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DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



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## 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.



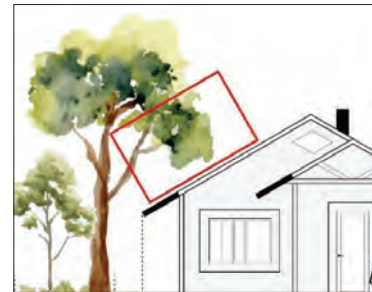
**4**  
**President's  
Message**  
BRAD LENTS, ASLA



**6**  
**ASLA Kicks Off 2026  
A Year of Connection  
and Engagement**  
ANNE-EMILIE GOLD, ASLA  
JOE DODD, ASLA



**9**  
**Advancing  
Climate & Biodi-  
versity Action in  
San Diego**  
ASHLIE ZINN, ASLA  
STEPHANIE GREEN, ASLA



**22**  
**Summary of  
Draft Zone 0  
Regulations**  
BOARD OF FORESTRY &  
FIRE PROTECTION

TRUSTEE UPDATE..... [12](#)  
POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CTE EDUCATION ... [14](#)  
EMERGING PROFESSIONALS UPDATE ..... [16](#)  
CCASLA UPDATE..... [19](#)  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE ..... [23](#)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE/ANNIVERSARIES ..... [24](#)  
ASLASD UPCOMING EVENTS..... [26](#)  
HALS CHALLENGE ..... [28](#)  
ASLASD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & CHAIRS..... [29](#)  
SPONSORS ..... [30](#)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**BRAD LENTS, ASLA**  
PRESIDENT

## HAPPY WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH!

It's hard to believe April is already here. As you may have noticed, we've kicked off our annual Instagram takeover, where local landscape architects, firms, and sponsors are showcasing their work throughout the month. We encourage you to help amplify awareness of our profession by sharing your own projects and perspectives—be sure to use #WLAM2026 and tag American Society of Landscape Architects in your posts.

We also had a fantastic turnout at our **ASLA San Diego Kickoff Event on March 13**, generously sponsored by Dave Bang and Associates. Thank you to all our members and sponsors who joined us. The Executive Board has been actively planning a full calendar of events and programs for the year—be sure to check out what's coming up on our website.

If you're interested in **sponsoring an event** or have ideas for future programming, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to our Executive Director, Amy Conrad ([aslasd@asla-sandiego.org](mailto:aslasd@asla-sandiego.org) | 619-733-6538).

We are also currently seeking volunteers to serve on committees and will soon begin accepting nominations for next year's Board of Directors. Getting involved is a great way to connect with peers and help shape the future of our chapter—please contact Amy if you'd like to learn more.

Looking ahead, we're excited for the upcoming **ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, taking place September 16–18 in Los Angeles**. Registration opens in late April, and active ASLA members receive a significant discount. If you're not currently a member and plan to attend, there's still time to join before early bird registration closes on June 15.

Thank you for your continued membership and sponsorship support of the ASLA San Diego Chapter. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

**Brad Lents**

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# ASLA SAN DIEGO **KICKS OFF 2026** A YEAR OF **CONNECTION** AND **ENGAGEMENT**



ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**Anne-Emilie Gold, ASLA**  
VP SOCIAL PROGRAMS CO-CHAIR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**Joe Dodd, ASLA**  
VP SOCIAL PROGRAMS CO-CHAIR



ASLA San Diego, in partnership with [Dave Bang Associates](#), launched the year with a well-attended Kickoff event that brought together members, partners, and new faces from across the landscape architecture community. The evening set a strong tone for the year ahead, with a focus on connection, fun, collaboration, and the continued growth of our chapter.

As we look ahead, the 2026 calendar reflects that same energy, with a mix of educational programming, advocacy, and social events designed to support both professional development and community building.

This spring, attend our [Landscape Architecture Firm Open House and Happy Hour](#) for a chance to step inside [Spurlock Landscape Architects](#) and [LPA Design Studios](#), meet fellow professionals, and gain insight into the work and culture of each firm, followed by drinks and bites generously hosted by [Tournesol](#). In May, you will also have an opportunity to join us for a nature walk at the San Dieguito Lagoon.

