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Design Awards 2018 Planning Begins
Tracy Morgan Hollingworth, CAE MPA

The photos above show how Mission Boulevard was transformed from a dingy street (inset) to a vibrant streetscape (large photo) through the vision of the landscape architects at Lightfoot Planning Group. The project received a merit award at the 2016 Design Awards.

ASLA Chapter President, Nate Magnusson and Design Awards Co-Chairman, Todd Schechinger invite you to help the Chapter plan for an even bigger and better 2018 design awards competition.

They will hold monthly Design Awards planning meetings in a central location (usually around the UTC area) and will divide the planning into four focused subcommittees – Promotion, Entries, Jury, and Presentations. If you have an interest in any of the subcommittees, send a quick email to ASLASD@sbcglobal.net to help start the planning for the 2018 Design Awards.
It’s easy to get caught up in the daily grind with technology, the news, social media, and all of life’s distractions. But SUMMER IS HERE!!! and what better way to unplug than with a visit to your local park!

I want to encourage you to take your family, friends, and colleagues and explore or find new parks or public spaces this summer. Go experience the spaces and places that make San Diego great! Who knows what you may find. I recently was inspired by a trip to Waterfront Park. On the way there we parked next to Lane Field Park across from the North Embarcadero… It was exciting and inspiring to see so many spaces designed by landscape architects and how each one has something unique to offer.

Another park I had never seen and was happy to explore is Harry Griffen Regional Park in La Mesa. In my first visit I was greeted by cottontail bunnies and a large owl while exploring the native garden. Each of these experiences also reminded me how our ASLA membership, sponsors, and affiliate members collaborate to build our communities. I want to especially thank Ruby Sponsor (T.B. Penick & Sons, Inc.) and our Four Season sponsors (BrightView Landscape Development, Modern Builders Supply, and repro-HAUS) along with all of our sponsors for your support throughout the year! On behalf of our Chapter we are extremely appreciative to be able to work with you to shape our built and natural environments.

We also want to give a big thanks to Amy Minicilli with Anova Furnishings for hosting the 2nd Annual ASLA SD Sketch Crawl. We had over 30 participants, and it was an awesome time learning sketch techniques while exploring downtown San Diego! See photos from the event at right.

I am happy to announce Michael Brennan, Principal Landscape Architect of Carson Douglas (www.CD-LA.com) as our 2017 President-elect. Michael, Mark Steyaert and myself all had a great experience in Washington DC for ASLA’s Advocacy day. See Mark’s article for more info.

I’m already disappointed I will not be attending the 2018 Advocacy day, but we must provide opportunities for our future leaders. Please look out for the 2018 ballot and the open positions for our chapter. We are looking for a strong dynamic person who is ready to be our next president-elect for 2018. Please send us your nominations or step up and serve our chapter, build your professional network, and gain national perspective on our profession.

At left: Mark Steyaert, Michael Brennan, and Nate Magnusson participated in ASLA Advocacy Day in Washington DC on April 27, 2017.
Thank You to our 2017 Sponsors

Thank you to all our 2017 annual sponsors. Without the support of our generous sponsors many of our ASLA SD events, activities, and community outreach programs would not be possible.

Over the past few years our ASLA SD Golf Tournament has been extremely successful. So much so that we have been able to provide multiple Community Grants in a year.

In the upcoming year ASLA SD will provide numerous opportunities for sponsors to interact with our members at social gatherings ensuring a strong relationship between designers and manufacturers.

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The California Native Plant Society - San Diego Chapter (CNPSSD) was awarded the 2017 ASLASD Community Grant for a collaborative native plant renovation project at the Cabrillo National Monument (CNM) Visitor Center. The grant funds were awarded to defray some of the costs associated with the rehab of several dilapidated landscape areas around the visitor center replacing non-native plants with endemic native species. As of May 18 local experts including Greg Ruben of California’s Own Landscape Design, Keith Lombardo, Ph.D., Chief of Natural Resource Management & Science, CNM and Kay Stewart, RLA have kicked off initial onsite planning meetings, collection of field data and have developed a work plan for improving the targeted CNM landscape areas.

