



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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State Board for Landscape Architecture Meeting
1411 Broadway (between 39th and 40th Streets) – 10th Floor – Regent's Room-Manhattan

Wednesday, December 3, 2025
10:00 am start time

Members of the public may attend and observe the meeting outside of the Executive Session

AGENDA

Executive Session

1. Disciplinary Cases
2. CE Provider Conversation

Public Session

3. Introductions, Welcome Guest and New Board Member, Board Departure
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Board Chair Report
6. Board Office Report
7. New Business
 - CLARB Conversation
8. Old Business
 - Education/Experience Review
 - CLARB Annual Meeting Summary
 - Continuing Education Update
 - Regulatory Amendments Requested by Board
 - Fiverr issue
 - Public Member Search
 - Professional Member Search
9. New Business
 - April 2026 Practical Exam Volunteers
 - 2026 NJ ASLA Annual Meeting CE Review

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 – New York, NY

Minutes of the Meeting
State Board for Landscape Architecture
1411 Broadway; Regents' Room
New York, NY 10018

Present: Adrienne Weremchuk, Vice Chair
Christopher Nolan
Daniel Biggs
Kimberly Lorenz
Valerie Aymer

Absent: Nate Harris
Andrew Lavallee
Stacy Paetzel, Chair

Staff: Robert Lopez, Executive Secretary
Gina Sacco, Assistant in Profession Education

August 14, 2025

OPEN SESSION

1. Elections – Chair and Vice Chair:

Since no quorum was present at its April meeting, the Board could not conduct business, including its annual election of Chair and Vice Chair. As a result, elections were held at this meeting. The Executive Secretary reviewed the annual election process and shared the responsibilities and time commitments of the Chair and Vice Chair of the State Board.

Motion: *Aymer/Lorenz:* That Vice Chair Weremchuk be elected as Chair.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion: *Weremchuk/Nolan:* That Member Aymer be elected as Vice Chair.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Motion: *Nolan /Biggs:* That the Board enter Executive Session.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: *Aymer/Biggs:* That the minutes of the December 4, 2024 and the April 23, 2025 State Board meetings be approved as written.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Board Chair Report:

Incoming Chair Weremchuk noted that she is looking forward to serving as Chair and her attendance at the upcoming CLARB Annual Meeting. She will report back on the outcomes of the meeting at the December 2025 meeting of the State Board.

5. Board Office Report:

The Executive Secretary provided updated statistics for the number of landscape architects licensed in New York. The number of landscape architects that were licensed to date in 2025 are slightly down from previous years.

OP/Staff Activities: The Board Office welcomed Melissa Heinrichs on June 3, 2025.

Legislative / Regulatory Activity: The Board discussed numerous legislative items. Board members also inquired about various other bills included in the Board package.

The Executive Secretary shared what was discussed at the CLARB/ASLA meeting where proposed legislation throughout the US was discussed with Member Boards. Some jurisdictions continue to see elimination or consolidation efforts, with one seeking to eliminate its continuing education requirements. CLARB noted they are seeking to increase the number of jurisdictions who adopt its Uniform Standard for licensure. ASLA noted that 14 jurisdictions throughout the US held advocacy days in 2025 to support the profession of landscape architecture.

Ethics Training:

The Executive Secretary noted that all Board Members who have yet to do so should complete NYSED's required ethics training. Member Lorenz will follow up with documentation from the ethics training she completed as part of her existing State employment.

6. **Old Business:**

Continuing Education (CE) Update:

The Executive Secretary reported that the CE modernization bill passed in both houses and has yet to be sent to the Executive. If the bill is signed into law, the regulatory process will commence with the effective date of any legislation being enacted 18 months after the bill is signed. Board members will be asked for confirmation of prior recommendations for CE changes as the regulations are being developed.

The Executive Secretary described the key points in the bill language. If enacted, the CE modernization bill will make the following key changes:

- The cap on educational activities will be eliminated
- Up to 6 hours of CE may be carried over from one registration period to the next
- Individuals with a lapse in practice must complete 12 CE hours within the 12 months before applying for renewal, in addition to any CE owed from the prior registration period
- Exemptions from CE requirements may be granted for extended active military service, serious medical conditions, or other justifiable causes as approved by the Department
- CE completed in other design professions may count toward the CE requirement.

Additionally, the Executive Secretary shared additional regulatory changes that the Board has considered over the last few years to reconfirm the State Board's recommendations:

- Updating the endorsement provisions for landscape architects licensed and practicing in other US jurisdictions or in Canada for 5 of the last 7 years. The requirements would mirror those requirements for architects. The Board confirmed its recommendation and suggested that another individual endorsing the experience who could be a landscape architect or licensed in an allied profession (i.e. architect or professional engineer) should be considered.
- The Board confirmed its recommendation allowing employment that is not concurrent with full-time attendance at college to count towards licensure. The experience must be at least one month in duration.
- The Board confirmed its recommendation to adopt CLARB's ESL accommodation policy for a word-for-word translation dictionary.
- As part of the broader regulatory amendment process, the Board confirmed its recommendation that additional cleanup items be considered, including updates to the names of LARE sections and other required technical corrections.

Architecture Education and Experience requirement:

The Executive Secretary discussed modifications to the education and experience requirements for licensure candidates that were recommended by the State Board for Architecture and made effective May 1, 2025. Amongst the experience requirements for landscape architecture that the Executive Secretary felt the Board should include in its review are Categories A, B, and C. The Board was in support of reviewing its experience requirements and felt that the current requirements may discourage candidates working in non-traditional settings from pursuing licensure. The Executive Secretary will prepare a comparison of New York State's requirements to other states as well as CLARB's Uniform Standard and research the genesis of the current requirements, with the Board discussing the experience requirements in more detail at its next meeting.

CLARB Annual Meeting:

The Executive Secretary and Chair Weremchuk have been approved to attend this in-person meeting from September 18-20. The agenda was shared and discussed with the Board.

CLARB Special Membership meeting:

The Executive Secretary and Chair Weremchuk attended this meeting where bylaws revisions were successfully passed by CLARB's membership.

CLARB Delegate:

Motion: *Nolan/Biggs:* That Chair Weremchuk be the delegate for this meeting.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CLARB Elections:

The Board reviewed candidate videos for the contested election and made its recommendation to Chair Weremchuk.

Future CLARB Visit:

Matt Miller, the CEO for CLARB, will attend the State Board's December meeting. The Executive Secretary drafted an agenda and included it in the Board's package and asked Board members for input. Besides the topics included in the draft agenda, Board members suggested additional topics as follows:

- CELA / CLARB collaboration to assist instructors in Schools of Landscape Architecture to get licensed
- Volunteer and engagement opportunities with CLARB
- CLARB / ASLA interactions and collaborations
- CLARB communication and outreach to stakeholders, students, and those within the licensure community to have a better understanding of the profession.

Public Member Search:

The Executive Secretary asked Board members for recommendations for a Public Member. Member Aymer has a few names, she will make the initial contact and let them know the Executive Secretary will reach out. She will send the names to the Executive Secretary.

Professional Member Search:

A new member of the Board is being considered by the Regents in September. If appointed, the new member's first meeting will be in December.

7. **New Business:**

2025 ASLA Conference CE Review:

The Executive Secretary thanked Chair Weremchuk and Member Lorenz for reviewing this year's ASLA CE offerings. The Board agreed with the initial consensus of the Ad Hoc Committee's findings. After review, the Board recommended the following actions to be taken for the courses where there was no initial consensus of the Committee:

- FRI-D11 – no credit
- SAT-B05 – OK, no HSW
- SAT- C07 – OK, no HSW
- SUN- A03 – no credit
- SUN- A04 – OK, HSW
- SUN- A11 – OK, no HSW
- SUN- B05 – OK, no HSW
- SUN- B10 – no credit
- SUN-C04 – OK, no HSW

ASLA also asked New York to review the Learning Lab topics to take place on the EXPO floor of the Conference. Board office staff reviewed all sessions and agreed with the ASLA findings for these topics. The Board supported staff's judgment on these sessions.

FIVERR Issue:

The Executive Secretary shared information about this website that allows the public to search for landscape architectural services as well as other individuals holding themselves out as licensed professionals. Multiple cases of fraud have come up in the US where fraudulent license numbers and seals have been used without an architect's knowledge. Leadership within the Education Department have been made aware of the issue and are giving consideration to potential next steps.

2026 Meeting Dates:

Dates for 2026 Board meetings were agreed to as follows: April 29, August 12, and December 2.

8. **Motion:** *Nolan / Aymer*: Moved to adjourn.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Board will be December 3, 2025, in NYC.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

Minutes of the Meeting
State Board for Landscape Architecture
1411 Broadway; Regents' Room
New York, NY 10018

Present: Adrienne Weremchuk, Vice Chair
Valerie Aymer
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Absent: Nate Harris
Andrew Lavallee
Stacy Paetzel, Chair

Staff: Robert Lopez, Executive Secretary
Gina Sacco, Assistant in
Professional Education

August 14, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. The Board reviewed one disciplinary case.
2. **Motion:** *Aymer/Biggs*: That the minutes of the December 4, 2024 State Board meeting be approved as written.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. **Motion:** *Aymer/Biggs*: That the Board resume the Open Session.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

**NEW YORK STATE BOARD
FOR
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

BOARD REPORT**

Licensing Statistics

Current Resident Registrants:	945
Current Non-Resident Registrants:	644
Total Number of Registrants as of July 1, 2025	1,589

Licenses Issued

2025 – 69 (through October 31); 2024 – 92; 2023 – 81; 2022 – 74; 2021 – 76; 2020 – 61

Licenses Issued between July 25, 2025 – November 7, 2025 - 33

OP/Staff Activities

From September 18-20, 2025, Chair Weremchuk and the Executive Secretary attended the CLARB Annual Meeting. Outcomes of the meeting will be discussed under old business.

On November 5, 2025, the Executive Secretary attended the joint ASLA/CLARB Licensure Summit. A summary follows the Board report.

Legislative / Regulatory Activity

The NYS Legislature is in a new two-year session that will run from January 2025 December 2026. Although early in the session, legislation of interest follows:

A7561 / S7220 – Relates to continuing education requirements for landscape architects

Relates to continuing education requirements for landscape architects; provides that adjustments to such requirements may be granted for health reasons, active duty, or other good cause; limits the number of credit hours that may carry over to the next registration period.

Bill passed in the Assembly and passed in the Senate; has been delivered to the Governor.

S3268 / No Same as – Relates to comprehensive delivery of infrastructure delivered between a public entity and a development entity

Relates to comprehensive delivery of infrastructure delivered between a public entity and a development entity consolidating at least two or more of design, construction, finance, operations and/or maintenance work, including construction manager or construction manager at risk; authorizes a public entity to pursue certain authorized projects; provides for project funding and authorizes the public entity to accept from any source any grant, donation, gift or other form

of conveyance of land, money; provides for labor and public interest protections; makes related provisions.

Bill is referred to Procurement and Contracts in the Senate.

A5838 / No Same as – Relates to pre-approved construction documents

Requires municipalities which issue building permits to provide pre-approved construction documents at no cost for the types of residential building permitted to be constructed in such jurisdiction.

Bill is referred to Governmental Operations in the Senate.

S1834 / No Same as – Relates to the licensing of landscape architects

Relates to certain licensing exemptions for landscape architects.

Bill is committed to Rules in the Senate

S3287 / A4942 – Relates to an engineering technology degree

Provides that an applicant with a bachelor's degree or higher in engineering technology and an applicant with a bachelor's degree or higher in engineering shall have the same number of education and experience credit requirements, shall have the same eligibility for an identification card as "an engineer in training", as well as examination and examination eligibility requirements.

Bill is referred to Higher Education in the Senate and is referred to Higher Education in the Assembly.

A483 / S5392 – Permits certain not-for-profit corporations engaged in engineering for certain conservation efforts to do business or provide professional engineering, land surveying or professional geology services in the state

Relates to permitting certain not-for-profit corporations engaged in engineering for certain conservation efforts to do business or provide professional engineering, land surveying, or professional geology services in the state.

Bill is referred to Higher Education in the Assembly and is passed in the Senate.

S1141 / A4840 – Relates to the requirements for certification for certified interior designers

Relates to the educational and examination requirements for certification as a certified interior designer; provides an exemption from the education requirements for architects licensed under Article 147 of the NYS Education Law.

Bill is referred to Higher Education in the Senate and is referred to Higher Education in the Assembly.

A2571-A / S620-A – Relates to the practice of geology

Adds the practice of geology to legacy corporations.

Bill is referred to Higher Education in the Assembly and is repassed in the Senate.

S2146 / A4907 – Repeals and reenacts provisions on time limitations on certain actions against professional engineers, architects, other designers and construction contractors

Repeals and reenacts statute of limitation provisions on wrongful death, personal injury and property damage actions against professional engineers, architects, landscape architects, land

surveyors and construction contractors to provide for a limitations period of ten years after completion of improvement to real property; "completion", which constitutes the accrual date for the limitations period, is defined; provides for a one year extension for injuries to person or property or wrongful death which occur during the tenth year after completion.

Bill is committed to Rules in the Senate and is referred to Higher Education in the Assembly.

A4680 / No Same as – New York Emergency Responder Act

Enacts the New York emergency responder act limiting the liability of certain emergency responders.

Bill is referred to Governmental Operations in the Assembly.

S4577 / A5520 - Requires public authorities to negotiate with most qualified architectural, engineering, geological, landscape architectural and/or surveying professional firms before negotiating with other firms

Requires public authorities and public benefit corporations to negotiate with professional firms providing architectural, engineering, geological, landscape architectural or surveying services in order from the most qualified to the least qualified with regard to the provision of services to the authority or corporation

Bill is reported and committed to Procurement and Contracts in the Senate and is referred to Corporations, Authorities and Commissions in the Assembly.

S4877 / No Same as – Relates to the establishment of the water-based fire protection licensure act

Establishes water-based fire protection licensure act, setting forth licensure requirements for contractors engaged in the business of the layout, installing, repairing, inspecting, testing, or maintaining of water-based fire protection systems and components.

Bill is referred to Consumer Protection in the Senate.

S7104 / No Same as – NYC DoB False Documents

Relates to false statements in documents submitted to the department of buildings of the city of New York

Bill is referred to Cities in the Senate.

A5678 / No Same As – Increases to \$50,000 for cost of construction threshold

Increases to \$50,000 the cost of the construction of a building, structure or public work, above which a professional engineer, land surveyor or architect must be.

Bill is referred to Higher Education in the Assembly.

S7217 / A7675 – Relates to building permits

Authorizes a city, town or village to establish a program whereby a building permit may be issued based upon certification by a registered architect or professional engineer.

Bill is referred to Local Government in the Senate and is referred to Local Governments in the Assembly.

Bills Not yet Introduced

S / A – Relates to public employees’ supervision, examination, review, and determination of acceptability of public works projects performed by contractors

Requires certain public employees to be on the site for the duration of public works projects completed by contractors; requires such certain public employees to review a contractor’s work on public works projects and determine whether the work performed is acceptable.

Bill passed in the Senate and passed in the Assembly but was vetoed by the Executive in 2024.

Bill is not yet introduced this session.

S / A – Relates to licensure requirements for professional geologists

Provides that the education requirements to be licensed as a professional geologist may be partially substituted by practical experience; relates to the issuance of an identification card as a geologist in training.

