



May 31, 2017

## Executive Offices

- **President Vaughn Rinner, FASLA, and** Education Director Susan Apollonio both delivered separate keynote addresses to close out the CELA conference in Beijing. They were asked to step in and provide the closing addresses after arriving in Beijing and generously accepted.
- **Pledges to the campaign for the ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture** now total \$1,252,773 (**less than \$250K from the goal of \$1.5M**). The campaign is preparing to ask current donors as well as other close friends of ASLA to fund a **special ASLA Center Matching Fund** of up to \$100,000. This fund would match new or increased pledges to the campaign and help ASLA meet its goal of \$1.5 million. For more information, please contact [Ron Sears](#).
- Staff recently met with the design and construction team and building management to review punch lists items as well as the status of documentation and submissions for LEED and WELL Building certifications.
- Staff are meeting weekly to plan for the interdisciplinary **blue ribbon panel on climate change** to be hosted by ASLA in the fall.

## Government Affairs

- **The 2017 Advocacy Summit will be September 8-10 in Milwaukee.** The [nomination form](#) is now available so please coordinate with your chapter/state to consider who should attend. Chapter summit attendees will receive reimbursement for airfare and two nights at the host hotel. Please contact [Elizabeth Hebron](#) with any questions. The nomination deadline is **June 9**.
- Last week, the **Maryland Chapter** activated the iAdvocate Network to send letters to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan on pending pollinator legislation. The letter urged the governor to sign into law Senate Bill 386/House Bill 830, the Pollinator Habitat Plans—Plan Contents—Requirements and Prohibition Act, which **would require that pollinator habitat plans developed by the Maryland Environmental Service, Department of Natural Resources, and the State Highway Administration, be as protective of pollinators as plans developed by the Department of Agriculture.**
- On May 23, the Trump administration released its FY 2018 budget recommendations, which slashed the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** by nearly 85 percent from current funding levels—from \$400 million to \$90 million. The budget also included a 31 percent cut to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget, a \$498 million reduction in the EPA's State Revolving Fund programs, and significant cuts to key climate change programs and activities across all federal agencies. EVP Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA also issued a [statement](#) on the dramatic cuts to these key federal programs, which are vital to the landscape architecture profession.
- Watch a [video](#) of EVP Somerville delivering a **letter signed by nearly 2,000 landscape architects and allied stakeholders to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt** urging him to reconsider recent rollbacks on environmental and climate change policies.
- ASLA's photographer took some **great images of our advocates on Capitol Hill**. Feel free to peruse the [Advocacy Day 2017 photo gallery](#). If your chapter would like to use any of these images

for chapter newsletters or other publications, please ensure all images have a photo credit: EPNAC.com.

- To prepare for **an even more successful Advocacy Day next year**, please take a moment to give your feedback by taking a quick [2017 Advocacy Day Satisfaction Survey](#). The deadline to complete the survey **has been extended until tomorrow!**
- On April 26, President Trump signed [Executive Order 13792](#) instructing the Department of the Interior to review national monuments designated since 1996 under the Antiquities Act and that are larger than 100,000 acres, or where Interior Secretary Zinke determines the designation was made without adequate public outreach or support. In conjunction, the Department of the Interior also announced the first ever-formal public comment period on monument designations under the Antiquities Act, and on a [list of monuments](#) under review under the president's Executive Order. ASLA is encouraging members and chapters to [submit comments](#) on this important issue. **Written comments are due by July 10.** For additional information or questions, contact **ASLA Government Affairs Manager [Mark Cason](#)**.
- ASLA has joined with allied organizations in signing onto the **Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition's** written testimony to the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. The testimony includes policy and funding recommendations to improve the nation's urban and community forestry management, maintenance, and stewardship.
- Federal Government Affairs Director Roxanne Blackwell, Hon. ASLA, participated in the steering committee meeting of the [National Complete Streets Coalition](#), where the committee worked to draft a Vision Zero statement and to update criteria for state and local Complete Streets policies.
- Manager Cason attended a **congressional hearing related to water infrastructure** conducted by the **House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee**. Testimony was from an array of state and local officials on the status of EPA's implementation of the integrated planning policy. The hearing also looked at ways to help EPA, states, and municipalities in developing and implementing integrated plans that provide flexibility for municipal projects necessary to meet Clean Water Act regulatory obligations. The panel also applauded the use of green infrastructure as a way to comply with EPA consent decrees, manage stormwater runoff, and improve water quality and water quantity issues.
- Government Affairs Coordinator Casey Ellingson attended a hearing conducted by the **Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee** titled, ***"Improving America's Transportation Infrastructure: The Road Forward."*** Featured was testimony by U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao. During the hearing, Secretary Chao outlined the administration's transportation budget priorities and provided insight on a forthcoming comprehensive infrastructure package. Senators also questioned Chao on important issues that affect landscape architects such as implementing the **FAST Act**, and the future of the **Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program**.

## Finance, Meetings, and Business Operations

- CFO Mike O'Brien, Hon. ASLA, and the Accounting staff are working on the **May 2017 results**.
- Accounting staff has been **working on implementing new processes, which includes the automatic transmittals of ACH payments; transferred all merchant accounts to PayPal for significant savings;** and formatted two software programs (Spacemaster, invoices for the



magazine, and Solomon, the accounting software) to communicate with each other to eliminate hours of manual labor.

