

The Path Ahead:

Virtual Environments, Artificial Intelligence +
Biodiversity Applications

2023 Annual Conference of Landscape Architecture

OCTOBER 2023

11 - 13

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
BAY CITY RIVERFRONT
BAY CITY, MI

#MIASLA2023



ASLA
MICHIGAN

The Path Ahead:

Virtual Environments, Artificial Intelligence
+ Biodiversity Applications



Conference & Expo
DoubleTree by HILTON
Bay City Riverfront
One Wenonah Park Place
Bay City, Mi 48708

Parking is available at the hotel.

Accommodations
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Field Sessions

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Sketch Crawl

2:00pm - 5:30pm

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Please join us for the 6th Annual Sketch Crawl led by Jack Goodnoe, and explore downtown Bay City. Hand drawing is a medium in which our profession communicates and translates ideas to clients or internally among office peers. This event is for all drawing levels that will be guided through prompts, tutorials and techniques. Sketchbooks are generously provided by Landscape-Forms. Please bring your favorite drawing tools - a pencil and pen minimum, and comfortable shoes. As always, plan for the weather, too. Tour departs **promptly** at 2pm from the DoubleTree by HILTON hotel Lobby

Happy Hour Social

H2O's Waterside Grill, Bay City Sponsored by



6:30pm - 8:30pm

Join your friends from the profession for drinks and appetizers in downtown Lansing at the **H2O's Waterside Grill, 966 E. Midland St**, Bay City, MI.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022

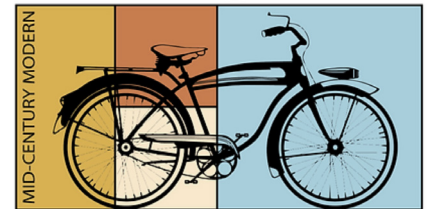
LA Ride, Downtown MIDLAND

Separate Registration Required

10:00am - 5:00pm

Join us for the LARide Cycle Tour 2023. It is a slow to medium paced, +/- 12 mile bicycle tour of the neighborhoods, parks, city center and more. As we ride around the Lansing area, there will be featured stops with educational lectures, followed by the After Party. In addition to a day of fun, you will be helping out Landscape Architecture students, as the proceeds go towards scholarships, mentoring and the Michigan ASLA's DEI.

LA Ride



Midland, Michigan 2023

Educational Sessions

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Registration & Breakfast Exhibitor EXPO

7:30am - 8:15am

Opening Remarks

Kyle Verseman, Michigan Chapter, President

8:15am - 8:30am

Wicked Problems, Wicked Partnerships: Can AI Help Landscape Architects to Fulfill Our Ambitions

Philip Fernberg, FASLA

8:30am - 10:00am

Keynote Address

BREAK Exhibitor Expo

10:00am - 10:45am

The Future – How Will We Prepare: A Panel Discussion

Moderator: Patrick Judd, Michigan Chapter President-Elect

Panelists: Amy Syverson-Shaffer, ASLA, RLA, SITES AP

Peter Kindel, AIA, RIBA, ASLA

10:45am - 12:15pm

LUNCH & State of the Chapter

12:15pm - 1:45pm



SESSION One

1:45pm - 2:45pm

Celebrating Hidden Histories:

PLAYCE: Black Landscape Architects Michigan Connection

Stephanie Onwenu, ASLA and Charles Cross, PLA, ASLA

BREAK Exhibitor Expo

2:45pm - 3:15pm

SESSION Two

3:15pm - 4:15pm

Uptown Bay city Riverfront Brownfield Development

Scott Hemeyer, PE, and Doug Schultz, RLA, ASLA

Chapter Awards Presentation

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Chapter Honor & Merit Awards presented by Stacey Tobar, RLA, ASLA

Presidents Reception & Cocktail Hour

5:30pm - 6:30pm



Wicked Problems and Wicked Partnerships: Can AI Help Landscape Architects to Fulfill Our Ambitions

Keynote Speaker: Philip Fernberg, FASLA



Philip Fernberg, FASLA

In a world with increasingly intersecting environmental, social, and economic challenges - often termed 'wicked problems' - the role of landscape architects has never been more crucial nor has it ever been so complex. The magnitude and intricacy of converging issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, rapid urbanization, and accompanying spatial inequity demand not only novel solutions but novel approaches to problem-solving; landscape architects have taken it upon ourselves to provide both.

