



**ASLA**  
ILLINOIS

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# Activities Report 2020

Each year, the association provides a foundation to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and networking. The Illinois Chapter continues to be a leader in the Society's mission. 2020 activities year to date are summarized on these pages.

## SUMMARY

**2020 was a challenging year for the world. A pandemic known as COVID-19/novel Coronavirus surfaced and forever changed the way the world conducts business. ILASLA was fortunate to have many, if not all, the technical requirements to continue providing services to members and friends; Education Webinars and Meetings moved to 100% virtual on-line.**

**This year also saw the loss of the Illinois Title Act. This loss makes Illinois the only deregulated state in the nation for landscape architecture. Shortened sessions in state congress due to COVID-19 added to the already difficult situation brought on, initially, by legislators' political missteps. The ILASLA board worked throughout the year to meet with legislators and engage new allies to get the Illinois Title Act vote on the table before the end of the year.**

**With a year that could easily have been swept aside, the Illinois Chapter was determined to provide access, services, and education to its members. Live events were postponed, including Celebration+, but each month provided on-line webinars and social activities, all free of charge for members.**

**ADVOCACY ⇔ MEMBERSHIP ⇔ EDUCATION ⇔ NETWORKING EVENTS  
⇔ EMERGING PROFESSIONALS & STUDENTS ⇔ PARTNERSHIPS ⇔ PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA**

### ADVOCACY

- In 2019, great strides were made to revise our current Title Act into a Practice Act, and we were looking forward to a vote in the Fall Veto Session. In October 2019, we learned that the Practice Act would not be moving forward during the upcoming session. The Department of Financial & Professional Regulation (IDFPR) was not in support of a Practice Act (or any other new Practice Acts in Illinois), and time was running out to push the effort forward before the end of the year.
- The ILASLA Board and Advocacy Committee decided that our first and foremost priority was to protect and extend the existing Title Act during the Fall Veto Session. It was set to expire on January 1, 2020.
- ILASLA worked with IDFPR, Senate and House staff, and legislative sponsors to pass the ten-year extension of the Landscape Architecture Title Act (HB 2957) during the six-day Veto Session. Senator Napoleon Harris and Representative Will Davis sponsored the bill. The Senate passed the bill on Wednesday, November 13, and it was sent to the House for the concurrence of the Senate Amendment. The House did not call the bill for a vote during the veto session and the Speaker shut proceedings down early due to political and legal conflicts in Springfield. There was no opposition to the bill. Our bill was among several others that were not called to a vote and remained in the Rules Committee until the Spring Legislative Session.
- The existing Title Act expired on January 1, 2020. Before the General Assembly would return to Springfield for the Spring Legislative Session beginning January 28, 2020, Landscape Architecture would become deregulated until we could pass a new bill to reinstate a Title Act.

- Due to the sunset, reinstatement language had to be drafted and approved by the IDPFR and stakeholders.
- The protocol was followed to introduce a House Bill, assigned to the House Labor Committee, and reviewed by the Legislative Reference Bureau, who drafted the final language into an amendment.
- Now in the throes of COVID-19, it was unknown when or if the General Assembly would return to Springfield for the Spring Legislative Session. Upon their return, work would need to continue in the House committee, the bill would need to pass, and the move to the Senate Licensed Activities Committee.
- The General Assembly did not meet in the Spring.
- On Monday, May 20, the Illinois General Assembly called a Special Session by proclamation to deal with seven areas of legislation. These include the State budget and its implementation, Covid-19 issues, economic recovery, sunset extensions to expire before June 1, 2021, hospital assessment program, statewide mail-in voting, and graduated income tax. The Legislative Session, which began on Wednesday, will conclude Friday, May 22. Despite efforts, the reinstatement of the Landscape Architecture Title Act bill was not taken up during the three-day Legislative Session.
- Relationship building continued throughout the summer and fall months with legislators, especially those on the House Labor and Senate Licensed Activities Committees.
- We learned before the announcement of the abbreviated special session that our bill was put on an 'agreed list' in the House to help move it forward in the case of a regular session. We are now looking for the 2020 Fall Veto session to close the loop on the issue and move forward with a refreshed, 10-year Title Act.
- Illinois Strategies continued as a lobbyist for the chapter.
- Throughout the year, the Executive and Advocacy Committee worked to raise funds for legislative efforts and to contract a lobbyist; Fundraising will continue throughout the process.

