

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lara Guldenpfennig, President, PLA, ASLA

Hello Fall and all things pumpkin spice... this is by far my favorite season of the year, however, with the change in seasons comes the end of my year as President. I've truly enjoyed this year and representing Iowa on the national level. We have so much to be proud of in our state and especially within our chapter heading into next year.

If you'll recall in my first newsletter, I had a goal of building the connection between our students and professionals across all levels of the field. Our biggest successes were the increase in students attending our quarterly socials at Ricochet, Confluence Brewing Company, and Smash Park. We also had many students attend our spring and fall conferences which was great to see. I also challenged our members that identify as women be more active, whether that was attending a conference if it had been a few years, joining in on a happy hour, or providing feedback to our student members in the form of desk crits, final reviews, or even portfolio reviews. Overall, I feel that we were successful with this goal but it's something I'd continue to challenge members to keep working on. My last goal for this year was to engage our emerging professionals each month

with a revolving happy hour to give younger members the opportunity to connect outside the office. A special thank you to our member-at-Large, John Aceto, and associate member-at-Large, Dani Hodgson, for taking on this challenge – I was able to attend a few of them and it is so nice to gather with other members to build stronger connections across the profession.



I want to give a special thank you to Pat Dunn for all his continued efforts in planning our fall conference; this year's conference was just as successful and we owe it in part to Pat 😊 We had a beautiful day at Reiman Gardens, were able to spend time outside touring the grounds and providing some volunteer hours to assist the grounds crews. We had a record number of submissions for our awards on the professional level with 30 award submissions and 16 awards given. As part of the awards luncheon, I hinted on the need for these same projects to be submitted, not only for Central States 2023 in Fayetteville, but more so for the Conference on Landscape Architecture 2023 in Minneapolis. And I don't want the chapter to stop at these 30... we've all spent countless hours on amazing projects within the State of Iowa that deserve recognition on the national level. To



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quote what Heidi Hohmann said during our spring conference, “Olmsted hasn’t done **** in Iowa.” If we want historic places to be remembered for generations to come, we need to submit our work to continue to build a name for historical landscapes in Iowa. Both Central States and the national awards deadline is March 2023; I challenge all of us to get submissions in and make our presence known in Fayetteville and Minneapolis next year!

Speaking of Central States, our chapter’s turn to host is quickly approaching as the conference returns to Iowa in 2024. As such, the Executive Committee is looking for interested members to begin the planning process for our conference. The committee's responsibilities will be multifaceted and include registration, sponsorship, programming/education, social media/PR, graphics, awards, budget/finance, and venue selection. Initial time commitment will include conference calls monthly with an increase in meetings following the 2023 Central States Conference. Additional time outside of calls will vary based on committee needs and your availability. As we approach the end of 2022, we will be preparing our conference theme/title and save-the-date graphics to promote the conference this April in Fayetteville, AR. To stay ahead of this deadline, please let myself

(lguldenpfennig@ilbruce.com) or Nate Byro (nbyro@iastate.edu) know if you are interested in volunteering.

Finally, I’d like to invite you all to a few events coming up. Join us at The Hall in West Des Moines for our Fall Tailgate/Watch Party during the Iowa State vs Texas game on October 15th. Also, the Iowa Students in Landscape

Architecture would like to invite you to their portfolio review happening November 2nd at 4:45pm at the College of Design. As I said at the beginning, I’ve really enjoyed this past year and am looking forward to the year ahead!



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(NEW) PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Devon Moody, PLA, ASLA, SITES AP

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who elected me to this prestigious position. Our chapter is going to have an exciting next year as I serve as your President. I look forward to working with you all to make this year a success. Also, a thank you to Lara for all her hard work last year!





As a transplant to Iowa, I feel it prudent to introduce myself. I received my Bachelor of Landscape Architecture with Urban and Regional Planning minor degree from Texas A&M University. After graduation, I worked on primarily high-end residential projects in Dallas. Midcareer, I transitioned to a Project Leader position at a large multidisciplinary firm, focusing on public and commercial projects. In 2016, I relocated to Umbria, Italy, returning to the United States in 2019, and accepting a position at Confluence. Although born in Salt Lake City, Utah, I claim Takoma Park, Maryland, as my hometown where I spent my formative adolescents, before moving to Texas for University. I currently carry landscape architecture licensure in Iowa, Utah, North Dakota, and Texas and am CLARB certified. At the beginning of the year, I became the first (and currently only) SITES AP credential holder in the State of Iowa.

