

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Donovan, FASLA

How do you put a positive spin on some challenging trends?

I've been thinking about that these past few months... I've got some ideas, and would love to hear yours. But first, we need to identify our challenges as a Chapter - and then determine how we move forward!

THE CHALLENGES

■ For the last few years, **VTASLA's membership numbers have been going down.**

Some loss is understandably due to members leaving the state and reinstating their membership elsewhere, but landscape architects new to Vermont have not been quick to join and replace them. I think we have more practicing landscape architects in Vermont now that are not members of ASLA than we did ten years ago.

■ Another challenge is that the **members that we do have are not as involved in VTASLA as they use to be.**

Last year we had no candidates run for election (!!) for any of the three positions open on the Chapter's Executive Board (EB) - I think that's a first. We have several recently open chairs for active committees that the EB can't fill.

■ In addition, we have had fewer entries to our awards program for the last three awards cycles. Even the free annual holiday party has suffered declining attendance.

ANALYSIS

These trends started when the economy sank in 2008, as our members focused on keeping their jobs or getting projects into the office. VT ASLA, along with numerous other activities and organizations, became secondarily important. We gained momentum during the Chapter's acquisition of professional state licensure and sunset defense- but it's starting to slip.

SO WHAT'S THE POSITIVE SPIN?

(as landscape architects we are problem-solvers, after all!)

The economy in Vermont is doing well. All of the landscape architects I know are busy, so now the apology is that we just don't have enough time to participate in VT ASLA. That's good! Sort of. Now, when things are going well for our profession, is the **time to consider again why you joined ASLA in the first place.** It's time to think again of all the ways that your commitment to VT ASLA can help both you and our profession.

It's time to move Vermont ASLA

↑ **UP**

in the priority list!

This is what we do! Vermont ASLA actively:

- ▶ **advocates for each of you** at the Vermont legislature (See more about that in a related article inside)
- ▶ **publicizes your award-winning work** around Vermont and across the nation
- ▶ **works to make it easier to get your landscape architecture license** in Vermont
- ▶ **helps you meet your continuing education requirements** associated with licenses in other states
- ▶ **brings you fascinating and informative speakers** from around the country
- ▶ **provides opportunities to socialize** with other landscape architects from around the state
- ▶ **keeps you informed of opportunities and potential projects** across Vermont
- ▶ **educates young people about the wonders of our profession** with the hopes that some of them might join us!

Much of this is done these days by an increasingly stretched small group of members. **The Chapter could do so much more, if we had just a few more volunteer efforts from its members!**

We would love to have you join us on the Executive Board. That said, there's no need to run for office, if you don't think you can or want to. But each member can do just a little that will help - **a lot!**

See continued article, page 2

get involved!

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- + **JOIN US** on the Executive Board!
- + **Attend the VT ASLA Advocacy Breakfast** on Tuesday, February 14th at the Statehouse (FREE FOOD!)
- + **Help organize** a single meeting or Chapter presentation.
- + **Provide input** on the next Chapter Awards program.
- + **Provide editing assistance** for the next Chapter newsletter.
- + **Talk to students** (elementary through university age!) for an hour or two about what you do in your profession.
- + **Serve as a liaison to a state or local allied professional organization** to enrich both memberships.
- + **Represent VT ASLA on a State Committee.**

None of these are big commitments of time, but would greatly help the Chapter pursue its mission, goals, objectives, and activities. What are those, you ask? Well, that can be for the next President's Message.

In the meantime, Happy 2017. I hope you all have a great year, and the entire EB looks forward to seeing you more this year! ■

for more info, contact us!
www.vtasla.org | vtasla@gmail.com

Public Places Awards Presentation

Vermont State House, Cedar Creek Room
February 14, 2017

The Jury for the Public Places Awards will be meeting at the end of January to pick the winners in this biennial awards program. Winners will be notified at the beginning of February so that they can plan on attending the awards ceremony on February 14. Governor Phil Scott has been invited to present the awards in the Cedar Creek Room of the Vermont State House.

