



WASLA Newsletter

Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

November 2006

In This Issue...

President's Message

Trustee's Report

Letter from the Editors:
Publish or Perish

2006-2007 Mentorship
Program

Seattle Design Review
Board

Alaskan Way Viaduct
Position

ASLA 2007 Awards -
Call for Entries

Living Places: The
Architecture and
Landscape Architecture
of Jones and Jones

Kristina Hill Lecture
Seattle to Stockholm:
Making Sense of Urban
Ecological Design

WASLA 2007
Conference

Birnbaum Lecture

Messages

Committee Reports and Public Relations Event Reviews

President's Message

By Curtis LaPierre
WASLA Chapter President

Once in a while you get to lift your head above the thicket of project work and life's daily routine and briefly view the broad landscape of your profession. For me that happens at the ASLA annual meetings. I'm completely recharged about what we do and what we care about as landscape architects. There is no other profession with the mission of putting **people and nature together**.

You never know really how much is involved with the workings of an ASLA chapter until you get involved. Our chapter is one of the largest in the country and includes members that are doing some of the most significant design and planning work – all over the world. We are also becoming one of the most active chapters thanks to a dedicated group of people that seem to be in a constant state of planning functions. One of those dedicated people is our past president **Maureen Colazzi** – the energizer bunny of the chapter leadership. Maureen is now focused on our **Conference** to be held on February 2, 2007.

Our chapter is taking positions on **governmental affairs**. We recently took a formal no position on initiative 933 and no to rebuilding an elevated Alaskan Way Viaduct. The chapter executive committee has been examining these

Review

Black Diamond
Charrette Review

Hosting Opportunity

Upcoming Events...

November 13-16
Rainbird Academy

November 14
Living Places: The
Architecture and
Landscape Architecture
of Jones & Jones

November 15
Seattle to Stockholm:
Making Sense of Urban
Ecological Design

November
Strategies for a Greener
Future by Nancy Rottle
and Brice Maryman

Looking Ahead...

February 2
2007 WASLA
Conference

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and other issues and publicizing our positions on behalf of the chapter. Our position papers and statements are posted on the chapter website www.wasla.org.

I'm hoping that you noticed one recent email from ASLA regarding the **Advocacy Network**. This is a new web-based method of getting targeted messages out to members and making it quick and easy for you to be heard in Olympia and Washington D.C. Please login to the Advocacy Network at www.ASLA.org. We will use this network soon for each member to email their state legislator about our pending practice act bill.

In January we intend to submit a bill to the legislature intended to change our law from a title act to a practice act. The current title act affords little protection to the public health, safety and welfare since virtually anyone can perform the work of a landscape architect. The law would put us on equal footing with the other design professions. Washington is one of only seven states nationwide and the only state west of the Mississippi River with a title act. Nationally, we are working toward having all fifty states with practice acts by 2010. One important change is the addition of a continuing education (CE) requirement. Alaska, Oregon and Idaho and 26 other states have CE requirements.

A series of brown bag sessions on the licensing upgrade will continue with a session planned in Spokane on December 1. We just received a \$3,500 grant from ASLA for licensing efforts and plan to ask licensees who are not chapter members to contribute.

We have plenty of opportunity for members to become involved in helping to run chapter activities, helping with the newsletters and being involved in governmental affairs. All levels of help are needed and appreciated. Please email [Curtis LaPier](mailto:Curtis.LaPier@aslalocal1.org).

Trustee's Report

By Don Benson

The ASLA Board of Trustees Meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on October 5 and 6, prior to the ASLA National Meeting.

Meeting Highlights:

- ASLA membership increased by approximately 6% during the past year
- ASLA has a signed contract for development of a new web interface for ASLA's database. This should enhance the on-line experience for members. ASLA has been listening to members and is focused on providing increasingly better member services.

- ASLA will continue to support state licensure efforts with the overall goal of 50 states with practice acts by 2010. Several states (including Washington) are in the process of upgrading or changing their title acts to practice acts.
- Amendments were made to the ASLA bylaws regarding antitrust and restraint of trade, confidentiality, conflict of interest, document retention, and standards of conduct.
- The ASLA Finance Committee hired a consultant this year to review ASLA investment strategies. After much discussion at both the Committee and Trustee levels, the recommendation was to change (reluctantly) to a 100% diversified index strategy, replacing the underperforming Socially Responsible Investment(SRI) fund strategy. With the amount of increase in investment income expected, ASLA will be looking to fund programs that encourage green infrastructure and other socially responsible programs. SRI strategies may be revisited in the future if those investments begin to perform on a par with other packages. The discussion at the Trustee level centered around whether the change in investing might conflict with the ASLA code of ethics. In the end, the 100% strategy was approved with the proviso that the monies be allocated to socially responsible programs.
- The approved operating budget for 2007 is \$11,386,738 (revenue), \$10,880,438 (expenses).
- Under Public Relations/Visibility, the ASLA National Headquarters Green Roof continues to receive a lot of favorable press and interest. Grants, cash contributions, and donated products have been received that are about 85% of the goal set by ASLA National to help pay for construction overages. ASLA National is continuing to do whatever it takes to raise the visibility of Landscape Architects. ASLA is strongly encouraging participation in the ACE Mentorship program (getting low income high school students knowledgeable about Landscape Architecture) and is promoting the Sustainable Sites Initiative which is headed towards, among other things, a landscape component to LEEDS Certification.
- Advocacy efforts include continuing to try and get the Historic American Landscape Survey funded by Congress, and three current efforts: The 2007 Farm Bill (bill is broad and includes items of interest to Landscape Architects (such as helping small communities to articulate visions etc).; increasing Security Design awareness among legislators; and increasing Hazard Mitigation/Disaster policy awareness among legislators. Other that items that are being pushed (by ASLA) are to establish the National Landscape Conservation System (lands under BLM jurisdiction) and a Sustainability/Active

Letter from the Editors: Publish or Perish

By Liz Westbrook and Kellye Hilde

Birnbaum's discussion of "Publish or Perish," the new Jones and Jones publication, and the Open Space 2100 article in the November Landscape Architecture Magazine, are a few of Washington's inspiration to include writing in our profession. The WASLA monthly newsletter would like to reflect that strength of the local and national professionals through more written contributions from interested members and non- members.

We are always accepting articles, event information, reviews (events, books, built projects, etc.), and current events that are impacting our environment and profession. Please contact [Kellye Hilde](#) or [Liz Westbrook](#) with contributions or ideas.

WASLA Monthly Newsletter is seeking sponsors. [Click here](#) to request more information.

A Call to Executive and Committee Chair Members:

The end of the year is upon us and it's time to shine the spot light on events that took place in 2006. Our goal is to publish the December 2006 newsletter as a year in review that highlights the successes of WASLA events. Please submit a brief description of your event to [Kellye Hilde](#) by December 1.

2006-2007 Mentorship Program

It's that time again! WASLA is seeking professionals to participate in the Mentorship Program for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year. The time commitment is between 1-4 hours per month and involves both inviting students to your office to see your work AND offering critiques of their work. Each pair will determine the best way to work together, and we will do our best to match students with professionals who share similar interests.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile program, please send the information below to [Carrie Culp](#). We hope to have responses by 11/15/06 and to match students with mentors before the holidays.

Information needed: Name, Phone, Email, Company, Address, Professional Focus/Interests.

Seattle Design Review Board

Mayor Greg Nickels is looking for candidates to fill eleven upcoming openings on the city of Seattle's Design Review Board. The volunteer positions begin April 4, 2007. The deadline to apply is Dec. 13, 2006. Interviews will be held

in January 2007.

There will be openings on the following boards:

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Queen Anne/Magnolia
- Southeast
- Southwest
- Capitol Hill/First Hill/Central District

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's press release.

[Read on...](#)

Alaskan Way Viaduct Position

The Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA), along with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and other allied professionals, are concerned about the seismically unsound condition of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the seawall. A remedy for these failing structures is urgently needed. WASLA commends Seattle mayor Greg Nickels and others who provided strong advocacy for this critical issue and opportunity.

[Read on...](#)

ASLA 2007 Awards - Call for Entries

ASLA has released its 2007 call for entries for its professional and student awards program. Award recipients receive featured coverage in Landscape Architecture magazine and in many other design and construction industry and general-interest



media. Residential category professional award recipients will also be featured in Garden Design magazine. Award recipients, their clients, and professors will be honored at the awards presentation ceremony followed by a special luncheon during the ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO in San Francisco, October 5-8, 2007.

[Read on...](#)

Living Places: The Architecture and Landscape Architecture of Jones and Jones

A presentation by Clair Enlow

November 14, 2006

Henry Art Museum

Author book presentation and panel discussion with Jones & Jones principals reception & book signing to follow.

[Read on...](#)

Kristina Hill Lecture Seattle to Stockholm: Making Sense of Urban Ecological Design

Professor Hill has accepted a position at the University of Virginia beginning January 1, 2007. Please join us in her last formal lecture at the University.

November 15, 2006

7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Henry Art Gallery Auditorium

Reception immediately follows lecture
8:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

[Read on...](#)

WASLA 2007 Conference

**Innovate : Initiate : Integrate
Conference IN Landscape Architecture**

Friday,
February 2,
2007

8:00 am to
5:00 pm

[Bell Harbor
International
Conference
Center](#)



Mark your calendars for a day of inspiration at the 2007 WASLA Conference. Come here the newest ideas on innovative technologies, integrated small business ideas, interesting maintenance tips, and green infrastructure. The full day event will also include new products on display, a chance to catch up with colleagues and meet new people at the luncheon.

