



ASLA
ARIZONA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 19, 2020

Hello AzASLA Members, Colleagues, and Friends –

I hope everyone is staying healthy, safe, and productive as we navigate through all the challenges that 2020 has bestowed on us. Just when I think ‘how could it possibly get any worse?’ something else happens, but the earth keeps spinning and we carry on improving our world, conscious of where we have been.

Personally, I don't believe that we will ‘go back to normal’ but instead, together we'll move ‘into a new normal.’ I look forward to better days and working with our membership to figure out what our new normal looks like!



As with many of our professional and personal challenges this year, ASLA has also been impacted by the cancellation or conversion of many events to a virtual format - the largest of which was our annual Conference on Landscape Architecture which was re-branded as ‘ReVISION’ and occurred, virtually, earlier this week. I hope you were able to enjoy it!

Despite all that has happened this year, I was thinking about the things we CAN celebrate. Here's a small list:

- ASLA Student Membership is FREE! This became available back in May, and we've seen a great rise in student membership at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona!
- ASLA has a new CEO – his name is Torey Carter-Coneen, and he's dynamite! If you haven't seen his press release, please go here: (<https://www.asla.org/NewsReleaseDetails.aspx?id=57981>)
- We have a new AzASLA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, and they are actively creating measurable goals for our Chapter!
- Landscape Architecture has been (finally!) designated as a STEM discipline!
- The University of Arizona has a new Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program!
- World Landscape Architecture month was celebrated in April, though it did have a slightly revised platform.
- ASLA-supported Great American Outdoors Act became law in early August.
- Recent AzASLA Milestone Members –
 - 30 years: Lori Jones Woods, ASLA
 - 25 years: Mark Fellingner, ASLA
 - 15 years: Clayton R. Munson, ASLAThank you all for your continued dedication and leadership!



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- Our 2020 Professional Award winners were celebrated on social media! They will also be asked to return for additional accolades in a double-award-ceremony scheduled for March 27, 2021 where we will recognize 2020 and 2021 winners!
- ASLA is now working with ARPL, the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing, to help states with their fight against legislative deregulation of professional licensure!
- If you haven't reached out to be a mentor to a student, ASLA has made it easier than ever! <https://www.asla.org/ContentDetail.aspx?id=57499> is the place where mentors and mentees are matched. (I'm told that the site is like 'speed dating' to get a mentor/mentee match.) We all know the students of today are our leaders tomorrow, and it is important to help them grow professionally, so please consider.
- Given our virtual world, CEU's are easier to get (in case you haven't noticed)!

Our chapter business, like most, is also predominately virtual, and (per usual) we are meeting monthly. Members are welcome to join and it might be easier to do so than ever before – no travel required! Several of the EX COMM members have attended virtual ASLA events and are comparing notes with other state chapters about activities, successes, and efforts in keeping their members engaged as our social restrictions continue.

Finally, if you get a request for gift cards from my email address, or any other EX COMM members, please ignore.

I'll close with a timely thought ... Every few days I try my jeans on... just to be sure they fit. Pajamas have me believing that all is well in my kingdom.

Be well!

Mary Estes, PLA, SITES-AP, LEED-AP, ASLA
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AzASLA Chapter President, 2020 - 2021