy, Jared Renaud, and Rebecca Shaw, Student ASLA. Edited and submitted by Jennifer Levstik, M.A. (Class Instructor)

Old 49 Road Tree, HALS CA-149, Eldorado National Forest, California

By Cate Bainton, HALS Northern California Chapter

Balboa Park, Golden Hill Fountain Grotto, HALS CA-150-A, San Diego, California

By Nancy Carol Carter

Degnan-Guerra Residence, HALS CA-151, La Cañada Flintridge, California  
By Gina Guerra

Fort Ross Doghole Port, HALS CA-152, Jenner, California  
By Michael Jasinski and Andrew Shimizu

Salton Sea, HALS CA-154, Colorado Desert, California  
By Timothy Devlin, ASLA

Perkins Park, HALS CA-155, Pacific Grove, California  
By David A. Laws, California Garden & Landscape History Society

Napa Soda Springs, HALS CA-156, Napa Soda Springs, California  
By Chris Pattillo, FASLA, PGAdesign

Mount Pleasant Beech Church and Beech Cemetery, HALS IN-15, Carthage, Indiana  
By Christopher Baas, Malcolm Cairns, FASLA, and Jeremy Merrill of the Department of Landscape Architecture, Ball State University; J.P. Hall, Department of Architecture, Ball State University; and Darrin L. Rubino, Biology Department, Hanover College

Prairie Acre, HALS KS-6, Lawrence, Kansas  
By Dr. Kelly Kindscher, Senior Scientist, Kansas Biological Survey, Professor, Environmental Studies Program, and Amy Van de Riet, Adjunct Instructor, University of Kansas School of Architecture and Design

Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Normal Hill, HALS LA-12-A, Natchitoches, Louisiana  
By David J Driapsa, FASLA, and Deborah A. Dietrich-Smith, ASLA

Harris Creek, HALS MD-28, Baltimore, Maryland  
By Morgan State University Master of Landscape Architecture students Mia Quinto, Student ASLA, Brittney Baltimore, David Joffe, Student ASLA, and Maura Roth-Gormley, Student ASLA

James Arnold House and Garden, HALS MA-7, New Bedford, Massachusetts  
By Paul R. V. Pawlowski, ASLA, Vice President, The James Arnold Mansion, Inc.

William Rhett House Garden, HALS SC-22, Charleston, South Carolina  
By Clemson University/College of Charleston graduate students in the Master of Science in Historic Preservation (MSHP) program: Rucha Kamath, Chelsea Payne, Kerri Ross, and Kendra Waters. Faculty sponsor: Carter L. Hudgins

Mosquito Beach, HALS SC-23, Charleston, South Carolina  
By Clemson University/College of Charleston graduate students in the MSHP program: John Thomas V, Darcy Neufeld, and Jenny R. Brant. Faculty sponsor: Carter L. Hudgins

The Walled City of Charleston, HALS SC-24, Charleston, South Carolina  
By Clemson University/College of Charleston graduate students in the MSHP program: Lisa Gardiner, Bernard O'Brien, and Vito Scocozzo. Faculty sponsor: Carter L. Hudgins.

St. Helena Chapel of Ease Graveyard and Ruin, HALS SC-25, St. Helena Island, South Carolina

By Clemson University/College of Charleston graduate students in the MSHP program:  
John Bennett, Kayleigh Defenbaugh, Monica Hendricks, Tanesha High, Elliott Simon, and  
Rachel Wilson. Faculty sponsor: Carter L. Hudgins

Scanlonville, HALS SC-26, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina  
By Clemson University/College of Charleston graduate students in the MSHP program:  
Leah Applewhite, Sarah Clifton, and Gabriel Cristofari. Faculty sponsor: Carter L. Hudgins