Bill is not yet introduced

S / A– Establishes a program where a municipal department of buildings may accept certain construction documents for code compliance

Establishes a program where a municipal department of buildings may accept construction documents required to be filed in relation to code compliance prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy with less than a full examination by such municipal department of buildings based on a professional certification of an applicant who is an architect or professional engineer; makes related provisions.

Bill is not yet introduced

S / A – Requires certain engineering plans that could pose a material risk to public safety to bear a stamp of approval of a professional engineer

Requires certain engineering plans or specifications for engineering work or services that could pose a material risk to public safety to bear a stamp of approval of a professional engineer and authorizes the public service commission to promulgate rules and regulations relating to such requirement.

Bill is not yet introduced

S / A – Interior Design/State Contracting

Adds interior design services as a type of contract that can be entered into and negotiated by the state

Bill is not yet introduced

S / A - Licensing consequences for serious abuse of self-certification privileges

Relates to licensing consequences for architects or engineers who seriously abuse their self-certification privileges

Bill is not yet introduced

Office of Professional Discipline

Michael Shea Derrig
Antonio Zaino

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

To: Landscape Architecture Board Members

Date: November 5, 2025

From: Robert Lopez

Subject: CLARB/ASLA Licensure Summit

In reply to:

On November 5, 2025, the Executive Secretary attended the latest CLARB/ASLA Licensure Summit hosted by Bradley Rawls (ASLA) and Zach Druga (CLARB). A summary follows below.

■ **Agenda**

- 2025 Legislative Recap / 2026 Preview
- Uniform Standard Update
- ICOR practice overlap research

■ **2025 Legislative Update**

- Professional licensure reform continues to see:
 - Deregulation
 - Reciprocity/mobility
 - Board reform: oversight, structure and composition
 - Review committee
 - Fees / Revenue
 - Military community
 - Sunset/sunrise
 - Criminal history
- How is anti-licensing shifting
 - From reducing barriers to work to reducing government inefficiency
 - Seeing the “Doge-ifying” of government
- Alaska SB 54 – Board reauthorization & Design Professional – recently vetoed by Governor
- Michigan HB 4879 – Landscape architecture is currently targeted for deregulation. Bill was introduced a month and a half ago.
 - Started in February 2025 – a report was issued about landscape architecture as a profession protecting the public
 - Michigan ASLA, ASLA National, CLARB involved
 - If deregulated, Michigan would be the only State to deregulate landscape architecture
 - Bill was pulled from the Committee agenda but is “still out there”
- Deregulation threats for landscape architecture have now been going on for 10 years
- Taxonomy of Licensure Threats
 - Deregulation – most severe
 - Sunset reviews – risk of elimination
 - Continuing education attacks – deregulation creep
 - Board reform – reduction of voice
 - Uniform Standard

- 2026 Radar – Legislative Watchlist
 - Uniform standard work occurring in SC, GA, KS, CO, and NM
 - Michigan (see above) and Florida (from last year, bill most likely to be reintroduced) are high urgency states

- Implementing the Uniform Standard
 - ASLA supports use of uniform criteria for licensure to help facilitate reciprocity
 - Why a Uniform Standard?
 - Consistent licensure requirements across jurisdictions
 - Improve reciprocity
 - Provide increased access to the profession
 - Increase defensibility of licensure requirements
 - Expansion of uniform requirements
 - Inclusive education pathways
 - Justifiable experience requirements
 - Examination
 - Pathways
 - LAAB/LAAC accredited degree – 2 years
 - 4 year non accredited degree in LA – 4 years
 - 2 year Certificate in LA/Arch/PE degree/Any Bachelor’s degree – 6 years
 - No post-secondary education – 8 years
 - Update
 - 8 jurisdictions have adopted the Uniform Standard – Nebraska was latest state
 - 10 jurisdictions are actively working towards alignment with Uniform Standard
 - 4 other jurisdictions have expressed interest in the Uniform Standard

- ICOR Update
 - Problem of practice overlap
 - Confusion for the public
 - Questions from code officials
 - Consternation between professionals
 - Friction among licensing boards
 - Solution
 - Definitions of practice areas for each profession
 - Guidance for Member Boards on areas of acceptable overlap and scope distinction
 - Protecting HSW vs. protecting scope
 - Inputs
 - Definition of practice
 - Curriculum
 - Exam domains
 - Experience areas
 - Membership survey
 - 3 buckets for analysis

- Group 1 - No HSW, no overlap
 - Group 2 - Acceptable overlap
 - Group 3 - Practice boundaries
- Guidance resource outline
 - Group 1 Practice Areas
 - Group 2 Practice Areas
 - Group 3 Practice Areas
- Why this matters
 - Provides consistent framework
 - Reduces reliance on interpretation
 - Grounded in national standards
 - Resolves disputes with building officials
 - Strengthens licensure defense while protecting HSW
- Future value for LA's
 - Validates full scope of practice
 - Provides clarity and recognition in interdisciplinary projects
 - Strengthens position with building officials and allied professions
 - Reduces uncertainty
 - Reinforces LA's as equal partners in design teams
 - Supports long term visibility and credibility of the profession
- Timeline
 - December 2025/January 2026 – ICOR presentations to ICOR memberships and to professional societies
 - Early 2026 and beyond
 - Share with broader professions
 - ICC discussions
 - User feedback collected
- 2026 Licensure Summits
 - March 18 – 3pm
 - June 17 – 3pm
 - October 21 – 3pm

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**To:** Landscape Architecture Board Members**Date:** November 17, 2025**From:** Robert Lopez**Subject:** CLARB Conversation**In reply to:**

Matt Miller, CEO of CLARB, will attend the State Board's December 2025 meeting. The agenda was discussed at the August meeting of the State Board and will include the following items:

- Overview of CLARB
 - Mission, Vision, Strategy
- Current Initiatives
 - Uniform Standard
 - CLARB Model CE Standard
 - Overlapping Practice
 - International Practice
- Future Initiatives
 - LARE Update
 - CELA/CLARB Collaboration – Licensure for Educators
 - Volunteer and Engagement Opportunities with CLARB
 - CLARB/ASLA Collaborations
 - CLARB Communication
- Questions and Answers

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

To: Landscape Architecture Board Members

Date: November 17, 2025

From: Robert Lopez

Subject: Education/Experience Review

In reply to:

Immediately following this memo are three documents as follows:

- Education/Experience Research document, comparing the current NY experience requirements with CLARB's Uniform Standard, adjacent States, and similarly sized States.
- Table of the CLARB Uniform Standard for Landscape Architects – currently, eight CLARB Member Boards have adopted the Uniform Standard for licensure, ten Member Boards are actively working towards aligning with the Uniform Standard, and four Member Boards have expressed interest in the Uniform Standard.
- CLARB Uniform Standard – the actual language for the Uniform Standard is also attached.

This information is being presented to the State Board as a baseline for understanding the current licensure requirements for various jurisdictions, and to determine if further investigation is needed to pursue a change to any of these requirements.

It is also suggested that the Board, at a minimum, review all of its policy requirements for experience, including:

- The cap of 2 years maximum under an architect or professional engineer
- The cap of 2 years maximum for teaching in an LAAB-accredited program
- The cap of 2 years maximum for employment at planning firms, government agencies, landscape contractors and general contractors
- The discounting of experience for teaching at 50%; i.e. teach for 1 year but only get 6 months experience credit
- The discounting of experience at planning firms, government agencies, landscape contractors and general contractors at 50%; i.e. work for 1 year but only get 6 months experience credit
- The requirement for all candidates to have a minimum of 2 years experience under a landscape architect

Education/Experience Research – Landscape Architecture

9.10.25

Current Experience Requirements for Licensure Based upon Degree Type

Degree from LAAB accredited program

- CLARB Uniform Standard – 2 years
- NY – 4 years if program is 4 years long
- NY – 3 years if program is 5 years long

- CA – 2 years
- CT – 2 years
- FL – 1 year
- MD – 2 years
- NJ – 4 years
- PA – 2 years
- TX – 2 years / 3,640 hours
- VT – 3 years

Graduate Degree in landscape architecture AND a Degree from LAAB accredited undergraduate program

- CLARB Uniform Standard – 2 years
- NY – 3 years if undergraduate program is 4 years long
- NY – 2 years if undergraduate program is 5 years long

- CA – 2 years
- CT – 2 years
- FL – 1 year
- MD – 2 years
- NJ – 4 years
- PA – 1 year
- TX – 2 years / 3,640 hours
- VT – 2 years

4-year non-landscape architecture degree AND a Degree from LAAB accredited graduate program

- CLARB Uniform Standard – 2 years
- NY – 4 years
- CA – 2 years
- CT – 2 years
- FL – 1 year
- MD – 2 years
- NJ – 4 years
- PA – 2 years
- TX – 2 years / 3,640 hours
- VT – 3 years

Degree in landscape architecture from an undergraduate or graduate curriculum that is not ASLA accredited

- CLARB Uniform Standard – 4 years
- NY – can vary; minimum of 5 years

- CA – 3 years
- CT – 4 years
- FL – 7 years
- MD – 6 years
- NJ – N/A
- PA – 8 years
- TX – 3 years
- VT – 9 years

ABET Accredited PE program or NAAB accredited RA program

- CLARB Uniform Standard – 6 years
- NY – 6 years

- CA – 4 years
- CT – 4 years
- FL – 7 years
- MD – 4 years
- NJ – N/A
- PA – 8 years
- TX – N/A
- VT – 9 years

Two-year landscape architecture related technical program

- CLARB Uniform Standard – 6 years
- NY – 10 years

- CA – 5 years
- CT – N/A
- FL – 7 years
- MD – 8 years
- NJ – N/A
- PA – 8 years
- TX – N/A
- VT – 9 years

Non-landscape architecture program (other than the above)

- CLARB Uniform Standard – 7 years if two-year program; 6 years if four-year program
- NY – 10 years if two-year program; 8 years if four-year program

- CA – 5 years
- CT – N/A
- FL – 7 years
- MD – 6 years

- NJ – N/A
- PA – 8 years
- TX – N/A
- VT -9 years

All-experience path

- CLARB Uniform Standard – 8 years
- NY – 12 years
- CA – 6 years
- CT – N/A
- FL – 7 years
- MD – 8 years
- NJ – N/A
- PA – 8 years
- TX – N/A
- VT – 9 years

Additional Notes regarding NY Experience

- All candidates must have a minimum of 2 years under the direct supervision of a lawfully practicing landscape architect in a diversified landscape architecture practice
- In addition to the 2 years of experience, minimum, required under an RLA, candidates may have:
 - 2 years max. under PE or RA,
 - 2 years max. of teaching in LAAB accredited program or in structured research (*discounted by 50%*)
 - 2 years max. in a planning firm, government agency, landscape contractor or general contractor (*discounted by 50%*)

Additional Notes regarding CLARB Uniform Standard

- CLARB requires that all experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture be performed under the supervision of an RLA OR a licensed professional in a related field.
- To be considered “experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture”, an applicant must gain experience in the same practice domains as determined by CLARB’s Job Task Analysis as follows:
 - *Project and Construction Management*: includes pre-project management, project management, bidding, construction, and maintenance;
 - *Inventory and Analysis*: includes site inventory, physical analysis, and contextual analysis;
 - *Design*: includes stakeholder process, master planning, and site design;
 - *Grading, Drainage, and Construction Documentation*: includes site preparation plans, general plans and details, specialty plans, and specifications.

Additional Notes of Interest – General

- California requires all candidates to have a minimum of 1 year under the direct supervision of a landscape architect licensed in the US.
- New Jersey requires that at least 2 of the 4 years of experience be under a landscape architect, architect, professional planner, or professional engineer.
- Pennsylvania requires 2 years of experience in landscape architectural work under the supervision of a “design professional”. If the candidate is not supervised by a landscape architect, the candidate’s work product must be reviewed by a registered landscape architect every 6 months for 2 consecutive years.

CLARB Uniform Standard (and Certification)

Education, Experience and Exam Pathways

Education	Experience	Exam
LAAB/LAAC Accredited Degree in Landscape Architecture	2 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
4-year Non-Accredited Degree in Landscape Architecture	4 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
2-year Certificate in Landscape Architecture	6 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
Accredited Architecture or Engineering Degree	6 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
Any Bachelor's Degree	6 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.
No post-secondary education	8 years	Pass the L.A.R.E.



CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture 2022

The CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture 2022 (“Uniform Standard”) is a policy guidance document established and adopted by the CLARB membership to outline detailed model requirements for education, experience, and examination to be eligible for licensure as a landscape architect. If implemented within member jurisdictions, the standard would achieve consistent licensure requirements across the United States and Canada thereby improving the landscape architecture mobility model, providing for increased equity and access to practice, increasing defensibility of licensure requirements, and ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment.

Approval of the Uniform Standard by the CLARB membership does not commit any jurisdiction to the implementation of the Uniform Standard. This policy guidance document serves as a resource to members to update their applicable laws by referring to or adopting the document or any section of it, but ultimately each jurisdiction must determine the appropriate level of regulation of the practice of landscape architecture within its borders.

Section 1: Qualifications for Licensure. To obtain a license to practice landscape architecture, an applicant must:

- A. **Education**: Either (i) hold a degree in landscape architecture accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Accreditation Council (LAAC), or their international equivalent; or (ii) satisfy the alternative education requirements set forth in Section (2); **and**
- B. **Experience**: Have completed two (2) years of experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect or a licensed professional in a related field; **and**
- C. **Examination**: Pass the licensure examination developed and administered by CLARB; **or**
- D. **Reciprocity**: In lieu of providing evidence that the applicant has completed the education, experience, and examination requirements noted in provisions (A) through (C) of this Section (1), provide evidence acceptable to the Board that the applicant is licensed and in good standing to practice landscape architecture under the laws of another jurisdiction, and other requirements as established by the Board.

CLARB

Section 2: Alternative Education. In lieu of a degree in landscape architecture accredited by LAAB, LAAC, or their international equivalent, an applicant must obtain six (6) additional years of experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect or a licensed professional in a related field or, if eligible, an applicant may earn credit toward the remaining years of experience in regulated practice through one of the following options:

- A. If an applicant holds a non-accredited degree or certificate in landscape architecture, then the applicant may be credited with one (1) year of experience for each year of schooling completed up to a maximum of four (4) years of credited experience, **OR**
- B. If an applicant holds any degree or certificate, then the applicant may be credited with six (6) months of experience for each one (1) year of schooling completed up to a maximum of two (2) years of credited experience.

Section 3: Experience in the Regulated Practice of Landscape Architecture.

- A. To be considered “experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture,” an applicant must gain experience in the following practice domains as determined by the Job Task Analysis to ensure competency necessary to protect the public and the environment:¹
 - 1. Project and Construction Management: includes pre-project management, project management, bidding, construction, and maintenance;
 - 2. Inventory and Analysis: includes site inventory, physical analysis, and contextual analysis;
 - 3. Design: includes stakeholder process, master planning, and site design;
 - 4. Grading, Drainage, and Construction Documentation: includes site preparation plans, general plans and details, specialty plans, and specifications.
- B. All applicant’s experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture should be performed under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect or a licensed professional in a related field.

Section 4: Amendments. This CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture [2022] may be amended at any special meeting or Annual Meeting of CLARB by resolution submitted to the member boards. The affirmative vote of the majority of the member boards represented at any CLARB meeting is required to adopt any amendment to this CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture.

