

# AS LA SD

DIGITAL **NEWSLETTER**  
SUMMER 2026



**PRESIDENT'S AWARD: ELEPHANT VALLEY**  
DENEEN POWELL ATELIER, INC.





[asla-sandiego.org](http://asla-sandiego.org)

## 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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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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

It's hard to believe that summer is already winding down. With schools back in session or getting ready to welcome students back, it certainly doesn't feel like fall is just around the corner. As we head into the final stretch of summer, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderful past few months for ASLA San Diego and look ahead to an exciting next few months.

One of the highlights of the summer was celebrating our [ASLA San Diego Design Award winners](#) and gathering for a fabulous evening of networking, conversation, and camaraderie at the Gaylord Pacific in Chula Vista. It was a great reminder of what makes our profession so special and the opportunity to come together with so many talented and passionate people who are shaping our communities and advancing the profession of landscape architecture. Congratulations again to all of this year's award recipients and thank you to everyone who helped make the evening such a success!



We also have much to celebrate at the national level. A sincere congratulations to [Dennis Otsuji, FASLA, recipient of the ASLA Medal, the Society's highest honor](#). This recognition celebrates Dennis's extraordinary contributions to the profession of landscape architecture, public service, and advocacy over an incredible 52-year career. His dedication and leadership are an inspiration to our entire profession.

Congratulations as well to Dillon Diers, ASLA, on his well-deserved promotion to ASLA Fellow. This is an outstanding achievement and a wonderful recognition of Dillon's contributions to landscape architecture. It is particularly meaningful for our chapter as Dillon prepares to take on the role of President of ASLA San Diego later this year.

And speaking of the national organization, the [ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture](#) is right around the corner and will be held in Los Angeles, September 16–18. Registration is still open, so if you haven't already made plans to attend, I encourage you to consider joining us. Having the national conference in Southern California is a tremendous opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the country, learn from some of the best in our profession, and celebrate the many ways landscape architecture is making a difference.

## **“I WOULD ENCOURAGE ANYONE WHO HAS EVERY THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING MORE INVOLVED TO TAKE THE LEAP. YOU’LL MEET GREAT PEOPLE, HAVE A VOICE IN OUR PROFESSION, AND PROBABLY HAVE MORE FUN THAN YOU EXPECT ALONG THE WAY.”**

I also want to encourage our members to consider getting more involved with the chapter. We currently have several open Board positions, including:

- » President-Elect
- » Vice President of Membership
- » Vice President of Community Outreach

We are also looking for someone interested in serving as Chair of our Climate Action Committee.

Serving on the ASLA San Diego Board has been one of the most rewarding professional experiences I've had. It has given me the opportunity to work alongside an incredible group of landscape architects and allied professionals, build new relationships, support emerging leaders, and help shape the direction of our chapter. Most importantly, it has been a great way to give back to a profession that has given so much to me. I would encourage anyone who has ever thought about getting more involved to take the leap. You'll meet great people, have a voice in our profession, and probably have more fun than you expect along the way.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or simply want to learn more, please reach out to any of our Board members. We would love to hear from you and find a place for you to get involved. To nominate yourself or a colleague for any of these positions, and to learn more about what each position entails, [click here.](#)

It's hard to believe that my term as President is coming to an end soon. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve this chapter and for the support, energy, and enthusiasm of our members throughout the year. I'm especially excited to see Dillon take the reins and look forward to supporting him and the incoming Board as we continue building on the great work of our chapter over the years.

I hope to see many of you at a future ASLA San Diego event, at the national conference in Los Angeles, or somewhere around town. Before we know it, we'll be back out on the course at [Maderas for the ASLA San Diego Golf Tournament](#), followed shortly thereafter by our [Annual Holiday Party](#).

Thank you again for making ASLA San Diego such a vibrant and inspiring community. I look forward to seeing you soon!

**Brad Lents, ASLA**

# PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**KATHRYN KANAAN, ASLA**  
PAST PRESIDENT



The **2026 Chapter Design Awards** was a memorable evening!

This event marks the conclusion of my 3-year Presidential journey for San Diego ASLA and what a wild ride it has been. I loved working with and meeting new colleagues and could not have hoped for a better ending than a reimagined Design Awards. What a magical night it was.

The Design Awards Committee is thankful to all who submitted this year and would like to extend a heartfelt [\*\*Congratulations to the 2026 Design Awards Recipients.\*\*](#) A total of 42 entries were submitted and 32 awarded for their outstanding designs/installation, commitment to sustainability and equity.

For the many people who made these awards such a successful event.

- » To our photo sponsor – **USA Shade**. It was fun handing out the awards with you this year! Our important tried-and-true partners for our chapter – **Dave Bang, Tournesol Siteworks, and Coast Recreation**. Lastly, a new sponsor **OTL (Outside the Lines)**, welcome to the family.





» Thank you again to our Jurors who spent several days reviewing and discussing the projects and awarding those that slightly rose above the incredibly strong projects we had this year:

- Jared Barrios - Miller Hull Partnership
- Melanie Buffa - Agency: Artifact and ASLA SoCal Chapter President
- Anthony Damon - DPR Construction
- Sean Van Slyke - Van Slyke Landscape
- Patricia Trauth – newly retired from Rick.

» My amazing team – Amy Conrad, Jon Wreschinsky, Kenya Huezo, Andrew Hatch and Laura Handschumacher and the hysterical Clay Phillips our emcee. Without you all, we would not have had the opportunity to watch a beautiful sunset, marvel at the new awards, laugh at the expense of our chapter members, and enjoy a wonderful meal and presentation. Personally I am still waiting to eat my meal for somehow there was not time enough to talk with you, which I cherish, and take part in the presentation.







The **PRESIDENTS AWARD** this year went to **'ELEPHANT VALLEY'** at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Congratulations **Deneen Powell, Atelier**. This is a one-of-a-kind project and highly encourage all to visit right when the park opens to experience these gentle giants in a serene setting.

To view all of the Design Awards winning projects and firms, [click here](#).

Enjoy the remainder of the summer and we will see you again for the Design Awards in 2028!



**VIEW THE AWARD WINNERS >>>**

**VIEW MORE AWARDS PHOTOS >>>**





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# COMMUNITY GRANT

## 2025 UPDATE & 2026 RECIPIENTS



ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
**Difan Chen, ASLA**  
VP COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Tracy Morgan Hollingworth Community Grant recipients from 2025 and this past year have been busy beautifying public spaces in the scope of their non-profit organizations. Read more for updates on our past recipient's project progress.

### **2025 Community Grant Recipient -** **Julie Turko, Lakeside's River Park** **Conservancy**

With the support of ASLA, the river park was able to buy and install a variety of native plants to landscape around our newly occupied San Diego River Science Field Station. The plants are being watered by hand only to the point of self-sufficiency; there is no irrigation on the site and these native plants will be surviving on their own. We have used a generous layer of mulch to retain moisture and minimize dust, and the photos also show our constructed "river bed" which captures and directs runoff. We are looking forward to watching this landscape grow, like the oak tree right out front that is doing beautifully and will be providing shade before we know it. The sages and other flowering plants are already attracting wildlife, such as this Eastern Amberwing dragonfly and many local pollinators.





## 2026 Community Grant Recipient - Christine Hoey, California Native Plant Society

I'm very excited that we have three Community Workshops planned for late summer and fall to complete the next phase of the Bird Park Learning Garden! The workshops are open to homeowners, landscape professionals, and city and county employees, offering an opportunity to learn hands-on, step-by-step techniques from professional landscape contractors and designers.

We are very grateful for ASLA San Diego's support of this project and for helping us make these hands-on learning opportunities possible.

## 2026 Community Grant Recipient - Wild Ones





# FOX POINT FARMS TOUR & HAPPY

Join us for an educational tour, happy hour and social hour at Fox Point Farms, California's first WELL for Residential™ Certified community.

**Thursday, September 3**

- ✓ 6-9 pm
- ✓ Social hour 6-6:30 on Harvest patio
- ✓ 6:30-7:15 site tour
- ✓ 7:15-9 food and drinks at Haven north deck

**Cost: FREE for ASLA San Diego members and \$25 for non-members**

**REGISTER HERE >>>**



Rooted in Encinitas' agricultural legacy, Fox Point Farms blends people-first home design, regenerative farming, and community connection. The 21-acre agrihood repurposes a historically agricultural but underutilized parcel into a site that provides both residential and productive agricultural land. The community includes 250 new residential units comprised of for-sale cottages, carriage units, townhomes, and apartments. Of these units, 39 are set aside as "very low" affordable residential units. Key environmental drivers include a three-acre regenerative farm and community village, owned and operated by Nolen Communities. The project includes over 50% native planting to support biodiversity while layering in community-serving edible plantings throughout. The farm and restaurant embrace a closed-loop process targeting opportunities at every stage of the food production process to eliminate waste, recycle byproducts, and drive efficiency. **Fox Point Farms is California's first WELL for Residential™ Certified community** and one of only a handful worldwide to achieve this milestone since the program's 2023 launch.



