



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

---

Board Members

August 6, 2024

Educators

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA  
LAAB Secretary  
California State Polytechnic University

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Allan Shearer, Ph.D., FASLA  
University of Texas at Austin

Practitioners

Mark Hough, FASLA  
Duke University

Dale Jaeger, FASLA, PLA  
LAAB Chair-Elect  
WLA Studio

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams  
Howard University

Chelina Odbert, Hon. ASLA  
Kounkuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen  
University of Miami School of Law

ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP  
MIG

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA  
LAAB Chair  
Pennsylvania State University

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA  
Mark Thomas

Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

Jun-Hyun Kim, Ph.D., ASLA, APA  
Program Director and Professor  
School of Planning, Design, and Construction  
Michigan State University  
552 W Circle Drive  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1221

Dear Professor Kim,

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 BLA degree at Michigan 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 BLA program at Michigan 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 initial "R".

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA  
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Kevin M. Guskiewicz, President

**Michigan State University  
BLA Program  
LAAB Meeting  
July 10, 2024**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendations Affecting Accreditation**

1. Ensure that there are sufficient student to faculty ratios for studios having more than 15 students (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:**

---

---

**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.)

---

---

**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)

---

---

**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)