At the same time, advances in technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) have emerged as a potentially disruptive force that could revolutionize the industry. AI's predictive capabilities, data analysis, and computational design methodologies present possibilities for more evocative, resilient, equitable, and measurable designs. But can AI truly help us fulfill our ambitions, or does it simply add another layer of complexity?

In this presentation, we will explore the potential of AI in tackling wicked problems in landscape architecture. We'll examine case studies of AI integration in the field, debate its ethical implications, and probe its potential to either augment or hinder human creativity. Join us as we envision a future where 'wicked partnerships' between AI and landscape architects drive us toward a more sustainable, resilient built environment.



Image created in Photoshop using generative AI by Philip Fernberg
Next Generation of Landscape Architecture Leaders Focus on Climate,
Equity, and Technology
www.archdaily.com

Philip Fernberg is an instructor, PhD candidate, and researcher in Utah State University's Visualization, Instrumentation and Virtual Interaction Design (VIVID) Laboratory where he leverages emerging technology and methods to work on a variety of research questions. His highly collaborative work, ranging from spatial cognition research using virtual reality and eye-tracking with partners at the University of Utah, to policy analysis on emerging geopolitical events to tackle issues of urban water conservation and land use change in the Great Salt Lake Basin. Phil's current work oscillates between developing theoretical frameworks for artificial intelligence (AI) in landscape architecture and directly applying those frameworks to real-world design problems. As part of the 2022-23 cohort of the LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership, Phil examined AI and its place in the discipline to help designers better understand, prepare for, and use it in the future, with a call to engage in shaping the technology to align with best practices and values.

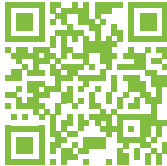
The Future - How Will We Prepare

A Panel Discussion



Amy Syverson-Shaffer
ASLA, RLA, SITES AP

ASLA Climate Action



ASLA 2018 Professional General Design Honor Award. Iqaluit Municipal Cemetery. Iqaluit, NU, Canada. LEES + Associates / TSC Photography

ASLA Climate Action Plan: Tracking a Year of Action

Join us to unpack the ASLA Climate Action Plan and get a view of the actions taken over the first year of action. Amy Syverson-Shaffer, who is a member of the Climate Action Committee and working with the Carbon Drawdown and Biodiversity Sub-Group, will present a helpful overview of the CAP objectives, dig into the Field Guide initiatives, and share the latest from the Climate Action Tracker. Bring your questions and comments for discussion, as the goal is to enable all of us to take action in our own projects and practices.

Amy Syverson-Shaffer is passionate about connecting people to nature and to each other. Her past work as a landscape architect and in business development frames her relationships-first approach to taking on big challenges. Today, she is lending her design acumen and contextual understanding to leading sustainability for the modern craft manufacturer, Landscape Forms. In 2023, she served on the inaugural cohort of the ASLA Climate Action Committee, where she has been working on the Carbon Drawdown and Biodiversity Subcommittee to bridge between key efforts by the vendor and member community. On any given day, you can find her enjoying a collaboration with colleagues or working in the garden.



Biodiversity + Biomorphic Urbanism

Biomorphic Urbanism

Peter Kindel, AIA, RIBA, ASLA, will discuss the tenets of Biomorphic Urbanism and illustrates how these design principles can restore natural systems while enhancing the human experience. Biomorphic Urbanism is an innovative approach to urban design that aims to create more sustainable, resilient, and culturally rich urban environments.



Peter Kindel
AIA, RIBA, ASLA

Peter J. Kindel is an Illinois-based architect and urbanist focused on the design of cities and their complementary relationship to transportation and environmental systems. He is a Director in SOM's City Design Practice, a global studio focused on urbanization. He specializes in large-scale mixed-use projects for public, private, and institutional clients. His interdisciplinary projects include city planning, technology campuses, transit-oriented development, academic planning, new towns, public infrastructure, and the design of ecological systems. Mr. Kindel, '86, Director of Urban Design and Planning at SOM, was inducted into the MSU LA Distinguished Alumni in 2022.

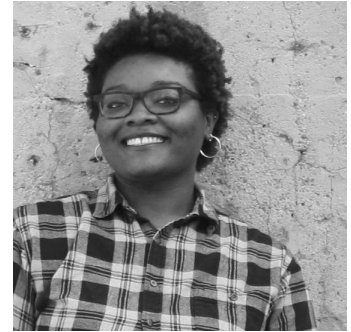
Located along a formerly industrialized stretch of the Chicago River, the Wild Mile is a proposed 17-acre, floating eco-park that will create new opportunities for habitat restoration, education, and recreation. Image © SOM



Their Untold Stories - Black Landscape Architects Michigan Connection

Session A

Their Untold Stories - Black Landscape Architects Michigan Connection is a collaborative research project and exhibition exploring the history, efforts, impacts and journeys of Black landscape architects, artists and designers with a Michigan connection and how their influences have impacted their journey and career in the profession. “13.4 percent of the U.S. population identifies as African American, but only 2.14 percent of ASLA members do.” Their Untold Stories - Black Landscape Architects Michigan Connection exhibition cultivates a space to further the conversation and amplify the diversity of representation in the profession locally and at the state level while celebrating differences. Displayed through a visually compelling timeline of stories, this research forms a deeper unified linkage to the state of Michigan, the city of Detroit and surrounding areas. Recognized as an event apart of the Detroit Month of Design, a citywide festival celebration that invites creatives to submit ideas for experiences appealing to local and global audiences, highlights why Detroit serves as the first and only UNESCO City of Design in the United States.



Stephanie Onwenu,
ASLA

Stephanie Onwenu is the creator and founder of Ijeomalandartscapes LLC, a landscape art experience that explores the intersections between art, design, history and culture. She is an alumna of Michigan State University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and a Master of Arts in Environmental Design. Her work explores the intersections of human needs and the roles they play in the natural and built environment, while also connecting spaces and places to the people who define it. Stephanie’s commitment and drive not only demonstrate her capabilities, but reflect her outspoken personality, which seeks for the advancements of others. Inspired by human relationships, interactions, and the influence of social change, Stephanie works with communities to challenge and transform cultural and social institutions.

In 2021, Stephanie was awarded the Emerging Professional of the Year award from the Michigan ASLA Chapter for her significant contributions to the profession. Currently, Stephanie sits as the Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Michigan ASLA Chapter, a co-founding Board Member of the newly established Michigan Chapter ASLA Foundation, and the Emerging Leader on the Michigan State University Landscape Architecture Alumni & Advisory Board.



**Charles Cross,
ASLA**

Charles Cross, ASLA is the Director of Landscape + Urban Design at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture and Community Development, where he teaches Site Analysis and Design. He also advises students in the Master of Community Development Program. He serves as the co-faculty advisor to the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) and is a founding board member of the Black Landscape Architects Network.

Prior to joining the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, Charles gained valuable experience in the public sector including the US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service and the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Real Estate Division. He also has experience in the private sector with SmithGroup-JJR, Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architects and Artist Mary Miss of New York City.

The focus of his work is grounded in community-engaged design. He believes design is an act of social justice, and that all people deserve good design. His research interests include historic African American settlements, Underground Railroad heritage sites and cultural asset mapping in Afro Brazilian and Afro Cuban communities.

Charles holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Western Michigan University, a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree and Master of Urban Design degree from The City College of New York. Charles received the New York ASLA Merit Award and is a 2018 Fulbright-Hays Fellow.

THEIR UNTOLD STORIES: BLACK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS IN URBAN COMMUNITY

Biography
Alex Bush is passionate about creating equitable and resilient cities. She is a program officer with the Kravis Foundation's Urban Regions. Alex supports investment in transformative public spaces in the City of Detroit that promote greater understanding and inclusion, as well as strengthening the intersections between sustainable urban development and environmental equity.

After joining the foundation in 2021, Alex spent six years at the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department as the lead landscape architect. Her focus was to build the team after the 2013 reorganization. She served as Urban Design Director - East Riverfront and managed neighborhood development and landscape infrastructure projects in Detroit's east side through the \$100 Strategic Neighborhood Fund. She has also been a program lead for Detroit's Programming the City Commission, working with a multi-sector team to improve civic engagement, equity, and environmental sustainability through investment in neighborhood-scale public spaces in concert with residents.

Before her Detroit work, she gained diverse experience in communities across the U.S. on urban design, historic landscape preservation and public space planning projects. Alex held positions with **Swinscote** and the **San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)**. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard University and a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia. Alex serves on the board of the Landscape Architecture Foundation and is a licensed landscape architect in the state of Michigan.