# SKETCHING TWO SAN DIEGO JEWELS: OLD TOWN & HERITAGE PARK



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

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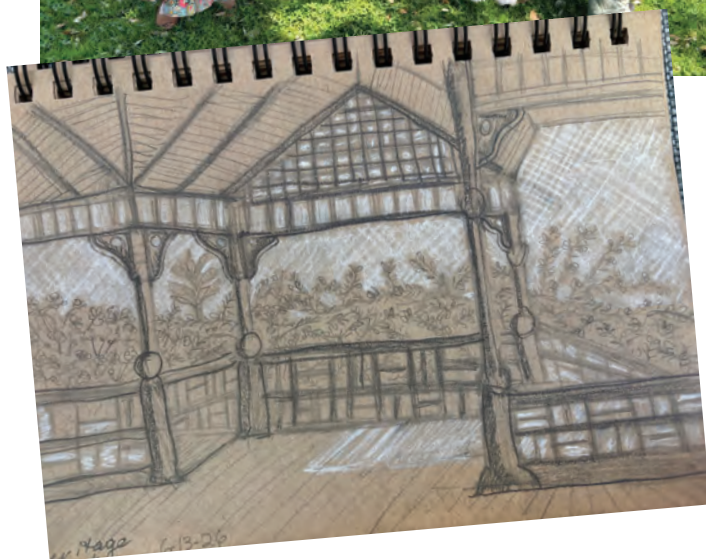


Our June Sketch Crawl brought ASLA San Diego members and friends together for a beautiful day of sketching, exploring, and enjoying a lovely picnic lunch in Old Town. Led by art professor Jacqueline Gold, the day offered a chance to slow down, observe the historic landscape and architecture through a viewfinder, and capture the character of Heritage Park and the surrounding neighborhood with charcoal and white pastel pencils on tan-colored sketch paper.

Judging by the enthusiastic feedback, it was another successful Sketch Crawl. Attendees described it as a wonderful and fun experience, while others wished they could have joined. The event was clearly as much

about connecting with fellow landscape enthusiasts as it was about putting pen to paper, offering a welcome reset for the creative spirit.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, and a grand merci to Spruce & Gander for sponsoring the event. We are already scouting the location for our 2027 Sketch Crawl!



[VIEW MORE SKETCH CRAWL PHOTOS >>>](#)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Jon Wreschinsky, PLA, ASLA**

CHAPTER TRUSTEE

"Tis education forms the common mind: Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclin'd."

- **Alexander Pope**, 1688 - 1744

I hope you all are enjoying your summer and finding time to reflect on the important things in your life. With that in mind, I'd like to continue with several thoughts shared in my last report.

The landscape architecture profession continues to face a wide range of challenges. Many of these regard the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to succeed in an ever-evolving practice environment. ASLA continues to provide many resources to help practitioners to expand their networks and abilities in efforts to ensure the future viability of our profession. These include peer-to-peer learning and an expanded [professional practice network](#), [conversations on landscape architecture](#), and many [continuing education opportunities](#). The San Diego Chapter also provides many opportunities to [interact with your fellow members](#).

For new graduates and emerging professionals, these resources can be especially critical. How they continue to develop the skills that employers need, let alone fully understand, is something that normally comes with time and experience. In the competitive marketplace, most entrants into the profession hit the ground running and learn on the fly. This raises an interesting question that ASLA is beginning to look at more closely.

What are the basic skills that graduates are expected to fully understand and what is the duty of our educational programs to prepare students for employment? Is there an obligation to help ensure all graduating students have the necessary skills and competency to 'protect' public health, safety, and welfare? So much of our work is based on knowledge, skills and abilities beyond 'minimum competency'.

Generalization versus specialization continues to be another important question not only for emerging professionals, but all practitioners. Do firms have the time and resources to continue educating young/future practitioners given the proclivity to hire for specific skills sets?

One issue ASLA wants to look at more closely regards employment opportunities for students. A common complaint is there are not enough internships or other employment opportunities for the number of students seeking them. Should internships be a standard requirement for professional licensure like other design professions? How are emerging professionals able to gain the breadth of experience necessary to demonstrate competency as required through licensing examinations? For that matter, should continuing education be a requirement for all practitioners? Our profession is changing in response to a changing world. Are we as a profession capable of responding to those challenges in an efficient and inclusive manner?



