



Landscape Architects Technical Committee

2025-2028 Strategic Plan

Adopted: February 20, 2025

Prepared by:

SOLID Planning Solutions

Department of Consumer Affairs

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Committee Members

Pamela S. Brief, Committee Chair

Patricia M. Trauth, Committee Vice Chair

Martin “Marty” Armstrong, Landscape Architect Member

Susan M. Landry, Landscape Architect Member

Jon S. Wreschinsky, Landscape Architect Member

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Tomiquia Moss, Secretary, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Director, Department of Consumer Affairs

Kimberly McDaniel, Program Manager, Landscape Architects Technical Committee

About the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC)

The Board of Landscape Architects (BLA) was created by the California Legislature in 1953 to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by establishing standards for licensure and enforcing the laws and regulations that govern the practice of landscape architecture in California. In 1997, the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) was formed under the California Architects Board (Board) to replace BLA. Legislation establishing LATC was passed by the Legislature and signed into law effective January 1, 1998. The five-member Committee consists of three gubernatorial appointees, one Senate Rules Committee appointee, and one Assembly Speaker appointee. Members are appointed for a term of four years.

Landscape architects offer an essential array of talent and expertise to develop and implement solutions for the built and natural environment. Based on environmental, physical, social, and economic considerations, landscape architects produce overall guidelines, reports, master plans, conceptual plans, construction contract documents, and construction oversight for landscape projects that create a balance between the needs and wants of people and the limitations of the environment. The decisions and performance of landscape architects affect the health, safety, and welfare of the client, as well as the public and environment. Therefore, it is essential that landscape architects meet minimum standards of competency.

LATC is responsible for the examination and licensure concerning landscape architects. The LATC currently licenses more than 3,600 of the over 16,600 licensed landscape architects in the United States. California has both a practice act, which precludes unlicensed individuals from practicing landscape architecture, and a title act, which restricts the use of the title "landscape architect" to those who have been licensed by the LATC.

Message from the Committee Chair

On behalf of the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC), I am pleased to present our 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. It is an honor to serve as Committee Chair and to work alongside our Committee, staff, stakeholders, and the California Architects Board (CAB).

Our Mission is to license and regulate the practice of landscape architecture, to educate and protect the public and their health, safety, and welfare. This Mission remains crucial, especially as unprecedented climatic events continue to occur. The regulation of the profession of landscape architecture has never been more important than now. In addition to protection of the public, LATC is committed to ensuring that all landscape architects practicing in the State of California meet the required standards while providing their services ethically and professionally.

In this Strategic Plan you will see the values of the Committee have not changed. We continue to look for ways to improve in all areas of business. We are eager to continue our work with staff, CAB, allied professional licensing boards and stakeholders, in realizing the Strategic Plan goals. To that end we see communication, collaboration, integrity, and education as cornerstones toward public protection and well-informed landscape architects. We look forward to meeting our goals and invite you to join us in this effort.

Sincerely,

Pamela Brief

LATC Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

LATC licenses and regulates the practice of landscape architecture to educate and protect the public and their health, safety, and welfare while safeguarding the environment.

Vision

Champion for consumer protection, and a safe, healthy, and equitable environment for all.

Values

- Communication
- Consumer Protection
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Education
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Transparency

Goal 1: Licensing and Professional Qualifications

Ensure the professional qualifications of those practicing landscape architecture by setting and maintaining requirements for education, experience, and examinations.

- 1.1 Explore ways to reduce barriers to licensure and increase the number of licensees to protect the public.
- 1.2 Improve communication by clarifying licensure requirements.
- 1.3 Research ways to better prepare candidates for professional licensure.
- 1.4 Encourage associations and firms to provide financial assistance options for applicants to help with the costs of exams and licensure.
- 1.5 Research the possibility of establishing continuing education (CE) requirements for renewal.

Goal 2: Regulation and Enforcement

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

- 2.1 Increase awareness of licensing enforcement by improving the LATC website and other communication platforms to increase accessibility and transparency.
- 2.2 Clarify best practices for hiring licensed landscape architects to educate consumers.
- 2.3 Collaborate with associations and local building and planning departments to address the unlicensed practice of landscape architecture.
- 2.4 Explore how artificial intelligence (AI) may impact the profession and licensure.

Goal 3: Public and Professional Outreach

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

- 3.1 Increase outreach to schools and professional associations to improve communication.
- 3.2 Partner with other agencies to strengthen LATC's outreach approach.
- 3.3 Conduct outreach to regulatory agencies stating the importance of requiring the State of California Licensed Landscape Architect seal.
- 3.4 Promote landscape architecture's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (S.T.E.M.) designation to increase awareness of its importance.
- 3.5 Expand the use of social media to increase followers and receive input on what licensees and consumers want to know.

Goal 4: Administration and Customer Service

Provide accessible, efficient, and responsive quality customer services to consumers and licensees.

- 4.1 Continue communication between the California Architects Board (CAB) and LATC as a way to continue increasing efficiencies.
- 4.2 Improve communication regarding LATC's fee structure to increase transparency and understanding.
- 4.3 Expand LATC's involvement with the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB) to strengthen the voice of California at the national level.
- 4.4 Initiate Sunset Report preparation.

Strategic Planning Process

To understand the environment in which LATC operates as well as identify factors that could impact LATC's success in carrying out its regulatory duties, the Department of Consumer Affairs' SOLID Planning Unit (SOLID) conducted an environmental scan of LATC's internal and external environments by collecting information through the following methods:

- SOLID conducted interviews with leadership and staff during the months of August and September 2024.
- SOLID conducted interviews with committee members during the months of August and September 2024.
- SOLID conducted an online survey for external stakeholders during the months of August and September 2024.

The most significant themes and trends identified from the environmental scan were discussed by committee members, LATC leadership and staff, and one member of the public during a strategic planning session facilitated by SOLID on November 8, 2024. This information guided LATC in the development of its strategic objectives outlined in this 2025-2028 strategic plan.

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Strategic plan adopted on [type date here].

This strategic plan is based on stakeholder information and discussions facilitated by SOLID for the Landscape Architects Technical Committee on November 8, 2024. Subsequent amendments may have been made after the adoption of this plan.



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