- The **2017 EXPO booth sales** remains at **87 percent** of the budget.
- **The 2017 LAM advertising contracts** remain at **85 percent** of the budget.
- **Registration and housing for the annual meeting are keeping pace** with last year with over 1,300 registered to date. Field sessions are starting to fill up. Register now to get the sessions and hotel room of your choice and before the June 30 early-bird deadline for the lowest rates.

## Member and Chapter Services

- The **Emerging Professional Committee** will host an “**Ask Me Anything**” event on June 13 at 3 p.m. EDT. Chapters are urged to encourage your emerging professionals to participate in the event, which will be broadcast live on the [ASLA Facebook Page](#).
- The **Member Services Committee** will host a **Membership Chair Webinar** on June 21 at 3 p.m. EDT. This webinar will review roles and resources for membership chairs as well as explaining the value of membership. An Outlook Meeting invitation will be sent with the call-in information. If you have any questions, contact Membership Marketing and Chapter Relations Manager [Susanna Butler](#).

## Public Relations and Communications

- The **professional awards jury convened June 4-6 to review 465 submissions and selected 38 winning projects**. Winners will be notified this week, and staff will begin compiling jury comments to share with the non-winners in the next couple of weeks. **The awards will be announced at the end of August** to coincide with the September issue of *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, the annual awards issue.
- The **Student Awards jury** meets beginning June 2. Entries are still being reviewed for eligibility, but it appears the total will be on par with 2016's 270 submissions.
- The **2017 Annual Meeting and EXPO** pre-registration brochure has been printed and mailed and should hit targets' mailboxes this week. The [website](#) is up and active. **Early-bird registration ends June 30, so take advantage of it!**
- A [press release](#) announcing the **2017 Class of Fellows** was distributed May 16 via several wire services. Early interest has come from [The Watertown TAB & Press](#) (Massachusetts), [The Palm Beach Post](#), [The Advocate](#) (New Orleans), and [The Albuquerque Journal](#).
- The [ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture landing page](#) on ASLA.org has been updated with professional photography of the Center. Since its launch in January, the Center's web pages have received 3,900 pageviews. Associated videos have been viewed 230 times.

## Education and LAAB

- This week, Career Discovery and Diversity Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, met via conference call with American Public Health Association staff and other partners from the [Joint Call to Action to Promote Healthy Communities](#) to discuss the mission and vision of the venture moving forward.

- On May 24, Manager Balon met via conference call with Bernard Suber, a Washington, D.C. representative for the **National Organization for Minority Architects (NOMA)**, to discuss their mission and goals as a national organization and to further discuss the [Project Pipeline](#) mentoring program.
- On May 18, Manager Balon attended the kick-off National Planning Committee conference call for the **2018 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference** scheduled to take place February 1-3, 2018, in San Francisco. The committee reviewed conference topics and tracks, committee roles, and recommendations for local planning partners. ASLA is an organizational member of the committee.
- On May 17, Manager Kris Pritchard attended the **D.C. Area Accreditors Meeting** in Washington, D.C., which focused on working with accreditation boards. A federal education policy briefing was provided.

## Professional Practice

- The Call for Proposals for ASLA's [Online Learning Student and Emerging Professionals SPOTLIGHT mini-series](#) closed on May 25. The submissions are now being reviewed by the Professional Practice Network (PPN) mentors and selected presentations will take place as part of the Online Learning series in August. The next live Online Learning presentations will be on June 14, *Creating Pollinator Habitat Along Roadsides*, hosted by the **Transportation PPN**, and on June 19, *Designing Trees into the Urban Landscape & Integrating Stormwater Management*, hosted by the **Sustainable Design & Development PPN**. [Registration](#) is open for both upcoming webinars.
- Last week, Manager Linette Straus, ASLA, led a discussion on landscape and building design at an event on the "**Practice of Biophilia in D.C.**" held at the University of D.C. Tommy Wells, Director of the District's Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) was among the presenters at the conference, which was organized by the **Biophilic D.C. Workgroup**.
- Manager Straus met with the DOEE division team that is managing the **EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund** to discuss the Chinatown Green Street Grant award and reporting process. Straus presented the analysis and concept presentation to the group and the DOEE team reviewed the award packet, requirements, and rules under the grant guidelines. A quarterly progress report schedule was reviewed with the next due in July.
- The **Internal ASLA (ASHRAE) Workgroup** held a call this past week to discuss the revision and independent submission for the ASHRAE 189.1 Site Sustainability Standard. The group identified sections in need of revision and provided preliminary comments. Straus incorporated the various comments into a working spreadsheet for the group to utilize via Google Documents over the next few weeks. The group will have a follow-up call to determine the assignments for the first draft in June.
- Manager Straus and Corporate Secretary Curt Millay, ASLA, had a conference call with Meredith Upchurch, ASLA, Project Manager, Water Resources, at RKK **to discuss proposed strategies for the Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project (CGSDP), a review of precedents from the District, and programs that could support the CGSDP**. Upchurch advised on the process and steps to take to secure stakeholder agreements and agency approvals. Straus also met with Director Ron Sears to provide an update on the recent design phase kick-off meetings held with the integrated design team and other project related updates. Upchurch is formerly the Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Specialist for the District of Columbia Department of Transportation.



## Deadlines and Reminders

- The [Leadership Calendar](#) can be accessed on the web.