

Omelette You Finish,

**but Licensure is One
of the Most Important
Steps in Your Career**



CLARB



American Society of
Landscape Architects

Alyssa Torrance

Communications and
Outreach Manager,
CLARB

Matthew Gallagher

Coordinator, Government Affairs, ASLA

Stephanie Lau

PLA

UC Davis ('16)

Past President, ASLA California Sierra Chapter
Project Manager, Earthasia Ltd.

A woman with long brown hair is sitting at a desk, looking down at an open book. She is wearing a white sweater. To her left is a white computer monitor on a stand. In the background, there is a bookshelf with several books. The image has a soft, slightly blurred background.

YOUR PATH TO

LICENSEURE

#GETLICENSED

THE AGENDA

**ABOUT
CLARB**

Who is
CLARB?

**ABOUT
LICENSURE**

Why Get
Licensed?

**GETTING
LICENSED**

How Do I
Get Licensed?

**ABOUT THE
L.A.R.E**

Where and How
Do I Get Started?



LET'S TALK LINGO

CLARB

L.A.R.E.

COUNCIL RECORD

JURISDICTION

LICENSING/REGISTRATION BOARD

An aerial photograph of a large, circular park or urban plaza. The design features a central circular area with a winding path that branches out into numerous smaller, circular green spaces or 'islands'. These islands are separated by light-colored paved paths. Some of the islands contain trees, grass, and small structures or benches. The overall layout is symmetrical and organic, resembling a stylized flower or a complex network of green spaces. The text '01 ABOUT CLARB' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

01 ABOUT CLARB

CLARB

Establishes and promotes professional licensure standards for landscape architecture

Members are the **licensure boards** across the United States and Canada

Prepares, administers and scores the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.)

Manages a professional information system called the CLARB Council Record

Works to defend landscape architectural licensure in support of protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare; and streamline the licensing process for candidates

Serves as licensure advisors to candidates and licensees

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERING ROLES

REGULATORY BOARD

- Government agency that issues you a license in their jurisdiction

CLARB

- Association of regulatory boards of landscape architecture that provide licensure resources

ASLA/CSLA

- Association of people who are practicing, studying or interested in the profession of landscape architecture

CLARB IS

- The L.A.R.E
- Council Record
- Advocate for licensure
- Advisor to candidates and licensees

ASLA/CSLA ARE

- Professional societies
- Advocates for the profession
- Professional resources

CLARB AND ASLA/CSLA ARE NOT

- Licensing boards



A person stands on a rocky peak, looking out over a vast mountain range at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and the mountains are silhouetted against the light. The person is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and khaki pants.

02

ABOUT LICENSURE

ABOUT LICENSURE



PROTECTS

The health, safety and welfare of the public



REQUIRED

In all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, 4 Canadian provinces, Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands



ISSUED

By the licensure board in your jurisdiction



EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE



ALLOCATION

of land and water
resources



FORMULATION

of feasibility studies



PREPARATION

of master plans



DETERMINATION

of improvements



DESIGN

of land forms

WHY GET LICENSED?

1. **Professional Development:** Employers are looking for Landscape Architects who are licensed (or who are on the path to Licensure). Licensure shows a commitment to professional development and demonstrates leadership.
2. **Expertise:** Only Licensed LA's can stamp drawings; and, depending on where you practice, only a licensed Landscape Architect can be in charge of a firm in private practice.
3. **Respect:** Clients, licensed professionals in other fields and the public respect licensed Landscape Architects.
4. **Opportunity:** Being licensed provides greater opportunity for your career. You can become a specialist, establish your own business or become an independent consultant.
5. **Financial:** Having a license means you can earn higher pay.
6. **Mentorship:** Becoming licensed provides opportunities to mentor graduates on their path to licensure, providing professional and personal enrichment
7. **Equal Status:** to architects and engineers. Licensure is a professional differentiator.
8. **Higher Potential** to progress to a leadership role in your profession.
9. **More Ways to Practice:** you have the ability to pursue your professional interest on your own terms.



03

HOW TO #GETLICENSED



the Exam

Apply



for Licensure

Manage



Your Career

Learn



About Licensure

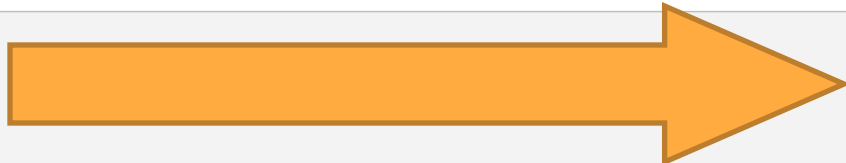
Access



Member Board
Resources

Take the Exam

[Home](#) > [Take the Exam](#)



In This Section ▾

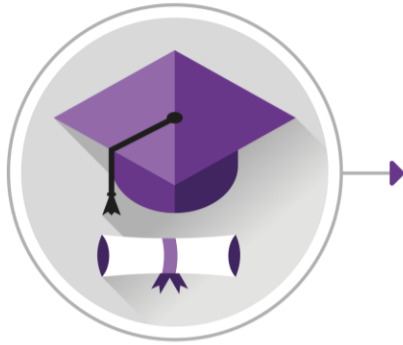
- [Check Eligibility](#)
- [View Exam Dates, Deadlines and Fees](#)
- [Register for the Exam](#)
- [Download the Exam Orientation Guide](#)
- [Prepare for the Exam](#)
- [View Exam Results & Pass Rates](#)

The Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.)

The L.A.R.E. is a four-part fully computerized examination designed to determine whether applicants for landscape architectural licensure possess sufficient knowledge, skills and abilities to provide services without endangering the health, safety and welfare of the public. It is prepared and scored by CLARB in accordance with all current standards for fairness and quality of licensure exams.



