

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Devon Moody, PLA, ASLA, SITES AP

I am pleased to announce that the 2022-2023 Executive Committee term has begun. The acting officers for this coming year are Devon Moody, ASLA, as President; Lara Guldenpfennig, ASLA, as Past President; Nate Byro, ASLA, as President-Elect; Michael Gaunt, ASLA, as Trustee; Ted Doscher, ASLA, as Vice President; Jared Dobesh, Associate ASLA, as Treasurer; Madison Dierks, ASLA, as Secretary; John Aceto, ASLA, as Member-at-Large; Haley Mouglin, Associate ASLA, as Associate Member-at-Large; Danielle Hodgson, Associate ASLA, as Associate Member-at-Large; Marty Albert, ASLA, as Member-at-Large; Bailey Aldridge, ASLA, as Public Relations Chair; Carl Rogers, ASLA, as Education Chair; and Bryce Ketterhagen, Student ASLA, Student Relations. Contact information can be found on the Iowa ASLA website, www.iaasla.org. It is not too early to be thinking about running for office for the 2023-2024 term. If interested, please contact Devon Moody.

With great remorse, I was unable to attend the National ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture in San Francisco this year. However, Lara Guldenpfennig, Michael Gaunt and Nate Byro were able to attend. I have requested Lara provide us a synopsis of the Conference, so keep reading. The 2023 conference will be held in Minneapolis, MN on October 27 – 30, 2023. Mark your calendars! I hope that with it being hosted in our northern neighboring State, we can anticipate many members attending.

The Iowa ASLA Executive Committee is working hard on your behalf to execute a fantastic year supporting efforts in advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. This year, we again are rolling out the Partnership Program to allow our group and our corporate sponsors to better plan for the year ahead. The program has provided our chapter with a great framework for understanding exactly what we can accomplish this year. We continue to be so very thankful for our Partners who constantly support landscape architecture throughout our



state. If you see any of our 2021-2022 Partners, please share your gratitude for their continued generosity and support!

Partnership Program:

Similar to previous years, our corporate sponsors have the opportunity to take advantage of the Chapter's Partnership Program. This program streamlines sponsorship of planned annual events and provides the support necessary for a stable chapter budget. We cannot over-emphasize the importance our corporate sponsors play in supporting landscape architecture in the state. Our recent Fall Social at Smash Park is a great example of these relationships.

Central States:

The Central States Conference, hosted by the Arkansas Chapter, will be held April 19-21, 2023, in Fayetteville, AR. For 2023, our annual Spring Conference will still be held in February at Iowa State University. In 2024, it's the Iowa Chapter's turn to host Central States and we've begun preparations with Nate Byro currently leading the Central States Planning Committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Nate Byro. When the Iowa Chapter hosts in 2024, Central States will replace our annual Spring Conference which will welcome members of 6 different chapters from 8 different states! With this revised package we welcome the support of our valuable





tenured partners as well as additional sponsors through the Central States Partnership Program.

We are also in the process of planning events during April as part of World Landscape Architecture Month (WLAM) as well as organizing opportunities for PARK(ing) Day in September 2023. Stay tuned for more information on activities related to these two events. Our annual Golf Outing is tentatively scheduled in June 2023 at the Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill, Iowa. If anyone would like to get more involved in the planning of these events, please reach out to any of our Executive Committee members.

Firm Listings / Job Postings:

As a reminder, the Iowa Chapter has space on its website for Firm Listings and Job Postings. Firm Listings are an inexpensive way to market your company to the public. Listing job openings with the local Chapter is also an effective way to target applicants; whether you're looking for entry-level candidates or seasoned staff.

Department of Landscape Architecture Review Days:

The Landscape Architecture Department at Iowa State has graciously planned to provide the Executive Committee with a schedule of studio review times a few weeks in advance to provide more opportunities for professionals to work these interactions into their schedules. It's our

intention to have better representation from our members as these reviews are a crucial mechanism for both groups; providing understanding of new technologies impacting design while encouraging seasoned veterans to provide insight to future landscape architects and student chapter members. Though not set in stone, the Landscape Architecture Department is considering an "LA Review Day" for end of semester reviews at the College of Design. This is tentatively being slated for some time in April 2023. Stay tuned for additional information as this is finalized.

If you're like me, then you feel this year is moving fast! I cannot believe it is already that time of year to reflect on the past and plan for the future. As President of the Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, I am excited for the coming year and all that our chapter has to offer its members! Here's to a great year!





BREAKING BARRIERS

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New to the conference this year was the availability of field sessions on the last day of the conference, Monday the 14th. I was able to attend the session at Alcatraz and enjoyed a private tour of the garden spaces on the island which are primarily maintained by volunteers. There are over 200 survivor plants on the island that date back to its founding. Relics from years of military control can be found throughout the site but what I found most compelling were the markings left during the occupancy of Native American tribes. Another event that I attended while at the conference was the Landscape Architecture Foundation Annual Benefit. During the benefit the 2021-22 Olmsted Scholars were honored which included Megan Keleher from Iowa State. Finally, I was able to attend the President’s Dinner and it has by far become my favorite event of the conference. Kene Okigbo from the Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter was honored with the Emerging Professional of the Year award. He was among many other notable winners including Ebru Ozer (Community Service Award), Kofi Boone (Jot D. Carpenter Medal for Excellence in Teaching), and Shawn Kelly (ASLA Medal). The evening culminated with Emily O’Mahoney becoming the next president of the society, currently placing women in the top 3 positions of our society for the first time in history. Eugenia Martin (Past-President) and SuLin Kotowicz (President-Elect) complete the trifecta.

Just like Nashville, the conference in San Francisco gave us all an opportunity to kick back and celebrate the past year’s achievements and milestones. I would challenge all of our members to make the commitment to attend the 2023 Conference on Landscape Architecture when it is Minneapolis!

NATIONAL CONFERENCE RECAP

Lara Guldenpfennig, PLA, ASLA

The Conference on Landscape Architecture was held November 11-14th in San Francisco. As always, the conference is a great way to reconnect with classmates, colleagues, and vendors. It can best be described as the perfect way to ‘fill up one’s LA bucket’ until next year. In true fashion, San Francisco did not disappoint.

Prior to the conference starting, Nate Byro and I attended the Chapter President’s Council meeting alongside Michael Gaunt who attended the Board of Trustee Meeting. It was during the combined first session that we had the chance to brainstorm with other chapters about what we find most challenging for our chapter at the current moment. Common themes were volunteer burnout, membership retention & helping non-members and/or lapsed members see the benefit of membership. Overall, the chapter has seen a 10% increase in membership over the last year. I’m hopeful that number will continue to increase as we move into 2023. We also were given additional information on the Fellows Application process and the Uniform Licensure Standard.





NATIONAL CONFERENCE STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Lexi Banks, 4th year

The ASLA Conference for me was great because I was able to experience a new landscape as well as have great conversations with professionals. I attended a few sessions and enjoyed each one of them, but the one that is most memorable was the “Unhoused, Underserved-Alternative Approaches for Designing Public Space for Public Good”. This session was my favorite because it was about something that I did not know much about and learned a lot of information that I didn’t know before. After the session, I thought about the information I learned being applied in smaller cities here in Iowa. Another session I attended was “Approaches to the Entry Level- Exploring Possibilities for Years 0-5.” In this session I was able to really think about my journey to landscape architecture and what my passions are.

My favorite moment in San Francisco was getting to experience the city with classmates and friends. Experiencing public transportation was a learning experience but was fun and allowed us to go anywhere in the city. Fisherman Wharves was probably my favorite place we went to because it had a lot to see in a small area. I also really enjoyed the Japanese Tea Garden.

Learning about these landscapes in class then getting to see what they look like in person was really amazing. My last favorite memory is going to the beach with my classmates at sunset and being all together. I also never saw the mountains before so the plane ride was pretty fun. :)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE STUDENT EXPERIENCES

TJ Hillberry, 5th year

My name is TJ. I am a 5th year Landscape Architecture student at Iowa State University and currently an intern at Stantec. Conferences are about making connections with fellow professionals and this ASLA event was no exception. While attending the ASLA Conference, I made several connections under a variety of circumstances, that would only be possible at a national event.

