

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC PLAN
2019-2021

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Environmental change has expanded the role of landscape architects throughout the state of California. Our licensees are planning for greater resiliency when faced with sea level rise, wildfires, drought, and increased daily temperatures. Furthermore, today's projects require increased expertise with storm water management, public accessibility, public acceptance, and the use of water. Our charge demands that licensed landscape architects in California are prepared for these and future challenges to our built environment.

The Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) has been working on increasing the pathways to licensure. In the past year we have created an experience-only path and expanded the acceptable education requirements to meet the growing demand for licensed professionals. We also continue to support the University of California extension certificate, which provides additional licensure candidates who cannot attend a full-time studio program.

We will continue to seek input from the industry, partners, and public while we strive for transparency and collaboration. This *Strategic Plan* will guide our work for the next three years as we continue to work on our mandate, which is to protect the citizens of California.

Marq Truscott
Committee Chair

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) was created pursuant to Assembly Bill 1546 which became effective Jan. 1, 1998. The committee was statutorily established under the jurisdiction of the California Architects Board (board). Its purpose is to act in an advisory capacity to the board on examinations and other matters pertaining to the regulation of the practice of landscape architecture in California.

The five-member committee consists of technical experts who are licensed to practice landscape architecture in California. Under the provisions of AB 1546, the governor appoints three members; the Senate Rules Committee appoints one member, and the speaker of the Assembly appoints one member.

The activities of the LATC benefit consumers in two important ways. First, regulation protects the public at large. Second, regulation protects the consumer of services rendered by landscape architects. It is imperative to ensure those who hire landscape architects are protected from incompetent or dishonest landscape architects.

The LATC is one of nearly 40 licensing and regulatory entities within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and is part of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. DCA is responsible for consumer protection through the regulation of licensees. While DCA provides administrative oversight and support services, the LATC further sets its own regulations, policies, and procedures.

MISSION

LATC regulates the practice of landscape architecture through the enforcement of the Landscape Architects Practice Act to protect consumers, and the public health, safety, and welfare while safeguarding the environment.

VISION

Champion for consumer protection, and a safer, healthier environment for the people of California.

VALUES

Consumer Protection
Integrity
Education
Communication
Leadership
Innovation

STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS

GOAL 1

REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Protect consumers through effective regulation and enforcement of laws, codes, and standards affecting the practice of landscape architecture.

GOAL 2

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Ensure that landscape architects are qualified to practice by setting and maintaining equitable requirements for education, experience, and examinations.

GOAL 3

PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH

Increase public and professional awareness of LATC's mission, activities, and services.

GOAL 4

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Provide accessible and responsive quality services to consumers and licensees.

GOAL 1

REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Protect consumers through effective regulation and enforcement of laws, codes, and standards affecting the practice of landscape architecture.

- 1.1 Review and assess the current Landscape Architects Practice Act to be consistent with related statutes and regulations.
- 1.2 Research the feasibility of requiring a license number on all correspondence and advertisement platforms to inform and protect consumers.
- 1.3 Revise disciplinary guidelines, regulations, forms, and processes related to Assembly Bill 2138 to comply with statutory guidelines.
- 1.4 Amend California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 2603 (delegation of certain functions) to align with the California Architects Board's (board's) CCR section 103 (delegation of certain functions) to streamline the disciplinary process.
- 1.5 Publish an updated practice act booklet to provide the public and licensees with current information.

GOAL 2

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Ensure that landscape architects are qualified to practice by setting and maintaining equitable requirements for education, experience, and examinations.

- 2.1 Research the feasibility of a structured internship program to better prepare licensure candidates.
- 2.2 Research the need for continuing education for licensees through LATC, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), or another organization, to better protect the health, safety, and welfare of consumers.
- 2.3 Conduct an occupational analysis to update the California Supplemental Examination to be more reflective of current standards.
- 2.4 Research regulations governing allied professionals to better understand their scope of practice as it relates to landscape architecture.

GOAL 3

PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH

Increase public and professional awareness of LATC's mission, activities, and services.

- 3.1 Educate the different jurisdictional agencies (state and local) about landscape architecture licensure and its regulatory scope of practice to allow licensees to perform duties prescribed within the regulations.
- 3.2 Develop a social media content strategy to inform and educate the public.
- 3.3 Increase social media presence to inform and educate licensees and the public, and expand outreach.

GOAL 4

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Provide accessible and responsive quality services to consumers and licensees.

- 4.1 Undertake business modernization activities to achieve a smooth transition to an integrated online information technology platform.
- 4.2 Develop an online tutorial to clarify the licensure process for candidates.
- 4.3 Prepare for sunset review hearing and responses to background paper.

STRATEGIC PLANNING METHODOLOGY

To understand the environment in which the LATC operates and identify factors that could impact its success, DCA's SOLID Training and Planning Solutions unit conducted an environmental scan of the internal and external environments by collecting information through the following methods:

- Interviews with three members of LATC, the executive officer and assistant executive officer of the board, the former program manager, and three staff members conducted during the months of Sept. and Oct. 2018 to assess the challenges and opportunities LATC is currently facing or will face in the upcoming years.
- An online survey sent to LATC stakeholders in Sept. and Oct. 2018 to identify the strengths and weaknesses of LATC from an external perspective. Forty-four stakeholders completed the survey.

The most significant themes and trends identified from the environmental scan were discussed by LATC and the executive management team during a strategic planning session facilitated by SOLID on Dec. 7, 2018. This information guided LATC in the development of its objectives outlined in this *2019–2021 Strategic Plan*.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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This Strategic Plan is based on stakeholder information and discussions facilitated by SOLID for the Landscape Architects Technical Committee in Sept. and Oct. 2018. Subsequent amendments may have been made after LATC's adoption of this plan.