COMPLETE YOUR EDUCATION



Obtain a Bachelor's or
Master's degree in
landscape architecture

START THE EXAM



Begin the examination process

- Start your Council Record

GAIN EXPERIENCE



Gain experience in regulated practice:

- Inventory, analysis, project management
- Planning and design
- Construction documentation and administration
- Grading, drainage, and stormwater management

APPLY FOR LICENSURE



☐ Apply in the jurisdiction where you wish to become licensed:

- ☒ Education
- ☒ Examination
- ☒ Experience

A hand holding a pencil is positioned over an open notebook. The background is blurred, showing a person in a plaid shirt, likely a student, in a study environment. The overall tone is educational and focused.

04

ABOUT THE EXAM

THE EXAM IS...



A Seal of Protection

If a licensure candidate passes each section of the exam, that individual possesses the minimum competency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.



A Competency Measure

The Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.) determines whether applicants for landscape architectural licensure possess sufficient knowledge, skills and abilities to provide services without endangering the health, safety and welfare of the public.



Required

Successful completion of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.) is required to become licensed.

L.A.R.E. CONTENT



**INVENTORY, ANALYSIS
AND PROJECT
MANAGEMENT**



**PLANNING
AND
DESIGN**



**CONSTRUCTION
DOCUMENTATION AND
ADMINISTRATION**



**GRADING, DRAINAGE AND
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT**

Inventory, Analysis, and Project Management

100 Items

- Project Management
- Inventory and Data Collection
- Stakeholder Engagement Process
- Physical Analysis
- Contextual Analysis

Planning and Design

95 Items

- Stewardship and Design Principles
- Master Planning
- Schematic Design
- Design Development

Construction Documentation and Administration

100 Items

- Construction Plans and Details
- Construction Specifications and Bidding
- Construction Administration

Grading, Drainage, and Stormwater Management

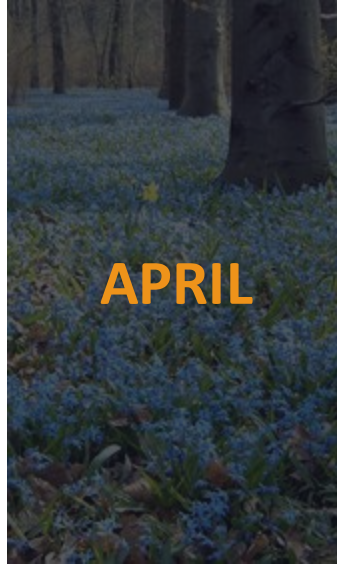
80 items

- Stormwater Management
- Grading and Earthwork
- Drainage Systems

TAKE THE EXAM

WHEN IS IT OFFERED?

You can register for all four sections of the L.A.R.E. in April, August and December.



WHERE IS IT OFFERED?

You can take the exam at a PSI testing center or from your home or office.

“HOW DO I PREPARE?”

CLARB, ASLA and the Canadian landscape architect licensing groups provide a variety of sources to help you kick-start your L.A.R.E. prep.



**PRACTICE EXAMS
(NEW!)**



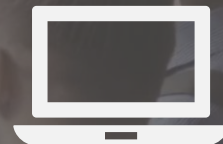
**DEMO EXAM &
YOUTUBE VIDEOS**



**ORIENTATION
GUIDE**



**READING
LISTS**



**ASLA
RESOURCES**

WHAT'S NEXT?

☒ Continue path to licensure

☒ CLARB Certification

☒ Volunteer



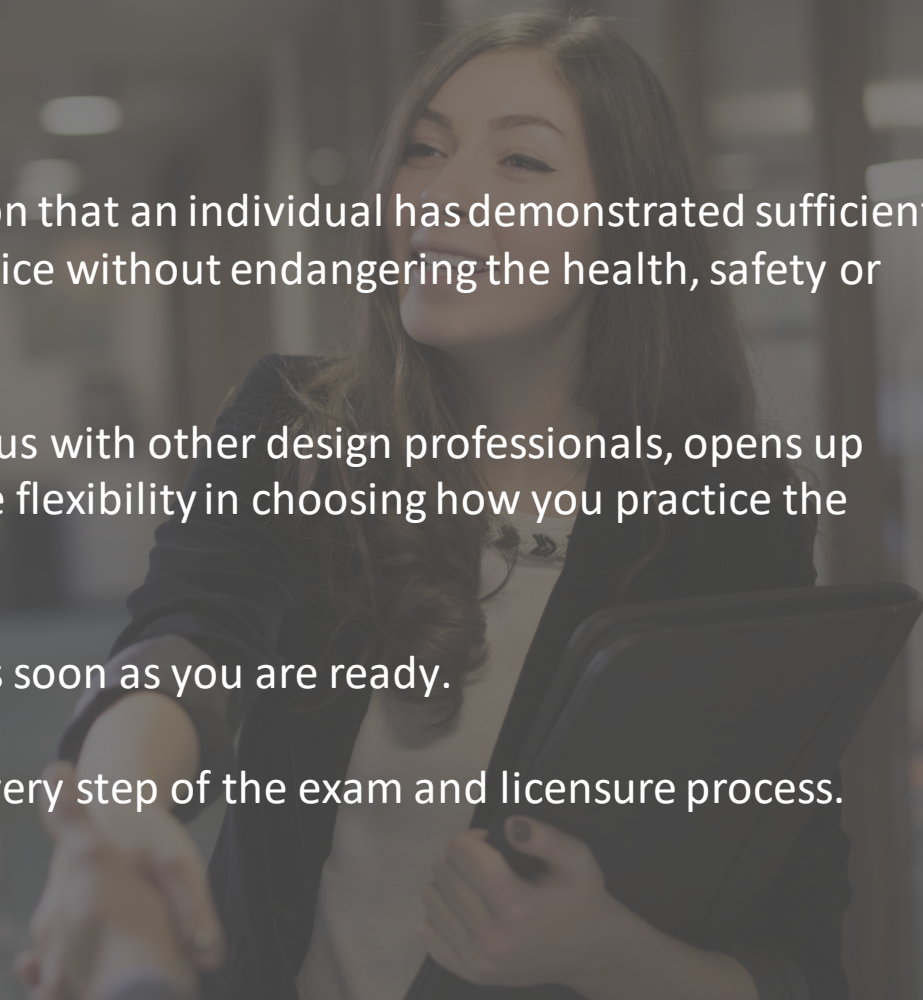
IN CLOSING...

