



Memorandum

TO: CELA Board of Directors
FROM: Kenneth R. Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA
CELA Representative to the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board
DATE: August 10, 2019
SUBJECT: Special Report of the CELA Rep to the CELA BOD

The Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) held its annual summer meeting in Portland, OR on August 2 & 3, 2019 with all members and staff present. This special report is intended to provide the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture Board of Directors (CELA BOD) with an informal update of the business and actions of LAAB at that meeting. The following items of business were discussed at the meeting with action taken as appropriate:

- **Reports**

- LAAB heard and received reports on the activities of the following leaders or organizational representatives:
- LAAB Chair's Report on the activities of the LAAB Chair
- LAAB Accreditation Director's Report on the activities of the Director
- ASLA Representative's Report on the activities of the ASLA
- CLARB Representative's Report on the activities of CLARB
- CELA Representative's Report on the activities of CELA
- FrameWorks Update – A report of the current status of the FrameWorks Project by LAAB Board Liason Ned Crankshaw. FrameWorks is a study on the status of public perceptions of landscape architecture collaboratively funded by the Landscape Architecture Presidents' Council (ASLA, CLARB, CELA, LAF, & LAAB)

- **Accreditation Standards Update & Revisions Process**

Every five years, the LAAB examines its Standards for Accreditation to determine whether or not changes or modifications are appropriate for the standards. The current Standards have a release date of 2016. The process for review includes:

- a first round of "Call for Commentary" of members of the "Community of Interest (COI)", (the COI includes, membership and leadership of ASLA, ASLA's Board of Trustees, ASLA's Committee on Education, CLARB, CELA, LAF, members of LAAB's Roster of Visiting Evaluators (ROVE), administrators and faculty at LAAB-accredited programs, general public
- assessment and synthesis of potential changes by the LAAB,
- development of a draft of Standards for Accreditation with potential changes,

- a second round of “Call for Commentary on the Proposed Draft of Standards” to the COI
- review, adoption and publication of an updated Standards

Announcements of the process and the schedule for this round of Standards updates has been made by LAAB leaders and staff at the academic administrators meetings at the CELA 2018 and CELA 2019 conferences, at 2018 and 2019 Presidents’ Council meetings, and at CLARB 2018 Conference. An announcement has also been published in ASLA’s LAND On-Line Newsletter (August 6, 2019 edition at: <https://www.asla.org/Land/LandNewsletter.aspx>). Director Kris Pritchard will facilitate a webinar about the review of Standards for interested persons on Thursday, August 22 at 3:00pm ET. Interested persons can register for the webinar at a link in that ASLA LAND On-line news item.

The schedule for conducting the accreditation standards review and revision was announced as follows:

- August LAAB Meeting 2019 - Create committee (including non-Board members), establish guidelines and refine the overall process.
- November 1 through December 15 - Preliminary call for comment
- Winter LAAB Meeting 2020 - Review committee reports
- March 2020 - Present update report to CELA, schools, and educators at CELA 2020 conference
- April 2020 - Final call for comment on proposed standards
- Summer LAAB Meeting 2020 - Final review and editing of proposed revisions
- Winter LAAB Meeting 2021 – Adopt and publish new “2021 Standards for Accreditation”
- Spring Term 2022 – New 2021 Standards for Accreditation go into effect with spring 2022 accreditation visits and school actions.

The LAAB Board appointed a Standards Review committee of:

- Ken Brooks and Gil Holmes, Co-chairs, LAAB Board Members
- Terry Clements – educator, program head, ROVE member, CELA past-President
- Lorraine Davis – education administrator, ROVE member
- Tom Ryan – practitioner, ROVE member

- **Accreditation Management System**

The LAAB Board had previously authorized a call for proposals for the acquisition and implementation of an on-line data management system. Such a system would facilitate the collection and assessment of documents, including, School’s Self-Evaluation Reports, Visiting Team Reports, Principal Reader Report, Annual Program Reports, Progress Reports and LAAB meeting documents. The Board received proposals from three software companies. The Board established a sub-committee to evaluate the proposals and make an acquisition and implementation recommendation.

