



ISSUE 5

WINTER 2026

orange county

santa barbara

the desert

los angeles

ventura

Promoting landscape architecture through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship.

Advocacy / Diversity / Education / Fellowship / Stewardship



Healthy, beautiful, safe, and resilient landscapes **for all.**



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**PARK
WEST**

**Shaping
Your
Environment**



**YAAMAVA'
RESORT & CASINO**

**RESORTS WORLD
LAS VEGAS**



**SKECHERS
WAREHOUSE**

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

ARBOR CARE

Executive Director Message



by **Vicki Phillip, Hon. ASLA**
Executive Director

I want to start by thanking the elected leaders and committee chairs of the Southern California Chapter's Executive Committee for their dedication and hard work throughout a demanding year. This year ushered in both national and domestic challenges including the devastating Los Angeles wildfires just about one year ago which affected many of our ASLA members.

Despite challenges, the chapter's collective strength was our defining feature. In addition to celebrating our 2025 ASLA Honor and Merit Award student recipients, we celebrated our **2025 Quality of Life Design Award winners**, launched a new climate and wildfire task force

committee; hosted a Fire Certification class with Doug Kent, and joined together in New Orleans for the annual Fellows Investiture Dinner to honor two of our chapter members elevated to the 2025 CLASS Fellows – David Watts, FASLA from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Tiffany Beamer, FASLA from OLIN.

And finally, from me – a personal thank-you to our social media consultant, Karen Kennedy from And the Moon Will Rise; and our website consultant, Kari Cureton from Sarit + State Creative Studio.

Here's to 2026!

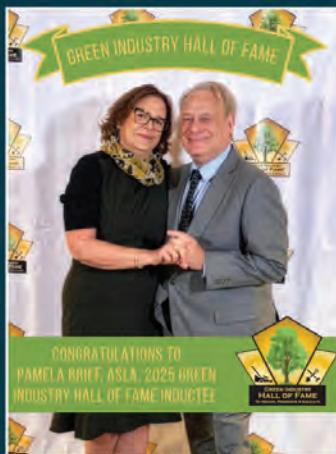
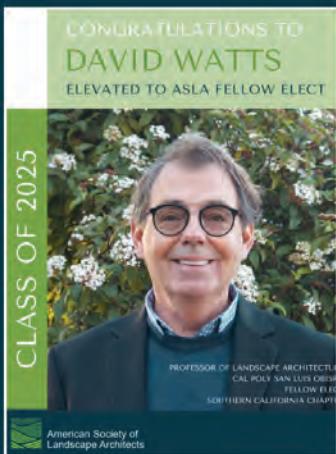
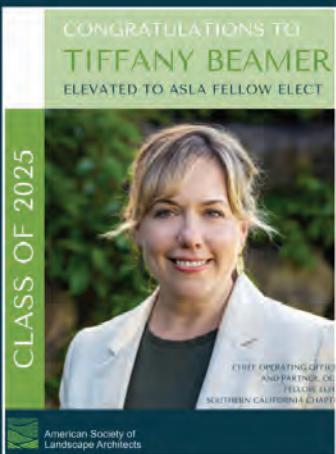
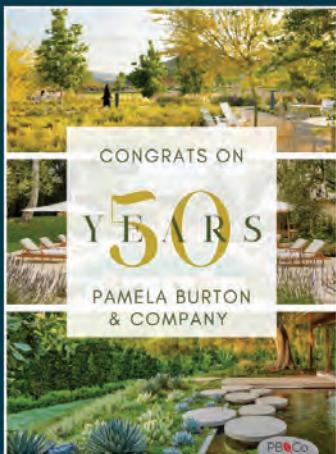
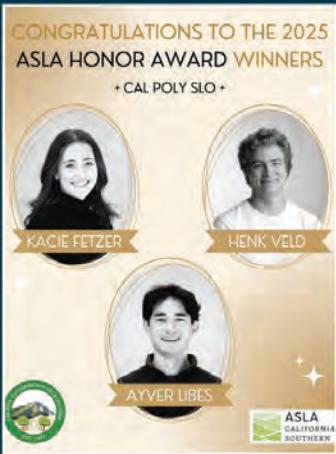


**Despite challenges,
the chapter's collective
strength was our defining
feature.**



2025 IN REVIEW

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



CONGRATULATIONS!



