Evolving Norms: Adapting Scholarship to Disruptive Phenomena

Since its origin, the profession and education of landscape architecture has been required to adapt to multiple outside forces to remain both relevant and timely. Each era's related "contemporary" issues inevitably led to necessary pedagogical and practice-related adjustments, ultimately changing the field, either positively or negatively.

In the two hundred years since Olmsted helped initiate the profession of landscape architecture in North America, it has been steadily shaped by our collective history, theory, and scholarly and professional discourse. Now as unprecedented global events such as climate change, pandemics, social unrest, population increase, and rapid environmental degradation roil our world, we must forge a new form of discussion and debate in landscape architecture academic and professional practice.

The recent focus on such diverse topics as spatial design allocation, teaching adjustments related to COVID-19, and changing circumstances surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion have resulted in both critical discourses and debates on past approaches to these (and similar) issues, as well as differing views on what the "new normal" for landscape architecture should become.

Hence, the theme of this conference will be "Evolving Norms: Adapting Scholarship to Disruptive Phenomena." We seek submissions related to past landscape architecture norms and how they have altered in response to societal change, how recent crises and technological advancements have created the necessity for rapid pedagogical and scholarly modifications, and/or how current situations may lead to projected future variations.

The CELA 2022 conference will provide a forum and platform for scholarly and creative discourse documenting various changes, disruptions, alternatives, adjustments, trajectory projections and speculations that have affected and will continue to affect our academic and professional practice. We also hope to see scholarly reflections on the past to build Landscape Architecture theory and the discourse for the future.