**Throughout the summer, we will continue to host a range of networking opportunities**, including collaborative industry mixers and creative ateliers with our annual Sketch Crawl, a photography workshop, a tour of East Village Green with a happy hour at [KTUA](#), as well as our biannual Design Awards event. Those are valuable opportunities to strengthen connections within our chapter and across allied professions before many of us gather at the [ASLA National Conference](#) in Los Angeles.

**In the fall, programming will include the very popular Golf Tournament**, before we close out the year with our annual Holiday Event, a cornerstone gathering that celebrates the accomplishments of our members and volunteers.

With this dynamic lineup of events, ASLA San Diego is poised for another impactful and engaging year. We look forward to seeing you as we continue to learn, connect, and shape the future of landscape architecture together. [Check out our website](#) for more information on all our upcoming events!

If you are interested in sponsoring one of our events, please contact Amy Conrad, Executive Director at [aslasd@asla-sandiego.org](mailto:aslasd@asla-sandiego.org) or 619-733-6538.



[VIEW MORE PHOTOS ON ASLASD WEBSITE](#)



**Anthony Kenaston**  
Business Development Manager  
[anthony@davebang.com](mailto:anthony@davebang.com)

**Dave Bang and Association, Inc.** was proud to host the ASLA San Diego chapter Kick Off on March 17 at Punch Bowl in downtown San Diego. Thank you all for coming together for this exciting event! It was great to see so many of you in one place. I'm always motivated to do more after being around such an amazing group of people. A huge shoutout to the current ASLA San Diego board for your constant support. Let's make 2026 amazing!



# ADVANCING CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION IN SAN DIEGO



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Ashlie Zinn, ASLA**

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Stephanie Green, ASLA**

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

This spring, momentum is building across the American Society of Landscape Architects as national and chapter leaders align around a shared goal: integrating climate action and biodiversity into everyday practice. For San Diego practitioners, this presents both an opportunity and a call to action.

## A Unified Direction: Climate and Biodiversity

At the national level, ASLA has expanded its focus to treat climate and biodiversity as closely connected priorities. The latest [Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan](#) emphasizes solutions that address carbon, ecology, and community resilience at the same time.

For our region, this approach is especially relevant. San Diego's coastal ecosystems, wildfire risks, water limitations, and urban habitat fragmentation all require integrated solutions. Projects that deliver both climate and

biodiversity benefits are quickly becoming the expectation across the profession.

The ASLA San Diego Chapter's Climate and Biodiversity Action Committee is seeking members with a passion for and/or expertise in biodiversity to join our efforts. If you are interested, or would like to recommend a colleague, please reach out to co-chairs [Ashlie Zinn](#) or [Stephanie Green](#).

## What This Means for Your Practice

The national ASLA Climate & Biodiversity Action Network have pointed to several practical strategies that apply directly to local work:

- ✓ **Focus on a few high-impact actions** rather than trying to tackle everything at once. To support this, ASLA has developed practical tools to help members begin planning their climate and biodiversity work this year. These include:
  - » A [Google Sheets template](#) that organizes all Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan items into an easy-to-use, accessible format. Use the template to identify a few achievable steps for the year.

- » A [“Mapping the Climate–Biodiversity Connection” worksheet](#), which guides a simple discussion exercise to help integrate these priorities into project work, client conversations, and internal goal setting
- ✓ **Build a deeper understanding** of local ecology. Translating national goals into meaningful outcomes depends on knowledge of our specific ecoregions.
- ✓ **Strengthen connections** between climate and biodiversity. Expand climate-focused efforts to include biodiversity as a core component.
- ✓ **Connect design decisions to science.** There is increasing emphasis on measurable outcomes and alignment with ecological research.

## Elevating the Profession Through Advocacy

The San Diego ASLA Climate and Biodiversity Action Committee is inviting members to nominate local projects for a potential chapter site tour for Site Tour Month this August. As the American Society of Landscape Architects continues to emphasize site tours as a key advocacy tool, this is a valuable opportunity to showcase work that demonstrates climate resilience, biodiversity, and community impact across our region.