Please watch for updates on the website. For exhibit

opportunities please contact the [WASLA office](#).

[Read on...](#)

Birnbaum Lecture Review

In an inspiring discussion about the power of landscapes to excite our collective imaginations, Charles Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, Executive Director of the [Cultural Landscape Foundation](#) highlighted Seattle's esteemed position in the pantheon of designed landscape destinations. Referencing the inspired work of the Olmsted Brothers, Richard Haag, Lawrence Halprin, and others, Mr. Birnbaum equated Seattle's landscapes to the art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Nowhere else is there such a diverse collection of iconic landscapes, and Mr. Birnbaum challenged the audience to evangelize for these places, inspiring the public by teaching about their legacies.

For the majority of his lecture, Mr. Birnbaum alternated encomiums with exhortation to do better using the lecture's title, "Change, Continuity and Civic Ambition: Balancing Historic Preservation and Design," to open a discourse about a number of park spaces around Seattle.

Commenting on the recently renovated Cal Anderson Park, redesigned by The Berger Partnership, Mr. Birnbaum praised the park's melding of modern and historic elements in ways that respected the important original features of the park and reservoir. In contrast, his discussion of the renovated Occidental Park, emphasized the adequate but banal design that lacks continuity with the history of the original Jones + Jones-designed park.

Regarding Freeway Park, Mr. Birnbaum noted that the park itself is in exceptional shape, looking better than it has in years, for which he praised Seattle Parks and Recreation for their stewardship. This drew appreciative applause from the audience. But he also encouraged those who are interested in protecting landscapes to educate the public about the extraordinary examples in our community—like Freeway and Gas Works Park--through engagement in the public process.

But perhaps the issue that many were there to hear about most concerned the Washington Park Arboretum, which is being threatened by the expansion of SR520. While completely sympathetic to the concerns of the destruction of the Arboretum with the Pacific Street interchange, he did note that the long and "convoluted" mission statement of the Arboretum does not mention the protection of historic resources, something that should be rectified. (Mr. Birnbaum later wrote a letter to city and state officials expressing his objections to the 520 project as currently configured).

In addition to his formal lecture, Mr. Birnbaum presented a

preview of an online education module that explores the design intent and relationships in two classic modernist gardens: the Miller Garden in Columbus, Indiana and the Donnell Garden in Sonoma, California. Sophisticated and well-crafted, these interpretive presentations featured multi-media tools, including plans, photos, videos and interviews that explained the design rationale behind these iconic landscapes.

Overarching all of these discussions was the message of the need for honest discussion and collaboration. Both in the design professions and among park enthusiasts, Mr. Birnbaum noted that there have been three “camps:” designers, preservationists and ecologists. In order to protect the parks and open spaces that we all care for, Birnbaum argued that we need to shrug off these rigid caricatures and layer a host of values on our landscapes to preserve them for generations to come.

Black Diamond Charrette Review

The design charrette for improvements to Lake Sawyer Park, co-sponsored by the National Park Service RTCA program, the City of Black Diamond and WASLA, was conducted at the Black Diamond Community Center from October 20-22. This was the 6th charrette conducted in conjunction with the WASLA/NPS RTCA partnership agreement that has helped several communities in Washington on both sides of the state over the past 7 years, and has served as a national model for the ASLA National/National NPS memorandum of understanding.

The charrette started on Friday afternoon and evening with a site orientation followed by a dinner on Friday night with keynote presenters such as Black Diamond Mayor Howard Botts, Black Diamond Councilwoman Becky Olness, Bryan Bowden, NPS RTCA Black Diamond charrette facilitator, and incoming WASLA Chapter President, Curtis LaPierre. Eight professionals from WASLA and two students joined community members in five teams for the all-day charrette on Saturday and the wrap-up and presentation to the Black Diamond community on Sunday afternoon. The professionals served as team leads throughout the process. The City Planner for Black Diamond, Scott Jones, commented that the results were even better than he had hoped for. The results, including a site master plan, are currently on display at the Black Diamond City Hall. The next steps will be to refine the plan and begin the implementation process.

The charrette results are something WASLA can be proud of and, if there were any folks in the Black Diamond area who did not know what Landscape Architecture is about, they do now. Many thanks go to the professionals who participated: Ned Gulbran; Jim Brennan; Drew Combs; Chuck Burget; Allen Cox; Lyndsey Heller; Alexandra Stone; Don Benson; and two students who came all the

way over from WSU- Elise LeBarron and Mary Ordos.

Hosting Opportunity

The Oklahoma State University, Senior Landscape Architecture Design Studio will be visiting Seattle, January 11 and 12, and would like to tour several local Landscape Architectural offices and projects. It is anticipated that approximately 16 students and two professors will be in attendance. This is a great opportunity to share some of the exciting projects that are happening in the Northwest and to educate our future professionals. If your firm is interested in hosting a brief tour of your office, please contact one of the following:

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