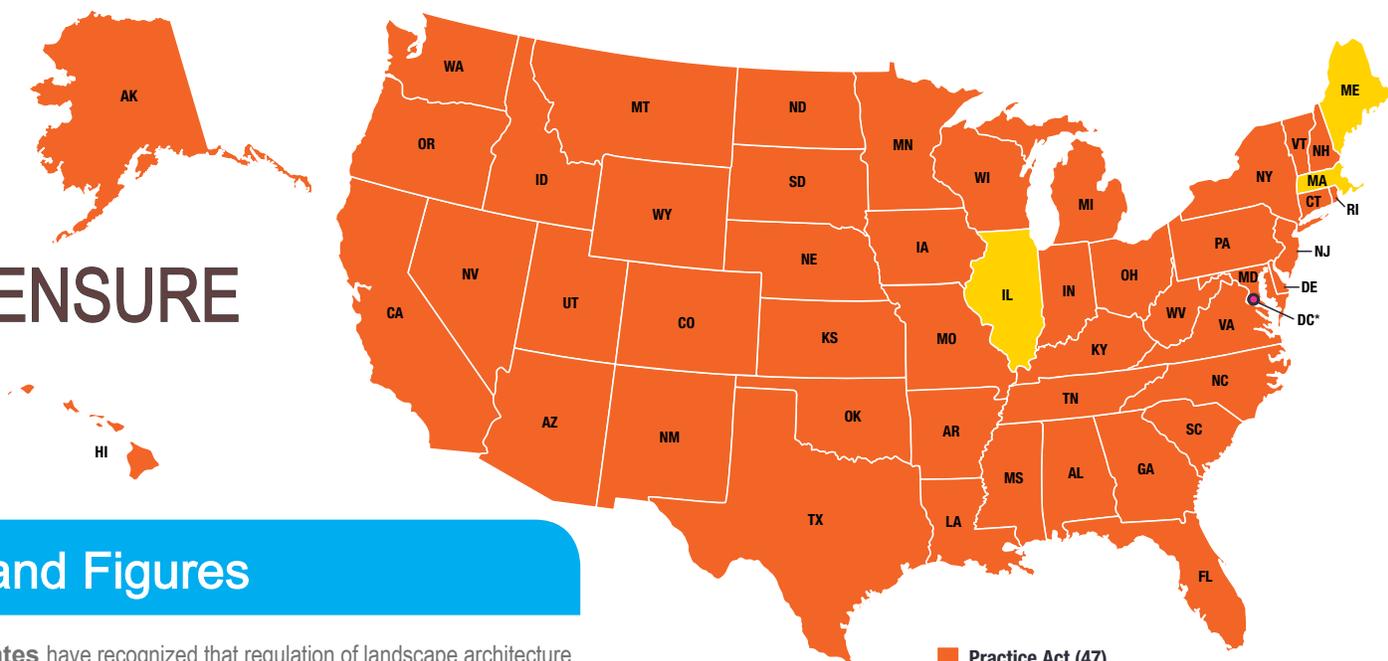


LICENSURE



Facts and Figures

All 50 states have recognized that regulation of landscape architecture is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. All but three states regulate the profession through a practice act, which requires a license to practice the profession and use the title 'landscape architect.' The remaining three states have enacted title act statutes, which is a weaker form of regulation that allows anyone to practice landscape architecture if they call it something else. A practice act is important because of the real danger to clients and the users of these public and private spaces: physical injury, property damage, and financial ruin.

EDUCATION

Most landscape architects have an accredited degree in landscape architecture. The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredits bachelor- and master-level programs at 69 institutions across the United States. Additionally, the Landscape Architects Technical Committee in California approves extension certificate-level programs. Six California universities have accredited or approved programs:



EXPERIENCE

California requires that landscape architects have at least two years of experience under a licensed professional in order to qualify for examination. Some flexibility is provided for educational background, allowing candidates with more years of experience to qualify without an accredited degree, reducing barriers to entry into the profession.

NATIONAL EXAMINATION

All states require every candidate to pass the four-part Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE). While education and experience standards ensure each candidate has been prepared to enter the profession, the LARE provides a definitive measure of competence to ensure each landscape architect will **protect public health, safety, and welfare.**

Skills tested include: project development; site suitability; stormwater management; erosion control; hydrology; and irrigation. Candidates also must demonstrate competence in such areas as: layout of playground equipment; vehicular and pedestrian circulation; roadway alignment design; site lighting layouts; manipulation of contours and spot elevations; calculations of slopes, grades, and volumes of material; design of surface and subsurface storm drainage, including hydraulic characteristics and storm drain connections; and site planning for buildings.

CALIFORNIA EXAMINATION

After passing the four-part national LARE, candidates in California must pass the California Supplemental Examination (CSE) in order to become licensed in the State. The CSE tests additional competence in practice areas of particular significance in the State, including: State codes and ordinances, water-efficient planting and irrigation, native plants, fire safety, CEQA, permitting, agency jurisdiction, and other topics.

Support Continued State Licensure and Regulations

We urge your support of legislation that provides effective regulation of the practice of landscape architecture. Licensure ensures that only capable, trained professionals are performing landscape architecture work that impacts the public health, safety, and welfare.



Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival
Photo: Design Workshop