If you have a project with a strong story, we encourage you to submit it and help highlight the value of landscape architecture to policymakers, media, and the broader public.

Site tours are a powerful way to:

- ✓ Demonstrate the real-world impact of landscape architecture
- ✓ Build relationships with policymakers and decision-makers
- ✓ Communicate the role of design in addressing climate and community challenges

In San Diego, strong candidates may include projects focused on mobility, green infrastructure, or habitat restoration. This year’s national focus on active transportation adds particular relevance, as funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure faces uncertainty at the federal level.

Bringing people to these projects creates a direct, memorable experience that clearly communicates the impact of our work.

## Get Involved: Spring Climate and Biodiversity Events

There are many opportunities this spring to engage locally:

**April 16, May 21, & June 18:** [“Community of Practice for Schoolyard Forests”](#) Webinar Series, Green Schoolyards America

**April 18 at 9 AM:** [Earth Day Extravaganza at Chollas Creekside Park](#), The Urban Collaborative Project & Euclid Corridor Community Stewards

**April 26 at 2 PM:** [Native Plant Garden Tour in Oceanside](#), Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association and Buena Vista Audubon Society

**May 7:** [UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenge’s Wildfire Research Symposium](#)

May 27–28: [California Green Building Conference 2026](#),  
USGBC-CA

Ongoing opportunities include the [Tree San Diego](#) programs, [Surfrider San Diego](#) events, and nature walks with the [Lakeside River Park Conservancy](#).

Please feel free to send any events you'd like highlighted to the Climate and Biodiversity Action Committee co-chairs for inclusion in future communications to San Diego ASLA Chapter members.

## Looking Ahead

The role of landscape architects continues to grow in visibility and importance. As climate challenges intensify and biodiversity loss continues, San Diego practitioners are in a strong position to lead through design and collaboration.

This season, consider sharing your work during World Landscape Architecture Month in April, participating in local events, or advancing one or two climate and biodiversity strategies in your projects.

Small, focused actions taken together can create meaningful change.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Jon Wreschinsky, PLA, ASLA**

CHAPTER TRUSTEE

"There comes a time in every man's life, and I've had many of them."

- Casey (Charles Dillon) Stengel, 1890-1975

I ask you to please bear with me for a moment. At this time, I find myself with too many thoughts to write the typical newsletter article, the kind where I would usually share the information I believe everyone is interested in. This is often how I interpret the updates and reports we receive from ASLA headquarters. While there is no doubt that this information is valuable, I sometimes question whether it addresses what truly matters. To me, the most important thing is what each of us seeks in our professional and personal lives, and how we engage and interact within our communities.

## Reflections on Personal Values and Choices

Throughout my life, I have often found myself questioning the decisions I have made. I continue to reflect on whether I have remained true to myself and my intentions. There have been moments when I faced a choice—between staying loyal to my values or setting them aside in order to go along with the crowd. I believe many of us have experienced these situations, where we must decide whether to follow our convictions or simply conform. These instances challenge us to examine what matters most and encourage us to strive for authenticity in both our professional and personal lives.

## ASLA Takes Stand on Kennedy Center Project

In case you have not heard, ASLA has recently joined a coalition of design and historic preservation organizations to sue the Trump Administration. The goal of this legal action is to ensure that any proposed work on the (Trump) Kennedy Center will comply with established federal standards and laws. This represents a significant move for ASLA, which, in my view, has typically been overly cautious about taking public stands on issues that impact our communities. While I am not suggesting that this decision is wrong or unappreciated by our organization's membership, I do wonder why it took so long for ASLA to take such decisive action. I admit that I may be wrong assuming that ASLA is overly cautious when it comes to espousing an opinion on any number of issues. This is not without recognizing that there are many opinions and beliefs amongst ASLA members.

## The Importance of Open Dialogue and Community Building

As your Chapter Trustee, I find myself reflecting on whether my perspectives and perceptions truly serve the best interests of our Chapter. My commitment to open dialogue and transparency has always been central to how I approach setting priorities, make decisions, and hopefully, represent your interests as well. These values have shaped my experiences working alongside many of you in our efforts

---

to build a successful chapter. I believe that maintaining this attitude is essential for our continued growth and for sustaining the community from which we all benefit.