#### MEMBERSHIP (as of November 1, 2020)

- **ILASLA Implemented a dues increase for 2020. All member dues were increased by \$10 except for Affiliate, which increased by \$15. This was to offset increased program delivery costs. Membership decreased by 2.5% in 2020 (compared to 2.5% in 2019). Student Membership, not included in the regular membership count, increased by 82% in 2020. It had increased by 100% in 2019.**
  - 15 New members joined, and 18 members rejoined in 2020 (Oct – Oct)
  - 29 members lapsed in 2020
  - 390 Active Members, down from 420 in 2019  
326 Full (v 323 in 2019) and 17 Associate Landscape Architects (44 in 2019), 20 Affiliate (21 in 2019), 3 Corporate (same in 2019), 18 Emeritus (16 in 2019) and 9 Honorary Members. (These numbers include 3 complimentary and 16 Fellows.)
  - 19% Registered as Suburban and State-wide Members; 76% Registered as Chicagoland Members and 5% Members with out of state addresses.
  - 69 Students are members (17 from IIT; 52 from UIUC). These are in addition to the total members listed above. The increase is due to the drop of membership fees to \$0 and a wide push to engage students.

## EDUCATION

- **24 PDH credits offered through ILASLA Education Committee**
  - 1 Two-Day Workshop: InvigorateU in Bloomington/Normal with downstate partner Illinois Green Industry Association. ILASLA serves as the LA CES partner (12 PDH Credits)
  - 10 PDH Credits through ILASLA Webinars; free to members – live and on-demand
  - 2 Additional Webinars were co-sponsored by APA-IL
  - 1 day of LARE Prep

## NETWORKING EVENTS

- **4 ILASLA Networking Events**
  - The Winter Spritzer took place in January. This was our only live event.
  - 2 Virtual Sketch Meetups took place
  - Virtual Happy Hour took place after a week of BINGO

## EMERGING PROFESSIONALS & STUDENTS

- **7 Emerging Professional and Student Events**
  - 2 Emerging Professionals Sustainability Series Webinars – a new series created this year
  - UIUC Sasaki Day with presentations and awards held virtually
  - Student Project reviews at both UIUC and IIT
  - A co-sponsored event with Midwest ASLA chapters inviting students to learn “What’s Next” Being a Student During COVID-19

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **World Landscape Architecture Month in April was optimized through daily social media posts featuring images of built projects for the national “This is Landscape Architecture” campaign.**

## PARTNERSHIPS

- **16 Sponsorship Partners supported programing and events**
- **9 Industry Partnerships were strengthened through co-sponsoring ILASLA events or providing discounts or free events for Members**
  - American Institute of Architects (AIA)
  - American Planning Association (APA)
  - Illinois Green Industry Association (IGIA)
  - Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA)
  - Illinois Institute of Technology, Landscape Architecture Program (IIT)
  - JB Training
  - Millennium Park Foundation
  - University of Illinois, Landscape Architecture Program (UIUC)
  - Storm Water Solutions (SWS)

**2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Rob Reuland	<i>President</i>	Brad McCauley	<i>Trustee</i>
Magdalena Aravena	<i>President-Elect</i>	Alan Watkins	<i>Treasurer</i>
Keven Graham	<i>Past President</i>	Susan Ragaishis	<i>Executive Director</i>
Cassandra Rice	<i>Secretary</i>		

**CHAIRPERSONS**

Mark Jirik	<i>Advocacy Chair</i>	Megan Wade	<i>Events Vice-Chair</i>
Jessica King	<i>Awards Chair</i>	Susan Jacobson	<i>Fellows Nominations Chair &amp; Landscape Architect</i>
Sarah Dreier	<i>Celebration Co-Chair</i>	Registration Board	
Jenna Pfau	<i>Celebration Co-Chair</i>	Adam White	<i>Membership Co-Chair</i>
Jim Forrester	<i>Communications Co-Chair</i>	Magdalena Aravena	<i>Membership Co-Chair</i>
Nicole Maskooki	<i>Communications Co-Chair</i>	Camille Applewhite	<i>Service Committee Co-Chair</i>
Amanda Arnold	<i>Education Chair</i>	Amy Olson	<i>Sponsorship</i>
Sophia Essian	<i>Emerging Professionals Co-Chair</i>	Deborah Steinberg	<i>Webmaster</i>
Maddie Clark	<i>Emerging Professionals Co-Chair</i>	Ken Horinko	<i>HALS Representative</i>
David Traphagen	<i>Events Chair</i>		