With the careful planning of these local experts, the grant monies will be allocated to the preparation of landscape plans, draft revisions, development of a plant list with the CNM propagation team, contracting of appropriate local growers, site preparation, installation, and perpetual maintenance as needed. In addition to the many initial resources required by this project, ID labels and educational signage will be created to enlighten visitors about the importance and beauty of indigenous natural habitats.

The collective vision is that these “living exhibits” will inspire residents to transform their non-native, water-thirsty yards into drought-tolerant, native-wildlife-attracting “nativescapes” gleaning that this method of landscape design and planning can provide vital refugia and ecosystem services within San Diego’s urban communities.

The CNM is located at the southern tip of the Point Loma Peninsula and commemorates the landing of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo at San Diego Bay in 1542. This historic national treasure annually welcomes over one million visitors from around the world. I recently made a trip out to the site and encourage everyone to make the short drive and experience the positive exposure this project is giving to the concept of native ornamental landscape design.

If you know of another great non-profit organization with a project that would benefit from a $5,000 Community Grant please feel free to connect them with the 2018 application and guidelines which can be found on the ASLA-SD website: asla-sandiego.org. We will be accepting applications until August 18, 2017.

2017 Community Grant Update:

CNPS - SD’s “Nativescape” Renovation at Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center

Jennifer Webster, ASLA, SD/ASLA Vice President Community Outreach

July

10 Communications Committee Conference Call, Noon, RSVP to Josef@ktua.com
10 Exec Committee Reports Sent for Board Agenda
12 Stewardship Committee Mtg - 6 pm, 3645 Ruffin Rd., Suite 235, San Diego, 92123 RSVP Michelle Lands lmlandis@studiodwest-land.com
13 Women in the Dirt Movie Night Sponsored by ANOVA at Liberty Station 5:30 – 9 pm, http://evite.me/xcxCvkXuq8
19 HALS Committee Meeting – 5:30 pm, Old Town Living Room, 2541 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, 92110. RSVP JLyndes@coastal-sage.com
20 Exec Committee Mtg – 6 pm (Urban Arena)

August

2 Emerging Professionals Committee - 6-8 pm, 4010 Sorrento Valley Blvd, Suite 200, San Diego, 92126. RSVP to Katie@gmplandarch.com
7 Communications Committee Conference Call, Noon, RSVP to Josef@ktua.com
7 Exec Committee Reports Sent for Board Agenda
9 Stewardship Committee Mtg - 6 pm, 3645 Ruffin Rd., Suite 235, San Diego, CA 92123 RSVP Michelle Lands lmlandis@studiodwest-land.com
16 HALS Committee Meeting – 5:30 pm, Old Town Living Room, 2541 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, 92110. RSVP JLyndes@coastal-sage.com
17 Exec Committee Mtg – 6 pm (Urban Arena)
19 ASLA National Chapter Annual Reports Due

September

1 Newsletter Articles Deadline
11 ASLA 38th Annual Golf Tournament, Maderas Golf Club, 177750 Old Coach Road, Poway, 92064, 11 am Shot Gun, 5 pm Happy Hour and Awards Program, $150 per player and sponsorships available at http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2981681. Contact Nate Magnusson NMagnusson@SchmidtDesign.com or Phil Barnes Phillip@urbanarena.com for sponsorship information.
11 Exec Committee Reports Sent for Board Agenda
12 Communications Committee Conference Call, Noon, RSVP to Josef@ktua.com
13 Stewardship Committee Mtg - 6 pm, 3645 Ruffin Rd., Suite 235, San Diego, 92123 RSVP Michelle Lands lmlandis@studiodwest-land.com
15 PARK-ing Day – Join our organizing committee by contacting Josef Guiterrez at Josef@ktua.com for more information
15 HALS Committee Meeting – 12 Noon, High Dive, 1801 Morena Blvd, San Diego, 92110-3600. RSVP to JLyndes@coastal-sage.com
21 Exec Committee Mtg – 6 pm (Rick Engineering)
I just returned from our Mid-Year Annual Board of Trustees Meeting in Washington DC. Not surprisingly, protests were in the air in our nation’s capital! By chance, the weekend of the meeting coincided with the “Climate Change March” on Washington. An estimated 100,000 (and who counted all those people?) attended in over 90 degree weather (appropriately warm) to protest the current administration’s policies on climate change. Both the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Chapter Presidents (also meeting that day) took a short hiatus to join the march on the Washington Mall.

