

# ASLA Leaders E-Express ...

---

January 21, 2009

## Government Affairs

- Michigan is now the **43<sup>rd</sup> state to regulate the practice of landscape architecture**. Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm signed legislation in mid-January upgrading the state's landscape architecture law to a practice act.
- In a [letter to President-elect Barack Obama](#), **President Dye**, and EVP Somerville urged the Obama Administration to develop a national stimulus package that includes infrastructure projects that will create safe, healthy, livable communities. The letter includes a [list of policy and funding recommendations](#) that utilize and promote landscape architectural techniques for creating safe recreational spaces and pedestrian and bicycle friendly communities, for managing our water resources, and for planning and designing sustainable transportation corridors. ASLA is also urging the consideration of tax breaks for small businesses during these difficult economic times. Many of ASLA's recommendations, including funding for parks and public lands, improving water infrastructure, and transportation improvements, have been included in the House-drafted stimulus legislation.
- Staff are working with the **California** chapters to stop **Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to eliminate the Landscape Architect's Technical Committee (LATC)** in his 2009-2010 Governor's Budget. Although licensure itself would continue under the California Architects Board, this action, if approved, would have a detrimental effect on consumers and the profession. The LATC is currently a committee under the Architects Board. This proposal places all regulatory powers into the Architects Board, with no indication that the Architects Board would be changed to include LA representation. ASLA is sending out advocacy alerts to the membership to fax to both the office of the governor and the state legislature.
- ASLA is gearing up for its **Third Annual ASLA In-District Advocacy Day**. Staff are currently working on scheduling meetings for nearly 350 participants with their federal legislators. Participants should continue to view the [In-District Advocacy Day website](#) for additional updates and details.
- ASLA has been working with **Senator Maria Cantwell's (WA)** office to include **ASLA's recommended language in green roof tax credit legislation**. Senator Cantwell will attempt to introduce the legislation as part of a larger clean energy package. Government Affairs staff incorporated suggestions from members and from Green Roofs for Healthy Cities on the technical and financial aspects of green roofs and appropriate tax credits to be included in the legislation.

## Public Relations and Communications

- [The New York Times](#), circulation 1.1 million, ran a feature about the **Sustainable Sites Initiative** and sustainable gardens. The story was also picked up on the popular website [Huffingtonpost.com](#). Several other blogs have recently written about the Initiative including [GardenVisit.com](#), the [Multnomah County \(Oregon\) Library](#), and [LandDesignWeb](#). Other recent ASLA news coverage has appeared in [Turf magazine](#), [the Washington \(D.C.\) Examiner](#), [Pool and Spa Living](#), and [Yubanet.com](#).
- ASLA staff are finalizing the **2009 outreach plan for the Sustainable Sites Initiative**, with the next major announcement to coincide with the **2009 ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO**.
- ASLA helped facilitate a lecture by **OLIN partners Laurie Olin, FASLA, and David Rubin, ASLA**, as part of the **National Building Museum's Spotlight on Design lecture series**. EVP Somerville introduced the two speakers and co-hosted a private dinner for them following the lecture.

# ASLA Leaders E-Express ...

---

## Publishing and Resource Development

- Over **150 entries** have been received for the [ASLA 2009 professional awards program](#). The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 20.
- On January 20, an electronic letter from the Editor was sent to all advertisers and prospective advertisers announcing the launch of the **digital version of *Landscape Architecture* magazine in April**.
- **ASLA was at the NAHB International Builders' Show** in Las Vegas. Seventeen member volunteers are working in the "Ask a Landscape Architect" section of the ASLA booth. (See Professional Practice section, below.) Preshow mailers were sent to more than 16,000 attendees encouraging them to stop by to speak with an expert, receive a customized FirmFinder printout, and to take advantage of a *LAM* show subscription offer.

## Information and Professional Practice

- Members of the **Landscape-Land Use Planning, Urban Planning and Design, and Sustainable Design and Development Professional Practice Networks (PPNs)** served as consultants at the joint ASLA-NAHB Land Planning Workshop at the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas in January. Workshop participants brought their development plans for consultants to review and critique. ASLA Professional Practice staff members helped facilitate the workshop.
- The **Reclamation and Restoration PPN** has published its [Winter 2008 newsletter](#). Articles include "Human Systems as Part of the Ecological Restoration Equation," by **Keith Bowers, ASLA**, and "Eastern Wyoming Coal Mines," by **Jon Bryan Burley, ASLA**.
- The former **Rural Landscape PPN** has become a section of the **Landscape-Land Use Planning PPN**. **Randy Brockway, ASLA**, will continue as chair of the Rural Landscape Section, working with Landscape-Land Use Planning chairs **Martin Flores, ASLA**, and **Mary Bedard, ASLA**.
- A **proposed Children's Outdoor Environments PPN** has received statements from more than 75 supporters who have agreed to be the founding members of the group. Staff is moving ahead with steps to bring the group's petition to the Executive Committee for approval.
- The **Landscape and Environmental Design Committee of the National Transportation Research Board (TRB)** held a meeting in Washington, DC on January 14, which included several ASLA members who serve on the committee, representatives of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation, and officials of the Federal Highway Administration. Among other things, the meeting focused on the announcement of the National Dialog on Context Sensitive Solutions, which **will feature a series** of workshops across the country using a particular transportation project as a focus for discussion.
- The **American Planning Association and Environmental Defense Fund** sponsored a lecture by Enrique Peñalosa, the former mayor of Bogota, Columbia, on January 12 in Washington, DC. As mayor, Peñalosa **implemented a number of successful green projects in Bogota** including parks and greenways, pedestrian accessibility, car-free days, and a leading transit system that has displaced car use significantly. Professional practice department staff represented ASLA.