Letter from the President

Aaron Zahm, PLA, ASLA

Have any plans for September 28th through October 1st? I know, it’s only a week into spring and I’m already asking you to think about early fall. You may have heard that the largest gathering of landscape architecture professionals in the world is happening at the end of September...only a short drive away in Phoenix! If you’ve never attended ASLA’s Annual Meeting & Expo, or if it’s been a while since you have, now’s a great time to take advantage of the close proximity and warm weather to see what you’ve been missing. Over 6000 attendees are expected, along with 500 vendors, hundreds of education sessions, field trips, awards ceremonies, alumni reunions, social events, book signings, keynote speeches, and much more. It’s a great time to celebrate the profession, network with colleagues, learn new things, and be inspired by cutting edge design and thinking from around the world. Gas prices are terrible; airfare is even worse. That’s why NMASLA wants to make attending this year’s conference easier for our members (and their traveling companions). We’re looking at chartering a bus and negotiating reduced group lodging rates. And we’re in talks with sponsors to reduce those rates even further! It gets better. At the Q2 event in June, we’re giving away a complimentary registration for one professional (a $465 value) and one student (a $145 value)! Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, please share your interest with us. Send me an email (azahm@mrwnm.com) if you’d consider taking advantage of this discounted travel and spending a fun-filled week with members of the New Mexico Chapter. Your feedback will help us plan a great trip!

Ok, now back to spring and an exciting April event to celebrate National Landscape Architecture Month. “Multi-Modal Experience” is a half-day of education sessions, tours, and an interactive multi-modal trek across the city. We’ve teamed up with the New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association, the Mid-Region Council of Governments, NMDOT, and the City of Albuquerque to provide...
continuing education that covers a wide range of transportation topics, including Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, active living, and regional transportation planning and policy. We’ll tour the new Lead & Coal Improvements Project, and for the adventuresome, we’ll hit the streets on foot, bike, bus, and train to make a multi-modal loop of the city. I hope you can join us!

To comment on the President’s message, please email responses to Aaron: azahm@mrwnm.com

Women in the Dirt Exhibition and Screening

Alex Leider, Treasurer, Student ASLA

On March 9, Student ASLA held a screening of the documentary Women in the Dirt at George Pearl Hall, for students, professionals, and community members. In conjunction with the screening we invited 22 women in landscape architecture in New Mexico to participate in an exhibition of their work. Of the 22 women invited 17 submitted work which continues to be on display on the Crit Bridge at GPH. We would like to thank these 17 women who submitted their amazing work and thoughts, the Department of Landscape Architecture and New Mexico ASLA for their financial and planning support, and everyone who attended the showing and has come to see the exhibition. I would also like to invite everyone to congratulate and thank all of the women in the exhibition for their hard work and participation.

Thank you:
AMY BELL
CATHERINE HARRIS
CLAUDIA HORN
DOMINIQUE DUPONT
ELIZABETH REARDON
FAITH OKUMA
GENIEVE SANCHEZ
HYEJUNG CHANG
JESSICA DUNN
JUDITH WONG
KATYA CRAWFORD
KRISTINA GUIST
LALORIE FIROR
NEVENKA MILIC CHAVEZ
SUSAN FRYE
TAMARA BAER

Please direct any comments or questions to Alex Leider:
aleider@unm.edu
WALK . BIKE . RIDE
MULTI-MODAL EXPERIENCE . ALBUQUERQUE 2012
COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYONE!

How do we expand travel choice and make walking, biking, and public transportation more attractive, convenient, efficient, and safe?

APRIL 27, 2012
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
114 Carlisle SE (lower level)

FREE!
Open to the public

LECTURE 10:30am to 1:00pm (lunch provided)
Hear presentations about the present and future of transportation in the metro area.
Topics include:
• Regional transportation policy and planning
• Complete Streets fundamentals and implementation
• Public health and active living
• Safe Routes to School
• Future bus and bikeways

WALKING TOUR Two tours: 1:00pm to 2:00pm or 3:00pm to 4:00pm
Tour the new Lead and Coal Improvements Project.

INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Traverse the city by foot, bike, bus, and train...all in one afternoon! Experience first-hand how a comprehensive multi-modal transportation network can change the way you move.
• Bike city bike trail (Bikes provided!)
• Ride Rail Runner Express commuter train
• Ride ABQ Ride bus system

REGISTER for all events @ NMASLA.ORG
Register by Monday, April 23rd

Sponsored by the New Mexico Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and our partners:
The goal of the CNM Rio Rancho Campus Master Plan was to develop a new standard in campus master planning for CNM. The process is documented in the Plan and serves to describe and set forth a framework to implement the vision and educational objectives of CNM. The initial building is proof that CNM is following the plan and “walking the walk”. The context for the CNM Rio Rancho Campus is quite unique. Located north from the current Rio Rancho City Hall, the site and much of the surrounding area is currently vacant, undisturbed land with little development in the immediate area. The only buildings in the area when the plan commenced were City Hall and Santa Ana Arena. Subsequently, the Hewlett-Packard facility and UNM’s Rio Rancho campus were constructed, and a new UNM Hospital is under construction. The CNM Rio Rancho Master Plan is apart of a greater new downtown/City Center development and vision of the City of Rio Rancho.

The design process involved with the CNM Master Plan took the course of several months to complete and included layers of analyses practices. A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and
Threats (SWOT) Study was conducted with both the clients and adjacent property owners. LEED charrettes, cultural surveys, and constant coordination with the Architect was put forth to ensure precise programming for the project. In addition to the social analyses, physical conditions affecting the site were researched, examined and diagrammed to help inform design decisions. Among these were context land use, circulation, existing drainage patterns, open space, sun/wind patterns, views and buffers. The analysis process concluded with a set of design principles for the project and a conceptual site plan for the campus' full build out.

The master planning process included:
• facilitating a multi-stage Charrette process
• developing and refining concepts developed during the Charrettes
• developing the Master Plan document
• getting the project entitled through the City of Rio Rancho's master plan, zoning, and site plan approval process
• coordination with the adjacent projects

• schematic design and construction documents for site design, landscape, entries, plazas, and open space.

The CNM Rio Rancho Campus Master Plan is designed with the consideration of sustainability at all scales and phases of implementation through all options and concepts developed throughout the design process. The first building has been awarded LEED - Gold certification.

Some of the unique features incorporated into the plan are:
• Water Harvesting – integrated into the landscape planning at every level of design development
• Alternative Energy – Wind Turbines are being incorporated into the initial site development and incorporated into an alternative energy demonstration area
• Compact Urban Form – the buildings are clustered along the southern edge of the property adjacent to UNM’s Rio Rancho Campus creating a connection between nature, education, and social spaces
• Open Space – the campus is designed around a central arroyo corridor that will provide a pedestrian spine through the campus and act as a view corridor providing spectacular vistas to the Sandia Mountains and a connection to Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority’s dam and recreation area proposed to the northwest of the campus
• Pedestrian Orientation – the plan features a concept of providing front and rear “porches” on all of the buildings which are connected to the pedestrian circulation system providing formal...
and informal gathering areas throughout the campus.

The Master Plan, Site Plan and Zoning were unanimously approved by the City of Rio Rancho and the initial building has been completed. The Plan provides value to the Client as a template for future campus plans and has set a high standard for a master planned community college campus with goals of balancing the need for accessibility (free and ample parking) with good urban form. Careful attention was been paid to the sustainable quality of building materials, sensitivity to the views and open space, and developing an urban relationship with both the adjacent City Center and UNM Campus.

This success is evident by the enrollment of students received after the grand opening of the Phase I development this past year. Student numbers are surpassing the enrollment expectations of CNM, which is evoking discussions of starting the Phase II design and development sooner than the anticipated 10 years post Phase I development.

