



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

The Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) Innovation + Leadership Symposium Discussion Guide

The 2019-2020 LAF Fellows raised enormous points and questions regarding the norms associated and embedded in the discipline today. Below, you will find discussion questions specific to each presentation. We encourage you to select those that will be most effective for your group as theoretical and practical thought exercises, with the hopes that these prompts will spark dialogue and perhaps influence future practice.

The Fellows have provided their contact information should you wish to reach out directly to continue the discussion or offer perspectives and/or resources to their endeavors.

Day 1

Design as Activism: Educating for Social Change

Jeffrey Hou – jhou@uw.edu

- What change do you hope to see in education that will better position future practitioners to address the critical challenges facing the planet and society?
- What initiatives can students take to realize change in landscape architecture education and their future careers?
- Choose 3 of Jeff's framework pillars to brainstorm how they might take shape in projects you're working on, or how they might have informed past projects.

Un-Checking the Boxes: Learning to Read Between the Lines of Climate Resilience RFPs

Liz Camuti - liz@scapestudio.com

- Evaluate your level of familiarity with Requests for Proposals (RFPs). What opportunities exist to take on a proactive rather than reactive approach to these documents?
- Consider Liz's outlined shortcomings of the RFP boxes (Client, Cost, Scale & Time, Public Participation, and Cultural History). Choose 2 and hypothesize what mechanisms or exercises would be necessary to "un-check" them.
- How can practitioners subvert what Liz calls the "Vertical, economically-based relationship" between contractor and client to expand their thinking and proposed solutions?

Heterogeneous Futures: Design-Thinking Alternatives for Ecologically & Anthropologically Diverse Landscapes

Diana Fernandez – dfernandez@sasaki.com

- Diana cites center armrests and anti-loitering policies as homogenized public realm practices that are a product of unchallenged Euro-centric principles.
 - If you agree, consider what other kinds of other normalized practices might fall under this bucket.
 - If you disagree, think of how heterogeneous design principles can inform and diversify common existing practices and policies such as those above.
- Consider your perception of "safety, health, and wellness." Among your group, how does each of your understandings of that experience differ? How might it differ beyond your group?

- What data visualization tools are you familiar with? How might you employ them to record, measure, and evaluate heterogeneity in your area or on the projects you've worked on?

Day 2

Working Landscapes + The Middle American City

Nick Jabs – jabs@porturbanism.com

- What are your impressions and understanding of Middle America? What distinct characteristics of the region might merit more attention from landscape architects?
- What tools can landscape architects employ to foster a paradigm shift in Middle America from an extractive-based economy to one that is reciprocal in terms of labor, community, and capital?
- How can landscape architects contribute to the Green New Deal or other large-scale investment in sustainable infrastructure? And to which actors might landscape architects turn to form alliances and initiate collaboration?

Landscape as Foundation for Revolution and Resistance

Pierre Bélanger – pb@opsys.net

- As a landscape architect, to whom are you accountable? Why?
- What is the relationship between the public space that landscape architects design and the social injustices that take place in and on those spaces?
- As a starting point, Pierre suggests defining the following terms: settler colonialism, heteropatriarchy, intersectionality, spatial justice, racial erasure, cultural appropriation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC.) What is your current understanding of these terms and how do they inform your design approach? Do they?

Immaterial Outcomes: Tribal Sovereignty and Design Collaboration at the Salton Sea

Hans Baumann – hans@hbaumann.com

- What is your current understanding of and/or relationship to local Indigenous tribes? Is this something that has been considered at on a broader level at your firm, university, or organization?
- Where and how might you employ Hans' "relational framework" model to disrupt a linear and individualistic design approach and emphasize collaboration?
- Identify the "immaterial outcomes" of projects you have worked on, or hypothesize them in light of in-progress projects. How did (or can) they take shape?