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ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2024

orange county

santa barbara

**Promoting landscape architecture through advocacy,
education, communication, and fellowship.**

the desert

Advocacy / Diversity / Education / Fellowship / Stewardship

los angeles

ventura

ASLA



Healthy, beautiful, safe, and resilient landscapes **for all.**



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President's Message



by **Hongjoo Kim, ASLA, PLA**
President

Dear SoCal ASLA Chapter,

As we navigate through 2024, I'm excited to reflect on our achievements and share our ongoing and upcoming initiatives aimed at fostering awareness and connection within our community. Our profession thrives on the narratives we weave and the lives we touch, and it's a privilege to lead this transformative journey.

Monthly Programs and Emerging Professional Events

Our chapter has been bustling with a variety of programs and events designed to support your professional growth and connection with peers. From monthly webinars and workshops to in-person networking events, we've focused on offering diverse opportunities for learning and engagement. Our Emerging Professionals Committee has organized several events specifically tailored to early-career landscape architects, providing mentorship, skill-building, and networking opportunities.

Collaborations and Partnerships

We continue to strengthen our relationships with key professional organizations, including USGBC-LA and AIALA. These partnerships enhance our ability to offer joint events, cross-disciplinary learning, and expanded networking opportunities. Together, we champion sustainability, design excellence, and professional growth, aligning with our motto of Awareness and Connection.

Advocacy and Communication

Our commitment to advocacy remains strong as we actively engage with elected officials and city representatives. We've been vocal in our support for landscape architecture licensure protection and other critical issues affecting our profession. Collaborating with other California ASLA chapters, we've made significant strides in these areas, ensuring that our voices are heard and our professional standards upheld.



**Our profession thrives on
narratives we weave and
the lives we touch.**

Strategic Plan Accomplishments

Our executive board and committees have been working tirelessly to implement our strategic plan. We've achieved measurable benefits for our members, including enhanced educational resources, expanded networking opportunities, and increased visibility for our profession. These accomplishments are a testament to our collective dedication and hard work.

Leadership Recruitment

As we look to the future, we're actively recruiting the next generation of chapter leaders. This is your opportunity to step forward and demonstrate your dedication and passion for the landscape architecture profession. I encourage you to apply and become an integral part of our leadership team.

Membership Appreciation and Upcoming Events

Your continued support and participation are vital to our chapter's success. We are planning a special membership appreciation event this fall to celebrate our achievements and thank you for your ongoing involvement. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting event.

Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for their unwavering support. Together, let's embrace the future and continue shaping vibrant, sustainable narratives in our communities and beyond.

Warm regards,
Hongjoo Kim, ASLA, PLA



Trustee Update



by **Evan Mather, FASLA**
Chapter Trustee

Thank you for the privilege to serve as Trustee of the Southern California Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In early-May, I had the honor to represent the chapter at the Board of Trustees (BOT) Spring Meeting, and I would like to share with a few highlights –

In conjunction with the Chapter Presidents Council (CPC), we brainstormed action items to assess progress toward achieving ASLA's ten-year vision. This included evaluating our progress and setting new priorities. We also discussed various performance metrics to help ASLA and its members determine if we are meeting the goals of our strategic plan.

We reviewed the results of a recent national survey related to climate action and nature-based design solutions. **Our clients' primary concerns include storm frequency, heat wave intensity, and the loss of pollinator species. For Southern California, additional issues such as sea level rise, wildfire intensity, and coastal flooding were highlighted.** The survey also indicated that creating parks and open spaces, habitat creation and restoration, and eliminating lawn areas are the most adopted strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. If you would like more detailed information about these survey results, we can consider sharing them in an upcoming newsletter.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) heard candidate presentations for the positions of VP for Education and VP for Government Affairs, electing Ashley Steffens, ASLA, and Om Khurjekar, ASLA, respectively. Additionally, the BOT heard presentations from candidates Brad McCauley, ASLA, and Jeanne Lukenda, FASLA, for the position of 2025 President-Elect of ASLA. The election closes in early June, and we should have the results by the publication of this newsletter.

