



Design Under Sky Receives Professional Design Honor Award!



Image Credit: Mike Cohea

In case you somehow missed the news we'll say it again: [Design Under Sky's](#) 10,000 Suns won an ASLA Professional Design Honor Award! If you have been in Providence during the summer in the last few years then you have probably seen this project and it's 10,000 yellow faces standing near the Providence River.

This project is an annual summer-long botanical performance in which over 10,000 sunflower seeds are planted and nurtured over the summer months on a brownfield site that until recently was occupied by the now removed I-195 Highway which bisected the city of Providence. Using only a few bags of seeds and a diverse community of local volunteers this once vacant land is transformed each Summer into a bio-diverse and artfully activated public space.

Find out more about the project [here](#).

"The sunflower was chosen because its visually striking, it can grow up to ten feet tall, it's heliotropic, and it's an excellent pollinator and food source. It's also a phytoremediator, capable of sucking toxins out of the ground. The jury lauded the project as a great way to involve the community in the creation of a cherished public space"

- 2022 Awards Jury

Time to Vote!

Are you ready for November 8th?

It's that time again, time to vote! Besides picking the next representatives in government there are a few important questions on the ballot that will affect Rhode Island Moving forward. Check out page 7 for more info on Ballot Question #3.





Trustee's Report

Nathan Socha, ASLA

Greetings everyone,

As 2022 comes to an end, I am reflecting on our efforts during the year and looking forward to the work ahead in 2023. Next year marks the 37th year of the RIASLA chapter and the Executive Committee continues to be very fortunate to partner with a humble and dedicated group of people to sustain the organization.

The impressive efforts of all have pushed the chapter forward. I want to recognize a couple of our members who are moving on this year: Ellen Biegert and Josh

Coroa. We greatly appreciate their outstanding contributions to our Profession and the RIASLA chapter. Also, a big thank you to Steven D'Ambrosia, for his hard work and dedication to running the chapter.

This winter we will be planning for the year ahead. Each year the ex-Com puts together a list of ideas and we will make some decisions shortly after. New ideas from members are welcome, please feel free to email myself or rhodeislandasla@gmail.com if you would like to contribute your thoughts and as always feel free to reach out to request a link to the next remote ex-com meeting and join in the discussion.

As I write this, we are getting ready to head to San Francisco for the National ASLA Conference. From the ExCom Courtney, Andrew and I will be attending. Next year I hope the chapter supports more members to attend the National Conference in Minneapolis.

Nate Socha, ASLA
RIASLA Trustee

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2022-2023 Rhode Island Chapter ASLA Executive Committee

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A Few Highlights from the RI ASLA:

- Traverse Landscape Architects has generously donated a sponsorship. We are working on rolling out a LA firm sponsorship program like the BSLA and CTASLA that would include advertisement in the newsletter. More info on that later. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please reach out to our sponsorship chair John Luca.
- On Thursday, October 6th, 2022, there was a great turn out of 55 or more from the LA community that came to the walking tour along the Providence River followed up by a social gathering at the Narragansett Brewery. Thank you to our speakers for volunteering their time and Unilock and Landscape Forms for sponsoring this event.
- Also, congratulations to Adam Anderson, ASLA. Adam's work, 10,000 SUNS — Design Under Sky has recently received a Professional Design Honor Award from National ASLA.
- RI Chapter ASLA is supporting the nomination of the Veteran's Memorial Parkway to Landslide 2022, a thematic report and exhibition which presents information about threatened and at-risk landscapes.
- On September 29, 2022, ASLA Advocacy Day – Chapter members met with Senator Jack Reed as well as the congressional staff of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Representative David Cicilline and Representative Jim Langevin to solicit support for new congressional efforts aimed at bolstering heat mitigation strategies in vulnerable communities across the country and to codify the Outdoors for All Act. Learn about the legislation and [ASLA Advocacy Day](#)

Continued on page 6...