Alexa Bush, PLA, ASLA
Program Officer
The Kravis Foundation
Detroit, Michigan

Eisa Flanagan Park/Regisart Revitalization Project
Location: Detroit, MI
Eisa Flanagan is a landscape architect and urban planner with a focus on community engagement and public space design. She is currently working on the Regisart Revitalization Project in Detroit, Michigan. The project involves the renovation and revitalization of the Regisart building and surrounding area, including the creation of new public spaces and the installation of art and landscaping. Eisa is currently working on the project as a landscape architect and urban planner.

Liverios Streetscape
Location: Detroit, MI
The project involves the renovation and revitalization of the streetscape in the Liverios neighborhood in Detroit, Michigan. The project includes the installation of new streetlights, benches, and landscaping, as well as the creation of new public spaces and the installation of art and landscaping. The project is currently in the planning phase.

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THEIR UNTOLD STORIES: BLACK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Biography
Kofi Boone, ASLA is a Joseph B. Moore Distinguished University Faculty Scholar at North Carolina State University and a graduate of the Urban and Environmental Planning Program. His work is in the overlap between landscape architecture and environmental justice with specializations in design, interpreting cultural landscapes. He is the winner of the 2018 ASLA Award for Merit in the Urban and Environmental Planning Program. He is the founder of the Just Communities of the Landscape Architecture Foundation, and the board of Black Landscape Architects Network - Prevention Project.

Kofi Boone, ASLA
Joseph D. Moore Distinguished Professor
University Faculty Scholar
North Carolina State University
President of the Landscape Architecture Foundation
Raleigh, North Carolina

Fun Fact:
The idea of accessibility and how landscapes can start to become its architect, that excites other people to do it, is what I was excited to do and inspired to do it.

Homeplace: Conversation Guides (with CDDL)
Location: Multiple communities, NC, USA
This project is a series of conversation guides (releasable as a series of digital guides) that explore the intersection of contemporary engagement with complex communities. Homeplace: Conversation Guides for the City of Durham, North Carolina, was designed by Charles Cross, ASLA, and Kofi Boone, ASLA, with support from the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) and the North Carolina State University College of Design.

South Park Heritage Walk
Location: Raleigh, NC
Faced with rapid downtown development and threats of displacement, the South Park East Raleigh Neighborhood Association (SPERNA) collaborated with NCSSU researchers and students to document and interpret essential community assets in the public realm. Heritage local stories to activate streets, walks, parks, and other public places.

Bailey Drive Gateway (with Design Workshop)
Location: Raleigh, NC
The Bailey Drive Gateway is a most recent phase of consistent community planning in neighborhoods adjacent to the Walnut Creek Wetlands. The Bailey Drive Gateway is a most recent phase of consistent community planning in neighborhoods adjacent to the Walnut Creek Wetlands. The Bailey Drive Gateway is a most recent phase of consistent community planning in neighborhoods adjacent to the Walnut Creek Wetlands.

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Uptown Bay City Riverfront Brownfield Development

Session B

Uptown Bay City is a brownfield riverfront multi-use redevelopment site located in the City of Bay City, Michigan along the east side of the Saginaw River between Breaker Cover and Veteran's Memorial Bridge (M-25). The \$19.5M public infrastructure for the project was facilitated through a public private partnership between the developer and the City of Bay City. Uptown Bay City is a walkable riverfront community including medical facilities, housing, office spaces, hotel, retail shops, entertainment, restaurants, streetscapes, day docks, riverwalk, and civic facilities.



Scott Hemeyer, PE

Scott Hemeyer, PE is a Project Manager with ROWE Professional Services Company, a multi-discipline consulting firm serving municipal and state agencies for over 50 years. Scott has over 20 years of experience in design engineering for municipal projects including streetscapes, trails, roads, wastewater systems, water systems, drainage facilities, and land development. Scott was the overall project manager for this project.



Doug Schults, PLA, ASLA

Doug Schults, PLA is a Senior Project Manager and Associate owner with ROWE Professional Services Company, a multi-discipline consulting firm serving municipal and state agencies for over 50 years. Doug has over 32 years of experience assisting clients with quality of life projects from concept to completion. He directed the landscape architecture services for this project.



notes or doodles



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