

## **ABSTRACT**

*This research evaluates the performance of three acclaimed landscape architecture projects in Texas conducted for the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) Case Study Investigation (CSI) Program in 2013: Buffalo Bayou Promenade, Houston; Klyde Warren Park, Dallas; UT Dallas Campus Identity and Landscape Framework Plan, Richardson. The paper reviews procedures and findings to highlight the importance of a consistent criteria and comprehensive framework to measure environmental, economic, and social performance. Although landscape architecture literature over the past two decades covers the importance of project performance and evaluation (LAF, 2013; Francis, 1999; Marcus and Francis 1998; Bookout et.al., 1994) most inquiry to date focuses on singular case studies neglecting broader applications (Ozdil, 2008). The research searches for consistent and reliable criteria, and generalizable evaluation methods across all three cases. It combines quantitative and qualitative methods (Deming and Swaffield, 2011; Murphy, 2005; Moughtin, 1999). The research design and findings are informed by: LAF's Case Study Briefs (LAF, 2013), relevant design and planning literature (Francis, 1999; Gehl, 1988; Whyte, 1980), the 667 surveys, and onsite observations (Dillman, 1978, Marcus and Francis, 1998; Whyte, 1990), and secondary data. In conclusion, the paper reviews excerpts of social performance findings from the surveys, as well as selected economic and environmental performance benefits. The results illustrate that while each case study displays unique character and complexities, setting baseline criteria and methods to evaluate performance across varying typologies of landscape case studies would probe widespread applications and encourage generalizable research outcomes. Such emphasis denotes a critical dimension of performance research and landscape architecture's future to communicate the greater impact and value to the society.*