



8 September 2023

Dear CELA Colleagues and Friends of CELA,

I hope this letter finds you well. This summer has brought us immense joy and excitement as we celebrate the designation from the Department of Homeland Security recognizing Landscape Architecture as a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education field. A heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated efforts of CELA members who worked tirelessly alongside ASLA, LAAB, CLARB, and numerous friends and allies. Years of persistence and hard work have made this historical landmark for landscape architecture education.

As we sail into a new academic calendar, I am eager to share some of CELA's recent activities and upcoming events and deadlines, as well as those of our allied organizations.

Strategic Planning Updates

CELA is currently amid a strategic planning exercise aiming for developing an updated strategic plan for CELA that will guide the organization's work for the next five years. The Executive Committee is currently in the process of analyzing the previous plans and critically assessing what has been achieved and what new goals need to be set to prepare our organization to meet the existing and future needs of CELA members. We aim to establish a pathway for advancing our mission in preparing future landscape architects to address pressing challenges from local to global scales, and to be a collaborative partner with world landscape architecture educators, collectively making a positive impact on Earth.

The updated strategic plan will outline CELA's goals, objectives, and strategies for the next five years, as well as identify the resources CELA needs to achieve its goals. This strategic planning process requires input from all of you. The Executive Committee values the importance of ensuring a process that is inclusive and meaningful and is undertaking methods of engagement. Please be on the lookout for these inquiries in mid-October. We will take advantage of the ASLA conference to engage with administrators, CELA members, as well as allied ASLA members. As we progress in the planning process, more updates will be provided.



CELA 2024 Conference - Taking Action: Making Change
March 20-23, 2024, St. Louis, Missouri

The CELA Standing Committee on Conferences and Events has put in extensive effort to prepare for an engaging and enlightening conference scheduled to take place in St. Louis, Missouri, from March 20 to 23, 2024. The conference theme, "Taking Action: Making Change," aligns with ASLA's launch of the Climate Action Plan in 2022 and builds upon the ongoing dialogue between practitioners and educators in landscape architecture, following the 2023 Align | Realign CELA conference.

We extend an invitation to all CELA members, friends, and allies of CELA, as well as anyone with a commitment to addressing critical challenges such as climate change, urbanization, and social inequality. We encourage you to come together to advance the landscape architecture profession and education and effect change within our daily practices. We would like to continue engaging with landscape architecture practitioners, research departments within firms, and similar units to submit abstracts and join the conference.

Furthermore, please consider encouraging your professional advisory groups to participate in CELA and reach out to practitioners. This year marks the third installment of the new CELA Excellence in Professional Advisory Service award, and we are eager to see numerous nominations for the outstanding members of your professional advisory board or council for this honor.

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

The call for abstracts opened in July. You can read the official announcement [here](#). **Abstract Submissions are due by September 15, 2023**, 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 that aligns with CELA's mission to advance the profession? Impactful ideas are not limited to landscape architecture research. Proposals about how to make the annual CELA conference more sustainable and impactful are welcome. The CELA is now accepting grant proposals for The CELA Global Investiture Fund Grant. For the 2023-24 grant period, the available grant funding is \$7,300.00. Submit your proposal through this [FORM](#) by **September 15, 2023, at 11:59 pm ET**.

CELA Award Nominations

The call for Fountain Scholars opened this week; **submission deadline is December 15, 2023**. [Click here for submission information](#). The CELA Call for Awards will come out in late October or early November. Be on the lookout!

Upcoming CELA Board Openings and Calls

The official call for CELA Board nominations will be released in the Fall. If you are passionate about serving the community, representing your region, voicing your concerns for your community, volunteering your wisdom and skills, and helping to shape the future of education in landscape architecture nationally and internationally, please consider getting involved with CELA. The CELA board continues to seek diverse representation of educators in landscape architecture. Please note that nominations can be made by individuals from member institutions, and the votes will be counted by each CELA member school. You are encouraged to nominate your colleagues or self-nominate for CELA Board positions.

Upcoming Openings for nominations:

- Student Director Elect
- President Elect
- 2nd VP/Awards
- Vice President of Research & Creative Scholarship
- Region 2 Director
- Region 5 Director
- Region 8 Director
- Region 10 Director

CELA is also seeking one volunteer from the membership to serve as the CELA Rep to the ASLA Licensure Committee. If you are interested, please contact our Executive Director, Teresa Evans-Hunter at executivedirector@thecela.org.

Connect Affiliated Organizations

ECLAS Conference September 10-14. CELA President will join ECLAS Heads of Schools meeting to share the current state and next steps in CELA and make connections.

CLARB Conference September 20-22. CELA President will attend meetings that explore answers to the questions about how we define and defend landscape architecture licensure to an outside audience, what does landscape architecture and the regulation of the profession look like on a global scale, and how we can successfully manage a multi-generational workforce.

IFLA World Congress September 28-30. CELA President will be on the panel with ECLAS President Ellen Fetzer, and Alessandro Martinelli, IFLA Chair of Education & Academic Affairs Committee at the IFLA World Council meeting prior to the start of the congress. We will discuss the commonality of landscape architecture education standards and benefits of converging world standards as well as potential pitfalls.

ASLA Conference October 27-30, register by September 12. Last year under Past-President David Myers's leadership, CELA collaborated with ASLA Education Professional Practice and hosted a panel to share pathways into teaching and academic career for practitioners and students who are interested in contributing to landscape architecture education. This year, I am delighted to share that we are planning to continue the collaboration with ASLA Education PPN, and CELA will have a standing session at ASLA Expo in the coming years. Please plan to stop by the session and join the discussion.

LAF: LAF is now accepting applications for the 2024-25 cohort of the LAF Fellowships for Innovation and Leadership. ***Applications are due September 15.*** You can find more information [HERE](#).

Office Updates

Teresa Evans-Hunter, is the CELA Executive Director since May 2023. She and the CELA staff are an essential part of the organization's work. They are responsible for carrying out the day-to-day operations of CELA and ensuring that the organization is able to achieve its goals. The CELA office and team also:

- Manage the CELA website and social media channels
- Respond to inquiries from members and the public
- Plan and organize CELA events, such as the annual conference
- Administer the CELA budget
- Track and report on CELA's activities

Collaborate and Thanks

As the President of CELA, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with an exceptional team. Our dedicated office staff, who work diligently in their paid roles, have been instrumental in handling essential tasks and ardently supporting our institute's mission. They consistently go above and beyond in their professional capacities to ensure the smooth operation of our organization.

Furthermore, I want to express my wholehearted appreciation to our dedicated Board Members who generously volunteer their time and expertise. Their unwavering commitment to serving on the board and their collective efforts are indispensable in making informed decisions that benefit our members, the institute, and the field of landscape architecture as a whole. At CELA, we firmly believe that no idea is too small to grow into something significant, and no disagreement is insurmountable when it comes to advancing our mission.

I also extend my gratitude to several members who have reached out and shared their passions and genuine concerns regarding the health and sustainability of the profession and the CELA institution. As we navigate the strategic planning process, these insights are invaluable, and together, we will ensure our continued relevance and vigilance. Please be on the lookout and participate in the coming membership surveys that include questions pertaining to strategic planning. Your input plays a pivotal role in our ongoing efforts to enhance our services and effectively serve our community.

Please note that my contact information has changed. Feel free to email me at cvc6428@psu.edu if you have any questions or suggestions.

Chingwen Cheng, Director of Stuckeman School
and Professor of Landscape Architecture, Penn State University CELA
President 2023-2024