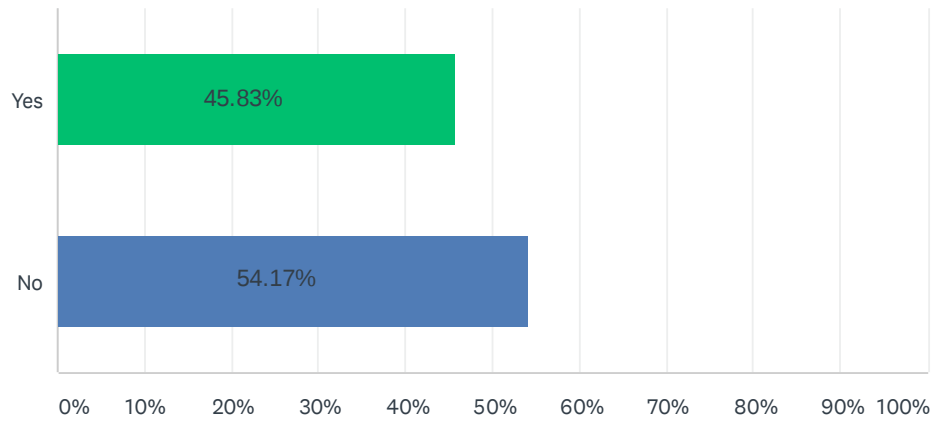
Washington Park, HALS WI-18, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
By Carlen Hatala, Senior Planner Historic Preservation, City of Milwaukee (text and  
research) and Kristi Sherfinski, ASLA, Principal, Helianthus LLC (photos and editing)

Gary Hollow, HALS WV-6, Gary, West Virginia  
By Elisabeth (Lisa) Orr, ASLA, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture; Stefania  
Staniscia, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture; and Charles Yuill, Associate  
Professor of Landscape Architecture of the School of Design & Community Development,  
Davis College, West Virginia University

4. Closing Comments – Next HALS Subcommittee Teleconference Meeting: January 2021

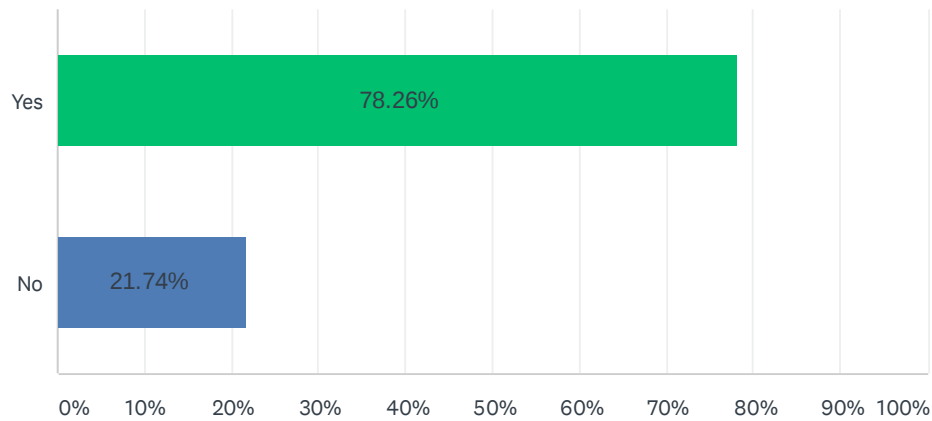
**APPENDIX: 2020 Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) Annual Report** (see below)

## Q2 Did you meet on HALS business with your Chapter Executive Committee?



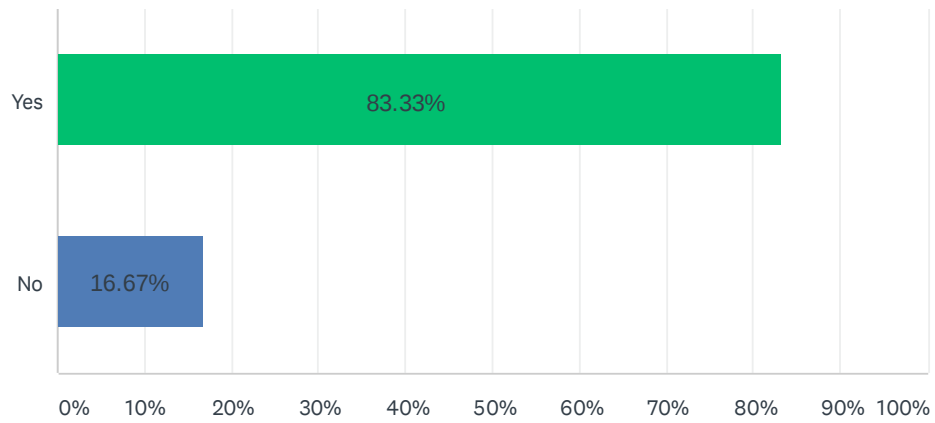
**COVID-19 hampered many plans. Most meetings were virtual.**

