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September 12 Golf Tournament to Benefit Community Grant

Join your friends at SDASLA’s September 12 Golf Tournament at the fabulous Coronado Municipal Golf Course – proceeds fund the annual SD/ASLA Community Grant. The event will sell out fast, so take advantage of the early bird rates by using the enclosed registration form or register online at www.asla-sandiego.org. If your firm would like to sponsor a hole or tee, complete and send the enclosed sponsor form or send your donation via our website.

NOTE: Events, dates and times are subject to change! Please check with the ASLA office at 619.225.8155 for the latest events or visit www.asla-sandiego.com/content/events.

ASLA
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Vision
A world where the built and natural environments exist in harmony and sustainable balance; where all people can express their diverse heritage and 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.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The Website Newsletter for the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

June 2008

Landscape Architects in the Community

Landscape architects played a valuable role in their communities in March and April by working on community projects ranging from replanting and restoring the Lake Poway gateway area destroyed in the October 07 fires, helping a domestic violence shelter replace a mature tree destroyed by lightning and re-landscaping the property to improve and add beauty in the lives of women and children escaping violence, educating local Boy Scouts regarding our profession to earn a merit badge in landscape architecture and working with I Love a Clean San Diego to clean up Florida Canyon in their annual Creek to Bay cleanup.

The chapter will begin a series of home-owner consultations to assist low income homeowners in the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation’s redevelopment area to redesign homeowners’ landscape to beautify their homes and conserve water and save $$$s. Our annual community grant will provide up to $5,000 in financial support to community groups that want to improve their communities.

We couldn’t conduct these activities without the help of a fantastic Executive Committee and Chapter volunteers. If you are interested in being involved with the Chapter, please consider nominating yourself or another member to be a part of our 2008-2009 Board. Nomination information will be mailed in early July. For more information on Chapter leadership and volunteer opportunities email ASLASE@ibibglobal.net or call 619.225.8155.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT www.asla-sandiego.org

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I was recently re-reading a number of newsletter articles I penned during my two terms as Northern California ASLA Chapter President (late ’90s) and was amazed at how pertinent they still are. In fact, many of the issues are right out of today’s headlines: fire recovery, urban sprawl, water availability, licensure, amongst many others. Chapter programs, encouraging volunteerism, and delivery of member services also seemed popular themes at the time. As they say the more things change, the more they stay the same.

I suppose the most pertinent question coming to mind is why; why after nearly ten years does it seem that we are still asking the same questions, still dealing with the same issues that simply will not go away? I like to think that it is not because we do not care, or do not make an effort to be heard. There are surely many of us out there speaking up and making it a point to be heard; or maybe enough of us are not making the individual efforts necessary to shape the type of future we desire.

I have made it a point to accomplish two things in particular during my tenure as your Chapter President – the establishment and adoption of a Chapter Strategic Plan, and to strengthen the Chapter’s committee structure to improve the efficiency of delivering services to the members and responding to professional and community issues. These are not exclusive goals. In fact, as in the ’90s, I have made it a mantra to continue pointing out to the National organization that this is the highest purpose of this organization. Otherwise, it is difficult to explain why any of us should belong to ASLA.

On the local level, adoption of a strategic plan will help us in our efforts to clarify our goals and objectives for the coming years. These will be limited to ensure we can focus on the types of activities necessary for success. The core of this effort will be a revised committee structure, starting from the Chapter Board outward. We will use these efforts to hopefully strengthen the Chapter, encourage member involvement, build leadership opportunities, and most importantly, begin to put many of the lingering issues behind us.

What we do today will have a lasting affect on what we face tomorrow. The Chapter, our profession, and our region are facing many changes. Building a future can be very challenging but exciting too. If we are successful in developing a vision of what can be, we will be better prepared to accept the challenges that we will face and be successful in our efforts.

Visit www.asla-sandiego.org

Welcome New Members

Please join us in welcoming our newest members to the San Diego Chapter:

• Henry Luc, Associate ASLA, of Spring Valley
• Monica Mroz, ASLA, MJM Design, San Diego
• Tim Jachlewski, Jr., ASLA, In-Site Landscape Architecture
• Karen Eaton Sumeik, ASLA, Karen Sumeik

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Spring Brings Heightened Activity for ASLA San Diego Chapter

By Jon Wroschinsky, ASLA – Jon Gallup & Associates

state model landscape ordinance

Over the course of several months at the beginning of the year, members of our chapter were busy reviewing a Draft State Model Water Conservation Ordinance proposed by the State Department of Water Resources (DWR). This document is required based on Assembly Bill 81. Although there are many appropriate elements within the document, in our opinion it was onerous and overly prescriptive.

On March 27, 2008, Glen Schmidt representing San Diego ASLA and DJ Taylor representing CASLA testified to the Legislative in Los Angeles regarding our comments and followed with formal letters. The DWR received over 300 letters in all with hundreds of comments. They are reviewing these comments now and are expected to release their response some time in June. Thank you for all that attending our Water Conservation and Stormwater meeting and to those who submitted comments regarding the ordinance. I also want to recognize the cooperation and assistance we have enjoyed from allied organizations especially the San Diego County Water Authority and California Landscape Contractors Association.

Once DWR releases their response and revised document, it is likely that we will have a short period to respond. The State’s goal is to have the Model Ordinance approved by January 2009. At that time, each city and County in the state must adopt an Ordinance that is “at least as effective.” It will be our goal at that time to lobby for a consistent response by our local cities who will have until January 2010 to create their own Ordinance.

Once we have more information, we will meet again with our membership. For more information or to become involved please contact me at: gschmidt@schmidtdesign.com
According to a recent survey of Landscape Architecture students this year at Labash (www.labash08.com/labash08.html), the main benefit of having an ASLA membership is getting Landscape Architecture magazine in their mailbox every month. The magazine was indicated by nearly 91% of the respondents with little recognition of other benefits. I, like these students, also had this opinion of ASLA before I joined. Surely, as a member, you're not just paying for an expensive magazine subscription, right?

Not necessarily. Unfortunately I've found this perception to be ubiquitous, whether you're a student or a practicing professional. While some benefits of ASLA membership are listed on the National website (www.asla.org/membership/index.cfm), the benefits that I have found most valuable aren't listed at all. My membership has enabled me to have networking, educational and outreach opportunities that I otherwise would not have known about or experienced. Events such as our tours, Kickoff at Wine Steals and Interrobang lecture series have exposed me to people in our and allied industries; people whose time and conversation I couldn't have enjoyed in my normal work-a-day. In all of these encounters, I've learned something about design that has benefitted my outlook on and practice of Landscape Architecture. Learning is definitely something that the San Diego ASLA Chapter facilitates. Whether it is an Interrobang lecture, LARE prep course or a Model Water Conservation Ordinance workshop led by Glenn Schmidt, opportunities organized and partnered by our Chapter have enabled me to learn out of a classroom.

Lastly, and foremost in my mind, I have found that my membership has allowed me to expose the Landscape Architecture profession to the greater community in the hope of growing it in practice and recognition. Upon entering college, I had no clue what Landscape Architecture was about and when I decided to change majors, my family and friends clearly had their misconceptions. By participating in events and committees like the Boy Scout Merit Badge Midway and Community Grant Committee, we can reach younger people and expose them to our profession as a career and teach others what a landscape architect does.

So please, check out the events page at www.asla-sandiego.org, participate, join and grow our profession! At the very least, you'll get a really cool magazine in your mailbox every month.

Postscript: According to David Reed, ASLA, everyone should visit Wikipedia to see a description best encapsulating what Landscape Architecture is all about. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landscape_Architecture
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