Speaking of climate change and ASLA’s position on that, ASLA National Executive Vice President Nancy Somerville recently delivered a letter signed by nearly 2,000 landscape architects and allied stakeholders to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt urging him to reconsider recent rollbacks on environmental and climate change policies. Watch the video: https://vimeo.com/218828964

In regards to the Board of Trustee’s meeting itself, here are the highlights:

- ASLA has over the past year, assisted multiple chapters in successfully fending off legislation deregulating the practice of landscape architecture.
- The “Center for Landscape Architecture” (CFLA) (ASLA National’s newly remodeled headquarters) is now open. Staff has moved back in and plans are afoot for the scheduling of events. This will be the new showcase for our profession in Washington DC and is designed to host a variety of activities including lectures and meetings with allied professionals, politicians, and lay-people. To take a browse and view a time-lapse video of the construction, visit the CFLA website. https://www.asla.org/center.aspx
- Rebranding: In conjunction with the development of the Center for Landscape Architecture, ASLA has taken on “re-branding” the profession’s graphic image. A consultant is currently in schematic design for the image and related materials.
- The “i-Advocacy” app has been extremely successful. Over 2,500 landscape architects weighed-in in the first quarter of 2017 contacting national and local political representatives on issues of import.

ANNUAL MEETING

The time has come to think about signing up for the Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, October 20-23!

From our National President, Vaughn Rinner, FASLA: “Come to Los Angeles, that vibrant and diverse urban center! The city is filled with great places and is resonant with the issues we must address in this time of great challenges. This is a time to surround ourselves with our own community of thought and practice, the ASLA, the landscape architecture commons.”

Expect a fantastic annual meeting, rich with people, ideas, and projects that stretch our imaginations, provide needed information, and recharge us for our creative work. A wealth of education sessions, a vital EXPO, PPN meetings for special interests, fabulous tours, and multiple opportunities for fellowship and celebration await you.

For more information and to register online visit https://www.aslameeting.com/. Hope to see you there!
38th Annual
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TOURNAMENT
Maderas Golf Club
17750 Old Coach Road
Poway, California 92064

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ASLA

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Landscape Architecture Gains More Visibility Via Service on Boards and Commissions

Many ASLA Chapter members have served on local Boards and Commissions which help public agency staff understand the value landscape architects bring in developing new public policies concerning water conservation, new building codes impacting landscape design, and climate change initiatives. The process to become appointed to boards and commissions is not difficult since board and commission volunteers come and go throughout the year. Most cities and counties have a page on their website listing both the term expirations for various board members and commissioners and vacancies that become available. Larger cities often give the appointment power to the Mayor, and other cities bring board appointments to the full City Council for a vote of the Mayor and City Council. Be sure to determine who is the appointing authority (Mayor, City Council, Board of Supervisors, or City Clerk) so you will know who to contact to follow up on your appointment application to confirm its receipt.

If you have an interest in joining a municipal board, our Chapter can send a letter of support to the Mayor and City Council or Board of Supervisors for your appointment. We encourage members to let their local City Councilmember or Supervisor (in the district in which you reside) know that you are applying for an appointment so your councilmember can confirm if there are others competing for an appointment and encourage other Councilmembers and Mayors or County Supervisors to support your appointment.

The list of cities and the county board and commission opportunities below are a snapshot of the types of Boards that advise City Councils and municipal staff on planning, design, historic preservation and many other fields where landscape architects can play a role in their cities.

Use the links here to view the Board or Commission responsibilities, appointment vacancies and expirations and the appointment online application or forms for all 18 cities and the County of San Diego websites. This list will also be posted on the ASLA San Diego website.

