



4 April, 2021

Distinguished Colleagues and Our Friends in Allied Organizations,

I am extremely happy to be composing my first letter to you as the new Incoming President of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA). I have to say it is one of my greatest honors to have received the trust and faith from my colleagues to become the incoming President of this organization. Thank you again for this opportunity!

It was fantastic to (virtually) see everyone again, after last year's cancellation, and the stellar research presented at the CELA conference a few weeks ago. I am glad that we could bring back the camaraderie, collaborative atmosphere, and collegiality that accompanies the annual CELA conference (if only virtually). The cancellation of last year's conference was only the second time a CELA conference was not held after it began its annual basis—with the first cancellation due to world war. We believe that the conference went extremely smoothly, so thanks to everyone for your attendance and contributions to this year's showcase of presentations and events.

With all the recent challenges and opportunities, I am confident that the CELA and its members can significantly contribute to addressing some of the pressing contemporary societal needs. I have had the pleasure of observing an incredible amount of collaboration and cooperation among the CELA leadership and membership in my years of service to the organization (e.g., Track Chair, Vice President for Research and Creative Scholarship, First Vice President, etc.), and the CELA has recently advanced significantly in its vision, mission, structure, organization, and services. I acknowledge that the tremendous and invaluable initiatives undertaken by the previous administration are the reason why these achievements were accomplished and hope to continue along this legacy of success.

I am certain, that with the current team, we shall continue to achieve great things. I have the utmost faith in both this team and this organization and am confident that, with a continued spirit of synergy, the CELA will move forward its vision of a world shaped by landscape architects, and that we will continue with our mission to support educators to advance the profession.

As noted, both above and detailed in my presentation as the CELA Conference, there are several initiatives that will be pursued in the upcoming year. First, with the addition of a new

Vice President position related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as well as a new research track related to the same topic, the CELA is poised to push forward and fill its racial, ethnic, and gender diversity gaps in both its administrative makeup and its research presentations. In fact, the CELA board is currently in dire need of diversity increases, especially related to gender. It is important to note that the new CELA admin are nominated by member institutions and then voted on by CELA member schools. As such, while the CELA board actively seeks to recruit diverse candidates as much as it can, we have little control over who gets nominated and who wins the voting. **So, please nominate your colleagues (or self-nominate) for CELA Board positions. We strongly need nominees with differing racial and gender backgrounds.** Increasing the nomination pool is the best way to ensure increases in DEI.

Second, with the addition of the new, full time editor of *Landscape Journal*, James LaGro, Jr., the CELA will explore ways of increasing linkages between research created by practitioners of landscape architecture and academic units. These explorations will range from conference capabilities, publication opportunities, and student and mentoring possibilities.

Finally, with the success of the new annual CELA Fountain Scholar Program, we hope to increase the CELA Award and Scholarship opportunities while expanding on the current fundraising of existing ones. While many other initiatives are also being worked on behind the scenes, the few mentioned here are a glimpse into the advancements that the CELA is pursuing. Only with your help can we continue to progress.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following leadership positions who have recently completed their invaluable service to CELA:

Officers:

- President: Sadik Artunç
- Past President: Ashley Steffens
- Treasurer: Ebru Özer

Regional Directors:

- Region 2: Kirk Dimond
- Region 8: Ivan Valin
- Region 10: David Myers

Student Director:

- Amanda Passero

CELA Representatives on Allied Organizations:

- ASLA Committee on Education: Jeff Hou

I would also like to acknowledge following incoming elected leadership and welcome their commitment for service to CELA:

Officers:

- President Elect: David Myers
- Past President: Sadik Artunç
- Treasurer: Kirk Dimond
- VP for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Recruitment: Marc Miller

Regional Directors:

- Region 2: Claire Napawan
- Region 8: Muhammed Ali Ornek
- Region 10: Mintai Kim

Student Director Elect:

- Erik Schiller

CELA Representatives on Allied Organizations:

- ASLA Committee on Education: Ashley Steffens

IMI Association Executives Staff:

- Communications Coordinator: Jennifer Tse
- Conference Planner: Melissa Haycock
- Special Projects: Morgan Truncale

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of this year's CELA award winners again. It is my privilege to share their names here:

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Anne Whiston Spirn

President's Award

- Charlene LeBleu
- Ashley Steffens

Academy of Fellows Inductees

- Mark Boyer
- Patsy Eubanks Owens

TRIAD Award

- Robert Corry

Student Awards

- Research Scholarship: Theodore Teichman
- Creative Scholarship: John Whitaker
- Creative Scholarship Honorable Mention: Weicong Huang
- Creative Scholarship Honorable Mention: Pilar Zuluaga
- Creative Scholarship Honorable Mention: Lihui Yang
- Creative Scholarship Honorable Mention: Jenna Witzleben, Grace Graham, Natalia Dorkina, & Daniel Teeler

Faculty Awards

- Excellence in Studio Teaching, Junior: David Barbarash
- Excellence in Studio Teaching, Senior: Wolfram Hofer
- Excellence in Studio Teaching, Senior: Jun-Hyun Kim
- Excellence in Teaching, Junior: Jennifer Birkeland
- Excellence in Research and/or Creative Works, Junior: Naomi Sachs
- Outstanding Paper: Jane Futrell Winslow

CELA Best Poster Award

- Jun-Hyun Kim, Shu Yang, Wonmin Sohn, & Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani

The Bob Cardoza CLASS Fund Research Grant

- Wonmin Sohn

Fountain Scholar Award

- Fountain Scholar Award Winner: Whitney Barr
- Fountain Scholar Award Finalist: Anjelyque Easley
- Fountain Scholar Award Finalist: Jaline McPherson
- Fountain Scholar Award Finalist: Gabe Jenkins

In the upcoming days, you will hear more about ongoing endeavors on new strategic planning, bylaws and revisions, improvements on communications, revisions on the Policies and Procedures Manual, *Landscape Journal* changes, new Research & Creative Scholarship opportunities, and updates on the Frameworks Project. We will also share plans for the 2022 Annual CELA Conference in Santa Ana Puebla, New Mexico at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa outside Albuquerque.

In closing I would like to notify everyone of a few clear approaches I will be taking to leadership as service as your president:

Accountability CELA will be transparent and accountable in all of our endeavors.

Accessibility CELA Officers, Regional Directors, and staff will be accessible to serve our membership.

Advancement CELA will advance and complete ongoing endeavors and will support our members to advance the education and the profession.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and or suggestions.

Respectfully,



Galen Newman, PhD, ASLA, APA

CELA President

and

Associate Professor

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