## Upcoming Legislative Engagement Opportunity

ASLA members will soon have a valuable chance to make their voices heard on critical issues impacting the profession. On May 5th, ASLA will distribute the bi-Annual Federal and State Legislative Priorities Survey. This survey provides an important platform for each of us to communicate the priorities that directly affect our practices and to share insights on how ASLA can best support our efforts moving forward.

As we witness a decline in many federal programs that have historically provided essential support, it becomes increasingly vital to participate in this survey. By taking the time to respond thoughtfully, we help ensure that ASLA understands the challenges facing our field and can advocate effectively on our behalf. Additionally, prompt action is required when ASLA asks us to reach out to our elected representatives (iAdvocate). Our engagement is crucial for safeguarding the programs upon which we rely, and for reinforcing the collective voice of landscape architects in the policymaking process.

## Facing Professional Challenges Together

Our profession continues to face a wide range of challenges, not only here in California but also across the country. In navigating these complexities, I encourage everyone to view our chapter as a vital resource—a place where you can find support, share ideas, and coordinate your activities with fellow members. Together, we can help each other meet the demands of our field and strengthen our collective voice.

As you read this message, I hope this brief departure from my typical updates encourages you to reflect on your own motivations for choosing this career. Consider how your daily thoughts and actions reflect the values that guide you. By focusing on what truly matters to each of us and by supporting one another, we reaffirm the principles that unite our community and shape our profession.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

**Jon S. Wreschinsky, FASLA**

**619-916-6956**

# POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT **CTE EDUCATION**

StudioWC and DLR Group have had the privilege of collaborating with Poway Unified School District's Westview High School Instructor Mike Kurth on a new CTE (Career Technical Education) Architecture and Engineering course. From its inception, the course was built in partnership with industry professionals. Six months were spent collaborating with architects, landscape architects, and civil engineers over Zoom to understand how industry professionals approach problems and design solutions with curriculum concepts rooted in course content. This approach ensured that the curriculum is grounded in real-world practice, with industry partners effectively helping shape the direction and expectations of the course considering what needed to be taught conceptually as well as grounding the design in the real world.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Trista Garcia-Silvia, ASLA**

VP COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY

The course engages students through a semester-long, site-specific design project on the Westview High School campus, providing a unique opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges. The course emphasizes ongoing collaboration and dialogue between students and professionals as students work on smaller elements of the overall project building in complexity with each project milestone. This level of authentic dialogue elevates the experience beyond typical classroom activities.

Throughout the semester, industry professionals such as landscape architects offer guidance, critique, and feedback to the students as their designs evolve. ASLA San Diego board members Phil Armstrong, PLA, GroundLevel Landscape Architecture, Jon Wreschinsky Adjunct Professor of Landscape Architecture at Cuyamaca college and

**TO SUPPORT THE DESIGN PROCESS, STUDENTS ARE INTRODUCED TO PROFESSIONAL-  
GRADE RESOURCES AND WORKFLOWS, INCLUDING SURVEY DATA, TOPOGRAPHIC  
MAPPING, DESIGN DOCUMENTS, AND REAL-WORLD ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL  
STANDARDS.**

myself, Trista Garcia Silvia, Studio WC, Landscape Designer/ Construction Manager, are just a few of the eight professional collaborators for the students at Westview High School.

To support the design process, students are introduced to professional-grade resources and workflows, including survey data, topographic mapping, design documents, and real-world engineering and architectural standards. Students analyze topographic data provided by ATC Design Group and develop solutions that respond to the site's natural conditions. Students create scaled physical models using CADFusion and 3D printing to study the terrain and refine their designs. The project elements include a footbridge, observation platform, walkways, and retentive structures in an open space area within the high school campus. Students also evaluate drainage and water flow to thoughtfully integrate circulation and environmental systems across the site.

Because students develop foundational skills early, they are able to engage in meaningful, technical conversations with mentors (such as landscape architects from ASLA San Diego), using shared industry language and professional tools. This preparation and the feedback from the mentors provide students with practical insight and help guide the development of thoughtful, technically informed design solutions. The "Project Westview" design challenges resonate in ways that traditional instruction cannot, reinforcing the value of connecting education directly to industry.



