



*Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture*

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August 6, 2024

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Cat Soergal Marshall  
Associate Professor and Program Coordinator  
Master of Landscape Architecture  
College of Architecture and Environmental Design  
Kent State University  
1309 Euclid Avenue, Suite 200  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Professor Marshall,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 10, 2024, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Kent State University. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2026, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

The interim report should provide an update, with documentation demonstrating compliance, when necessary, on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) from this Final Action Letter in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. In accordance with LAAB policy, programs have up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of this Accreditation Action Letter. If the RAA(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer-term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Final Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

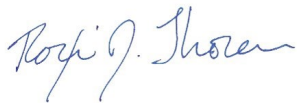
Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2030. Accordingly, the MLA program at Kent State University is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2030.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Reporting template. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roxi J. Thoren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Todd Diacon, Ph.D., President

**Kent State University  
MLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
July 10, 2024**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Develop a more detailed long-range plan with benchmarks and yearly assessment (Standard 1).
2. Integrate the program administrator into the college governance leadership team (Standard 2).
3. Complete and implement a mentoring procedure for faculty regarding policies, expectations, and procedures for annual evaluations, tenure, and promotion to all ranks (Standard 2).

**Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board**

**Interim Report**

**Submitted By:**

**Submission Date:**

**Section 1.**

**Name of Institution:**

**Name of Department:**

**Name of Program:**

**Date of Decision Letter:**

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**Section 2.**

**Recommendation Affecting Accreditation:** (Copy/paste verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

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**Section 3.**

**Action Taken by Program:** (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)

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**Section 4.**

**Prior Action Taken by Program:** (If applicable, attach any prior Interim Report related to the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation described in Section 2 of this Report)