* * * * *

Adopted by the CLARB Member Boards April 20, 2022.

¹ Notwithstanding the standards set forth herein, each jurisdiction within the CLARB membership will determine how it will evaluate experience based on its unique circumstances and requirements.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CLARB ANNUAL
MEETING
SUMMARY

To: Landscape Architecture Board Members

Date: September 20, 2025

From: Robert Lopez

Subject: CLARB Annual Meeting Summary

In reply to:

From September 17-20, Chair Weremchuk and I attended the CLARB Annual Meeting along with 150 attendees. Below is a summary of the meeting's presentations and outcomes:

Global insights, Local impacts
September 17

MBE Exchange

- Discussed having an MBE Resource Kit
- Discussed AI and its use in the Office

September 18

Opening Session – Matt Miller (CEO) / Joel Kurokawa (President)

- Global insights, local impacts affecting the profession of landscape architecture
- 150 attendees; 38 jurisdictions represented
- Mix of voices and perspectives
- Discussed IFLA Conference – Nantes, France
- CLARB needs to look beyond its borders
- MOU established with CELA for program for instructors
- Oklahoma, Colorado, Nebraska adopted Uniform standard
- IFLA committee – Matt participating in developing framework on licensure with other countries
- Matt has met with MBE's from 35 Executives of CLARB
- IFLA Africa – signed an MOU with them – only 1 country has licensure in Africa right now
- LAC Processes – get more people to run for CLARB leadership
- New website launched in August
- Emerging areas of practice within landscape architecture

Keynote Speaker – Driving Policy Change and Global Recognition in Landscape Architecture – Indra Purnomo – LA from Latvia

- Representing IFLA
- IFLA established in 1948
- 82 member associations represented
- More than 100k landscape architects within IFLA membership
- 555 educational programmes

- 1 million qualified LA's globally
- IFLA divided into 5 regions
 - Africa
 - Americas
 - Asia/Pacific
 - Europe
 - Middle East
- IFLA has 19 ambitious working programmes
- IFLA had 1,500 participants from 60 countries worldwide at its 2025 World Congress in France
- Developed Global Task Analysis that was completed in 2023 – starting point for understanding internationally, of the profession of landscape architecture.
- The World Economic Forum in May 2024; recognized the need to hire environmental specialists, including landscape architects to improve the enabling environment.
- IFLA has maps on their website showing where landscape architecture is regulated, not regulated, or regulated on the national level
- 13 countries in Europe that regulated LA profession

The Changing Face of Landscape Architecture – Demographic Insights – *Emily Bogstie (CLARB), Elizabeth Hebron – ASLA; Kris Pritchard - LAAB*

- Agenda
 - Demographic Shifts
 - Emerging Trends
 - Potential Impacts
- Demographics in Education - Summary of 2024 Annual Reports
 - 102 programs
 - 6,239 total enrolled students – 4.1% increase from last year
 - 4272 total undergraduate students
 - 1967 total graduate students
 - 44% male, 55% female
 - 5503 domestic students; 736 international students – 88% domestic; 12% international
 - 56% white; 4% black, 12% Asian; 16% Latino; others smaller
 - 1452 total graduates in 2024
 - 31% of total faculty are registered landscape architects
- Demographics in Practice
 - ASLA membership – 54% white; 18% non-white; 27% unknown
 - 60% of full members are male; 40% of full members are female
 - ASLA has a 2024 Industry Report
 - TYPICAL firm has single office with 4 staff and gross annual revenues of \$570k.
 - Most offices continue to work regionally
 - California/Oregon/Washington has 25% of the work for landscape architects in US
 - Landscape architecture firms are boosting pay, flexibility and culture to retain and attract staff.
 - 25% of firms are undergoing an ownership transition

- Demographics in Licensure
 - Average candidate for licensure is 35 years old
 - Average licensee is 48 years old
 - Seeing increased diversity in candidate population
 - 53% of candidates are female, 47% are male
 - In 2024, the largest number of CLARB transmittals went to Texas; NY is #2
 - 91% of Record Holders have an accredited degree in landscape architecture
- Trends in Education
 - Climate, resilience and ecological design
 - Practice based, Problem Oriented
 - Tech and data literacy
 - Social justice
 - Public health
 - Research grown
 - Cross unit studios and shared faculty
 - Research and teaching partnerships
 - Centers and labs
 - Dual degrees
 - New programs focused on climate
 - Time to degree – accelerated curriculum – big pressure – particularly on 3-year Masters programs
 - Online/hybrid learning
 - Visual & Hybrid Studios
 - Pressure on programs – budget cuts, low enrollment, grants/funding, international students, DEI and academic freedom
- Trends in Practice
 - 12% of firms, as of 2024, were currently using AI; another 12% were not using AI but were planning on using it
 - ASLA Climate Action Plan – 2022-2025 – 75 actions contained within this plan
 - Vision for 2040 – all LA projects will simultaneously provide significant economic benefits in the form of measurable ecosystem services, health co benefits, and green jobs
 - Clients are concerned with:
 - Increased intensity of storms
 - Increased duration and intensity of heat waves
 - Loss of pollinators
 - Changing/unreliable weather
 - Increased spread and intensity of inland flooding
 - New Economic Research (on the ASLA website)
 - Done in conjunction with University of Maryland
 - 175 LA Cases studies in the US
 - Making the Economic Case for Nature based solutions in projects
- Trends in Licensure
 - As enrollments in colleges decline, CLARB expects a dip in the number of licensure candidates

- Candidate volume in 2025 is on the upswing; April 2025 had almost 1600 candidates – highest amount of candidates in 10 years
- Steady increase in the number of reciprocal transmittals by CLARB

Beyond the Traditional Unit: Multiple Paths to Practice – Jodi Aumer; Rob Loftis, Leehu Loon, Taner Ozdil, Zach Druga

- Session Outcomes
 - Learn the history and outcomes of Rethink Regulation
 - Explore expanded pathways to licensure through education and experience
 - Gain insights from Member Boards adopting the Uniform Standard
 - Apply concepts through case studies of non-traditional applicants
- Rethink Regulation Recap
 - Effort started in 2017
 - Policy – uniform standard
 - Process – uniform application
 - Procedure – direct administrative approval / application for the LARE
- Components of the Uniform Standard – currently at 8 jurisdictions; soon to be at 10 jurisdictions
 - Inclusive education pathways
 - Justifiable experience requirements
 - Accessible licensure examination
- Accessible Education and Experience Pathways
 - Approach
 - Prioritize accredited degree as preferred path
 - Recognizes multiple education paths
 - Provide for an education through experience path
 - Balance the interplay between education, experience and examination
 - LAAB accredited degree – 2 years
 - Non-accredited BLA – 4 years
 - 2 year non accredited MLA – 6 years
 - 2 year certificate LA – 6 years
 - Other Bachelor degree – 6 years
 - 2 years Associates – 7 years
 - 2 year certificate – 7 years
 - No degree – 8 years
- Experience pathways
 - Traditional employment, internships or contract work under supervision
 - Under a licensed LA or related licensed professional
 - Under a licensed professional authorized to practice
 - Teaching landscape architecture
- CELA/CLARB Partnership: MOU and Faculty Licensure Advancement Program
 - CELA / CLARB MOU
 - Create programs and pathways to advance licensure among landscape architecture academic practitioners and students
 - Explore collaborative research, education, and CE opportunities

- Promote active participation in education and research activities
- CELA / CLARB Program
 - First of its kind collaboration to support licensure advancement for faculty
 - Annual program jointly sponsored by CELA and CLARB
 - Full time faculty from CELA member schools are eligible if they qualify for CLARB Certification and/or licensure
 - Provides up to \$5k in in-kind services and support per awardee
 - Aims to increase licensure among landscape architecture faculty and strengthen pathways to practice.

Crossing Borders: Advancing International Mobility in Professional Licensure – Davy McDowell – NCEES; Brie Allen – NASBA; Veronica Meadows (CLARB)

- Why International Mobility Matters
 - Increasing globalization of professional practice
 - Growing workforce mobility across borders
 - Shared responsibility for protecting people, places, and the environment
- International Engineering Alliance (IEA)
 - Looking at engineering education and professional competence.
 - ABET is signatory to the Washington education accords and NCEES signature to the mobility agreements
 - Not all countries are part of this - +-30 countries are part of this international alliance
 - Competency and “Graduate Attributes” are part of this accord
- MRA with the UK
 - 20+ year process
 - 2023/24 – ratified the agreement
 - 10 states have signed on to the MRA; expecting 5 more states to sign on by end of 2025.
- NASBA – Public Accountancy
 - 55 jurisdictional boards
 - 100 years old
 - AICPA – partner with them to deliver the CPA exam
 - CPE Registry
 - Audit, attest work, use of CPA title
 - 3 E’s
 - 150 credit hours
 - 1 year experience
 - Exam
 - Multiple pathways being developed
 - 120 credit hours
 - 2 years experience
 - Deliver CPA exam internationally to multiple countries
 - AICPA develops the exam content
 - NASBA has 7 MRAs with various countries

Recognition of Landscape Architecture Globally – Ben Stockwin, Ruth Wanjiku, Indra Purs, Cecilia Tence, Monica Pallares

- Kenya – *Ruth* – profession of landscape architecture is 20 years old
 - One school in Kenya for landscape architecture students
 - No practice act or title act in Kenya
- Australia – *Ben*
 - Self-regulated – AILA
 - Similar to ASLA – does registration and is an association
 - 2-3 hour practical exam is required
 - They have an 8 year experience pathway
 - Australia also has a senior practitioner pathway
 - They have an MRA with Hong Kong
 - Landscape architect is not a protected title; Registered landscape architect is protected
 - 30% increase in membership in last 4 years
- Philippines - *Cecilia*
 - Does not regulate a practice act through law
 - Need to have a degree in landscape architecture
 - Board monitors higher education programs
 - There are 46 regulated professions in the Philippines
- Mexico – *Monica*
 - Landscape architecture is recognized as a profession in Mexico
 - There is a validation process to follow
 - There is no title act for landscape architects in Mexico
- Latvia – *Indra*
 - 1994 – start of formal education for landscape architects
 - 2006 – Association begins to have voluntary system of registration based on education and experience
 - Latvia does have title protection
 - Latvia still needs their Parliament to vote on their laws

Day Two – September 19, 2025

Supporting Licensure Defensibility: ARPL Research & Findings – Nick Maggio (CRAFT); Maurice Brown (NCARB)

- ARPL – Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing - coalition of national organizations and their licensing boards – PE, RA, LA, LS, CPAs
 - Educates policymakers and the public
 - Works with state licensing boards and professional organizations
 - Commissions research and produces resources
 - Tracked +200 bills last year
- Agenda
 - Legislative trends
 - Public opinion polling results

- A new threat to licensing
- Strategic communication and advocacy tools
- A new ARPL white paper
- What's coming in 2026
- Trends
 - Deregulation in general
 - Reciprocity / mobility
 - Board reform; oversight, structure and composition
 - Review committee
 - Fees/revenue
 - Military community
 - Sunset/sunrise
 - Criminal history
- ARPL commissioned new research in 2024 to understand how the public views:
 - The value of licensing on public HSW
 - The role of licensing boards
 - Licensing and workforce shortages
 - Licensing and AI emergence
- Results of Survey
 - 75% say licensing is critical for guaranteeing qualifications
 - 72% say licensing protects the public
 - 77% say licensed professionals should oversee AI use within their profession
 - 80% of public is skeptical of AI technology and its use on high impact work
 - 90% say these board functions are important:
 - Ensuring qualifications
 - Continuing education oversight
 - Ethics enforcement
 - Public safety protection
 - Voters value what boards do, but remain skeptical of boards as entities
 - Strong support (50%) for proposals to consolidate, reconstitute, or otherwise “reform” licensing boards
 - There is an opportunity to raise awareness and educate about what boards do
- 3 of most concerning bills last year
 - Nevada SB78 intended to merge 20 boards into 6 larger entities, stripping them of autonomy. Replace existing staff with political appointees.
 - Alabama SB193 sought to consolidate 19 boards, reducing their independence
 - Florida HB991/SB110 proposed eliminating all Florida licensing boards and removing CPE requirements
- Closer look at the Florida bill
 - Proposal to eliminate boards buried in a 561-page bill
 - Rushed forward with no debate or stakeholder input
 - If the Senate simply adopted House amendments, the bill would have passed, effectively ending boards and CPE.
- Strategic Communication and Advocacy Tools
 - “Roles of the Boards” messaging
 - Expanded strategic communications

- Active state partner coordination
- New advocacy resources
- Fall 2025 message research
- Refreshing the boards narrative: leading with outcomes
 - Responsible professional licensing protects the public
 - The public wants licensing to ensure qualifications and safety
 - Boards protect the public by ensuring qualifications are in place and met
 - Licensing that protects the public requires effective, qualified boards
 - Attacks on licensing boards are attacks on public safety
- Advocacy tools
 - ARPL LinkedIn articles about NV, FL, and pillars of effective boards
 - Updated lawmaker education collateral for in-state advocacy
 - State-specific research and talkers
 - Case studies of failed reforms (GA)
 - White paper: *Boards That Work*
- ARPL White paper: *Boards That Work*
 - When states consider board changes, reforms must follow these 4 principles
 - Prioritize subject matter expertise
 - Preserve board decision-making authority
 - Keep similar professions together when consolidating
 - Maintain manageable workload volume
 - White paper is available on the ARPL website
- Action Items to Consider
 - Don't assume the threat will pass
 - Remain vigilant even in off-season
 - Engage proactively with partners
 - Use ARPL's boards resources

Navigating Licensing Reform: Trends, Threats and Best Practices to Defend Your Board – Matt Barusch, Amy Stewart

- Why this matters
 - Growing political scrutiny of licensure and boards
 - Cost and efficiency pressures
 - Public trust and HSW at stake
- Rise in reform activity
 - Review commissions
 - Changes to board authority/processes
 - Board consolidation/reorganisation
 - Universal licensure
 - Board elimination/Licensure as an administrative function
 - Deregulation/Elimination of licensure
- Breakdown of CLARB's 56 Member Boards
 - 54% of CLARB Boards are LA only
 - 16% are LA and Architecture
 - 11% are LA, Architecture, Interior Design

- 9% are LA, Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying
- Various breakdowns of other boards
- 33 CLARB jurisdictions have an “Agency” model
- Rhode Island case study
 - 1975 – RI starts to license landscape architects
 - Did deep dive on RI organization, advantages and disadvantages of “Agency” model
- Demonstrating value (tell stories, use statistics within the stories)
 - Share clear statistics
 - Use ARPL data as credible source for licensure trends
 - Provide real examples of efficiency and collaboration
 - Highlight revenue generated through licensing and notable enforcement outcomes
- Make your regulatory program more efficient and easier to defend

The Critical Role of Licensure Enforcement in Professional Regulation – *Judith Stapley; Daniel Carthel; Jack Gilmore; Scott Sayles (all from AZ Board)*

- Agenda
 - Data makes you credible, stories make you memorable
 - Laws and Regulations
 - Complaint Process
 - Board Meetings
- Oversee 7 professions as one Board
- Receive 150-200 complaints per year
- Laws and Regulations
 - Board members must stay within their lane and legal authority outlined in statutes
 - Determining what kind of investigation to do before starting the process
 - Determines jurisdiction
 - What resources are available
 - Always utilize legal counsel
- AZ has 180 days to complete their cases
- AZ has +-300 members who help their Board – they are SMEs in the profession they are licensed
- AZ Board meets on a monthly basis
- Boards live and die by public perception

ICOR Practice Overlap Guidance & Resources – *Jerany Jackson; Phil Meyer; Veronica Meadows*

- Member Board Support
- Informal working group
- Best practices in regulation of design professions
- Advocacy for licensure in the public’s interest
- Harmonizing licensure policies, processes and procedures
- CIDQ, CLARB, NCARB and NCEES
- Problem
 - Confusion for the public
 - Questions from code officials

- Consternation between professionals
- Friction among licensing boards
- NCARB started the effort in 2020; then it went to ICOR to go through effort
- Rigor of the process
 - Work rooted in national standards
 - Steering committee
 - Architecture subcommittee
 - Engineering subcommittee
 - Interior design sub committee
 - Landscape architecture subcommittee
 - Surveying subcommittee
- 38 SMEs, 5 professions, 27 jurisdictions, 1,000+ combined years of experience
- Inputs – 128 practice areas – valid, defensible and consistent inputs from across every profession
- Initial analysis split into 3 Buckets
 - Group 1 – no hsw, no overlap – 13 practice areas
 - Group 2 – acceptable overlap – 20 practice areas
 - Group 3 – practice boundaries – 19 practice areas
- What's in the guidance resource
 - Background
 - Executive summary
 - Instructions for Use
 - Terms
 - Group 1 practice areas
 - Group 2 practice areas
 - Group 3 practice areas
- Phase 1 of the project is almost done
- Why this matters for regulators
 - Provides a consistent framework across professions
 - Reduces reliance on interpretation or ad hoc decisions
 - Grounded in national standards
 - Resolves disputes with building officials on plan stamping
 - Strengthens licensure defense while protecting HSW
- Timeline
 - By November 2025 – ICOR leadership approvals
 - December 2025/January 2026 – Joint presentations to ICOR memberships and joint presentations to professional society leaderships

Expanding the CLARB Community: Exploring Opportunities for Increased Connection and Engagement – Allison Fleury; Lea Ann Macknally; Monica Pallares

- Why this matters now
 - Regulatory environment
 - Global opportunities
 - Strategic positioning
- 3,369 licensed CLARB record holders

- 4,414 emerging Council record holders
- Record holders span 20 countries
- New value for record holders
 - Licensure defense resources
 - Professional development webinars
 - Bi-weekly newsletter
 - Access to volunteer leadership opportunities
- CLARB is currently only capturing 17% of the licensed market
- Next steps
 - Exploration of opportunities to expand community
 - Board of Directors to discuss at November meeting
 - Continued engagement

LARE Development, Performance and Future Enhancements – *Emily Bogstie, Adrienne Cadle, Brandon Doss, Zara Brown*

- LARE development process
 - How frequently is JTA? – every 5-7 years – body of knowledge
 - 8 members per LARE committee; 32 exam writing volunteers, total of 4 committees
 - Terms usually run for 5 years; Chair does 1 additional year
 - LARE development process
 - 5 years professional experience
 - Proficient creating graphics
 - Must be licensed RLA
 - Committee Duties
 - Write and develop questions based on the LARE Blueprint
 - Create graphics, images, and / or photos for use on exam questions
 - Review exams, feedback, and statistical performance
 - Maintain exam resources list
- Committee Expectations
 - 2 In-person meetings – 5 days/year + travel time
 - Virtual meetings – 10 hours/year (on an as-needed basis)
 - Meeting preparations – 20 hours/year
- Exam Item Lifecycle – typical steps Committee members take
 - Identify need
 - Generate idea
 - Created in new bank
 - Review with committee
 - Approve for usage
 - Pilot/beta test
 - Review performance
 - Promote to active
 - Monitor performance
- Item review considerations
 - Does it represent minimal competence?
 - Is the content relevant?

- Is it true/accurate across regions?
- Does it have one (and only one) correct answer?
- Is it clear, concise, and straight to the point?
- Are the graphics/images clear?
- AI models not quite “there” yet in terms of writing exam questions; would take tremendous amount of time to vet the questions – is evolving every couple of months
- LARE Performance
 - 64% passed IAPM
 - 62% passed P&D
 - 68% passed CD&A
 - 52% passed GD&SM
- Candidates are now getting provisional feedback on all LARE Sections
 - Likely to Pass
 - Likely to Fail
- Practice Exams
 - 50 questions / section
 - \$25 per section
 - 3 attempts per section
 - 742 taken in the last year
 - Candidate gets instant results and rationale
- Diagnostic Feedback
 - Most candidates are not happy with the diagnostic feedback they receive – this is fairly typical across all professions that have diagnostic feedback
- Future enhancements and accessibility
 - GI Bill approval for exam fees
 - ESL Accommodations
 - Provisional feedback
 - Diagnostic feedback
 - Online proctoring
 - Practice exams
- Expanding access
 - Licensure advancement program with ASLA
 - Faculty licensure advancement program with CELA
 - LARE Reimbursement grant program with NAMLA
- What’s next for LARE
 - Exploring diagnostic feedback improvements
 - Determinants of success
 - Continued commitment to fairness, rigor and accessibility
- Determinants of Success
 - Last one was done in 2011
 - Purpose
 - Factors impacting successful performance on the LARE
 - Factors in 4 categories
 - Education
 - Experience
 - Test environment

- Exam preparation
 - Results will be presented October 22 via a webinar (later in the day)
 - Had 1,144 total respondents over 4 exam administrations
 - 59% of respondents were female

Path to CLARB Volunteer Leadership – Lea Ann Macknally; Keven Graham; Candace Dillingham; John Cothron; Jolene Rieck

- Agenda
 - Who is the LAC
 - What is the nominations process?
 - What upcoming opportunities are available?
- CLARB LAC
 - 7 members, 6 of whom serve 3-year terms
 - 2 new members are elected by the membership each year
 - Majority are LA's, with some MBEs
 - Competency model, not constituency model
 - LAC charged with evaluating and recommending candidates
- Nominations Process
 - Identify desired competencies and perspectives (BoD and LAC)
 - Encourage and collect nominations
 - Evaluate nominees (LAC)
 - Make recommendations for election or appointment (LAC)
 - Approve final candidates (BoD)
 - Elect leadership (Members)
- Applying for Leadership
 - Nominations open September – November 30
 - All are encouraged to apply
- Summary
 - How does the LAC know what to look for?
 - LAC gets direction from the Board of Directors
 - How does the LAC get to know nominees?
 - Nominee application
 - Phone calls
 - Reference calls
 - Conducting interviews
- FY 27 Leadership Opportunities
 - President
 - Directors at Large – looking for 3-5 positions
 - Leadership Advisory Council – looking for 2 positions

Keynote: AI, Practice, and Licensure: Futures Thinking for Landscape Architects – Phil Fernberg

- What is AI?
- Why does it matter to LA's?
- What impacts will it have on the regulatory ecosystem of landscape architecture?

- ANI – Artificial Narrow Intelligence - the today – discrete sets of tasks done exceptionally well
- AGI – Artificial General Intelligence - reached human capabilities
- ASI – Artificial Super Intelligence - surpasses human capabilities
- Current State of AI
 - Google DeepMind AlphaFold – can predict how DNA, RNA, and other molecules interact
 - Google DeepMind AlphaFold – helped create 700 new materials
 - Robot Jazz at Georgia Tech
 - Sonic Spiderwebs – MIT LAMM Lab
- AI in Landscape Architecture
 - Exponential growth over last 6-7 years
 - AI can help with discrete tasks
 - Automated behavior mapping
 - Dark Flow tool measuring public project use - SWA
 - Early stage design – Jeff Cutler – space2space
 - Lines XL
 - Drone based Site Evaluation – MVVA
 - Existing LA software being integrated with AI
 - Community Engagement / Community Planning – Maptionnaire
 - City Design with Delve Sidewalk Labs
 - ETH Zurich – robot excavator builds load bearing dry-stack walls
 - Cost efficiencies
 - Time efficiencies
- Can AI help us fulfill our ambitions to tackle global challenges?
 - Universal Pathways – empowering accessible mobility with AI driven insights
 - The Avande Intelligent Garden
 - WIFIRE AI
- Risks and Tradeoffs
 - The Next Rembrandt & Authorship Crises – done by an advertising firm
 - Question of what do we get out of art?
 - Anticipated benefits
 - Enhanced data analysis
 - Stimulated creative process
 - Concerns about AI
 - Uncertainty regarding accuracy
 - Reduced human connection with design

MATT BURGESS

SECURITY OCT 10, 2025 5:00 AM

North Korean Scammers Are Doing Architectural Design Now

New research shows that North Koreans appear to be trying to trick US companies into hiring them to develop architectural designs using fake profiles, résumés, and Social Security numbers.

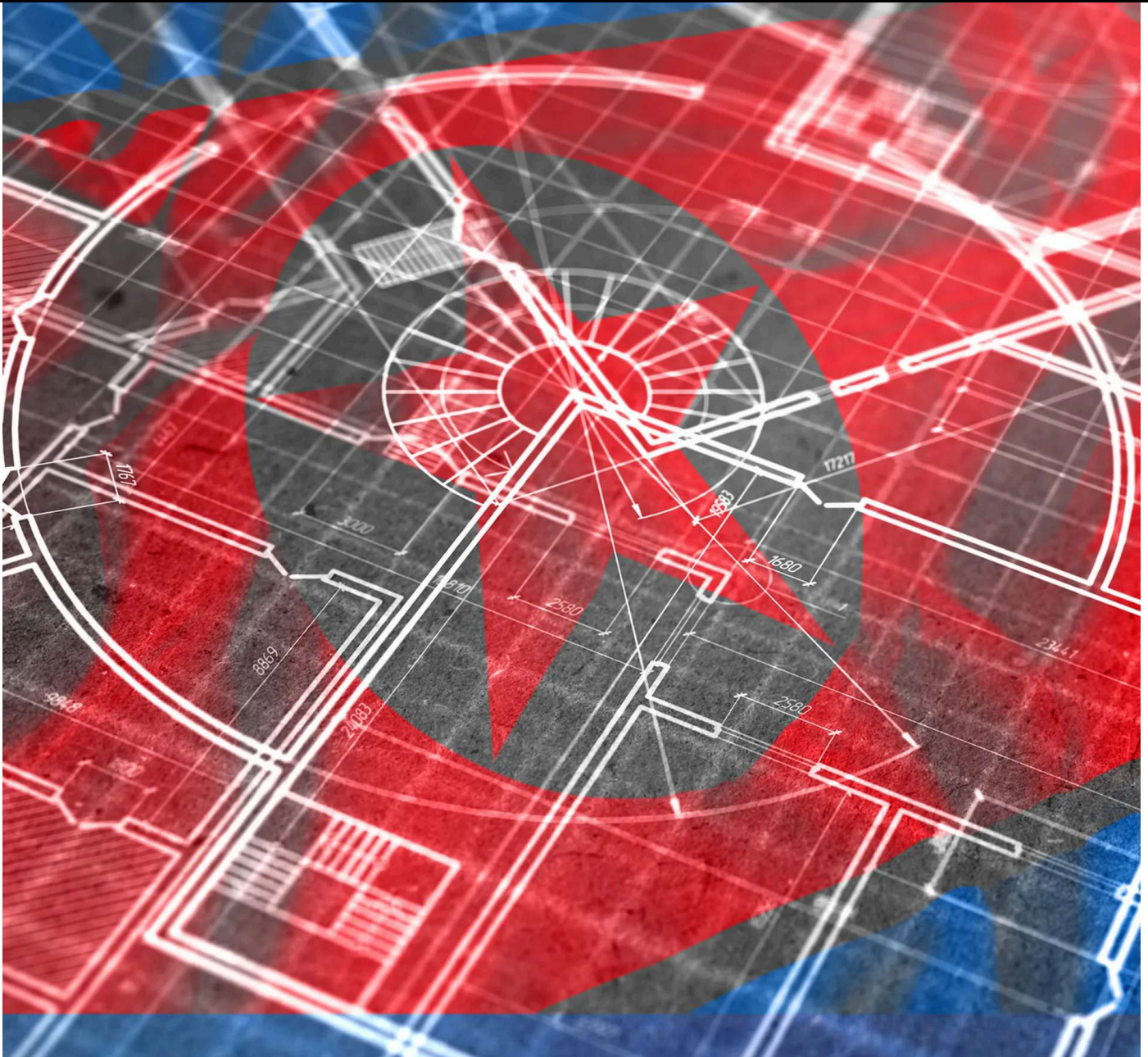


PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION: WIRED STAFF; GETTY IMAGES



SAVE THIS STORY

TALENTED NORTH KOREAN coders and developers have, for years, been getting hired for remote jobs at Western tech firms. Thousands of these so-called IT workers have earned billions for North Korea's authoritarian regime by developing apps, working on cryptocurrency projects, and infiltrating Fortune 500 companies—when

New analysis of exposed online accounts and files linked to suspected Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) digital laborers shows that at least one group has been working in a very different field: architecture and civil engineering. Over recent years, the cluster of workers has been masquerading as freelance structural engineers and architects, [according to a report shared](#) with WIRED by cybersecurity firm Kela, which dug into one network it links to North Korea.

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Files linked to the alleged North Korean operatives show 2D architectural drawings and some 3D CAD files for properties in the United States, Kela researchers say. In addition to the plans, the scammers were also seen claiming to advertise a range of architectural services and using, or creating, architectural stamps or seals, which [can](#) act as legal certification that drawings follow local building regulations.

“These operatives are active not only in technology and cybersecurity but also in industrial design, architecture, and interior design, accessing sensitive infrastructure and client projects under fabricated identities,” Kela writes in a [blog post](#). The United Nations [estimates](#) that thousands of IT workers raise between \$250 million and \$600 million for North Korea each year, with money being used to support the country’s nuclear weapons programs and sanctions evasion efforts.

Kela’s security researchers focused on a GitHub account linked to one suspected North Korean IT network, before analyzing further accounts and profiles. The GitHub profile, plus some connected personas and some architectural work, was

suspected links to North Korea.

The GitHub account publicly listed a series of Google Drive files that could be downloaded by anyone and contained a treasure trove of information linked to the potential scammers. The files included details of work being pursued by the DPRK-linked accounts, duplicate and false CVs, images that could be used as profile pictures, and details of the personas used to find work.

“There were so many emails, data, and profiles that we saw,” says a Kela researcher who asked not to be named due to the sensitivity of the findings. “It was really massive,” they add, saying some spreadsheets appeared to show hundreds of email addresses that may have been used by the scammers. (Google had not responded to a request for comment at the time of writing).

Publicly available files reviewed by WIRED show the breadth—and productivity—of the suspected DPRK scammers and the links to potential architectural work. In most cases, the scammers appear to have been using freelance work websites to solicit potential jobs. Numerous text files within the documents—which sit alongside CVs—advertise the potential architectural services that people could purchase, with documents claiming architects are licensed across multiple (or sometimes all) states across the US. “We can provide you with all construction docs (site plan, structural analysis report, stamp) and we can help you to get permission for construction docs,” one text file says. Some files appear to show correspondence with people potentially seeking the work.

Files seen by WIRED also include floor plans and designs for a deck, a farm house, a custom tree house, swimming pools, and more. One text file appears to include a request asking if existing plans for a restaurant patio could be redrawn. WIRED could not immediately verify whether these plans had physically been drawn up by the alleged North Korean accounts or if any work was completed. However, previous reporting and other researchers indicate this could be possible.

comment.