Last year, I attended the conference in Nashville and had a great time, so I was excited to sign up for this year’s ASLA Conference in San Francisco. When I mentioned the conference to my boss, she encouraged me to meet with fellow Stantec landscape architects who were also attending the conference. Specifically, she helped me arrange a time to meet with Barbara Nazarewicz on Sunday. On Thursday, November 10th, a classmate and I drove to Des Moines to catch our flight. It turns out there were six 3rd year ISU LA students on our flight as well. The eight of us got to know each other fairly well as we navigated a delayed arrival, missing a connection, hotel vouchers, rebooking, more mechanical delays, and eventual arrival on Friday evening.





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On Saturday, while exploring the various booths at the expo, I ran into a former studio professor of mine Gary Scott. He happened to be talking to Barbara, who I was supposed to meet on Sunday. So by chance, I met her early. While volunteering at the conference, I met an old friend and former ISLA president, Megan Adams, who is currently working in Texas. The Iowa connection continued when I met Jeff from J2 Design from Phoenix at the Expo. His partner is an ISU alumni, as are several of his employees. At an educational session on parametric modelling, I met an employee from Genus Landscape Architects. The day wrapped up with a tailgate session where I met numerous IA ASLA members, ISU alumni and fellow ISU students.

Sunday, I had my scheduled meeting with senior Stantec designers Barbra Nazarewicz and Todd Meyer. I was thankful for my chance meeting on Saturday, as I had already met her. Their advice will be helpful as I consider my career after ISU. In the afternoon, some of the ISU students took an Uber to explore Muir Woods National Monument. If you every have a chance to visit, you should definitely go! Just realize that due to a lack of cell service, you can't call for a return Uber from the park. This nugget of information provided talking points with both ISU professors and my supervisor, who had done a research project at Muir Woods.

Monday was my day of departure. However, the airlines must have conspired to ensure I make the most of my conference. During one final flight delay, I got to know six ISU graduate students attempting to return to Ames from the 2022 ASLA conference. Despite some minor hiccups getting to and from the conference, my overall experience of the conference was great.



TRUSTEE UPDATE

Michael Gaunt, PLA, ASLA

National Conference

It was good to see so many Iowa Chapter members out in San Francisco at this year's National Conference. We had an especially strong showing from the Iowa State Student Chapter as well as professionals from around the State. Start planning ahead now because the 2023 conference will be in Minneapolis. Let's make a strong showing of support next year with all of our Iowa members.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Just prior to the conference kicking off, the Board of Trustees met to take care of the business side of running ASLA. Besides the usual business matters that are discussed and voted on, one notable highlight is Chris Della Vedova, ASLA officially taking over the duties as Vice President of Finance for the ASLA. Chris was formally elected last Spring and will serve the organization well. I encourage you to review all the [Executive Committee](#) members on the ASLA website. We have a talented group of individuals leading the organization and it's well worth getting to know who they are, what they're roles are, and what they can do for us on a local level.

ASLA Climate Action Plan

Arguably the most important thing to come out of the National Conference this year was the release of ASLA's Climate Action Plan. This Action Plan builds on ASLA's support of the International Federation of Landscape Architects Climate Action Commitment:

In 2021, ASLA was a signatory of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) Climate Action Commitment, which was presented at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) that convened in Glasgow, Scotland.



This Commitment is supported by 70,000 landscape architects in 77 countries.

The ASLA Climate Action Plan is rooted in three goals and six initiatives of IFLA Climate Action Commitment. With our plan, ASLA seeks to align with our fellow landscape architects worldwide and amplify our collective capacity to create positive change.

The Climate Action Plan is broken down into a framework around three main areas: Practice, Equity, and Advocacy.

Practice

Initiative One: Carbon Drawdown

Achieve zero emissions and double sequestration by 2040

Initiative Two: Climate Resilience

Enhance capacity, biodiversity, and resilience of livable cities and communities

Equity

Initiative Three: Climate Agency

Advocate for climate justice and social well-being

Initiative Four: Cultural Empowerment



Learn from cultural knowledge systems
and practices of care

Advocacy

Initiative Five: Climate Leadership

Galvanize climate champions

Initiative Six: Global Alliance

Advance the UN's Sustainable
Development Goals and expand
international collaboration

For all the latest information including the Executive
Summary, the full Plan, and the Action Field Guide for
ASLA Members, follow the link here: [ASLA Climate
Action Plan](#)

Michael Gaunt, PLA, ASLA
Chapter Trustee
mgaunt@bishopengr.com



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It's compiling stories and s'mores.
It's late nights with good friends.
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