

COUNCIL OF EDUCATORS IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

CELA 2027 Submission Guidelines

Please review the CELA 2027 Submission Guidelines carefully, as several changes have been made in response to feedback from last year's conference and to maintain the quality of the conference program.

Abstract Sep. 14, 2026	Visa Letter Request for International Attendees Jan. 15, 2027	Presenter Registration Jan. 31, 2027	LRR Full Paper Apr. 16, 2027
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Important: Information entered in the Oxford Abstract submission system, including author names, affiliations, the abstract title, and abstract text, will be reproduced **exactly as submitted** in the conference program and Proceedings. CELA staff will not edit spelling, capitalization, formatting, grammar, or author information. Proofread carefully and **do not use ALL CAPS**.

Required Information for Each Submission:

- Presentation format (i.e., oral, panel, or poster/demonstration)
- Conference track (select one from 16 tracks provided)
- Author information (i.e., title, legal name, highest degree, email, institution/organization of all authors)
- Professional status of first author (student, practitioner, or educator/academic)
- Abstract title (up to 20 words)
- Keywords (3-5)
- Abstract (up to 400 words)
- References (up to 10 references, APA Style, 7th edition)
- [Required for LA CES tracks only] Course description (75 words or less), topic area(s), learning objectives (three, 30 words or less each), author bios, and credit type.

Submission Restrictions

- Each person is limited to **no more than two first-authored submissions**. The platform will automatically withdraw additional first-authored submissions. There is no limit on the number of co-authored submissions.
- Student submissions are encouraged. PhD students may submit as sole authors. **All other students must co-author submissions with faculty advisors**. Abstracts with a non-PhD student as the first author and no faculty member as a co-author will be automatically withdrawn by the platform.
- **All submitters—including students, practitioners, and educators—must use their institutional, organizational, or school email address**, rather than a personal email account, to submit abstracts and correspond with CELA.
- The **actual names**, not nicknames, of the authors should be used for submissions. **The person who submits the abstract will be treated as the first author and the sole point of contact for all conference correspondence. Faculty shouldn't have their students or assistants submit on their behalf.** If you must submit for someone else, **enter the intended first author's name, degree, institution, and institutional email address, rather than your own**. Submission confirmations, review decisions, and other conference communications will be sent only to the email address associated with the first author; CELA cannot guarantee that these communications will reach any other author.

Presentation Format:

- CELA 2027 will be an **in-person conference**; no virtual option will be provided.
- Panel Submissions are 75-minute integrated presentations on a single topic offered by **3-5 panelists**. Panel proposals require a full description of the topic, the rationale for its importance, presentation structure, and the names of all speakers. **A minimum of two panelists must complete early bird registration (by January 31, 2027) to be included in the conference schedule.**
- Oral Presentations are individual presentations organized into 75-minute concurrent sessions. Each session typically includes four presenters, with ~15 minutes allocated to each presentation, including Q&A (either throughout the session or at the end).
- Poster/Demonstration Submissions are presentations of research and/or creative scholarship information in the form of printed posters that conference participants may view. Poster abstracts should follow the same suggested abstract format.
- For oral presentations and posters, **the first author must be the presenting author, who must complete early-bird registration by January 31, 2027**, or the presentation will be removed from the conference program and Proceedings.

Conference Tracks

There are currently 15 CELA tracks and the 2027 CELA theme track. Authors are encouraged to review the descriptions of each track here to determine the best fit for their submission: <https://thecela.org/2027-cela/2027-conference-tracks/>

2027 CELA theme track: Paradigm Shift in Landscape Architecture	Landscape Performance
Landscape as Art (new track)	Landscape Planning and Ecology
Communication and Visualization	People-Environment Relationships
Design Education and Pedagogy	Research Methods
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Research by Design and Implementation
Geo-Spatial and Digital Analytics	Resilience and Climate Action
History, Theory, and Culture	Service Learning and Community Engagement
Landscape Architecture for Health	Urban Design

Additional Requirements for LA CES Tracks

The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES) offers the following tracks:

- Landscape Architecture for Health
- Landscape Performance
- Landscape Planning and Ecology
- Research by Design and Implementation
- Resilience and Climate Action

Submissions to these tracks must include a course description (75 words or less), topic area(s), learning objectives (three, 30 words or less each), author bios, and credit type (HSW or non-HSW). This information is required for LA CES approval.

