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Why are you a member of ASLA?


Is the reason you remain a member now the same as the reason you originally joined?

I know why I joined ASLA many, many years ago - peer pressure. I also know why I'm still a member today so many, many years later. It is most of those things above and more. I’m usually an all or none type of guy. Once I joined ASLA, I decided I would become more than a passive member. It was one of the best career decisions I’ve ever made. The rewards I gained by becoming actively involved in ASLA at both the chapter and the national level far exceeded the effort I put into it. It also gave me a group of really good friends all over the country.

I continue to reap the benefits of being an active member to this day. OK, yes, it does involve some extra efforts on my part. But it also has given me project openings, teaming invitations, personal growth, immeasurable satisfaction, and new friends every year.

As Chapter President, I have the chance to participate in the ASLA Chapter Presidents’ Council (CPC). At this point, I’ve lost count of the number of times I have attended CPC meetings over the years. I still learn new things at every one, however. I’ve gotten to the point where I’m now probably the oldest CPC participant. That makes it fun, because I get to interact with a dynamic gathering of many outstanding, invigorating, dedicated, energetic, and, yes, younger leaders from other chapters all over the United States. It continually makes me aware of why I remain a member of ASLA.

That brings me back to my original question - why are you a member of ASLA? Think about it. Are your actions with regard to ASLA in step with why you are a member? Are you taking advantage of all that ASLA has to offer you now, rather than when you joined? Are you reaping all of the advantages you can from your membership? Are you getting your money’s worth? Your membership is actually a great bargain, if you take the time to learn and use what it offers. It is even a bigger bargain if you become an active member. Think about it. Why are you a member of ASLA?
This summer the ASLA Government Affairs Committee sent out a Legislative Priorities Survey to members for the 2021-2022 session. The legislative survey helps the committee to focus their advocacy efforts in Washington D.C. to better represent the issues that are important to landscape architects. Government Affairs typically advocates for bills related to Licensure, Transportation, Parks, Water Quality, and Climate. The past several years have seen significant increases in attacks on Licensure Laws in all fifty states and the Government Affairs Committee has advocated to defend licensure for landscape architects.

The Vermont ASLA encouraged all members to complete the survey. Our Chapter had 22 responses or about 50% of our membership. Below are two of the critical questions and results based on the responses of our members.

Q1 Please rank all of the following FEDERAL and STATE policy issues in order of importance to the profession (1 being most important).

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<th>Issue</th>
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<td>Historic preservation</td>
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<td>Small business (Taxes, SBA)</td>
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Q3 What STATE and FEDERAL issues provide the most impact on employment opportunities for landscape architects? (Please select no more than 3.)

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Next week is reVISION ASLA 2020- the virtual annual conference for landscape architects. Originally planned to be in Miami, ASLA determined in July the in-person conference should be cancelled and held virtually. The virtual conference has all the same important learning and lecture opportunities as the in-person version. The lectures are focused on the afternoons of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. There are also additional on-demand lectures as well as celebration events happening this week and next.

reVISION ASLA 2020 is a reimagined, virtual experience for an evolving profession where you will get the opportunity to learn, connect, and celebrate landscape architecture—all from the safety of your own home.

The virtual conference will include

- Up to 25 hours of professional development will be available
- Creative learning environments to reduce the number of times you check your email
- Opportunity to learn from corporate partners about brand new products and technology
- Opportunity to network and share best practices with peers
- Celebrate the profession of landscape architecture

We hope you can join ASLA in this year’s conference and continue to experience the learning and relationship building so important to the annual conference. If you have not registered- it’s still not too late!
The 2020-2021 Vermont Chapter Executive Board terms commence at the end of the reVISION Annual Conference next week. The following is the make up of the board for the upcoming year. Members are always available for comments or questions.

This year the executive board is looking to build involvement on the sub-committees including Membership, Education, Fellowship, Awards, Communications, and Advocacy. As always, please contact us if you’re interested in volunteering at vtasla@gmail.com

Jim Donovan, FASLA
President

Stephen Plunkard, FASLA
Secretary

Thomas Hand, ASLA
President- Elect

Edward Adams, ASLA
Member-at-Large

Gail Henderson-King, ASLA
Board of Trustees

Beau Doucette, ASLA
Member-at-Large

Michael Buscher, ASLA,
Treasurer
The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) announced the selection of Torey Carter-Conneen as its new chief executive officer in August 2020.

"On behalf of the Executive Committee of the American Society of Landscape Architects, we are thrilled to have Torey join us," said ASLA President Wendy Miller, FASLA. "Torey brings to ASLA a wealth of experience in organizational management and strategic planning, a fresh outlook, tremendous energy, and a lifetime of committed advocacy for a more just society. From the climate crisis, to racial injustice, to diversity and inclusion – Torey has the strategic vision necessary to tackle the tough issues facing the Society, the profession, and the entire design industry. Torey is, without a doubt, the creative, innovative, committed leader we need at this moment to move the Society and the profession forward."

Torey has nearly 25 years of experience and expertise in strategic organizational development, tactical implementation, financial stewardship and administrative leadership. He has a proven track record as an innovator and thought leader in the association world, with an aptitude for pioneering strategies to shape organizational priorities, ensure financial stability, and invigorate member recruitment and retention programs.

"At this very important moment in our country and our world, it is essential that we work together to solve our biggest problems – bridging deep, tribal divisions, creating new opportunities and rebuilding a sense of community at a time of fear and isolation. It is going to take innovative and thoughtful solutions to tightly weave the fabric of our society back together. ASLA is an organization with a rich history and significant role to play leading this work, both in the design world and beyond it," said Carter-Conneen. "I’m honored, humbled and incredibly excited to help the Society and the landscape architecture profession forge a new path forward to effectively address the growing challenges of the climate crisis, the urgent need for racial and social justice, and the stark realities and disruption of social norms caused by a global pandemic."

Torey’s executive leadership roles have included Acting President & CEO, Senior Vice President, COO and CFO for companies ranging in size from $7mm to $750mm in annual revenues and staff of nearly four hundred. Torey most recently served as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Prior to his leadership at AILA, Torey was the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Center For American Progress (CAP), COO and later Acting President and CEO at the LGBTQ Victory Fund and Institute, Divisional Controller of MV Transportation – a privately held North American transportation management corporation – and an Auditor at a CPA firm.

Torey is a graduate of the University of Maryland Global Campus where he obtained an M.B.A. with a concentration on global business management and emerging markets. He also holds degrees in economics and accounting from George Mason University. Torey is also a volunteer member of ASAE’s Executive Management Professional Advisory Council and sits on the board of Shepherd’s Table - a community organization in Silver Spring, Maryland, providing food and support to people most in need.

Torey and his husband Mike are fathers to two amazing children, Drew and Aiden."
In 1964 Marshall McLuhan coined the phrase “the medium is the message”. No doubt, he did not envision the advanced technologies in communication that we rely on today, where we seem to care less about the content and more about the medium. In 1969 Lawrence, published RSVP Cycles, which for me, opened the door for a new way of thinking about participatory planning and design. Prior to reading this book, I had the Ayn Rand notion of the Howard Roark designer as portrayed in The Fountainhead. In 1974 I read Lawrence Halprin’s and Jim Burn’s book Taking Part, a Workshop Approach to Collective Creativity. Later in the 1970’s I began taking summer classes at the Creative Problem Solving institute in Buffalo, New York. In 1978, I began introducing state, local governments and private clients to design workshops (charrettes) and creative problem-solving techniques. Workshops were received enthusiastically and soon became the preferred method of engagement statewide. The 1960’s and 1970’s were very tumultuous and transformative times very much like the challenges we face today with the COVID-19 crisis.

As landscape architects, we are professional planners and designers whom, more than ever need to understand that the medium is the message and that engagement is as necessary today as it was 40 years ago. How we improvise and adapt to the changes that have been forced upon us is our new challenge. We have transitioned gradually from drawing to computer aided design and on to totally digital technology. My guess is that we will never return to the methods we used successfully in the past. Do we now need to leapfrog into virtual and augmented reality to engage our clients and the public as quickly as possible in the new medium?

What are, and will be, the most effective tools for garnering broad private and public participation for the planning and design process when we may not be able to gather? Will we have lost the richness of the Socratic debate and mediation? Will we answer our most critical and pressing concerns and questions to Survey Monkey? We are indeed in challenging times, but I am as enthusiastic now as I was in the 1970’s when it comes to finding the most advanced yet acceptable solutions to communicate our ideas and engage the public.

SURVEY
What methods of Public Engagement have you used during the Pandemic?

- Virtual Zoom Calls
- Virtual Charrettes?
- Socially-Distanced Public Meetings
- Drop-in Feedback Poster Boards?

VTASLA CHAPTER AWARDS UPDATE

Thank you to everyone for your patience as we worked to organize and send all the awards submissions to the Alaska Chapter for Jury review. The submission and review process has been delayed by COVID and the Executive Board’s schedule. We are working to announce winner’s and host a virtual awards ceremony sometime in December or January. The Executive Board sincerely apologizes for the delay in confirming the award winner’s. We are also eager to start promoting all the great work that we received to our members and the greater Vermont community.
PARKING DAY GOES VIRTUAL
Annual event promotes virtual concepts.

This year even PARKing Day went virtual proposing conceptual ideas for how to convert a standard city parking space into a small public parklette. The national event took place on September 20th and promoted ideas for how to achieve socially distant public spaces.

In Vermont, Beau Doucette and Reif Larsen submitted 3d renderings that explored some creative ideas for how to create more outdoor park space right downtown. What do you think?

Beau Doucette’s PARKing day concept featuring multiple seating pods.

Reif Larsen submitted this outdoor take on pool- complete with regulation socially distant pool cue.
ASLA OFFERING FREE PDH TO MEMBERS
MONTHLY WEBINARS OFFERED AS CONTINUING EDUCATION

Need Professional Development Hour credits for your license? Each month, ASLA will feature one on-demand webinar at no cost to all current members! Members must register for the Free PDH of the Month and pass the exam during the month it is featured in order to earn professional development hours.

Visit the ASLA Online Learning Center for more information and to sign up- [https://learn.asla.org/asla/](https://learn.asla.org/asla/).

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ASLA STUDENT MEMBERSHIP IS NOW FREE

During the annual Spring Meeting, the ASLA Board of Trustees voted to extend annual membership to all student and international students for free. This change took effect on May 1, 2020 for all members who qualify. Denis Nola, Vice-President of Membership for the Society was excited about the change since it allows more students to access online learning resources, get involved in mentoring programs, and become active members of local state chapters.

As students transition to emerging professionals they are more inclined to stay active and involved with the society. “Bringing all students nationwide into the ranks as members of ASLA allows us to develop a more effective mentorship program, demonstrate the value of ASLA membership, and to help them grow into emerging professionals,” Interested students can find more information out on the ASLA Student Membership Website at https://www.asla.org/lastudents.aspx.

‘VERMONT SOLSTICE’ PRINT STILL AVAILABLE

The Vermont chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects commissioned world-renowned Vermont printmaker Sabra Field in 2005 to create a piece to celebrate the beauty of Vermont’s landscape. Best known for her design of the 1991 Vermont Bicentennial stamp, Sabra Field has been printmaking in Vermont for over 36 years. Her work has been the subject of over 50 special exhibits around the world, and she has received numerous awards for her contributions to the arts and to Vermont culture.

‘Vermont Solstice’ encapsulates the extent of Vermont’s varied geography, from the Connecticut River on the eastern border to Lake Champlain on the west. Set during a snowy winter sunset, the stylized and highly detailed view includes natural landmarks such as Camel’s Hump, as well as the state’s trademark rolling hills and countryside pastures. Field also incorporated signs of humanity’s influence on the land, including highways 89 and 91, and indicates settled areas through the use of small, shimmering lights.

Profits from the sale of this limited-edition, hand-signed print support the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Prints measure 11.5” x 35” and cost $300, plus shipping and handling. Please contact either info@vtasla.org or mike@tjboyle.com to order.

Thank you to Beau Doucette and Elena Juodisius for being new 2020 Full Members!!!
VTASLA CONTINUES SUPPORT OF A+D FILM SERIES
THE VTASLA EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTED THIS PAST SUMMER TO SUPPORT THE ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN FILM SERIES FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

VTASLA is proud to be sponsoring the Architecture + Design Film Series for the second year in a row. The film series is meant to engage, provoke, and inspire the community by exploring the impact and importance of design and beauty in our lives.

The films are released monthly on Wednesdays and run from September through April. The format has been changed to allow the films to be screened from home.

See www.adfilmseries.org for more information, the full schedule and description of films, and to stream the current film.

BILL S220 REQUIRES ENERGY EDUCATION BY LA’S
BILL REQUIRES EDUCATION OF STATES ENERGY GOALS PRIOR TO INITIAL LICENSURE OR RENEWAL.

Signed into law by Governor Scott on October 12, 2020, Bill S220 requires landscape architects among other professionals to received education about the state energy goals. The bill states that each profession needs “to complete an education module regarding the State’s energy goals and how each licensee’s specific profession can further those goals. The education module shall be not more than two hours and shall be required as a condition of initial licensure and each license renewal. The module shall include education on any State or utility incentives relevant to the profession.” VTASLA will continue to follow this legislation and inform members of as more information is available regarding the education requirement.
ASLA CENTER FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN TOP 10 LEED BUILDINGS IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Commercial Property Executive recently issued its list of Top 10 LEED buildings in Washington, D.C. The Center for Landscape Architecture placed number six. The following is from CPE’s August 17, 2020 article.

“Located at 636 Eye St. NW, American Society of Landscape Architects’ headquarters totaling 12,600 square feet, was built in 1995 and completely renovated in 2016 with a focus on maximizing energy efficiency, occupant health and comfort and sustainable design. Architecture firm Gensler and landscape architecture firm Oehme, van Sweden & Associates partnered to build a new center that offers a green roof designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. Water flowing off the roof is captured in a ground-floor, 700-gallon cistern and used to irrigate the outdoor patio space filled with native plants and green walls.

Additionally, ASLA’s office asset includes a rooftop skylight, which distributes natural light and reduces the use of artificial lighting. The property received LEED 2009 Commercial Interiors Platinum certification in April 2019 with 83 points on the scorecard and has been Energy Star certified for many years”

The ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture on Eye Street NW in Washington, D.C. features a green roof on both the ground level entry and building roof.