Licensure is a formal, legal recognition that an individual has demonstrated sufficient knowledge, skill and abilities to practice without endangering the health, safety or welfare of the public.

To be licensed affords you equal status with other design professionals, opens up professional doors, and gives you the flexibility in choosing how you practice the discipline.

Register for – and take – the exam as soon as you are ready.

CLARB is here to help you through every step of the exam and licensure process.



2024 L.A.R.E. ADMINISTRATION

APRIL

**Take the exam
April 1-17**

Register by March 25

AUGUST

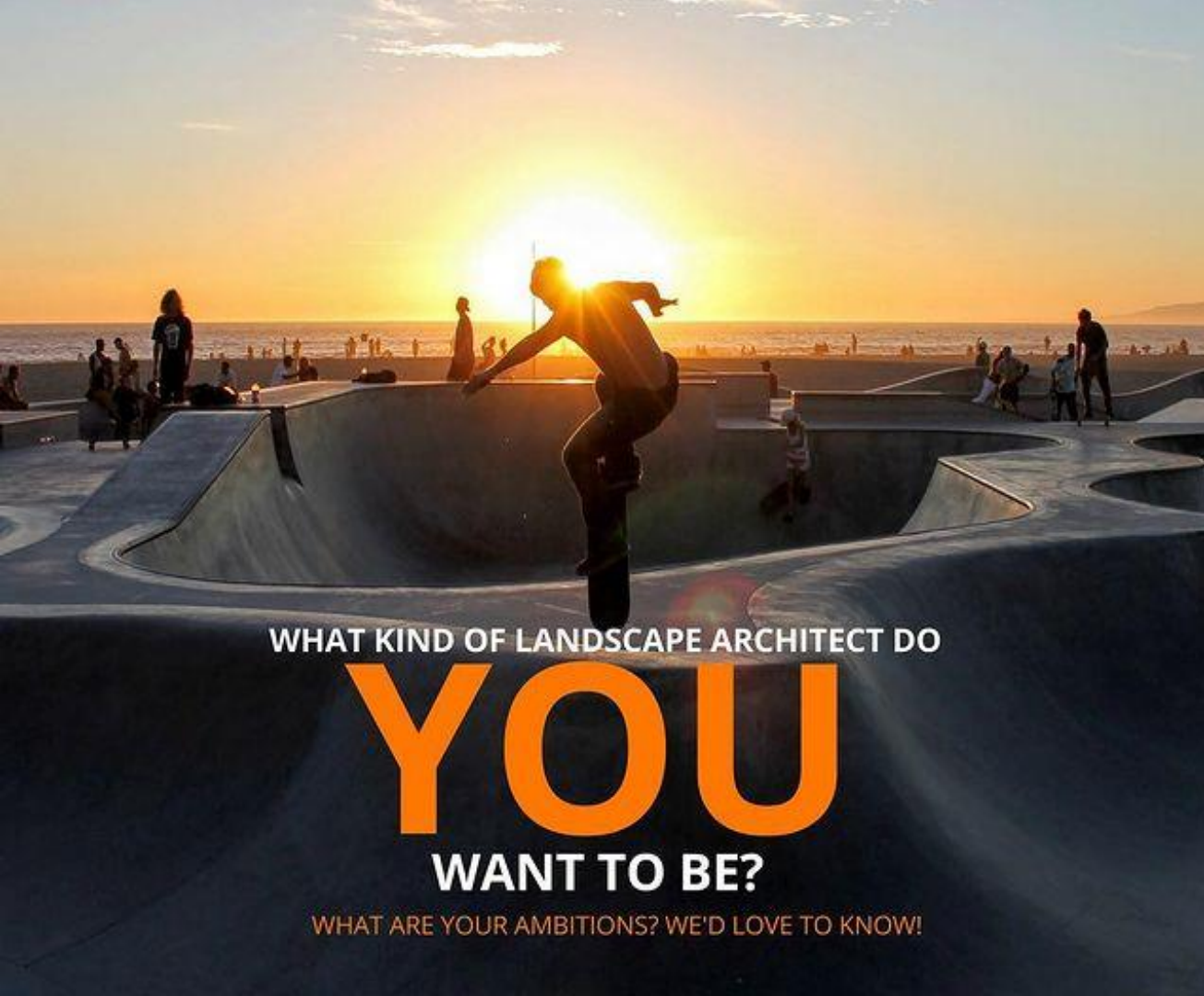
**Take the exam
July 29-August 14**

Registration opens mid-May

DECEMBER

**Take the exam
December 2-18**

Registration opens mid-Sept.



WHAT KIND OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT DO

YOU

WANT TO BE?

WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS? WE'D LOVE TO KNOW!

CLARB

clarb.org

571-432-0332

info@clarb.org





You're Licensed: What Next?

1. Keeping Licensure Secure & Affordable
2. Earning Influence & Competitiveness
3. Accelerating National Climate Action



Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act

Expands eligible expenses under 529 savings plans to cover costs associated with:

- Licensure prep courses, practice exams, and study materials;
- Licensure exams;
- Continuing education and licensure renewal; and
- Other costs required to obtain and maintain a license.