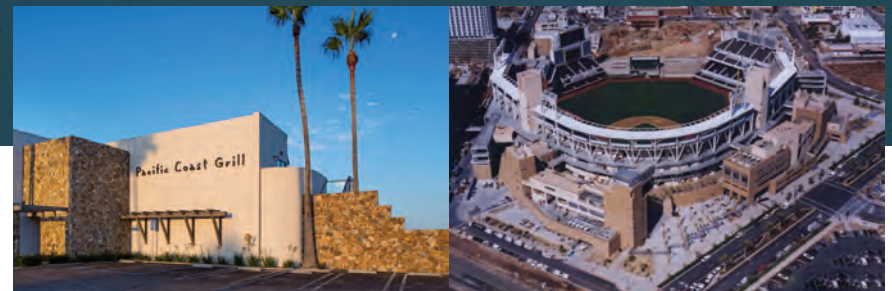
I ask these questions because I clearly don't know the answers. I have my thoughts and opinions. As ASLA members and practicing landscape architects, are we moving in the right direction? What I mean by this is, are we able to continue our rightful place in addressing those pertinent issues facing society and the larger world, while at the same time nurturing the next generation of practitioners? There are many questions remaining regarding the education, training, and support of landscape architects. I am hopeful that these thoughts might kindle some discussion amongst yourselves and our peers. It is you, the members, that should be directing ASLA and the Chapter to provide the resources and opportunities that benefit you and your practice. I encourage you to share your thoughts on these matters.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. **Jon S. Wreschinsky, FASLA**

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# SPONSOR OR PLAY AT **ASLA** **SAN DIEGO'S** **ANNUAL GOLF** **TOURNAMENT** AT MADERAS GOLF CLUB



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Jeff Dolan**

HUNTER INDUSTRIES

The ASLA San Diego Chapter is proud to host its Annual Golf Tournament at the award-winning Maderas Golf Club. This premier event brings together landscape architects, designers, contractors, manufacturers, developers, and industry partners for a day of championship golf, valuable networking, and support of the local landscape architecture community.

Recognized as one of Southern California's finest public golf courses, Maderas Golf Club is celebrated for its exceptional course conditions, dramatic natural scenery, and championship-caliber layout. Whether you're an avid golfer or simply looking to enjoy a first-class event, Maderas provides an unforgettable experience and the perfect setting to build new relationships while reconnecting with colleagues throughout the industry.

Whether you choose to sponsor, play, or both, the ASLA San Diego Golf Tournament offers an excellent platform to increase your company's visibility while demonstrating your support for the landscape architecture profession. Sponsorship packages provide meaningful exposure through on-course signage, event recognition, and direct interaction with industry professionals, creating lasting impressions and valuable business connections that extend well beyond tournament day.

[Hunter Industries](#) and [USA Shade](#) proudly support this annual tradition and the mission of the ASLA San Diego Chapter as co-title sponsors. We encourage companies and individuals throughout the industry to join us for a memorable day of camaraderie, friendly competition, and professional networking at one of Southern California's premier golf destinations.

## **Registration and sponsorship opportunities**

**are now available.** We look forward to seeing you at Maderas Golf Club on **Monday, October 26, 2026**, for another outstanding ASLA San Diego Golf Tournament.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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# EMERGING PROFESSIONALS UPDATE

## Hello Emerging Professionals!

In June we hosted our **Meet the Fellows event** for the first time in a few years and had a great time talking to the wonderful FASLA members in our chapter. They shared stories and lessons starting from their initial interest and education in landscape architecture, to early professional decisions and through the challenging times throughout their extensive careers. Thanks to everyone who participated and asked insightful questions during the event.

[VIEW MORE FELLOW EVENT PHOTOS >>>](#)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Gwen Stark, ASLA**

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS CO-CHAIR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Fernanda Suarez, ASLA**

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS CO-CHAIR

We are looking forward to this year's ASLA Conference and hope to see a lot of you there! For those of you that are working on licensure, we recommend signing up for the **LARE Prep courses at the conference to learn from experienced educators** as well as meet peers also going through the process of licensure. Also, make sure you look out for an alumni meetup from your college or university if you are a recent graduate

In the early fall following the conference, we will be starting up **LARE study groups** again so keep an eye out for that invitation if you are working towards getting licensed!



# ASLA CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS 2027 SPRING SYMPOSIUM

ASLA San Diego is excited to announce that we are hosting the California Chapters **Spring 2027 Symposium**, bringing together landscape architects and allied professionals to explore how we can design for a growing region while improving quality of life for people, communities, and the natural systems we depend on.

## **Eco-“logical” Density**

### **Designing for quality of all life, amid rapid growth**

San Diego is growing—and the way we grow will shape the future of our region.

Nearing 3.3 million people and home to upwards of 6,000 flora and fauna species, San Diego is both the most biologically diverse and the fifth most populated county in the continental U.S. From 2022 to 2025, San Diego was the second fastest-growing county in California, behind Riverside. And while the City of San Diego accounted for 48% of the county's population in the 1990s, it now accounts for 73%, adding more than 30,000 residents in just three years.