# EMERGING PROFESSIONALS UPDATE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**Gwen Stark, ASLA**  
EMERGING PROFESSIONALS CO-CHAIR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**Fernanda Suarez, ASLA**  
EMERGING PROFESSIONALS CO-CHAIR

## Hello Emerging Professionals!

Our recent **Botanical Building site visit** was a great success, thanks to everyone that participated! It was great to learn more about the Phase 2 design and construction process while connecting with others in the field.

Big thanks to the **Forever Balboa Team** and the Brightview Team for leading the tour. Thank you to [Brightview Landscape](#) for hosting the happy hour. We really appreciate it!

Following the upcoming round of LARE exams, we will be starting our **LARE study groups** again in mid-May. Over the past few years, these study groups have been very helpful in creating a community of peers to share useful study resources and methods for the LARE exams which can be very intimidating to get started on. Meetings will take place twice a week: virtually on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings in person.





We are also excited to announce an upcoming **Meet the Fellows event this summer**. More details to come soon, but we hope to see all of you there. This will be a great opportunity to meet other emerging professionals and fellows from our San Diego chapter.

Good luck to all our members taking the LARE exam this April!

If you are interested in participating in these study groups or have any questions regarding EPC, please contact Fernanda Suarez ([fsuarez@migcom.com](mailto:fsuarez@migcom.com)) or Gwen Stark ([gwen@ktua.com](mailto:gwen@ktua.com)).

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## SAVE THE DATE!

# 2026 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT MADERAS GOLF CLUB OCTOBER 26, 2026

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**Phil Armstrong**  
CCASLAABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**Rich Risner**  
CCASLA

## A lot has been happening with CCASLA and our legislative bill watch.

Most notably is our legislative pursuit regarding Zone Zero issues. The outcome on AB 3074 specifically addressing the Zone Zero regulation will ultimately be put forth for the Board of Forestry (BOF) and CalFire to address. Although as the insurance industry has pushed for a blanket regulation for all of California, CCASLA is arguing & suggesting discretionary regional use of the Zone Zero language. This will give jurisdictions throughout California the flexibility to adjust the meaning and regulations of Zone Zero within their area. Unfortunately our local municipalities are moving forward in a vacuum with this rule being adopted, certainly San Diego has adopted a pretty draconian approach – no vegetation in Zone Zero, period. So, from a legislative standpoint what trumps what? Especially if the municipal rule is more restrictive?

We expect more to come from this, the CCASLA and the ASLA San Diego chapter will try to keep our practitioners informed and updated as the State and Local regulations start to tighten up. A future ASLA SD learning meeting/seminar may be on the agenda to help explain and/or help one navigate through these new imposed rules.

Below are a short list and short brief regarding just some of the other legislative bills we are currently tracking that may have an impact on our profession.

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**AB 2106** - Patel. This is a process for architects, engineers and surveyors who are getting sued the plaintiff must come up with a certificate of merit – a review by a practitioner. The lawsuit should continue. The purpose is to help the courts make an informed decision early about whether a lawsuit is frivolous or not and then move forward accordingly. This Bill adds landscape architects to the statute and provides some quality control. We supported this previously and should be added to the bill. We will get with ACEC and get info that we can use for a letter and move accordingly.

**AB 1796** - Jackson. This creates licensure for interior designers and puts them under CAB and would give them a member of the Board. This has come up in the past – two years ago during our sunset fight. There is a split in the interior design community. This Bill is sponsored by the International Interior Design Association Northern California. Not all interior designers want a license. Some just want to keep doing what they are doing without a license.

**AB 2143** - Existing law designates the Department of Food and Agriculture as the lead department in noxious weed management and requires the department, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, to implement provisions relating to noxious weed management. Existing law prohibits a person from selling, distributing, or transporting into, or within, a weed-free area any seed of a noxious weed that the Secretary of Food and Agriculture has declared the area to be practically free from. Under existing law, a violation of certain provisions relating to plant quarantine and pest control is a misdemeanor. This bill would prohibit an online marketplace, as defined, from accepting payment for a noxious weed for delivery to an address located in the state. By expanding the scope of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other existing laws.

