

11 April 2023

Dear CELA Colleagues and Friends of CELA,

My journey in landscape architecture started 29 years ago with my undergraduate education in horticulture and landscape architecture in Taiwan. To pursue graduate studies and practice landscape architecture, I came to the United States and earned my MLA degree and state-registered licensures in Illinois and Florida. My first ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) conference was with the Michigan Chapter in 2000, and I clearly remember meeting the JJR co-founders William Johnson and Carl Johnson. My service to the landscape architecture community was evident when I practiced as Co-Chair, 2018-2020, and Past Chair, 2020-2022, of the Environmental Justice Professional Practice Network and has continued today: serving on the ASLA Climate Action Advisory Group and Climate Action Committee. To become an educator, I pursued a Ph.D. degree after seven years of professional practice. Like many young scholars who participated in the annual CELA (Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture) conference this year, I presented my dissertation research 10 years ago at my first CELA conference in 2013 in Austin, Texas. CELA has been my academic landscape architecture community ever since.

This year's conference theme on Align|Realign bridging educators and practitioners in the field resembles my own landscape architecture journey. I am truly honored and humbled to serve as the President of CELA and will continue working with professional organizations, foundations, and international councils of landscape architecture schools and federations to advance the field and co-design better futures for all.

CELA 2023: Align|Realign

This year, we had over 365 in-person attendees with 321 Oral Presentations, 23 Panels, and 33 Posters. The camaraderie developed throughout the conference events and meetings, as well as casual gatherings over ice creams, walks, and elevator chats, has been the secret ingredient for a memorable conference in San Antonio, Texas, which was a great place for making those connections. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the conference and make connections. Thanks to everyone who contributed to submitting as well as reviewing abstracts. My sincere appreciation to all who have been the greatest supporters of CELA. The success of CELA requires each of your engagements near and far.

Kudos and deep appreciation to Galen Newman, former Past President and Chair of the Conference and Events Committee, and Taner Özdil, Past Vice President of Research & Creative Scholarship, for their vision of bridging academic and industry and bringing more practitioners into the CELA conference this year and for leading and supporting the Conferences & Events Committee and Research & Creative Scholarship Committee. The second annual DEI Roundtable, led by Marc Miller, the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Recruitment, engaged

in deep conversations about how to support diverse scholarship and curriculum. Thank you to Marc's leadership in continuing those critical conversations. Thank you to Simon Bussiere, Second Vice President, for leading the Awards & Recognitions Committee to improve reviewing process and to elevate CELA awards and recognitions. The Board extends a sincere thank you to the CELA staff for making the conference happen and succeed.

Mark your Calendar for CELA 2024

The 2024 CELA Annual Conference will be held on March 20-23, 2024, in St. Louis, Missouri. More details about the conference and the Call for Abstracts will be released in late summer. Please stay tuned.

Moving Forward

Thank you to several past presidents and Boards who tirelessly handled organizational challenges as well as the novelty during the global pandemic era; CELA is now stabilized financially and structurally with newly updated policies and procedures. I feel privileged and humbled to stand on the shoulders of giants before me so that we can build upon, explore, and innovate. My priority as CELA President is to update the strategic plan for the next five years, 2025-2030.

Systemic injustice and climate change are the two major social and ecological challenges that our civilization and our common earth are facing. Landscape architecture is a profession that integrates arts, science, and technology, understands the complex coupled social-ecological-technological systems, and sustains the stewardship between people and the environment. Our field plays a critical role in contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation actions and addressing systemic injustice in every community. CELA's mission is to advance the profession to address pressing challenges and educate future professionals. Every CELA member has the capacity and responsibility to shape the field of landscape architecture through teaching, research, creative scholarship, creative practice, and advocacy. CELA, as an organization, collectively shall lead climate actions and the institutional transformation to rectify the justice system and achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion goals in the field of landscape architecture.

In the coming months, I will work diligently with the CELA Board and Executive Director to outline the strategic planning process and reach out to CELA members, Friends of CELA, and allied organizations accordingly. Please stay active and engage with CELA.

Getting Involved with CELA

This year CELA has awarded 30% more student awards than last year. With the success of the annual CELA Fountain Scholar Program now beginning its fourth year, we hope to increase the current fundraising while also expanding other CELA Award and Scholarship opportunities. Only with your help can we continue

to progress. Please consider making donations and becoming sponsors of events and scholarships.

In addition to the call for conference abstracts, please look out for the announcement of new Board positions in late August. The Board also welcomes volunteers to work on various committees such as *Conferences & Events, Communications, Publications & Outreach, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Recruitment*. If you are interested in contributing to the institution of advancing the profession of landscape architecture, learning more about organization functions, and connecting with wonderful and fun Board members, please reach out to Board members and join us!

Please do not hesitate to contact me at Chingwen.Cheng@asu.edu for any questions and feedback. Thank you again for allowing me to serve CELA. I look forward to hearing from you, as your feedback, questions, and suggestions are all important to me.