The Presentation will feature a slide show highlighting the winning places and related projects. Light refreshments will also be served. Many legislators join us for the presentation which helps publicize the importance of our public spaces.

Stay tuned for further details via email soon! ■

ASLA Vermont Chapter | P.O. Box 1844 | Burlington, VT 05402

www.vtasla.org

VERMONT LICENSURE AND CLARB, CLARIFIED

Gail Henderson King, ASLA

The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) administers and scores the Landscape Architect Registration Exam (L.A.R.E.). Landscape architects can have CLARB maintain a Council Record of their education, professional experience, licensure exam results, continuing education credits, and licensure history. CLARB will report exam score results, track continuing education credits, and submit Council Records to licensure boards across the US, Canada and Puerto Rico to help practicing landscape architects easily provide proof of compliance for each state's professional licensure board.

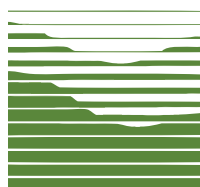
Many states belong to CLARB and this process is easily done. However, Vermont does not belong to CLARB since we don't have a licensure board and the cost is steep compared to the number of landscape architects that are licensed and/or sitting for the licensing exam. In addition, we have a Landscape Architecture Advisory Panel that assists the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) with landscape architecture licensing issues. This has resulted in confusion on how someone wanting a Vermont landscape architecture license submits their L.A.R.E. exam scores from CLARB to the OPR.

Have no fear – CLARB has now been straightened out!
Now you can make a request for your test score results to be sent to Vermont OPR directly on the CLARB website.

When a request like this is received, CLARB contacts the Vermont OPR and sends any necessary documentation through a secure file, electronically. So this should now be a much smoother process for landscape architects requesting licenses in Vermont. We will be working with the Landscape Architecture Advisory Panel and OPR to get an explanatory note on the OPR website. ■



The 2017 Public Places Awards are co-sponsored by:



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SKI DAY

Friday, March 3, 2017
SUGARBUSH RESORT

Group ticket rate: **\$56**

Après ski dinner @ Mad River Barn: \$35-40 (TBD)

Don't let the name fool you: skiers and riders are welcome!

Annual Raffle Prize(s)
(must attend entire event)

Accommodations available through
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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

This is your chance to meet with state senators and representatives!

Vermont ASLA will have info and talking points for the main topic, green infrastructure, as well as additional info if you want to talk about something else. Discussions can be about landscape architecture in general, the values of green infrastructure, and/or other topics that might be on your mind. Alternative energy siting? Small business breaks and opportunities? Getting landscape architects on state projects?

Join us for the entire time, or just stop by!

Montpelier, Vermont
State House Cafeteria
7:30am - 10:00am

02.14.17

Do you have an example of a
green infrastructure project
that you are willing to share?

Contact Jim Donovan at jdonovan@gmavt.net

2017 ASLA PUBLIC AWARENESS SUMMIT

Michael McCormick, Associate ASLA

During the first weekend of the new year, I represented our chapter at the 2017 ASLA Public Awareness Summit in Savannah, GA. Representatives from 47 chapters attended the summit, and participated in brainstorming sessions and small group meetings. The summit focused on improving public awareness and outreach using social media, and planning for successful events during World Landscape Architecture Month, held each April.

Representatives from the Michigan, Mississippi, and California Sierra chapters presented case studies of successful public awareness and outreach events. I will be compiling my notes and sharing them on the VTASLA website. Currently, ASLA facilitates the annual Public Awareness Summit with representatives from each chapter in addition to the national Public Relations and Communication Advisory Committee, which consists of 16 members appointed by the Board of Trustees. Moving forward, ASLA has decided to eliminate this redundancy by disbanding the 16-member committee after the 2017 Annual Meeting and transitioning to a larger advisory committee that will include a representative from every state chapter. This move will ensure broader, more diverse representation among ASLA membership.