### Q3 Is your HALS program included in your Chapter Executive Committee?

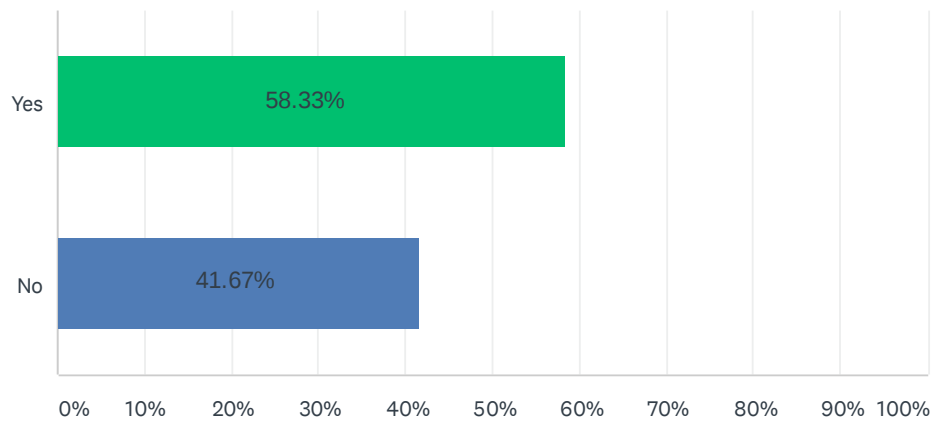


**Most typically "yes" as a non-voting entity.**

## Q4 Does your Chapter Executive Committee support your HALS program?

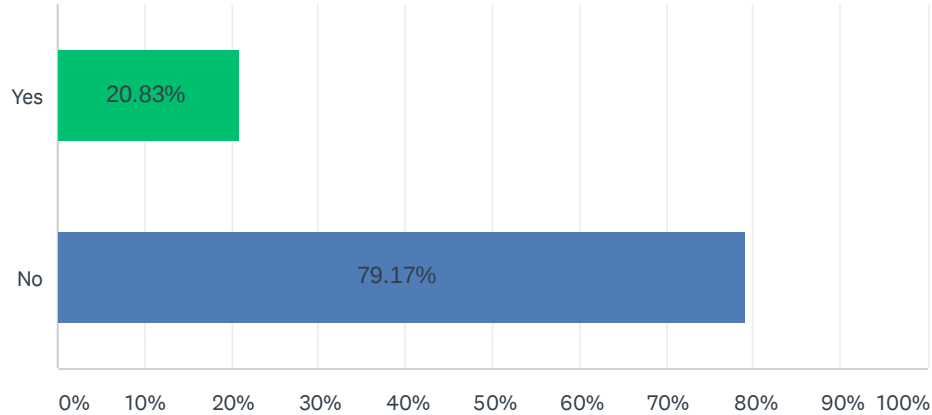


## Q5 Do other ASLA members in your chapter participate in your HALS program?



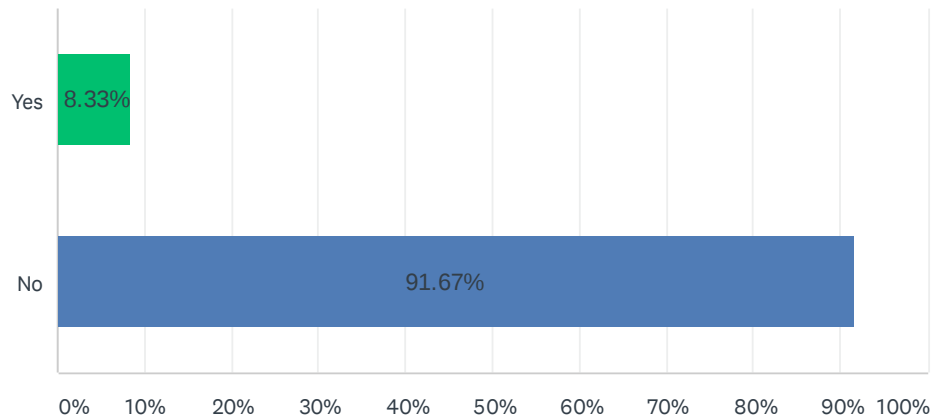
**Mostly yes. Participation ebbs and flows. The HALS Challenge is an important way to engage.**

