

ASLA 2022

Conference on
Landscape Architecture

November 11 - 14 | San Francisco, CA

#ASLA2022

2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture

Call for Presentations Education Tracks

CHANGING THE CULTURE IN PRACTICE

As landscape architects strive to improve the livability and viability of communities through thoughtful design, we are grappling with both our evolving understanding of equity, and our preparedness to enact it. Through this track, we invite proposals that explore the challenges of embracing this ethos in practice, to promote just futures for all. How are landscape architects advancing equity and inclusiveness? How are you creating an inclusive environment in your own firm? What does it mean to be equitable in practice?

Topics within this track might focus on:

- Equity in practice – who is in the room and who is at the table?
- Intentionality in ADA and universal design
- Design for accessibility as a social justice issue
- Trends and methodologies in community-first design
- Diversity and resilience—promoting environmental justice at different scales
- Placing inclusivity at the intersection of public health, safety, and welfare
- Cultural sensitivity, appropriateness, and appropriation
- Designing for all ages: age disparity and inclusion
- Socioeconomic impacts of environmental and land-use decisions
- Bridging socio-cultural divides in engagement
- The role of landscape architects in elevating social justice discourse
- Advocacy in practice – environmental justice, adequate project funding, community advocacy

DESIGN AND THE CREATIVE PROCESS

Landscape architecture projects may differ in scale and complexity, but they all begin with research and questions that evolve into a big idea. Creativity has no beginning or end—it is fed by the public we serve and how we engage with them, by the sites themselves and their broader context, and by collaboration across disciplines. How do various creative methods translate visionary ideas into reality? How does the design process influence outcomes in our built environment? We invite proposals that share insights on how research methods, site documentation, engagement, ideation, experimentation, design decision-making, and design execution tell a story of creative discovery.

Topics within this track might focus on:

- Creative ideation tools and methods - analogue and digital
- Transformative engagement tactics and community-driven design approaches
- Gaps in creative practice between academia and practice
- Power of storytelling and narratives that build agency and advocacy for design and design identity (topic list continued on next page)

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- Building consensus and making decisions with interdisciplinary and collaborative teams
- Social and cultural landscapes, land acknowledgement, and indigenous ways of seeing
- Accessibility, universal design, and equity
- Research-based methodologies
- Health, safety, and welfare
- Partnership approaches, programming, and financial strategies
- Design collaboration and communication through remote / virtual methods (design team and community stakeholders)

DESIGN IMPLEMENTATION

Material selection, specifications, and maintenance guidelines allow landscape architects to ensure that their designs are faithfully and successfully brought to life. How can landscape architects be empowered in the studio and on the construction site? How do client needs and wishes influence design choices and outcomes? We invite proposals that share tools and methods for communicating design intent through successful documentation, innovative strategies, and new technologies for the design, construction, and post-construction life of projects. We encourage proposals that showcase lessons learned from completed work.

Topics within this track might focus on:

- Design detail and material innovation
- Technical documentation and specifications
- Construction, constructability, and construction administration practices
- Maintenance and operations
- Standards, codes, and permitting process
- Technology and software – new skillsets, training, design document coordination, workflow efficiencies
- Planting design and selection, soils, and irrigation
- Sustainable products, materials, and carbon footprint
- Monitoring long-term maintenance, management goals, and design intent
- SITES® strategies and performance metrics

LEADERSHIP, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND BUSINESS

The pandemic has not only challenged business but also revealed new opportunities. Which tools, techniques, and systems have allowed your business to thrive? How have you nurtured existing relationships and built new ones? Share the lessons you've learned around maintaining office culture and quality control while working remotely or transitioning back to the office—what new opportunities are you seeing for a post-pandemic practice?

(topic list continued on next page)

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Topics within this track might focus on:

- The future of the flexible office
- Utilizing consultants and/or experts for operations and business development
- Small-business strategies for mentorship, career development, and just futures (specifically, anti-racist action plans, gender equity plans, white supremacy culture, and anti-racism policies)
- How diversity, equity and inclusion are manifested in public and private practice at various scales
- Firm operations – hiring and training
- Ingenuity and new technologies in a post-pandemic practice
- Transition and legacy planning for small business
- Best practices for new start-ups from the perspective of existing businesses and new businesses
- Emerging professional voices on leadership, mentorship, and entering the profession
- Collaboration and communication techniques among colleagues, clients, and stakeholders
- Forecasting opportunities for landscape architecture in a post-pandemic environment

OLMSTED & BEYOND: PRACTICE IN PROGRESS

In 2022, the nation is celebrating the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of the profession of landscape architecture. As landscape architects seek to design a sustainable and equitable world, how does the Olmsted legacy contribute? Equally important, how do we challenge Olmsted's legacy to steward a more equitable and inclusive public and curate a more resilient and healthier environment in the face of climate change?