Please direct any comments or questions to Genieve Sanchez:
gsanchez@consensusplanning.com
New Member Spotlight: Dan Smith

After 26 years of never being able to answer the question, “What are you going to be when you grow up?” I finally discovered landscape architecture. I was attracted to the profession’s dedication to stewardship of the land and natural resources, creation of public spaces, and artistic expression. I completed my graduate studies in Landscape Architecture at Kansas State University. While there I had many committed instructors, supportive classmates, and learned to appreciate the beauty of the surrounding tall grass prairie. The only thing I didn’t learn to like was the weather.

Much of my design philosophy originates from experiences playing, listening to, and studying music. My love and enthusiasm for improvised music led me to perform in a number of musical groups and receive my bachelors of music in jazz studies. A key component in improvisation is actively listening to the environment and musicians around you. Similarly, I believe landscape architecture requires listening to the site in order to make appropriate design decisions and flexibly accommodate future uses.

Fredrick Law Olmsted once said, “Landscapes move us in a manner more nearly analogous to the action of music than anything else... Gradually and silently the charm overcomes us; we know not exactly where or how.” For me this quote elegantly describes the strong connection that exists between music and landscape. My master’s
Project combined my love of live music and landscape architecture. The project focused on ways street performers or "buskers" benefit and use public spaces. My research encourages designers and planners to create flexible performance spaces in parks, plazas, and streets to promote busking as a valuable social craft.

After completing school this past May I was offered a job at Heads Up Landscape Contractors and relocated to Albuquerque. While at Heads Up I did primarily design and bid work. Due to company cutbacks my time at Heads Up was short lived. However, through an NMASLA email blast, I became aware of a job opening at Morrow Reardon Wilkinson Miller. I was offered a job and currently divide my time as a landscape designer and construction observer. I have learned a lot in the past few months of my employment and appreciate the opportunity I have to work with such a good group of people.

Having grown up in Idaho, I have always loved the outdoors, especially hiking, cycling, and skiing. My wife and I are exploring New Mexico. We love the landscape, people, and food. Through membership in NMASLA and serving on the Ex-com, I feel fortunate to be working with a group of fun, creative, and dedicated individuals.
IRONSMITH offers the largest selection of pedestrian safe styles and sizes of tree grates than anyone in the industry.

In addition to tree grates IRONSMITH offers tree guards, trench grates, bollards and the exclusive Paver Grate System™.

For more information contact your local Sales Representative,

DOWNS & ASSOCIATES

800-338-4766
www.ironsmith.biz
Chapter Events

Q1 Multi-Modal Experience
Date/Time: Friday, Apr 27
Location: Albuquerque

Q2 Santa Fe Full Day CEU Event
Date/Time: Friday, June 8
Location: Santa Fe

Q3 Golf Tournament
Date/Time: Friday, Aug 24 (tentative)
Location: Albuquerque

ASLA Annual Meeting
Date/Time: Sep 27 thru Oct 1
Location: Phoenix, AZ

Q4 Student Mixer/CEU Mini-Conference
Date/Time: Friday, Oct 26 (tentative)
Location: Albuquerque

Holiday Party
Date/Time: Dec 7 (tentative)
Location: TBA

Newsletter
The NMASLA newsletter is produced by students in the MLA program at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning. Please submit articles, news, photos, corrections, etc., to the editor:
Alex Leider
aleider@unm.edu

Call for Articles!
We want to showcase YOUR projects in our newsletter! Please send us your case study of a project completed in the last year and a half for inclusion in the next or future newsletters. Additionally, if you have ideas for a different type of article, please send us your suggestions. Help us keep our newsletters relevant and interesting for the NM Landscape Architecture community.

Please send your questions, case studies and/or articles to Alex Leider:
aleider@unm.edu

Membership & Address Changes
Please email Amy Bell:
abell@mrwnm.com

Website
Have you visited the NMASLA Website?
Please check it out:
http://www.nmasla.org/

Want to show off your projects???
We are requesting project images or landscape images that anyone would like to have posted on the website. Please include a note with a brief description (name of project/landscape, location... anything else to explain the image).

Please send projects to Sara Zahm:
sara@sarazahm.com

LARE Study Materials
NMASLA now has a collection of LARE Study Materials that can be checked out by NMASLA members.

Please email Kristina Guist:
kguist@mrwnm.com