**Q6 Did your HALS program meet with your State Historic Preservation Officer this year as an advocate of historic landscapes and HALS documentation?**



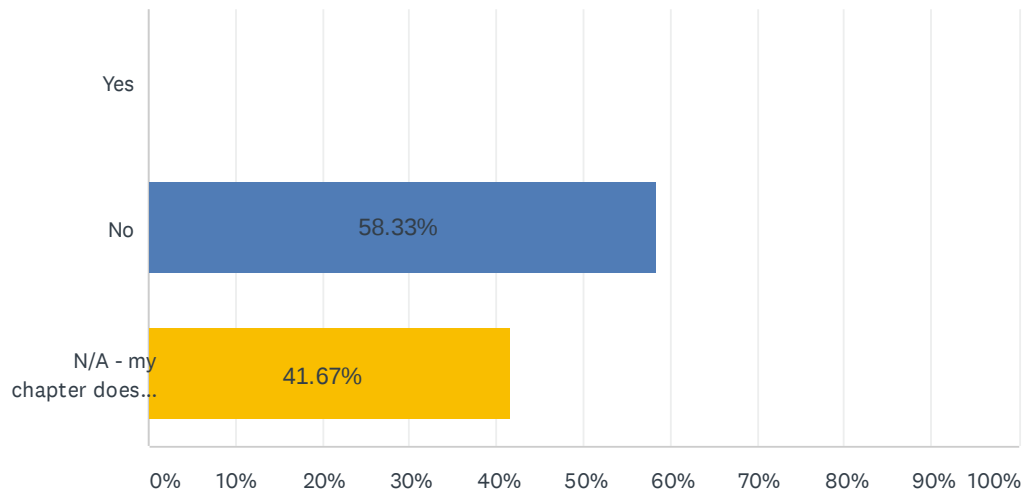
**Mostly No, but many liaisons are planning to in the future or have communicated with the SHPO in other ways.**

## Q7 Did you present a HALS education session for the ASLA members in your chapter?



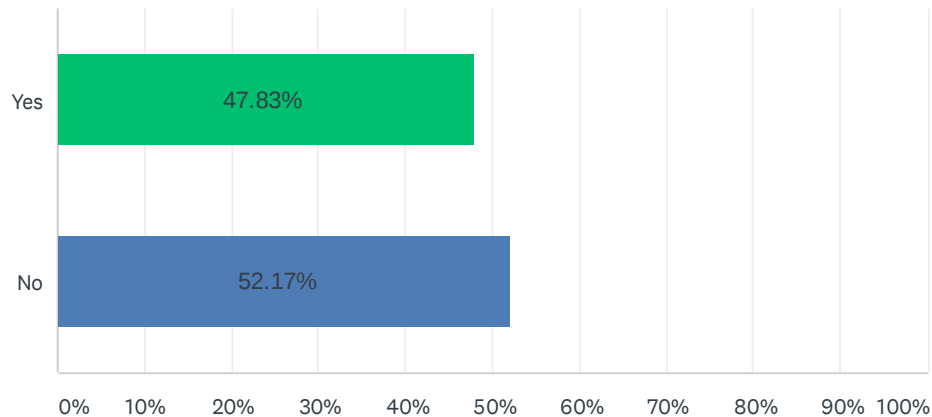
**Many chapters were impacted by COVID-19. Wisconsin created an online HALS Challenge work day with online activities and a survey to gauge their success and how to create more awareness of the HALS Challenge next year. The activities introduced the chapter to a specific local historic landscape and taught documentation techniques.**

