

Ken Filarski's mission to incorporate SITES into Rhode Island policy



Paul Wessel, SITES Director of Market Development, interviewed Kenneth J. Filarski FAIA, LEED FELLOW, LEED AP BD+C, SITES AP, AICP, CFM, SAP+AEER, NCARB on his mission to incorporate SITES into the state of Rhode Island's landscape policy roster.

Around the world, leaders are increasingly recognizing ecosystems as natural capital assets that supply life supporting services of tremendous value. The challenge is to turn this recognition into incentives that will guide wise investments in natural capital, on a large scale. Planners are just beginning to understand how to integrate ecosystem services into urban plans. The SITES rating system provides a useful tool to integrate ecosystem services into landscape governance and to demonstrate that ecosystem services is a useful theory for practice. As a result, SITES offers an opportunity and a means for governments from the local to the national to lead and to act.

In large part because of the dogged leadership of Ken Filarski, the State of Rhode Island is leading the way on adopting SITES as a landscape policy tool. We checked in with Ken on how this happened and how it's going.

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City of Providence Announces Winning Design for Preservation of Crook Point Bridge

Providence-based firm's design reimagines the iconic structure and surrounding area as an illuminated landmark with revitalized and inviting public spaces

PROVIDENCE, RI – Mayor Jorge O. Elorza today joined staff from the City of Providence Department of Planning and Development and Providence-based engineering firm Horsley Witten Group & Jonathan Harris to announce the winning design for the creative reuse of the Crook Point Bascule Bridge following an open call to designers by the Providence Redevelopment Agency (PRA) in October 2020. The design repurposes the iconic landmark and its surrounding area, preserving a piece of the City's historic infrastructure while reinvesting in an inviting new public space.

"As we continue to think about infrastructure in new and creative ways, the preservation and reimagining of the Crook Point Bridge unlocks novel ways to engage and connect with our existing environment," said Mayor Jorge Elorza. "This remarkable vision combines our history with our future, repurposing the structure as an illuminated beacon for

residents and visitors to enjoy for generations to come." The restoration of Crook Point Bridge, outlined in the firm's winning proposal, would create new riverfront public spaces for events and community gatherings, reestablish shorelines and ecosystems, and identify opportunities for the siting of new affordable housing, among other renovations. Perhaps



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Trustee's Report

Jenn Judge, ASLA

Greetings Everyone!

I hope that you have been keeping busy yet taking time to enjoy summer with family and friends. I hope that you, like me, have found comfort and a feeling of liberation, with now being vaccinated in effort to try to return to our 'new normal'.

Our new normal now includes being able to attend the ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture in Nashville Tennessee this November from the 19th-22nd. Early bird deadline to register closes August 18th. Shortly after the conference, our Chapter will be hosting the Holiday party and the 2021-2022 Professional Design Awards in December. Many thanks to the Oklahoma Chapter! as they will be jurying our submissions this year.

This Trustee's letter is the most unique one that I will have drafted during my tenure as Trustee for the past two consecutive terms. I have an important ask to our current members as well as those who currently aren't members. We have a lot of vacancies in our Executive Committee to be filled by this November's Chapter Presidents and Trustee's meeting. Our new normal for our Chapter may change drastically this fall if these roles are not filled. I'd like to ask that you all consider not only joining the RIASLA Executive Committee to become part of a rewarding and fun professional society, but literally to help keep our Chapter alive. IF these positions are not filled, worst case scenario is that the Chapter will have to be dissolved. I have personally enjoyed collaborating with everyone whether it be URI, RISD, RINLA, allied professionals or vendors, over the years, but more importantly, members while serving in a role as Chapter President, Secretary, Member-at-Large, Public Awareness Chair and my final months as, Trustee.

What has ASLA meant to me? It has meant building confidence not only through the many resources that ASLA provides whether through educational sessions that RIASLA has hosted or those that I attend, but to me personally. It has provided a level of gratitude for all the support that ASLA provides in protecting licensure, the opportunity to meet our congressional members of Congress and our representatives in Washington DC and what they do to advocate for our profession. Currently, we don't have the issue of licensure to contend with and I am confident that National would step up and offer our assistance, if need be, in the future.

Being an ASLA member has also provided me with countless opportunities. The chance to meet, listen and talk to landscape architects not only here in RI, but from all over the country. These connections not only help to provide information to me to help get me through a challenging project, but they have also presented opportunities to celebrate such as a project collaboration or a job opportunity, and for all of those, I am forever grateful for.

I'm also appreciative for the platform at the annual conferences that National provides that hosts an enormous amount of vendors to learn about, see, touch, use their various site elements, plants, soil amendments, erosion control fabrics, light fixtures, etc. so that you can provide up to date products and services to your clients. Learn at educational sessions that provide endless amounts of information that help to keep you informed and up to date with our profession.

Lastly, one of the most important things, that does not hold a financial benefit in our
Continued on page 6...

2020-2021 Rhode Island Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

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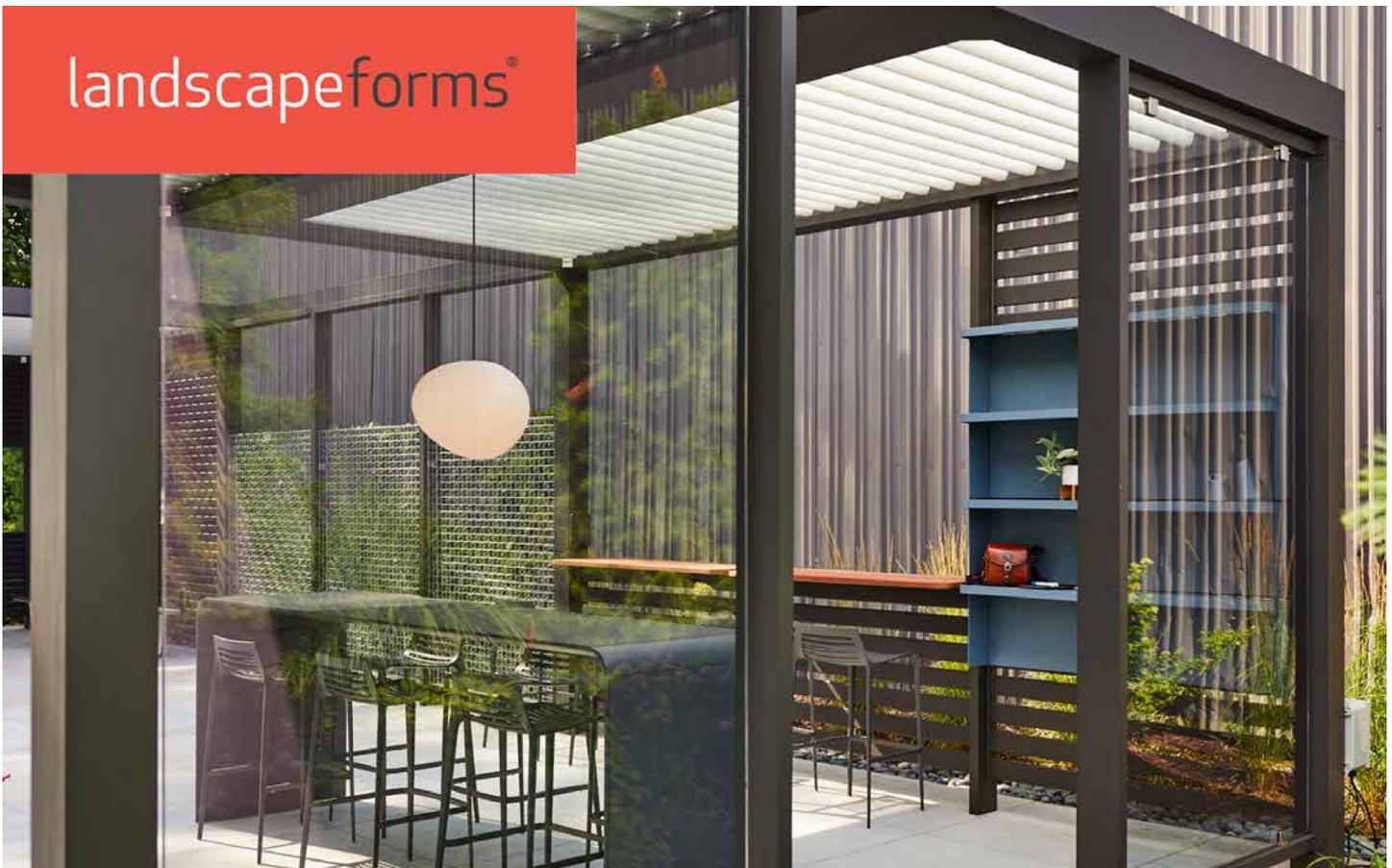
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President's Letter

Steven D'Ambrosia, ASLA

Like Brood X Cicadas, it feels like we've been gone for 17 years and we're now emerging into the world. (Luckily for us, our prospects of survival are much higher than the cicadas). Spring and early summer brought about a lot of hope for us and some questions. With over

a year of relative inactivity, RIASLA is awakening and getting our feet back under us. We have been working hard over the past few months to get our organization rolling again by dealing with some housekeeping and bringing some new ideas to life.

Now that the initial dust has settled, we are happy to announce that we have some generous sponsors back, we produced our first newsletter in quite a while and as I write this, we are working on our second, we had our first in-person Ex Com meeting last month, and we started the inaugural year of the Brent Narkawicz Memorial Scholarship. We are quite proud of what we have been able to accomplish, and we hope to keep going with more ideas and efforts to enhance our members' experience.

So, while we have been working on waking RIASLA up and getting some good things going we have also been asking some questions – the most important one being – How do we keep this going?

RIASLA is at an intersection. We would have driven through it no matter what, but this time it's harder to navigate through than it usually is. This time we have several people stepping aside due to terms ending, life changes, needing a break, etc. We have always (albeit modestly) been able to get enough new people to get on board to keep things moving forward and so I am asking for members who are interested in being an Ex-Com member to please consider offering your time and effort for the upcoming year.

RIASLA would especially like to invite younger and more diverse members to join in an effort to have as many people represented as possible and to ensure that the organization is doing what it
Continued on page 6...

Filarski Continued....

Q: Ken, tell us the story behind RI's initial adoption of SITES into its state policy.

A: As is oft said these days, it is complicated. Legislation is witnessing sausage being made. However this is Michelin star quality sausage.

Back in 2016 during a meeting of the Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition leadership team, the subject arose of introducing state legislation to promote green infrastructure. Professionally, and as Chair of USGBC Rhode Island, I was already looking to expand The Green Buildings Act (Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 37-24) of 2009 to go beyond LEED, which was historic as Rhode Island became the first state in the nation to adopt LEED into public law. I pointed out to the coalition that we have The Green Buildings Act (GBA) on the books and we should build on that. The standard of LEED was there for "public buildings"; and but the standards for "public structures" and for "public real property" were not identified at the time of the original GBA. With LEED joined by LEED for Neighborhood Development and SITES - The Sustainable SITES Initiative, Rhode Island would have a continuum of high performance green building standards for sustainability in our buildings, infrastructure, lands and waters.

I then drafted language for an amendment to the GBA to include LEED for Neighborhood Development and SITES, but it was tabled in the 2016 Session of the RI General Assembly. Undeterred, the legislation was re-introduced it in 2017 after a significant meeting was held with the Directors of the RI Departments of Administration and Environmental Management, their respective top level staff members, key staff of USGBC and myself. The State of RI agreed to proceed with the amendments to the GBA with significant support from USGBC and USGBC RI.

At the last minute, and in the middle of a critical Senate Committee hearing and during my testimony on the bill, the Director of the RI Department of Administration (RIO DOA) hand-delivered a letter to the Chair of the Senate Committee opposing the bill as the RI DOA claimed they did not have the capacity or resources to implement the legislation. It was pointed out to the RI Senate and RI House that USGBC RI and the USGBC had already committed to providing the supportive capacity and resources to the State of Rhode Island, and that the concerns of RI DOA regarding their capacity were addressed and alleviated.

A compromise was developed in the form of a legislative "Sub A" (an amendment) wherein LEED-ND and SITES would become law for four pilot projects through December 31, 2020 with a reporting to the General Assembly on those pilot projects.



The bill in the Sub A form with the four pilot projects was passed in a highly unusual, topsy-turvy, and politically charged session that had a several month break before reconvening. The amendments were signed into law by then Governor Gina Raimondo, now the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Q: The Rhode Island legislature is currently looking at further embedding SITES into statewide policy. What's the status of that and how is it going?

A: The amendments, through companion legislation, have been introduced into both the Rhode Island House of Representatives (H-5919) by Rep. Terri Cortvriend and the Rhode Island Senate (S-0760) by Sen. Louis DiPalma who introduced the original GBA in 2009 and the 2017 amendments to the GBA. The 2021 amendment will fully extend and incorporate LEED for Neighborhood Development and SITES into The Green Buildings Act.

The GBA has always been presented as a holistic approach and a guiding framework for resiliency and sustainability, and importantly being environmentally and economically effective. The current 2021 amendment is simple and straightforward. In its full form with LEED, LEED-ND, and SITES, the GBA is a highly viable strategic instrument and transformative tool to achieve the reduction goals of the Act On Climate, recently signed into law, wherein Rhode Island is to achieve the stated goal of greenhouse gas emission reductions to net zero by 2050.

Q: Who have some of your allies been?

A: Support has always been strong in the state for the current 2021 amendment, and the 2017 amendments to The Green Buildings Act. The support has come from, and continues to be from:

- The Environmental Council of Rhode Island, comprised of over 70 organizations representing over 50,000 members;
- the RI Green Infrastructure Coalition, a statewide organization comprised of over 45 nonprofit, private, and governmental organizations;
 - the RI Builders Association comprised of over 1,000 member companies;
 - numerous individuals speaking as private citizens;
 - and of course, the U.S. Green Building Council Rhode Island, with wonderful and strong support from the U.S. Green Building Council nationally including USGBC President and CEO Mahesh Ramanujam, and former USGBC Board Chair Mike McNally.

Q: And what have some of the obstacles been?

A: This year is very strange regarding how all citizens are able (or not) to interact and affect the legislative process. COVID-19 has forced the RI House of Representatives and the RI Senate to meet in two different venues outside the State House that are not open to the public, although they are televised. Committee hearings are done over video conferencing, but those who are testifying are not seen on camera. The normal direct dynamics, subtleties, and nuances of political interaction is missing. As a result, legislators are inundated with emails, phone calls, and text messaging all taking additional hours and exacerbating the lack of effective and efficient communication.

We believe that the historic standing of this GBA legislation, the relationships we have developed, and the strategic importance of the GBA as a complementary and effective tool to achieving the goals of the landmark Act On Climate legislation will overcome the obstacles that the COVID-19 pandemic has posed to the legislative process.

Q: Landscape architects and others have been contemplating a similar approach. What advice would you give to them?

A: Oh boy...first dig in, be smart, be soft, but be strong.

- Building constituent relationships is something that always should have started years ago. Starting now is still better than never. Get to it NOW! You are voters. Start your advocacy with the local and state elected officials that represent you. Build on that action with your neighbors, your friends, your colleagues. Start a Political Action Committee. You will be surprised at how easy it is to receive contributions for a good cause. You will also be surprised at how even small donations are meaningful to

- elected officials when promoting good legislation.
- Both people and the private sector are growing to understand and appreciate the intrinsic, soulful, and economic value of sustainable and regenerative landscapes.
- Economic Value = Environmental Value.
- Environmental Value = Economic Value.
- The environment and the economy were previously two sides of an issue. But they are now rightly integrated into a seamless and continuous Mobius strip. Economics embracing our environment speaks to our policy and lawmakers. That is what advocacy is about: the future...our future.
- I always thought that political lobbying and advocacy were formidable and terrifying tasks. Actually, they can be great fun. View it all as a design problem. One great project design might get you a few more projects. Great design legislation can sow and catapult a multitude of great projects for us all, you included. You can solve all this. MAKE IT HAPPEN! Four watchwords to use: CONNECT - COOPERATE - COORDINATE - COLLABORATE...
- Quoting from the 2018 Winter USGBC+ article, "...sustainable landscapes are more accessible and understandable than buildings are to the layperson. People have an intrinsic connection to any well-done landscape, but when it is a sustainable landscape, there is an affinity, a sort of sisterhood and brotherhood among all people of all walks of life. SITES can bring in a whole new audience that will feel comfortable entering the notion of sustainability."
- SITES is democratic - lower case - at its best.

Crook Point Bridge Continued....

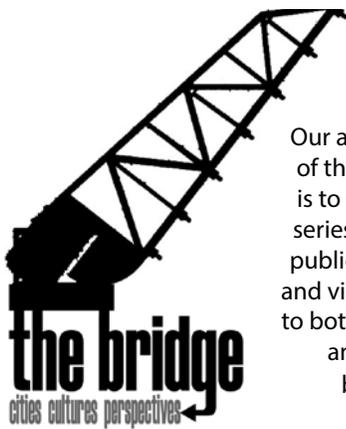
most strikingly, the design features glowing light bars, which would display rotating artwork installations in place of the bridge's railroad ties.

"The City of Providence is committed to preserving our infrastructure by creating new life for old architecture," said Bonnie Nickerson, Director of Planning and Development. "Where there is opportunity for structural restoration and reuse, it is our obligation to think creatively about how we can produce useful and exciting new areas that positively contribute to our City."

"We are honored to be chosen by the City we love for a project that is dear to our hearts," said Horsley Witten Group & Jonathan Harris. "The three of us use and enjoy this stretch of the riverbank and we feel invested in its future. We have spent our

careers planning, designing, and engineering to provide great places for people and public access for all, so the recognition here at home in this inspiring place is very special. We look forward to participating as the City's exciting vision unfolds." The Crook Point Bridge, or the Seekonk River Drawbridge, has been a staple of Providence since 1908, formerly connecting the old Union Station to the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Line. It has been left in the open position since becoming defunct in 1976.

Over 78 applicants from around the world submitted ideas. In February, five finalists were announced and invited to participate in Round Two, which included a \$1,000 award to create a more detailed second round submission. Horsley Witten Group & Jonathan Harris will receive a \$10,000 award as the winning firm.

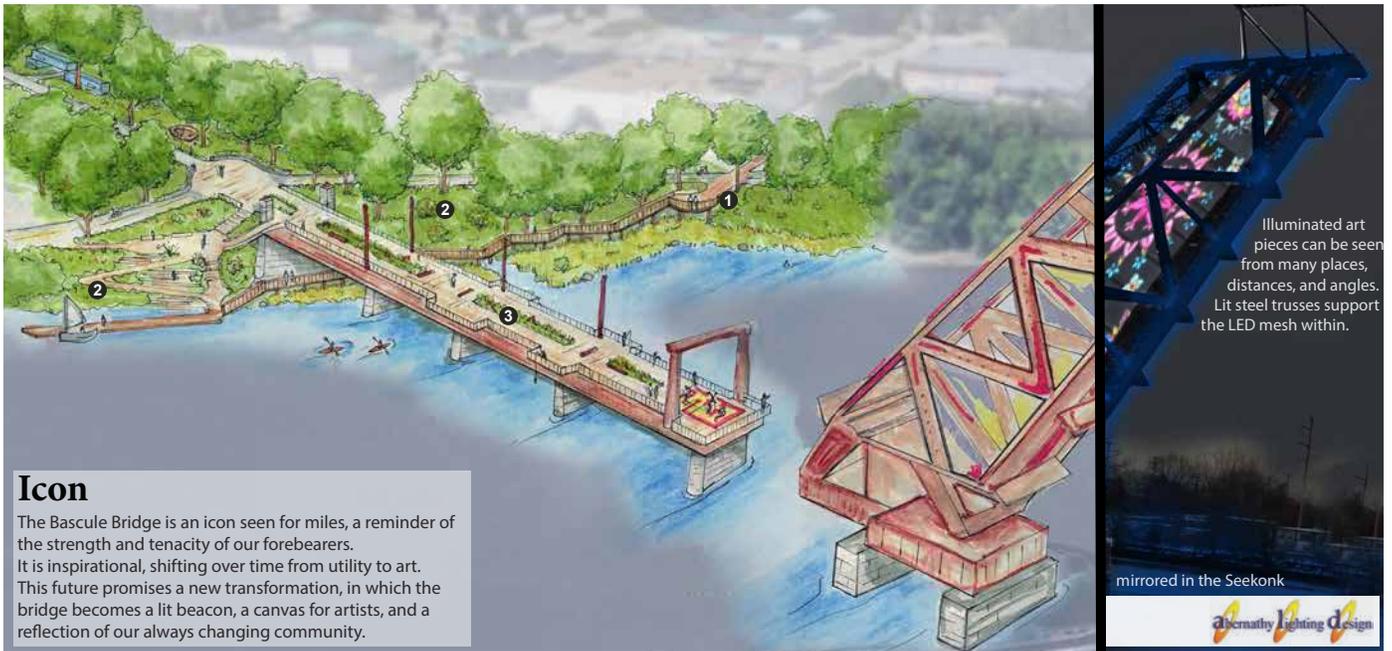


Our approach to the reuse of the Crook Point Bridge is to strategically create a series of unique riverfront public spaces to physically and visually connect people to both a restored riverbank and to a celebrated bridge structure.



Connectivity

Integrate the park, river, and bridge into the surrounding neighborhood, draw people in and through.



Icon

The Bascule Bridge is an icon seen for miles, a reminder of the strength and tenacity of our forebearers. It is inspirational, shifting over time from utility to art. This future promises a new transformation, in which the bridge becomes a lit beacon, a canvas for artists, and a reflection of our always changing community.

Illuminated art pieces can be seen from many places, distances, and angles. Lit steel trusses support the LED mesh within.

mirrored in the Seekonk



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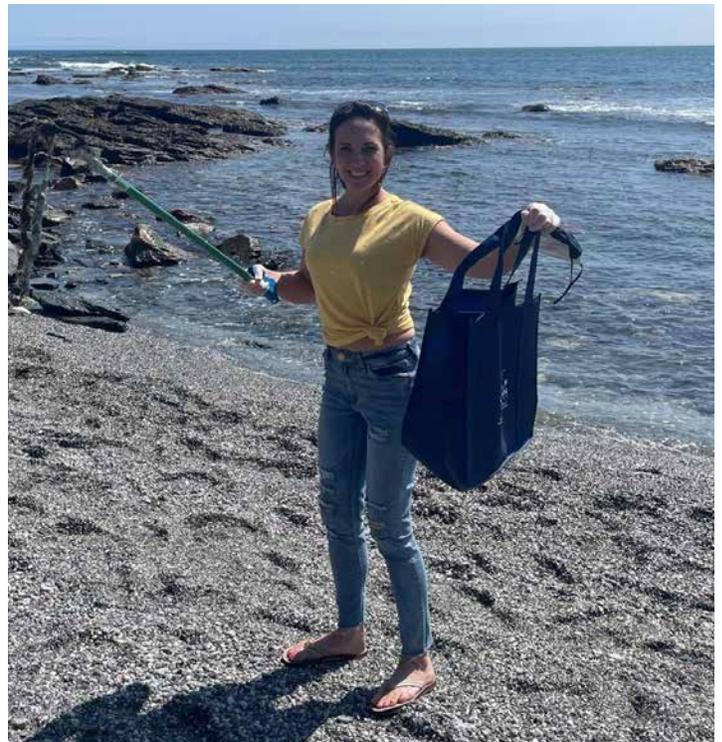
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Thanks for your help!

Thank you everyone who was able to participate in the April Coastal Clean ups. During the month of May we helped Clean Ocean Access remove 318 lbs of debris from the coast!

(Thanks for the photo Kristin Andel!)

In celebration of Earth Day, Landscape Architecture Month & the Ocean we all love, Rhode Island ASLA and Clean Ocean Access partnered up to present Coastal Cleanup April! On Saturday the 10th, 17th, and 24th.



Trustee's Report Continued...

profession, but one of well-being and that is of friendships that I have gained and nurtured all through the decade plus of being an ASLA member as well as serving on the Executive Committee. I want to take a moment to thank you to have been given the opportunity to have served as your Trustee and I hope that you consider becoming a member of our Executive Committee.

All my best,
Jenn

President's Letter Continued....

can to aid in promoting and celebrating all demographics. We're also interested in inviting anyone who has a specific interest or passion, whether it is diversity, climate change/coastal resiliency, emerging professionals, legislation, etc.

There are several positions that are available including Trustee, President, President-Elect, and more. If you are interested in learning more about what positions are open and what the positions entail, please reach out to Steven D'Ambrosia: lepaysage24@gmail.com, Kristin Andel: kandel@quonset.com or at our main email address: rhodeislandasla@gmail.com.

Stay safe, stay healthy, get vaccinated.

Steven D'Ambrosia
RIASLA Chapter President

The Rhode Island ASLA Executive Committee met in person for the July meeting!



It's Official: Rhode Island's First National Park

U.S. Secretary of Interior officially signs off on boundaries for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park;

New and evolving National Historic Park includes Slater Mill & other historic sites that tell the story of the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution

WASHINGTON, DC -- Nearly 230 years ago, the Blackstone River powered America's entry into the Age of Industry and the success of Samuel Slater's 18th century cotton-spinning mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island sparked a chain reaction that influenced how people lived and worked, transforming the American landscape.

With members of Rhode Island's Congressional delegation looking on, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland held a special signing ceremony in U.S. Senator Jack Reed's Washington, DC office yesterday to establish the official boundaries of the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.

After extensive public input and collaboration between the National Park Service, governmental and non-profit partners, and willing sellers and donors of private land, the park's boundaries are now officially set. The multi-site Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park encompasses non-contiguous areas of the Blackstone River Valley and Old Slater Mill in Pawtucket as well as significant sites in nearby Rhode Island mill towns, including Slatersville (in North Smithfield) and

Continued on page 15...

Ashton (in Cumberland), as well as parts of Worcester, Whitinsville, and Hopedale in Massachusetts.

Completed in 1793, on the banks of the Blackstone River, Slater Mill was the first successful water-powered spinning mill in the United States, and helped set America's Industrial Revolution in motion. Other historic buildings within the new National Park Service unit include Sylvanus Brown House, built in 1758, and Wilkinson Mill, which was added in 1810.

The buildings were officially transferred to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) earlier this year by the Old Slater Mill Association (OSMA), which acquired them a century ago. NPS has already been working closely with OSMA for several years to take over responsibility for the historic sites. And the national historic park will continue to evolve, with the anticipated acquisition of the Slater Mill dam, which may be finalized within a year. There is ongoing coordination between the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), the Army Corps of Engineers, and NPS on the dam acquisition, so that RIDEM can establish a fish passage on part of the dam.

In addition to acquiring Slater Mill and other historic properties, the national historic park's boundaries include a conservation and preservation easement of nearly 86 acres of the Blackstone River State Park in Lincoln, which brings segments of the Blackstone

2021 Brent M. Narkawicz Memorial Scholarship Recipient Announced

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is proud and honored to offer the first annual Brent M. Narkawicz Memorial Scholarship to URI Student, Reed Johnson.

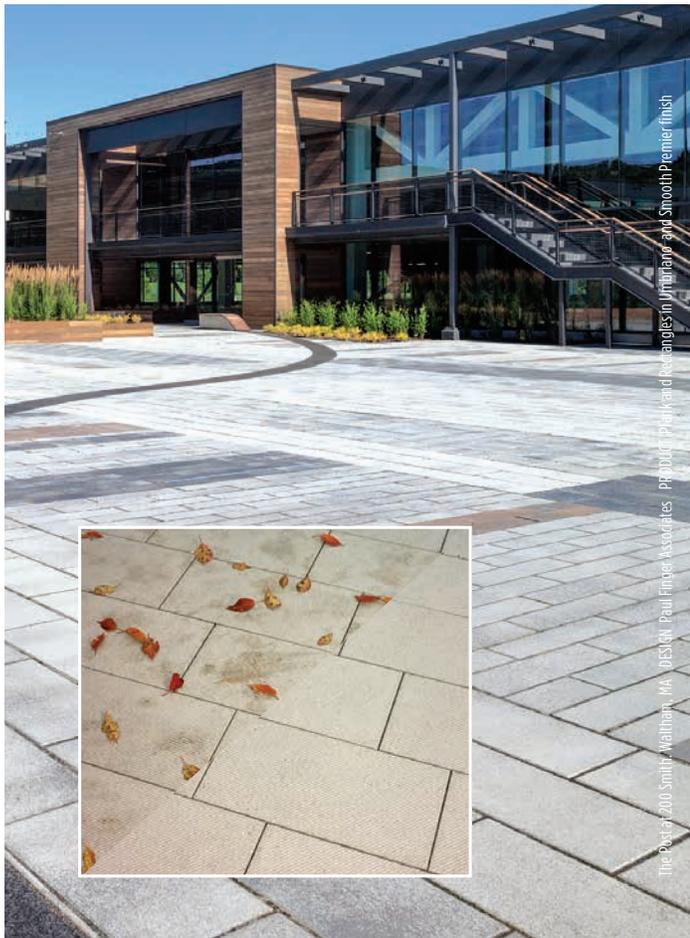
The Brent M. Narkawicz Memorial Scholarship is provided to students in an accredited undergraduate Landscape Architecture program in the State of Rhode Island who are entering their Sophomore, Junior, Senior Year or are graduating and are pursuing an graduate degree in the field of Landscape Architecture.

One scholarship in the amount of \$1500 has been awarded for tuition, books, drafting supplies, etc.

Brent Narkawicz, who passed away on March 1st, 2020 was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture.

Brent had a very accomplished and successful landscape architecture career which moved him to various positions including: Director of Planning & Development for the Town of Coventry, RI, Bryant Associates, as well as a University of Rhode Island adjunct professor. Brent's success led him to his ultimate position at Calamar as Regional Head of Development for New England, where he was instrumental in bringing affordable senior housing to the New England area.

Brent's love didn't stop at his family. From childhood friendships, to college friends, to friendships he developed along the way, Brent was truly unique in his ability to maintain friendships. He provided the opportunity to help his friends with L.A.R.E. (Landscape Architecture Registration Exam) preparation by tutoring several of his URI alumni friends. He had this ability to always give you the confidence you needed no matter how difficult the challenge may have been for you. His patience and his great sense of humor always helped to buffer the anxiety of working through various angles of prepping for passing "the Exam".



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URI landscape architecture graduate selected for prestigious Olmsted Scholar Program



KINGSTON, R.I. – July 14, 2021 – In her four years, Miranda Hulme certainly left her mark on the University of Rhode Island's landscape architecture program. Her dedication to the department and the field of landscape architecture was recognized recently by the Landscape Architecture Foundation's 2021 Olmsted Scholars Program.

Started in 2008, the Olmsted Scholarship honors students from around the country who show exceptional leadership potential. This year, it awarded monetary prizes to a national graduate and undergraduate winner and six finalists from the 51 graduate and 36 undergraduate students nominated by their faculty. In addition to the winners and finalists, the graduate and undergraduate nominees are recognized as 2021 Olmsted Scholars. Hulme was selected as an undergraduate recipient.

"We were fortunate this year to have an extremely strong class of graduating seniors," said William Green, chair of the URI landscape architecture department. "But based upon her exceptional design and communication skills, academic achievements and commitment to the profession, we unanimously nominated Miranda for the Olmsted Scholarship. Not only does Miranda possess academic credentials and the willingness to work hard, but she has a unique passion for the profession and compassion for her peers."

"To get this recognition from the Landscape Architecture Foundation means a lot," said Hulme, who graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and a minor in community planning. "It's a nice feeling to have your hard work recognized. Just being nominated as an Olmsted Scholar is such a huge honor within itself."

Hulme, who grew up in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, found her interest in landscape architecture working on her family's garden. Unknown to her while growing up, Hulme had dyslexia, and she struggled in reading and writing. It caused her to be shy and hesitant.

"I felt more assured in nature and was able to find myself," she said. "As I got older my dad introduced me to our backyard garden, and I loved helping him dig in the dirt and watching the plants grow."

Her choice of URI to pursue landscape architecture was part emotion and part pragmatism. When she stepped foot on the Kingston campus during her college tours, she immediately felt at home. But she also considered the rate of URI landscape architecture students who found work after graduation and found it compared favorably with other schools.

While carrying a 3.7 grade-point average over her four years at URI, Hulme proved a leader who students listened to because of her hard work and skill as a communicator, said Green in his Olmsted nomination letter. Hulme quickly joined the student chapter of the Rhode Island American Society of Landscape Architect (RIASLA), and as chapter president her senior year, she grew student membership by 85 percent.

During the pandemic, she helped develop mentoring programs for first and second-year students to help strengthen connections as students dealt with isolation. She was also a mainstay in the department office, assisting students who had questions and volunteering with the annual lecture series as it moved online during the pandemic. She also served as a teaching assistant for junior design studios and provided talks and critiques in the sophomore studios.

Her proudest accomplishments as RIASLA president was putting together a virtual student showcase, which helped many students land jobs and internships; and helping to set up online workshops for design studios during the pandemic so seniors could continue to help sophomores and juniors with project questions.

"Getting involved in RIASLA allowed me to help my peers get more opportunities to learn and connect with professionals," she said. "My mom was always involved in my school growing up and wanted the best learning environment for her kids and other kids in town. She made a difference and I wanted to be like her and make a difference."

The classes she valued the most at URI were the design studios, the program's core classes in which students take part in projects with local communities and organizations. "They are where you have to use all the knowledge from other classes and come up with creative solutions," she said. "The projects that help the most are when communities are involved. They allow us to work based on real-life scenarios and collaborating with once we graduate."

Hulme, who is living in Lincoln, Rhode Island, is currently interning with BETA Group Inc., drafting, rendering and creating models for projects, and taking part in public meetings.

"I do think URI helped me hit the ground running. In school, I was taught to go through a similar design process and I was taught the necessary skills to be able to use the computer programs effectively and efficiently," she said. "URI also taught me the plant knowledge needed to identify woody plants when needed on a site. It is a great base to build off of and continue learning as I start my career."

"Landscape Architecture is very unique," she added. "I went into URI thinking I would be designing backyards and now I'm working on public projects helping communities have gathering spaces. There are so many directions you can go and working in the field I have seen every day is different."

Hulme's career goals are focused on social justice and building green spaces in urban cities.

"I was fortunate how I grew up," she said. "I had a safe place to play outside with my siblings and I know that not everyone gets that opportunity or has that privilege. My goal is to change that to make it a right instead of a privilege."

2021-2022 CALL FOR ENTRIES RI ASLA PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM



2019-2020 BETA Group / Gantry Gardens at the Foundry

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects continues to encourage and recognize excellence in the practice of landscape architecture and to inform the public of the broad scope and value of landscape architecture services. The Executive Committee of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (RIASLA) hereby invites landscape architects and affiliated professionals who have demonstrated excellence in their pursuit to lead, educate and participate in the stewardship, planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environment.

Projects selected as worthy of an award will receive one of the following in each category:

Presidential Award of Excellence – One award may be presented (if merited) from all categories, determined by unanimous vote of the Jury, for work demonstrating exceptional contribution in the advancement of the profession.

Honor Award – The Jury may choose a limited number of Honor Awards to recognize superior professional accomplishment.

Merit Award – The Jury may select any number of Merit Awards to recognize outstanding professional accomplishment.

Special Recognition Award – The Jury may select a single project that recognizes the outstanding professional accomplishment and stands alone from the other entries in its attributions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Winners will be recognized at the 2021 Awards Ceremony which will be in December. Check our website closer to the date for

specific information.

ELIGIBILITY

The Professional Design Awards Program is open to all landscape architects registered to practice in Rhode Island, professionals in public or private practice of landscape architecture who reside in Rhode Island, affiliated professionals, faculty currently teaching at accredited Rhode Island landscape architecture programs, and students currently enrolled in an accredited Rhode Island landscape architecture curriculum submitting works associated with their academic pursuits. Projects designed and completed after January 1, 2012 are eligible. Once the project receives an award, it is no longer eligible for future RIASLA Professional Award Programs.

FEES

An entry fee of \$200 for ASLA members, \$300 for Non-ASLA-Members, \$25 for ASLA Student members and \$50 for Non-ASLA Student members must accompany each submission.

ENTRY PROCESS

You may sign up for Entry on the RIASLA Website.

Our 2019-2020 Design Award Winners

Katherine Fields and Associates / Rocky Cove
Merit Award - Large Scale Built Project

BETA Group / Providence Riverfront Parks
Merit Award - Large Scale Built Project

BETA Group / Gantry Gardens at the Foundry
Merit Award - Large Scale Built Project

Design Under Sky / The Shack
Merit Award - Large Scale Built Project

Landscape Elements / Watch Hill Residence
Merit Award - Built Project Residential

Horsley Witten / Norman Bird Sanctuary
Honor Award - Planning and Analysis

Design Under Sky / Living Edge
Special Recognition - Small Scale Built Project

Sponsorship Opportunities

The Rhode Island Chapter of ASLA provides a number of opportunities for vendors to reach the members of the Rhode Island Chapter of ASLA, allied professions and the general public who utilize the services of landscape architects. Whatever it is you're looking for, we have a full range of sponsorship and advertising opportunities available. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any sponsorship thoughts or ideas.

PLATINUM LEVEL - \$2000

Website Benefits - Premium Large Logo on RIASLA website and full page ad in quarterly blog, sponsor link to your website and your logo as a sponsor on the Parking Day Website held in September.

ASLA Member Communication - Social media 'Meet a Sponsor' Spotlight feature (annually), Social media product feature (2 per year) and Large logo in all email communications.

Direct Member Contact - Virtual Lunch & Learn / Continuing Education session (paid for / hosted by the sponsor but promoted by RIASLA).

Signature Event - Four tickets to RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event, Table at Awards Event (for promotional material), Recognition at RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event as a Platinum Sponsor.

GOLD LEVEL - \$1500

Website Benefits - Medium Logo on RIASLA website and half page ad in quarterly blog, sponsor link to your website.

ASLA Member Communication - Social media 'Meet a Sponsor' Spotlight feature (annually), Social media product feature (1 per year) and Medium logo in all email communications. Medium font on event handouts/signage (PARKing Day, Holiday/Awards Party, etc.)

Direct Member Contact - Virtual Lunch & Learn / Continuing Education session (paid for / hosted by the sponsor but promoted by RIASLA)

Signature Event - Three tickets to RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event, Recognition at RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event as a Gold Sponsor.

SILVER LEVEL - \$1000

Website Benefits - Small Logo on RIASLA website, sponsor link to your website

ASLA Member Communication - Medium logo in all email communications.

Signature Event - Two tickets to RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event, Recognition at RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event as a Silver Sponsor.

BRONZE LEVEL - \$500

Website Benefits - Small Logo on RIASLA website, sponsor link to your website

ASLA Member Communication - Small logo in all email communications including our blog

Signature Event - One ticket to RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event, Recognition at RIASLA annual Holiday Party / Awards Event as a Bronze Sponsor.

Unique Sponsorship Opportunities

Interested in another sponsorship opportunity that you don't see here? We are always looking for new and exciting ways to get you, our sponsors, in front of our audience of landscape architects, students and the general public. Past sponsored events / opportunities have included:

- Holiday Party / Awards Event Sponsor
- Virtual Trivia Night
- Virtual Happy Hour
- RIASLA Bowling Event

RI National Park Continued....

Bikeway, a contiguous section of the historic Blackstone Canal, and the Captain Wilbur Kelly House Museum of Transportation into the National Historical Park. RIDEM still owns this section of the park, but the official agreement will allow the National Park Service to help interpret, preserve, protect, and promote the site.

“This is an important step toward preserving American history and shaping Rhode Island’s future. This new national historic park will protect our cultural landscape, and the natural beauty of the Blackstone River Valley, while also attracting more visitors and recognition to the region and creating new opportunities for tourism, education, and recreation,” said Senator Reed, the driving force in Congress to turn the area into a national historical park. In 2014, Reed, in his capacity as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior & Environment, wrote the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park Establishment Act (S. 371) to establish a new unit of the National Park System within the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and successfully included it in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which was signed into law that year (Public Law 113-291). “The Blackstone Valley is a national treasure. It is the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution and this national historical park will be a place where people can come and explore the roots of modern-day America.”

“At long last, the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park is officially on the map,” said Senator Whitehouse. “This designation will encourage residents and visitors to discover the history and natural beauty of the Blackstone Valley.”

“After years of hard work by dedicated partners and advocates, I’m thrilled that the Blackstone River Valley National Park’s boundaries are officially set,” said Congressman Jim Langevin. “As Rhode Islanders, we are so fortunate to have such rich historical landmarks in our backyard. As the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, I hope that today’s designation will preserve the remarkable legacy of the Blackstone River Valley for future generations.”

“The Blackstone River Valley is one of Rhode Island’s greatest historical treasures,” Congressman Cicilline said. “The formal establishment of the Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park’s boundaries will showcase this treasure to the rest of America, bringing folks from around the country to discover Rhode Island and all its beauty and history.”

“America’s national parks and public lands reflect the rich history we share across generations and geographies. The new boundaries of the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park will increase opportunities for visitors and nearby communities to connect with the historical, natural and recreational resources and legacy of the area,” said Secretary Haaland.

“I am thrilled to have reached this important milestone through the multi-year efforts of numerous park partners in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts,” said Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park Superintendent Eric Breitzkreutz. “We look forward to expanding public programs and water recreation along the Blackstone River tributary and Blackstone Canal.”

The Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park was established in 2014 as the 402nd unit of the National Park System.

Today, the National Park System oversees 423 units (often referred to as parks) and numerous programs to help conserve the nation’s natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations. The 85 million acres overseen by NPS includes stunning natural areas such as Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon, as well as nationally significant historic sites like Independence Hall and Valley Forge, and monuments and memorials like the Washington Monument and the World War II Memorial, as well as parkways, seashores and lakeshores, trails, recreation areas, and preserves.

Since the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park’s establishment, NPS has partnered with multiple state and local organizations throughout the Blackstone River Valley, including the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The partnership has helped establish municipal historic districts, create and offer interpretive programs, expand upon already existing recreational opportunities and raise public awareness of the history, cultural, natural and recreational resources within the valley and its numerous communities. As part of its creation process, park staff worked with partners to establish ownership interest in two key properties within the valley to help better tell the story of the evolution of the Blackstone River Valley from agriculture to industry supported by multiple planned mill villages.

The National Park Service now has 13 full-time employees working at the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.

The National Park Service will continue to work collaboratively with the Old Slater Mill Association, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, and other non-profits and local governments and the State of Rhode Island to provide stewardship of the park and offer education and recreation opportunities that tell the story of Slater Mill and the surrounding community in a comprehensive way that is accessible to the public now and in the future.