

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 2 **MICHIGAN** CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



MiSITES



#golfclassic21

Tee It Up for the **33rd Annual Michigan ASLA** **Landscape Architects, Contractors &** **Suppliers Golf Classic**

Please join us in congratulating our
2021 profession recognition honorees

Design Professional- Bob Doyle (SmithGroup)

Contractor- Matt Caruso (Decra-Scape)

Supplier- Dave Alverson (Red Lava)

Wednesday, July 28th 2021

9:30 am Shotgun Start

Mystic Creek Golf Club

Milford Township, MI

More information at: michiganasla.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings MiASLA members:

Your chapter is still growing new ideas to better serve the membership and advance the profession of Landscape Architecture within the state. I sincerely hope you have taken advantage of the diverse and worthwhile webinars organized and sponsored by our newly created Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. These webinars span a wide range of topics and are presented by leading authorities on issues of value to you in the workplace. Check out www.michiganasla.com for upcoming seminars.

Coming up in June 2021, a consortium of state ASLA chapters, including Upstate New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan, will offer *Great Lakes Climate Action Seminar*, a two day virtual workshop on climate change in the Great Lakes region. Thirteen LACES credits will be offered during the sessions, which can used to meet the new Michigan requirement for maintaining professional licensure.

To make sure that you keep in the swing of things this summer, the chapter is once again offering its annual golf outing at Mystic Creek Golf Course in Milford, MI, on July 28, 2021. Everyone is invited as we welcome our membership and the membership of fellow landscape contractors to this year's event, renewing and broadening contacts in the industry. You do not have to be a golfer to join us (some people, like myself, are best left in the stands), but foursomes are registering now to get in on

the fun. We anticipate a great turnout this year as everyone moves out from under the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

Lastly, I want you to remember to pencil in the annual MiASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture. It will be held on September 16-18, 2021, in Traverse City, MI. Vendor set-up, winery sketch session, and a pub-crawl are scheduled for Thursday afternoon; the main conference venue will occur on Friday with a dynamite group of speakers; and the LA Ride will take place on Saturday. Volunteers and members of the Executive Committee have been having a great time scouting the bike route, sorting out the best possible speakers on a variety of issues important to Landscape Architects, and determining how to provide a meaningful and memorable experience in the Cherry Capital of the World. (And yes, we plan to have cherry pie for dessert.) Information on the annual meeting will be sent out shortly. After a rough year and a half of isolation, I think it is time to get out and renew old professional acquaintances.

Hope to see you on our upcoming Zoom webinars and in person for the annual conference!

Best wishes.

Jo Westphal, FASLA, FCELA
President, Michigan Chapter of ASLA

ON THE COVER: As part of Zussman Park's recent improvement in Detroit, Mario Moore, an artist from the neighborhood, completed the mural facing inside the park. Photo Credit: MiSITES Editorial Board

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04 The Psychology of Climate Change
- 08 City of Detroit Parks
- 16 Education Spotlight: Nadia Amoroso
- 20 Student Honor and Merit Award Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7/28 MiASLA Golf Classic, Milford, MI
- 9/17 MiASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, Traverse City, MI
- 9/18 MiASLA LA Ride, Traverse City, MI
- 11/19 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, Nashville, TN

STUDYING FOR THE LARE?

To sign up for our LARE study groups, please email Allison at education@michiganasla.org.



@michiganasla



Michigan Chapter of ASLA



www.michiganasla.org

Editor's Note: All images in this publication are used with permission of the author or advertiser.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WHY DON'T PEOPLE SEEM TO CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Charlotte L'Esperance

Charlotte L'Esperance is an artist, horticulturist, and freelance landscape designer who received her BFA in fine arts from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and most recently a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from Morgan State University in Baltimore Maryland. She is currently living in S.E. Michigan and collaborating with landscape architect Erin Kelly on designing a climate change vulnerability assessment for the Detroit City Parks system to increase climate resilience through tree canopy and best land management practices.

.....

Risks from climate change are real, but climate activist Greta Thunberg's exhortations on television to "panic" do not help to engage the general public. Psychologist and climate researcher Per Espen Stoknes found that 80% of climate news stories are focused on disaster, which is nature's equivalent to the journalistic catchphrase "if it bleeds, it leads." Emphasis on climate catastrophe in the media leaves people feeling helpless and hopeless.

After cataloging the effects of climate change for an academic project, I did not feel hopeful or energized. Rather, I collapsed into the realization that cause/effect and potential solutions to climate change are entirely depressing. As a recent graduate of a Landscape Architecture program, climate change was a constant hovering overlay in our coursework, and its impacts were frequently discussed in class; but all the same, I couldn't look at another image of starving polar bears, severe storm damage, or burnt-out forests. It turns out, I am not alone. Kari Marie Norgaard, a sociologist from the University of Oregon, has documented a "social organization of denial" where people are concerned and

aware about climate change issues but avoid thinking or talking about them. How many times have you seen an image of devastating floods and thought, Not now. Or, I can't look at that again. What can I do, I am just one person? In conversation with friends, it struck me how often people wanted to change the subject when I brought up climate change. I wondered, how do we talk to people to encourage them to *want* to participate in the conversation and care about climate issues? Scaring people is not working.

Psychologist Abraham Maslow's theory of the Hierarchy of Needs can help explain the psychology of human motivation and why most people can't afford to care about climate change. On the bottom tier of the pyramid are physiological needs, such as food, water, and sleep. The second-lowest tier is safety needs, such as economic resources, health, and security. The third lowest tier is love and belonging: family, friends, and connections with other people. Above that is esteem, which includes respect, status, and freedom. At the very top of the pyramid is self-actualization, our desire to become our highest self or the best we can be—and this is where the luxury to contemplate saving the planet resides. According to Maslow's theory, we as humans cannot pursue our highest self until our basic needs are met. If we are struggling to find a job, get along with our family or just economically survive, we cannot think about a higher purpose in life; thus climate change has not been a top priority for many people.