2025 IN REVIEW

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

2025 ASLA SoCal EPC Virtual Kick-Off Event

Virtual introductions... 2025 EPC Outlook (Programs + Events)

A conversation with ASLA SoCal 2025 President: Scott Rice, ASLA, LEED AP, CALS President at Community Works Design Group in Brea/OC, CA

ASLA SoCal Emerging Professional LUNCH BUNCH

FREE virtual lunchtime events to SoCal members | Emerging Architects

JANUARY 2025: 2025 Outlook + A Conversation with ASLA SoCal President, Scott Rice

Details:
Wednesday, March 5th, 12-1pm PST
Zoom Meeting ID: 883 3455 0920
Zoom Passcode: ASLAEPIC

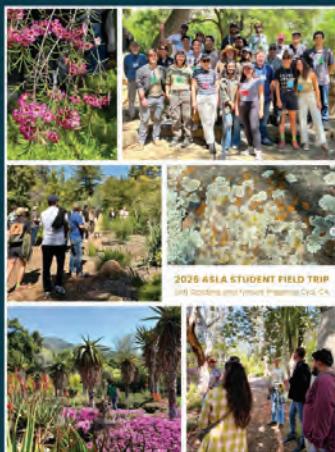
FREE WEBINAR
RESILIENT REGENERATIVE FIRESCAPING WITH DOUGLAS KENT



WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 2025 12-1PM PDT

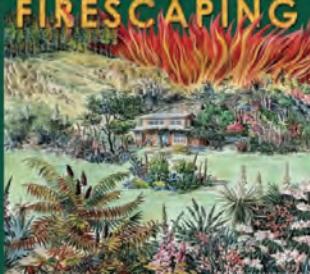
Discussing comprehensive best practices in regenerative landscaping, focused on reducing fire risk, preparing for fire, protecting homes and large property owners for safety before, during, and after a firestorm.

ASLA CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN <https://bit.ly/ASLASoCal.April23Webin>



FIRESCAPING CERTIFICATION FOR DESIGNERS

FIRESCAPING



SATURDAY 6.21.25 9AM-3PM

AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK, LOS ANGELES

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/FIRESCAPING_SOCAL](https://bit.ly/Firescaping_Socal)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS OPEN THROUGH AUGUST 13



ASLA CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN

2025 QUALITY OF LIFE DESIGN AWARDS

30x30 PARTNERSHIP 2025 SUMMIT



THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025; 9AM-5PM + RECEPTION
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

2025 THEME: SUSTAIN, STRENGTHEN, SUCCEED

SUSTAIN the progress & momentum of 30x30's first five years

STRENGTHEN the partnerships, policies & innovations needed to achieve 30x30's conservation goals

SUCCEED in securing a healthy & resilient planet for generations to come

ASLA CALIFORNIA COUNCIL

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS SPONSOR THE SUMMIT
WWW.CALIFORNIANATURE.CA.GOV

ASLA CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS VIRTUAL MEET-UP

WITH NEW CO-CHAIRS CHERYL SALAZAR AND KEVIN JO

THURSDAY SEPT 11, 12-1P



AIA LA | ASLA SOCAL EMERGING PROFESSIONALS PRESENTS

THE LA RIVER SERIES

AIA LA & ASLA SOCAL EMERGING PROFESSIONALS VOLUNTEER DAY: LA RIVER CLEANUP & VISION TALK

SEPTEMBER 27 8AM - 11AM

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE RESERVE

We're teaming up with Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) for a hands-on volunteer cleanup event, helping restore a vital stretch of LA's watershed.