- **Strategic Planning Update**

The LAAB Board held a day-long strategic planning session at its Winter 2019 meeting. At the summer meeting, it received a report from the consulting Strategic Planning facilitator and appointed a sub-committee to prioritize Visions and Goals to implement strategies for becoming more effective in its operations and of greater service to the accreditation clients it serves.

- **MLA I & MLA II Programs**

For several meetings, the LAAB Board has discussed an issue about the accreditation status of graduate programs where an institution advertises that it has multiple independent degree programs. There is a concern about how these programs should be represented to the public so that potential students, alumni, registration boards and others can understand the differences. This issue becomes even more complicated as some institutions experiment with non-traditional degree structures and pathways. The Board will develop articulated policies for accommodating “advance placement” in programs and cultivate common language to assist schools with representing traditional and emerging non-traditional educational pathways to degrees. Clarification of these practices and policies will be clearly expressed in the up-coming revision of Standards for Accreditation.

- **School Actions & Program Updates**

The LAAB Board heard reports and took action on the accreditation or reaccreditation of programs visited during the spring 2019 term. Those actions will be reported to the effected programs in the next few weeks and summaries of the actions will be posted to the LAAB website (<https://www.asla.org/accreditationlaab.aspx>) in the near future.

Assignment of principal readers for anticipated fall 2019 visits and spring 2020 visits were made.

- **Budget**

The LAAB Board developed an adopted its operating budget for the 2020 fiscal year (running from January 1 – December 31, 2020).

- **Elections & Appointment of Members and Officers**

The LAAB Board elected Lynn Ewanow (educator) and Gil Hodges (public members to a second three-year term. The Board nominated a slate of practitioner candidates for an up-coming election of a new practitioner member.

The Board anticipates appointment of new representatives from CLARB and CELA to replace retiring representative members Tom Sherry from CLARB and Ken Brooks from CELA. It will be upto the Boards of Directors or the President of those organizations to designate new representatives. There terms will begin in January 2020.

The LAAB Board elected Jack Ahern (educator) as the Chair-elect for 2020 and reelected Lynn Ewanow as Secretary for 2020. Current Chair, Rodney Swink’s term as Chair will

conclude at the end of December 2020. Current Chair-Elect Joy Lyndes will become Chair in January 2020.

- **Next Meetings**

LAAB Director Kris Pritchard will schedule and facilitate a fall conference call of the Board.

The Board made recommendations for potential preferred dates and locations for the regular Spring 2020 meeting. ASLA staff member Kelli Bland, ASLA's Event Planner, will seek meeting proposals from potential hotels and work with Kris to arrange the meeting.

Chair Rodney Swink and Director Kris Pritchard will represent LAAB at the fall conferences of CLARB and ASLA. Chair-Elect Joy Lyndes will represent LAAB at a conference of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA). In early 2020, Chair Lyndes, Chair-Elect Jack Ahern and Director Kris Pritchard will represent LAAB in the LA Presidents' Council. Chair Lyndes and Director Pritchard will represent LAAB at CELA's spring conference.

- **Current Members of the LAAB Board**

The current members of the LAAB Board are:

Educators

Ned Crankshaw, FASLA, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Lynn Ewanow, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Jack Ahern, FASLA, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Practitioners

Joy Lyndes, ASLA, Coastal Sage Landscape Architecture, Encinitas, CA, Chair-Elect

Ramon Murray, ASLA, Murray Design Group, Inc., Winter Park, FL

Rodney Swink, FASLA, PlaceEconomics, Raleigh, NC, Chair

Public Members

Gilbert Holmes, University of LaVerne College of Law, Ontario, CA

Tom Jacobs, Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City, MO

Lucinda McDade, PhD, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, CA

Representatives from organizations

American Society of Landscape Architects –

Len Hopper, FASLA, Weintraub Diaz, LLC, Nyack, NY

Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture –

Ken Brooks, FASLA, FCELA, PLA, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards –

Tom Sherry, ASLA, SPVV Landscape Architects, Spokane, WA

Accreditation Director, Kristopher Pritchard