## Q8 Did you include an education session on HALS and historic landscapes at your chapter annual meeting?



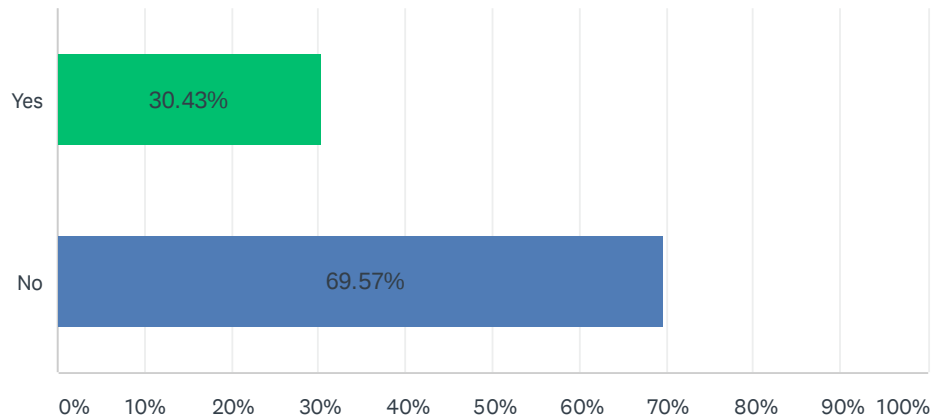
**Many state chapters do not have annual meetings. Others were impacted by COVID-19.**

**Q9 Did your HALS program meet with or make presentations to other potential partner agencies or groups, such as a Historic Preservation Commission, an AIA chapter, a garden club, etc., this year as an advocate of historic landscapes and HALS documentation?**



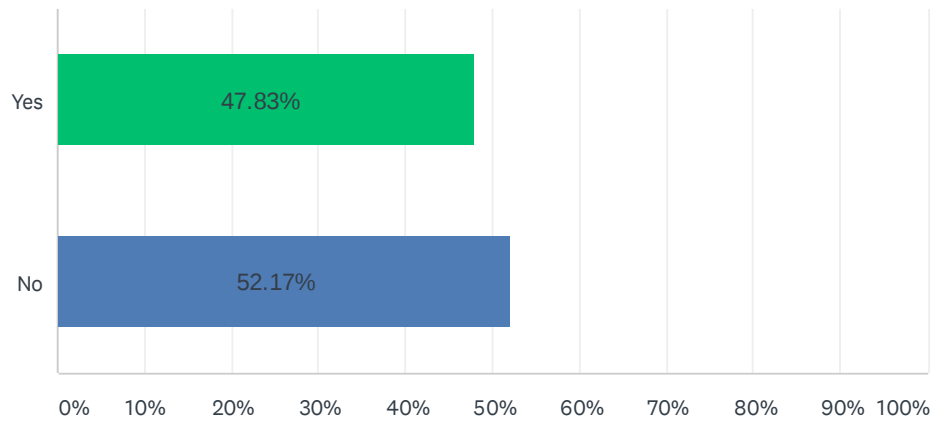
**HALS publicity and networking is valuable for both HALS and historic landscape preservation in general. Most meetings were virtual. Some liaisons are preparing HALS documentation. Others are teaching HALS/Cultural Landscape Preservation in college curricula. Others are writing landscape preservation pieces for sources like ASLA's The Field.**

## Q10 Were there submittals from your chapter to the 2020 HALS Challenge, "Vanishing or Lost Landscapes"?



**Participation ebbs and flows dependent on the HALS Challenge theme and participant availability. The HALS Challenge is often the first exposure to HALS documentation for participants.**

## Q11 Did your chapter HALS program participate in HALS documentation this year?



**Some chapters have submitted drafts of HALS documentation or will do so in coming months.**

## Q12&13 How ASLA can better support your chapter HALS program.

-and-

Do you have any other comments, suggestions, recommendations, or questions regarding the HALS program?

**HALS is a writing exercise. LAs tend not to be writers. HALS could better support writing skills.**

HALS Short Format Historical reports may be as short as 1 page long. Along with the MS Word Template, previous winning entries are all available online on the HALS Challenge Website for folks to use as examples.

**LAs tend to be visual communicators: vis-à-vis graphics and drawing. It may be beneficial to raise the value of drawings on par with writing in the HALS Challenge, which perhaps would encourage greater participation.**

HDP runs two drawing competitions, The Peterson Prize and The Holland Prize. Both allow and encourage HALS drawing entries!

