



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

August 11, 2025

Educators

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

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA
University of Nevada Las Vegas

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

Derek Hoeflerlin
Associate Professor and Chair
Master of Landscape Architecture Program
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts
Washington University in St Louis
St. Louis, MO 63130

Dear Professor Hoeflerlin,

Practitioners

Mark Hough, FASLA
Duke University

Susan Jacobson, FASLA, PLA
The Morton Arboretum

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 8, 2025, meeting granted accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional MLA degree at Washington University in St. Louis. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2027, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Derrek Niec-Williams
LAAB Secretary
Howard University

Chelina Odbert, Hon. ASLA
Kounkuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen
University of Miami School of Law

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 date of this Final 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.

ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP
MIG

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2031. Accordingly, the MLA program at Washington University in St. Louis is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2031.

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA
Pennsylvania State University

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

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.

Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

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 Report 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Weimin Li', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Andrew D. Martin, Chancellor

**Washington University in St. Louis
MLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 8, 2025**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Update the Mission Statement to reflect the changes in the program, institutional context and opportunities which have occurred since 2014, and, to provide a more focused and clear identity for the program (Standard 1).
2. Test and refine the new assessment procedure to validate its effectiveness in the assessment and determination of the program's progress in meeting its goals (Standard 1).
3. Identify the benchmarks and assessment protocols which are needed to assess and determine the program's progress in meeting its goals (Standard 1).
4. Prioritize completion and implementation of the program's long-range plan and assessment process, which may include the developed, but as yet not implemented ideas, and may be informed by the outcome of the current accreditation review (Standard 1).
5. Develop a protocol for the professional program's long-range plan which establishes and documents the process for reviewing and evaluating the long-range plan (Standard 1).
6. Develop and implement a protocol for the professional program's periodic review and revision of its long-range plan (along with its mission, goals, and objectives) (Standard 1).
7. In order to maintain compliance with the faculty requirements, secure a replacement for the full-time faculty member (whose departure is imminent) with a professional degree in landscape architecture (Standard 5).

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 the 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)