American Society of
Landscape Architects

Maryland

- Sen. Cardin (D-MD)
- Sen. Van Hollen (D-MD)
- Rep. Hoyer (D-MD-5)
- Rep. Trone (D-MD-6)

Virginia

- Rep. Kiggans (R-VA-2)
- Rep. Spanberger (D-VA-7)
- Rep. Griffith (R-VA-9)

Tennessee

- Sen. Blackburn (R-TN)

Texas

- Rep. Ellzey (R-TX-6)
- Rep. Fletcher (D-TX-7)

Arizona

- Rep. Gallego (D-AZ-7)

ASLA Congressional Meetings



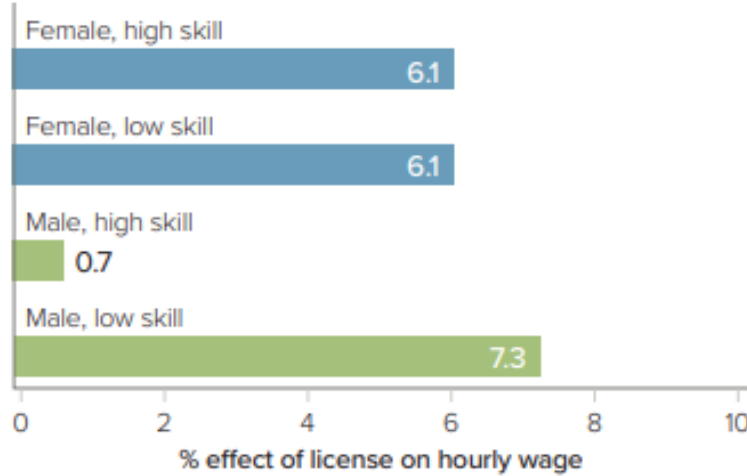


WCLAP



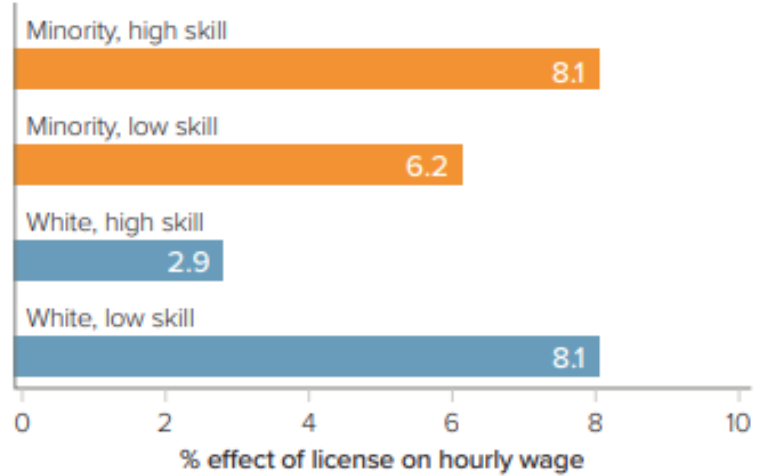
Women of Color Licensure Advancement Program

