



COUNCIL OF EDUCATORS  
IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Dear CELA Members:

Our biggest challenge this year has been responding to the ASLA's move to change the charge of Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) to include accreditation review of non-degree programs. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the CELA board voted to oppose the proposed ASLA revision to its By-Laws that would allow accreditation review of non-degree programs. CELA was alerted by LAAB to the pending discussion at the fall 2011 Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting. The CELA Board reviewed the "ASLA Task Force on Accreditation and Reciprocity Report and Recommendation." and identified a significant number of issues that were not sufficiently discussed or reviewed. As a result, the Board sent a letter to the members of the ASLA BOT asking that the recommendation be tabled for further review. The BOT voted to accept the recommendation as presented and will be asked to vote on the specific by-law change at their May Meeting.

The CELA Board urges you to become knowledgeable of the issue and to act according to your views. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the issue with you, as do other members of the Board.

Many of you have expressed concerns about this change as it may influence perceptions of academic programs, the rigor and credibility of landscape architecture education and landscape architecture practice, landscape architecture's relative position to allied disciplines, and potential impacts on existing degree-granting programs. The Board has reviewed the proposal, asked for input from member institutions, met with members of the ASLA, CLARB and LAAB, and discussed perceptual issues with allied professions and professionals. In February the Board voted to not support the proposed amendment to the ASLA by-laws and to charge CELA membership to learn more of the issue and discuss it with ASLA chapter leadership and chapter Trustees.

CELA is an active participant on the LAAB Board, the National Academy of Environmental Design, the Landscape Architecture Foundation Research Committee, and on LACES committees. CELA is a guest at the ASLA Annual Meeting and is invited to relate board activities to the ASLA Board of Trustees, and is a guest at the CLARB Annual Meeting, where we are invited to report as well as participate in discussions. Many CELA members are also members of these organizations. Synergistic and stronger collaborative relationships can only help to advance the interests and foci of each and the future of landscape architecture. CELA welcomes and appreciates the opportunities we have to work with our sister organizations as a board. And we invite you to become more active in developing and supporting education, scholarship and outreach with them as well.

Sincerely,  
Terry Clements, ASLA  
Immediate Past-President, CELA