

SUMMARY REPORT - FINAL

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD **Landscape Architects Technical Committee**

November 18, 2008
Westin Los Angeles Airport

LATC Members Present

Steve Lang, Chair
Christine Anderson
Andy Bowden
Stephanie Landregan
David Allan Taylor, Jr. (arrived at 8:55 a.m.)

Staff Present

Doug McCauley, Executive Officer, California Architects Board
Vickie Mayer, Assistant Executive Officer, California Architects Board
Mary Ann Aguayo, Program Manager, LATC
Don Chang, Legal Counsel, Department of Consumer Affairs
Carmen Alexander, Examination Coordinator, LATC
Angelica Franco, Licensing Coordinator, LATC
Ethan Mathes, Special Project Analyst, LATC
Terri Villareal, Enforcement Coordinator, LATC

Guests Present

Iris Cochlan, California Architects Board Liaison
Jesus Jaime, Department of Consumer Affairs, Consumer Education Foundation
Susan Lancara, Department of Consumer Affairs, Division of Legislative and Policy Review
Annamarie Lyda, California Architects Board
Rosario Marín, Agency Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency
Justin Sotelo, California Architects Board
Richard Zweifel, Associate Dean, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

A. Call to Order – Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum **Chair's Remarks** **Public Comment Session**

The Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) Chair Steve Lang called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. LATC Program Manager Mary Ann Aguayo called roll. Four members of the LATC were present and thus a quorum was established.

Audience members Susan Lancara and Jesus Jaime introduced themselves to the LATC.

B. Approve July 24, 2008 LATC Summary Report

- **Andy Bowden moved to approve the July 24, 2008 LATC Summary Report.**
- **Stephanie Landregan seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 4-0.**

C. Program Manager's Report

Ms. Aguayo reported on the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) results, Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee update, and the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) legislation-tracking chart. She welcomed new staff member Carmen Alexander and thanked staff for filling in for the vacant examination coordinator position.

Ms. Landregan inquired about the status of the proposed change to Business and Professions Code section 5651. Doug McCauley explained this language was a last minute addition among numerous proposals and did not get inserted into an omnibus bill. Mr. Bowden remarked on the discrepancy between the California and national pass rates for section B of the March 2008 LARE. Ms. Landregan stated that the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) would not release state-specific pass rates. CLARB staff is scheduled to visit an LATC meeting in 2009 to present on this and any other important issues. Mr. McCauley noted the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards releases state-by-state pass rate data. Mr. Bowden reiterated his concern in the discrepancy between the California and national pass rates for section B of the March 2008 LARE and wanted to understand the low pass rate for California candidates as a larger issue of protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Mr. Bowden asked about the progress with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Applicant Tracking System (ATS). Ms. Aguayo confirmed that staff has been consistently meeting with ATS staff to resolve all outstanding issues; the interaction has improved processes but major issues remain. Ms. Landregan suggested hiring an outside consultant and start anew. Vickie Mayer commented that using an outside consultant could be cost intensive.

D. Report on Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB)

Ms. Landregan reported on the November 7-8, 2008 CLARB Board meeting. CLARB has been approached as an overseas partner for testing and licensure, communication within CLARB continues to be constructive, and the CLARB booth was heavily visited at the ASLA annual meeting. Mr. McCauley encouraged CLARB's continued leadership in the profession but to also be cautious about serving as an advocate for the profession. Ms. Landregan added that leadership within CLARB is attempting to be more proactive in the profession and is actively discussing the role of CLARB in the profession as a whole.

Additionally, CLARB discussed jurisdictional limitations on landscape architecture scope of practice. Mr. Bowden asked Don Chang whether local jurisdictions could prohibit landscape architectural practices provided for in state law. Mr. Chang clarified in most cases and in

accordance with Business and Professions Code section 460 state law prevails and that local jurisdictions could generally not impose additional limits on practices provided for in state law. He reported that there was recently proposed legislation, which was subsequently vetoed, that would have limited local jurisdictions from imposing restrictions on practices provided for in state law. Mr. Chang opined that it would be appropriate for the LATC to respond to individual challenges to state law if those matters were to arise. David Taylor added that the California Council of the ASLA was in support of the proposed legislation and it may seek to resurrect the proposal. Mr. McCauley suggested the LATC might want to provide their support to any future legislation on this topic.

Mr. Bowden reported that he has been researching requirements for landscape contractors and landscape designers in order to provide consumer education on these topics. The LATC agreed consumer education on these topics is important for California consumers as well as the national audience. They felt these issues should be brought to CLARB's attention for discussion.

Rosario Marín, Agency Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency introduced herself to the LATC and thanked them for attending the Professionals Achieving Consumer Trust Summit. She reiterated the Summit is a great opportunity for all the boards, bureaus and committees to work together and that the hope is it will be an annual event.

E. Annual Budget and Projections Reports

Ms. Aguayo presented historical budget information and the projected fund condition. Ms. Landregan asked about the LATC's ability to adjust the budget line items to more accurately reflect actual expenditures. Mr. McCauley clarified the individual line items in the budget are for the most part set without much year-to-year and item-by-item adjustment. Staff committed to contacting the DCA's Budget office to determine whether the line items can be modified.

F. Annual Enforcement Report

Terri Villareal reported on the annual enforcement statistics. Ms. Aguayo noted that recent enforcement actions have focused on closing old cases. Christine Anderson suggested creating an aging case report. Ms. Aguayo agreed that this could be verbally reported in future meetings.

G. Update on July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 Strategic Plan – Action Plan

Ms. Aguayo reported that the LATC would be using the Department's Strategic Organization, Leadership and Individual Development (SOLID) staff to conduct the next strategic planning session. The LATC agreed that it would be a good idea to employ a similar format to past strategic planning sessions, while also recognizing the need to be flexible to the new SOLID staff.

H. Identify the Issues and Develop an Action Plan to Strengthen Communication Between Landscape Architect Licensees and University Landscape Architect Program Educators

Richard Zweifel led off the discussion by noting that at the last strategic planning meeting the LATC discussed the importance of communicating to landscape architecture constituencies and the importance of education to the licensure process. Mr. Zweifel stated there is a large investment in education and resources in landscape architecture in California, and that there is an equally large demand for this education and resources. However, he believed the path to licensure is constricted due to the limitations of landscape architecture programs and that students are not captured and helped towards their path to licensure. Mr. Zweifel noted that as the bulk of landscape architecture licensees come from formal educational programs, the LATC is in an important position relative to its involvement in both education and licensure.

Mr. Zweifel stated that he believed the landscape architecture profession has been isolated by competency; that is, educators for the most part educate and practitioners for the most part practice. The LATC is in the middle of these two groups and their objective should be to form a nexus of educators and practitioners. He felt the LATC could be a lead in bridging the gap and that there are many benefits to the LATC using its unique position while also providing protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public. Mr. Zweifel suggested the LATC seek to understand the interests of educators, students and practitioners and the LATC could solicit the participation of landscape architecture faculty given that educators are a direct conduit to students interested in the profession.

Mr. Lang agreed the LATC has influence on all aspects of the landscape architecture profession and that there has been a disconnection between education and licensure. He added that a place to start could be through better understanding the disconnection, what prompted it, and then being part of the reconnection. Mr. Lang questioned whether some of the disconnection stems from the fact that landscape architecture faculty are not required to be licensed and consequently licensure might not be encouraged. Additionally, Ms. Landregan noted that because the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board doesn't account for licensed educators in its accreditation standards, it could also be a factor in diminishing the value of licensure to educators.

The LATC discussed the value of the landscape architecture profession and the need for an advocate to the profession within the educational system. Mr. Lang remarked that based on his recent presentation to students he felt that there is a lot of curiosity about the LARE and how best to prepare for it. Mr. Zweifel added that one of the goals of the LATC is to bring down barriers to attain licensure. Mr. McCauley commented that these are issues for the Board as well. He noted the Board contacts students at the outset of their education, provides an architecture careers Web site, and will be promoting the Board and its career Web site with a bookmark.

Mr. Lang summarized that the LATC should start with small steps and take a more proactive role by contacting landscape architecture programs and meeting with interested constituencies. He requested the LATC members provide a list of questions for making access to licensure easier

and more effective. The questions would then be brought back to the next meeting, commented on and pared down with the goal to ultimately connect with landscape architecture programs.

I. Review Tentative Schedule and Confirm Future Meetings Dates

Mr. Bowden confirmed that he would be attending the Board's strategic planning meeting in December.

Adjourn

- **Stephanie Landregan moved to adjourn.**
- **Andy Bowden seconded the motion.**
- **The motion carried 5-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.