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President's Letter

Steven D'Ambrosia, ASLA

This is my last President's letter. The end of my second term is here and I couldn't be happier. Not happy because my responsibility is over and I'm no longer President, but rather because of where RIASLA is headed. When I took over as president in November of 2020 we were still in the height of a pandemic, our chapter had gone through a couple reorganizations, and the Executive Committee and general membership were at pretty low numbers. Unsurprisingly, we hadn't had any events and we hadn't had any ExCom meetings in person for quite a while. The state of the chapter, to no one's blame, was in pretty

rough shape; there was nothing to do and morale was low.

It has taken two years of teamwork to bring us back from the precipice of obscurity and a quiet death. Our Executive Committee is now filled with incredible people; professionals that despite having busy work and home lives make the time to not only fill a role on the committee, but put the time and effort in to revitalizing our Chapter.

We have been making great strides and we are heading in an exciting direction. We have an annual scholarship, we've had a consistently released newsletter, we have more sponsors than we have had in a long while, we have had a few very successful events; notably this year's Spring Event and the recent Fall Event. RIASLA is going to be in great hands moving forward and our future looks bright and energetic. I'd like to take credit for the great strides we've made, but the members on the Executive Committee deserve the real credit. They're the ones that have planned events, set up and collaborated with the scholarship, reached out to sponsors to strengthen our relationships, and kept the community up to date with the newsletter. We have a great team, but we can always use more bodies, more ideas, and more energy and I strongly recommend joining the ExCom or at least being involved in events.

Thank you to the Ex Com members that have helped make the RIASLA what it is today over the last two years, you should be proud of what has been accomplished and what will be. This is not goodbye, it's see you later.

2022-2023

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Vice President

Maria Church, Student ASLA

Secretary

Maria Potvin Student ASLA

Treasurer

Erin McLinden, Student ASLA

2022-2023

RISD Student Chapter Officers

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Vice President

Alexandra Goodenough,
Student ASLA

Secretary

Ruiqing Miao, Student ASLA

Treasurer

Jinting Luin, Student ASLA

Promotional Leaders

Naomi Canino, Student ASLA

Zuan Lin, Student ASLA

Jiajun (Jimmy) Ni, Student ASLA

A Few Highlights from the National ASLA:

- The ASLA Fund has launched a campaign to raise funds to send students to the conference! Due to high demand, with over 800 students wanting to attend the 2022 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture and volunteer, we need your help to support free registration for this amazing number of students.
- President Eugenia Martin, FASLA, interviewed five of her woman predecessors and two woman successors, to mark the fact in 2022 ASLA will for the first time have three women serve as President, Incoming President, and President-elect (Eugenia Martin, FASLA; Emily O'Mahoney, FASLA; SuLin Kotowicz, FASLA). To promote the conference, this video was posted on the conference website, and leveraged in the member email message below, to promote the President's Dinner (the event where the historic leadership transition will occur). Martin also interviewed Past President Claire Bennett, FASLA, last week in Indianapolis to discuss Bennett's experiences in ASLA and the profession.
- On September 22-23, ASLA hosted DREAM BIG with Design, A Showcase of Landscape Architecture and PreK-12 Design Learning for young students and educator communities. This year, 705 students were enrolled by their teachers, which is an increase from 638 last year. And \$32,000 was raised this year, which is almost double the amount (19,000) raised last year.
- The Education team completed its production agreement with the award-winning children's musician, Billy Jonas, to compose the ASLA song, The Big Idea. Staff and ASLA members collaborated over a 9-month period to create a song that captured the essence of landscape architecture and the professionals who are designing our future. The song was featured during DREAM BIG with Design, and the PR/Comms team is planning to debut the song after the annual conference.
- ASLA will release its first Climate Action Plan at the ASLA 2022 Conference on Landscape Architecture in San Francisco. In support of the launch, we have planned a Climate Action Plan-focused track of activities hosted by the ASLA Climate Action Committee and Climate Action Plan Task Force and Advisory Group. Members will share more detail about the vision for 2040 and how to navigate the Climate Action Field Guide for ASLA Members to access in-depth toolkits of strategies and techniques under the core topics of practice, equity, and advocacy.
- Archinect featured an op-ed by ASLA CEO Torey Carter-Conneen focused on his thoughts following the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) Conference in South Korea. This marked his first opinion commentary in the outlet.
- The Wall Street Journal published Laurie Olin's stirring essay, Frederick Law Olmsted's Triumph, which examined Olmsted's legacy and the impact the landscape architect still has today. The newly released book, "Experiencing Olmsted: The Enduring Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted's North American Landscapes," was also featured in their Fall Books Issue.
- On October 19, ASLA and CLARB hosted the quarterly Licensure Web Summit. The nearly 60 participants received updates on the upcoming changes to the LARE blueprint, the current state legislative licensure environment, ARPL, and state advocacy days.