## **So how do we grow better?**

**Eco-“logical” Density** will explore how we can accommodate growth without losing the qualities that make San Diego unique. As housing needs intensify and our climate becomes more challenging, we have an opportunity to rethink density—not simply as more people and more buildings, but as an opportunity to create **healthier, more connected, and more ecologically rich communities.**

The symposium will explore the intersection of **landscape architecture, housing, public space, biodiversity, urban forestry, climate resilience, mobility, health, and community.** How can nature be integrated into denser neighborhoods? How can parks and public spaces support growing communities? How can we design for extreme heat, fire, and a changing climate while protecting habitat and biodiversity? And how can landscape architects help shape places that work better for people **and** the many other species that share this region?

**Eco-“logical” Density asks us to think beyond the human scale:** What if the measure of a successful growing city isn't simply how many people it can accommodate, but how well it supports all life?





## Who Should We Hear From?

The symposium team is beginning to shape the program, and **we want your ideas. A Call for Presentations will be released this fall**, inviting landscape architects and other professionals to share ideas, research, projects, and perspectives relevant to the theme.

Start thinking about **what topics, projects, or perspectives you would like to see featured**. Who is doing innovative work in **landscape architecture, urban design, ecological design, urban forestry, parks and public space, habitat restoration, climate adaptation, green infrastructure, mobility, or community planning**? Who is challenging conventional approaches or demonstrating how landscape architecture can play a larger role in shaping the future of our communities?

**Send your ideas for presentations or potential presenters to the Symposium Team** email at [aslasd@asla-sandiego.org](mailto:aslasd@asla-sandiego.org) and watch for the **Call for Presentations** this fall. When the call is released, please share or forward it to anyone you think could bring a valuable perspective to the conversation.

More details and the **Call for Presentations** coming this Fall.

The symposium will be hosting a mini EXPO. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please email [aslasd@asla-sandiego.org](mailto:aslasd@asla-sandiego.org) for more details.

# EAST VILLAGE TOUR & HAPPY HOUR AT KTUA

Join ASLA San Diego for a tour of East Village Green, one of Downtown San Diego's newest and most significant public spaces. Designed by OJB Landscape Architecture, the 4.1-acre park transforms a formerly underutilized urban site into a vibrant gathering place with a central lawn and performance pavilion, children's play areas, interactive water features, dog parks, community spaces, and public art. Nathan Elliott, Principal at OJB and a key member of the project team, will lead the tour and share insight into the design process, the project's evolution, and the opportunities and challenges of creating a major new public space in the heart of Downtown San Diego. Following the tour, we will head to KTUA's newly relocated East Village offices for a casual happy hour.

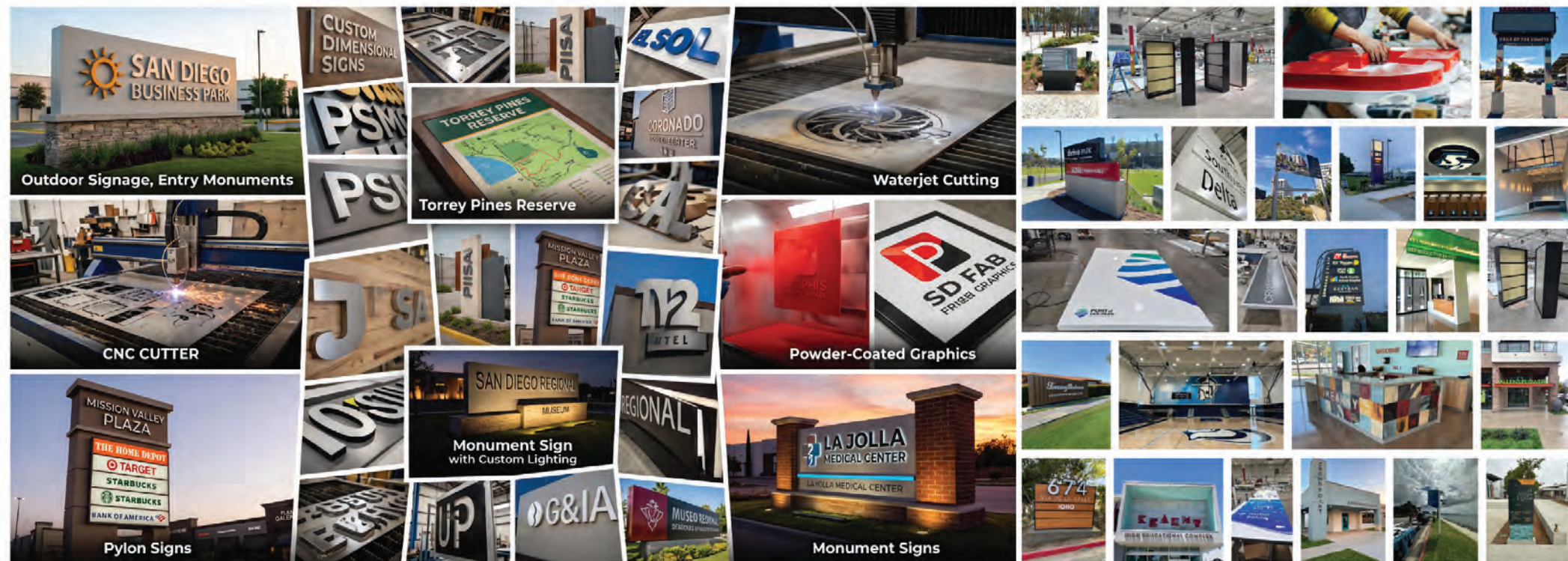
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## Thursday, October 15, 2026