Fig. 25. Licensing premia for women and men, by skill level



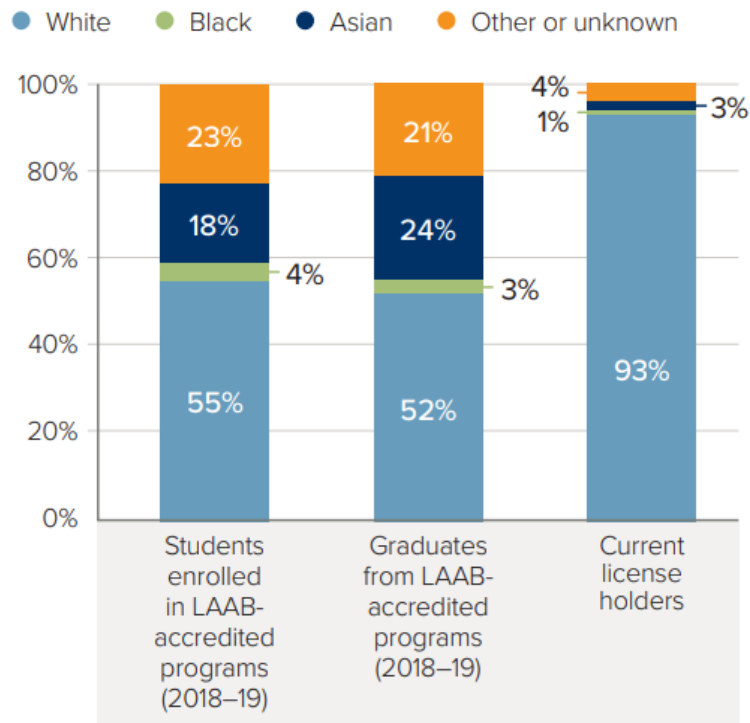
Source: Oxford Economics

Fig. 26. Licensing premia for minority and white workers, by skill level



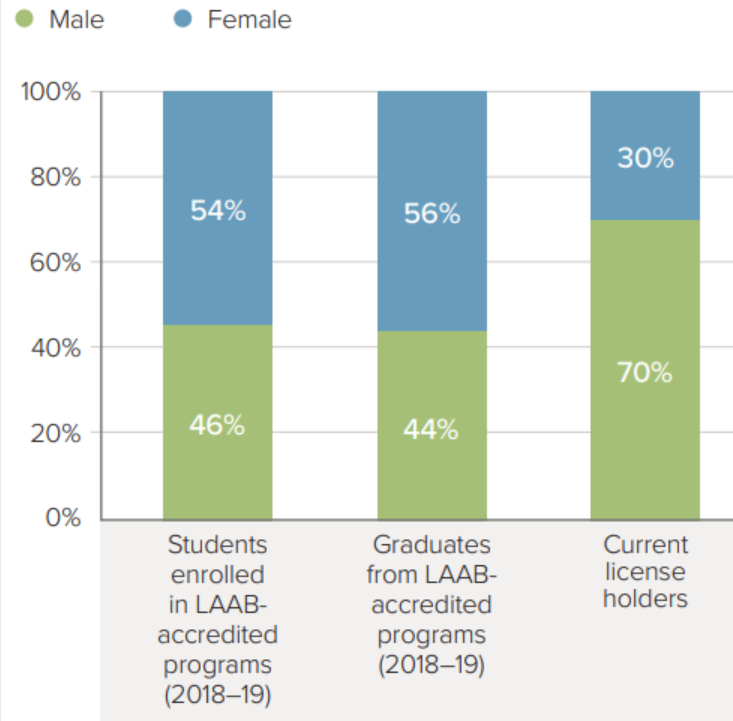
Source: Oxford Economics

Fig. 16. Ethnicity split of students enrolled and graduating from LAAB-accredited programs, and current license holders

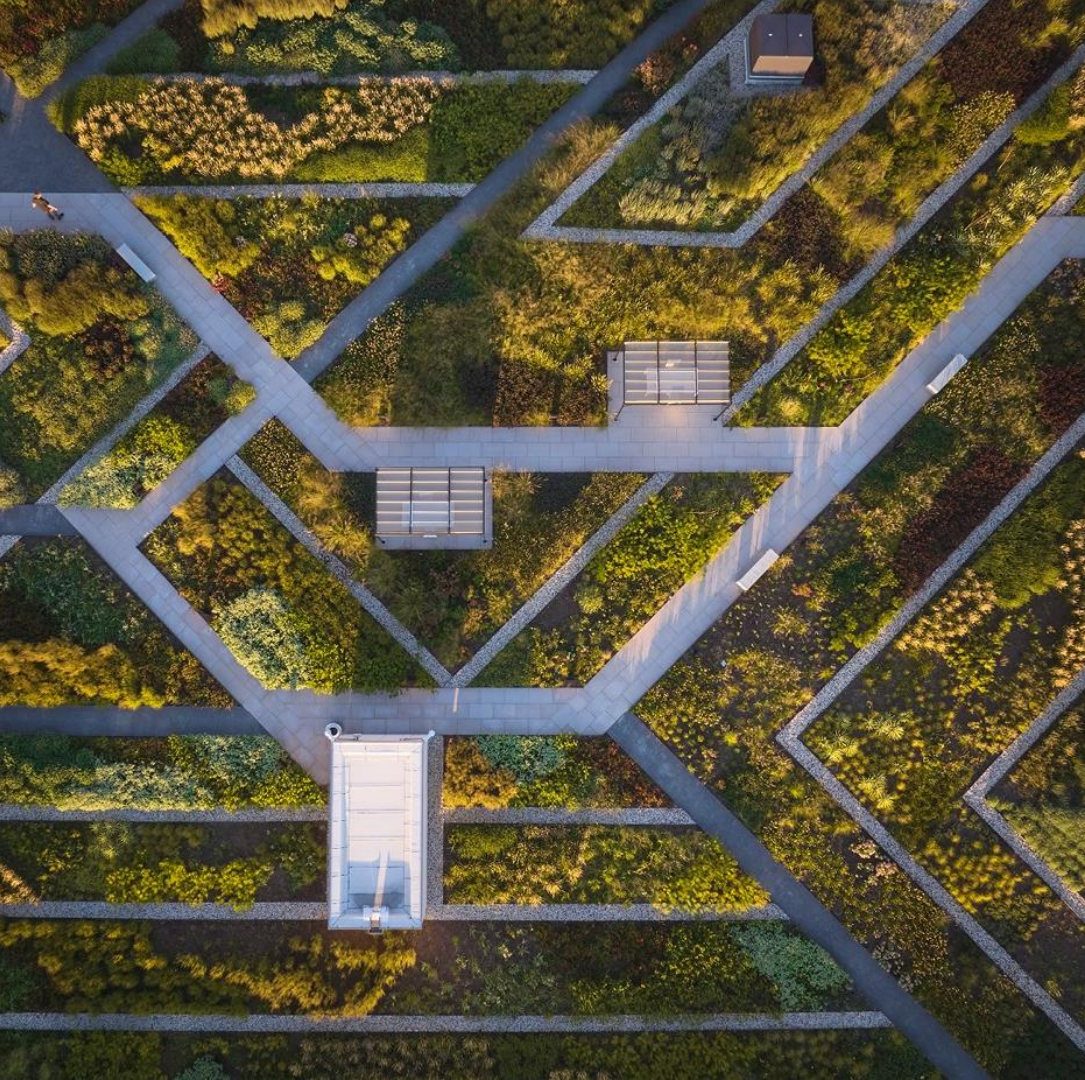


Source: CLARB, LAAB

Fig. 14. Gender split of students enrolled and graduating from LAAB-accredited programs, and current license holders



Source: CLARB, LAAB



Tracking 2024 Licensure Activity

- ASLA tracking +150 licensure bills nationwide
- Deregulation threats
- Board mergers and sunsets
- Continuing education
- Renewal fees and service taxes



American Society of
Landscape Architects

New Hampshire

“For some reason, we license the person who plants
rosebushes in your front yard. Not anymore ” –
Governor Sununu referring to landscape architects



American Society of
Landscape Architects



I am licensed in California and will seek licensure in Hawaii over the next year. It was crucial for me to pursue licensure for my professional independence. Holding my own license gives me the ability and freedom to work for myself and focus on my professional aspirations. It is also important to contribute to a **high standard of practice** by having a qualification that the general public can refer to for guaranteeing the health, safety, and well being of all.

