

January 7, 2008

Government Affairs

- Government Affairs is excited to report that nearly **350 ASLA members will be participating in the 2009 In-District Advocacy Day**. We are also pleased that nearly every ASLA chapter in the Society will be represented during this advocacy event.
- Before it adjourned the 2007-2008 legislative session, the **Michigan Senate took final action on legislation to upgrade the state's landscape architecture law to a practice act. It approved the measures, which have been sent to Governor Jennifer Granholm for her action.**
- The California chapters are formulating strategy to confront a **proposal to eliminate the Landscape Architects Technical Council (LATC)**, currently an entity that operates under the California Architects Board. The proposal would eliminate the LATC and consolidate its functions under the Architects Board. **In July 2007, the Michigan board was eliminated by executive order simply due to its inactivity.**

Public Relations and Communications

- Staff are updating the **experts database** for media requests. This also will be shared with chapters, as appropriate, to identify potential speakers at local events.

Publishing and Resource Development

- ASLA participated in the **National Association of Home Builders' [International Builders' Show](#)** in Las Vegas.
- There is still room and time to sign up for the **[Journeys with the Editor: Historic and Contemporary Charleston Landscapes](#)** tour, March 18-22, sponsored by *LAM*. Editor Bill Thompson, FASLA, will lead an exclusive tour of only 20 guests to Charleston, SC, during the annual Festival of Houses and Gardens.

Information and Professional Practice

- Recently, Geoffrey Anderson, President and CEO of Smart Growth America (SGA) (<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org>) gave a lecture "Post-Election Analysis: What the Outcomes Mean for Smart Growth". SGA is a coalition of national, state and local organizations **working to improve the ways to plan and build towns, cities, and metropolitan areas**. Anderson urged involvement in "Transportation for America" (<http://t4america.org>), a coalition of groups promoting the reform of national transportation legislation to build a modernized infrastructure and healthy communities where people can live, work, and play.

Growing the Profession

- ASLA has renewed its sponsorship of the **ACE Mentor Program** and supplied its headquarters with hundreds of copies of the ASLA Career Discovery brochure in both English and Spanish. The brochure will be updated for subsequent reprinting.
- National Landscape Architecture Month will again **focus on career discovery**. Staff are updating and revising materials for chapters to reach out to K-12 students. New this year are nine step-by-step chapter activity guides that provide detailed information on how to hold career discovery events.
- *Landscape Architecture* magazine will **publish a special section on landscape architectural education** in the upcoming (February) issue. The articles comprise one of the "campus profiles" series (in this case, a dual profile of Virginia Tech in Alexandria and George Washington University's landscape design program) and two dealing with design/build efforts in Washington State and Connecticut, respectively.