With gratitude,



Chingwen Cheng, PhD, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP

CELA President 2023-2024

Program Head and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, and Environmental Design, The Design School, Arizona State University

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following people in leadership positions who have shared their institutional knowledge and recently completed their invaluable service to CELA on the 2022-23 Board of Directors:

Officers

- President: David Myers
- Past President: Galen Newman
- Past VP for Research and Creative Scholarship: Taner Özdil

Student Director

- Erik Schiller

I would also like to acknowledge the following elected leadership and welcome their commitment to service to CELA as members of the 2023-24 Board of Directors and staff:

Officers

- President-Elect: Jun-Hyun Kim
- Past President: David Myers
- VP for Research and Creative Scholarship: Dongying Li
- Secretary & Vice President for Communications, Outreach, & Publications: Jamie Vanucchi

Regional Directors

- Region 4: Jessica Canfield
- Region 6: James Schulte

Student Director-Elect

- Chadwick Bowlin

CELA Staff

- Administrative Manager: Nancy Haywood
- Conference Planner: Dawn LeBlanc
- Director: Linda Owens
- Executive Director: Teresa Evans-Hunter

CELA 2023 AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to the following recipients for CELA 2023 Awards and Recognitions

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Joan Iverson Nassauer

Academy of Fellows Inductees

- Sadik Artunç
- Robert Corry
- Robert Ryan
- Roxi Thoren

President's Award

- Galen Newman
- Taner Özdil

TRIAD Award

- Mark Hoistad

Student Awards

- Student Research Award Winner: Ruiqi Yang, University of Georgia
- Student Research Award Winner: Nubras Samayeen, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Student Research Award Winner Honorable Mention: Aletha Spang, University of Colorado Denver
- Student Research Award Winner Honorable Mention: Cenqi Zhu & Jamie Bufkin, University of Florida
- Student Creative Award Winner: Arda Cosan, Istanbul Technical University
- Student Creative Award Winner: Sylvia Pasquariello, University of Colorado Denver
- Student Creative Award Winner Honorable Mention: Mattie Ecklund, Eva Kahn & Steven Garcia, University of Oregon
- Student Creative Award Winner Honorable Mention: Nicole Konicke, Sofia Chavez & Zhongyang Huang, University of Oregon

Fountain Scholar Awards

- Fountain Scholar Undergraduate Award Winner: Eneyda Salcedo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Fountain Scholar Graduate Award Winner: Kai Walcott, Harvard University
- Fountain Scholar Undergraduate Finalists: Victor Cizik, University of Connecticut, and Camryn Jae Galvan, Texas A&M University
- Fountain Scholar Graduate Finalists: Dushawn John, Arizona State University, and Anjelica Elena Villalabos, University of Texas at Arlington

Faculty Awards

- Excellence in Design Studio Teaching, Junior Level: Fadi Masoud, University of Toronto
- Excellence in Design Studio Teaching, Junior Level: Emily Knox, Auburn University
- Excellence in Design Studio Teaching, Junior Level: A. Haven Kiers, University of California Davis
- Excellence in Teaching, Senior Level: Niall Kirkwood, Harvard University
- Excellence in Teaching, Senior Level: Paul Russel, Clemson University
- Excellence in Teaching, Junior Level: Mark Eischeid, University of Oregon
- Excellence in Teaching, Junior Level: Bo Zhang, Oklahoma State University
- Excellence in Research and/or Creative Works, Senior Level: Sonja Duempelmann, University of Pennsylvania

- Excellence in Research and/or Creative Works, Junior Level: Dongying Li, Texas A&M University
- Excellence in Research or Creative Work, Junior Level: Hong Wu, Pennsylvania State University
- Excellence in Research or Creative Work, Junior Level: Brent Chamberlain, Utah State University
- Excellence in Service Learning, Senior Level: Frank Slegers, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Excellence in Service Learning, Junior Level: Lara Browning, Clemson University
- Outstanding Administrator: Ming-Han Li, Michigan State University
- Outstanding Administrator: Ken Yocom, University of Washington
- Outstanding Administrator: Ned Crankshaw, University of Kentucky
- Outstanding Communications: LA+ Tatum Hands & Richard Weller, University of Pennsylvania
- Outstanding Educator: Jeffrey Hou, University of Washington
- Outstanding Paper Award: Allan Shearer, University of Texas at Austin

CELA Poster Awards

- Best Poster: Huaqing Wang, Utah State University
- Best Poster: Simin Gholam, Utah State University
- Best Poster Honorable Mention: Xi Chen, Marcia Ory, and Chanam Lee, Texas A&M University

The Bob Cardoza CLASS Fund Research Grant

- Salvador Lindquist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

CELA + LAF Forster Ndubisi Professional Service Award

- Stephanie Rolley