- *Jessica Colvin, Associate ASLA,
2022 WCLAP Cohort*



American Society of
Landscape Architects

Licensure Leads to Influence



American Society of
Landscape Architects



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ASLA Testimony on USACE Water Resources Projects

1. Enhance the use of nature-based solutions
2. Include more landscape architects
3. Expand opportunities for small landscape architecture firms
4. Adopt SITES to help guide and certify water projects



American Society of
Landscape Architects

Licensure Issues

- ASLA wants to get more LAs hired at USACE
- Licensed professionals are more desirable to hire
- Earn parity with other licensed design professions
- Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness



American Society of
Landscape Architects



Practical Issues

- Engineering With Nature initiative
- Dredge material beneficial uses
- Climate resilience
- Public health & safety
- Environmental justice



American Society of
Landscape Architects

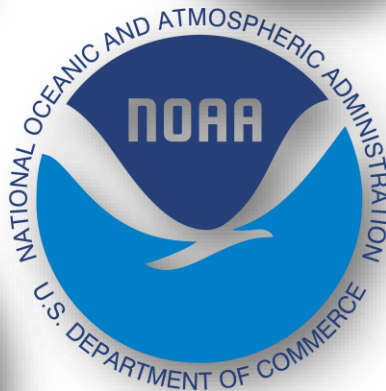
Inflation Reduction Act

\$370 billion in total climate change funds, including grants for landscape architecture projects such as:

- Siting Interstate Electricity Transmission Lines
- Reducing Emissions and Improving Air Quality in Port Communities
- Neighborhood Access and Transportation Equity
- Reducing Embodied Carbon of Construction Materials
- Agriculture and Forest Land Conservation
- Water Supply and Reclamation Projects



American Society of
Landscape Architects



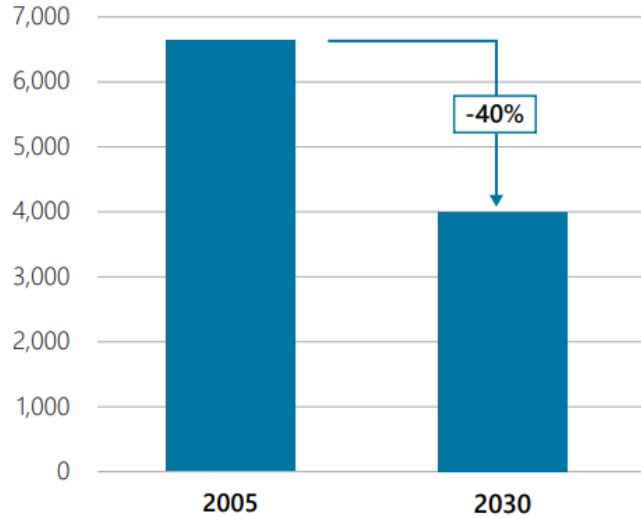
American Society of
Landscape Architects



Policy Internships for Landscape Architecture Students

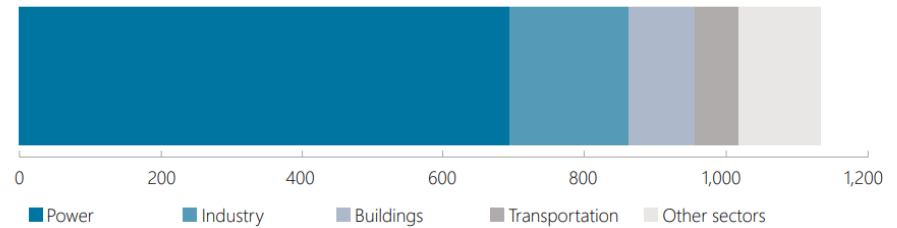


American Society of
Landscape Architects



Net Economy-wide GHG Emissions
Over Time (MMT CO₂e)

Projection for Emissions Abatement from **Inflation Reduction Act**



Estimated Emissions Reductions in 2030 from *Inflation Reduction Act* and *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (2030, MMT CO₂e)

Source: "The Inflation Reduction Act Drives Significant Emissions Reductions and Positions America to Reach Our Climate Goals," U.S. Department of Energy (Office of Policy), Washington, DC, August 2022.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Goal: build more electricity transmission lines

Possibilities

- Offshore wind energy from MA sent to CT
- Solar energy from TX sent to OK
- Grid resilience