Lastly, as we prepare for this year's annual conference in Washington, DC, and the 2025 conference in New Orleans, we heard details about a potential joint conference with the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) in 2027. This possibility is still under evaluation regarding logistics and location. Stay tuned for more updates.

Thank you again for your support and commitment to elevating the profession of Landscape Architecture through your membership in ASLA. I encourage you to continue to participate in the event and programs the Southern California chapter hosts to build our thriving design community.

Executive Director Message



by **Vicki Phillipy, Honorary ASLA Executive Director**

While we are just a little over half-way through 2024, I can tell you it's been a busy year thus far! And it's been wonderful to see so many of you at our chapter events over these last few months. Thank you to all members for your continued support of the Southern California Chapter! As you spend the next few minutes scrolling through our Summer Newsletter, we hope you will be as impressed by our accomplishments as you are with what our future holds.

This year, in celebration of ASLA's 125th Anniversary, we want to hear from you. Therefore, I would like to invite you to share your favorite ASLA memories or moments with the chapter. Please send an email with your special memory to aslasocal@socal-asla.org. These memories will be featured in our weekly broadcasts and on the website through the remainder of 2024. And, if you would like to send photos, please do so!

Scheduled to take place on October 24th at the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach, mark your calendars for this milestone event in celebration of our members and 125th anniversary! We will celebrate the rich legacy of ASLA while embracing the innovations that will shape our profession in the years ahead. There will be more details to come about this special event over the next couple of months.

Don't forget the ASLA Conference coming up in Washington DC from October 6 through October 9. Many of the chapter leadership will be in attendance and look forward to seeing you there.

I continue to hear how busy the firms are and about the great work that is being done. I sincerely hope all our members, friends and colleagues have taken some time to relax, spend time with their families and enjoy the summer.



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WATER WALL

WATER PLUNGE
SECOND FLOOR

CLUB WITH WATER FILLED PAVILION

LEFT

Career Day



by **Tricia O'Connell, PLA, ASLA**
Liaison to Students (Education)

As the Liaison to Students for our SoCal chapter of ASLA, I am used to working with ambitious university students who are boldly experimenting and challenging the boundaries of landscape architecture. But this spring I was lucky to work with young folks at my own kids' school, Aldama Elementary, and introduce them to the basics of landscape architecture as part of their annual Career Day.

Aldama is a Title One (low income) dual language LAUSD school in Highland Park and has a primarily Latinx student body. Visiting first, second, and fifth grade classes, I described how landscape architecture was now a STEM discipline and how it so beautifully combines both science and art. Children naturally love animals and were easily able to understand that we design places not just for humans but also for wildlife. Describing how landscape architects design spaces where people live, play, and work was exciting to them- everything from theme parks (fun!) to cemeteries (spooky!). I brought in a couple residential plans I had designed for a hillside estate through Sanctuary Landscape Architecture to see if they could identify any of the elements on the "bird's eye view" (plan view) and introduced them to the idea of a scaled drawing and showed them how the sections through the site were like cake slices and pointed out how the elements all lined up.

We talked about how designing landscapes is always about designing for the future, because what happens to trees and plants? They grow!



I also brought in a plan of their school yard and pointed out the street names and they quickly could see that it was their very own school! The kids have been exposed to the concept of greening over the last year through outreach our Green Team has done as part of a National Park Service grant we received to create a conceptual plan to green the school. Many of the kids had already voted on what areas they'd like to improve and what changes they'd like to see and were eager to talk about it. I showed some of our working trace paper layers to show how design development



starts, with messy overlapping areas and everyone's ideas scribbled on the various areas. With colored pencils, we filled in trees in green to start to see how to differentiate elements on a plan.

It's important for us as landscape architects to reach out to younger generations, especially in K-12 schools, to introduce them to the profession and encourage more diversity within our ranks. ASLA supports this outreach, as getting a variety of kids exposed to and interested in the profession is always going to be the first step to getting more people to study landscape architecture and join the profession. I would definitely encourage fellow professionals to reach out directly to your local schools to see if you could speak to the students about your experiences. You might just inspire a future changemaker to consider a career in landscape architecture!



