

A Message from the President

Zach Peterson, President, PLA, ASLA

The Realities of COVID

These are unprecedented times for our nation and our organization. As much as we wish that it will go away on its own and as much as we pretend that we can return to living our lives the “the way we used to” without expecting consequences in return, the COVID pandemic has other plans.

COVID simply doesn't care. COVID does not discriminate, COVID does not care about your age, income, race, social status, sexual orientation, etc. COVID is an equal opportunist when it comes to infecting people and science has yet to unlock the reasoning why certain people are more susceptible to the virus than others. Due to the novel nature of the virus, science also does not have the benefit of long term study to effectively analyze and understand the long range risk of virus exposure. While 99% of people exposed to the virus “recover” there is no conclusive evidence at this time that this means the battle for them is over. Some reports indicate that people have experienced contracting the virus twice. Heart and lung damage as well as blood clotting disorders leading to strokes and embolisms are also some of the long term side effects that have reared its ugly head as the virus approaches its one-year anniversary.

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As a Chapter, we are faced with a difficult decision as to how to offer services to our members during this time. The consensus among our Executive Committee is clear. We, as an organization, need to filter our decision making process through a lens of social responsibility. The answer has become obvious; we need to re-think our upcoming event calendar in favor of providing our members offerings with as little risk as possible. By doing so, we are doing our part to help correct the steady increase of cases currently being experienced in the State of Iowa. As a result, this fall will see the cancellation of the annual Park(ing) Day event in September, the Alumni Tailgate in October, as well as the Winter Social in their current in-person formats. That is not to say that these events won't continue in a virtual capacity.

Stay tuned for more details...

Fall Conference and Awards Ceremony

Preparations for our fall conference and awards ceremony have been placed on pause for the time being. With the recent decision to cancel the ASLA National Conference in Miami, discussions are currently underway at a national level to provide a virtual offering as a substitute. As a Chapter, we have decided to follow National's lead as they develop their program to ensure that we can provide our members with an experience of complementary content that will not directly compete with what is being planned. Stay tuned for additional information regarding our Awards program later this fall.

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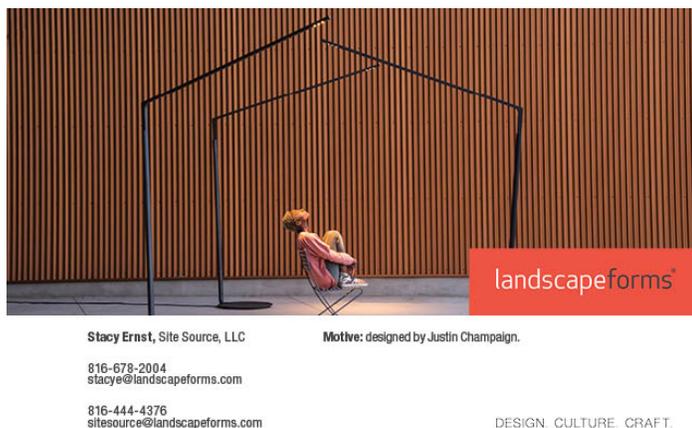


Licensing Board update Continuing Education Accommodations

With the cancellation of our Spring Conference, National Conference, and now the postponement of the Fall Conference, a lot of members may find themselves frantically searching for CEU-HSW offerings required to maintain licensure. Thankfully, the Landscape Architectural Examining Board voted to approve certain accommodations related to COVID-19. If you are a professional with a license set to expire in 2020 or 2021, the amount of CEU's being required has been **halved**, from 24 to 12 during this renewal timeframe. It is important to note that the State of Iowa does not have a limit on how many hours must be received in-person.

For further information please visit the Board's website at: <https://plb.iowa.gov/board/landscape-architects>

As a Chapter, we will continue to provide links to online learning opportunities and relay them to our members via periodic email blasts.