In July, Canadian public broadcaster CBC reported that the seal of one architect in Toronto had likely been altered and impersonated by North Korean IT workers and the details were included on plans not worked on by that architect. The architect told CBC that the signature used did not match his own and the seal contained differences to his official version. One document seen by WIRED in the cache of files listed websites for generating engineer and architect seals.

“The plans are being used and being built,” says Michael “Barni” Barnhart, a leading authority in North Korean hacking and cyber threats, who works for insider threat security firm DTEX. Along with other DPRK researchers, who call themselves a “Misfit” alliance, Barnhart has seen this cluster of workers conducting architectural work and says similar other efforts have been detected. “They will do the CAD renderings, they’ll do the drawings,” he says. “It’s not like a hypothetical—those physical things do exist out there.”

Barnhart—who previously found North Korean animators appearing to work on Amazon and Max shows—says that he has also seen potential front companies set up to help run the operations and provide a veneer of legitimacy. The findings raise questions about the quality of the structural work and concerns about safety, if structures are created in the physical world. “In some of our investigations, these plans and these products that they’re making for these remodels and renderings, they’re not getting good reviews,” Barnhart says. “We do have indications that also they’re being hired to do critical infrastructure.”

One 24-minute long screen recording seen by WIRED shows how the freelance operation could work. In the video, a person signs up to a freelance work website and sets up a new profile where they write that they are a “licensed structural engineer/architect in the USA.” They pick a profile image from a folder of potentially

When their account is created, the video shows them start to message online requests for work, with one message saying: “I can provide you [sic] permit drawing plan set for your residential home design within a few days.”

Other screen recordings show the workers having conversations with potential clients, and in at least one instance there is a recording of an online call discussing possible work. The Kela researcher, who asked not be named for security reasons, says it appeared some prospective customers returned to the scammers after likely having work completed. The researchers say some kinds of work appeared to be priced from a few hundred dollars up to around \$1,000 per job.

“This is an opportunistic nation,” DTEX’s Barnhart says. While many companies have started to figure out that North Korea’s IT workers are often applying for remote tech jobs, using false identities, deepfakes on video calls, and local workers to run their operations, they are consistently changing their approaches. Barnhart says it appears that architectural work has been successful for the alleged DPRK workers and that evidence shows the IT workers program can be more subtle than trying to get hired at companies.

“They’re moving to places where we’re not looking,” Barnhart says. “They’re also doing things like call centers. They’re doing HR and payroll and accounting. Things that are just remote roles and not necessarily remote hires.”

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[Matt Burgess](#) is a senior writer at WIRED focused on information security, privacy, and data regulation in Europe. He graduated from the University of Sheffield with a degree in journalism and now lives in London. Send tips to Matt_Burgess@wired.com. ... [Read More](#)

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THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**2026 NJASLA ANNUAL
MEETING CE REVIEW**

To: Landscape Architecture Board Members

Date: November 19, 2025

From: Robert Lopez

Subject: NJASLA Annual Meeting CE Review

In reply to:

Board office staff and I have reviewed the NJASLA Annual Meeting course offerings, and our comments **in red** are attached for the Board's review immediately following this memo.

Please review the courses and bring your comments with you to the Board meeting.

9:00 - 9:50	EXPO HALL	EXECUTIVE MEETING: OPEN SESSION															
10:00 - 10:15	WW4	OPENING	OPENING REMARKS														
10:15 - 11:15	WW4	6KN	SCALING UP PLAY: MAXIMIZING SPACE FOR URBAN AND COMPACT PLAYGROUNDS pg. 59				AVERY CROTEAU, Director at Berliner Play Equipment						HSW				
11:30 - 12:30	WW4	6A	THE SHARKBITE METHOD: CUTTING THROUGH THE NOISE IN A DIGITAL WORLD pg. 75				NICK KRAUS, CEO and Founder of Kraus Marketing						NO CREDIT				
	WW5	6B	SITE PLANNING FOR A WORLD IN NEED pg. 74				DAVID TROAST, PP, AICP, LLA						HSW				
12:30 - 2:00	EXPO HALL	EXPOSITION LUNCH															
2:00 - 2:15	WW4	CLOSING	CLOSING REMARKS + PRIZES														
2:15 - 3:15	WW4	7KN	EMOTIONAL LANDSCAPES: DESIGNING FOR INCLUSIVITY AND HEALING pg.63				EMMETT GREGGORY, PLA, ASLA, Senior Associate at Mikyoung Kim						HSW				
3:15 - 3:20	WW4	WRAP-UP	WRAP-UP REMARKS														

**NJASLA ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 1ST - 3RD, 2026
HARRAH'S WATERFRONT RESORT,
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY**

SESSION DETAILS

Duration: 60 Minutes

Session Title:

Successful Projects Begin With Well-Designed Soil Specifications

Behind every thriving landscape is a foundation of well-crafted soil specifications. In this session, Jake from Laurel Valley Soils will explore how thoughtful soil design can make or break a project's success. He will cover the important aspects of a comprehensive Bio-Retention Soil Specification, and how covering all the bases up front helps alleviate surprises during installation and beyond.

Attendees will gain insights into the science and strategy behind soil specification development, including how to align soil performance with project goals, site conditions, and sustainability standards. Real-world examples will highlight common pitfalls and showcase how collaboration between designers, contractors, and soil suppliers leads to resilient, high-performing landscapes.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: The importance of starting the project design with a comprehensive soil specification.

OBJECTIVE 2: Fundamental elements built on clarity, practicality, sustainability, and enforceability

OBJECTIVE 3: Understanding soil components and performance criteria

Speaker:

Jacob "Jake" Chalfin

Sales Manager for Laurel Valley Soils

Jake Chalfin is the Sales Manager at Laurel Valley Soils, where he has been a driving force since 2003. With over two decades of experience in the compost, agricultural, and landscape industries, Jake brings deep expertise in soil science and sustainable land practices. He is known for his passion for soil and compost, and for developing tailored solutions that support ecological restoration, stormwater management, carbon sequestration and of course beautiful planned gardens and landscapes. In 2024 Jake and his team produced the engineered soil media used in the Longwood Gardens new West Conservatory, Part of the monumental Longwood Reimagined project. Jake holds a Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University and has collaborated with private industry, nonprofits, educational institutions, and public agencies to advance the use of engineered and bioretention soils—the fastest-growing product category in the manufactured soils production industry.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Sacred Spaces: African American Cultural Landscapes Along Florida's Forgotten Coast

This session examines the sites of resistance, leisure, and cultural memory that have shaped Black communities in Apalachicola, Florida. This lecture explores how these landscapes serve as spaces of resilience, identity, and heritage in the face of historical and environmental challenges. It also considers how community engagement—through collaborative design, storytelling, and preservation efforts—can empower local voices and ensure that cultural landscapes remain living, evolving spaces of meaning

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Assess the role of Landscape Architecture in addressing historical and environmental injustices

OBJECTIVE 2: Interpret African American cultural landscapes through design and social cultural lenses

OBJECTIVE 3: Apply community engaged design strategies to cultural preservation

Speaker:

Dr. C.L. Bohannon, Ph.D., FASLA, Associate Professor

Dr. Bohannon is an Associate Professor in the Landscape Architecture Department and the Associate Dean for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) in the School of Architecture and University Fellow for Community Engagement at the University of Virginia. Dr. Bohannon is a nationally recognized scholar and educator specializing in community-engaged design, social and environmental justice, and African American landscapes, particularly in the American South.

Before joining UVA in 2022, Dr. Bohannon was an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Interim Director at Virginia Tech's School of Architecture + Design. He also directed the Community Engagement Lab and served as a faculty principal at the Leadership and Social Change Residential College. Dr. Bohannon's research and teaching focus on addressing social and environmental inequities in marginalized communities through community mapping, storytelling, and interdisciplinary study. Dr. Bohannon serves on the Board for the Landscape Architecture Foundation.

DEI:

This session addresses critical issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion within landscape architecture by centering the histories and spatial experiences of African American communities in Apalachicola, Florida. It amplifies underrepresented voices by highlighting how Black communities have shaped and sustained cultural landscapes through resistance, leisure, and memory—elements often excluded from dominant narratives in the field. The lecture challenges conventional frameworks of landscape valuation and preservation, advocating for a more inclusive and culturally responsive approach to design. The session promotes equitable design practices that empower local voices and redistribute power in the design process. Additionally, it addresses environmental justice by exploring how these communities navigate environmental challenges, urging landscape architects to consider the intersections of race, place, and ecology in their work. Through these lenses, the session offers a model for how the profession can more fully embrace DEI principles in both theory and practice.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title

From Dream to Reality: Two Journeys in Residential Landscape Architecture

Join two innovative practitioners from Atlantic Highlands, NJ and Brooklyn, NY as they share their journeys from experienced employees to independent business owners. Despite backgrounds spanning public, commercial, and residential projects, both chose to focus their new practices exclusively on residential clients and strive to incorporate sustainable design practices into their processes.

Discover how they launched their firms, evolved their design processes, and approach client relationships differently than in their previous workplaces. They'll share practical strategies for integrating sustainable practices and addressing climate change concerns while creating beautiful, resilient landscapes that delight clients.

Whether you're contemplating your own path or curious about more sustainable applications in residential landscape architecture, this lecture offers valuable insights into the practical, sustainable and entrepreneurial side of our field.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Understanding of use and selection of site materials and methods of construction in residential design.

OBJECTIVE 2: Integration of sustainable design practices into residential practice, design and maintenance.

OBJECTIVE 3: Planting design with sustainability and maintenance in mind.

OBJECTIVE 4: Selection and specification of site materials and methods of site construction with sustainability in mind.

Speakers:

Katrina Majewski, RLA; Founder and Principal, Prototype Design Group

Katrina Majewski is principal + founder of Prototype Design Group; a landscape architecture and urban design studio that focuses on thoughtful, purpose-driven, and ecologically-appropriate landscapes. With over 17 years of experience in the field of Landscape Architecture, and a license in NJ, NY and CA, Katrina has had the opportunity to collaborate on a diverse range of projects.

Her design ethos / spirit / capacity / interests are a result of combined experiences of living and practicing on both the east coast and the west coast. Katrina is a graduate of Rutgers University, is a frequent guest critic and lecturer at design schools across the country, and is a Past-President in the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

Liz Pulver, RLA, Principal, Liz Pulver Landscape Architecture

Liz Pulver is a licensed landscape architect and principal of Liz Pulver Landscape Architect in Brooklyn, NY, where she specializes in creating beautiful, thoughtful outdoor spaces for her clients. With over 25 years of experience, she has designed everything from NYC parks and developments to intimate backyard retreats and large rural properties.

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Since founding her practice in 2017, Liz and her team have focused on projects throughout New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey, with a growing emphasis on projects outside NYC. Her work has been recognized in Architectural Digest and the Wall Street Journal, and she was named to Luxe Magazine's Gold List in 2022.

Licensed in New York, Connecticut, and California, Liz is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and taught landscape design at the New York Botanical Garden. Her diverse experience spans from East to West Coasts, giving her unique insights into regional design approaches and sustainable landscape solution

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Designing at Every Scale: Residential Drainage Lessons from Golf Architecture

In this session, participants will explore how the principles of golf course design—particularly grading and drainage—can be applied to residential landscapes and turfgrass areas in parks. Taught by a seasoned golf course landscape architect, the course highlights practical strategies for managing water flow, preventing erosion, and creating sustainable outdoor spaces.

Attendees will learn how techniques used on large-scale golf courses can be adapted to smaller residential settings to improve lawn health, reduce maintenance, and support long-term environmental resilience. Whether you're designing a backyard or a community green space, this session offers valuable insights into building landscapes that work with nature, not against it.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Apply golf course drainage principles to residential and park-scale landscapes

OBJECTIVE 2: Design turfgrass areas for long-term sustainability and easier maintenance

OBJECTIVE 3: Scale drainage strategies to fit different project sizes and site conditions

Speaker:

Stephen Kay, FASGCA; Principal, Stephen Kay Golf Course Architect, LLC

Stephen Kay is a licensed landscape architect in New York and New Jersey who has specialized in golf course architecture for over 40 years. He has designed 20 original courses and restored or remodeled more than 250, with a focus on grading, drainage, and preserving classic design principles. His work includes renovations of historic courses originally designed by legends like Donald Ross and A.W. Tillinghast.

Stephen is also a longtime educator, teaching Golf Construction, Drainage, Surveying, and Design History at Rutgers for over three decades. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and holds degrees from Syracuse University and Michigan State University. His designs are known for blending environmental sensitivity with strategic playability.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Scaling Up Play: Maximizing Space for Urban and Compact Playgrounds

As urban areas grow denser, landscape architects face the challenge of integrating meaningful play spaces within limited and unconventional environments. This session will explore innovative strategies for designing compact yet impactful playgrounds that maximize space, promote accessibility, and serve multiple generations. From rooftop playgrounds to repurposed urban lots, we'll discuss creative solutions, including vertical play structures, modular designs, and multi-use features that enhance community engagement. Attendees will gain insights into balancing safety, sustainability, and play value while transforming small spaces into vibrant, interactive environments that support urban livability.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Understand the value of play in dense urban environments and how playgrounds contribute to social, physical, and mental well-being in compact spaces.

OBJECTIVE 2: Identify design strategies for unconventional playground locations, including rooftops, small urban lots, and repurposed spaces.

OBJECTIVE 3: Explore vertical play structures and modular equipment as space-efficient solutions that optimize material use while enhancing play value.

OBJECTIVE 4: Incorporate accessibility, safety, and multigenerational engagement to create inclusive and sustainable play spaces that benefit entire communities.

Speaker:

Avery Croteau, Director at Berliner Play Equipment

Avery Croteau is the Director at Berliner Play Equipment and a passionate advocate for inclusive, engaging play and recreation spaces. With over a decade of experience in the recreation, aquatic, and fitness industries, he brings a thoughtful blend of creativity and compliance to his work. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Facilities Management, where he honed his passion for community-focused design. Avery is dedicated to advancing the standards of play through education, collaboration, and a deep commitment to meaningful community impact.

DEI:

This session promotes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in Parks and Recreation by advocating for play environments that are accessible to individuals of all ages and backgrounds. By emphasizing the need for diverse, intergenerational play spaces, the presentation seeks to dismantle ageism and create parks where people of all abilities can enjoy recreational activities. It highlights research that shows how inclusive design not only improves health and happiness but also fosters social equity by ensuring that everyone, regardless of age or ability, has access to meaningful play experiences.