Barriers

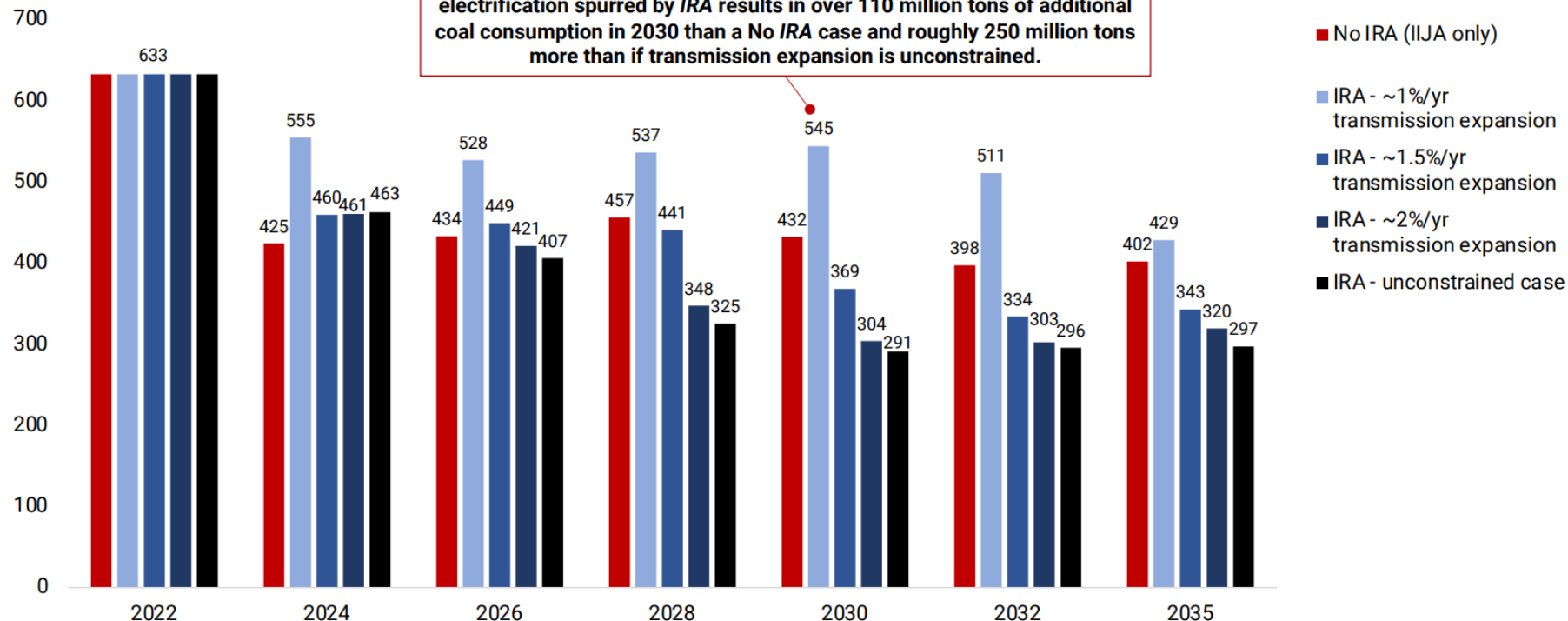
- 10 years waiting to solve permitting and siting challenges
-



American Society of
Landscape Architects

U.S. Coal Consumption

million short tons per year



Source: "Electricity Transmission is Key to Unlock the Full Potential of the Inflation Reduction Act," REPEAT Project, Princeton University, New Jersey USA, September 2022.



American Society of
Landscape Architects

“Specifications”

“Settings”

“Site selection”

“Arrangement”

“Location”

Licensure Statute Language

THE GULF
OF
MEXICO



American Society of
Landscape Architects

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Ends

- More long-range and long-term planning
- More involvement of state professionals in the planning process

Means

- *Landscape architecture licensed at the state level*
-



American Society of
Landscape Architects

Defending Licensure: ASLA

Obtaining licensure is up to you:

- Higher salary, more influence
- Raise awareness, grow and diversify the profession
- Lead on climate action

