



22 August 2022

Dear Distinguished Colleagues and Our Friends in Allied Organizations,

I hope my second letter to you as the President of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) finds you well. As we start the new academic calendar, I wanted to share the CELA's and some allied organizations' recent activities.

CELA 2023 Conference March 16-18, 2023 San Antonio, Texas

The CELA Standing Committee on Conferences and Events has been working throughout the spring and summer organizing a quite exciting conference. The venue will be located on the San Antonio Riverwalk, often billed as the #1 attraction in Texas. San Antonio was also ranked as the fastest-growing U.S. city in terms of numeric population growth between 2021 and 2022 and provides a setting for reflection and discussion on growth, climate change, and green infrastructure. In addition to the River Walk, there are numerous and exciting cultural and landscape aspects to explore. The CELA is working hard to set up some amazing and interesting conference activities for its membership. They will be shared soon.

Align | Realign: 2023 Conference Theme

Landscape architecture has long been broadly defined as the integration of art and science. Both the profession of landscape architecture and the education of the discipline have historically been dependent upon a constant dialogue between the arts and the sciences. **Align | Realign**, the theme of the 2023 Conference, explores the relationship between educators and professionals, investigating the overlaps and misalignments between what is both taught and researched in academia compared to what the professional market demands. The growing role of research within the profession of landscape architecture has created a shift in more scientific thinking to help reinforce evidence-based design decision making. In addition, many professional firms have initiated research divisions as part of their practice.

Submissions to the **Align | Realign** theme track include research or scholarly inquiries related to comparisons or synergies between design education and professional needs, collaborative research and/or design projects, design impact measurements and techniques, student placement or student skills vs. needs in the workplace, software taught vs. software used in practice, advisory board interactions and activities with programs, or other related phenomena. **We highly encourage submissions from landscape architecture practitioners**, research departments within firms, and other similar units. A full list of Theme Tracks can be found [here](#).

We encourage you to reach out to members of your **professional advisory groups** and encourage them to collaborate and submit an abstract for the theme track. Also, this is the 2nd year of the new CELA Excellence in Professional Advisory Service, so please keep this award in mind and nominate your excellent professional advisory board/council members!

Submit an Abstract and/or Serve as an Abstract Reviewer!

The call for abstracts recently opened in July. You can read the official announcement [here](#).

Abstract Submissions are due by September 12, 2022, by midnight in the author's time zone. We also need your support as an Abstract Reviewer. Please consider this invaluable service to support your colleagues.

The CELA Global Investiture Fund Grant:

Do you have an idea for a project that will have a positive global impact? The CELA is now accepting grant proposals for The CELA Global Investiture Fund Grant. For the 2022-23 grant period, the available grant funding is \$7,300.00. CELA members are encouraged to submit a short grant proposal outlining the project and its expected impact. Read the Submission Guidelines [HERE](#) and submit your proposal by September 12, 2022, at 11:59 pm ET.

Bob Cardoza CLASS Fund Research Grant- 2022-23 Applications Open!

This is a biannual award that supports scholarship and research among academic units in landscape architecture, horticulture and related fields. The fund amount is approximately \$25,000 or as otherwise determined by the CLASS Fund Board of Directors.

In the previous cycle, [Wonmin Sohn](#) was awarded the Bob Cardoza CLASS Fund Research Grant for her research: "Longitudinal Assessment of Development Composition and Spatial Patterns of Green Infrastructure for Effective Flood Control in Growing and Shrinking U.S. Metropolitan Areas."

Please consider this opportunity made possible by the generous support of the Bob Cardoza CLASS Fund. You can find the Submission Guidelines [HERE](#) and submit your proposal by October 6, 2022, at 5pm EST.

STEM Support

Many of you worked with ASLA for the important effort of STEM designation for landscape architecture. CELA was delighted to submit a letter to DHS to include landscape architecture on the STEM-Designated Degree program list. Our appreciation goes out to Federal Government Affairs Director Roxanne Blackwell and Kristopher Pritchard, Accreditation and Education Director for leading this effort.

Upcoming CELA Board Openings and Calls

The official call for CELA board nominations will be released in the fall. Please consider *Getting Involved with CELA*. 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 board positions open in the fall, please nominate your colleagues (or self-nominate) for CELA Board Positions.

Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA)

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Upcoming Openings:

- President Elect
- Treasurer
- Secretary & VP for Communications, Outreach, & Publications
- VP for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Recruitment
- Region 1 Director
- Region 4 Director
- Region 6 Director
- Student Director Elect

CELA Call for Awards

- The CELA Call for Awards will come out in Late October or Early November. Be on the lookout!

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

ASLA Conference: November 11-14

An upcoming [Presidents Council](#) meeting will be hosted by ASLA at the conference. I will provide more information about this meeting in my next letter. Just an FYI that the deadline for the advanced rate for the [ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture](#) in San Francisco is September 12. ASLA is also creating an ambitious **Climate Action Plan** which will be released at the conference. You can find more information [HERE](#).

LAF

Two brief items I wanted to note. First, I was excited and privileged to be able to attend the Grounding The Green New Deal: A Summit On Design, Policy, And Advocacy on April 9, 2022 at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. It was an inspiring event and I want to direct you to the [video resources](#) that you may find valuable for your students. Second, the LAF is now accepting applications for the 2023-24 cohort of the LAF Fellowships for Innovation and Leadership. Applications are due September 15. You can find more information [HERE](#).

CLF

The Cultural Landscape Foundation is hosting the conference Oberlander Prize Forum II: Landscape Activism Oct 27, 2022 to Oct 28, 2022 Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, Texas. You can find more information [HERE](#)

Office Updates

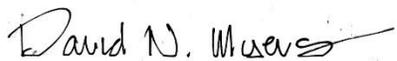
Sarah Gillian, who was serving as CELA Executive Director, left IMI Association Executives at the beginning of August for an exciting new opportunity. We wish her all success. Sarah was a fantastic Executive Director and we will miss her. She has been an inspiration and gift to all of

us who have worked with her and we continue to work on a number of initiatives she inspired. IMI Association Executives will do a search to find an appropriate fit for a new CELA Executive Director and until then, Linda Owens, owner of IMI Association Executives, will be serving as Executive Director. We are in great hands. The CELA continues to be in sound financial shape. I would like to thank all members within and outside of the CELA Board who continue to work hard, provide input, and critique.

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

Summer is coming to an end so best wishes to you all making your preparations for the fall semester. Many of us still face significant challenges and, working together with our allied partners and you, we continue to strive to fulfill The CELA's mission to support educators to advance the profession.

Respectfully,



David Myers, Associate Professor
University of Maryland
CELA President 2022-2023