The Realities of the 2020 ExComm Election

This year's call for nominees to our Executive Committee started out with a very promising pool of candidates. Unfortunately, the number of nominations accepted has placed our Chapter with an uncontested ballot and most critically, vacancies in the Vice President and President-Elect positions. As a result, Lara

Guldenpfennig and I have volunteered to stay on another year in our capacities as President Elect and President respectively. In addition, Eric Holt has agreed to take on another term as Treasurer. To quote John Lennon: "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." This year has been the living embodiment of this quote and I plan on making 2020 a "mulligan" in order to accomplish a more productive 2021. And my challenge to our members is as follows: If you have found yourself in the position of having been nominated for a leadership position, you have had the distinction of having made a positive impression on your peers, an intrinsic quality that is hard to find in this day and age. Life provides no shortage of demands for time. If you have found yourself in a position where you have declined a nomination due to the commitments in your own life, I hope you will consider answering the call in the future. A good leader is hard to find these days and our organization needs your contribution.

Public Relations Update

Nate Byro, Public Relations, ASLA

During our last Executive Committee meeting, the Board decided that due to the ongoing situation with Covid19, we will not be holding our annual Park(ing) Day celebration due to a couple of factors. Park(ing) Day is a celebration of public space in an area that typically doesn't have much public space. It is a public showcase of Landscape Architecture. We do not anticipate that many of our facilities will be back to full operation by the date in September. Also, since we have started pairing the Park(ing) Day event with the Iowa State University 3rd Year Landscape Architecture studio, we didn't think it would be feasible with current ISU requirements and regulations. We are looking forward to finding ways to stay involved with the students, and we look forward to participating in Park(ing) Day in 2021. Expect to see more information to come on involvement with Iowa State, and potentially a virtual Park(ing) Day celebration.

I also wanted to make sure our members were aware of some services that we have available for public outreach. As you have





likely seen, there are many Op-Eds and articles being written and shared by Landscape Architects across the Nation. During these turbulent times of a Global Pandemic and the awakening of centuries of systematic racism, there are many opportunities for Landscape Architects to speak up about the profession. If you are interested in writing an Op-Ed for a local newspaper, but don't know where to start, we are here to help you out. We can provide assistance with formulating ideas, editing, and providing assistance in getting it to the newspaper. If you are interested, please reach out to iaaslapr@gmail.com.

Please make sure you are following our social media accounts, and make sure to tag us in posts as you see fit! Whether it is a site visit that you are sharing, process shots from your work, your home office setup, final marketing images, career and licensure advancements, or even a visit to your local state park, please make sure to tag us or let us know! We love sharing the amazing work of our Landscape Architects in the state. Follow us on Instagram @iaasla, or find us on Facebook @IowaChapterASLA. We share lots of resources of upcoming webinars and events across these platforms, so make sure you aren't missing out.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Carl Rogers, PLA, ASLA

I hope you are all well and safe. 2020 has been quite the year so far. ISU is gearing up for the fall semester to begin August 17th. This is a week earlier than normal and the semester will end the Wednesday of Thanksgiving week, November 25th. There are lots of changes both to campus and to courses being taught this fall. If you want more information regarding how the university is preparing for the fall semester and addressing COVID-19, follow this link to the [ISU homepage](#). Courses will be offered in three types of modalities depending on the size of the course as well as the type of instruction. All large lectures will be offered online, the first type of modality, and this includes courses with 80 or more enrolled students. The second modality will be a hybrid or blended course. These types of courses will have some of its content online and some of it face-to-face or in person. A fair number of Landscape Architecture courses are being offered as blended courses this fall semester. The final modality is in-person, which is very similar to what courses were like pre-pandemic. The major change is that any course being offered in person will be with 50% classroom density in order to maintain safe distances between students and instructors. What this may look like for some LA courses, like design studios, is that half of the students enrolled will be in class for the first half of a class and the remaining half of students will be in class for the second half of a class. That is one example and believe me, LA faculty are getting creative with the teaching modalities.



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ISU does have a plan for the fall semester, including the teaching modality explained above, and for testing, contact tracing as well as monitoring any type of outbreak should one escalate during the semester. This has not been an easy task and the primary mode of operation is to be flexible and adaptable and things change over the course of the next few months. We are committed to the success of students and the safety of the ISU community.

Despite all the major news around the pandemic and social injustices throughout the country, the department has some good news to celebrate. First, we had a successful accreditation visit, which we are thankful for completing before everything shutdown. We received high marks from the visiting team, two recommendations to improve the MLA program and the department's view of research. We also received suggestions from the visiting team ranging from finalizing the strategic plan to developing a faculty hiring and technology improvement plan. The LAAB votes this summer on the report and we hope to hear the news of the outcome around the beginning of the fall semester.

Our graduating students received a number of awards both from ASLA and from the Landscape Architecture Foundation. The chapter put together a panel of members to review nominated undergraduate and graduate students who presented their work to the panel. The LA faculty nominated students according to the criteria established by ASLA for both the Student Honor and Merit awards programs. In addition, the IA-ASLA President selected one student for the President's medal and the jury chose one student to receive the Jon Crose Scholarship. A summary of the awardees is as follows:

IA-ASLA President's Medal

- Clair Kiboko

Jon Crose Scholarship

- Aaron Lewis

Undergraduate ASLA Honor Award

- Claire Kiboko
- Aaron Lewis
- Matthew Mitchell

Undergraduate ASLA Merit Award

- Mackenzie Foldes
- Abigail Shafer
- Wei Zhang

Graduate ASLA Honor Award

- Fan Lan

Graduate ASLA Merit Award

- Meining Shen

In addition to the ASLA Student Awards, the Landscape Architecture Foundation sponsors the Olmsted Scholars program every year. All undergraduate and graduate programs in the United States nominate one student from each program for the scholarship program. These students put together application material including a resume and a written statement explaining their future in landscape architecture. Faculty write a letter in support of the student nominee and then LAF reviews all applications. From this pool, LAF selects finalists in the program who all compete in one final round to be listed as the LAF Olmsted Scholar. For ISU's landscape architecture program, faculty this year nominated Aaron Lewis as the department's undergraduate Olmsted Scholar and Peiming Chen for the department's graduate Olmsted Scholar. Both Aaron and Peiming are excellent students representing the department. They each have strong design skills and knowledge and are committed to excelling the future of the discipline as they begin their careers. I am pleased to announce that Aaron Lewis was selected as a LAF Olmsted Scholar finalist. This is quite an honor for the department and we wish Aaron all the best in his career. There will be a virtual celebration of the Olmsted Scholars later this fall with details to follow.





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Finally, the department is committed to stand in support of our students and to work at ensuring all of them have the right to an equitable education. We understand that we need to rethink the curriculum in order to educate students about all that matters to the landscape architecture profession. As academics and landscape architects, we want this for all persons so they can enjoy the environmental and community benefits in the places they live, work and learn. The department advocates for students, people and communities so that they have fair and equitable treatment in all aspects of life.

One of the strengths of the Department of Landscape Architecture is the commitment by faculty to understand the needs of students and sustain a strong departmental community. As you might guess, this is challenged by working remotely, and in speaking with faculty and students, the face-to-face conversation is critical to maintaining a strong relationship between everyone. Studios are also online and faculty have made changes to the pedagogical method in order to maintain the value of critiques, discussion and peer learning. We all will be reaching out to chapter members for your availability for virtual reviews. Look for emails soon from me and other faculty asking for your help.

In other news, the department completed the accreditation visit during the first week of March. I am very happy that this happened prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, in fact, during the

visit, I was going from accreditation meetings to university meetings in preparation for the move to online instruction. As for the accreditation visit, it was a huge success. The team spoke highly about the department, programs, faculty, students and alumni. Thank you to those who traveled to Ames to meet with the visiting team and share your thoughts on the program's commitment to the relationship between its alumni and the profession. The next step in the accreditation process is for the team to write a report of its findings. Once this is written, the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) and the department will provide a first reading of the report and suggest necessary revisions and edits. The LAAB Board meets in the summer to vote on the final decision. In principle, the team felt the department meets all the standards of accreditation and suggested some key recommendations that will help the department into the future. I will keep you posted once I hear from the board about its decision.



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Finally, in these times of working remotely and social distancing, I feel it is even more important to connect and make conversation. I hope you all are staying connected with the people that are in your lives both personally and professionally. If you want to connect with me and chat about landscape architecture or anything else in the world, please do not hesitate to email me and set up a virtual meeting.

Stay healthy, six feet from the next person, and wash those hands!