According to the United Nations Office For the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, worldwide, the human race is struggling to survive. It is estimated that one billion people suffer from mental illness; 700 million people live on \$2 a day; 30% of the global population does not have enough food, lives in war zones,

are refugees, in unsatisfying careers, disease, and racism are just some of the problems people face every day. The United States, the richest country in the world, suffers huge income inequality. The Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends in Wealth and Inequality from January 2020 found that upper-income families have seen monumental growth in wealth as middle-class wealth is declining. While the United States consumes a lot of resources that worsen climate change, its commitment has wavered with the political winds, leaving much up to individual action. When we are struggling with our problems, it is extremely difficult to deal with existential issues such as climate change. Because the effects of climate change are not directly affecting many of us right at this moment—we still have food and water after all—we can't see the impending doom.

Another factor that contributes to our complacency is the overwhelming nature of the climate crisis we face. We have heard about it so often that we have become desensitized even to the effects we do witness. Wildfires in the west have become so common, we refer to the 'fire season'. Did we have a fire season 50 years ago? A study from 2012 found that since 1970, wildfires across the west have quadrupled and, yes, there is a burn season that in 2012 was 75 days longer than it was in 1970. According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, 2020 set a record for most acres burned in 1 year: 10,274,679 acres in 58,258 fires across the West. Several climate change considerations tie into the cause of these fires, namely, less precipitation in the area combined with drought, higher atmospheric temperatures, and pine beetle infestations that contribute to the death of large swaths of forests, all fueling massive, long-lasting fires.

Is it that people perceive the problem to be far off into the future and geographically distant where sea ice is melting or in Siberia where the permafrost is melting? Climate scientists have been warning us since the 1990's that this invisible, tasteless, and odorless gas, CO₂, has been rising and will eventually cause irreparable harm to the planet. Graphs and scientific data can be complicated and hard to translate into real-world effects. These graphs are often modeled for 20, 50, or 100 years into the future. Yet, Michigan is

already feeling some of the climate change effects. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Southeast Michigan has seen a total annual precipitation rise of 11% since 1960, with most occurring in the spring. From 1959 to 2001, average temperature has increased by 4.3°F. By the end of the century, Detroit could experience 3 months of temperatures of over 90°F. Warmer temperatures in winter are sometimes welcome as, often, people associate warmer temperatures with pleasurable activities in the sun. They forget that these warmer temperatures pose health risks to humans due to pathogens carried by mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas that will not be able to be as easily controlled with the lack of winter freeze.

Climate change has unfortunately become a political issue, not a scientific one. A Yale study by Daniel M. Kahn confirms that "public divisions over climate change stem not from the public's incomprehension of science but from a distinctive conflict of interest: between the personal interest individuals have in forming beliefs in line with those held by others with whom they share close ties and the collective one they all share in making use of the best available science to promote common welfare." This study found that divisions on climate change went along party lines. Conservatives tended to show less concern and liberals more.

When I have responded to a colleague's questions about how to improve the climate on a personal level, I was astounded by the angry response to my suggestions. I suggested that he reduce his lawn area. His immediate response was, "What? I can't do that. For one thing, the neighborhood association won't allow it. And, I like it." I asked him how will he like it when the lawn is dead and there is no water to water it? Before long, my colleague was rolling his eyes, accusing me of giving in to the liberal media bias. By the end of the conversation, he was downright angry that I was pointing out connections to human activity and climate change, and outraged that he would have to be inconvenienced or have to sacrifice for a future generation. He believed that climate fluctuations were a normal cycle and convinced that climate scientists do not all agree that the planet is warming to a breaking point. Despite my retort that 90-100% of scientific data and published scientists agree that climate change is

anthropogenic, we parted ways on a bad note. How did we get here? Control of air pollution was not always a politically divided issue. In 1970, Congress passed the Clean Air Act in an almost unanimous vote. Perhaps there was less political division because, at the time, we could see and immediately feel air pollution.

When I first started writing this article, I didn't know where I was going to land. Am I going to try to offer solutions? Or point out facts and studies that confirm what we are doing to encourage action around climate change is not working. Even trying to identify the problem seemed like a Sisyphean task. Now that I have looked at the issue from many angles, I can see how people can feel desensitized, overwhelmed, depressed, and perceive climate change as well into the future and geographically distant. Why would anyone give up their daily commuting car, airplane travel, and take other life-changing actions, given those perceptions? The next thing I did was look for a solution.

First, I looked at whether reframing the issue to the public could change the appetite for action. Scientists have coined a new term to describe climate change and global warming, using the moniker "climate disruption," which has appeared to have created new enthusiasm for encapsulating the concept of unwanted and unnatural change. Yale University's Program on Climate Change Communications suggests engaging and focusing resources on those who have some capacity to make the change, such as the alarmed and concerned citizenry; the Program on Climate Change opines that it is pointless to expend resources on mass messaging to people who are dismissive, doubtful and don't care about climate change, because those people may never care. Then it occurred to me that the solution itself is existential and harkens back to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. If the socio-economic needs of the majority of the population are not met, it is a hard sell for people to make additional individual sacrifices that improve the climate. Without large-scale intervention such as the federal government stepping in to curb the burning of fossil fuels and create a new landscape of clean energy, we will not stop the climate crisis. If left to individual action and market forces, it may be too late to significantly impact climate disruption. •



OUR NEWEST ADDITION IS
INFINITELY AWESOME!
THE **QUANTIS** NET LOOPS
OVER AND UNDER
CREATING NEW PATHWAYS
OF FUN WITH EVERY VISIT.



For Denver,
smart waste
receptacles mean
smart savings.



VICTOR STANLEY RELAY™

STREET LEVEL SENSING™ & WASTE CONTROL SERVICE

Bins equipped with Relay sensors provide the city of Denver with accurate, real-time data on fill level, area environmental conditions, pedestrian traffic and much more. This means more efficient collection, saving the city time and money on fewer unnecessary stops, and providing valuable insights for future planning.

What can we do for your city?

Contact Andrew Hosmer at andrewh@victorstanley.com



VICTORSTANLEY.COM



CITY OF DETROIT PARKS

PARKS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DETROIT'S NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLANS

Jeff Klein, PLA, ASLA | City of Detroit, General Services Department

In 2015, when the City of Detroit was emerging from the largest municipal bankruptcy in history, trash was beginning to be picked up more regularly, streetlights were getting turned on, and the City's 298 parks were on the verge of being re-opened. Six years later the City's parks are seeing a substantial amount of investment in infrastructure, amenities, and improved maintenance services. During that period an ambitious plan was put together by the Director of the General Services Department, Brad Dick, and the Chief of Landscape Architecture, Tim Karl. Together they plotted to update 40 neighborhood parks in an 18-month time period. By the fall of 2016 the *Neighborhood 40*, as it came to be known, kicked off.

The average price tag for these projects was approximately \$325,000 and brought new playscapes, walking loops, shelters, BBQ's, improved playing fields, and other modest amenities to these 1- to 5-acre redesigned neighborhood parks. This was a hugely successful effort that updated parks across the City quickly, efficiently, and cost effectively. Many of these parks had not seen improvements in decades. This large effort not only improved the quality of life for current Detroit residents, but it helped reset the City's priorities around park maintenance and management. As someone who has lived across from one of Detroit's *Neighborhood 40* parks for 20 years, the impact was immediate for me and for my neighborhood. As I sit at home writing this article, windows open, I

can hear little league teams playing ball at the once-overgrown field.

On the heels of the *Neighborhood 40*, another effort that included park reconstruction was also underway. However, this effort had a specific goal of targeted neighborhood stabilization. In 2016, the City of Detroit formed a partnership with Invest Detroit to establish the Strategic Neighborhood Fund (SNF). This fund more intentionally tied together interdepartmental collaborations that shared the same overarching goals: improving the quality of life for Detroit residents, boosting economic activity around commercial corridors, and stabilizing housing in neighborhoods.

The SNF fund proposed to do this through a suite of civic and neighborhood infrastructure improvements and programs that included commercial corridor development, affordable housing developments, and streetscape improvements. Parks were aligned to this effort based on their adjacency to prominent commercial/vehicular corridors, a density of existing residents, strong community leadership, and the need for affordable single-family home stabilization that underscores a park's vital role in neighborhood stabilization and improved quality of life for residents.

Currently, there are ten SNF neighborhoods in various stages of planning and implementation. The following two example projects demonstrate the interstitial relationships between the fabric and footprint of a park to extend outwardly, supporting economic development and community stabilization, honoring and preserving community history and legacy, and ultimately laying the ground work for a more resilient neighborhood infrastructure.

(Left) Rendering of the new playground at Clark Park by Hamilton Anderson Associates. The "Sand Box" focuses on imaginary play for the youngest age group while remaining inclusive for all ability levels. Source: City of Detroit

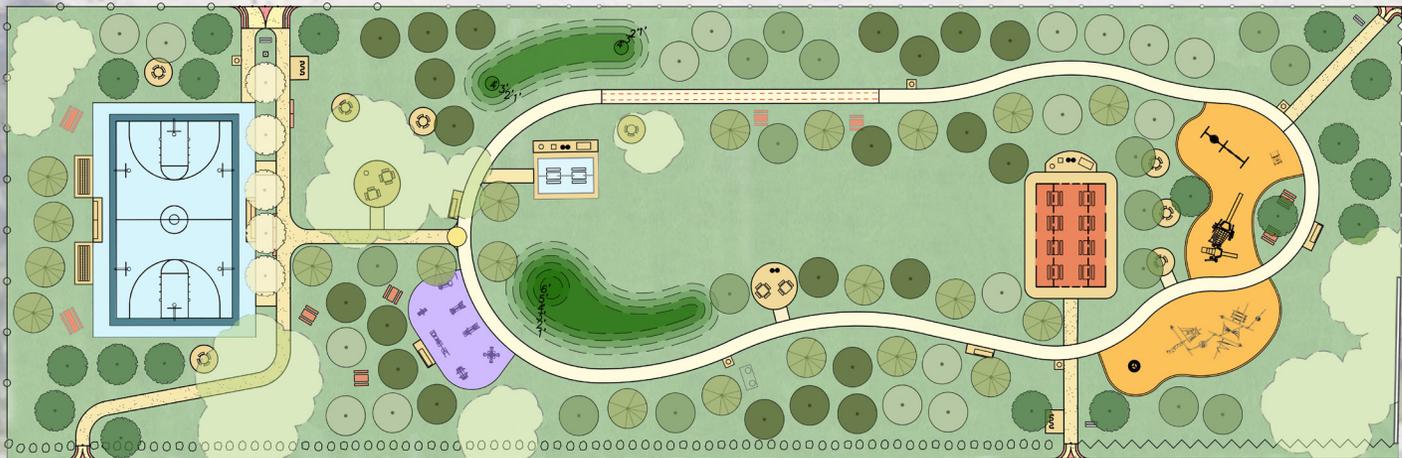
ZUSSMAN PARK

Budget \$900,000

Located in the Northeast corner of the Russell Woods Historic District and adjacent to a once bustling Dexter/Davison retail and commercial corridor, Zussman Park is the smallest of our SNF park project sites at only 2.37 acres. Established in 1949 and named after a Jewish American war hero, the park historically supported strong Jewish American and African American communities. Currently, the park site encompasses a large vacant field and is adjacent to a party store. It sits directly across the street from a broken block of historic homes. To the west lies a shuttered community medical clinic and, to the north, a seven-lane arterial disconnects the park from the Oakman Villages Neighborhood. Inside the park, amenities were haphazardly placed and the park felt disconnected. An example was the basketball court that had to be crossed or walked around in order to connect to the adjacent bus stop. Feedback from residents on the present condition of the park and captured by Detroit's

Planning and Development Department's (PDD) Russell Woods-Nardin Park Framework Plan highlights the critical concerns and desires to create a safe, walkable neighborhood park that also preserves and anchors the community's rich history.

As we began designing the park, we knew we needed to have strong connectivity both visually and structurally throughout. Working with a strong east-west axis, a walking loop was developed to connect the park from end to end. Amenities were added onto the loop like jewels on a bracelet. We established a welcoming park entry along the busy W. Davison and provided a much safer transition to the street with a better connection to the bus stop. Plantings were added to this area around the relocated and historic flagpole that now gestures to the north, beckoning Oakman Villages Neighborhood to come to the park. The vacant field adjacent to the party store is now filled with kids playing. The party store wall is covered with a mural from a famous emerging young artist, Mario Moore, who's grandmother still lives in the neighborhood. The mural features iconic African-



y Market

Waverly St

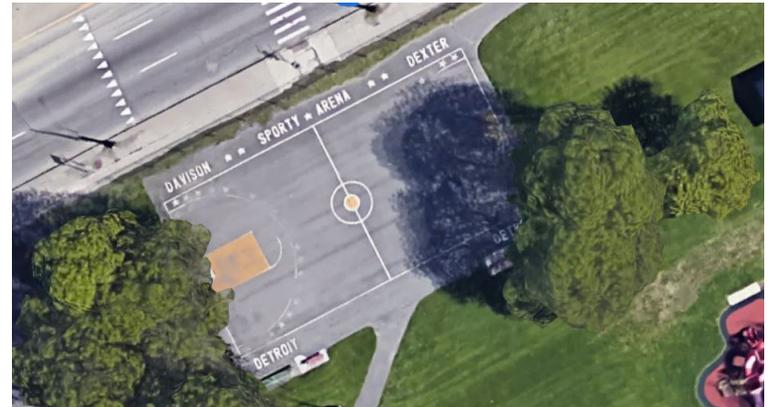
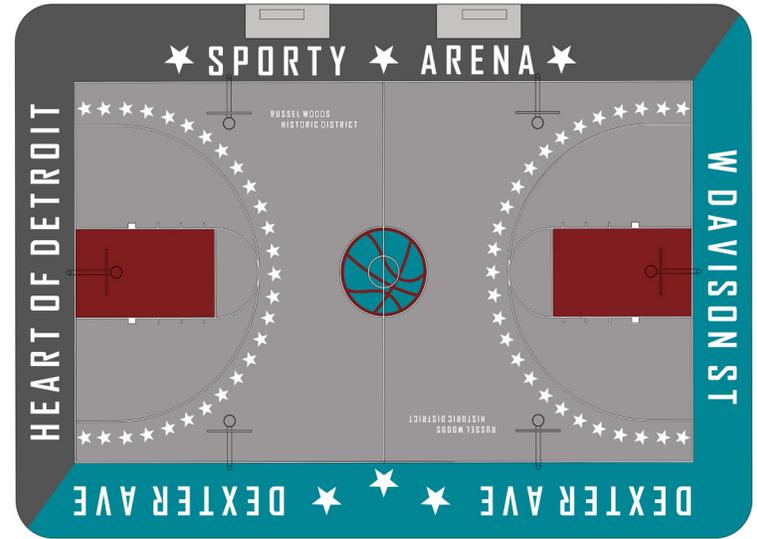
American individuals such as Diana Ross, a Detroit resident, Dinah Washington, who passed away living in Detroit, and Dudley Randall, a Detroit-raised poet. The center of the mural depicts more current events that relate directly to the neighborhood; a school, band, parade, and headlines in the paper.

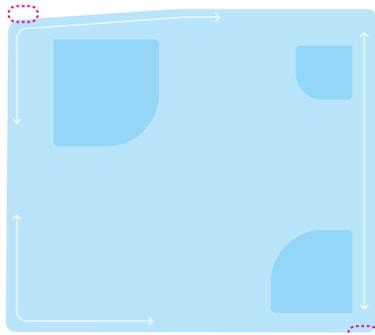
Within 50 feet of the new mural, a playground piece that was salvaged from within the park, renovated, and re-installed, tells another story about the park's history. Zussman Park was slated to be closed in 2013 along with 48 other City parks. Joshua Smith, who was ten years old, raised \$3,600 selling lemonade and popcorn to save the park. His efforts paid off, and Playworld Midstates donated a brand new play structure. The community demanded the equipment be restored and remain in the park, and it now sits adjacent to the party store with the mural, playfully and thoughtfully reclaiming a space that was once better to stay out of.

Basketball at Zussman is serious business. Despite the basketball courts previously poor placement, it has a rich history spanning back to the late 1960s. The court at Zussman was known as a mecca for neighborhood basketball, producing both college and professional players from the area. During the City's long absence of park investment, the court was maintained by the players and neighbors, and it ultimately was named Sporty Arena after the death of a promising young college-bound basketball athlete from the neighborhood. Through a collaborative community design effort, the court has been re-constructed, re-oriented, and re-painted. Stars on the court represent all the people involved in maintaining it over the years and making it famous. Upon completion, their names will be added to each star honoring the past and attracting the next generation of hoop dreamers.

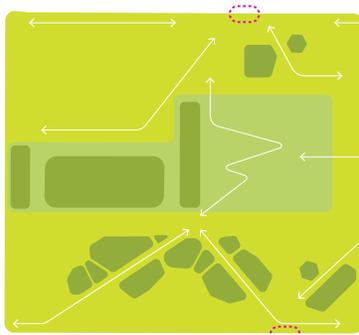
(Left) Zussman Park Master Plan completed by the City of Detroit Landscape Design Unit. Source: City of Detroit

(Below right) The existing basketball court has been updated using a collaborative community design (above right). Source: City of Detroit

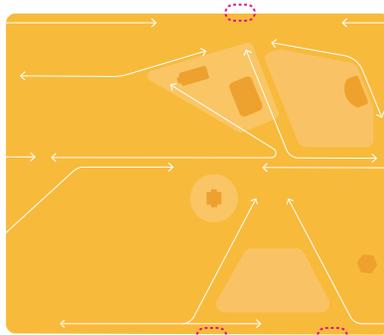




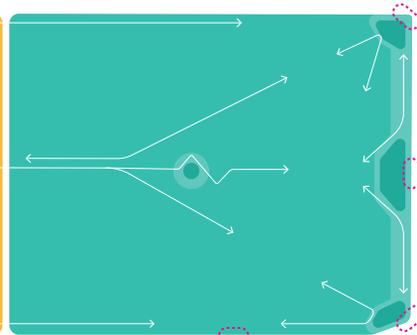
SPORTS ZONE



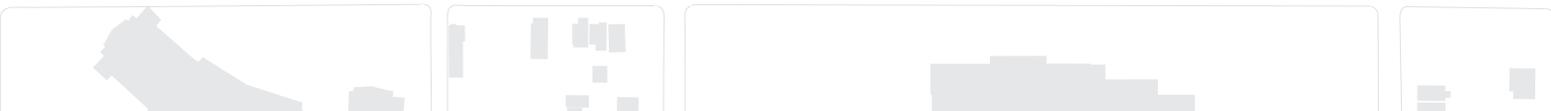
ACTIVE ZONE



CULTURAL ZONE



PASSIVE ZONE



CLARK PARK

Budget \$2,800,000

Located in the well-known and vibrant southwest Detroit, Clark Park presents an entirely different set of opportunities from Zussman. This 29.8 acre historic community park is adjacent to two schools, a dynamic commercial corridor, and a densely populated, vibrant, multicultural and predominantly Latino neighborhood. Compared to the rest of the City, southwest Detroit is populated at an average of 10,000 people per square mile, which is more than twice the citywide average of 4,700. This is an area of the City that has a long history of social, physical, and economic strength.

Just before the City started its park redesign efforts, a community planning process was already underway called *We Decide Detroit*. This project was led by SNF partner Invest Detroit and the Clark Park Coalition (CPC), a neighborhood park organization with a daily presence in the park that was also instrumental in maintaining the park after the City's 1991 financial crisis. Their mission is to, "Provide an array of diverse, high-quality recreational, educational, social and mentoring programs for southwest Detroit families, promoting skills development which helps our youth grow into responsible, self-confident adults."

During this community planning process, *We Decide Detroit* and the CPC facilitated a brainstorming and participatory budgeting process around what people would like to see implemented in Clark Park and provided a budget of \$250,000. They then solicited priorities for park improvements from the surrounding community, including business owners, a cohort of students from the adjacent high school, and community members. This process generated 532 ideas and engaged 231 additional participants throughout the

neighborhood. Ultimately the projects were voted on and prioritized with three projects rising to the top:

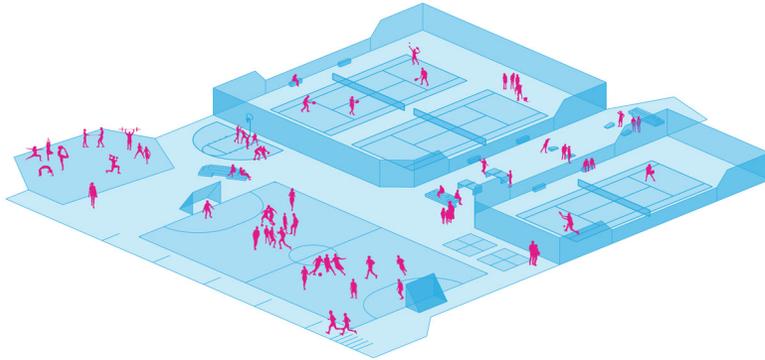
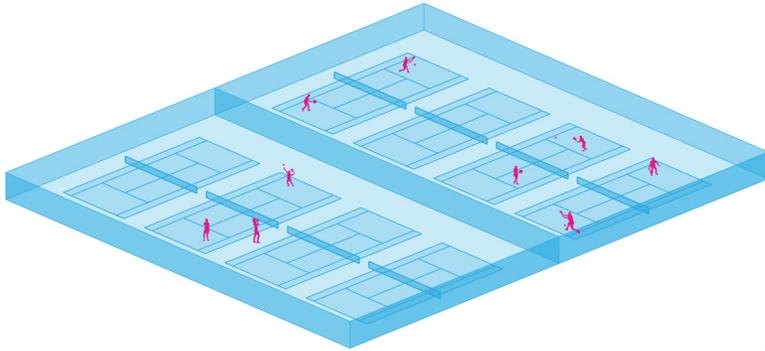
1. *Sip, Sit, Eat and Listen* which points to the necessity for updated basic amenities in the park.
2. *The Chill Zone*, which asked that we design a youth after school hangout spot. For the design team this really underscored the need to create a space in parks that is not just for families, youth, and adults, but a place that teens also feel comfortable hanging out in and being teens.
3. An *inclusive and accessible playground* designed and constructed for children of all levels of abilities.

The results of this work easily folded into the City's forthcoming community engagement around the park redesign process. For this project, Hamilton Anderson Associates was chosen in a competitive bidding process to assist the City and community in developing a long-term master plan for Clark Park that would provide the direction for implementation of immediate improvements.

Today, we are contracting construction for the first phase of improvements and anticipate ground to break in July. True to the *We Decide Detroit* participatory budgeting process, the park will see plenty of new amenities including benches that are designed, constructed, and installed using a women- and minority-owned business headquartered in southwest Detroit, Disenos Ornamental Iron. In this first phase of construction, the most universally accessible playground in the City will also be built at the park. It includes a naturalized splash pad feature that fits the park's character and doubles as a nature play experience, meeting location, or simple plaza and hangout when the water is not on.

Given feedback to develop a *Chill Zone* for teens, we had a hard time landing on just one space, so several were integrated throughout the park in key locations. One such space can be found across the street from Earhart Middle School and adjacent to the baseball field where school kids were congregating on the berm of the park waiting for rides, catching up after school, or just hanging out. It was

(Left) A diagrammatic and rendered version of the long-term master plan for Clark Park used to determine Phase I construction. Source: Hamilton Anderson Associates



unsafe and the students were confined by a poorly accommodating park edge. We plan on mitigating this problem in Phase 1 construction by building a small plaza in the park and adjacent to this space that allows youth to safely move out of the street, off the berm, and into a space that feels comfortable, welcoming, and accommodates congregating, hanging out with friends, or simply having a safe space to wait for a ride.

A second *Chill Zone* was developed and invites youth and teens to a more central location inside the park. It replaces eight tennis courts, that were seen as an obstacle, blocking views and movement through the park, with an activity zone which preserves three of the tennis courts, and adds a fitness pad, youth basketball court, multi-use sport and game courts, and provides spaces to sit, hang out, charge a cell phone, or perhaps meet a first love.

Finally, the first phase of construction will take us to the northern edge of the park where a mature stand of towering trees interrupts a stretch of mostly two-story storefronts on the W. Vernor commercial strip. The park edge, although natural in appearance, feels like something much less inviting. The tree line acts more like a green wall visually disconnecting the park's more active use zones and amenities to the south from the commercial corridor across the street. The sidewalk running along the park's wooded north edge, although activated by its necessity, also lacks the energy and vibrancy that a park setting can provide. When you look across the street at the bustling Mexican Town Bakery and Armando's Mexican Restaurant, with no room to create desirable outdoor seating, it is hard not to recognize a latent economic development opportunity within the park's edge.

The solution to the problem was what one would expect; an improved park edge and pedestrian experience with a small plaza and lots of seating. However,

(Left) A before and after showing the proposed design changes to make the existing underutilized tennis courts into dynamic and engaging multi-use courts. Source: Hamilton Anderson Associates

designing this new edge around the established street infrastructure and mature trees, while respecting the historic identity of the park was a challenge. The final design exemplifies a creative solution and provides a much needed separation from the roadway by pulling the sidewalk into the park and pushing the edge of the park out to the street. Replacing the old sidewalk will be wide buffering flower beds composed in a fluid mosaic pattern and influenced by existing artisan tile work found within the park. The new sidewalk and edge treatment slightly diverts the user's path of travel while subverting the experience to a feeling of being inside the park. The same holds true for the bus stop. This newly designed park block reinforces the already established, but under embellished, primary park entries at the northeast and northwest corners. Embellishing these entries required adding physical weight and a more street-forward presence. In an effort to compliment the historical architecture within the park, it was decided to construct brick columns with iron arches displaying the park's name and add formalized ornamental plantings to a more gracious entry experience. These new corner entries will also provide a strong visual connection to the street, beckoning visitors and neighbors into the park.

Future phases of the work identified in the master plan include historic building restoration, improved pathways and stage area, and new shelters. Managing the park's historic tree canopy is also included in the long-term design by incorporating new native trees planted throughout the park while selectively removing hazardous, unhealthy, or invasive trees in order to encourage and help preserve the mature forested canopy Clark Park is historically known for.

Detroit is certainly seeing a new era within its park system. Since 2015, eighty of the City's 298 parks have received full renovations. 146 additional parks have seen some form of infrastructure or amenity improvement, and 248 parks have seen an increase in maintenance and services. With over 5,000 acres of parkland dispersed throughout Detroit's footprint, a thoughtful, updated park should be within a short walking distance of every Detroit neighborhood as the City continues its work laying supportive and foundational infrastructure to serve generations to come. •

About the Author

Jeff Klein, PLA, ASLA is the City of Detroit's Deputy Chief of Landscape Architecture in the General Service Department and the Team Lead for Strategic Neighborhood Fund Park Design and Implementation projects.

Zussman Park Project Team

- Rayshuan Landrum, *Landscape Designer / Project Manager*, Landscape Design Unit, City of Detroit General Services Department
- Maria Galarza, *Parks Planner / Project Manager*, Public Space and Planning Unit, City of Detroit General Services Department
- Mario Moore, *Muralist*

Clark Park Project Team

- John DeRuiter, PLA, *Assistant Chief Landscape Architecture / Project Manager*, Landscape Design Unit, City of Detroit General Services Department
- Juliana Fulton, *Deputy Chief Parks Planner / Project Manager*, Public Space and Planning Unit, City of Detroit General Services Department
- Meghan Diecchio PLA, *Director of Landscape Architecture / Project Manager*, Hamilton Anderson Associates
- Devyn Quick, PLA, *Lead Designer*, Hamilton Anderson Associates
- Janet Ford, RA, LEEP AP, *Architect and Historical Architect*, Hamilton Anderson Associates

To learn more about the City of Detroit's transformative park projects and neighborhood plans, please visit:

- <https://theneighborhoods.org/story/closer-look-10-detroit-areas-selected-strategic-neighborhood-fun-20>
- <https://detroitmi.gov/departments/planning-and-development-department/neighborhood-plans/west-design-region/russell-woods-nardin-park>
- https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2019-07/180508_WestVernorCorridorNeighborhoodFramework.pdf

FORMS+SURFACES®



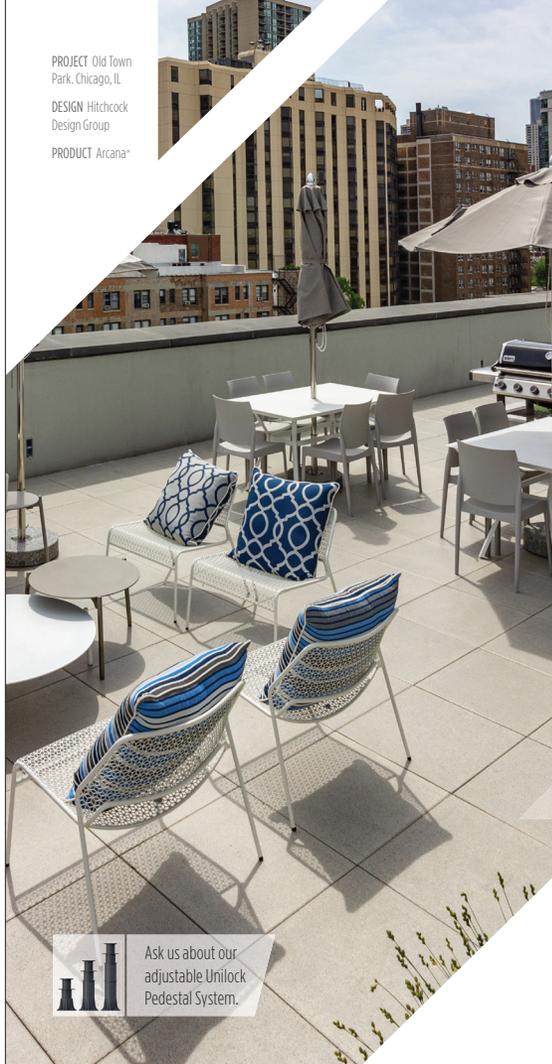
TONYO LITTER & RECYCLING

FACTOR CHAIRS



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TONYO AND FACTOR, PLEASE CONTACT:
MICHELE PARVIZI | FORMS+SURFACES | MICHIGAN TERRITORY MANAGER
OUTDOOR PRODUCTS | (269) 370-0563 | MICHELE.PARVIZI@FORMS-SURFACES.COM

PROJECT Old Town
Park, Chicago, IL
DESIGN Hitchcock
Design Group
PRODUCT Arcana™



REIMAGINE The ROOF

Contact your local Unilock Representative for paver, slab, & pedestal samples, product information or to arrange a Lunch & Learn for your team.

UNILOCK.COM
1-800-UNILOCK



Ask us about our adjustable Unilock Pedestal System.

UNILOCK
PAVERS & WALLS

Save the Date!

LARide "Cherry Capital" CycleTour 2021

Traverse City

Saturday

Sept. 18th



LARide

Join us for the sixth LARide CycleTour in conjunction with *The Michigan Conference on Landscape Architecture*. Open to the public, Traverse City promises to be incredible with great speakers, After Party, possible two-day option and surprises TBA. "Lecture Sites" with CEUs will be available. Online registration begins May 15, 2021. Learn more about sponsorship opportunities that *tell your firm's story* at...

www.laridecycletours.com



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION



THE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES WEBINAR SERIES

The Michigan ASLA Chapter Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) is proud to present the Diverse Perspective Webinar Series. This series aims to highlight minority design students and professionals, while providing a platform to share their experiences, work and contributions within the profession of landscape architecture.

Webinars are released on a bi-monthly basis, so tune in for information on our next webinar in July!



All previous Diverse Perspectives Series webinars are available at:
<https://www.michiganasla.org/videos-and-webinars>

The DEI Committee aims to encourage, promote, and celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion in our chapter and profession.

Interested in joining or learning more? Contact our Vice-President of DEI, Stephanie Onwenu at dei@michiganasla.org

The DEI committee provides resources and information for minority students and designers, and for others seeking education on how history and design have affected minority communities. Please visit and share our growing list of resources,
<https://www.michiganasla.org/resources>

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT: NADIA AMOROSO

Q&A WITH A COUNCIL OF EDUCATORS IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

MiSITES Editorial Board and Nadia Amoroso | University of Guelph



Hi, Nadia. Please introduce yourself!

Hi, thank you for the opportunity to speak about CELA. I am an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, Canada. I have a bachelor in landscape architecture and masters of urban design from the University of Toronto, and a PhD from the Bartlett School of Architecture at UCL, UK. I have several books on visual communication and data visualization, including 'The Exposed City: Mapping the Urban Invisibles' and the 'Representing Landscapes' book series.

How did you get involved with the CELA?

In 2018, I was awarded the CELA Faculty Award for Outstanding Communications, at CELA conference at Virginia Tech at the time. I was delighted to meet new academics from various landscape architecture programs in the USA and globally, and to network with my former colleagues this event. I also had an opportunity to meet several CELA board members. I had a wonderful time at the CELA conference, and had made new connections, and therefore, I decided to run for the board of directors.

As the Region 9 Director, what are your responsibilities with CELA?

We typically meet as a Board once a month and attend the CELA conferences for our annual 'big' meeting. I usually update the committee on any news from the LA programs in Region 9. This includes any faculty new hires, retirements, promotions, and any news worthy events from their LA department. I typically reach out to the Chairs and Directors of the school once or twice a year for updates. I then report this information to the CELA Board. We also share any CELA conference updates, new scholarships or awards that students or faculty

can apply for, to the Chairs and Directors of the LA programs. We also review and vote on any organizational tasks, ideas, finances, CELA events, and discuss any updates in regards to Landscape Journal, CLARB and LAF.

What value does CELA bring to the landscape architecture profession?

CELA is quite valuable. The CELA website is a platform for Schools to post academic jobs, connect to research, and offer an opportunity for both students and faculty to network at CELA conferences. CELA also allows board member to understand any changes in the profession, such as path to licensure, school accreditations and trends in the profession.

What trends in education has CELA seen through its work?

CELA has helped bring together various themes and research topics together, via conferences, social media posts and journal articles in Landscape Journal and Landscape Research Record. It has helped support issues such as climate change, diversity, equity and inclusion, and landscape research innovation, through scholarships, awards, and general dissemination of the topics at conferences or in press.

What about any challenges or threats that are facing LA educators?

I think that we have to be open to change and teaching innovations. In a time of Covid, we had to adapt to teaching online quickly, and sustain it, while still delivering quality content. We have to keep the students engaged with various topics in landscape architecture. Perhaps virtual teaching could be part of the future of delivery.

CELA recently held their annual conference. Were there any research projects or findings that excited you the most?

I am interested in landscape representation, visual communications, data visualization and digital design. Therefore, I was intrigued by the research entitled, 'Introducing Conceptual Parametric Modeling as Design Visualization

(Right) Nadia with her students for an international design-build competition in 2018. Source: University of Guelph

in Landscape Architecture' by Huiqing Kuang from the University of Florida. I also enjoyed reading Phillip Zawarus' work on 'Augmented Performance: A Remote Process and Engagement between Metrics and Outcomes.' Professor Zawarus is from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Similarly, are there any areas/topics of research that you believe more practitioners and educators should focus more on?

CELA is looking at new themes for upcoming conferences that are relevant in practice. 'Equity, Diversity and Inclusion' is a very important topic. Any emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality and of course climate change and any new or emerging theories in landscape architecture.

What has been the most rewarding part of your work with CELA?

I really enjoy building new professional relationships with other board members, and getting to know the landscape architecture programs within my Region.

Is there anything else you would like to share about CELA?

I think that faculty and students should take advantage of the CELA conference. It's a great opportunity for students and academics to network with professors from other universities and to have a chance to see creative scholarship and innovative research in the field. •





ASLA
MICHIGAN

2021 Michigan Chapter ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture

Friday, September 17th, 2021
Hagerty Center, Traverse City

Featuring:

Jonathon Overpeck, PhD., University of Michigan
Dr. Joanne Westphal
Aaron Keatley, EGLE
Stephanie Onwenu, SmithGroup

For more information please visit: www.michiganasla.org

STUDENT HONOR AND MERIT AWARD PROGRAM

PRESENTING THE MICHIGAN ASLA WINNERS FROM THE 2019/20 AND 2020/21 SCHOOL YEARS

MiSITES Editorial Board and MiASLA Executive Committee

The ASLA Student Honor and Merit Award program recognizes outstanding seniors who are completing their undergraduate or graduate work in Landscape Architecture at MSU or UofM, respectively. The program recognizes three facets of professional development: academic excellence, design creativity, and broad technologic mastery. Students are nominated by the faculty at each academic institution, and Michigan ASLA chapter members interview the nominees and evaluate their portfolio work in the selection process. Honor and Merit Awards are then assigned based on their work and the interview

2020 Merit Award
Michigan State University

SARAH PETERSON
(not pictured)

2020 Merit Award
University of Michigan

MAI XIONG
(not pictured)