Duration: 90 MINUTES

Session Title:

SCALE in Action: Student Visions for Atlantic City Parks

The session showcases a collaborative model for park design that intentionally centers the work of youth exploring and/or pursuing design education, thus supporting and cultivating future landscape architects. The session includes a design charrette that has participants role play as park stakeholders to consider the needs and goals of a variety of potential park users. High school students from the Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT), led by Instructor Drew Holmes, will lead and participate in the charrette and will share their work, together with community partners, to design a site in the Southeast Inlet community of Atlantic City. This charrette marks the 4 th year of NJASLA's Diversity Initiative collaborating with ACIT. This year, the ACIT students are also working with students in the Rutgers Landscape Architecture Program and this collaboration is cultivating a career pipeline through increasing exposure to landscape architecture studies and building relationships between high school and college programs in the state.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Gain knowledge about collaborative approaches to park design through role-playing

OBJECTIVE 2: Learn examples of successful strategies for collaboration with public entities, educational, community and youth partners

OBJECTIVE 3: Understand the value of engaging varied and diverse perspectives in the planning and design process

OBJECTIVE 4: Learn strategies and approaches for pocket park design in a group setting

Speaker:

Drew Holmes, ACIT Instructor + ACIT Student volunteers

An instructor in the engineering/CAD department of the Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT), Drew Holmes is a licensed teacher in the state of New Jersey. Drew's design class, which helps cultivate emerging landscape architects, has worked on various community-based projects such as the design of a Veterans Memorial and outdoor classroom and Fisherman's Park in Atlantic City. His class was featured on Classroom Close-up and the Steve Adutabo program. Mr. Holmes has an education background in design and horticulture with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Planning and Design and an Associates Degree in Ornamental Horticulture. In addition to teaching design, Drew has over 30 years of experience in the field of landscape design, designing and building and residential projects.

DEI:

High school students join into a collaborative, real-world setting with seasoned professionals and university students. The charrette fosters intergenerational dialogue, broadens access to mentorship, and empowers underrepresented groups to see themselves as future leaders in landscape architecture. This inclusive approach not only enriches the design outcomes with fresh perspectives but also helps dismantle barriers to entry in the field, promoting equity in education and career pathways.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title

From Concrete Desert to Suburban Oasis - Re-imagining New Jersey's Malls

There was a shopping mall - now, it's all covered with flowers!

Malls are known for many things, but greenery is not one of them. An activity node surrounded by a concrete desert, malls are their own kind of oasis. Yet this approach to suburban commerce has proven unsustainable - for the businesses that call them home, the towns that host them, and for the environment.

When planning for the future of their dying malls, towns often focus on issues like economic development, municipal finances, and affordable housing. However, recreating these spaces as a green oasis of community activity is just as important for their viability.

This session will examine redevelopment efforts for the Monmouth and Livingston Malls as case studies in suburban greening, including not only the employed design solutions but the varied and many voices that led to them, as well as the inter-sectional approach through which they address a variety of aspects integral to the redevelopments' success.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Demonstrate the importance of public outreach and benefits of an iterative process.

OBJECTIVE 2: Analyze how various stakeholders impact and are impacted by landscape design.

OBJECTIVE 3: Depict a variety of diverse solutions to effective redevelopment that respond to the existing landscape.

OBJECTIVE 4: Discuss the role of open space within place-making and their relationship to surrounding uses.

Speakers:

David Lustberg, LLA, PP

David is a Landscape Architect, Planner and Urban Designer with more than 20 years of diverse professional experience. This experience ranges from street and plaza design to bicycle/pedestrian planning and redevelopment consulting.

David is the founding partner of Arterial and under his leadership the firm has become recognized as a leader in the field of planning, design and implementation of High Performance Streets - Streets That Do More™.

Marc Lincer, AICP, CAPM

Marc Lincer brings a liberal arts background to the Topology, providing a skill-set well-suited to hands-on learning. Over 6 years at Topology, Marc has taken on projects across the wide range of Topology's portfolio, from land use application review, redevelopment, master planning, ordinance drafting, cannabis land use law, affordable housing, and public outreach.

Notable projects include the 2024 Morristown Land Development Ordinance, Millburn Open Space & Recreation Master Plan Element, and the Livingston Mall Community Visioning Project. Additionally,

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Marc manages Topology's procurement process, employing his position as a Certified Associate in Project Management to steer projects efficiently and transparently.

Marc graduated from Hamilton College with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with Honors, Magna Cum Laude. During his year abroad in Paris, Marc studied Parisian architecture with Hamilton College and globalization and urbanization at Sciences Po Paris.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title

Emotional Landscapes: Designing for Inclusivity and Healing

Landscapes are more than physical spaces, they are places of emotional response. This session explores how insights from neuroscience and post-occupancy research can guide more inclusive, restorative designs. Through case studies ranging from healthcare gardens to urban parks, the talk highlights strategies for creating landscapes that support diverse neurological and emotional needs.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Understand how neuroscience informs inclusive landscape design.

OBJECTIVE 2: Discover strategies for accommodating diverse neurological needs.

OBJECTIVE 3: See case studies of landscapes that promote healing and well-being.

OBJECTIVE 4: Learn how research guides healthier, more effective design outcomes.

Speaker:

Emmett Gregory, PLA, ASLA

Emmett Gregory is a Senior Associate at Mikyoung Kim, where he leads projects and research at the intersection of landscape architecture, health, and neuroscience. He oversees the studio's health and wellness research, using post-occupancy studies to understand how design affects emotional and physical well-being. Emmett holds a Bachelor's in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and is passionate about creating landscapes that foster inclusivity, resilience, and healing.

DEI:

This session addresses DEI by exploring how landscapes can be designed for diverse neurological, emotional, and physical needs. It highlights inclusive strategies that ensure public, healthcare, and residential spaces serve all communities equitably. Case studies include projects in historically underserved areas and spaces for marginalized groups, such as LGBTQ seniors, demonstrating how intentional, research-driven design can promote social equity, well-being, and community inclusion.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title

Making a Great Place to Play: Research Informed Design for Play at Every Scale

Play is one of the best investment we can make in public health. Research shows that play gets people to move more, connect more, and spend more time outdoors, laying the foundation of a lifetime of health and happiness. Regardless of age, ability, or background, everyone deserves a great place to play! But how we design for play matters. Learn best practices in play design from key findings from the National Study of Playgrounds, the London Study of Playgrounds, and the New York City Study of Play Features and Value. Combined, these studies have data on over 60,000 people in 100 play environments in the US and UK, and is the largest data set on play behavior in the world.

From these findings, our team has developed a checklist for a great place to play that can be used to design play spaces at all scales, from neighborhood parks to schoolyards to destination playgrounds. Great play happens in spaces that are well designed, feel good to people, and support all ages to play together.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Appreciate the role of play environments in public health for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds

OBJECTIVE 2: Understand how research can inform the future of play design, at all scales

OBJECTIVE 3: Learn about how the design of play environments impacts physical health and social behavior

OBJECTIVE 4: Discover data collection tools for quantifying design impacts on use, activity, and stay time

Speaker:

Meghan Talarowski, PLA, ASLA, CPSI, Founder and Executive Director of Studio Ludo

Meghan is the founder and executive director of Studio Ludo. She has degrees in architecture and landscape architecture, is a certified playground safety inspector, and a licensed landscape architect.

Her research focuses on how the design of play environments impacts physical health and social behavior, and has been presented at conferences worldwide. To date, she has collected data on over 60,000 people in 100 play environments around the world. This research informs all of her play designs. She has designed over 30 destination play environments across the US and has provided play safety and risk guidance for over 40 play installations and children's museums around the country and world.

She is a training instructor for the Certified Playground Safety Inspector course through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). Her work has been featured by The New York Times, The Atlantic, Curbed, Dwell, Popular Science, Landscape Architecture Magazine, and more.

Taryn Dalius, PLA, CPSI

Taryn is a Senior Designer at Studio Ludo, where she brings over a decade of experience in landscape architecture and community-focused design. She believes that all communities deserve sensitively designed spaces that foster stronger connections to the outdoors.

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Her diverse portfolio includes public playgrounds in Philadelphia, town greens in Vermont, waterfront resiliency parks in central China, and recreation planning across the Mid-Atlantic U.S. Taryn's work is grounded in a people-first approach, emphasizing clear communication and inclusive community engagement.

Emily Galfond, AICP, CPSI

Emily Galfond is a Designer at Studio Ludo, where she brings a multidisciplinary background in architecture and urban planning to the design of playful public spaces. She is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Emily is driven by the belief that well-designed public spaces can positively impact the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all people. Her professional experience spans the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, both in the U.S. and internationally. She has contributed to projects ranging from transportation planning in Philadelphia to architectural design for parks and community spaces.

DEI:

We believe everyone deserves a great place to play, regardless of age, ability, or background. Our research shows that the most used playgrounds are within walking distance (1/2 mile) of where people live. Kids do not get to choose where they grow up. It is essential that play investment happen across cities at a variety of scales, from destination playgrounds to local neighborhood parks. In Philadelphia for example, life expectancy can vary up to 20 years based on zipcode. Access to play and open space is a critical component of community health. Play is how we learn about our bodies, ourselves, and our communities. Our research findings demonstrate the impact of well-designed play on health and happiness for all. Our design projects show the research findings in practice, and prove that inclusive, diverse, high-quality play is possible at a wide range of budgets, contexts, and scales.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Scaling Public Parks: Designing for Size and Community Needs

As landscape architects and public park employees it is our mission to create outdoor spaces which serve the entire community. In every site, the word scale takes on a similar meaning. The challenge of designing parks in urban NYC means to understand the community's needs and apply them to the limited areas available, often juggling the big dreams of the community with the reality of available space. This lecture will illustrate this concept of scale by examining three recent projects, focusing on the diversity of neighborhoods and neighbors and how collaboration with these communities helped shape truly successful parks.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Discuss the process of engaging with the community through explaining techniques which promote successful, well-used park spaces

OBJECTIVE 2: Learn how Parks synthesizes the community response through a series of engaging discussions to develop a schematic plan.

OBJECTIVE 3: Discuss how Parks utilizes City standards and details to ensure successful, maintained spaces at a citywide scale

OBJECTIVE 4: Discuss how the design process after construction continues through lessons learned

Speakers:

Denise Mattes, PLA, Design Director - Brooklyn Capital Projects, NYC Parks

Denise is currently the Brooklyn Capital Projects Design Director for NYC Parks, where she has worked for over 20 years managing, designing and promoting a variety of urban, public spaces. Her portfolio also includes working in the private sector designing hospital campus spaces, large-scale subdivisions and small residential projects. She is the 2024 RULA department's distinguished alumni recipient and received an NJASLA award in 2019 for her design of Astoria Heights Playground in Queens. She is very active in her community having served on her local Zoning and Planning Boards since 1993, and was a member of the NJASLA annual meeting planning committee for over 15 years as a co-chair of the meeting itself and the awards committee. She continually promotes the profession through her involvement at her local high school, donating her time each year during their 'professional day' to educate the students about the importance of landscape architecture.

Nicholas Magilton, PLA, Director of Landscape Architecture Design Resources, NYC Parks

Nicholas Magilton, PLA, is the Director of Landscape Architecture Resources at the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. He oversees the design resource team which manages the design review process, develops standards, sources reference materials, and creates presentation templates to ensure consistency and excellence throughout the design process. He works to ensure in-house staff and on-call consultant landscape architecture firms have resources necessary to create inclusive, accessible, resilient, and outstanding public spaces. He has been a registered landscape architect in New York State since 2011, holds a Master of Science Degree in Urban Affairs from Hunter College, and Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Degree and Bachelor of Science in Community & Regional Planning Degree from Iowa State University.

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DEI:

The three projects showcased in this lecture represent the Community Parks Initiative, which is an equity-driven program that selects project sites in underserved neighborhoods. We will discuss our community design process, which gathers feedback from our diverse communities to inform the design. We will explain next steps in creating public spaces, providing amenities which serve an array of park users, considering the built environment, subject to size and scale, in conjunction with programming needs. This includes exploring how we approach making our parks accessible for patrons of all abilities.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Plants for Play

What makes a plant good for play? Plants in children's play spaces should spark curiosity, encourage imaginative storytelling, and withstand active use—without posing risks like thorns or toxicity. While whimsical features such as topiary or edible gardens add charm, they often lack durability and year-round appeal.

Children's gardens often feature novelties like topiaries or pizza ingredients. This session explores how plants can do more than decorate—they can clean the air, reduce heat, and support mental well-being. In areas where playgrounds may be the only green space, plant selection becomes even more critical. Attendees will learn how to choose plants that engage the senses, support wildlife, and thrive in urban environments, while also considering factors like size, habit, and safety.

In this presentation, attendees will learn about plants that are suited to play spaces and discuss what features to consider. These include habit, size, wildlife benefits, and sensory appeal. Plants' adaptability to urban environments and potential hazards like toxicity will also be addressed.

Learning Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify some plant features that are appealing for play spaces.

OBJECTIVE 2: Explore ways that plants can be used to create an inspire space.

OBJECTIVE 3: Review some potential hazards to watch for.

OBJECTIVE 4: Practical considerations such as durability and maintenance needs.

Speakers:

Jane Beggs-Joles, Proven Winners ColorChoice Outreach Manager

Jane Beggs-Joles brings over 30 years of experience in the wholesale nursery industry, where she has played a key role in shaping North American horticulture through the introduction of exceptional plant varieties. Her contributions include standout selections such as 'Limelight' and Little Lime® hydrangeas, Low Scape Mound® Aronia, and Kodiak® Diervilla—plants that have become staples in landscapes across the continent.

As Landscape Program Manager at Spring Meadow Nursery, the woody ornamental partner of Proven Winners®, Jane specializes in helping landscape professionals identify the right plants for their projects. Her work focuses on using plants as practical solutions to design challenges, blending horticultural expertise with a deep understanding of landscape needs.

Jane's career reflects a passion for innovation, education, and collaboration within the green industry, making her a trusted resource for professionals seeking both beauty and function in the built environment.

Laura Robles, Regional Product Manager, Walter Gardens

Laura based in Zeeland, Michigan—the home of Proven Winners® Perennials. She oversees sales and customer support across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions, and also manages the company's customer trialing program.

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With over 20 years of experience in the horticulture industry, Laura's background includes a variety of plant based knowledge. Prior to her current role, she served as Trials Manager at Walters Gardens and led research and development at Mast Young Plants. Her deep understanding of perennial production and plant performance has made her a trusted resource for growers and landscape professionals alike.

Laura holds degrees in Natural Resources from Cornell University and Horticulture from Michigan State University. She has been recognized with the Perennial Plant Association's Young Professionals Award and was named to Greenhouse Product News' 40 Under 40 Class of 2013

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Reimagining Infrastructure: The Expanding Role of Landscape Architects in Public Space

As cities confront the urgent challenges of climate change, public health, and equity, infrastructure is being redefined—not just as a system of utilities, but as a platform for resilience, connection, and community. Landscape architects are increasingly central to this transformation. No longer peripheral contributors, they now shape how infrastructure performs, integrates with its surroundings, and serves people over time.

This panel will explore how landscape architects are leading interdisciplinary teams to deliver infrastructure that is ecologically grounded, socially responsive, and future-ready. Attendees will examine how shifts in project delivery models (such as Design-Build), expanded funding for green infrastructure, and a growing emphasis on community reconnection are creating new opportunities and responsibilities for landscape professionals. Panelists will share strategies for embedding landscape-forward thinking into the core of infrastructure design and delivery.

Learning Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Understanding the evolving role of landscape architects within large-scale infrastructure projects

OBJECTIVE 2: Explore best practices for maintaining design integrity throughout the Design-Build process

OBJECTIVE 3: Learn about case studies that have addressed historical inequalities through inclusive design

Speakers:

Katie Theis, RLA, AICP, ENV SP, LEED AP

Katie leads the Planning & Environment group at HNTB. With over 25 years of experience at the intersection of policy, planning, and landscape architecture, she specializes in guiding complex infrastructure initiatives that drive meaningful change. Her work is rooted in public sector consulting, where she helps transform infrastructure investments into catalysts for social opportunity, economic vitality, and environmental resilience. As a Registered Landscape Architect (NY/NJ), AICP Certified Planner, ENV SP, and LEED AP, Katie brings a multidisciplinary lens and a deep commitment to building stronger, more sustainable communities.

