

WASLA Newsletter

Washington Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

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DECEMBER 2007

Messages

WILL THE LICENSURE UPGRADE AFFECT OTHER PROFESSIONS?

As we prepare for the next legislative session, WASLA will again invest energy and resources in our effort to change the current law governing the practice of landscape architecture in Washington State from a title act to a practice act. Landscape designers, contractors, wetland scientists and other professionals may ask you how the upgraded law could affect their work.

1) Please read the [letter to APLD members](#) that was sent to members of the Washington Chapter of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. We are hoping for a positive response from APLD as we have received from the landscape contractors and nursery associations.

2) Please consider assisting with lobbying efforts. Contact Curtis LaPierre, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, with any questions. We need your help to get this through.

It is essential to our success that all members understand what we are trying to do, and that members join us in promoting our bill to key legislators and educating other professions that could otherwise wrongly perceive negative impacts from the bill passage.

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ADVOCACY NETWORK IS WORKING

Events Calendar

February 8, 2008
[USCC's 16th Annual Conference and Tradeshow](#)

March 27
[WASLA Professional Awards Reception](#)

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ASLA (National) Government Affairs staff tells us that Washington State has **358** subscribed users which is a great start. WASLA recently wrote to the Washington license holders that are not chapter members to sign up for the Advocacy Network as well because many of them live within the state and could help our advocacy efforts by contacting their legislators.

The Advocacy Network is our best means of contacting our members and supporters at critical times during the legislative process. If you have not already - please sign up and ask others to sign up as well. They don't need to be landscape architects to be effective advocates for licensure and other issues.

<http://capwiz.com/asla/home/>

Committee Reports and Public Relations

DEMAND FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES REMAINS STRONG, MANY FIRMS SEEKING ADDITIONAL STAFF

Washington D.C., November 19, 2007

Despite a housing slowdown, the vast majority of landscape architecture firms report they are just as or even more busy than before, according to a third quarter survey by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). More than three out of four firms reported steady or increased billable hours compared to the previous quarter, and four in ten firms were planning to hire additional staff.

"The demand for landscape architecture services remains strong in the traditional markets, while it continues to grow in emerging areas, particularly for sustainable design services," said Nancy C. Somerville, executive vice president and CEO of ASLA. "With only 30,000 landscape architects in the U.S. and the projected growth in demand for landscape architecture services, there are significant opportunities for young people considering entering the profession." ASLA is working with the ACE Mentor program and other organizations to introduce the profession to prospective students, and will celebrate National Landscape Architecture Month in April 2008 around the theme "Discover Careers in Landscape Architecture."

Nearly 44 percent of respondents described their billable hours as either "well above" or "slightly above" average. Thirty-three percent said that billable hours were "average,"

while 24 percent said hours were either "slightly below" (20 percent) or "well below" average (4 percent). Inquiries were more evenly distributed: six percent reported well above average inquiries, 30 percent reported slightly above, 30 percent reported average, and 35 percent reported their inquiries were down this quarter.

Forty-one percent of firms surveyed also said they are hiring new employees in the fourth quarter.

ASLA emailed a brief questionnaire to the key firm contacts across the country, and received responses from 251 independent landscape architecture firms. The survey will be repeated in mid-January, 2008, and the results will be reported in early February.

Announcements

WASLA PROFESSIONAL AWARDS UPDATE

WASLA appreciates all of the landscape architects who submitted entries for the 2008 WASLA Professional Awards entries by the December 7, 2007 deadline.

The Planning Committee is delighted with the new features that distinguish the awards process this year. The submissions will be considered virtually, on the basis of the PowerPoint submitted with the entry. The added convenience of this process has made it possible to secure a distinguished panel of national jurors. For the four major categories, General Design, Residential Design, Planning and Analysis, and Research and Communication, one lead juror will head the discussions in his/her category. All jurors will consider Works in Progress. The jury will be announced shortly. Watch the website for names and details.

As always, at the Awards Celebration, we will display boards for each of the entries. Attendees will be able to review the projects, try to anticipate the judges' decisions, and vote for the People's Choice award. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us on Thursday, March 27, 2008, for this festive event at the Burke Museum.

WASLA extends its thanks to Electrical Representatives West and Pacific Earth Works for sponsoring the 2008 Professional Awards Program.

OTHER AWARD DEADLINES

ASLA AWARDS

The American Society of Landscape Architects has announced its Professional and Student Awards. Professional entry forms are due **Friday, February 1, 2008**, with submissions due Friday, February 15. Student entry forms are due **Friday, May 9, 2008**, with submissions due Friday, May 23. Visit [the Call for Entries](#) to view details.

ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design in association with Metropolitan Arts Press Ltd. is organizing the 2008 [American Architecture Awards](#)

® as a way in which to honor new architecture, landscape architecture, interiors, and urban planning projects designed in the United States. The program is organized and curated by the Finnish architect and architecture journalist, Christian K. Narkiewicz-Laine, Museum President of The Chicago Athenaeum. In 2007, hundreds of submissions for this Awards Program were received by the Museum from architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning firms across the United States. Thirty-five (35) projects were selected by a distinguished jury composed of Irish architects and architectural journalists under the auspices of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland in Dublin and were honored with the 2007 American Architecture Awards.

The 2007 awarded projects and previous award winners can be seen at the Museum's website at www.chi-athenaeum.org.

The deadline for 2008 submissions is **February 1, 2008**.

The 2008 awards program considers new corporate headquarters, skyscrapers, institutions, sports and transportation facilities, interiors, urban planning projects, airports, and residences for awards, built in the U.S. or abroad by an U.S. architectural firm, both built and unbuilt projects alike, as of January 1, 2006. International firms headquartered outside the United States are eligible to submit projects built or designed for only in the United States.

In 2007, the awarded projects formed an exhibition in New York, which was co-organized by and co-presented with The European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies. The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design founded The American Architecture Awards as a way in which to draw significant international attention to new buildings and planning projects being built and designed in the United States by the best of America's architecture offices and firms. In the last several years, The American Architecture Awards have become the most important distinguished building and planning program that brings new

concepts, new philosophies, and new ideas to the forefront. The program has a unique educational mission and public profile with the intent of promoting and celebrating American design and American architecture to a national and international audience.

Entry forms are available by calling the Museum at +815/777-4444 or on line at www.chi-athenaeum.org.

For more information, contact Larry L. Sommers at +815/777-4444.

NPS SEEKS YOUR COMMENTS

The National Park Service has begun the process of developing a new Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (PA) to address compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations (36 CFR 800). The PA addresses activities within the national parks that may affect properties of historic or cultural significance.

Pursuant to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations (36 CFR 800), the principal signatories on this nationwide PA are the ACHP, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), and the NPS. In accordance with the ACHP regulations, NPS is also initiating consultation with a wide variety of other interested parties as this new PA is developed. Among those interested parties are all Federally-recognized Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiians and other Native professional interest groups.

The National Park Service has prepared a First Draft PA, which seeks to continue provisions and practices in the NPS PA (1995) that the NPS believes are effective, while charting a new course for the future management of cultural resources in the parks. Comments on this draft may be provided until December 14, 2007.

To view the First Draft PA and comment, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Select "Programmatic Agreement Task Force" as the park name and select "Open for Public Comment" to enter comments.

ASLA encourages you to comment on this important program, as the National Park Service looks forward to the valuable remarks of landscape architects in this process. If you have any questions or comments regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact me at rblackwell@asla.org or 202-216-2334.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Blackwell
Federal Government Affairs Manager
American Society of Landscape Architects