



2023

# Activities Report

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**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.  
2023 activities are summarized on these pages.**

## SUMMARY

2023 was a full year of planning, education, and events. Front and center were the development of a Strategic Plan for 2023-2026, along with work to reinstate continuing education credits for landscape architect registration. We also worked toward increasing event participation and public awareness, especially surrounding our STEM designation.

ADVOCACY \* COMMUNICATIONS \* EDUCATION \*  
EMERGING PROFESSIONALS & STUDENTS \* FINANCIALS \*  
MEMBERSHIP \* NETWORKING EVENTS \*  
PARTNERSHIPS \* PUBLIC AWARENESS \* STRATEGIC PLAN

## ADVOCACY

- **As we adjusted to getting back our registration status, we worked with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) and Representative Teresa Mah (D24) to reinstate continuing education credits. This included a letter directly to Governor Pritzker. The governor signed on the reinstatement bill, and it currently waits for the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) to review the rules.**
  - Relationship building continued throughout the summer and fall months with legislators, especially those on the House Labor and Senate Licensed Activities Committees.
  - To build back up our Advocacy fund, we did not renew our contract with our lobbyist.
  - Funding for our Advocacy fund, remained “in-house” allocating 10% of the event revenue to the account. We did not solicit funds from Members during 2023.
  - Our Advocacy Committee grew and met several times to review current bills that may affect the profession.
  - We held a tour with Senator Suzy Glowiak (D23) to walk through several Elmhurst landscape architect projects and discuss the profession's value. Glowiak serves as the chair of the Licensed Activities Committee.
  - Four Volunteers, comprised of the ILASLA President and Advocacy Chair and two Committee members, attended AIA Illinois' Prairie Grassroots Advocacy Day with members of AIA.
  - This was the first year since the loss of our title act that landscape architects were expected to renew their registration with the state (August 2023). The Chapter worked to remind and instruct members of the process.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **ILASLA called for nominations for Crain's Chicago Business publication of Crain's Notable Women in STEM. Submitting nominations was a conscious effort to elevate the profession in the public eye.**
  - Three landscape architects made the list: Michelle Kelly, ASLA, President and Principal of Landscape Architecture at Upland Design; Patty King, ASLA, Senior Landscape Architect at Wright; and Kris Sorch, ASLA, Senior Landscape Architect at the Chicago Department of Planning.

## AWARDS PROGRAM

- **The chapter sends out an annual call for award submissions, which are juried by a different chapter each year.**
  - 24 of 54 projects submitted for review received an ILASLA Award. They were juried by members of the Potomac Chapter. Two additional Public Recognition Awards and a firm of the year - Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI), confirmed by the ILASLA Executive Committee, were also presented.
  - Volunteers from ILASLA juried the Potomac Chapter's awards this year.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- **The Stream online newsletter was delivered monthly, and e-blasts supported event communications and updates on the progress of continuing education requirements.**
  - Social Media outlets consisted of Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.
  - LinkedIn and Instagram saw worldwide followers from London, Portugal, Turkey, Taiwan, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Indonesia, China, Spain, and the US.

## EDUCATION

- **9 PDH credits were offered through the ILASLA Education Committee**
  - 3 PDH Credits through ILASLA Webinars; free to members – live and on-demand
  - 1 Additional Webinar was co-sponsored by APA-IL
  - 3 Live Field Sessions took place
  - 2 days of LARE Prep – Virtual
  - 1 live education event at Morton Arboretum co-sponsored by APA-IL
  - 1 Cultivating Connections event with the public co-sponsored by Lurie Gardens

## EMERGING PROFESSIONALS & STUDENTS

- **5 Emerging Professional and Student Events**
  - 2 In-person events
  - UIUC Sasaki Day with presentations and awards
  - Student Project reviews at both UIUC and IIT
  - 1 Welcome Back Student Bar-B-Q at IIT

## FELLOW ELEVATION

- **2 Members were elevated to Fellow at the 2023 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture. The Fellow's Committee recommended and reviewed the submission to ASLA.**
  - **Craig Farnsworth**, ASLA, Ball State University, Muncie, IN  
Nomination in Knowledge by the Illinois and Indiana Chapters
  - **Manisha Kaul**, ASLA, Design Workshop, Chicago  
Nomination in Works by the Illinois Chapter

## FINANCIALS

- **The chapter remains financially steady in 2023. After four years of contracting with a lobbyist, ILASLA took the year off from lobby fees to build back the advocacy fund. For financial reports, contact the chapter.**

### Accounts

- The Chapter maintains three accounts: Operating, Advocacy, and Vanguard Investment.
- Fullsteam, a payment program maintained by StarChapter, the chapter's Association Management software program, is used to process registration and payments.
- QuickBooks is used to process all accounting.

### Budgeting

- ILASLA begins its fiscal year on January 1 of each year.
- Each year, the president and executive director meet with each elected official and committee chair to develop a plan and budget for the year. Once developed, the Executive Committee reviews and votes on the full budget. Budgeted items are reviewed monthly, and non-budgeted items are voted upon at Executive Meetings.
- 10% of each event's gross profits are transferred to the Advocacy Fund, and the remaining sits in a general fund. The Vanguard investment account is maintained for emergencies.

### Balancing and Taxes

- The Chapter currently contracts an accounting firm to review monthly financial statements and file tax returns. The Treasurer and Executive Director maintain the day-to-day financial operations of the Chapter.