- ✓5:15-5:30pm Arrival and Check-In
- ✓5:30-6:15pm East Village Green Tour
- ✓6:15-7:15pm Happy Hour at KTUA

*Registration coming soon!*





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We thankfully live in a place where all of us “Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, and drink the wild air,” to paraphrase Emerson. Your CCASLA board remains busy during these dog days of summer monitoring the Board of Forestry Zone 0 rulemaking and keeping an eye on legislation affecting our industry.

## **Zone 0 Update**

The California Board of Forestry (BOF) Zone 0 Committee continues to take comments and update guidelines to a long and laborious rulemaking process. In July, CCASLA Directors signed on to a letter to the chair of the BOF. In that letter we advanced a draft rule plead on tree branches within five feet of a roof structure. The Zone 0 Committee of the BOF formulated a rule that will require all tree limbs be removed regardless of health, size, and risk of fire transmission within five feet of a roof. CCASLA conceded that smaller branches and foliage could pose a risk. However, tree limbs more than 2” inches in diameter should not pose an ignition hazard using the Zone 0 committee’s own logic in which all ladder fuels should be

removed. We continued that removing all tree limbs will create an undue burden to business and homeowners. Not only do property owners face the potential financial burden of contracting for the removal of sizable portions of tree canopy, in many cases they will face an additional cost of permitting fees imposed by the local government. When considering both the cost of a permit and the cost of an arborist’s work, it is not at all inconceivable that the cost of Zone 0 compliance will range well over \$1000 for California homeowner’s and businesses. One of the final meetings of the Zone 0 rule making will be held August 19th. Watch this space.

## **Division of the State Architect and Landscape Architects**

Landscape architects working as a design lead must retain the services of an Architect or Structural Engineer to act as an ‘over stamp’ of stand-alone landscape architectural plans submitted to DSA. Current CBC code mandates the Design Professional in General Responsible Charge (DPGRC) must be a licensed architect or structural engineer. While landscape architects can act as the prime consultant directly hired by



a School District for outdoor-only projects not involving a classroom building such as a playground remodel, school yard forest enhancement or sports field upgrade, the school district still needs to hire, or pay design fees for, a California Licensed Architect or Structural Engineer to sign Line 22 of Form DSA-1 to serve as the legal DPGRC who routes your landscape, irrigation, civil and structural sub-consultant packages through the DSA Tracker system. Since the passage of SB 1091 in 2024 and DSA bulletin BU-2403, more 'site-only' projects are now recognized by DSA. These projects are right in the wheelhouse of landscape architects. CCASLA and LATC are continuing to dialog with DSA on ways we can carve out a space for landscape architects and bring better value to school district clients.

## **BILL TRACKING**

**AB 1796** - Existing law, until January 1, 2027, establishes a scheme for the certification of interior designers by the California Council for Interior Design Certification, a nonprofit organization, by obtaining a stamp from the council that identifies them as a certified interior designer, and makes it an unfair business practice for any person to represent or hold themselves out as a certified interior designer without a valid certification. Existing law also authorizes the council to issue a commercial designation to a person who satisfies specified requirements. Under the existing scheme, a certification under those provisions expires in 2 years unless renewed in a specified manner. This bill would authorize the council to issue a professional designation to a certified interior designer or qualified applicant only until 2027 and

would instead provide for the licensure and regulation of the practice of professional interior design, as defined, by the board. The bill would add a member to the board who is a professional interior designer and would specify that the professional interior designer member's term begins and expires on unspecified dates. The bill would require the board to determine eligibility requirements, including examination and education requirements necessary for licensure. The bill would authorize the board to determine whether additional education or training is required for professional interior designers to identify when architectural or engineering services are required and, if so, would require the board to develop and prescribe sufficient education or training. The bill would make it a misdemeanor, punishable by an unspecified fee or by imprisonment in a county jail, or both, to engage in certain acts, including engaging in the practice of professional interior design without a license. By creating new crimes, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would exempt professional engineers, architects, land surveyors, and licensed contractors from the bill's provisions governing professional interior design. The bill would require any stamp used by a licensed professional interior designer to be of a design authorized by the board and would prescribe the information contained in the stamp. The bill would establish requirements for professional interior instruments of service, as defined, and would prohibit a public entity from accepting professional interior instruments of service submissions from an individual who is not a licensed professional interior designer. By imposing requirements on local agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill

would prescribe acts that are subject to discipline by the board and the manner of discipline and would specify conditions of renewal and expiration of a license. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**CCASLA Position:** Oppose

**Status:** Read second time on Senate Floor, amended, and re-referred to Com. on Business & Professions

**AB 2106** - Existing law requires the attorney for the plaintiff or cross-complainant in any action arising out of the professional negligence of an architect, professional engineer, or land surveyor to file and serve a certificate declaring either that the attorney has consulted and received an opinion that the action is reasonable and meritorious from an architect, professional engineer, or land surveyor, licensed to practice in this state or in any other state, or that the attorney was unable to obtain that consultation for specified reasons. This bill would expand the malpractice complaints covered by the provision to include those against landscape architects and geologists or geophysicists. This bill would limit the practitioners that may be consulted to those who are licensed in this state. The bill would specify that these provisions only apply to actions filed on or after January 1, 2027.

**CCASLA Position:** Support - Recent bill amendments added landscape architects to bill language.

**Status:** 3rd reading on Senate Floor – Bill Enrolled pending signature by governor

**AB 2494** - Existing law authorizes the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to engage in management of state forests and defines “management” for purposes of the state forests as a means of handling forest crop and forest soil to achieve maximum sustained production of high-quality forest products while giving consideration to values relating to, among other values, recreation, watershed, and wildlife, as provided. This bill would redefine “management” for purposes of state forests as the handling of forest vegetation, water, and soils within state forests to maximize biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience, while supporting durable onsite carbon storage and sequestration, watershed conservation, water quality enhancement, climate mitigation and resiliency goals, equitable forest access, wildlife and fish habitat, recreation opportunities, education, and compatible research efforts. The bill would require that all forest management practices recognized under specified forest practice regulations, to the extent consistent with this definition of management, be considered valid tools for achieving the above-described objectives. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**CCASLA Position:** Support

**Status:** Referred to 3rd reading on Senate Floor





**SB 1107** - Existing law authorizes a school district, with the approval of its governing board, to procure design-build contracts for public works projects in excess of \$1,000,000, awarding the contract to either the low bid or the best value, as provided. Existing law requires specified information relating to design-build bid proposals to be verified under penalty of perjury. This bill would authorize a school district, on or before December 31, 2031, and with the approval of its governing board, to procure multiple design-build contracts for comparable shade structure projects at various sites, bundled through a single solicitation, if the total value of the projects exceeds \$1,000,000 but does not exceed \$10,000,000, awarding the bundled contracts to the lowest bid or the best value. The bill would require each contract awarded through the bundled solicitation to be a separate contract for a single project, as provided. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**CCASLA Position:** Neutral - monitoring

**Status:** Referred to 3rd reading on Assembly Floor

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**ASLA 2026**

**ACTION!**

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September 16-18 | Los Angeles, CA  
Conference on Landscape Architecture



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# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Nikki Remmel, ASLA**

VP, MEMBERSHIP

We wish all of our members a happy Summer. Thanks for your continued support of the ASLA San Diego chapter! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions on your membership.

Congratulations to the following members for reaching membership milestones (member anniversaries in June through August are for continuing membership).