Membership Update



by **David Watts, ASLA**
Membership Committee

61-75 YEARS

8 members

41-60 YEARS

59 members

21-40 YEARS

116 members

11-20 YEARS

98 members

6-10 YEARS

49 members

1-5 YEARS

287 members

<1 YEAR

47 members

STUDENTS: 223 / HONORARY: 12

Emerging Professionals Update



by **Jared Edgar McKnight, ASLA**
EPC Chair

With a goal of creating more targeted outreach with Emerging Professionals (EPs), ASLA Southern California's Emerging Professionals Committee (EPC) has been busier than ever over the past year engaging Student, Associate, and emerging ASLA members. We are so excited to continue actively supporting our chapter's EPs through events and programs that provide opportunities for volunteering and service events, educational and learning programs, and social and networking meet-ups (hosted virtually and in-person).

Some of our highlights from last year (2023) included: a Volunteer Day at Theodore Payne Foundation, a meet-up and project tour of SWA's Culver Steps, joining ASLA SoCal's Programs Committee for a Moonlike Hike at TreePeople, and project tour at Vista Hermosa Natural Park with Studio MLA (the recipient of the 2023 ASLA National Landmark Award)!

Throughout 2024 we have re-launched a series of virtual lunch sessions for emerging professionals, as well as in-person site tours and volunteering opportunities. We kicked off 2024 with a 'Lunch Bunch' session in January featuring a conversation with ASLA SoCal 2024 President, Hongjoo Kim and 33 EPs. In March



we toured Isla Intersections with Agency Artifact, Holos Communities and 17 EPs. In April, we invited Jen Toy to discuss TEST PLOT and community stewardship of public lands at a virtual lunch session, followed by an in-person volunteer community gardening day at Elysian Park's TEST PLOT with Jenny Jones and 22 EPs. Most recently this summer we supported Colleen Cochran and the ASLA SoCal Program Committee's Pride Month Sketch Event at Ginger Rogers State Beach with Carlos Flores.

ASLA SoCal is excited to be offering free introductory webinars to each of the sections of the LARE exams to emerging professionals.



As the future of the profession, the ASLA SoCal chapter is dedicated to supporting emerging professionals. Thanks to amazing efforts by our Programs Committee and Chapter leadership, ASLA SoCal is excited to be offering free introductory webinars to each of the sections of the LARE exam to emerging professional ASLA Members of Southern California throughout 2024.



In addition to these virtual and educational sessions, the ASLA SoCal EPC will continue planning a series of in-person site visits, project tours, social gatherings, and volunteer and service events throughout the year (geared toward EPs but open to ALL members). Stay tuned in the ASLA weekly broadcast to hear more about upcoming and future programs! We are excited to welcome Stephanie Landrean for an upcoming 'Lunch Bunch' on Advocacy in the Landscape Architecture profession.

There is so much to look forward to throughout the rest of 2024 and beyond! If you are ever interested in getting involved with the ASLA SoCal Emerging Professionals Committee (EPC), or if you have questions about our events, please reach out anytime!



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Reaching Members with Our Programs



by **Colleen Cochran**
Programs Chair

Would it even be possible to offer events reaching all members in the largest chapter in the country, a chapter comprising 8 distinct counties? The Programs Committee has had only one answer: One doesn't know until one tries!

IT BEGINS WITH EDUCATION

Fulfilling our promise to create more educational programming, the webinar series of L.A.R.E. Preparatory Courses begun in 2023 was both expanded to provide material for each individual exam and extended to 3 times a year, once before each cycle of the exam. Each was recorded and is available free to chapter members! We are truly grateful to **Sarah Gronquist** of SGLA Technical Training for once again developing a thorough and in-depth series for our chapter! And, as always, **FREE TO ASLA MEMBERS!**



SKETCHING SOCIALS

Committed to promoting inclusivity and improved connections across all levels of membership, the Programs Committee incorporated sketching socials into our regular programming. The first two scheduled in spring were planned to celebrate **Women's History** and **Pride Months**.

In collaboration **with AWA+D**, members spent a beautiful March morning at Biddy Mason Memorial Park in DTLA sketching, watercoloring, enjoying delicious breakfast fare from Porto's Bakery, and learning the fascinating history of Biddy Mason, a remarkable woman and one of Los Angeles's first heroes.



