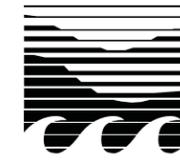


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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Rhode Island Chapter Newsletter

March - April 2017

10,000 SUNS: Cultivating the Urban Landscape through Seeds and Community

By Adam E. Anderson

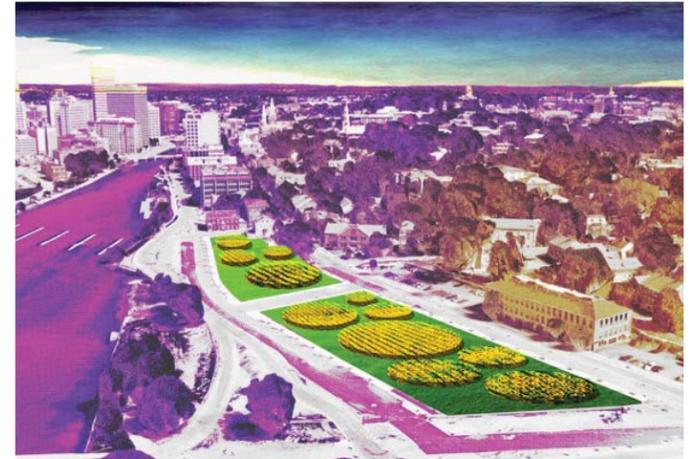
In the spring of 2011, while a graduate student at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) I watched (and heard) from my studio window the final demolition of the I-195 highway that bisected the city through the heart of the jewelry district. Though I was a fairly new resident to Providence the removal of this large piece of abandoned and foreboding infrastructure (it remained a great spot for a beer(s) and setting off of fireworks I should mention) immediately left a spatial impact on that section of the Providence Riverfront. Access to the water, both physically and visually was easily available as one approached from the east side, also opening clear views to downtown and the Jewelry District.

In the years following I walked by the two parcels created by the removed highway, now in the direction of the I-195 District Commission, nearly everyday, and like many other spatially driven people wondered about the fate of this no doubt valuable open space.

I began to explore some of the underutilized riverfront and initiated an experiment in the summer of 2015, and a seemingly simple one at that. Not dissimilar to the "The Lupine Lady" as was often referred to me, I sowed approximately one-thousand sunflowers seeds along and near the river's edge to see not only what the soil would allow to grow, but also people. Would the periodic visit of maintenance crews embrace the guerrilla grown seedlings? Or would they simply be mowed down as "weeds"? If they were to survive long enough to bloom, would passer-bys allow them to remain, or would they be quickly plucked from the ground?

In the end, of the thousand planted, only four or five survived to bloom. But the botanical experiment planted the seed for a bigger idea, that of planting 10,000 sunflowers in this vacant land with the city skyline as its background, creating an iconic image for the city, and stirring possibilities of the transformative capabilities of landscape.

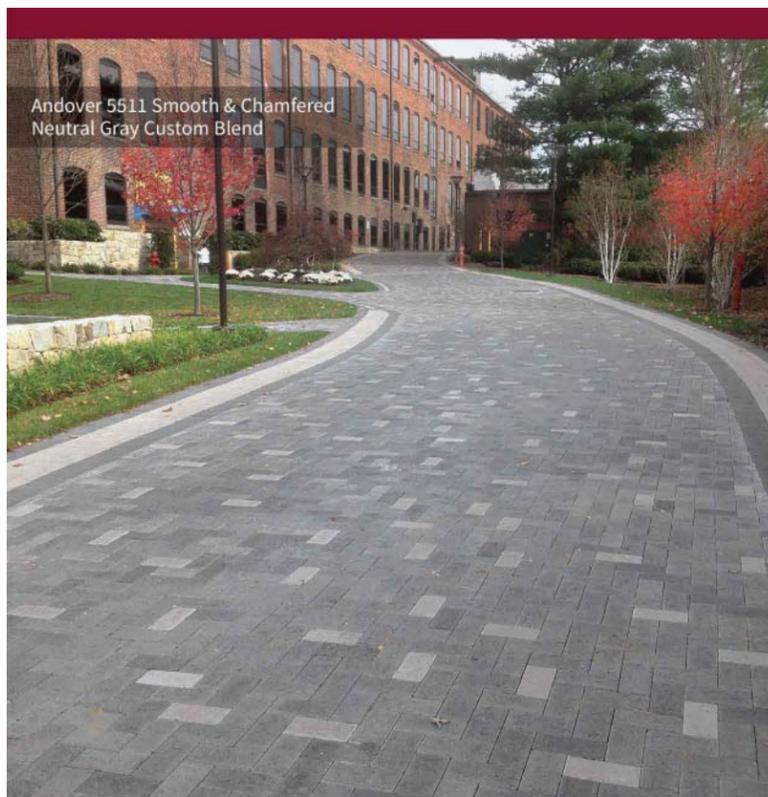
The sunflower is an incredible plant. For one it's bloom is striking, easily visible from a great distance, and given the right conditions, can grow ten feet tall in only sixty days. It's heliotropic, meaning it changes position with the path of the sun. It's a great pollinator and food source, actively attracting bees and birds. And, it is a phytoremediator, having the capability of sucking toxins out of the ground. It was these qualities that I sought to deploy the sunflower onto this vacant (and polluted) land in



what I referred to as a "summer long botanical performance." After creating some ambitious drawings of the proposed outcome I received permission from the I-195 Commission, and along with a team of volunteers and students of mine from RISD began work.

The performance was not only botanical, but as labor. As passer-bys and neighbors would walk by and take notice of this new addition of a handful of strange people making strange marks in the previously unused land they would curiously stop and inquire, and in several cases, join in plowing the ground and sowing the seeds. After about a week of nights and weekends (all of us had day jobs) the acre of land between S. Main St. and S. Water directly across from the river in Providence was filled with over 10,000 sunflower seeds.

Continued on page 8...



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President's Letter

Anjali Joshi, ASLA

January has been a busy month here at RIASLA, with planning efforts underway for two upcoming events. The first one is the continuing education series on Sustainable SITES with speaker Steve Benz "A Deep Dive into SITES". This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about SITES and understand how to incorporate sustainable design practices early in the design process of any project size, big or small. The second is GREEN RI, an event we are co-hosting for the first time this year with the AIA RI (American Society of Landscape Architects) and the IIDA, New England (International Interior Design Associate) at the Roger Williams Botanical Centre on May 4th. At GREEN RI, vendors will showcase new "Green products" that promote sustainable design practice across all three disciplines. This is also another opportunity to earn CEUS as well as enjoy an evening of food, drinks and networking with allied professionals. We will be sharing more details on this event in the coming weeks. In the meantime I would like to thank the volunteers who have stepped forward to help us with planning these events.

In April we celebrate World Landscape architecture month and its time to focus our efforts on spreading the word on "What do LANDSCAPE Architects do?" The scope of our services is so broad that at times it can be difficult to communicate and understand. Showcasing projects photos through the #WLAM photo campaign by ASLA is an easy way to participate. Grass root campaigns in your local communities such as display of drawings at your local library is yet another avenue. My discussions on sustainability and green infrastructure with my daughter for a middle school project fair she is working on presented yet another opportunity to discuss how our natural and man made systems interact and how we can do things differently to create environments in which we can thrive. My offer to help with this project was met with complete surprise as the teachers struggled to make the connection between Landscape Architecture and Sustainability. Each one of us can help create awareness about LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE and its importance especially as it relates to climate change and in turn our wellbeing for generations to come.

Jenn, Melissa and I will be heading to Capitol Hill in Washington DC late April to participate in the national Advocacy Day. All Chapter Presidents, incoming Presidents and Trustees from all state chapters visit with their local representatives and discuss how we support legislation that impacts our work. Here we will meet in person with our Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman David Cicilline and Congressman Jim Langevin and their aids. We are very fortunate to have representatives who are very supportive of legislations that impact our profession at the national level. It's a great opportunity to hear about their future plans as well as discuss ideas we would like to see happen.

Please share images, ideas and thoughts to bring with us to Washington. While the ASLA lobbyist prepare us for this one day event, its amazing to hear about what other chapters have been doing in terms of their local lobbying efforts on advocacy day in their home states. Activities range from Advocacy Day breakfast to visits to local Landscape Architecture projects, creating temporary Park-lets and creating temporary displays of work created by Landscape Architects in the state offices.

RIASLA is interested in applying for an Advocacy grant this year with ASLA. Applications are due in fall and we will also need a matching grant from the chapter or state to apply. Representation from a wide cross section of the chapter will bring more weight to this effort. If you have ideas to share or grant writing experience please consider helping us. Public awareness and Advocacy go hand in hand. This grant will allow us to expand our efforts to advocate on many levels locally in our communities and in our regulatory environment while spreading the word on what Landscape Architects do.

Advocacy clearly needs to happen at many different levels to create awareness of our profession. At our monthly meeting many interesting ideas were shared on how and where
Continued on page 6...

2015-2016 Rhode Island Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects Executive Committee

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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April 3, at 6 pm

Excom Meeting at RISD Nature Lab
Waterman Building, 13 Waterman Street Providence, RI 02903

May 8th at 6 pm

Excom Meeting at RISD Nature Lab
Waterman Building, 13 Waterman Street Providence, RI 02903



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UPCOMING URI LECTURES

March 2,

Kristina Hill, Ph.D., Associate Professor Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, University of California at Berkeley

Title: "Strategies for future shores: An honest assessment of the unthinkable"

April 6

Cheri Ruane, ASLA, Spurr Design Group, Boston, MA
Title: TBA

Lectures begin at 7:00 P.M. and will be held in the Chemistry Building BURP 105 on the Kingston Campus of URI. All lectures are free and open to the public. The lecture halls are handicapped accessible. General questions about the series may be directed to 874-2983 or to wagre@uri.edu.

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Trustee's Report

Jenn Judge, ASLA

Hi Everybody,
Despite having experienced a blizzard last week, Spring is slowly approaching. The days have gotten longer and we are just over four weeks away from the Spring Equinox. I look forward to visiting the local nurseries and spending time outdoors.

Speaking of Spring, we appreciated everyone's feedback on the comment board at the Holiday party and have been discussing and implementing elements from it at our Executive Committee meetings. One of the requests on the board was to provide more CEU opportunities. I think we are off to a great start this year with a successful turn out for the LA CES event of the Sustainable Sites Training Series and are in the process of creating another opportunity for a second Training Series. In addition to the SITES AP Training event, we are participating in the Green RI event this April and planning for the 6th Annual PARKing Day in Providence will soon be underway. We will be reaching out to former parklet participants this summer. We hope to see participants return and welcome new ones in joining us on September 15th!

I'm excited to share that we have a new addition to our Chapter event planning team. **Dean Pimentel** is RIASLA's new Public Awareness representative and recently attended the Public Awareness Summit in Savannah Georgia in January. Welcome aboard Dean!

REMINDER to all students: The open call for the ASLA Student and Associate Committee members for this year will be during the general annual call for committee service which opens May 2 and closes June 16. RIASLA may nominate candidates for both student and associate advisory committee members. There will be three open seats on each committee next year and the terms will be for two years. If you are interested in this opportunity to collaborate with students from around the country and staff at National, please reach out to me at your earliest convenience.

I'd like to take a moment to say Thank you! To **Lisa J. Cato, Associate ASLA and Mike Dowhan, ASLA** for renewing your ASLA membership. Great to have you back!

In a couple of months, Anjali, Melissa and I will be embarking upon the offices of our Senators and House of Representative at the ASLA Midyear Meeting. While in attendance of the meeting, I hope to participate in the People's Climate March on April 29th. The People's Climate effort is recreating the coalition that put together the largest climate march in history. Something tells me that history will be made with even a larger turnout, as more than 100 groups are turning their sights on Washington, where Donald Trump is aiming to sweep aside climate protections and expand fossil fuel development.

Thank you for taking time to read our Newsletter and until next time remember: "Every walk with nature, one receives far more than one seeks"~John Muir

All my best,
Jenn

Executive Offices

ASLA Representative to the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRFF) **LuGay Lanier, FASLA, Senior Communications Manager Jared Greed, and Past President Barry Starke, FASLA**, attended RNRFF's Congress on big data and the environment in Washington, D.C., this week. Over 40 private, nonprofit, and public organizations were represented.

A coordination meeting with Akridge (the building management company) regarding the new WELL program and its guidelines was held today to ensure that all WELL-compliant procedures are in place in anticipation of the move back to the Center. The **WELL Building Standard measures attributes of buildings that impact occupants' health. Seven factors are considered: air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind. Executive Offices prepared an occupant survey for staff dealing with thermal, acoustic, and ergonomic comfort** in the pre-renovation headquarters to use as a benchmark for future surveys. The surveys will be conducted annually once staff moves into the renovated space.

ASLA was named as one of nine exemplar organizations exhibiting the most comprehensive approaches to educating and engaging their members regarding climate change, according to a report by the Kresge Foundation.

Government Affairs

Prior to adjourning, the **U.S. Congress passed H.R. 4680, the National Park Service Centennial Act**. The bipartisan legislation celebrates the National Park Service's 100th year of existence and provides tools and resources to safeguard America's iconic natural and historical treasures. The Centennial bill also establishes the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund to finance signature construction, maintenance, and educational projects by matching private contributions with federal dollars

Additionally, the **U.S. Congress passed S.612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation, which incorporates the Water Resources Development Act of 2016**, and funding for Flint, Michigan. ASLA, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and others, successfully worked to include a provision in the final bill to require the Army Corps of Engineers to report to Congress on the feasibility of using green infrastructure projects, also known as nature-based solutions, in coastal projects. While this is an important step in advancing nature-based infrastructure in Army Corps of Engineers projects, Congress did not adopt the stronger Ribble language that urged the Corps to consider nature-based solutions for all projects.

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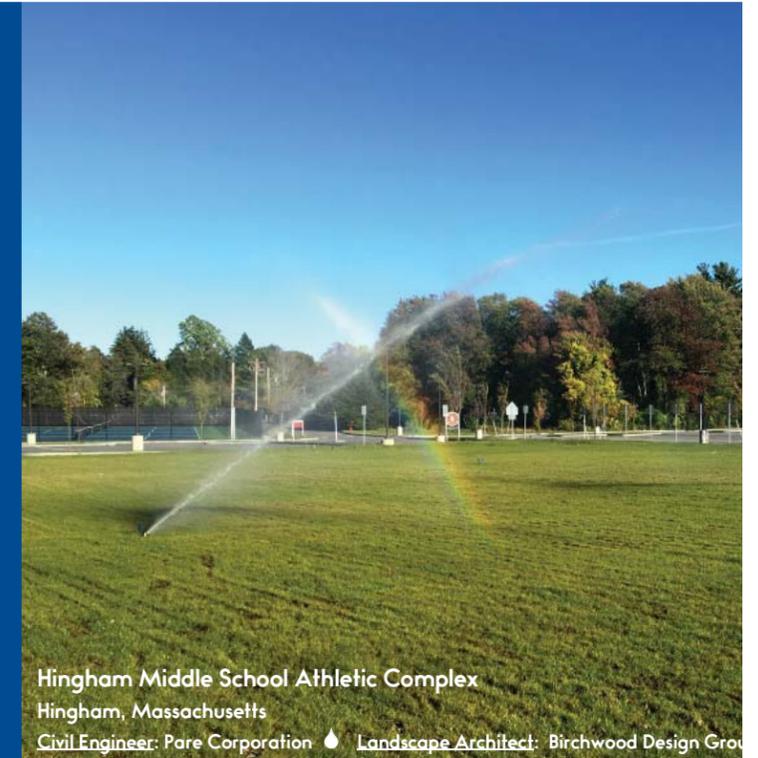
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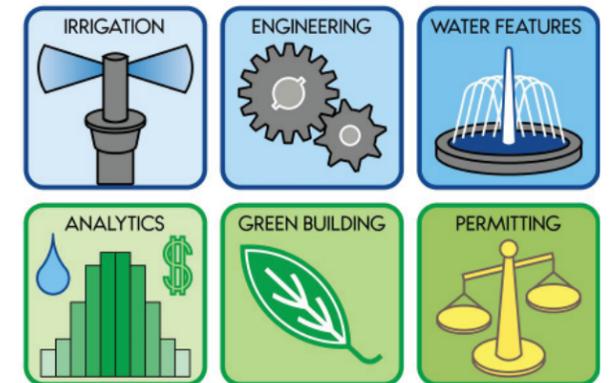
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Trustee's Report Continued....

been "trending" in Samsung's online VR portal, Samsung Gear VR, for weeks. Total views, including YouTube, are now 10,200.

As part of the increased focus on diversity, senior communications manager **Green** conducted interviews with leading African American landscape architects and policymakers at the annual meeting. Interviews were conducted with Diane Jones Allen, ASLA, a landscape architect based in New Orleans; Kona Gray, ASLA, a principal at EDSA; and Mitchel Silver, the commissioner for parks and recreation in New York City.

A new **Google Adwords** campaign was created to promote ASLA's online Guide to Resilient Design. Current pageview count is 7,840, and the site has been getting a lot of attention on Chinese blogs and from their equivalents of Twitter.

Professional Practice

PR Manager Karen Grajales and Professional Practice Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, participated in a phone meeting to discuss the Call to Action to Promote Healthy Communities. ASLA is a participating organization, along with the American Public Health Association (APHA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Planning Association (APA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and others.
Professional Practice

On December 1, Manager Shawn Balon, ASLA, attended the **Smart Growth Network Partners Meeting** at the National League of Cities (NLC). The meeting included several presentations—Public Transportation Ballot Measures, Park and Land Conservation Ballot Measures, and Smart Growth Moving Forward.

Manager Linette Straus, ASLA, submitted two sessions to the Greenbuild Conference that will take place in Boston this fall. One of the session topics is on SITES® with a focus on the materials life-cycle management process from the demolition phase to the installation phase. The other session focuses on green stormwater infrastructure and integrated design systems in urban and suburban communities. The final presentation for the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference on innovative development of resilient design in the public right-of-way, was also submitted last Friday. Manger Straus is currently working on two submissions for the **ASLA 2017 Annual Meeting** for submission by the end of this week.

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10,000 Suns Continued....



The labor as performance had only begun. Next, having the unfortunate luck of taking on this endeavor during a summer drought, there was a struggle to find a water source. Neighbors that were excited for the project allowed me to run 400 ft of hose from their spicket, across the road, and into the field. This however still required eight hours of watering, often being done with a headlamp and well into the late hours of the night. After befriending a former fire chief that blessed me one day with a fire hydrant key, and with the high pressure I was able to essentially irrigate when needed.

After a long hot and dry couple of months, the first sunflower bloomed, and soon after others joined, like a slow fireworks display taking place in the coming weeks. It was now finally quite evident what we were up to all summer and the land became activated with a flurry of people inhabiting the space for a variety of unplanned intentions, including yoga, picnics, and music. The response was incredible. The simple joy that a simple flower could bring to people was the most consistent of comments I received, and one of my favorites, a young girl out with her mother on their evening stroll always insisted they go "the sunflower way."

I found these responses rewarding, but perhaps even more so was the conversations I had through the summer as people approached me to ask about the project, and formed many new friendships I might of otherwise not of made. Simply seeing people take initiative to cultivate an idea seemed to evoke a new appreciation for what the urban landscape in Providence could be, raising the expectations for quality site-sensitive development that will inevitably one day be built on this land.

But one thing I am certain of, the community will insist it outweighs the qualities a sunflower field can offer, which is hard to beat.

Adam E. Anderson is Director of Design Under Sky, a landscape architecture studio based in Providence and an Adjunct Professor at the Rhode Island School of Design



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Trustee's Report Continued....

ASLA helped to sponsor the new **Dangerous by Design 2016**. The new report identifies the most dangerous places in the nation to be a pedestrian, and how changing state and local policies that address transportation planning and design can help address this critical issue. Now in its seventh year, the 2016 edition includes new Pedestrian Danger Index numbers for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Director Blackwell participated in the webinar, Moving Forward in 2017: Active Transportation in the New Congress and the Trump Administration, where presenters shared insights on what's anticipated in federal trail, walking, and biking policy as the new Congress and Trump administration take office. Former Congressman Tom Petri (WI) was a featured speaker and spoke about the importance of local advocacy efforts to keep active transportation programs viable.

The newly revised and updated "**Landscape Architecture Licensure Handbook**" (formally known as the "**Regulation of Landscape Architecture and the Protection of Public Health, Safety, and Welfare**" or "**Blue Book**") is now available for download on the ASLA website. The publication explains why landscape architecture licensure is needed and provides a compendium of legal cases showing physical harm, property damage, and financial harm. Additionally, the handbook analyzes various forms of possible regulation, concluding that licensure provides the greatest protection of public health, safety, and welfare. All chapters are highly encouraged to use this publication in your advocacy efforts.

This week, **ASLA signed onto a transition document spearheaded by the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition. The document titled, Fostering Thriving Communities through Healthy Urban and Community Forests** outlined key urban, community forestry, and smart investment recommendations for the Trump administration. Key recommendations include creating more job opportunities in urban and community forestry; increasing understanding and stewardship of the benefits and threats to urban and community forests; and supporting urban and community forestry to bolster public health benefits.

ASLA has joined other members of the Partnership for Active Transportation in sending a letter to incoming Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao requesting a meeting to discuss active transportation issues. The meeting would focus on the partnership's concerns for achieving safety goals for all modes of transportation; allowing Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) funding to be used for smaller, active transportation projects; and providing overall funding for active transportation projects.

Public Relations and Communications

Global Grid, a nonprofit urbanist news site, listed asla.org the number-one landscape architecture website in its rankings of the top 20 landscape architecture sites, up from number two in 2015.

According to sources at Samsung, **ASLA's 3D version of the Underpass Park virtual reality film, which requires a headset to view, has been watched more than 9,000 times.** The film has

Continued on page 8...



Passings

BRADFORD, DEREK of Providence, RI, died on January 23, 2017, from complications of Parkinson's Disease. Born in London, England, Derek earned a Diploma in Architecture from the University of North London. He received a Masters of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. Derek taught for 40 years at the Rhode Island School of Design and held the faculty position of Professor Emeritus of Architecture and Landscape. While at RISD, he was the first recipient of the Frazier Award for Excellence in Teaching. After retiring from RISD in 2004, he joined the faculty at Roger Williams University.

Derek was an active member of the American Institute of Architects RI chapter and served as both President and Treasurer. He was elected President of the overseas chapter of the Royal Institute of British Architects and served as Director on the AIA National Board. He was also a longtime member of the Capital Center Commission Design Review Committee.

He was an avid traveler and shared his knowledge and expertise teaching and participating in projects in several countries including Pakistan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Egypt, England, and Scotland. He was a talented photographer and painter. He is survived by his wife of 52 years Sara, daughters Gail C. Bradford of Orlando, FL, and Nyssa Bradford Mundy of Cumberland, RI, his granddaughters Sasha, Ella, and Georgia, his sister Brenda Lake of Bromley, England, and his Dalmatian, Betula. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Royal Oak Foundation or the Cultural Landscape Foundation. A memorial service will be held on March 11, 2017, at 2 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church of Providence. Condolences may be offered at www.mkds.com.



THAYER, RAYMOND WINCHELL 97, of Atria at Harbor Hill, after a life well lived, died Monday February 20, 2017 at Rhode Island Hospital with his family at his side. He was the husband of the late Jean (Turgeon) Thayer. They were married for 60 years. They enjoyed entertaining their many friends and traveling the world.

They lived in East Greenwich.

Raymond was a renowned Landscape Architect working well into his 90's until his eyesight started to fail. He was a mentor to many aspiring Landscape Architects and interned many URI students. He kept his mind active and sharp at the bridge table. He was a life member of the Providence Art Club and a member of the Dunes Club in Narragansett. He was in numerous Professional Associations for Landscape Architects.

He leaves one daughter, Cristina Harsch and her husband William of Jamestown, 1 grandson, Philip Tickner and his partner Allen Sexton of Arlington, VA, a sister Ramona Long of Oceanside, CA, 2 great nieces, Molly Hall of Long Beach, CA and Stacy Hall of Eugene, OR.

President's Letter Continued...

we need to spread our advocacy efforts as a Chapter. While it's clear that we have the support of our representatives at the national level members voiced the need to engage our local representatives. Lauren Carson was cited as being particularly supportive of our work in Newport area. Reaching out to her to see how we may better connect with our local representatives was identified as an important action item.

We also need advocates in the regulatory agencies. A member commented on her frustration with the Rhode Island CRMC (Coastal Resources Management Council and DEM (Division of Environmental Management) not enforcing the requirement for a Landscape Architects stamp on the drawings submitted for permitting. How can we make them aware of the importance of a Landscape Architect on the team instead of engineers doing that job?

Another member commented on the range of beautiful Landscape architecture projects she saw at the annual meeting built in the state of Arizona. She later learnt that these were made possible by the efforts of the Landscape Architect who worked for the DOT (Department of Transportation) This Landscape Architect had the foresight to get Landscape Architects involved very early in the process for many infrastructure related projects. Many opportunities for landscape architects get missed if they are not involved early in the process. It's so important to consider the vision of Landscape Architects in making our cities more livable, sustainable and regenerative for future generations. Urban sprawl is accelerating climate change and addressing it is not just an architectural or planning issue but very much a landscape architecture issue. As Steve Benz quoted in his SITES session recently our mantra needs to be "Don't let Architects take charge of these projects". Landscape Architects need to engage early in large infrastructure projects when their vision can make a big difference.

Sustainable SITES is a great advocacy tool for Landscape architects. It holds projects to a much higher standard when it comes to our outdoor environments valuing lands and water as assets and their ability to regenerate. SITES helps monetize the long-term benefits of building sustainably and quantifies benefits such as shade trees saving energy costs, or recycling storm water to reducing our water needs. SITES has added to the list of the usual considerations of a place like water, soil, and plants, goals like the health and well-being of humanity. The emotional response that comes from being with plants, the smell of plants can be a trigger so many therapeutic and healing benefits for all ages and address many of our current health issues. We have an opportunity to rethink our environments and Landscape Architects need to be at the forefront of these discussions.

"SITES, uses a quantifiable framework, allowing learning opportunities for all the designers and contractors etc. to look at new processes and opportunities to learn about sustainable design and practice. SITES will drive the industry to become more sustainable and transparent" claims James Corner.

Share with us what you did this April to advocate for our profession. RIASLA'S new instagram account makes sharing photos even easier. We would love to hear about what's happening in your neighborhood, community, office, and Project sites.



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