## ● 1 - 5 YEARS

Emma Daniel, Associate ASLA  
Helene Hoffman, Student ASLA  
Sofia Pacheco, Student ASLA  
JP Zonta, Affiliate ASLA  
Neil Heacox, Associate ASLA  
Adrian Angi, Full Member  
Elizabeth Gaffo, Full Member  
Sheri-Ann Adams, Student ASLA  
Deborah McGinn, Student ASLA  
Tano Alejandra, Student Affiliate  
Chloe Ewart, Student ASLA  
Isabella Lim, Student ASLA  
Maximilian Singer, Student ASLA  
Hadasa Villalta, Student ASLA  
Janelle Marquez, Student Affiliate  
Jessica Goralski, Student ASLA  
Jack Faulconer, Associate ASLA

MEMBERSHIP



## ● 6 - 10 YEARS

Ashlie Zinn, Full Member  
Carla Quimson, Student ASLA  
Bret Belyea, Full Member  
Ania Galka Armour, Full Member  
Yi Su, Full Member  
Jiayao Tang, Full Member

## ● 11 - 20 YEARS

Patrick Baldwin, Full Member  
Denise Armijo, Affiliate ASLA  
Joel Adams, Full Member  
Charles Cattlett, Full Member  
Kristen Gros, Full Member  
Josef Gutierrez, Full Member  
Amelia Capron, Full Member  
Leigh Kyle, Full Member  
Matthew MacLeod, Full Member  
Darren Jacobsen, Full Member  
Kathleen Brand, Full Member  
Michael Brennan, Full Member

## 31 + YEARS ●

Gail Zerbe, Full Member  
Christopher Langdon, Full Member  
James Burnett, Full Fellow  
Jim Benedetti, Full Member  
Robin Shifflet, Full Member  
Patrick Caughey, Full Fellow  
Jon Powell, Full Member  
Todd Fry, Full Member  
Diana Biegner, Full Member  
Don Ueno, Full Member  
Ralph Stone, Full Member

## ● 21 - 30 YEARS

Rocio Gertler, Full Member  
Brad Lents, Full Member  
Katie Seidenwurn, Full Member  
Jim Neri, Full Member  
Bradley Lenahen, Full Member  
Patricia Trauth, Full Fellow  
Keith Mittemeyer, Full Member  
Amy Chevalier, Full Member



# UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 FOX POINT FARMS TOUR & HAPPY HOUR | 6PM - 9PM

[DETAILS + REGISTER](#)

15



16



30

- COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE

[LEARN MORE](#)

## OCTOBER

15

- EAST VILLAGE TOUR & HAPPY HOUR  
5:15-9PM

[DETAILS](#)

21

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
6PM | VIRTUAL

26

- GOLF TOURNAMENT -  
MADERAS GOLF CLUB

[DETAILS + REGISTRATION](#)

## NOVEMBER

18

- HOLIDAY PARTY AT GRAN TERRAZA

[DETAILS](#)

30

- CCALSA MONTHLY MEETING

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FOR ALL OUR CURRENT &  
UPCOMING EVENTS

[ASLASD EVENTS](#)



# SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & CHAIRS

## **PRESIDENT**

**Brad Lents, ASLA**  
Spurlock Landscape Architects

## **PRESIDENT ELECT**

**Dillon Diers, ASLA**  
OJB

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

**Kathryn Kanaan, ASLA**  
KDA Landscape Architects

## **TREASURER**

**Thomas McDaniel, ASLA**  
City of Chula Vista

## **SECRETARY**

**Alexandra Trofimov, ASLA**  
County of San Diego

## **VP COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Difan Chen, ASLA**  
KTUA

## **VP EDUCATION**

**Kenya Huezo, ASLA**  
LPA Design Studios

## **VP MEMBERSHIP**

**Nikki Rimmel, ASLA**  
City of Chula Vista

## **VP VISIBILITY/COMMUNICATIONS**

**Trista Garcia Silvia, ASLA**  
StudioWC Architecture + Engineering

## **CHAPTER TRUSTEE**

**Jon Wreschinsky, PLA, FASLA**  
Adjunct Professor

## **CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ASLA**

**Phil Armstrong, ASLA**  
GroundLevel

## **Rich Risner, ASLA**

Grounded Landscape Architecture

## **CO-VP SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

**Joe Dodd**  
Linear Landscape Architecture

## **Anne-Emilie Gold**

Gravel to Gold, Inc.

## **EMERGING PROFESSIONAL**

### **CO-CHAIRS**

**Gwen Stark, ASLA**  
NAVFAC SW

## **Fernanda Suarez, ASLA**

MIG

## **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE**

### **CO-CHAIRS**

**Stephanie Green, ASLA**  
Landscape Architect

## **Ashlie Zinn, ASLA**

KTUA

## **GOLF COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

**Amy Conrad**  
Conrad Public Relations & Marketing

## **Dillon Diers, ASLA**

OJB

## **Jeff Dolan**

Hunter Industries

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Amy Conrad**  
Conrad Public Relations & Marketing

## **ASLASD NEWSLETTER DESIGNER**

**Kari Cureton**  
Sarit + State Creative Studio

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Board of Directors

**NOMINATIONS DUE 9/4**  
**ELECTIONS HELD 9/8 - 9/11**

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