City of Carlsbad
Process and vacancies - http://www.carlsbadca.gov/cityhall/Clark/meetings/boards/

City of Chula Vista

City of Coronado
Process and vacancies – https://www.coronado.ca.us/government/boards_commissions

City of Del Mar

City of El Cajon

City of Encinitas

City of Escondido

City of Imperial Beach
Process – http://www.imperialbeachca.gov/

City of La Mesa

City of Lemon Grove
Process and vacancies – https://www.lemongrove.ca.gov/departments/city-clerk

City of National City

City of Oceanside
Process – http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/services/comms/default.asp

City of Poway
Process – http://www.poway.org/162/Boards-Committees

City of San Diego


Expiring Terms - https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/expiringterms_2.pdf

San Diego County

City of San Marcos

City of Santee
Process – http://www.ci.santee.ca.us/apply-for/commissions-boards-committees

City of Solana Beach
Process – http://www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us/index.aspx?Sec=E6F6CBF-9AF1-4BBF-8A71-DC1779EE88B8&Type=B_BASIC

City of Vista

Make 2017 the year you provide your city with the expertise they need to develop sound policies and help them learn the value that landscape architects can provide when they roll up their sleeves to serve their communities.
Indemnity Bill SB 496 Approved by the State and Governor Brown
On April 28, 2017, Governor Brown signed SB 496 “Indemnity: Design Professionals” bill sponsored by State Senator Anthony Canella, PE (R – Ceres) establishing reasonable limits on the obligation of design professionals to defend their clients when the contract includes an indemnification clause. The bill was supported by numerous design professional associations including the California Council of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CC/ASLA), the American Institute of Architects California Council (AIACC), the American Council of Engineering Companies California (ACECC), California Geotechnical Engineering Association (CGEAA) and the State Building + Construction Trades Council of California (SBCTCC).

The primary intent of the law is to establish reasonable limits on the obligation for the design professionals to defend their clients, both for most public agencies and private contracts with the exception of State of California agencies. The new law will go into effect on January 1, 2018, so contracts on or after that date will be governed by this legislation.

The extent of the liability will be limited to the share of the defense costs to the design professionals, based on the determined involvement in the issue. The new law states “in no event shall the cost to defend charged to the design professional exceed the design professional’s proportionate share of fault.”

For contracts entered into on or after January 1, 2018, SB 496 amends the California Civil Code 2782.8 and has three major changes:

1. Civil Code 2782.8 now applies to all contracts except those involving State of California agencies.
2. Design professionals can no longer be ultimately obligated to pay the indemnitees’ defense costs beyond their proportionate share of fault.
3. Design professionals may or may not have to pay for the “up-front” duty to defend the indemnitee.

Applicable to most public and private contracts, the law revisions will not apply to the following specific conditions:

• Contracts for design professional services where a project specific general liability policy covers all design professionals for their legal liability.
• A design professional who is a party to a written design-build/ventures agreement.
• Contracts with any agency of the State of California.

The web page for the new legislation is https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB496

MWELO / DWR Update
On January 30, 2017, the initial meeting for a newly formed stakeholder group was convened at Cal Poly Pomona by the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to initiate the process of updating the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) for the upcoming State Green 2020 document. A second meeting was held in Sacramento on April 24, 2017 for the follow up to review and discuss the survey that had been sent out previously to numerous green industry stakeholders. The survey asked a series of questions regarding the previous update to MWELO in 2015 and what concerns and/or issues have risen from that last revision. A broad representation of the green industry was either present or on conference call. Public and private sector design professionals, manufacturers, educators and landscape management/maintenance professionals were all in attendance at these two initial meetings.

The later portion of the second meeting was to identify and set up specific sub-committees and sign up opportunities for the attendees who wanted to volunteer to participate in moving these specific topics forward. These groups include Codes and Standards Applicability, Education, Existing Landscapes, Landscape Plans, Planning, and Water Budget and Technical Standards.

With the 2015 MWELO update having been pushed through in an expedited fashion in response to the prolonged drought, and the mandate by Governor Brown to achieve a mandatory 20% use reduction, it was acknowledged by DWR Staff that it was not the ideal scenario and process for the update. On an ongoing basis, this effort will continue as this stakeholder group revisits that version and works toward revising the specifics that need to be addressed and updated.