Many thanks to generous and amazing architect Sara Guerena of AWA+D for leading the sketching! The success of her efforts is obvious in the sketches it produced.

Recognizing and celebrating Pride Month was the focus of our second Sketching Social. Ginger Rogers Beach provided a setting both lively and lovely for this meet up. Members spent a fascinating day sketching, chatting, and learning about the history of this famous gay beach and recent efforts by vandals to destroy strides made by Los Angeles County to recognize that history.*

Immense gratitude is owed to **Carlos Flores**, PLA and former ASLA So Cal President, who not only led the sketching but also organized a talk and tour of the adjacent beach restoration project by The Bay Foundation. Thank you so much Carlos for a beautiful and interesting day. We can't wait for the next one!

PRIVATE CHAPTER TOURS

For the first time since it opened in 2012, a chapter tour of **Sunnylands Center and Gardens** in Rancho Mirage was organized and very well attended (despite being rescheduled to June from March due to stormy weather). Members traveled from Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties to experience the tour. The Center's Director, **Michaeleen Gallagher**, acted as our guide once again and shared her profound knowledge of the history and current status of the gardens. We thank Michaeleen for her generosity and graciousness.

To honor and share the successes of 2023 ASLA So Cal Quality of Life Award winners with our members, tours of two award-winning projects led by their design teams were organized:



The OLIN Studio led a wonderful tour of **The Shops at Sportsmen's Lodge** in Studio City, winner in the Commercial Design category. They provided fascinating insights, relayed fun anecdotes, and shared extensive materials documenting their design process. We all learned so much from the talented team at OLIN. Sincere thanks to **Jessica Henson, Joanna Karaman, and Evangeline Sheridan** of OLIN for a truly remarkable and enjoyable day!



Another amazing project was shared with our membership; this time it was the winner in the Institutional Design category, **The Oaks Greenspace**, a private school in Hollywood. The design team from Studio 111 very kindly coordinated this outing with us, sharing stories, photos and other documents, guiding our members through the details of this challenging project, and patiently answering our many questions. **Kirk Keller** and **Moiri Fleming**, you are awesome, and we thank you!



*The Lifeguard Tower seen in the foregoing photos was vandalized just after our event and is no longer displaying the rainbow colors of Pride. If you are moved to make your voice heard about the fate of this tower and the historic beach on which it sits, contact Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, at:
<https://lindseyhorvath.lacounty.gov>
(213) 974-3333
ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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Update from Our Lobbyist



by **Jason Ikerd**
**Edelstein Gilbert Robson
& Smith LLC**

We're pleased to report that we have good news to share. SB 1452 (Ashby), the Landscape Architect Technical Committee/California Architects Board (LATC/CAB) sunset review bill was heard in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. Our firm has been communicating with Senator Ashby as well as staff for the Assembly and Senate Business & Professions Committee staff since April about your concerns with CAB/LATC's proposal to eliminate LATC and add only one landscape architect to the California Architect's Board. The argument we've made on behalf of the California Council of ASLA (CCASLA) is that:

1. It is important to ensure that the profession is competently regulated to protect the public
2. California is a unique state when it comes to regulating the profession for a variety of reasons
3. The CAB/LATC proposal was not well thought out or supported with data.

We have been hearing rumors for weeks now that any decision on the reorganization of LATC and CAB would be deferred and that CAB/LATC would be given direction to go back to the drawing board, collect data, and discuss this issue with stakeholders. We have lobbied Senator Ashby to do just that. We believe that CCASLA's concerns, especially about the lack of detail and relevant information provided to the Legislature, were compelling.

Happily, those rumors were confirmed over the weekend. The Assembly Business and Professions Committee laid out a proposal for CAB/LATC to conduct stakeholder meetings on the concept and collect relevant data. This would mean that LATC would not be eliminated, not be consolidated with CAB, and that the issue would be deferred for four years until the next sunset review. We endorsed this approach when testifying at today's Assembly Business & Professions Committee meeting, noting that it was important that any changes reflect the need to ensure that the profession is competently regulated.