Chelsea Kilburn, ASLA, WEDG

Chelsea brings a background in both landscape & architecture to her professional practice, & is a Senior Associate at Stoss. She holds an MLA from the Harvard Graduate School of Design along with a BArch from Virginia Tech. She previously worked as an architectural designer in both Chicago & Los Angeles, where she enjoyed working with both commercial & residential clients. Prior to joining Stoss, Chelsea interned at the Friends of the Los Angeles River where she spent time learning about the ecology & geomorphology of an urban infrastructural river & got to know river-adjacent communities through a policy & advocacy development program. Chelsea's work at Stoss focuses primarily on larger-scale public resiliency planning as well as

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institutional & cultural projects with a specialty in equitable engagement & placemaking. She leads projects across the firm that consider how to reinforce & expand a resilient public realm while mitigating the challenges of urban infrastructure.

Eric Mattes, RLA, WEDG

Eric Mattes is the Queens Team Leader for the Capital Projects Division at NYC Parks. He oversees a staff of over 30 Landscape Architects and Resident Engineers that design and oversee construction for all construction contracts in the Borough of Queens. Throughout Eric's 35-year career in both the private and public sector, his primary focus has been on urban parks and recreation areas. His past collaboration and teamwork include the Reconstruction of City Hall Park in lower Manhattan, Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn and Highland Park, the Ridgewood Reservoir Site in Queens. His design team is currently working on a new 16-acre park development on undeveloped land that was formerly a rail yard called Gwen Ifill Park in Southeast Queens. Eric feels that his creativity as a Landscape Architect is centered on understanding and implementing the wishes of a diverse set of project stakeholders while not sacrificing design excellence and adhering to agency/client goals.

Leah Wener, RLA, WEDG

Leah is a landscape architect and resilience planner with expertise in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and management of public space at various scales. Leah's background in landscape architecture grounds her understanding of resilient adaptation strategies, having led the incorporation of resilience and sustainability priorities into agency capital planning for the MTA and the US Navy. Leah leads the landscape architecture and urban planning section at HNTB, where she focuses on centering placemaking and community priorities in large-scale transportation infrastructure projects.

DEI:

Case Study on Gwen Ifill Park will focus on heavy community engagement within an under-served community to ensure equity.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Designing with Constraints: Creative Solutions on Remediated Properties

This session will address the key points of integrating environmental remediation strategies into landscape design, including navigating the complex and often contradictory regulations that govern site remediation, stormwater management, and flood hazard area development. John Tregidgo, LSRP will present an overview of common site remediation challenges and the benefits of engaging environmental specialists early in the design process. Strategies for addressing stormwater management and compliance with flood hazard area regulations on environmentally impacted sites will be addressed by Gabrielle Gornelli, PE, while Lauren K. Venin, LLA, CFM, presents the horticultural impacts of site remediation. Adapting green stormwater infrastructure to function effectively on capped sites will also be discussed.

Learning Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Understanding the benefits and process for early collaboration with environmental remediation professionals

OBJECTIVE 2: Identify areas of overlap and contradiction between environmental remediation and stormwater management regulations.

OBJECTIVE 3: Understand horticultural implications of compliance with environmental remediation regulations

OBJECTIVE 4: Identify strategies for integrating GSI strategies into remediation.

Speakers:

Lauren K. Venin, LLA, RLA, CFM

Ms. Venin's 20-plus year career spans a wide variety of project types and conditions, in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. After several years with a design studio, she joined Dresdner Robin, a multi-disciplinary land use consultancy based in Jersey City. Ms. Venin currently leads the Landscape Architecture department, overseeing both public and private sector projects, with a focus on urban redevelopment.

For the past 15 years, Ms. Venin has also served her community in several volunteer positions, working towards flood mitigation, open space preservation, and improved land stewardship.

Additionally, she serves as a Girl Scout troop leader and Service Unit Manager for Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey.

Gabrielle Gornelli, PE

Ms. Gornelli is a licensed professional engineer specializing in municipal site plan applications and environmental permitting for a variety of commercial, residential, and mixed-use development projects. With a strong foundation in both design and regulatory compliance, she manages projects from the schematic phase through construction. Her work includes the management of roadway and site grading design, utility layout and design, and the development of innovative stormwater management strategies for dense urban sites. Many of Gabby's projects are located in regulatory coastal zones and floodplains, where she helps clients to secure approvals at the local, state, and federal levels.

John F. Tregidgo, LSRP

Mr. Tregidgo brings over 25 years of experience in the environmental consulting industry, having launched his career in an environmental testing laboratory before advancing to manage and oversee a wide array of site remediation projects. His work spans private corporations and federal, state, and local agencies, including the remediation and redevelopment of brownfields, public parks, and recreational areas. Mr. Tregidgo is a permanent Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) in the State of New Jersey, authorizing him to oversee the remediation of contaminated sites under NJDEP's regulatory framework. He is known for delivering practical, compliant, and science-based solutions that support environmental protection, economic development, and community revitalization.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Site Planning for a World in Need

This session explores the collaborative design process used by Engineering Ministries International (EMI) Mexico in the development of schools and camps across the region. Multidisciplinary teams—including architects, engineers, surveyors, and landscape architects—work together to create comprehensive site master plans that address both functional needs and community aspirations. The presentation will highlight the Rancho Génesis Master Plan in Uruapan, Mexico, a summer camp designed to provide a safe and enriching environment for orphaned children. Key phases of the process, including site analysis, programming, site planning and design, architectural coordination, and utility planning, will be discussed.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Understand design constraints and solutions in third world situations

OBJECTIVE 2: Explore different cultures, construction practices and landscape environments

OBJECTIVE 3: Examine collaborative efforts with other design professionals to achieve actual solutions

OBJECTIVE 4: Evaluate the impact of professional volunteerism on personal development and social equity

Speaker:

David Troast, PP, AICP, LLA

David Troast has over 40 years of experience as a New Jersey licensed Professional Planner (AICP) and as a licensed New Jersey Landscape Architect with additional certifications in Municipal Administration, Redevelopment Planning and NJ Courts Civil Mediation. His experience includes City Management, Redevelopment, Master Planning Communities, Site Planning, Streetscape Design, and Park Design in both in public and private practice. David has been a speaker at conferences for NJ Land Use Law, NJ Tax Assessors, NJ, NY League of Municipalities, NJ Planning Officials, and NJ Futures Conference. His professional goals are to continue providing realistic planning and design solutions while mentoring and passing on his knowledge to younger professionals to promote good design for a world in need.

Volunteering with EMI over the last eight years has instilled a new passion for David in designing for people especially children in poor countries to provide educational opportunities, a safe - healthier communities providing hope for the future through design.

DEI:

The project addressed designing a specific camp site for children with disabilities. The Camp experience was for over 6,000 orphans in the State of Baja Mexico to experience nature, the outdoors, sports in a loving and safe environment. The design team included both men and women of all ages from 21 years old to 82 years from Mexico, Egypt, USA and from New Zealand (5 - different US States). The diversity of the team has been the strength and success of the final plan. Language barriers evaporate with drawing, calculations, pictures, all focused on the purpose of the trip to help those in need through design.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

The Sharkbite Method: Cutting Through the Noise in a Digital World

In today's crowded digital landscape, businesses struggle to stand out and attract the right clients. Many design firms still rely heavily on referrals or outdated websites, leaving significant growth opportunities untapped. In this session, Nicholas Kraus, author of The Sharkbite Method and CEO of Kraus Marketing, will share a proven framework for building a digital presence that not only gets noticed, but consistently generates business. Attendees will learn how to transform word-of-mouth momentum into a scalable marketing system that drives leads, builds credibility, and positions their brand above the competition.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Apply the Sharkbite Method to develop a clear, consistent, and scalable marketing strategy

OBJECTIVE 2: Identify gaps in their current marketing approach

OBJECTIVE 3: Leverage digital channels (web, social, email, video, and automation) to amplify word-of-mouth and turn visibility into measureable business results

OBJECTIVE 4: Differentiate your firm's brand to stay relevant in a marketplace where digital noise is only getting louder.

Speaker:

Marc Kraus, founder and CEO of Kraus Marketing

Nick Kraus is the Founder and CEO of Kraus Marketing, a creative agency specializing in strategic marketing solutions. Under his leadership, the agency has grown steadily and earned recognition for its work, including multiple appearances on the Inc 5000 list.

In addition to his role at Kraus Marketing, Nick contributes to the broader business and marketing community as an author and speaker. He shares practical insights and industry trends aimed at helping professionals navigate the evolving landscape of marketing and business strategy.

Nick's approach emphasizes clarity, collaboration, and results-driven thinking—qualities that continue to shape the agency's work and its impact on clients across industries.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Scaling Belonging: Ecotones, Enclaves, and the Hidden Logics of New Jersey Landscapes

To scale design with integrity in New Jersey, we must begin with what is often overlooked: the small, the layered, the everyday. This session explores how cultural and ecological techniques—diaspora markets, language zones, saltfront ecologies, and fire-adapted soils—shape the lived landscapes of the Garden State. Through a hands-on sticker mapping workshop, participants will surface the “hidden logics” of New Jersey: enclaves, ecotones, and everyday genius that resist generic design templates. Case studies from Los Angeles, Syracuse, and the Pacific Northwest introduce participatory tools for reading and designing with cultural memory, migration patterns, and environmental thresholds. Together, we’ll ask: What if scaling doesn’t mean replicating—but layering, attuning, and honoring the specific?

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify how cultural and ecological techniques—such as migration patterns, vernacular practices, and ecotone dynamics—influence landscape form and function across New Jersey.

OBJECTIVE 2: Apply participatory design tools (e.g. sticker mapping) to surface local knowledge and cultural memory in diverse spatial contexts.

OBJECTIVE 3: Analyze the role of enclaves, brackish zones, and layered identities in shaping scalable, context-specific design strategies.

OBJECTIVE 4: Evaluate how scaling design through attunement and specificity can foster equity, visibility, and belonging in regional planning and public space projects.

Speaker:

Jean Yang, Assistant Professor SUNY ESF, ASLA

Jean Yang is a landscape architect, urban planner, and educator originally from New Jersey, now based in upstate New York. Her work bridges equity, climate adaptation, and design literacy—translating complex community narratives into resilient spatial frameworks. She has led major initiatives such as the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Plan, the LA County Parks Strategic Plan, and Destination Crenshaw. As a Senior Associate at Studio-MLA and now Assistant Professor at SUNY ESF, she collaborates with agencies, artists, and marginalized communities to reimagine public space. Jean’s participatory methods—like sticker-based toolkits and trauma-informed memorials—support dignity, visibility, and belonging across design scales. She is a graduate of Cornell (BA) and UCLA (MUP) and USC (MLA)), she has taught at UCLA, Cal Poly Pomona, and the University of Oregon.

DEI:

This session centers diversity, equity, and inclusion by introducing design methods that surface overlooked cultural and ecological knowledge—particularly in marginalized or misrepresented communities. Participants will engage in a hands-on sticker mapping workshop that supports inclusive authorship and allows individuals to reflect on migration, memory, language, and land. By focusing on enclaves, ecotones, and everyday spatial practices, the session challenges generic planning frameworks and uplifts locally specific forms of genius that often go unrecognized in traditional design processes. Case studies highlight trauma-informed memorials, participatory public space work with unhoused and refugee communities, and frameworks for culturally layered climate adaptation. The tools shared support equitable engagement, cultural preservation, and more just approaches to landscape planning.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Storytelling as an Active Practice: Finding Clarity and Alignment in a Technological Era

Storytelling isn't about selling an idea—it's about sharing understanding. It's how we build empathy, reveal intent, and invite others to see what we see. In an era of AI-enhanced tools and rapid iteration, storytelling helps designers slow down, clarify intent, and find authenticity in the process itself.

This session explores storytelling not as a polished presentation, but as a practice of design decision-making— one that helps design teams of any scale navigate complexity, communicate purpose, and stay aligned with shared values. From hand sketches to generative imagery, participants will gain insights into how different tools and processes can clarify ideas, support collaboration, and reveal how storytelling can bring clarity, alignment, and meaning to the evolving practice of design.

OBJECTIVE 1: Reflect on storytelling as an active design tool that shapes creative thinking, clarifies intent, and guides both personal and professional growth.

OBJECTIVE 2: Apply storytelling techniques—through sketches, diagrams, and visuals—to communicate complex design ideas clearly, empathetically, and across project scales.

OBJECTIVE 3: Explore approaches to integrate storytelling into everyday workflows, fostering collaborative and productive feedback loops with clients and team members.

Speaker:

Misa Chen, PLA, ASLA

Misa is a landscape architect, founder, and studio director of Studio Edition. With over two decades of professional experience, her work centers on reimagining outdoor spaces that enrich everyday life with social, environmental, and cultural vitality. Her approach balances creativity with pragmatic thinking, reflecting a belief that quality design can be both inspiring and grounded—achieved through clarity, collaboration, and curiosity.

Prior to Studio Edition, Misa was a Senior Associate at WRT, leading complex public realm, institutional, and mixed-use projects across the East Coast and internationally. Drawing on this expertise, she launched Studio Edition in 2021—a Philadelphia-based design practice focused on shaping site-responsive landscapes that infuse artistic expression and foster a sense of well-being and connection for the communities they serve. Misa holds a BLA from Tunghai University and an MLA from the University of Pennsylvania.

DEI:

This session brings the perspective of an Asian-American, women-owned small practice, representing the voices of designers in the majority of U.S. landscape firms, which typically operate as a single-office, small team (ASLA 2024 Industry Report). By highlighting storytelling as an active design process, the session demonstrates how visual and narrative strategies—through sketches, diagrams, and generative tools—can make design thinking accessible and inclusive, fostering equitable collaboration with clients, collaborators, and community stakeholders. The session also reflects on how storytelling empowers designers at any stage to find their voice, navigate the profession with confidence, and shape both the work they create and the designers they become.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

East Newark Riverfront Park: Where Ecology and Community Meet Again

East Newark Riverfront Park transforms a former industrial wharf into a vibrant, accessible green oasis on the banks of the Passaic River. Once home to the Clark Thread Company, whose legacy left behind contamination and cut off public access for more than 150 years, the site will now serve as East Newark's first and only waterfront park. By expanding parkland from 1% to 8% of the borough's land area, this project exemplifies how social uplift, environmental justice, and ecological restoration can guide design in small municipalities. Gonzalo Cruz and Tristan Porto will present the park's nature-based strategies and its integration of resilient infrastructure, habitat restoration, and community programming. The session will show how a brownfield can become a precedent-setting model for equitable, sustainable, and performative public space.

OBJECTIVE 1: Explore how landscape architecture can address social uplift, environmental justice, and ecological restoration simultaneously.

OBJECTIVE 2: Learn how nature-based design can align with UN Sustainable Development Goals and climate adaptation.

OBJECTIVE 3: Identify scalable lessons for small municipalities seeking to expand public open space with limited resources.

OBJECTIVE 4: Understand strategies for transforming brownfield sites into resilient, biodiverse public spaces.

Gonzalo Cruz, PLA, ASLA

Gonzalo serves as Vice President and Principal of Design at AECOM's Landscape Architecture + Urban Design (LAUD) studio in New York. He leads design efforts locally and oversees strategic collaborations across the Americas and internationally. His award-winning work is situated at the intersection of large-scale infrastructure and placemaking, with a strong focus on addressing climate-related challenges through design.