**The formal documentation procedure helps students, but it should be opened up to all kinds of landscapes: vernacular landscapes, cultural landscapes, and traditional cultural properties.**

HALS welcomes drawing, large-format photograph, and/or written report documentation of all types of historic landscapes from the formally designed to vernacular to industrial to historic districts to traditional cultural properties... The HALS Guidelines are very adaptable. Short format historical reports may be as short as one page for example.

**Revised photography guidelines and the acceptance of digital photography seems long overdue.**

We promise they are coming. We only have one Collections Manager and one Photographer on staff. The problem we face is coming up with a secure way to transfer the huge digital files before transmitting them to the Library of Congress. The NPS may not use file transfer services like DropBox nor may external memory sticks be used with government computers due to security issues. The approved government file transfer site, operated by Kiteworks and secured by Accellion, is painfully slow and prone to freezing with transferring large files like digital photographs.

**It has taken me about 4 years to build up knowledge and contacts for a large-scale documentation. I think it would be useful to have our liaisons and past HALS experts put together a detailed "How-To" document to make it easier for other people to start HALS documentations (beyond what is available online).**

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**Facilitate HALS program connection/communication among chapters.**

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**Help Liaisons advocate for HALS within their own chapters**

We want to develop a HALS Toolkit with best practices, consistency in message, and online presentations. We can share HALS Power Point presentations. We can share success stories from HALS liaisons and perhaps start a liaisons newsletter. We also want to send out an annual SHPO HALS newsletter to share HALS documentation with Library of Congress urls and highlighted projects and exhibitions like story maps.

**Set up a GIS based system so members could see and make contributions vs. only a text-based list.**

John Sloan, the Ohio HALS Liaison, has created a HALS website with an interactive and geospatial map with existing and potential HALS sites across the state: [https://ohioasla.org/HALS\\_Sites](https://ohioasla.org/HALS_Sites) He also includes a page for anyone to enter in historic landscapes they know of: [https://ohioasla.org/form.php?form\\_id=11](https://ohioasla.org/form.php?form_id=11) This is a great way to attract public involvement and collect information easily.

ASLA maintains a similar interactive and geospatial map of HALS Documented Sites for the whole country: <https://www.asla.org/ContentDetail.aspx?id=37489>

**We are in the process of completing a cultural landscape report for a historic garden and the work will include HALS documentation.**

It is a great idea to reformat CLRs, NR nominations, EC drawings, and/or period plans to HALS. Work with students or interns. Document more with less by picking the “low hanging” fruit. Clients often want something HALS-like. Convince them to use the HALS format or include funds to reformat to HALS later. Ideal student intern project.

**Providing increased exposure for historic landscape projects in Landscape Architecture Magazine (LAM). Have one issue of lam devoted to historic landscapes. Have the HALS chapter reps write the articles.**

Creating websites and Facebook pages as well as publishing articles on historic landscapes in LAND and THE FIELD and LAM raises awareness of HALS, Landscape Preservation, and builds enthusiasm. HALS Northern California has maintained a successful website for many years and just added a Facebook page.

**Are their models for crowd-sourcing historic landscapes that can be shared and used for outreach?**

HALS Southern California under HALS Liaison Alison Terry is currently documenting the Virginia Robinson Gardens (VRG) in Beverly Hills. They have a team for the written documentation, measured drawings, and large format photography. Dennis Hill completed the photography in November. They are preparing the HALS report to supplement the VRG's application for museum status. They hope to complete their work within 8 months. The Friends of VRG attended a project kick-off meeting. The ASLA Southern California Membership Chair and Programs Chair are participating in documentation efforts.

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College programs that teach HALS in their curricula are very successful.

**With large documentations, HALS groups need some dedicated funding for covering materials: photography, drafting, copying and scanning. Some ASLA chapters provide some funding, like for travel, but perhaps there can be some matching funding from other preservation groups that are affiliated with ASLA. Would ASLA be able to provide direction on how partner with a nonprofit or other group, or provide a letter of introduction to someone through National contacts?**

We'll check into this. Looking for small foundations to support HALS documentations. Grants or academic partnerships for editing HALS documentation. Discuss HALS advocacy with potential partners TCLF, AHLP, NAPC, etc

**Ideas and guidance on how/when to interface with the Executive Committee would be helpful.**

We can check into this by asking other HALS Liaisons. It could be a topic in a HALS Liaison Newsletter.