AIA Los Angeles  **ASLA CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN**

Register Now for #ASLA2025

Beyond Boundaries

Connect & Learn Beyond Boundaries



October 10-13, 2025; New Orleans

Register by Aug 26 to save with the Advance Rate!
www.aslaconference.com

OVERLANDER PRIZE FORUM IV

SOAK IT UP

DESIGNING FOR URBAN FLOODING & MANAGING THE LOS ANGELES RIVER

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SPEAKERS



SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 4 | Keynote and Reception
Friday, December 5 | Conference and Reception
Saturday, December 6 | MobiLab Workshops

REGISTER AT WWW.TCLF.ORG



THANK YOU FOR AN OUTSTANDING YEAR!

Trustee Update



by **Evan Mathers, FASLA**
Trustee

Dear Members of the Southern California Chapter,

The Fall 2025 ASLA Board of Trustees meeting was filled with energy and a renewed sense of purpose for our profession. One of the most significant moments was the release of **Version 2 of ASLA's Climate Action Plan** during the conference in New Orleans. This updated plan sharpens our collective commitment to achieving zero embodied carbon and climate-positive design by 2040, expanding on real-world implementation strategies and accountability tools that reflect the work we're already leading in California and beyond.

On the advocacy front, ASLA achieved several hard-won victories this year through our efforts on **HR1, the "Big Beautiful Bill."** These include expanding R&D tax credits for design innovation, increasing municipal bond credits for green infrastructure, and allowing 529 education funds to be used toward licensure and continuing education costs. At the same time, ASLA continues to push back against troubling federal efforts to defund bike and green infrastructure programs, cut the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and mandate

classical architecture in federal projects. We're also closely watching how rising H-1B visa fees, and changes in STEM education and immigration policy, may impact the design professions and future workforce diversity. A powerful reminder of what ASLA stands for came through our collective action to protect the landscape architecture program at the University of Nebraska. When the program was threatened with elimination, ASLA mobilized across chapters—organizing petitions, drafting letters, and even securing coverage on NPR. While the decision is still pending, this advocacy effort underscores how we're strongest when we act together, amplifying our shared values and commitment to the next generation of landscape architects.

ASLA continues to push back against troubling federal efforts to defund bike and green infrastructure programs, cut the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and mandate classical architecture in federal projects.

Closer to home, our Quality of Life Awards were a tremendous success—an inspiring showcase of how design can advance environmental, social, and cultural resilience in our region. Thank you to all who submitted work, volunteered, and helped elevate the visibility of landscape architecture in Southern California.

Finally, momentum is building for the **2026 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, which we'll proudly host here in Los Angeles.** It's a rare opportunity to share our region's design leadership, creativity, and ecological vision with the world. I look forward to working with all of you to make this a landmark moment for our chapter and the profession.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ASLA 2026

ACTION!

Design in Motion. Work in Progress.

**September 16-18 | Los Angeles, CA
Conference on Landscape Architecture**



AIA x ASLA Emerging Professionals LA River Series Part 2



by **Kevin Jo, ASLA**
EPC Co-Chair



by **Cheryl Salazer, Affiliate ASLA**
EPC Co-Chair



AIA LA | ASLA SOCAL
EMERGING PROFESSIONALS PRESENTS

THE LA RIVER SERIES

As part two of the AIA and ASLA Emerging Professionals LA River Series, EPs rolled up their sleeves on 9/27/25 for a Habitat Restoration Day with Friends of the LA River (FOLAR) at the Sepulveda Basin.

Building on the first session's virtual presentation by OLIN, volunteers helped remove invasive weeds, staged them for future removal, and made native germination seed balls. The group also split up for guided basin tours, birdwatching, and hands on restoration, wrapping up the day by dispersing their seed balls throughout the basin.





RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

[LARE 1: Inventory, Analysis and project Management](#)

January 31

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[LARE 2: Planning and Design](#)

February 1

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[LARE 3: Construction Documentation and Administration](#)

March 1

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[LARE 4: \(part 1\) Grading, Drainage and Stormwater Management](#)

February 27

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

[LARE 4: \(part 2\) Grading Drainage and Stormwater Management](#)

February 28

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM



NARROW MODULAR PAVERS

800.572.9029 stepstoneprecast.com



Membership Update



by **Chris Hermann, ASLA**
VP Membership

AFFILIATE
12 members

ASSOCIATE
48 members

FULL
334 members

INTERNATIONAL
2 member

AFFILIATE CORPORATE
5 members

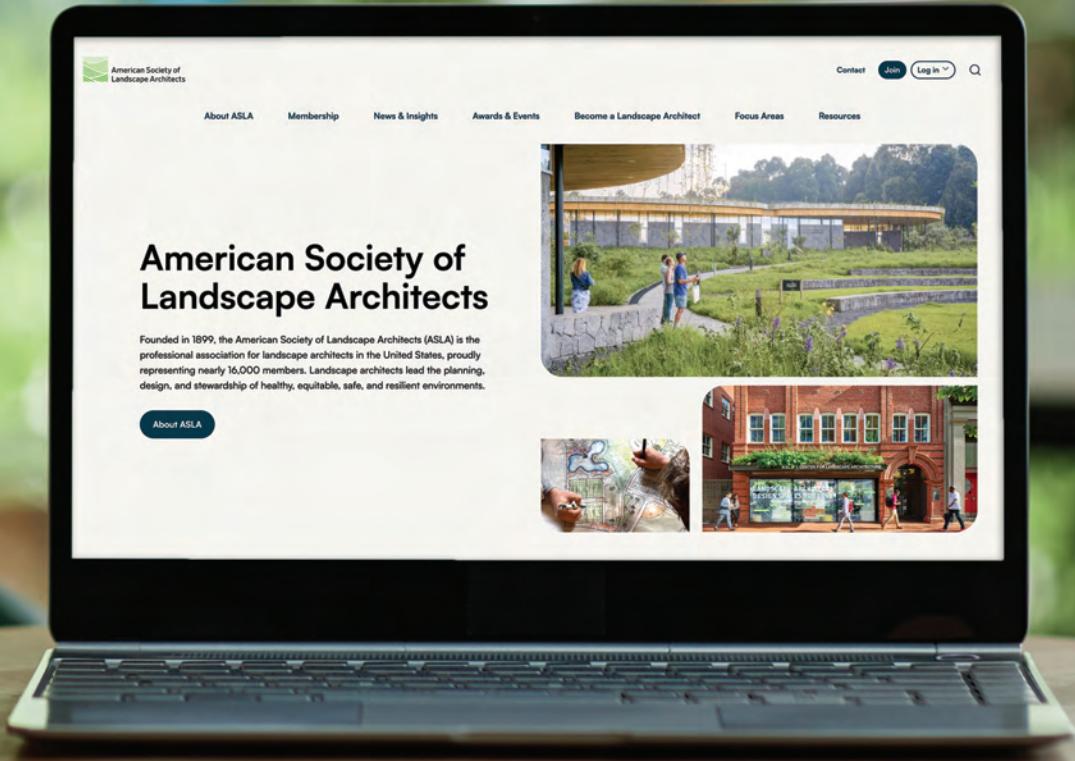
FELLOWS
28 members

HONORARY
12 members

STUDENT
311 members

Visit the NEW and Improved ASLA National Website!

asla.org



The image shows a laptop with the ASLA website open, resting on a wooden table. The website features a white header with the ASLA logo and navigation links for About ASLA, Membership, News & Insights, Awards & Events, Become a Landscape Architect, Focus Areas, and Resources. The main content area includes a large image of a modern landscape architecture project, a smaller image of a person sketching, and another image of a red brick building. A yellow callout box with the text 'Visit the NEW and Improved ASLA National Website!' and the website address 'asla.org' is overlaid on the top half of the image.

American Society of
Landscape Architects

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, proudly representing nearly 16,000 members. Landscape architects lead the planning, design, and stewardship of healthy, equitable, safe, and resilient environments.

About ASLA

Contact [Join](#) [Log in](#) [Search](#)

Southern California Executive Committee's Annual Planning Day



by **Vicki Phillip, Hon. ASLA**
Executive Director

It was a wonderful day at the Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Gardens in Long Beach on Saturday December 6. The SoCal Chapter Executive Committee met for our annual day of planning to review the Strategic Plan and upcoming goals for 2026. 2026 is shaping up to be a good year and there is a great deal of excitement as we prepare for our host chapter responsibilities for the 2026 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture - coming to Los Angeles September 16-18. At the end of the day, members of the Executive Committee received a special holiday gift from Vicki Phillip, the Chapter's Executive Director.



CAREER PATHWAYS

A LUNCH & LEARN FOR EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14; 12-1P



ALYSSA MOFFITT, ASLA
FOUNDER, TERRA BRAVA/WILD EARTH LA



PAMELA BRIEF, PLA, ASLA
FOUNDER, PAMELA STUDIOS

**HONEST INSIGHTS, PRACTICAL
TIPS & REAL TALK WITH ALYSSA
MOFFITT & PAMELA BRIEF**

Climate Action Committee Update



by **Alyssa Moffitt, Assoc. ASLA**

Climate Action Chair



The holidays give one a chance to unwind, reflect on the year and enjoy our families, friends and communities. It is also a perfect time to catch up on old Landscape Architecture Magazines. In the December 2025 edition, Erin Despard and Meg Studer explore the decline of an imported ecosystem for exported for an exposition in their article *A Disability Mindset for Landscape Design* ([A Disability Justice Mindset for Landscape Design](#)). They frame this horticultural decline within the framework of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA, 2016) and around question of restoration versus creative adaptation. It is a beautiful and complex article that contains its own message while also reverberating other thoughts about disability, failed ecosystems and our current climate concerns. Their approach was particularly poignant to me, as a daughter of a parent who had polio at 4 years old, who loved nature and was incredibly creative in navigating a pre-ADA world.

Erin and Meg quote disabled artist and scholar Sunaura Taylor in her essay "Age of Disability" who states that "nature has been altered and damaged in profound and serious ways" that will lead to "mass ecological disablement." Sunaura goes on to say,

"Critical disability perspectives show that, with access to health care, social supports, and community, disabled life can be not just livable but flourishing. [Disabled and ill people] insist that, although damage is real, it is also a source of ethical insight, of value, of creativity."

This reminded me of Nina Marie Lister's article, *Industrial Ecology as Ecological Design: Opportunities for Re(dis)covery* ([Books & Chapters | Ecological Design Lab](#)), where she discusses how ecologies are ever changing, resilient in their ability to adapt to disruption in unpredictable ways and that our role is best described as adaptive management, where we are open to learn, to experiment, to fail, and to be flexible in our approaches. I also saw wonderful parallels on how we might look at human connective systems of economics, sociology and how design is truly 'planning + love.'

These are hopeful perspectives on how we can brave the changes we are witnessing in our environments, in weather and in our human, social, political and economic systems. The leads me to wonder how we can approach Climate Action on various scales, with creativity, experimentation, collaboration, and love.



This year, the Climate Action Committee will begin to develop a database of locally sourced, sustainable materials and are currently looking into collaborations with other organizations. We will provide webinars on scalable mitigations and methods to protect our unique biodiversity, reduce the carbon output of our projects, capture carbon, regenerate soils, and increase tree canopy. We will continue to support CCASLA in their efforts to engage with the Board of Forest and Fire Safety on holistic fire resilient regulations and we will present a webinar on the Zone 0 regulations once they are defined.

We will continue to explore together how all of our members, from sole practitioners to large firms, can play a role in the ASLA Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2030 – from providing clients with their carbon calculations to using more local and sustainable materials and planting a healthy balance of native and climate adapted plants to protect the most threatened and most biodiverse state in the United States.

If you would like to be involved, please join us on January 12 at 6 pm at our monthly Zoom meeting. You can join a subcommittee or just join the conversation. I hope to see you soon!