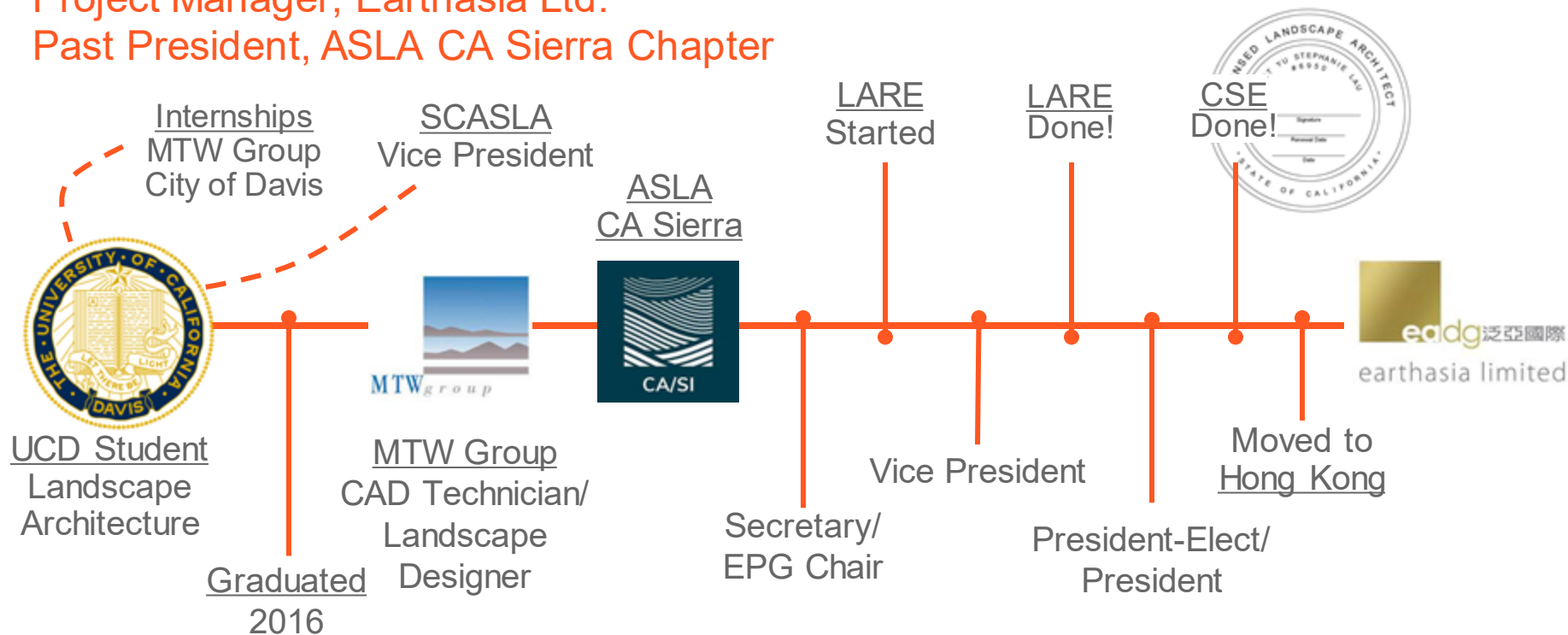


American Society of
Landscape Architects

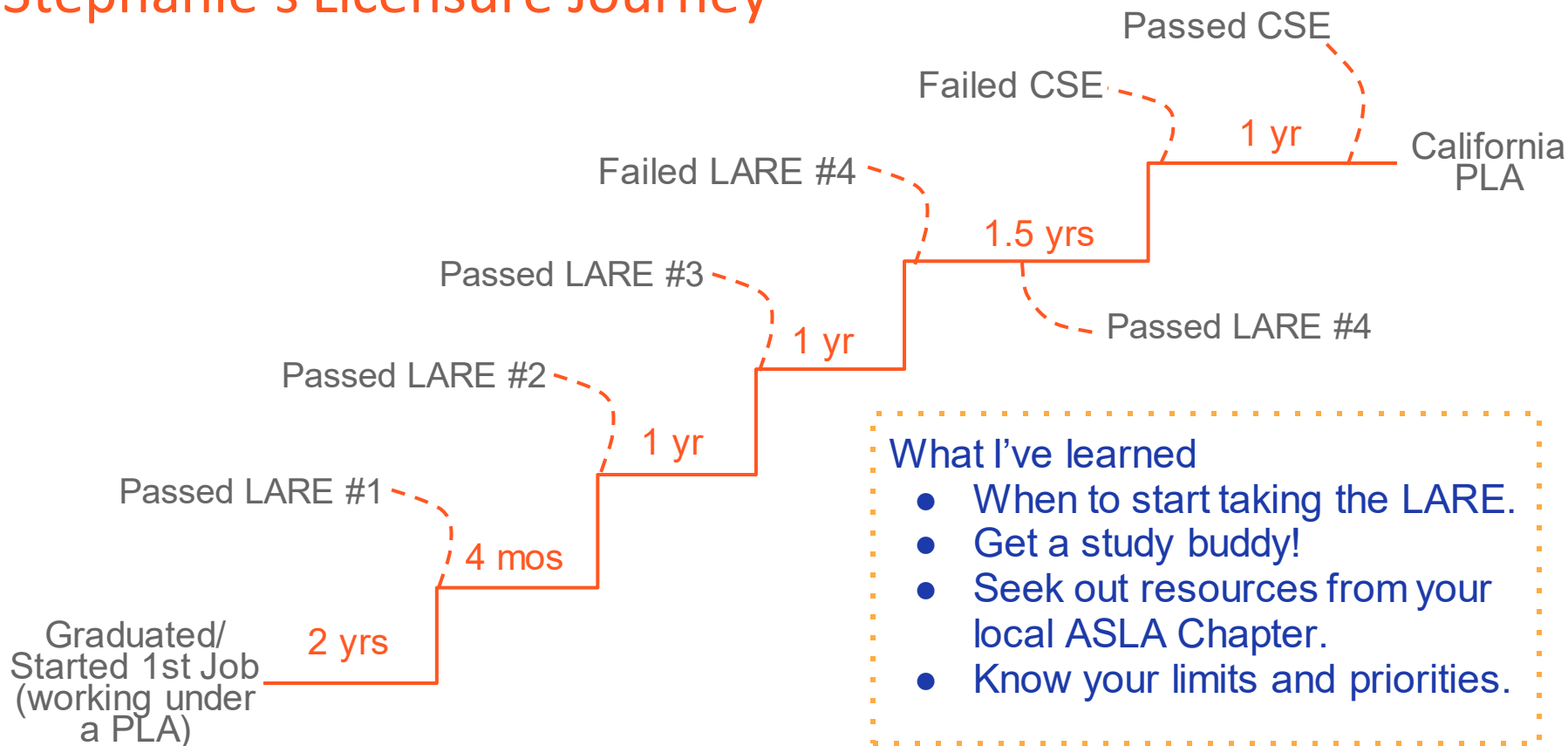
Stephanie Lau, PLA, ASLA

Project Manager, Earthasia Ltd.

Past President, ASLA CA Sierra Chapter



Stephanie's Licensure Journey



L.A.R.E. CONTENT



**INVENTORY, ANALYSIS
AND PROJECT
MANAGEMENT**



**PLANNING
AND
DESIGN**



**CONSTRUCTION
DOCUMENTATION AND
ADMINISTRATION**



**GRADING, DRAINAGE AND
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT**

Stephanie's Career: Past vs Now

Before licensure (in the US):

- Don't really have room for promotions → Salary stays pretty much the same.
- Don't have much control over my work.
- Not competitive enough within the job market.

After licensure (in HK):

- Able to get an exemption for a part of the HK LA registration exam.
- Easier to get a job - shows that I'm committed to the profession.
- Have the power to negotiate for a higher salary than average for my PM position.
- Opens up to a lot of opportunities and responsibilities within my job.

WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH

DAILY PROMPTS

1. #ThisIsLandscapeArchitecture
2. Current Project
3. #PLA Day
4. Community Green Space
5. Before and After
6. Seasons
7. Pollinator Places
8. Collaboration
9. Career Path
10. Day In The Life
11. Behind The Design
12. Community Impact
13. Sketch
14. Green
15. Parks
16. Climate Action
17. Connecting Communities
18. Green Infrastructure
19. Design Solution
20. Inspiration
21. Water
22. Biodiversity
23. Resilient Landscapes
24. Designing for Well-being
25. Nature-based Solutions
26. Trees
27. Plants
28. Achievement
29. Team
30. Outdoors For All

#WLAM2024 @NationalASLA



Thanks!