**SB1107** - The Field Act requires the Department of General Services under the police power of the state to supervise the design and construction of any school building or the reconstruction or alteration of or addition to any school building, if not exempted, to ensure that plans and specifications comply with adopted rules and regulations and

building standards published in regulations, and to ensure that the work of construction is performed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications for the protection of life and property. The California Building Standards Code requires that specified buildings, structures, and facilities be accessible to, and useable by, persons with disabilities, including that when alterations or additions are made to existing buildings or facilities, an accessible path of travel to the specific area of alteration or addition is provided. Existing law limits the cost of complying with the requirement to provide an accessible path of travel to the installation of a free-standing, open-sided shade structure project that meets specified requirements and that is on a school district, county office of education, charter school, or community college campus to 20% of the adjusted construction cost, as defined, of the shade structure project. This bill would additionally limit the cost of complying with the requirement to provide an accessible path of travel to the installation of a shade structure integrated with playground equipment that meets specified requirements and that is on a school district, county office of education, charter school, or community college campus to 20% of the adjusted construction cost, as defined, of the shade structure project. This bill contains other existing laws.

**SB1091** - Was signed by Governor Newsom on September 29th, 2024, and effective January 1, 2025, adds section 17672 to the Education Code (DSA BU 24-03). The bill limits the cost of complying with the requirement to provide path of travel improvements to 20 percent on a qualifying green schoolyard project on a K-12 school district, county office of education, or charter school project that is approved by the Division of

the State Architect (DSA) on or before December 31, 2030. Projects intending to utilize SB 1091 as a basis to limit path of travel improvements must be designed to improve community ecological health and climate resilience, or pupil well-being, learning, or pupil play, and incorporate nature.

CCASLA and our LATC have both reached out to DSA regarding both **SB1107** and **SB1091** specifically regarding the regulation of whom is listed as the project's profession of "Responsible Charge". Currently only an Architect or Structural Engineer is allowed to provide the stamped plans. These prepared documents would most likely be produced by a qualified Landscape Architect as the stipulations of the bill suggest.

The California Architects Board (CAB) seems to no longer be interested in a merged board. There are many landscape architects that would like to see this merged board happen – although there are many pros and cons to this if this is brought forth. This issue is causing some angst among the LATC and CAB board members.

The last agenda item is that a CA legislator recently asked our Lobbyist the question if our professional practice act does anything that actually protects the health, safety and welfare of the public. Luckily our lobbyist quickly pushed back and provided specific excerpts from our CA Business & Professions Code Section 5615, and our CLARB Model Practice Act. Our Lobbyist suggests that CCASLA and LATC may need to get together to review and provide additional verbiage to help strengthen our practice act.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**ASLA 2026**

**ACTION!**

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# SUMMARY OF DRAFT ZONE 0 REGULATIONS

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

California is experiencing a wildfire crisis and its leaders, legislators, and the Governor have responded accordingly to protect homes, lives, and communities. In recent years, state leaders have launched a series of actions and investments to confront this reality head-on. Through emergency action to fast-track nearly 400 wildfire resilience projects, billions in investments for wildfire prevention and protection, and giving communities the tools to be ready for when the next catastrophic wildfire starts, **California is taking action to protect communities, keep wildfires from growing larger and more destructive, and supporting our firefighters and first responders.**

Now, one more critical tool is being added to this list of wildfire defense. Following the devastating Los Angeles fires in January 2025, state leadership tasked the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection with strengthening defensible space standards by focusing on a new area, called Zone 0, that includes the first five feet around homes and structures.



Research, fire science, and experience shows that this is the most critical area for protecting your home, your neighbors' homes, and the community around you. It's where wind-blown embers are most likely to land, and where homes are most vulnerable to ignition.