CCASLA will maintain our involvement in the process and keep membership apprised of the process and revisions being contemplated.

Emerging Professionals Committee
Full Speed Ahead
Katie Aalund, ASLA
Emerging Professionals Committee Chair

The last few months have been a whirlwind of activity for this chapter’s emerging professionals group! The Meet the Fellows event was a huge success. A huge shout out goes to Thompson Building Materials for their generous donations of venue and refreshments! It was a great evening with Fellows from diverse professional backgrounds. ASLA, APA, AIA, and ASCE were all represented, and the stimulating discussion ranged from the new plans for Qualcomm Stadium, to the importance of hybridization of our professions and how all of us, as design oriented problem solvers, are perfectly poised to tackle the next swing of the economy (if/when it comes). We can’t thank the Fellows enough for their time and contributions to the event; it certainly wouldn’t have been a success without them!

Later in May the Emerging Professionals were able to take a lunch tour of Village Nurseries. Suzie Wiest shared her knowledge and expertise on new and upcoming plants, taught us about various combinations of plants and how to use them in design (animal attractants, natives, lush shade plants, etc.), and gave us a glimpse of the beautiful specimen plants on display in their walk-through garden.

Lastly the bi-monthly Emerging Professionals meetings have had great turnouts. We have also started study groups for the LARE, which have been very well received. Please stay tuned to all the exciting upcoming events by visiting the EP webpage at http://www.asla-sandiego.org/emerging-professionals/. Don’t forget to RSVP for our bi-monthly EP meetings by emailing Katie Aalund (Katie@gmplandarch.com)! I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!
An Interview with Mike Nichols
Rich Risner, ASLA, Grounded Modern Landscape Architecture

Q: What is your position with the City?
I was first elected in 2006, and I am currently serving my third term as the City’s Mayor, and in my 11th year on the City Council. During my time on the Council, I also have served as the City’s representative on a variety of other boards and committees, including: SANDAG, North County Transit District, Regional Solid Waste Association, and the League of California Cities.

Q: As a LA what inspired you to get involved in local politics?
I did not start out looking to enter local politics. I was only looking for a way to volunteer in my community and ended up serving on the City’s Parks and Recreation Commission. It was 2002, and the City was beginning to discuss some significant public improvement projects—the Coastal Rail Trail, Fletcher Cove Park and Highway 101 Redevelopment. As a Landscape Architect and a resident of Solana Beach, I was interested in becoming involved to help positively shape these, and many other projects in my community. While on the Commission, I volunteered time to help redesign the Coastal Rail Trail to better reflect the community’s character, received grants to construct Community Gardens and developed the City’s first annual “Beach Blanket Movie Night” program (that still exists today). Many long-time residents took notice of my involvement and asked me to run for City Council. So, it wasn’t my goal to end up on the Council, it just was a result of becoming involved as a Landscape Architect to help better the community.

Q: Why is it important for LAs to participate in local politics?
As Landscape Architects, I truly believe we are uniquely trained and distinctly educated to see the world through a different lens than most people. We are problem-solvers, we look for opportunities to improve the lives of others and the environment through our work, we are also creative and innovative (able to think “outside the box”), which is something that is desperately needed in politics these days. We are also good listeners, natural consensus builders and leaders, which also comes in handy when participating in local politics. Having more Landscape Architects participate in local politics is extremely important for these reasons, to influence public policy and the decision making process. But equally important, all Landscape Architects who become involved with public service, speak at public hearings, write letters to their elected representatives, or simply volunteer at community events advance the awareness and standing of our profession as stewards of the environment.

Q: What community groups should LAs engage in?
All of them. The most obvious groups for Landscape Architects to engage in are directly related to our professional expertise, such as community design, planning, public arts, zoning, or parks and recreation commissions. But having personally been on numerous boards or committees through my service on the City Council, you’d be surprised how our experience as Landscape Architects can translate and be beneficial in service on a variety of different types of boards or organizations. Managing projects, developing proposals, creating budgets and analyzing reports are just a few examples of how a Landscape Architect’s “non-design” experience can help gain you a seat at the table with any group, and who knows where it may lead...the important part is to become involved and use your voice as a Landscape Architect any way you can.

Q: What effect and expertise can an LA make by participating in their local politics?
First, you don’t have to serve on a committee or be an elected official to make a difference or be an advocate - it is just important that more Landscape Architects become involved with local politics and speak up! Our profession has a tremendous amount of influence and a strong voice on issues related to the built and natural environment, we need to share that expertise with others. We are experts in our field, and most, if not all, decision makers need to hear from us on a regular basis to provide input on the development of public policy, review of proposed projects, preservation of open space, and management of our natural resources. So, attend a meeting, speak up on local issues, share your vision for a local project, advocate on behalf of our profession. Just participate. Like many others, I’ve experienced the effects first-hand of becoming involved in local politics as a Landscape Architect, and it’s extremely rewarding and satisfying when you can use your knowledge, skills and abilities to make a difference in your community and also promote the merits of your profession.

Save the Date: September 11
ASLA Annual Golf Tournament
Mark your calendar to join us for the ASLA 38th Annual Golf Tournament at Maderas Golf Club, 17775 Old Coach Road, Poway, 92064, on Monday, September 11. There will be an 11 am Shotgun, 5 pm Happy Hour and Awards Program. Look for the registration form in this issue or visit http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2981681 to register.

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As I lead off this quarter’s newsletter article, I would like to express my gratitude to Jackie Higgins for leading the Stewardship Committee for a number of years. During that time she has led the Committee in hosting events that have helped us all continue to grow as professionals. We will miss her presence, but know that she will continue to be an asset to ASLA SD through her work with the HALS committee and by adding her historic preservation expertise to the Balboa Park Conservancy team.

I am honored to have been asked to lead this wonderful committee, and am also happy to return to a role in something I was involved with at the onset. Thank you to Marian Marum for her longstanding commitment to the Stewardship Committee—through her hard work in founding it and for her continued commitment to keeping it connected to other disciplines and educational opportunities.

The committee is planning a number of events that we hope will bring us back to one of our founding principles in providing educational opportunities for our general membership to stay ahead of the curve on planning issues that are coming down the line.

Our first event will be sponsored by Village Nursery and will include a variety of speakers including Mr. Brian Kempf of the Urban Tree Foundation. UTF is dedicated to promoting and preserving the urban forest through education, planting and tree care. In collaboration with public and private agencies, UTF assists communities in becoming active partners in the planting and maintenance of the urban forest. Mr. Kempf will speak about tree propagation practices (especially issues related to central leaders vs. non-central leaders); more choices regarding reliable-growing low-water plant species to help us all meet the new Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) requirements; and identification techniques and treatment resources to combat some of the newest pests threatening our regional trees. We expect this event to be held this summer, and are in the process of working out a date with our speakers and the venue. Go to our website calendar and watch for our e-news broadcasts for more information.

The Stewardship Committee will also be hosting an event in conjunction with American Planning Association (APA) related to “Green Streets” planning. This event will feature leading planners and landscape architects of the region, who will guide us through how some of the newer planning principles, like successful stormwater management, can be integrated beautifully into our urban street scenes. Last, but not least, we are planning a climate change round table meeting with some of our local regional planners and stakeholders. This event’s goals include staying ahead of the planning curve and being a resource to those who are leading the region in planning for climate change, especially to understand the value of green-infrastructure.

If you have thought about being more involved in ASLA SD and these topics engage you, feel free to join this wonderful committee and help us plan and host these types of events that will benefit our local membership and the region. Feel free to contact me at mlandis@studiowest-land.com if you would like to become involved with the Stewardship Committee.
Vision
A world where the built and natural environments coexist in harmony and sustainable balance; where all peoples can express their diverse heritage and their individual desires to grow and thrive; and where we, as a profession, can substantially contribute to the process of achieving these ends.

Mission
To lead, to educate and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environments.

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