Recognizing Excellence In Landscape Architecture

Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA) seeks to recognize excellence in the diverse practices of landscape architecture. Landscape Architects are encouraged to submit their best professional work for review by the 2020 BSLA Awards Program Jury. Projects should demonstrate excellence and reflect the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environment. Submitted projects should merit recognition in one or more of the following areas:

- Exemplary social, cultural, educational, or environmental significance
- Outstanding quality, craftsmanship, creativity, or artistry
- Unique and innovative technologies, techniques, or concepts
- Advancement of the public’s awareness and perception of the field of landscape architecture
CATEGORIES

Landmark Award
Seeks to recognize a distinguished landscape architecture project completed 15+ years ago. The installation should retain its original design integrity and contribute significantly to the community in which it is located. Typical entries include: parks, plazas, sculpture gardens, botanical gardens, river walks, and more.

Professional Awards
Seeks the best in landscape architecture, planning and urban design projects nationally and internationally. Submissions in this category are not permitted in the Landmark category and will not be reviewed.

Analysis and Planning
This category is for all Master Planning and other non-constructed, non-site specific work, and recognizes the wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide, and evaluate landscape architecture design. Entries in this category are not required to be built or implemented.

Communication
This category recognizes achievements in communicating landscape architectural works, techniques, technologies, history, or theory, and recognizes the research’s lesson value to the intended audience. Typical entries include: print media, film, video, audio, CD, or DVD formats; online communications; interpretive design; exhibition design; and more.

Design
This category recognizes entries including public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds; residential and garden, historic preservation, reclamation, conservation; green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design; transportation or infrastructure design; landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more. Entries in this category must be built.

Research
This category recognizes research that identifies and investigates challenges posed in landscape architecture, providing results that advance the body of knowledge for the profession. Typical entries include: investigations into methods, techniques, or materials related to landscape architecture practice; studies of relationships of landscape architecture to law, education, public health and safety, or public policy; and more.

Student Awards
Seek to recognize academic achievements by students performed in an educational framework as part of coursework or internships credited toward a degree in landscape architecture, regional planning, or urban design. Typical entries include: site specific projects, master planning, regional planning, environmental planning, conservation, or historic preservation planning such as cultural landscape reports, landscape architectural communications, research into innovative techniques, technologies, history, or theory, or other academic projects related to the field of landscape architecture.

ELIGIBILITY

Landmark and Professional
Landmark and Professional categories are open to submissions of work by landscape architectural practitioners and design offices based in the states included within the BSLA chapter area (Massachusetts and Maine) and to projects sited within Massachusetts and Maine, whether or not
the design offices are located in the chapter area. Individuals, firms, project owners, public agencies, organizations, or other entities may be the formal submitting entity as long as the project’s creative team includes a registered landscape architect or a graduate of an accredited landscape architecture program. Submitting firms and individuals are not required to be members of BSLA or ASLA.

**Student**

The Student category is open to submissions of work performed by students enrolled in a landscape architecture or design program within the BSLA Chapter area (Massachusetts and Maine), and to students with legal residence in the BSLA Chapter area, but enrolled in a program outside of the chapter area. Submitted projects must have been developed in an educational framework as part of coursework or internships credited toward a degree in Landscape Architecture. Entries may be submitted by individual students, studio classes or student project teams, but only one award per project may be made. For group projects, the entry may be made by the studio, class or with all members of the project team listed and recognized, but a team project may not be submitted by an individual team member for individual recognition. Submissions may be made after the student(s) has graduated from the program, but must be within two years of the completion of the work.

**RECOGNITION LEVELS**

Each professional and student category submission will be reviewed for the quality of design and implementation; effectiveness of the presentation; value of the information to the intended audience; quality of the analysis process; respect for site history; site context and the appropriate expression of local or regional characteristics; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; innovativeness and creativity of solutions; demonstration of design value provided to the client, the public, and to the profession of landscape architecture; project’s sustained value to the community it serves and the continued relevance of the project’s design expression.

**Excellence**

Represents an extraordinary advancement and innovation to the profession of landscape architecture. Excellence Awards may be given to one submission in each of the professional and student categories. Excellence Awards given to a student (individual or group) submission will receive a $500 or $1500 grant, respectively.