---

**More specifically, Assembly Bill 3074 (2020), Senate Bill 504 (2024), Assembly Bill 1455 (2025), and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-18-25 directed the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop new defensible space regulations for Zone 0 in certain fireprone areas of the state.**

---

Over the past year, the Board has conducted extensive outreach, including nearly a dozen public workshops, numerous site visits and walking tours, research and academic reviews, and on-the-ground engagement with homeowners, fire professionals, environmental groups, and local governments in their neighborhoods.

[READ MORE ABOUT ZONE 0 REGULATIONS](#)

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Difan Chen, ASLA**

VP COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On Saturday, April 18, I was honored to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for **Vista La Mesa Pollinator Garden**, a project spearheaded by [Wild Ones of San Diego](#), one of two of our community grant recipients from 2025. The Garden includes many native plants, a bench, a Little Library (for books and seeds, in season), and a "bee hotel." Volunteers have been working hard over the past few months to transform an oddly shaped empty lot into a garden full of native plants that will attract bees and butterflies. First, they had to clear the ground of rocks, weeds, and debris. An irrigation system and a path were installed. Then the planting began! The bench, library, and bee housing were set in place. Meanwhile, the church's sign, which had faded badly over the years, was re-painted for the Garden, complete with a colorful mural of flowers.

The garden was designed by our very own ASLA member and landscape architect, Jeanine Sharkey, who was present at the ribbon cutting ceremony. ASLA San Diego is proud to help fund such an important project that will bring the community together to learn about pollinating and dedicated design that incorporates many elements in our natural environment. Thank you to Wild Ones of San Diego for inviting us to attend such a monumental event!



COMMUNITY



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Nikki Rimmel, ASLA**

VP, MEMBERSHIP

We wish all of our members a happy spring. Thanks for your continued support of the ASLA San Diego chapter!

The National ASLA Conference will be held in Los Angeles this year. **As a reminder, all members receive a discounted rate on registration and save on early registration.** If you are a student, the ASLA student volunteer program allows ASLA student members to receive complimentary registration to the conference in exchange for four hours of volunteer time onsite. Student volunteer registrations are limited and will reach capacity. Please reach out to [mkrug@asla.org](mailto:mkrug@asla.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

With the updating of national's computer system, some members may have experienced a disconnection of their membership auto renew. If this happened to you, and you would like help setting up your auto renew, renewing your membership or have any other questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

# MEMBERSHIP

## ● 1 - 5 YEARS

Ricardo Gavardoni, Student ASLA  
Isabella De La Mora, Student ASLA  
Kimberly Ussery, Student ASLA  
Pejman Taghavizargar, Student ASLA  
Adrianna Calderon, Student ASLA  
Jordan Lail, ASLA  
Bruce Kirschenbaum, Affiliate ASLA  
Robert Seling, Associate ASLA  
Jamille Gabionza, ASLA  
Drake Mothe, Student ASLA  
Sejin MA, Student ASLA  
Morgan McNeff, Student ASLA  
Hannah Kaas, Student ASLA  
Brigitta Rehn, Student ASLA  
Eve Heitman, Student ASLA  
Maia Cherin, Student ASLA  
Katelyn Nimic, ASLA  
Michael Taylor, ASLA

## 6 - 10 YEARS

Emma Smolik, Associate ASLA  
Trista Silva, ASLA; Philip Gann, ASLA  
Jessica Reid, Associate ASLA

## 11 - 20 YEARS

Krisi Lin, ASLA  
Christian Barajas, ASLA  
Difan Chen, ASLA  
Jay Rohrer, ASLA  
Byron Brink, ASLA  
Kenya Huezo, ASLA  
Jonathan Avila, ASLA  
Jonathan Romero, ASLA  
Ian Morris, ASLA

## 31 + YEARS

Erin Leugers, ASLA  
Joy Lyndes, FASLA  
Frank Brower, FASLA  
Lawrence Sheehan, ASLA  
Martin Poirier, FASLA  
Gary Ruyle, ASLA  
Michael Singleton, ASLA

Sharon Singleton, ASLA  
Kurt Carlson, ASLA  
William Burton, FASLA  
David Reed, ASLA  
Richard Garbini, ASLA  
Joseph Chisholm, ASLA