I have been active with the American Society of Landscape Architects, since college, becoming a national student member in 2004. I actively volunteer nationally by serving on the ASLA Licensure and State Advocacy Advisory Committee (2021-2022) and the ASLA/CLARB 2020 Job Task Analysis Focus Group. As the incoming

president, I hope to continue marking a difference nationally, but also in our State Chapter.

Our Chapter strategic plan identifies four main areas of focus: Advocacy & Awareness, Member Services & Support, Shaping the Future of the Profession, and Governance & Management. There are several goals and objectives associated with each of these main focus areas. I intend and expect to enhance the member experience in each of these areas. It is my vision that new committees will be led by members of our Executive Committee with the support of members of our membership. The first committee to be established will be the Central States Conference Planning Committee. Please be on the lookout for an email shortly that will put out the call for volunteers and opportunities to become involved.

During my year as president, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Please feel free to reach out to me or anyone else on the Executive Committee if you have any questions or ideas for the year ahead. It will be a pleasure to collaborate with you in the coming year!



TRUSTEE UPDATE

Michael Gaunt, PLA, ASLA

Fall is here, the leaves are changing, the weather is changing, and ASLA is moving fast towards a number of exciting Fall events. Our delegation is preparing for Advocacy Day 2022, the National Conference is quickly approaching, and our recent Iowa ASLA Fall Conference was a huge success.

Government Affairs

On September 29th, we will have a group of representatives from Iowa ASLA participate in the national Advocacy Day. In past years this event took place in April and meetings with Senators and Representative were held in person in Washington DC. As with so many other things, COVID put a wrench in the system, but it gave us an opportunity to consider how the same important work can be done virtually. Not only does this save ASLA time and expense, it also helps reduce the carbon footprint associated with bringing so many delegates from around the country to Washington DC.

Our Iowa Chapter delegation includes myself, Jared Dobesh, and Devon Moody. This year's focus is on two important pieces of legislation, the Excess Urban Heat Mitigation Act and Outdoors for All Act. Meetings will



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take place on Thursday, September 29th and will include Sen. Chuck Grassley, Sen. Joni Ernst, Representative Marianne Miller-Meeks, and Representative Cindy Axne. This is an incredibly important opportunity for our profession as we

Excess Urban Heat Mitigation Act

This bill creates a competitive grant program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide funding for eligible entities to combat the causes and mitigate the effects of excess urban heat.

The real-world application for this act allows entities such as local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, Tribal governments, and nonprofits working with any government entities to apply for funding to implement efforts to help offset the effects of excess urban heat. Some examples of these mitigation efforts include **cool pavements, cool roofs, tree planting and maintenance, green roofs, bus stop covers, cooling centers, and local heat mitigation education efforts.**

Outdoors for All Act

This bill directs the Department of the Interior to establish an outdoor recreation legacy partnership grant program under which Interior may award grants to states, certain political subdivisions of a state, special purpose districts, Indian tribes, or Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian



communities or organizations. Funds must be used for projects to (1) acquire land and water for parks and other outdoor recreation purposes in qualifying areas, and (2) develop new or renovate existing outdoor recreation facilities that provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public in qualifying areas.

A *qualifying area* is an area

- that has a population of 30,000 or more in the most recent census, or
- that is administered by an Indian tribe or an Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian community organization.

Interior shall give priority to projects that

- create or significantly enhance access to park and recreational opportunities in an urban neighborhood or community,
- engage and empower underserved communities and youth,
- provide opportunities for employment or job training for youth or underserved communities,
- establish or expand public-private partnerships, and
- take advantage of coordination among various levels of government.

Look for a full follow up report on Advocacy Day in the next newsletter. If you have any questions or comments about the meetings, please contact me directly.

Michael Gaunt, PLA, ASLA
Chapter Trustee
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