2020 Honor Award
Michigan State University



2020 Honor Award
Michigan State University



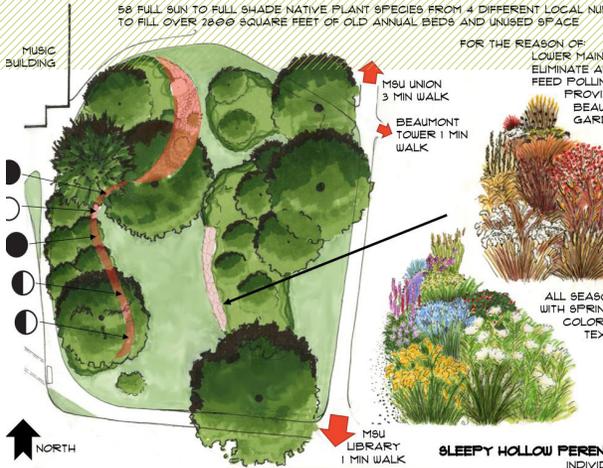
PAIGE O'KEEFE



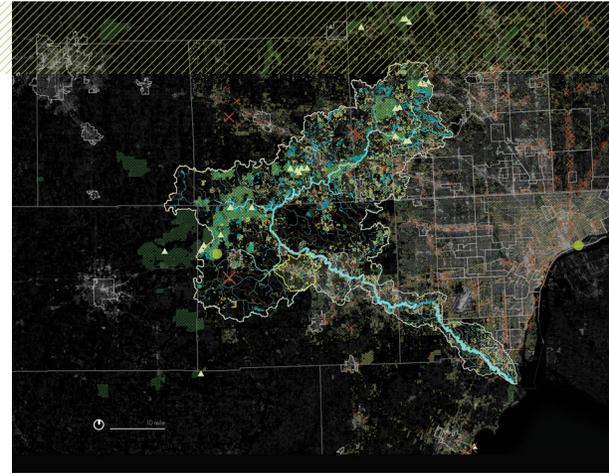
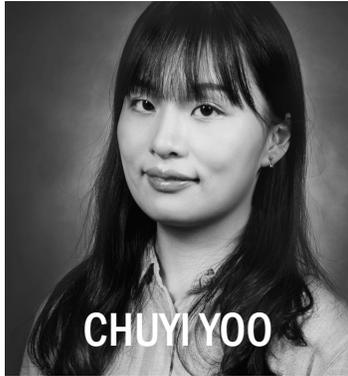
2020 Merit Award
Michigan State University



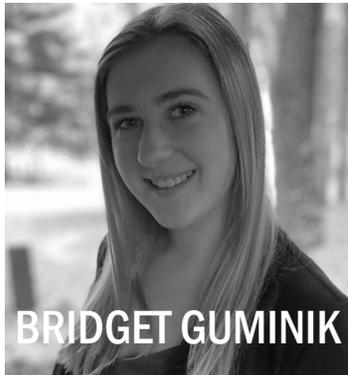
ANNA ZULTOWSKI



2020 Honor Award
University of Michigan



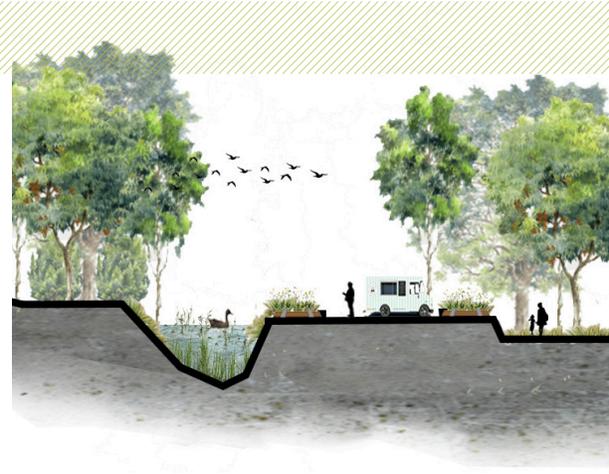
2021 Merit Award
Michigan State University



2021 Honor Award
Michigan State University



BROOKE SHEVELA



2021 Honor Award
Michigan State University



TED COOK





landscapeforms®

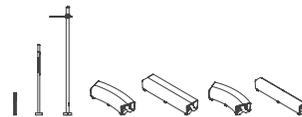
Typology

Connecting Sky & Earth, Light & Shadow

Immersive, sculptural elements bridge the vertical and horizontal realms, playing with light and shadow to draw the eyes skyward then back to the earth. Discover the Typology Collection, an innovative seating and lighting system and holistic urban design experience created in collaboration with Designworks, a BMW Group company.

Amanda Nawara, Western Michigan
amandan@landscapeforms.com

Kyle Verseman, PLA, ASLA, Eastern & Northern Michigan
kylev@landscapeforms.com



DESIGN. CULTURE. CRAFT.



PART OF THE *Nueva*® Collection

Nueva® 150 Wall

Our Nueva® 150 Wall was designed with a sleek profile and smooth face, and the versatility and strength required to help increase usable space by managing troublesome grade changes. With Oaks patented M-Lock technology and hollow cores, Nueva® 150 wall allows for the use of stabilized backfill for the ultimate stability in the most challenging and true vertical applications.



OAKSpavers.com
1.800.709.OAKS (6257)



2021 MICHIGAN ASLA OFFICERS AND STAFF

President
Jo Westphal, FASLA, FCELA

Treasurer
Tim Shoemaker, ASLA

President Elect
Patrick Judd, ASLA

Secretary
Wendy Fry, ASLA

Immediate Past President
Joane Slusky, ASLA

Member at Large
Kyle Verseman, ASLA

Trustee
Chet Hill, ASLA

Associate at Large
Arianna Zannetti, Associate ASLA

VP of Marketing
Jake Hamilton, ASLA

Executive Director
Matt Solak

VP of Education
Allison Marusic, ASLA

MSU Student Representative
Paige O'Keefe, Student ASLA

VP of Government Affairs
Adam Fercho, ASLA

U of M Student Representative
Rachelle Roake, Student ASLA

VP of Membership
Scott Black, ASLA

MiSITES Editorial Board
Meghan Diecchio, ASLA
Devyn Quick, Associate ASLA

VP of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Stephanie Onwenu, ASLA

SHARE AN IDEA!

We are currently filling our 2022 editorial calendar. If you would like to contribute to MiSITES or suggest an article, please email: SITESpublication@michiganasla.org.

Michigan Chapter of the
American Society of Landscape Architects
(517) 485-4116
www.michiganasla.org
linkedin | facebook | twitter | instagram



Michigan ASLA
629 W. Hillside Street
Lansing, MI 48933

www.michiganasla.org

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT #515