



orange county

santa barbara

central coast

the desert

inland empire

los angeles

ventura

**ISSUE 5**

**WINTER 2026**



orange county

santa barbara

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

the desert

**Advocacy / Diversity / Education / Fellowship / Stewardship**

los angeles

ventura

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 Phillipy, 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!

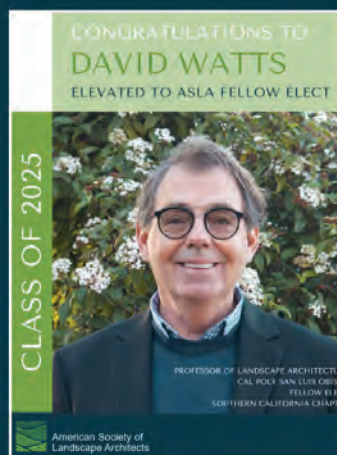
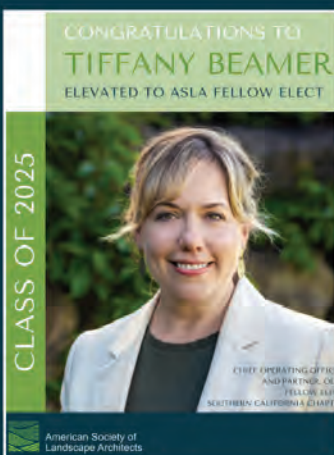
**Despite challenges,  
the chapter's collective  
strength was our defining  
feature.**





# 2025 IN REVIEW

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION



# CONGRATULATIONS!





# 2025 IN REVIEW

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### 2025 ASLA SoCal EPC Virtual Kick-Off Event

Virtual Introductions  
2025 EPC Outlook (Program & Events)

A conversation with ASLA SoCal 2025 President:  
**Scott Rice**, HKS, HKS (300) 301 0410  
President of Community Works  
Design Group in Riverside, CA

### ASLA SoCal Emerging Professional LUNCH BUNCH

ASLA SoCal Emerging Professionals Network (EPN) (ASLA SoCal Emerging Professionals Network)

JANUARY TOPIC: 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: ASLAEPC

### 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 hazards and preparing cities and large property owners for safety before, during, and after a firestorm.



**Douglas Kent**  
Author of the book 'Resilient Regenerative Firescaping' (2024)  
Principal, Douglas Kent & Associates  
Alhambra, California

ASLA CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN <https://bit.ly/ASLASoCalApril23Webinar>



2025 ASLA STUDENT FIELD TRIP  
with students and faculty from ASLA SoCal, CA

### FIRESCAPING CERTIFICATION FOR DESIGNERS



**SATURDAY 6.21.25 9AM-3PM**  
AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK, LOS ANGELES  
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/FIRESCAPING\\_SOCAL](https://bit.ly/FIRESCAPING_SOCAL)

### ASLA CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS OPEN THROUGH AUGUST 13



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** at securing a healthy & resilient planet for generations to come

ASLA CALIFORNIA COUNCIL CHAIR & CO-CHAIR TO SPONSOR THE SUMMIT  
[WWW.CALIFORNIANATURE.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CALIFORNIANATURE.CA.GOV)

### EMERGING PROFESSIONALS VIRTUAL MEET-UP

WITH NEW CO-CHAIRS CHERYL  
BALAZAR AND KEVIN JO

**THURSDAY  
SEPT 11, 12-1P**



2025 DESIGN AWARDS EVENT

### AIA LA | ASLA SOCIAL EMERGING PROFESSIONALS PRESENTS THE LA RIVER SERIES

AIA LA & ASLA SOCIAL 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](http://www.aslaconference.com)

### OVERLANDER PRIZE FORUM IV

### SOAK IT UP

DESIGNING FOR URBAN FLOODING &  
MANAGING THE LOS ANGELES RIVER  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**SCHEDULE**  
Thursday, December 4 | Keynote and Reception  
Friday, December 5 | Conference and Reception  
Saturday, December 6 | Mobile Workshops  
REGISTER AT [WWW.TCFL.ORG](http://WWW.TCFL.ORG)



### 2025 ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PLANNING MEETING



# 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.





# 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.





# UCLA LARE CLASSES

## 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](http://stepstoneprecast.com)





# Membership Update



by **Chris Hermann, ASLA**  
VP Membership

AFFILIATE

**12 members**

AFFILIATE CORPORATE

**5 members**

ASSOCIATE

**48 members**

FELLOWS

**28 members**

FULL

**334 members**

HONORARY

**12 members**

INTERNATIONAL

**2 member**

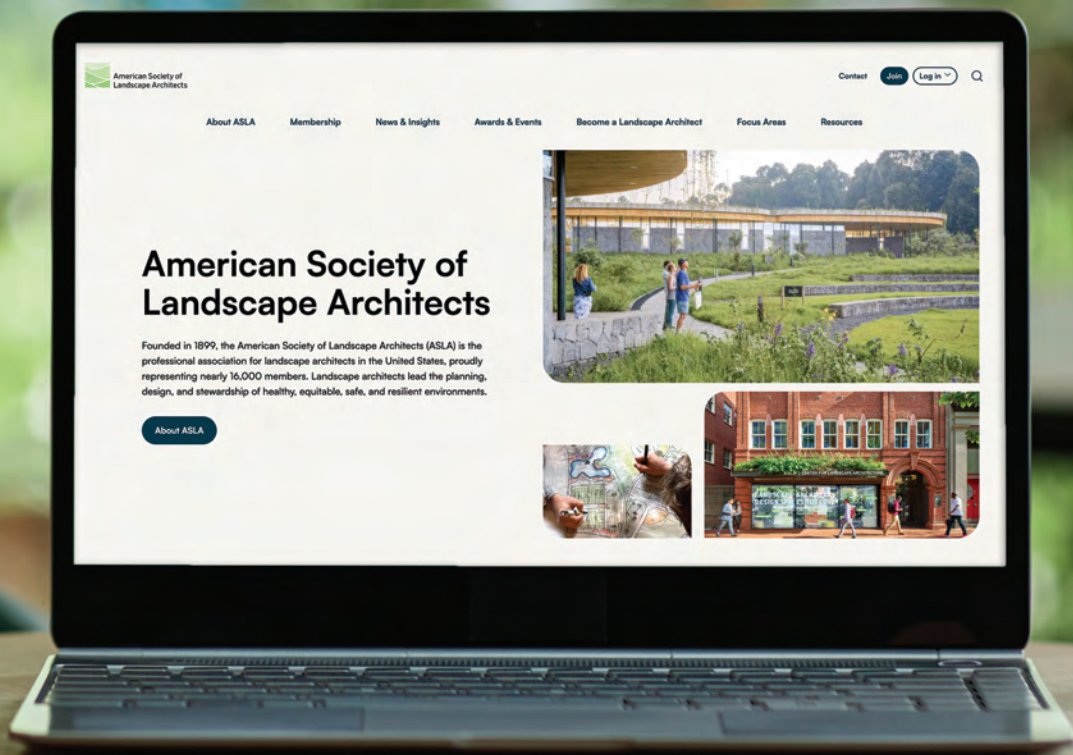
STUDENT

**311 members**



# Visit the NEW and Improved ASLA National Website!

[asla.org](https://asla.org)





# Southern California Executive Committee's Annual Planning Day



by **Vicki Phillipy, 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 Phillipy, 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

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and Project Management](#)

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**February 1**

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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 Phillipy, Hon. ASLA**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Phillipy + Company, Orange  
County and Los Angeles



**Interested in volunteering?**  
**Contact Vicki Phillipy** for available positions.





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