**Honor**

Represents a project worth distinction and its attempts to further the profession of landscape architecture. Any number of honor awards may be given in the professional category.

**Merit**

Represents a noteworthy project in the profession of landscape architecture. Any number of merit awards may be given in the professional category.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Materials are accepted on an ongoing basis, and are due no later than 5:00pm EST, Monday, February 24, 2020

As outlined below, each submission should contain, at a minimum, project **Information**, **Summary**, and **Slideshow** which appropriately and fully explain the submission. **All submission content should be prepared prior to starting the online process as online entry forms cannot be revisited, edited, or changed.**

**Information**

- Location (City / State / Country)
- Completed Year
- Project Size
- Budget (Design and Construction)
- Submitter’s Role (Prime consultant, lead designer, etc.)
Summary
This section should summarize the projects’ purpose, process and why it is distinctive. The narrative should be unique to each project, but could include: investigations, methodologies, project scope, design programs, surrounding context, intent, materials and methods. Expand upon the project goals and objectives, and how they were accomplished throughout the process. Elaborate on any issues and or concerns throughout the process, and they were overcome. How was or would the project be implemented, maintained, and administered. Describe the intended purpose, audience, message(s), impact and effectiveness of the project. Overall the summary section should exemplify the project’s significance and why it is deserving of recognition. This section should not exceed 600 words.
(Award Winners will be required to provide an executive summary between 150 – 200 words to be published in BSLA Fieldbook.)

Slideshow
This section should be a visual representation of the submission and is required to follow the templates found on the BSLA Awards website. It should consist of an introductory project code slide, 2 information slides and a maximum of 20 images which could include; any variety of current photographs, site plans, historical photographs and plans, detail plans, diagrams, unique detailing, renderings, etc. All imagery is required to contain only one image and should not be montages, collections of images, or multiple images. Each slide is required to have an identifying caption of no more than 5 words (e.g. Existing Conditions Plan) and a description of no more than 25 words (legends will count towards the 25 word description). Landmark Award submissions are required to provide the estimated year of when each submitted photograph was taken. Slideshows at a minimum should provide, if applicable:
• One full site design plan (required to be the 1st slide)
• One existing conditions plan (required to be the 2nd slide)
• One existing conditions photograph
Winning submissions are responsible for clearing photograph use with photographers for publication and reproduction by BSLA. BSLA will provide proper photography credits when using photos, but will not assume responsibility for any copyrights or photography fees. BSLA retains the right to publish photos submitted in winning entries in BSLA Fieldbook, in promoting the awards program, and in related, non-commercial activities that promote landscape architecture design excellence.

Optional Documentation
Plant List
Documentation of common and botanical names for all significant planting specified within the project.

Supplemental Hardcopy
Professional and Student category submissions have the option to submit a hardcopy of their final deliverable, which could include; a report, book, booklet, brochure, flier, etc. The hardcopy should not be a print version of the submission slideshow. Hardcopies should be received by the deadline of content submission. Hardcopies will be available for retrieval at the Annual Awards Gala.

Two hardcopies should be mailed to:
   Attn: Joseph Strayer
   Brown + Sardina
   24 Roland Street, 3rd Floor
   Boston, MA 02129

Anonymity
All submissions are required to be anonymous (supplemental hardcopies are not required to be anonymous). Project team, firm, or individual identity may not be visible on any of the materials submitted, including the project narrative, descriptive text, plans, photographs, graphics, etc. Photographs may not include members of the project team. Submissions with the identity of the entrant or the entrant’s firm on any of the materials will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded.
Registration, Materials Submission, and Fees

It’s a single-step entry process. Registration, fee payment, and materials upload all take place in one transaction. (This is different than some prior years.) A separate entry is required for each project submitted. Registration fees will increase as the final deadline approaches, and will be adjusted following midnight EST on the dates listed below. Fees will not be refunded for any reason.