Gonzalo's practice has been recognized by prestigious organizations including the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), NYCxDESIGN, and the Chicago Athenaeum, which honored his work on the World Trade Center's Liberty Park with a Design Excellence Award in Open Space Design.

Tristan Porto, PLA, ASLA

Tristan Porto is a Senior Associate with AECOM's Landscape Architecture + Urban Design Studio in New York City, where he leads projects at the intersection of placemaking and infrastructure. With seventeen years of practice, he is recognized for creating resilient, innovative, and community-centered public spaces that balance technical rigor with social impact. His experience includes serving as Senior Project Manager for Design at NYC Parks, where he helped develop citywide guidelines for accessible parks and contributed to the agency's Flood Resiliency Guidelines. Today, Tristan applies that expertise to parks, campuses, and urban infrastructure projects, integrating ecological restoration and climate resilience into complex urban contexts. He is known for his ability to collaborate across disciplines and deliver inclusive design solutions that strengthen communities and create lasting public value.

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DEI:

The project restores long-denied riverfront access in a historically overburdened, immigrant, working-class community. Equitable design principles ensure inclusive programming, universal accessibility, and opportunities for community events, job training, and environmental education; making the park a catalyst for social and environmental justice.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Trees in the Landscape: Importance and Selection for Our Community and the Environment

Trees are the backbone of the Landscape. When properly planted and maintained, their value is measured both economically and aesthetically. The cooling shade they provide is a given, but some of the other amenities include reducing runoff, intercepting particulates, and providing habitat for migratory songbirds and other animals. What may be considered most important though, is their ability to sequester carbon for years or longer. As Emerald Ash Borer, Bacterial Leaf Scorch, Spotted Lantern Fly and now Beech Leaf Disease are wreaking havoc on some of our most popular and significant trees it is time to look at what tree options are there, for the landscape going forward.

The discussion will highlight trees that remain strong and worthy of continued use, and some lesser-known species that are likely to play a key role in maintaining a beautiful, healthy and sustainable landscape.

OBJECTIVE 1: Proper planting foundations and techniques

OBJECTIVE 2: Tree diseases in brief

OBJECTIVE 3: Highlight lesser-known species for sustainable landscapes

Steve Kristoph, Owner Steve Kristoph Nursery and Instructor at Rutgers university

Steve Kristoph is renowned for his encyclopedic knowledge of plant material. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in horticulture from Rutgers University, where he has also served as an adjunct instructor for more than 25 years. Steve is the owner of Steven Kristoph Nursery in Monmouth County, NJ, where he cultivates a wide variety of ornamental trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials.

His landscape design firm, P. Steven Kristoph Garden Design, provides comprehensive services including design, installation, and maintenance to both residential and commercial clients. Deeply passionate about plants, Steve brings his enthusiasm and expertise to every outdoor plant encounter!

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Fagus Forethought and Carpinus Conundrums

This session will provide an overview of key problems on two important genera in our landscapes, beech and hornbeam. In particular, beech leaf disease and hornbeam canker are emerging diseases that you must be aware of when planning for long term landscape features and maintenance requirements. We will cover signs and symptoms, then provide what is known of management tactics and their rationale. Our research team with Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories has been at the forefront of BLD management trials for years, learning from both failures and exciting successes as we developed two novel, nematicidal treatment programs now in wide use. Meanwhile, we cannot forget other emerging issues. A mysterious problem has been increasingly observed in European hornbeam, causing severe branch canker and dieback. For the emerging hornbeam canker issue, we will cover what is known of species and cultivar susceptibility. Nursery growers and clients seek answers, but the first step is figuring out what we are dealing with – and exciting work is underway.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Learn what management options for BLD are published, registered, and what they entail

OBJECTIVE 2: Learn about Hornbeam canker, a new and poorly understood pathogen in the Northeast

OBJECTIVE 3: Learn if one or both of these diseases is likely to impact your landscapes based on what we know of severity and species/cultivar susceptibility

Speaker:

Dr. Matthew Borden, DPM

Matt is a plant pathologist at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories in Charlotte, NC. Current work focuses on beech leaf disease, bacterial leaf scorch, and management of boxwood and other broadleaf evergreens. He has experience in orchard and botanical garden pest management, plant problem diagnostics, and writing for green industry magazines. Matt gained a deep appreciation for integrated pest management while at Virginia Tech, followed by studies in landscape health and sustainable management strategies at the University of Florida.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

The Same, But Different

Humans are, by nature, social creatures. The places we inhabit shape how we observe, collaborate, and engage with the world around us. Resilient, equitable, and environmentally just design emerges from the understanding that each place is a living and evolving entity. In this presentation, Michelle will explore how collective curiosity and storytelling inform Snøhetta's design work across diverse scales and typologies. From adapting urban public spaces like the Blanton Art Museum to re-imagining the rural grasslands of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, each project reflects a deep commitment to place-based design. Bridging practice and academia, Michelle will share how Snøhetta's interdisciplinary collaborations resist erasure. Instead, prioritizing an emphasis on listening - both to the stories embedded in landscapes and to the voices of those most connected to a place.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Demonstrate Landscape Architects and Building Architects can together bring forth unique design approaches.

OBJECTIVE 2: Recognize how managing complexity can lead to simple and powerful design solutions.

OBJECTIVE 3: Consider how often unseen qualities of sites and histories can become conceptual drivers of design thinking.

OBJECTIVE 4: Discuss how adaptive transformation can be one way to meet sustainability and resiliency goals.

Speaker:

Michelle Jeffrey Delk, FASLA

Michelle Delk is a Partner with Snøhetta and leads the Landscape Architecture practice in the Americas. As a passionate advocate and designer of the public realm, her work is evocative of a foundational premise shared with Snøhetta: to create places that enhance the positive relationships between people and their environments. Michelle encourages innovative approaches to collaboration that are nonhierarchical and trans-disciplinary. Both aspirational and pragmatic, she seeks to discover and expand the urban landscape vernacular, striving to express the subtleties of place through the incongruities of memory, environment, and social perceptions. Michelle is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Laurie Olin Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, a board member with the NYC Urban Design Forum, and a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation Stewardship Council.

DEI:

The work Michelle will share emphasizes nurturing relationships among and across all experience levels, through engagement, planning and design. Michelle will highlight how Snøhetta's collective design culture, through projects and initiatives, involves individuals who represent groups historically excluded from society at large, and the design industry. Diversity, equity and inclusion is reflected in the values of the practice through three principal areas: project work, studio operations, and consultant teaming. By nurturing creativity and an inclusive culture to understand and reflect the values the diversity of our employees, clients and communities in our work.

Duration: 60 MINUTES

Session Title:

Concrete Confidential: Unlocking the Full Potential of a Ubiquitous Building Material

Concrete is a ubiquitous building material, relatively economical, adaptable, and maintainable but comes with a heavy environmental price tag. Since it's not departing anytime soon, we need to be smarter when designing with concrete and integrate practical steps that will reduce waste, improve longevity, and include eco-friendly mixes into projects.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Learn about practical and effective ways to reduce concrete waste in a project.

OBJECTIVE 2: Delve into techniques that can extend the longevity and maintainability of concrete in your projects.

OBJECTIVE 3: Look at ways to reduce the carbon cost of cast-in-place concrete.

OBJECTIVE 4: Raise awareness of more sustainable concrete that are available in the market and practical to specify.

Speakers:

John Payne, RLA, ASLA

John has worked on complex projects that include retrofits within historic landscapes and buildings; extensive and intensive landscape installations over structures; and in projects with complicated logistical, access and phasing constraints. His experience as a construction project manager and certified arborist helps him bring a landscape builder's lens to a project while also being able to understand, communicate and preserve the design intent. John's previous career as an Army leader has instilled in him a firm belief in the power of teamwork to realizing a project to its full potential.

Jenny Hamann, RLA, ASLA

Jenny Hamann is a Landscape Architect with nearly 20 years of experience designing and delivering complex, high-performance landscapes in urban and natural environments. Based in New York City at Stantec and a graduate of Purdue University, she has led projects ranging from large-scale on-structure developments to community playgrounds. Her work includes the World Trade Center parks and plazas, Pacific Park open spaces in Brooklyn, and the Tottenville Shoreline Protection project in Staten Island.

Jenny combines strong technical expertise in grading, stormwater management, and structural coordination with a passion for sustainable design. She believes successful landscapes emerge through collaboration among designers, engineers, and community stakeholders—creating spaces that enhance user experience, preserve ecosystems, and adapt to climate challenges.

DEI:

All communities benefit from public open space and deserve beautiful, maintainable, and enduring outdoor experiences regardless of economic or structural inequities. Like most things considered to be 'new and improved', access to materials pushing the boundaries on sustainability may not always be within reach for projects with limited budgets, which is synonymous with most public open spaces. For public open space to remain affordable, exciting and long-lasting, while balancing affordability and sustainability, we need to evaluate the materials, like concrete, we design with and look at common-sense changes that help us move the dial on sustainability for our standard building materials.

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DURATION: 50 MINUTES

Session Title:

Executive Committee Meeting: Open Session

NJASLA's Executive Committee will be hosting an open session meeting where conference attendees can participate, listen in on and contribute ideas. Join NJASLA's open session and gain insight into leadership and planning, offer up your comments and ideas, and learn about our strategic direction for the future of our state ASLA chapter. NJASLA's Executive Committee will review topics that will help influence the chapter and the profession, and hear your ideas and comments. Whether you're a vendor or a sponsor, whether you're a seasoned professional or student, you have an opportunity to voice your visions with members of the NJASLA's Executive Committee. All are welcome to learn, ask questions, and be a part of the conversation that drives our profession forward.

Learning Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Learn how NJASLA sets goals and makes decisions.

OBJECTIVE 2: Discover ways to get involved with chapter activities.

OBJECTIVE 3: Engage in discussions about the profession's future in NJ.

Speakers:

NJASLA Executive Committee Members:

President: Jan Saltiel Rafel, ASLA, LEED AP

President Elect: Christopher R. Gammons, LLA, ASLA

Immediate Past President: Jonathan Misrahi, PLA, ASLA

1st Vice President: Richard Asirifi, AICP, Assoc. ASLA

2nd Vice President: Kevin Perry, PLA, ASLA

Secretary: Jing Fan, PLA, ASLA

Treasurer: Tom Salaki, PLA, ASLA

Trustee: Anthony Parziale, PLA, LLA, ASLA

Duration: 1 HOUR AND 45 MINUTES

(90 minutes for documentary followed by a brief 15 minute Q&A)

Session Title:

Sitting Still

SITTING STILL is an original documentary that focuses on one of the world's most preeminent landscape architects and his profoundly social vision. Hailed as a modern-day Olmsted, Laurie Olin has helped transform the design of public space, revitalize the American city, and pave the way for future design leaders. This portrait of an artist is told through a prism of issues which have defined Olin's life and work for the past fifty years: urbanization and our lost connection to nature, economic marginalization, and the grave importance of humanity in design.

Learning Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Analyze Laurie Olin's contributions to landscape architecture and urban design, focusing on how his projects integrate sustainability, public space, and human experience.

OBJECTIVE 2: Examine how Olin's artistic background influences his design philosophy and how landscape architecture can create socially and environmentally responsible spaces.

OBJECTIVE 3: Discuss the film's themes related to climate change, urban expansion, and the role of architects and landscape architects in shaping resilient, livable cities.

OBJECTIVE 4: Evaluate the impact of urban design on social equity, housing, and community well-being, using examples from Olin's work and the film's discussions.

Speaker:

Gina Angelone, Director of documentary, Sitting Still

Gina Angelone has lived, worked, and traveled the world as a film director, producer, and writer. Gina's TV work is the recipient of two Emmy awards and multiple nominations. Her documentaries have garnered top festival prizes and notable grants from the NEA, Philadelphia Foundation, William Penn Foundation, Graham Foundation, New York Women in Film, and The American Academy of Arts and Letters, among many others. Her credits include founding Producer of "Inside the Actors Studio" (BRAVO), Writer/Director of the original series, "Defining Beauty" (Disney), and creator of acclaimed documentaries "Connections: Preserving America's Landscape Legacy" (PBS), "René & I" (NBC), and "It's Better to Jump" (Al Jazeera).

SITTING STILL is Gina's most recent feature documentary, "SITTING STILL," is her eighth film dealing with themes of urbanism, landscape architecture and design.

Subjects and Providers of Continuing Education



14. What is acceptable continuing education?



15. What courses of learning are acceptable for continuing education?



16. Who are approved sponsors (providers)?



17. Is there any limitation on the subject matter of the courses of learning and/or educational activities?



Yes. **Not all courses and educational activities offered by an approved sponsor are acceptable for continuing education credit in New York State.** The subject area must contribute to the professional practice of landscape architecture. Of the 36 hours required, at least two-thirds (24 hours) must be in the areas of health, safety and welfare (HSW). However, no more than one-third (12 hours) will be accepted in other topics, which contribute to the professional practice of landscape architecture as such practice is defined in section 7321 of the Education Law. The key is the subject matter's relationship to professional practice. You must also make sure that a minimum of 18 hours are in courses of learning, and no more than 18 hours consist of educational activities.

- code of ethics
- codes, acts, laws, and regulations governing the practice of landscape architecture
- construction administration, including the administration of construction contracts
- construction documents
- environmental process and analysis
- erosion control methods, including storm water management as is incidental and necessary to the practice of landscape architecture
- design of environmental systems and use of site materials and methods of site construction
- grading and natural drainage
- horticulture
- irrigation methods
- land planning and land use analysis
- landscape preservation, landscape restoration and adaptive reuse
- natural hazards - impact of earthquake, hurricane, or flood related to site design
- New York State Building Code as it affects landscape architecture
- resource conservation and management
- site accessibility, including American with Disabilities Act standards for accessible site design
- site and soils analysis
- site design
- site security and safety
- specifications writing
- surveying methods and techniques as they affect landscape architecture
- sustainable design, including techniques related to energy efficiency
- vegetative management
- wetlands
- zoning as it relates to the improvement and/or protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public
- other matters of law and ethics which contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the public
- Other topics, which contribute to the professional practice of landscape architecture as such practice is defined in section 7321 of the Education Law, except for non-acceptable subjects listed below.

Non-acceptable subjects:

Subject areas that do not contribute to the professional practice of landscape architecture as defined in section 7321 of the Education Law, such as, risk management, limiting the design professional's liability, project management related to profitability and maximizing fees, marketing and public relations, insurance, laws related to arbitration, mediation, liens (unless they relate to safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public), real estate, real estate development, expanding a design professional's business, basic AutoCAD, personal development, general office management, accounting/financial planning, succession planning, zoning as it relates to increasing a developer or landscape architect's profitability, design build (unless 75% of the course content relates to the laws related to design build in New York State) are **not acceptable** subjects.

Service on Boards and/or professional committees, and active participation in technical and/or professional organizations are **not** eligible for continuing education credit.



18. Can I study on my own rather than take a course or educational activity?



19. Am I required to take educational activities?



20. Are courses limited to a traditional "classroom setting" in which I am in the same room with the instructor?



21. May I count toward my requirement a continuing education course taught or technical presentation given through an approved sponsor?



22. May I count toward my requirement a college level course that I teach?



Recordkeeping and Reporting



23. What records should I expect to receive from the continuing education provider and how long am I required to keep them?