Guidelines regarding determination of whether the primary subject matter meets the LA CES definition of Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) can be found online at: <https://laces.asla.org/ApprovedProviderGuidelines.aspx>

Example learning objectives (30 words or less each):

1. Determine the major functions and components of a green roof.
2. Identify the factors that influence costs.
3. Use an integrated design process to maximize project performance benefits.

Example author bio:

John Radke, Ph.D., University of British Columbia. Associate Professor of City & Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Radke is interested in Geographic Information Systems, database design and construction, spatial analysis, pattern recognition, computational morphology, environmental assessment, landscape characterization, and potential modeling.

Recommended Abstract Structure and Content

Because the abstract is the sole basis for evaluation, it should clearly and concisely communicate the work's central idea, rationale, methodology, evidence, key findings, and significance.

Authors are encouraged to include the necessary information below in their abstracts:

- Introduction: What is the theoretical foundation and current knowledge about the topic? Why is the topic important? What are the goals/objectives/research questions?
- Methods: What methods were used? How was the study conducted?
- Results: What are the findings?
- Discussion: What do the results mean? What are the implications for landscape architecture theory and practice? What are the limitations of this study?
- Conclusion: What do the findings mean for researchers and practitioners?

Review Process and Criteria

CELA operates a **double-blind peer-review process** managed by Track Chairs. We respect the work of the blind peer reviewers and track chairs regarding decisions about acceptances and presentation modes. **Abstracts will NOT be re-reviewed once a decision has been made.**

Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Completeness: The abstract needs to include all required information (e.g., references, learning objectives for LA CES tracks).
- Originality: The abstract produces new knowledge/understanding.
- Importance: The abstract advances the discipline/profession.

- Rigor: The method used is robust, clearly described, and well justified.
- Clarity: The abstract is well organized and can be easily understood.

Submitters are strongly encouraged to use the recommended components and criteria to self-evaluate their abstracts before submission.

Review decisions will be communicated to **the first author by email**. Possible outcomes include Accept, Revise and resubmit, and Reject. Authors receiving a “Revise and Resubmit” decision must satisfactorily address the reviewers’ and/or track chairs’ comments and submit a revised abstract by the specified deadline. **Abstracts not revised by the deadline will not be accepted or included in the conference program.** Track chairs may also recommend a change in presentation format or conference track when appropriate.

CELA Abstract Proceedings

CELA publishes the Proceedings online. They include the full written abstracts that were accepted and presented at the conference. **Abstracts that are not accepted or presented at the conference (if the first author did not show up and present at the scheduled session) will not be included in the final Proceedings.**

Full Paper Submission for *Landscape Research Record* (LRR)

For each accepted and presented abstract, the author(s) are encouraged to submit a full paper for review and possible publication in *Landscape Research Record* (LRR), CELA’s annual collection of papers presented at that year’s conference. To be considered for LRR review, full papers must be submitted by the specified deadline. Templates and detailed guidelines will be distributed with abstract-acceptance notifications.

Submission to LRR implies the author(s)’ permission for CELA to publish the paper in LRR. The author(s) must affirm that the paper has not been previously published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Deadlines

	Deadline	Time (author’s time zone)
Abstract submission	September 14, 2026	11:59 p.m.
Visa-letter request for international attendees	January 15, 2027	11:59 p.m.
Early-bird/presenter registration	January 31, 2027	11:59 p.m.
LRR full-paper submission	April 16, 2027	11:59 p.m.

Important Notice for International Authors

If your submission is accepted, please apply for your visa immediately. If you require an invitation letter or other supporting documents for your visa application, please contact the CELA Conference Managers (conference@thecela.org) as soon as possible.

Questions?

- **Abstract submission and review:** Please contact CELA Vice President for Research & Creative Scholarship, Dr. Hong Wu, at research@thecela.org
- **Conference registration, travel, visa documents, and logistics:** Please contact the CELA Conference Managers at conference@thecela.org