



ASLA  
ILLINOIS

# Activities Report

2024

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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.  
2024 activities are summarized on these pages.**

## SUMMARY

**With the stabilization of the economy and four years out from the Covid pandemic, the Chapter saw increased growth and member engagement. As the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan was implemented, our newest committee, the Biodiversity and Climate Action Committee, co-hosted its first event at Big Marsh with APA Chicago. Two chapter members stepped up to co-chair a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. The Chapter Bylaws were updated and financials remained steady.**

**REPORT ON: ADVOCACY \* BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTION \* COMMUNICATIONS \* EDUCATION \* EMERGING PROFESSIONALS & STUDENTS \* FINANCIALS \* MEMBERSHIP \* NETWORKING EVENTS \* PARTNERSHIPS \* PUBLIC AWARENESS \* STRATEGIC PLAN \* BOARD**

### ADVOCACY

- **We continued our work with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) to reinstate continuing education credits. This included a letter directly to Governor Pritzker. The governor signed the reinstatement bill, and it currently waits for the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) to review the rules.**
  - ILASLA President and Advocacy Chair attended a virtual ASLA sponsored advocacy summit
  - Members of the Advocacy and Executive Committee held a Meet & Greet breakfast with members of the Asian Caucus and their invited guests helping to extend our reach beyond the caucus and build additional relationships.
  - To build back up our Advocacy fund, we continued to work without a lobbyist.
  - ILASLA President and Trustee attended an ASLA/CLARB sponsored Licensure Summit in Buffalo, NY.
  - Three volunteers, comprised of the ILASLA President, President Elect and Advocacy Chair members, attended AIA Illinois' Prairie Grassroots Advocacy Day with members of AIA.

### BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

- This committee had its very first meeting in January of 2024 and has quickly grown to a team of seven people.
  - Hosted the Great Lakes Region Climate Action Seminar, a virtual conference with a planning team comprised of members from the Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Upstate New York ASLA Chapters as well as the Ontario Chapter of Landscape Architects.
  - Introduced the committee at the Spring Fling at the Climate Action Museum.

## AWARDS PROGRAM

- **The chapter sends out an annual call for award submissions, which are juried by a different chapter each year.**
  - 18 of 39 projects submitted for review received an ILASLA Award. They were juried by members of the Arizona Chapter.  
Five additional Public Recognition Awards: *Julia Bachrach*, *Arnold Randall*, the *UIUC Student Gardens Committee*, student *Vanessa Arteaga* and a firm of the year: *Jacobs Ryan* confirmed by the Executive Committee, were also presented.
  - Volunteers from ILASLA juried the Arizona Chapter 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 included Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.
  - LinkedIn and Instagram saw worldwide followers from Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, London, Portugal, Philippines, Venezuela, Qatar, Germany, Turkey, Taiwan, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, 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
  - 2 In Person Field Sessions
  - 1 in person education event at Big Marsh 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 networking 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
  - Presidents of the UIUC and IIT Student ASLA Boards sat in on Executive Committee Meetings
  - The University of Illinois ASLA Student Chapter created and managed with ILASLA the first “job shadow day” in which 8 firms and 9 students participated

## FELLOW ELEVATION

- **1 Member was elevated to Fellow at the 2024 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture. The Fellow’s Committee recommended and reviewed the submission to ASLA.**
  - **Bradley McCauley, ASLA, Site Design Group**  
Nomination in Leadership/Management by the Illinois Chapter

## FINANCIALS

- **The chapter remained financially steady in 2024. 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.
- The Vanguard investment account is maintained for emergencies.

### Balancing and Taxes

- The Chapter currently contracts an accounting firm to 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. This year, our HALS Chairperson
  - participated in annual ASLA Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) Subcommittee and Chapter Liaisons meeting;
  - is working with an IIT student on HALS project documentation for 2025; and
  - developing HALS resource content for ILASLA website.

## MEMBERSHIP (as of October 31, 2024: comparisons to October 3, 2023)

- **Membership increased by 3% in 2024 (compared to an increase of 9% in 2023). 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:

- 528 Active Members, up from 511 Active Members in 2023 (3% increase).  
This is comprised of:  
315 Full (v 318 in 2023) and 50 Associate Landscape Architects (36 in 2023), 23 Affiliate (23 in 2023), 17 Fellows (17 in 2023), 2 Corporate (4 in 2023), 9 Honorary Members (9 in 2023), 1 International Member (1 in 2023), and 111 Students (103 in 2023).

**Membership Distribution:**

- 326 (62%) Registered as Suburban (Chicago suburbs and further);
- 174 (33%) Registered as Chicago Members; and
- 28 (5%) Members with out-of-state addresses.

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

- 10 New; 32 Rejoins of Full, Affiliate, and Associate Members
- 46 New; 5 Rejoins of Students
- 53 Lapsed Full, Affiliate, and Associate Members
- 44 Lapsed Students (May have graduated or rejoined)

**Membership Dues:**

- Both National and Illinois Chapter dues were increased in 2023.
- As of 9/30/24, the increase helped net the Chapter an additional \$1,650 (5% increase).
- The updated dues for the Chapter as of November 2023 are Full Member: \$120, Associate Member \$90, Affiliate Member \$135, Corporate Member: \$135. Student Members: free.

## NETWORKING EVENTS

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

- Spring Fling at the Climate Action Museum
- 2 Emerging Professional Events: a whirley ball outing and a panel discussion at Chicago Roof, Deck & Garden
- Celebration+ with Field Sessions, our largest event of each year, was held at The River Room at Burning Bush Brewery on September 19, 2024. It was hosted by WGN anchor Dina Bair. It saw 30 attendees for the Field Sessions and 150 attendees for the awards.
- Winter Spritzer and Annual Meeting

## PARTNERSHIPS

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

- One Partner provided in-kind support through producing their own event
- Over \$87,000 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) and Lurie Garden
- University of Illinois, Landscape Architecture Program (UIUC)

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

- **ILASLA called for nominations for Crain's Chicago Business publication of Crain's Leaders in Sustainability. Submitting nominations was a conscious effort to elevate the profession in the public eye.**
  - One landscape architect was submitted and made the list: Stacey Libra, ASLA of Indigo Ecological Design.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

- **The 2024-2027 Strategic Plan was approved in 2024 and is currently being implemented.**

## 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kenon Boehm, ASLA	President
Adam De Foor-White, ASLA	Past President
Stacey Libra, ASLA	President Elect
Lara Barnas, ASLA	Secretary
Sarah Dreier, ASLA	Treasurer
Sarah White, ASLA	Trustee
Dave Lawrie, ASLA	At-Large Member
Susan Ragaishis, Affiliate ASLA	Executive Director

## 2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Mark Jirik, ASLA Advocacy Chair	Samantha Sutton, Affiliate ASLA Emerging Professionals Co-Chair
Zach Rees, ASLA Awards Chair	Adam De Foor-White, ASLA Events Chair
Jeff Fahs, ASLA Biodiversity & Climate Action Co-Chair	Susan Jacobson, FASLA Fellows Nominations Chair
Evan Hartsfield, ASLA Biodiversity & Climate Action Co-Chair	Ken Horinko, ASLA 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	Mickey Castigador, Student ASLA & Ana Laura Cervantes UIUC Student Presidents
April Pitts, ASLA Emerging Professionals Co-Chair	Mohammad Arabmazar, Student ASLA IIT Student President