Early Registration + Upload – through Monday, February 3, 2020
   $25 – Student
   $80 – Member of Boston Chapter of ASLA
   $150 – Member of other ASLA Chapters
   $255 – Non-Member

Standard Registration + Upload – through Monday, February 17, 2020
   $30 – Student
   $100 – Member of Boston Chapter of ASLA
   $190 – Member of other ASLA Chapters
   $320 – Non-Member

Last Call – through Monday, February 24, 2020, 5:00pm EST
   $35 – Student
   $120 – Member of Boston Chapter of ASLA
   $225 – Member of other ASLA Chapters
   $380 – Non-Member

IMPORTANT DATES

All Submissions Due No Later Than 5:00pm EST, Monday, February 24, 2020
Preliminary Jury Review – Thursday, March 5, 2020
Preliminary Jury Review Concluded – Monday, March 16, 2020
Main Jury Review – Thursday, March 19, 2020
Jury Day – Thursday, April 2, 2020
Jury Day - Friday, April 3, 2020
Award Notification – Thursday, April 23, 2020
Award Content Due – Monday, May 4, 2020

JURY + REVIEW PROCESS

The judging and review process spans four months and consists of a multi-step process, including a Preliminary Jury and Main Jury. An in-depth explanation of the process is on the following pages. Each submission, at a minimum, will go through a meticulous preliminary review where it is judged on its own merit against a set of unique criteria (Quality, Context, Sustainability, Design, Significance, etc).

Jury service consists of a two year commitment. The first year is spent in the preliminary jury where members gain experience in the awards process, understanding award winning submissions and creating constructive and articulated comments. The following year, members of the preliminary jury are advanced to the main jury where they participate in awarding submissions.

Main Jury

The 2020 Main Jury will include
Andrew Arbaugh, ASLA | Copley Wolff Design Group
Terrance DeWan, ASLA | Terrence J. DeWan & Associates
Dan Gordon, ASLA | Dan Gordon Landscape Architects
Jason Helledrung, ASLA | Tetra Tech
Nicole Holmes | Nitsch Engineering
Jessalyn Jarest, ASLA | Jessalyn Jarest Landscape Architecture
Ruth Raphael, ASLA | National Park Service
...plus a few additional jurors, to be announced.

Preliminary Jury

Preliminary Jury member names are not disclosed until the second year of the process, when they are part of the Main Jury.
The Review Process

STEP 1
Submission Content Received

STEP 2
Reviewed for compliance

STEP 3a
Education Day for Preliminary Jurors

STEP 3b
Compliant submissions reviewed by Preliminary Jury

Education Day is a training session solely for the Preliminary Jury. It is structured to facilitate three goals:

1. Introduce the preliminary jury to one another.
2. Understand the jury and judging process.
3. Review sample projects and begin to develop constructive submission comments.

Each preliminary juror independently judges the submission against the criteria below and establishes if it exceeds, meets, partially meets, or does not meet. Student and Landmark submissions are automatically advanced to Step 4.

### Judging Criteria

#### Analysis & Planning
- Quality of Analysis and Planning Effort
- Context Analysis
- Environmental Sensitivity and Sustainability
- Design Value to the Client
- Landscape Architectural Significance

#### Communication
- Effectiveness of the Message
- Innovation in Approach and Delivery
- Value to Intended Audience
- Landscape Architectural Significance

#### Design
- Design and Execution
- Design Context
- Environmental Sensitivity and Sustainability
- Design Value to the Client
- Landscape Architectural Significance

#### Research
- Clarity and Importance of the Research Question, Hypothesis or Goals
- Significance of Historical Data and Links to Current Knowledge
- Appropriate Research Design and Use of Rigorous Methods of Inquiry
- Clarity of Presentation of Outcome
- Outcome Potential Applications to Practice
- Landscape Architectural Significance
This is an excellent presentation with convincing graphics, thoughtful & clear narrative and great diagrams. The only minor concern is that while the perspectives illustrate the pedestrian experience some seem more compelling than others. It is unclear that the proposed level of “urbanization” will be self supporting.

This step takes place over a two week period where each member of the jury reviews each submission individually. The juror is to note strengths and weaknesses of the submission and considers a preliminary award result (Non-Winning, Merit, Honor).

**Project Title**
Victorian Village Design Guidelines

**Result**
- Non-Winner
- Merit
- Honor

**What did you like**
Great before and after; Clear storyline; great graphics and information representation

It is very difficult to see visually the spatial impacts of the streetscape analysis.

Submission results are tallied through a point system which creates a bell curve to establish a category threshold for submissions that move to Step 4. Each submission category has its own criteria, bell curve, and threshold.

Excellence Awards are given at the conclusion and must consist of a unanimous jury vote to be awarded.