Unlike larger chapters, Vermont ASLA does not have a Public Relations committee; however, our social media presence and outreach efforts have increased significantly in the past year, keeping pace with some larger chapters.

We are always looking for worthwhile content to share with our members and the public! As always, please send us information about events, discussions, and projects in your area, and we will consider sharing it on our social media platforms. ■

vtasla@gmail.com | www.vtasla.org



Representatives from the 2017 ASLA PR Summit in Savannah.

VTASLA ADVOCACY BREAKFAST: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Jim Donovan, FASLA

WHAT: Breakfast buffet with state legislators

WHERE: State House Cafeteria, Montpelier

WHEN: February 14, 2017, 7:30am - 10am

WHO: ALL VTASLA members are invited!

Members can come for the whole time or stop in for just a while. This is a chance to meet and talk to senators and representatives, yours in particular. Discussions can be about landscape architecture in general, the values of green infrastructure in particular, and/or other topics that might be on your mind. Alternative energy siting? Small business breaks and opportunities? Getting landscape architects on state projects? All are relevant topics to talk about with legislators.

VTASLA will have info and talking points for the main topic, green infrastructure, as well as additional info that you might need if you want to talk about something else. Discussions are informal, usually standing next to the VTASLA display board, with donut or muffin and a preferred breakfast beverage in hand. In past years, legislators have been very interested in what we have to say.

The legislature is currently wrestling with how to fund water quality cleanup in Vermont. They want to get the most bang for your buck. They have been told by many around the state that green infrastructure is the way to do this, but they lack details on what it is, how it works, and what it might cost. Since planning and designing green infrastructure is part of what many of our landscape architects do, VTASLA has offered to provide some of this information. The legislators that know we will be there with this information are looking forward to what we will be bringing.

*If you or your firm has done **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS** OR if you have **INFORMATION ON GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** that would be good to share with our legislators, **WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION!***

Better yet, we need you! We would like to have graphic examples of green infrastructure. ***If you are willing to share photos, text, costs, reports, or anything else, please contact:***

Jim Donovan at jdonovan@gmavt.net

The legislative breakfast is a fascinating, fun way to spend part of your morning. It gives a small glimpse into the politics and rules of running our state government. The Executive Board hopes that you will all consider stopping by for at least a little while. More information will be coming by email soon! ■

VTASLA PUBLIC OUTREACH: INTEGRATED ARTS ACADEMY

Hannah Loope, ASLA

The VTASLA Chapter continues its efforts to promote community engagement and educating youth about what landscape architects do to provide public outreach and visibility to the Chapter. Volunteers Adam Portz and Hannah Loope from VTASLA and school advocates and parents Anna Thelemarck and Maea Brandt have been collaborating with teachers and neighborhood advocates to create a new master plan for the Integrated Arts Academy (IAA), an arts magnet elementary school located in Burlington's diverse Old North End neighborhood.

Existing pedestrian and vehicular circulation currently conflict with the main service area and playground entrance, accessibility is limited, and the site is heavily compacted with unsafe, outdated play equipment. Drawing from site analysis, input from teachers and school volunteers, and initial student feedback, we worked with IAA's principal Bobby Riley to identify critical needs and opportunities to make the school grounds both a magnet for students and a neighborhood hub.

Based on this input, the volunteer team developed two master plan concepts that identify site improvements, including better circulation, a safe drop off space and improved accessibility, as well as new play equipment to integrate their curricula with the site.

The two concepts and process were presented to the IAA Parent Teacher Organization and community members on December 1, 2016, with great attendance, interest, enthusiasm - and great questions and feedback! The presentation was intended to begin the momentum of the fundraising process, to get the school community excited about the new school grounds potential, and to determine the path forward in making the envisioned school grounds a reality.

Stay tuned for updates on the Integrated Arts project! ■



Adam Portz presenting an IAA master plan concept to the IAA PTO and community.

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