We invite proposals for sessions that interrogate the Olmsted legacy by offering a more comprehensive view of the design principles, practice, and legacies of Frederick Law Olmsted and the firm led by his sons. We encourage sessions that consider the broader context of Olmsted's practice, and the ways the firm's work shaped the emerging profession as well as those that explore the challenges and opportunities of stewarding Olmsted designs. We also encourage moving beyond Olmsted to consider how contemporary ideas of democracy, climate change, and community engagement might both expand and challenge the legacy.

Topics within this track might focus on:

- Olmsted principles of design for the public that would steward a more democratic nation
- Olmsted and contemporary calls for environmental justice
- Stewarding Olmsted designs in the 21st century — challenges and opportunities
- Expanding contemporary practice by re-engaging Olmsted's vision
- Evolution and change in Olmsted landscapes
- Acknowledging and working with the hard histories of Olmsted's landscapes (National Parks, Seneca Village, ...)
- Is an Olmstedian landscape really a universal template for public parks?
- Why does it matter that Olmsted was a seaman, farmer, and writer before he started to design? How have ideas about the public and democracy changed since Olmsted designed Central Park? How does that inform stewardship of Olmsted landscapes and the design of new landscapes? (topic list continued on next page)

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- Olmsted legacies in the land-grant colleges and universities
- What more can we know about Olmsted and why does it matter?
- Teaching Olmsted: what is important to learn as a student of landscape architecture

PLANNING, URBAN DESIGN, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The impacts of inequities in our social, environmental, and economic systems remain pervasive throughout our communities. Remote and hybrid working means fewer customers in city centers. Employees who are no longer place-bound are seeking less costly, lower density housing markets with expanded urban amenities. Implementation of planning and urban design, and infrastructure investments must help communities grow while addressing inequities and supporting existing residents. How are landscape architects leading the charge for more equitable, healthy, safe, and resilient investments? How will landscape architects protect and celebrate the public realm and craft the urban fabric of diverse, inclusive, resilient, and beautiful places?

We invite proposals that explore strategies, policies, projects, and programs that respect and celebrate ecological systems and cultural context, promote economic development, embrace equity and environmental justice, and create more sustainable communities.

Topics within this track might focus on:

- Resilient and equitable investments in the public realm
- Addressing the racist legacy of planning, housing, urban development, and transportation
- Social implications of climate change and community-based approaches to climate action
- Regulatory and design solutions in response to pandemics
- Innovations in housing affordability, urban form, density, and mobility
- Environmental and racial justice in infrastructure investment
- Connecting communities with natural resources
- Streets and public spaces as places of protest
- Linking infrastructure, innovations, and systems with people and place
- Community engagement and public process
- Catastrophic changes in the built and natural environment: planning and accommodation
- Homeless and unhoused people: accommodation or exclusion in design
- Landscape architects' role in policy making
- How state and federal funding streams create opportunities for the landscape architecture profession

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RESILIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP

A multitude of factors are intensifying the negative impacts of previously accepted development practices, putting the natural environment and all who depend on it at risk. Landscape architects have the responsibility to address these challenges in practice, advocacy, education, and research. We need a paradigm shift where the natural and built environments work in harmony, and a focus on effective stewardship empowers the people and communities of each unique place.

We invite proposals that highlight design and development processes that align with the functions of healthy ecosystems. We encourage proposals that share resilient landscape planning and design, ecological restoration and stewardship, and projects that leverage metrics which quantify the impacts of design interventions.

Topics within this track might focus on:

- Landscape performance metrics, impact driven design, Sustainable SITES Initiative
- Green and blue infrastructure
- Mitigation and restoration landscapes
- Resilient design and adaptive management
- Soil conservation and plant communities
- Site adaptation for climate resilience
- Biodiversity/habitat restoration
- Regenerative systems (food, energy, natural habitats, ecosystems, etc.)
- Habitat creation and wildlife management
- Conservation, restoration, and mitigation policies

TECHNOLOGY: TRENDS AND WORKFLOWS

Technological advances in both design software and data sources have opened exciting new avenues for design exploration in all that we do, not just design implementation. Landscape architects are using technology to aid communication among interdisciplinary design teams, provide opportunities for greater participatory design, and make cities smarter and safer.

We encourage “how to” proposals that allow attendees to apply content following their participation in the session. We invite proposals that demonstrate unique applications and use cases related but not limited to the topics below:

Topics within this track might focus on:

- Using technology to improve communication, collaboration, and community engagement
 - Using social media to drive design and advocate for the profession
 - “Smart” systems in landscape architecture: using technology for monitoring performance data to calibrate both design and long-term operations and management infrastructure
 - 3D modeling / Visualization and animation of landscapes
 - Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR)
- (topic list continued on next page)

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- Building information modeling (BIM)
- Computer-aided design (CAD)
- Digital fabrication in landscape architecture
- Drone / unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) applications
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Parametric and other algorithmic design methods
- Workflows for various project stages (concepts, design, construction documentation, construction contract administration)
- Technology for team collaboration - bringing teams together
- Technology to solve problems vs to innovate