## 21 - 30 YEARS

Kyle Fiddelke, FASLA  
David Leonard, ASLA  
Alexander Nagel, ASLA  
Azlynn Hare, ASLA  
Lisa Chestnut, ASLA  
James Peterson, ASLA  
Martin McPhee, Affiliate ASLA  
Kathryn Kanaan, ASLA  
Michael Nichols, FASLA  
John Krizan, ASLA  
Martin Rosen, ASLA  
Nelly Chung, ASLA

# UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

## APRIL

1-30



29

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OPEN HOUSE & HAPPY HOUR (SPURLOCK, LPA, STONE BREWERY)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

30

DESIGN AWARDS ENTRY POWERPOINT SUBMITTALS DUE

[SUBMIT POWERPOINT](#)

## MAY

16

SAN DIEGUITO LAGOON WALK  
Birdwing Open Air Classroom  
(9:30am Walk, 12:30-2pm Lunch)

20

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
6PM | VIRTUAL

22

PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCH

## JUNE

TBD

MEET THE FELLOWS EVENT

1

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS SENT DUE IN AUGUST

4

HUNTER CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

13

SKETCH CRAWL OLD TOWN

17

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
6PM | VIRTUAL

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE**

FOR ALL OUR CURRENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

[ASLASD EVENTS](#)

# DESIGN AWARDS

SAVE THE DATE:

**July 30, 2026, 6:30pm - 10:30pm**  
**Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center, Chula Vista**

Join us for cocktail hour overlooking the bay followed  
by dinner and presentation inside.

More details to come!

The ASLA San Diego Excellence in Design Awards are the ultimate recognition of design achievement for landscape architecture firms and projects in and outside of the San Diego region. These awards celebrate the innovation and creativity found among the practitioners of landscape architecture.

**ENTRY POWERPOINT SUBMITTALS DUE APRIL 30**

# A **CALL TO ACTION** FOR THE HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY (HALS)



For the past 16 years, ASLA has collaborated with the National Park Service to support the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) Challenge, a competition to document historic landscapes that tell the stories of our nation. In ordinary times, we would be jointly promoting the 17th annual HALS Challenge, but these are extraordinary times. As such, ASLA is now calling on its members, students, historians, and other practitioners to submit documentation of historic landscapes in our communities. In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the founding of United States,

we are encouraging reports that broadly address the theme of landscapes of liberty and freedom.

Across the nation, the idea of liberty has taken root and evolved through the land itself—expressed in battlefields and memorials, public squares and protest sites, trails of migration and emancipation, parks of public gathering, and landscapes that have borne witness to both oppression and liberation. These places reveal the complex and ongoing pursuit of freedom in all its forms—political, cultural, environmental, and personal.

The HALS challenge theme, landscape of liberty and freedom, is also meant to serve as a suggestion to help you select a landscape, but this is not a competition, so this call is open to all historic landscape submissions. ASLA will recognize all submitted reports at the ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture in September. ASLA challenges you to celebrate the plurality of place by contributing to the Historic American Landscapes Survey and build up our national archive in the Library of Congress. To answer the call of this challenge is to strengthen the role and presence of the landscape architecture profession in shaping our country by bringing light to landscape histories and our shared American heritage.

**This year's deadline for completed submissions must be received by August 31, 2026,** to be recognized at the [ASLA 2026 Conference on Landscape Architecture](#) in September.



**Email complete submissions**

to [propractice@asla.org](mailto:propractice@asla.org) for acknowledgement at the ASLA Conference, and to Scott Keyes at the National Park Service, [scott\\_keyes@nps.gov](mailto:scott_keyes@nps.gov), following the Donated Documentation guidelines for addition to the Library of Congress collection.



## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & CHAIRS

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Spurlock Landscape Architects

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OJB

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**VP COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

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KTUA

**VP EDUCATION**

**Kenya Huezio, ASLA**  
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**VP MEMBERSHIP**

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City of Chula Vista

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**Phil Armstrong, ASLA**  
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**Rich Risner, ASLA**

Grounded Landscape Architecture

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Linear Landscape Architecture

**Anne-Emilie Gold**

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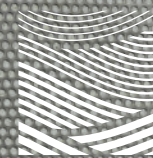


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