

## **ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo**

From Pullman, Washington to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo. The expo was full of new and exciting experiences filled with wonder and knowledge. Its quite amazing to be surrounded by professionals with the same passion I have for landscape architecture. I started the expo by attending the Chapter Presidents Council with the state chapters and Laura Thompson and Tim Slazinik as the WASLA chapter. I was afforded with an inside look at ASLA's efforts to improve the education and awareness of the profession. Being present at this meeting expanded the scope of my understanding and importance of the behind the scenes work ASLA's state chapters do to advocate for landscape architecture. This Expo week was off to a great start.

When registering for this event over the summer, I signed up for a field session that would immerse me into the streets of Philadelphia. The "Like a Local" walking tour field session explored special sites of central Philadelphia like Washington Square park, Philadelphia's Magic Gardens by Isaiah Zagar, and a few special and historic residences. This tour highlighted some of Philadelphia's most historic and awe-inspiring places. By Saturday and Sunday, the guest speakers, education sessions, Professional Practice Network Live events, and expo continued to solidify the importance of student attendance to this national conference. The conference also featured its first students and emerging professionals' reception where I was able to meet and mingle with new landscape architecture professionals and current students studying landscape architecture; asking them questions about their program and relating to similar issues in their programs that I have faced in my student career.

A favorite moment of mine was attending the Women in Landscape Architecture Professional Practice Network live. Getting to listen to the women in the profession discuss how they began their involvement in ASLA and addressing challenges they conquered in their careers.

With the abundant information, the networking, and the swag items from the expo companies the ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo was a tremendous experience.

- Zochil Ivory Castro, Washington State University, 4<sup>th</sup> year in Landscape Architecture.