The RI ASLA Walking Tour

Landslide 2022

Veterans Memorial Parkway



Image Credit: Dereck Mendoza

Each year The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) releases a thematic report and exhibition titled Landslide which presents information about threatened and at-risk landscapes. The theme for the 2022 Landslide is about Nationally Significant Olmsted Landscapes.

In the spring of 2022, Charles Birnbaum, President and CEO of The Cultural Landscape Foundation and Heather Andrade, member of the Friends of Veteran's Parkway contacted Elena M. Pascarella, RLA, who is the RI Chapter Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) liaison to national ASLA, about the potential risk to the Olmsted Brothers designed Veterans Memorial Parkway in East Providence, Rhode Island.

At one of their monthly meetings, the executive committee of the RI Chapter ASLA approved the request from the TCLF and the Friends of Veteran's Memorial Parkway for a letter supporting the nomination of the Veteran's Memorial Parkway to Landslide 2022. This nomination was accepted by the TCLF and the site has been recognized in the 2022 list of Landslide sites.

More information about Landslide 2022 and this significant historic Rhode Island landscape can be found [here](#).



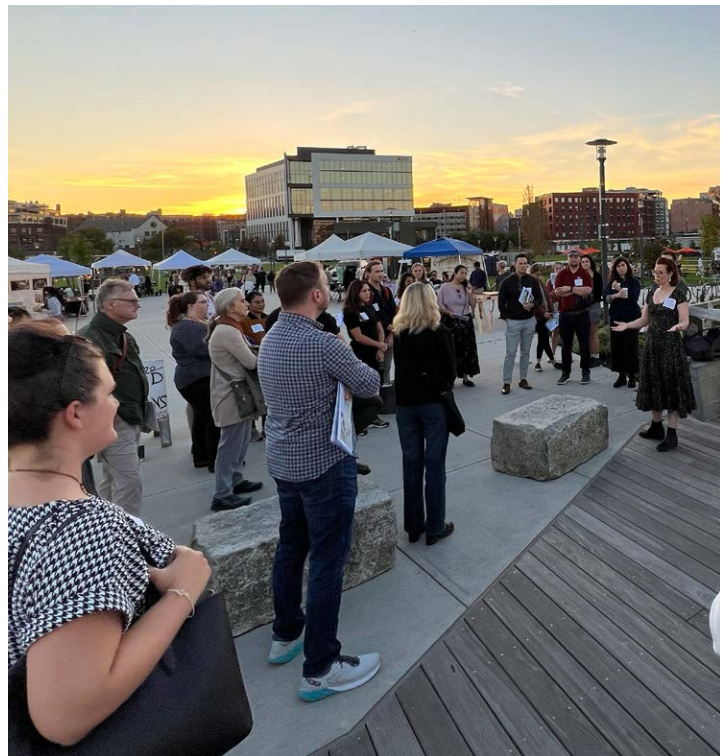
RIASLA Fall Gathering

The Walking Tour was a Hit

In early October we gathered in Providence to visit a few downtown Landscape Architecture projects

We started at The Living Edge, a naturally vegetated buffer along the shores of the Providence River. From there, we strolled to the I-195 Innovation District Park & Van Leesten Pedestrian Bridge where Goode Landscape Studios discussed the past and future of the space, and we hear about the unique manufacturing at Landscape Forms. We sauntered on to the Narragansett Brewery where Arthur from Traverse Landscape Architects and Ashley from Unilock shared the challenges of working in contaminated urban sites. Most importantly, we enjoyed the company of our colleague and fellow design professionals.

We will be looking to have more of these walking tours and would love to hear if you have locations or ideas in mind. If you do please reach out to: rhodeislandasla@gmail.com



Courtney Goode talking about the I-95 Innovation District



Vote Yes on Ballot Question #3, Green Economy Bonds!

RIASLA encourages our members to vote YES on ballot question #3 in the upcoming November 7th election. The Green Economy Bond will provide \$50 million in bonds to fund parks, recreation, and climate resilience projects across the state of Rhode Island.

The money will be divided across the following projects:

- Municipal Resiliency: \$16 million
- Roger Williams Park Zoo: \$12 million
- Small Business Energy Loan Program: \$5 million
- Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development: \$4 million
- Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration: \$3 million
- Forest Restoration: \$3 million
- State Land Acquisition Program: \$3 million
- Local Land Acquisition Matching Grant Program: \$2 million
- Local Recreation Development Matching Grant Program: \$2 million
- Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge

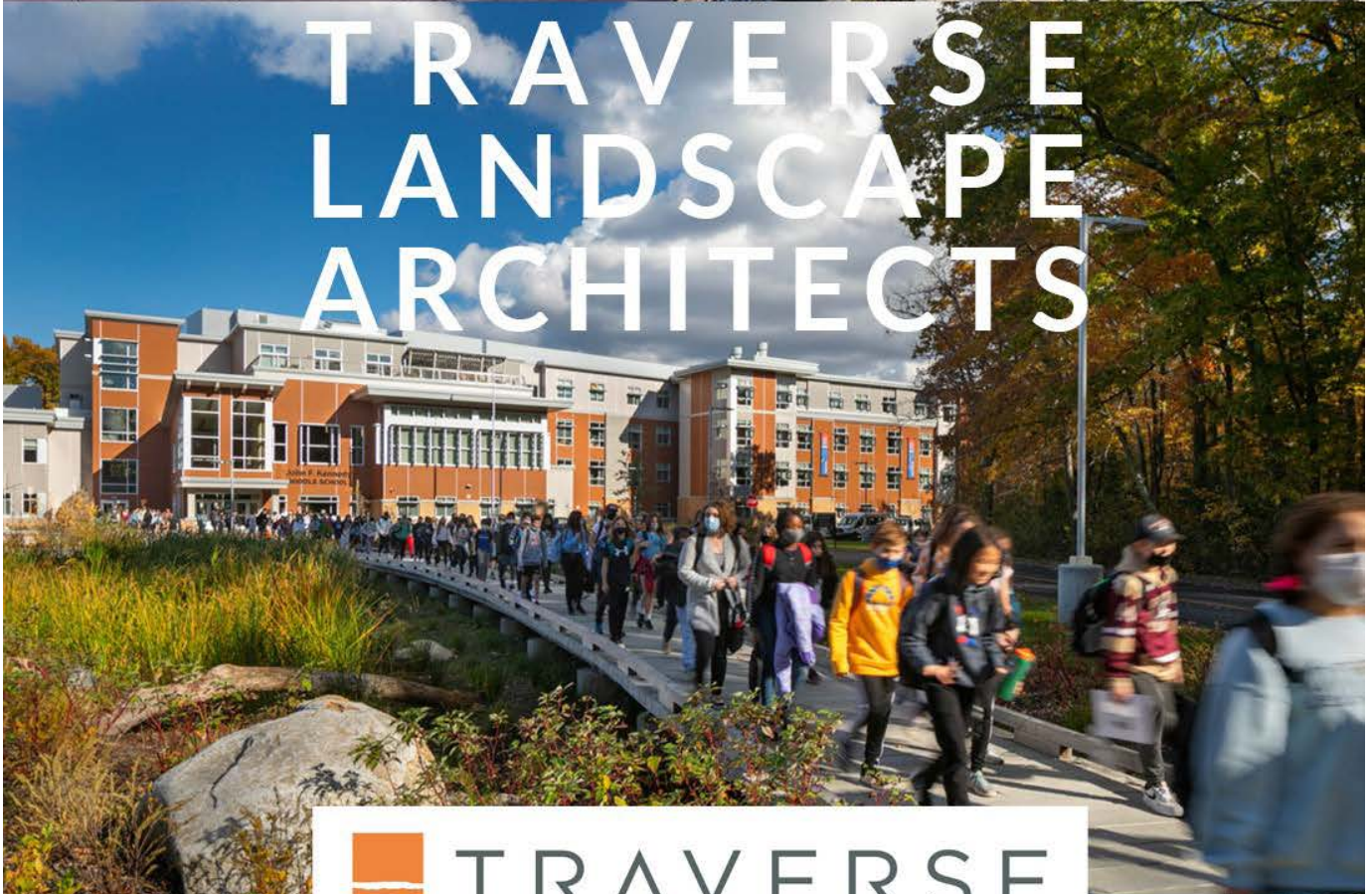
Learn more at:

https://ballotpedia.org/Rhode_Island_2022_ballot_measures





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The Olmsted Challenge

As outlined in the Winter 2022 Newsletter, RIASLA is celebrating the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted by celebrating his work within our amazing State. To do this, we have asked firms to share projects they have worked on that are connected to Olmsted or The Olmsted Brothers. How to submit a project can be found on the [RIASLA website](https://www.riasla.org).

John Brown House, Providence RI BETA

April 26, 2022 marks Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th birthday. Olmsted, who is regarded as the founder of American landscape architecture and the country's most prominent park maker, is known for designing the grounds of New York City's Central Park, the landscape surrounding the US Capitol, the Biltmore Estates in North Carolina, and more. After his death in 1903, his sons continued their father's 38-year career as the Olmsted Brothers.

The landscape architects at BETA have been fortunate to work on updates to several parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, including Walnut Hill Park in New Britain, Connecticut. The team was recently challenged with introducing accessible parking and access to the landscape at the John Brown House Museum in Providence, which was originally designed by the Olmsted Brothers in the early 1900s. The site remains home to incredible elms, London planetrees, and oaks that are scattered throughout the property.

BETA's design team worked through several different options with the Rhode Island Historic Society before landing on an approved design which incorporates materials, site furnishings, and lighting selections that enrich and complement the history of the site. A proposed meandering path will revive part of the original Olmsted Plan, allowing visitors to take a leisurely, shaded stroll beneath the massive trees. The path will also frame an open lawn space, known as the Great Lawn and described as "a jewel in a magnificent setting" by the Rhode Island Historical Society. The Great Lawn is home to 'Concerts Under the Elms' – a popular summer concert series for Providence locals and visitors. As part of the project, several trees are proposed to be installed to succeed the towering trees on the site.

The team's design (shown below) strikes a careful balance of providing enhanced accessibility while also maintaining and respecting the rich history of the site and the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted. Construction is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2022.



Conceptual Plan by BETA

URI Lecture Series Fall 2022

Lectures begin at 7:00 P.M.
Avedesian Auditorium (Room 170) in the Pharmacy Building on the Kingston Campus of URI. All attendees need to conform to URI Covid-19 Protocols in affect at the time. Lectures will be followed by an interactive Q & A session.

This series is co-sponsored by: the RI Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Landscape Forms, URI Dept. of Landscape Architecture, URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences, URI University Libraries, and the Faella, Gaetano and Pasqualina Memorial Endowment. Lectures are free and the lecture hall is handicapped accessible. General questions may be directed to 401.874.2983 or to wagre@uri.edu.

2022

30th ANNUAL

**THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LECTURE SERIES**



Robert Corning
Sr. Principal, Stantec Landscape Architecture
TBD
November 17 | 7:00 p.m.



Amanda Gaal & Zachary Driver
Weston and Sampson Leblanc-Jones
THE ART OF EQUITABLE COMMUNICATION
December 1 | 7:00 p.m.

Lectures begin at 7:00 PM and will be held in person in Avedesian Auditorium, Pharmacy Building (RM 170), URI Kingston Campus. Please note that lectures will be held on Thursday's except for the October 11th talk, which will be on a Tuesday. All attendees need to conform to URI Covid-19 Protocols in affect at the time. Lectures will be followed by an interactive Q & A session. This series is co-sponsored by: the RI Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Landscape Forms, URI Dept. of Landscape Architecture, URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences, and the Faella, Gaetano and Pasqualina Memorial Endowment. Lectures are free and the lecture hall is handicapped accessible. General questions may be directed to 874 2983 or to wagre@uri.edu.



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