## HALS

- The Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) is a tripartite agreement with ASLA, the National Park Service, and the Library of Congress. HALS documents historic landscapes through the creation of measured drawings, photographs, and historical reports. Documentation created through the program is archived in the Library of Congress and is available to the public copyright-free.
  - The HALS program sponsors a HALS Challenge Competition each year. For 2023, the competition received entries from 13 states, including Illinois. SAIC graduate student Sol Sherer-Estevez completed documentation for Chicago's Midway Plaisance, which will be available soon on the Library of Congress site. The entry is the 17th documented site for Illinois.

## MEMBERSHIP (as of October 3, 2023: comparisons to October 31, 2022)

- **Membership increased by 9% in 2023 (compared to an increase of 3% in 2022). After informing the membership and requesting input, the Executive Board passed a membership dues increase for Illinois. Depending on the membership affiliation, this increased dues between \$5-\$20.**

**Current Membership:**

- 511 Active Members, up from 468 Active Members in 2022 (9% increase).  
This is comprised of:  
318 Full (v 315 in 2022) and 36 Associate Landscape Architects (16 in 2022), 23 Affiliate (17 in 2022), 17 Fellows (16 in 2022), 4 Corporate (2 in 2022), 9 Honorary Members (10 in 2022), 1 International Member (1 in 2022), and 103 Students (94 in 2022).

**Membership Distribution:**

- 336 (66%) Registered as Suburban (Chicago suburbs and further) and State-wide Members;  
164 (33%) Registered as Chicago Members and 6 (1%) Members with out-of-state addresses.

**New, Rejoins, and Lapsed** (Of note: the lapsed and rejoins do not overlap as would be expected)

- 15 New; 27 Rejoins; and 2 Transfers of Full, Affiliate, and Associate Members in 2023
- 40 New; 14 Rejoins; and 5 Transfers of Students in 2023
- 22 Lapsed Full, Affiliate, and Associate Members in 2023
- 22 Lapsed Students in 2023

**Membership Dues:**

- The last dues increase for the Chapter was in 2019. In 2022, Illinois Chapter Membership dues comprised 29% of total income and are expected to remain the same in 2023.
- The updated dues as of November 2023 are Full Member: \$120, Associate Member \$90, Affiliate Member \$135. Student Members will remain free from Illinois Chapter dues.

## NETWORKING EVENTS

**➤ 6 ILASLA Networking Events – all in person**

- 2 Emerging Professional Events: Game Night and Garfield Park Conservatory
- Spring Rooftop Party
- Legacy Dinner introducing the Strategic Plan to Past Presidents, Trustees, and High-end Advocacy Donors
- Celebration+ with Field Sessions at The Old Post Office, our largest event of each year, honoring 2023 awardees saw 60 attendees for the Field Sessions and 198 attendees for the awards. This was a 46% increase in attendance from 2022.
- Winter Spritzer and Annual Meeting

## PARTNERSHIPS

**➤ 28 Sponsorship Partners supported programming and events**

- 2 Partners provided in-kind support through producing their own events
- Over \$70,000 was provided for advertising and sponsorship support

**➤ 7 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 of Illinois (APA-IL)
- Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI)
- Illinois Institute of Technology, Landscape Architecture Program (IIT)

- Great Lakes Region Climate Action Committee (In combination with ASLA Chapters)
- Millennium Park Foundation (MPF)
- University of Illinois, Landscape Architecture Program (UIUC)

## STRATEGIC PLAN

- **The 2024-2027 Strategic Plan was drafted and is in its final approval stages. The process included many hours of development, which included the following steps:**
  - Goals and outlines developed with the assistance of a consultant
  - Over 15 hours of individual member interviews with the President and Executive Director
  - Development of the plan by a Strategic Planning Committee made up of Full, Associate, and Affiliate Members
  - Creation of a draft plan
  - Additional review by the Strategic Planning Committee and Executive Committee & Plan Rollout

## 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sarah White, ASLA	President
Kenon Boehm, ASLA	President-Elect
Adam De Foor-White, ASLA	Past President
Cassandra Rice, ASLA	Secretary
Sarah Dreier, ASLA	Treasurer
Alan Watkins, ASLA	Trustee
Stacey Libra, ASLA	At-Large Member
Susan Ragaishis, Affiliate ASLA	Executive Director

## 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mark Jirik, ASLA Advocacy Chair	David Traphagen, Affiliate ASLA & Adam De Foor-White, ASLA Social Events Chair
Jessica King, ASLA Awards Co-Chair	Susan Jacobson, FASLA Fellows Nominations Chair
Zachary Rees, ASLA Awards Co-Chair	Ken Horinko, ASALA HALS Representative
Erin Trompeter, ASLA Celebration Chair	Joshua Bauman, ASLA Membership Chair
Jim Forrester, ASLA Communications Co-Chair	Steven Gregory, ASLA Public Awareness Chair
Sophia Essian, ASLA Communications Co-Chair	Cesar Gomez, Associate ASLA Social Media Chair
Amanda Arnold, ASLA Education Co-Chair	Tadhg Barlow, ASLA Webmaster
Anias Placido, ASLA Education Co-Chair	Matthew Jenkins, Student ASLA UIUC Student President
April Pitts, ASLA Emerging Professionals Co-Chair	Johann Friedl, Student ASLA/ Mohammad Arabmazar, Student ASLA IIT Student President
Samantha Sutton, Affiliate ASLA Emerging Professionals Co-Chair	