This is a relieving outcome, but it comes with two small caveats. First, we will continue to engage with Assembly and Senate staff on what data they intend to request CAB/LATC to produce between now and the next sunset review. More importantly, it is important to stay on top of the bill going forward to make sure it stays on track. The bill still needs to be heard and pass out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee before the Legislature takes its summer recess beginning July 3. When the Legislature returns to Sacramento in August, SB 1452 will need to pass out of the Assembly Appropriations Committees. Finally, the bill must be considered and passed out of the Assembly and the Senate must vote to concur in the amendments taken in the Assembly. At that point, the bill will go to the Governor for his signature. We will continue to stay engaged throughout that process.

CCASLA will need to stay on top of this issue and engage actively with CAB/LATC between now and the next sunset review hearing. In the meantime, it appears that we've won a reprieve on this issue. Thanks to all of you who have indulged my numerous calls over the last few months.

We're happy to answer any questions.

In the NEWS



Mia
Lehrer, FASLA

LA TIMES ARTICLE



Landscape
Architecture
Firm **Terramoto**

DWELL ARTICLE



A close-up portrait of Alyssa Leal Moffitt, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark blue or black blazer. The background is dark and out of focus.

Welcome New Climate Action Committee Chair

Alyssa Leal Moffitt

Alyssa graduated from Barnard College/Columbia University with a double major in Middle Eastern Studies & Philosophy. She left her graduate studies at Columbia's SIPA to pursue a career in fashion. She enjoyed a 13 year career producing shoots for Vogue Paris, as a Style Editor for Vanity Fair and a stylist for Interview Magazine, Revlon, Vogue Italia, US Vogue and others.

While raising her two sons she worked as a photographer, studied landscape architecture at UCLA Extension, and was a volunteer and school garden leader at local schools, serving on the Seeds to Plate Board, starting garden programs, and teaching and running beautification projects. In 2021 she co-taught in a joint LAUSD/UCLA Extension landscape architecture program with Stephanie Landregan, FASLA.

Her life passion is ecological justice that drives design and engagement toward the holistic well-being of communities and nature. Her capstone project was the design of an eco-industrial park in Watts and received a National ASLA Honors Award in Urban Design in 2022. In 2024 she founded Terra Brava/Wild Earth Landscape Architecture to pursue collaborative projects with clients and partners with shared values.

Alyssa is passionate about service and has served on the So Cal chapter's Youth Outreach committee, President of the UCLAX ASLA Student chapter, and now serves on the UCLA Extension Alumni Connection Board.

In her free time, she enjoys gardening at her ranch in Tepusquet Canyon, cooking with friends and family and sketching. She is deeply influenced by her Brazilian roots, the city of Rio de Janeiro, her travels and her explorations of the unique, raw beauty of the California Wilds.

Upcoming Events

[VIEW ALL OUR
UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

AUGUST

13 **EMERGING PROS VIRTUAL
LUNCH BUNCH**
12PM – 1PM

[DETAILS + REGISTRATION](#)



SEPTEMBER

12 **ANNUAL BMLA BBQ**
SAVE THE DATE

[LEARN MORE](#)

OCTOBER

6 **ASLA CONFERENCE ON
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**
WASHINGTON, DC

[DETAILS + REGISTRATION](#)

24 **ASLA MEMBER APPRECIATION
AND 125TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION SAVE THE DATE**



Executive Committee, Chairs, Members-At-Large, and Liaisons



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PRESIDENT

Hongjoo Kim Landscape
Architects, Los Angeles



Scott Rice, ASLA
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Tatsumi and Partners,
Orange County



Stephanie Landregan,
FASLA
CCASLA DELEGATE #2

Program Director, UCLA Extension



Colleen Cochran,
Assoc. ASLA
CHAPTER PROGRAMS

Landscape Designer, Los Angeles



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HALS

Terry Design Inc., Fullerton



Jared McKnight
EMERGING
PROFESSIONALS

WRT LLC, Los Angeles



Kim Rhodes, ASLA
STUDENT FIELD TRIP

David Evans and Associates,
San Bernardino County



Tricia O'Connell, PLA,
ASLA
LIAISON TO STUDENTS

Landscape Architect
Los Angeles



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