You are invited to a Zoom meeting

REGISTER IN ADVANCE

Jan 12, 2026, 06:00 PM Pacific Time

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



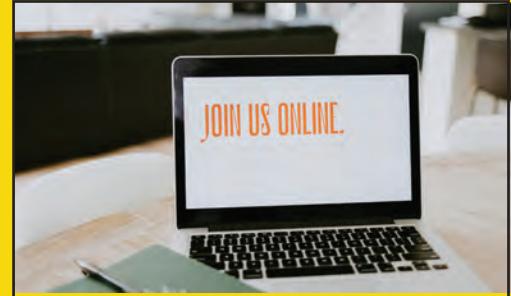
Upcoming Events

[VIEW ALL OUR UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

JANUARY

6 CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS DEADLINE 2/17/25
2026 CONFERENCE ON LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE, LOS ANGELES

[DETAILS + SUBMITTAL](#)



7 PROFESSIONAL AWARDS WEBINAR:
TIPS FROM JURY MEMBERS AND PAST WINNERS
2:00 PM

[DETAILS + REGISTRATION](#)

12 CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING
6PM – 7PM

14 EMERGING PROFESSIONAL LUNCH & LEARN
"CAREER PATHWAYS" 12PM – 1PM (VIRTUAL)

[DETAILS + REGISTRATION](#)

FEBRUARY

19 SAVE THE DATE! AIA + ASLA PRESENT A NIGHT
OUT AT OUTDOOR LIVING CONCEPTS
LOCATION: OUTDOOR LIVING CONCEPTS
77-928 PALAPAS ROAD, PALM DESERT
530PM – 8PM / TICKETS: \$10



APRIL

WORLD LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE MONTH
(WLAM)

UCLA LARE CLASSES

[LARE 1: Inventory, Analysis and Project Management](#)

January 31
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[LARE 2: Planning and Design](#)

February 1
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[LARE 3: Construction Documentation and Ad- ministration](#)

March 1
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[LARE 4: \(part 1\) Grading, Drainage and Stormwater Management](#)

February 27
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

[LARE 4: \(part 2\) Grading Drainage and Stormwater Management](#)

February 28
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Executive Committee, Chairs, Members-At-Large, and Liaisons



**Melanie Buffa, ASLA
PRESIDENT**

Agency Artifact, Los Angeles



**Jared McKnight, ASLA
PRESIDENT ELECT**

WRT Design, Los Angeles



**Scott Rice, ASLA
PAST PRESIDENT**

Community Works Design Group, San Bernardino County



**Evan Mather, FASLA
CHAPTER TRUSTEE**

AHBE | MIG, Inc., Los Angeles



**Chuck Foley, ASLA
VP SPONSORSHIP**

Hirsch Associates, Orange County



**David Watts, ASLA
TREASURER**

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



**Chris Hermann, ASLA
VP MEMBERSHIP**

Hermann Design Group, Palm Desert



**Jitka Dekojova, ASLA
SECRETARY**

Studio III



**Bruce Oliver, ASLA
COUNCIL DELEGATE**

Suliso, Inc., Irvine



**Stephanie Landregan,
FASLA
COUNCIL DELEGATE**

Program Director, UCLA Extension



**Tracy Wolk, Assoc.
ASLA
HALS**



**Kevin Jo, ASLA
EMERGING PROS
CO-CHAIR**

MJS Design Group



**Cheryl Salazer,
Affiliate ASLA
EMERGING PROS CO-CHAIR**

PLAYCE Studio



**Andy Bowden, FASLA
FELLOWS CHAIR**

Landscape Architect, Orange County



**Tricia O'Connell,
PLA, ASLA
LIAISON TO STUDENTS**

Landscape Architect, Los Angeles



**Alyssa Moffitt,
Assoc. ASLA
CLIMATE ACTION CHAIR**

Terra Brava/Wild Earth Landscape Architecture



**Nicole Hourian, ASLA
PROGRAMS
MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

Hourian Associates, Central Coast



**Steve Lang, ASLA
AWARDS HISTORIAN/
JURY FACILITATOR /
MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

MIG, Inc.



**Kim Rhodes
STUDENT FIELD TRIP
MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

David Evans and Associates, San Bernardino County



**Victoria Phillip,
Hon. ASLA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Phillip + Company, Orange County and Los Angeles



**Interested in volunteering?
Contact [Vicki Phillip](#) for available positions.**



Miracle Playground Sales



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[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](http://socal-asla.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION.