



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

Request for Proposals:

LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership

Opportunity for 2012 to 2017 Olmsted Scholars

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Note: *The following opportunity is available to LAF Olmsted Scholars recognized between 2012 and 2017. For more information about the LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership program or if you were recognized as an Olmsted Scholar before 2012, please refer to the main LAF Fellowship RFP.*

Overview and Purpose

Since 2008, LAF's *Olmsted Scholars Program* has recognized over 500 landscape architecture students for their exceptional leadership potential. Participation in the *LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership* is part of LAF's ongoing efforts to support, cultivate, inspire, and build community among these future leaders of the profession.

Recent Olmsted Scholars (those named in the last 6 years) can apply to be part of the fellowship cohort, receiving support and guidance from the intergenerational group to nurture a project idea. Up to 4 Olmsted Scholars recognized between 2012 to 2017 will be selected to participate based on a proposed project idea they wish to explore or advance.

Over the course of the year-long fellowship, Olmsted Scholars will attend three 2.5-day residencies in Washington, D.C. to engage in presentations, discussions, mentorship, and thoughtful critique toward the development and refinement of their project idea alongside the mid-career and senior-level Fellows. Between residencies, Olmsted Scholars participate in monthly check-in calls with their cohort and fellowship facilitators.

The Olmsted Scholars are critical part of the LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership and its aims to support leadership growth and intergenerational mentorship. Through this unique program, these emerging professionals can continue to nurture and pursue their passions and interests while working toward the collective pursuit of innovative projects with the potential to bring about impactful change for the profession, the environment, and humanity.

Award and Eligibility

- LAF National Olmsted Scholar winners, finalists, and University Olmsted Scholars recognized between 2012 and 2017 are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must apply as individuals. Teams are not eligible.
- Up to 4 Olmsted Scholars will be selected annually, with priority given to the current National Olmsted Scholar winners for 2 of the 4 spots.
- Each Olmsted Scholar receives travel and lodging stipends to attend the three residencies. There is no additional financial award for participating Olmsted Scholars.
- Participation in the fellowship as an Olmsted Scholar, does not affect future eligibility for the full fellowship. (Once they have the minimum 6 years of profession experience, Olmsted Scholar participants may apply as a mid-career professionals for the \$25,000 fellowship.)

Fellowship Expectations for Olmsted Scholars

- Attend and complete each of the 3 three2.5-day residencies that will take place throughout the fellowship year. (Refer to the "Fellowship Structure" section.)
- Participate in monthly conference calls with the fellowship cohort and facilitator to check in and monitor progress and discuss any relevant issues. Participation in discussions and



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ongoing dialogue through the fellowship year is encouraged to enrich mentorship, collaboration, and the overall fellowship experience.

- Dedicate time outside of their work/school commitments to further their project between and in preparation for the residencies. With the exception of the residencies and monthly calls with the cohort team, Olmsted Scholars are not expected to take time off from work or school.
- Olmsted Scholars participation is intended to be exploratory. While the Fellowship's structure and content serve as a framework to support the Olmsted Scholar's process in advancing their project idea or proposal, is not intended to be prescribed. Olmsted Scholars are to communicate their personal goals and objectives for the fellowship year in the early stages of the fellowship and that will be used as a guide to measure and evaluate each Olmsted Scholar's progress.

What is a Project?

Olmsted Scholars should submit a concept, idea, or project — in any phase of development — that can be further explored and advanced through participation in the fellowship. These can be:

- Projects that are abstract or concrete in nature that contribute to knowledge and innovation in landscape architecture.
- Projects grounded in theoretical or historical investigations; product, program or business plan development*; new practice or service models; built work, new technology; or other activities.
- The project described in your Olmsted Scholar essay if you are still passionate about advancing it.

**Note: For projects focused on business plan development, the applicant must make the case that the business pursuit serves the advancement of the profession. Individual gain must be a secondary project outcome.*

What is a Cohort?

Each year 3-5 Fellows and up to 4 emerging professionals from LAF's *Olmsted Scholars Program* are selected for the upcoming fellowship year. These 6-9 individuals are brought together as a cohort team and participate in the fellowship year together and under the guidance and support of their fellowship facilitators. The final residency for one cohort overlaps with the first residency for the following year's cohort, allowing for more knowledge-sharing and exchange.

Deadline & Fees:

- An application fee of \$10.00 must be paid at the time of submission on SlideRoom.
- The deadline for application is December 1 at 11:59pm, EST.

Selection Process:

Accomplished and insightful leaders in the profession will serve as jurors to review and select applications. Short-listed candidates are expected to be available for a video/web-based interview in February. Selected Olmsted Scholar Participants will be notified by the end of February.



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Applicants will be evaluated on the following:

- Quality of the applicant's submission.
- Project's contribution to knowledge and innovation in the discipline of landscape architecture.
- Project's potential to increase landscape architecture's role in addressing global challenges
- Feasibility of project objectives
- Potential to expand landscape architecture's leadership capacity into new areas
- Applicant's ability to provide and be open to mentorship; both as a mentor and a mentee.
- Potential to advance the Olmsted Scholar's own leadership growth

Application Materials

LAF uses SlideRoom as its online application platform and will only accept applications submitted through this platform. All application materials, including reference letters, must be submitted by 11:59pm EST on December 1.

Visit <http://lafoundation.slideroom.com> to use the system. Once you have created an account, scroll down to "LAF Fellowship - Opportunity for Olmsted Scholars", and click "Begin" to start the submission process. You may save, edit, and review your work prior to submitting. An application fee of \$10 must be paid at the time of submission via credit card.

Application Content

Applicants should submit materials that best display relevant work, project goals, and ability to pursue the proposed project.

Completed applications must include the following:

1. **General Application Form:** Complete this online form with basic contact information.
2. **Statement of Intent & Project Proposal** (3 page max): Upload your statement of intent and project proposal in one PDF.
 - **Statement of Intent** (500 word max): Provide a brief statement on why you want to be selected as an Olmsted Scholar participant in the LAF Fellowship and what you expect to gain from participation in the year-long fellowship. Clearly state if you intend to use the fellowship to develop a proposal idea OR to advance a project for which you will intend to seek funding after the fellowship period.
 - **Project Proposal** (1,000 word max): The project proposal shall be based in appropriate literature review, practice and/observation, and include the following sections:
 - a) **Significance:** Briefly explain what opportunity the proposed project provides for the profession, landscape architects, sustainable landscape solutions and/or resilient landscape solutions; why there is a need for the proposed project; and the intended impacts of the proposed project.



- b) **Project Objectives:** Briefly explain your goals/objectives for the fellowship year to advance the project proposal, and briefly speak to the long-term objectives and goals of the project proposal beyond the fellowship year.
 - c) **Stakeholders/Target Audience:** Briefly identify people who need to know about the project. This could include, but should not be limited to: people who could be affected by the project; people who could further the project goals; and/or, major stakeholders/decision makers.
3. **Dissemination:** Propose at least one (1) mode of dissemination you would like to produce either by the end of the fellowship year or as a future ambition. This could include, but should not be limited to editorials, print journals, online platforms, film, television, performance art, conferences, events, etc. Please be specific and identify both the type of dissemination products you are looking to create and for what audience(s) those products are intended to serve/reach.
4. **Employer Support Letter** (2 page max): Upload a signed letter from your employer or academic supervisor acknowledging support for taking time away from work/school to attend residencies and address your capacity to complete the proposed project and speak to the value that your participation and proposed project interest will bring to the fellowship program. If you are either self-employed or not employed at time of application, submit (1) additional Reference Letter. Refer to item 5 below for Reference Letter content.
5. **Reference Letter** (1 page max): Upload a PDF to include the phone number and email address for a minimum of one (1) professional or academic reference. Reference to include individual's title and company/institution. The Applicant may submit up to three (3) reference letters max.
6. **Curriculum Vitae** (3 page max): Upload a PDF that outlines your academic and career history highlighting relevant experience that supports your interests and ability to pursue the project proposal.
7. **Portfolio** (10 MB, 10 page max): Upload one PDF to include up to 10 pages of relevant material that further supports your interests and ability to pursue the project proposal. Provide brief descriptions of your responsibility and role within your submitted materials and identify the roles of other contributors, participants, firm and client, if applicable.
8. **Signed Statement of Commitment to Attend Residencies:** Check the box that acknowledges that by submitting the application, you commit to attend all three residencies.
9. **Signed Statement of Accuracy and Complete Information:** Check the box that acknowledges that by submitting the application, you attest that all information provided is true, accurate, current, and complete.
10. **Application Fee:** \$10 application fee to be paid by credit card via SlideRoom.



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Statement of Commitment to Attend Residencies

I state my intent to attend all three residencies should I be selected to participate in the *LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership*. If I fail to attend any of the residencies, LAF has the right to exclude my work from documentation of the *LAF Fellows for Innovation and Leadership* and dismiss me from the fellowship program.

- Yes, I Agree to this commitment
- No, I Do Not Agree to this commitment

Statement of Accuracy and Complete Information

By agreeing to this statement, you acknowledge that all information provided in this application is true, accurate, current, and complete. You also acknowledge that if any information provided by you is untrue, inaccurate, not current, or is incomplete, LAF has the right to reject this application. We also have the right to notify the jury if we determine that any information provided is false or inaccurate.

- Yes, I Agree
- No, I Do Not Agree