

7 April 2022

Dear Distinguished Colleagues and Our Friends in Allied Organizations,

I am very humbled and honored to be the Incoming President of The Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA). Thank you for your support, encouragement, and feedback. It is a great honor to serve.

### **CELA 2022: Evolving Norms Adapting Scholarship to Disruptive Phenomena**

It was really great to see everyone who was able to attend the conference. With the cancellation in 2020 and the successful virtual conference in 2021, it was fantastic and heartwarming to be back face-to-face. I want to acknowledge not only those that were able to attend the conference, a tangible expression of our resilience, but all members of CELA for their perseverance and fortitude through these last two years. Working together we can support each other to advance the profession. We had over 360 in-person attendees with 329 Oral Presentations, 24 Panels, and 24 Posters. There was plenty of camaraderie at our in-person events including the field excursions, pre-conference workshops, and the Awards Ceremony. The new DEI Roundtable debuted this year led by Marc Miller, the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Recruitment, was well attended and very successful.

Thanks go out to Sadik Artunç, outgoing Past President and Chair of the Conference and Events Committee and Taner Özdil, **Past Vice President of Research & Creative Scholarship for making this conference a success**. Finally, the Board cannot thank IMI Association Executives staff enough for making the conference a success.

Speaking of conferences ....

### **Mark your Calendars! The 2023 CELA Annual Conference: March 16-18, 2023**

We will also be sharing more details and plans for the 2023 Annual CELA Conference in San Antonio, Texas. We will be meeting right on the San Antonio River Walk, billed as the #1 Attraction in Texas. It will be an exciting conference.

### **Moving Forward**

I am confident that The CELA and its members can significantly contribute to advancing the profession. I have been fortunate in the last few years serving on The CELA Board to work with a very energetic, collaborative, and supportive group of individuals. I also received valuable input from members like you. I acknowledge that the tremendous and invaluable initiatives undertaken by the previous administrations is the reason why these achievements were accomplished and hope to continue along this legacy of success. CELA has recently advanced significantly in its vision, mission, structure, organization, and services. It is my overall goal to continue to advance the organization and provide services for CELA members. Working with our allied organizations, 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.

## Acknowledgements

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

### Officers:

- President: Galen Newman
- Past President: Sadik Artunç
- VP for Research and Creative Scholarship: Taner Özdil

### Student Director:

- Max Frank

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

### Officers:

- President-Elect: Chingwen Cheng
- Past President: Galen Newman
- VP for Research and Creative Scholarship: Sarah Little
- Past CELA VPR: Taner Özdil

### Regional Directors:

- Region 3: Lori Catalano
- Region 7: Gareth Doherty
- Region 9: Nadia Amoroso

### Student Director Elect:

- Isiah Dashiell

### IMI Association Executives Staff:

- Conference Manager: Dawn LeBlanc

## Congratulations

There was plenty to celebrate at the CELA Conference Awards Dinner. 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

- Carl Steinitz

Academy of Fellows Inductees:

- Meg Calkins, FCELA
- Katya Crawford, FCELA
- Allan W. Shearer, FCELA
- Ashley Steffens, FCELA

President's Award:

- Mary Pat McGuire
- Sadik Artunç

TRIAD Award:

- Taner Özdil

CELA P.A.S.T.E Award:

- Sarah Gillian

Student Awards:

- Creative Scholarship Award: Anna Mitchell
- Research Award: Yaniv Korman

Fountain Scholar Awards:

- Fountain Scholar Undergraduate Award Winner: Daniella Slowik
- Fountain Scholar Graduate Award Winner: Ayana Belk
- Fountain Scholar Award Finalist: Chadwick Bowlin
- Fountain Scholar Award Finalist: Ruby Davis
- Fountain Scholar Award Finalist: Jade Durand
- Fountain Scholar Award Finalist: Avery Haynes

Faculty Awards:

- Excellence in Design Studio Teaching, Junior: Maria Villalobos
- Excellence in Design Studio Teaching, Senior: Martin Hogue
- Excellence in Teaching, Junior: Simon Bussiere
- Excellence in Teaching, Senior: Ebru Özer
- Excellence in Service Learning, Junior: Jake Powell
- Excellence in Service Learning, Junior: Sohyun Park
- Excellence in Service Learning, Senior: Byoung-Suk Kweon
- Excellence in Research and/or Creative Works, Junior: Catherine De Almeida
- Outstanding Educator: Daniel Winterbottom
- Outstanding Administrator: Eliza Pennypacker
- Outstanding Administrator: Shannon Van Zandt
- Outstanding Paper: Sarah Karle, Laura Weakly and Gary Benstrup

CELA Excellence in Professional Advisory Service (a new award):

- Karl Von Bieberstein

CELA Poster Awards:

- Best Poster: Jun-Hyun Kim, Paige O'Keefe, Wonmin Sohn, Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani
- Best Poster Honorable Mention: Nazia Afrin Trina, Muntazar Monsur

### **A Special and New Award**

Galen Newman (CELA) and Heather Whitlow (LAF) presented a new award at the CELA Conference Awards Dinner Friday night: the CELA + LAF Professional Service Award. This Award, jointly awarded by CELA and LAF is dedicated to *Honoring Excellence that Advances the Profession of Landscape Architecture*. The inaugural award was given to Dr. Forster Ndubisi. Our profession sadly acknowledges his passing this year. Furthermore, going forward, the award will be called the CELA + LAF Forster Ndubisi Professional Service Award. The quote from historian and academic Henry Adams comes to mind: “*A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.*” Forster’s impact was monumental, and his impact will continue to influence the profession.

### **Getting Involved with CELA**

In the upcoming days, you will hear more about initiatives and ongoing endeavors. Some include exploring ways of increasing linkages between research created by practitioners of landscape architecture and academic units, working with the new Past CELA VPR, Taner Özdil, to distribute and operationalize position duties with the current VPR position to support research and creative activities for the conference and publications. We will also review deadlines for awards and continue to work on revisions on the Policies and Procedures Manual.

With the phenomenal success of the annual [CELA Fountain Scholar Program](#) now beginning its third 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.

Be on the lookout late this late summer for the call for conference abstracts and the announcement of new Board positions. The CELA Board continues to seek diversity. It is important to note that the new CELA leadership 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, when the new positions open in the fall, please nominate your colleagues (or self-nominate) for CELA Board Positions.

Finally, I would like to continue the same approaches adopted by my predecessors. As your President, these approaches include:

- **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



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advance the education and the profession.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and or suggestions. Thank you again for this opportunity!

Best wishes for to all of you as you complete this semester.

Respectfully,



David N. Myers, Ph.D., PLA, ASLA  
CELA President  
And  
Director, University of Maryland Landscape Architecture  
Associate Professor, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture