



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

July 3, 2024

By email

Michael O'Brien

Curtis Millay

Dear Michael and Curt,

On behalf of the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF), I am delighted to provide the 2024 LAF update for the **ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarship**. This update provides a description of the award and its purpose, a summary of the scholarship winners to date, and the Annual Investment Report as of LAF's 2023 audited LAF financial statements on December 31, 2023.

The ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarship award was established in 2005 and continues to attract highly qualified candidates. To date, the scholarship fund has supported 57 student awards totaling \$282,000. *Thank you!*

2023 saw markets rebound from their 2022 lows, with LAF's Scholarship Fund finishing 2023 at +13.5 marking a full recovery from the Fund's 2022 ending at -13%. 2024 YTD performance of the Fund continues to be positive at 2.7%, outperforming its benchmark by +1.5%. Per LAF's investment advisors, we expect the Fund's performance to continue growth in 2024.

In 2023, LAF awarded \$174,000 in financial support to promising landscape architecture students through 16 awards. Through the scholarships established by The ASLA Council of Fellows and other generous sponsors, LAF has awarded over \$1.9 million to more than 670 students since 1986. LAF scholarships support the next generation of designers by rewarding superior student performance, supporting access and diversity, supporting original research, and assisting students with unmet financial needs.

LAF is honored to manage the scholarship award and provide program administration, investment management services, and national recognition opportunities for the award and students. Your contribution recognizes and rewards these deserving students, and we thank you for making this unique and important scholarship opportunity possible to support the next generation of landscape architects and the communities we serve.

With gratitude,

Barbara Deutsch, FASLA
CEO

LAF SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarships

This scholarship was established by the ASLA Council of Fellows in 2005 to: 1) aid outstanding students who would not otherwise have an opportunity to continue a professional degree program due to unmet financial need; 2) increase the interest and participation of economically disadvantaged and under-represented populations in the study of landscape architecture; and 3) enrich the profession of landscape architecture through a more diverse population.

One \$10,000 scholarship and three \$5,000 runner-up scholarships are awarded each year to promising students, with priority given to students of underrepresented populations and/or with financial need. Geographic distribution of the applicant pool will also be considered.

In addition to receiving their financial award, each recipient will also receive general registration fees for the ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO, and a travel stipend to attend the meeting. Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the ASLA Annual Meeting to receive their awards.

<https://lafoundation.org/scholarship/scholarships-and-fellowships/awards-available/asla-council-of-fellows-scholarships/>

2024 WINNER



Carington Light

BLA Candidate

North Carolina A&T State University

Carington Light (she/her) is a graduating senior at North Carolina A&T State University, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. As a kid, she traveled to multiple National Parks, growing her appreciation for nature and what it can provide. She wants others to see that nature is more than seasonal allergies and bugs. One of her career goals is to inspire other young landscape architect students. With her love for nature comes her love for her plants. She doesn't have a great green thumb but tries to do her best when it comes to gardening.

2024 RUNNER-UPS



Aisha Malik
BLA Candidate
University of Rhode Island

Aisha Malik (she/her) is a Pakistani & Ukrainian female first-generation American and college student from Fairbanks, Alaska, attending the University of Rhode Island for her BLA in Landscape Architecture. She plans to work as a landscape architect in Alaska, helping the Arctic climate crisis through sustainable outdoor design. With landscape architecture being a relatively small field in Alaska, she intends to bring awareness to the profession as well. In her spare time, Aisha enjoys making art inspired by Alaska's vast landscapes, rock climbing, fishing, gardening, and hiking.



Juan Perez
BLA Candidate
University of Florida

Juan Perez (he/him) is an interdisciplinary designer studying landscape architecture and philosophy at the University of Florida. He focuses on the dynamic interplay of design, culture, and environment. As a first generation American and college student, Juan is dedicated to exploring the ethical dimensions of computational, parametric, and AI-driven solutions in promoting equity, social diversity, and biodiversity. In his design philosophy, he prioritizes empathy, curiosity, and versatility.



Essince Smith
BSLA Candidate
Ball State University

Essince Smith (she/her) is a fifth-year landscape architecture student who thrives on collaborative endeavors. She actively engages in community initiatives such as volunteering with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful—a youth organization dedicated to sustainable community development. In this role, she contributes to tree planting, watering, and maintenance in local neighborhoods. In leadership positions, she has served as a resident assistant and event coordinator for NOMAS, and a volunteer for ASLA. Her interactions with like-minded individuals passionate about shaping the future as designers fuel her enthusiasm. Eager to make a positive impact,

Essince is proud to be a part of future designers realizing and shaping meaningful changes in the world. Her outgoing and optimistic nature, coupled with a unique perspective, defines her approach. She aspires to contribute her design skills to a team with an open mindset and lofty expectations for creating a better world.



Ava Yon
BLA Candidate
Michigan State University

Ava Yon (she/her) is an undergraduate at Michigan State University pursuing a bachelor's in landscape architecture. She is a second-year student in the program and involved in MiASLA and the MSU LA Club. Ava graduated from Fowlerville High School in 2021 and started at MSU right away. She enjoys trying new things and visiting new places. She is passionate about her work and always eager to learn more. One day, she hopes to give back to her communities the way they have given to her.

SUMMARY OF WINNERS

| Year | Student | University | Degree | Award |
|------|----------------------|---|--------|----------|
| 2024 | Carrington Light | North Carolina A&T State University | BLA | \$10,000 |
| 2024 | Aisha Malik | University of Rhode Island | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2024 | Juan Perez | University of Florida | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2024 | Essince Smith | Ball State University | BSLA | \$5,000 |
| 2024 | Ava Yon | Michigan State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2023 | Javiera Diaz-Ortiz | University of Maryland | BLA | \$10,000 |
| 2023 | Adriel Jimenez | University of Florida | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2023 | Lily Saephan | California State Polytechnic University, Pomona | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2023 | Fiorella Sibaja | University of Arkansas | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2022 | Victor Cizik | University of Connecticut | BLA | \$10,000 |
| 2022 | Naomi Bailey | Michigan State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2022 | Andrea Fager | Iowa State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2022 | Luis Jorge Hernandez | University of Arkansas | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2021 | Daniella Slowik | University of Washington | BLA | \$10,000 |
| 2021 | Matheus Gomes | University of Massachusetts, Amherst | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2021 | Walter Hogue | University of Mississippi | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2021 | Najla Said Lopez | University of Florida | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2020 | David Curry | North Carolina A&T State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2020 | Courtney Helmlinger | Ball State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2020 | Aus Perez | University of Nebraska, Lincoln | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2020 | Holley Stringham | Utah State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2019 | Darby Buckley | University of Nebraska, Lincoln | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2019 | Eddy Gonzalez | Cal Poly, Pomona | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2019 | James Ryan | Kansas State University | MLA | \$5,000 |
| 2019 | Nancy Valenzuela | Texas A&M University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2018 | Quiana Dickson | The Pennsylvania State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2018 | Nathania Martinez | University of Florida | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2018 | Christian Moore | The Ohio State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2017 | Casey Frederick | Mississippi University | BSLA | \$5,000 |
| 2017 | Alexis Griffin | University of Oregon | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2017 | Phillip Hammon | Texas A&M University | BLA | \$5,000 |

| | | | | |
|------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 2016 | Laura Pinto | Rutgers University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2016 | Daniel Rodriguez | University of Florida | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2016 | Abbey Wallace | Mississippi State University | BLA | \$5,000 |
| 2015 | Abdias Dalisma | University of Florida | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2015 | Rachel SantaOlalla | Cal Poly San Luis Obispo | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2015 | Kelsey Steward | Kansas State University | MLA | \$4,000 |
| 2014 | Donna Freeman | University of Arkansas | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2014 | Rikerrius Geter | University of Georgia | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2014 | Maria Munoz | Louisiana State University | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2013 | Tania Hernandez | Texas A&M University | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2013 | Quynh Pham | University of Georgia | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2012 | Vivian Castro | University of Florida | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2012 | Lynette Osinubi | University of Georgia | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2011 | Emmanuel Gomez | Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2011 | Lucy Wang | University of Maryland | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2010 | Sefora Chavarria | Florida International University | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2010 | Zeina Zahalan | Rutgers University | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2009 | Sarah DaBoll Geurtz | University of Arkansas | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2009 | Emily Rothrock | Virginia Tech | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2008 | Yessenia Alvarez-Lopez | Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2008 | Morai Helfen | University of Georgia | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2007 | Paul Cozzolino | Texas A&M University | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2007 | Elizabeth Han Lee | Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2006 | Luke Kasitz | Temple University | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2006 | Sahoko Yui | Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo | BLA | \$4,000 |
| 2005 | Maria Landoni de Rose | Cal Poly, Pomona | BLA | \$4,000 |
| | | | Total: | \$282,000 |

SCHOLARSHIP ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT

ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarships Investment Report as of 12/31/23.
(Cash Basis)

| Year Ending | 12/31/2014 | 12/31/2015 | 12/31/2016 | 12/31/2017 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Prior Year Balance* | \$341,496.57 | \$342,039.12 | \$345,266.48 | \$415,159.10 |
| YTD 1099 Int/Div | \$10,553.96 | \$17,514.12 | \$17,558.48 | \$17,680.06 |
| TD Realized Gain/(Loss) | \$9,529.57 | \$4,136.78 | (\$4,627.52) | \$21,623.03 |
| YTD Unrealized Gain/(Loss) | (\$13,138.86) | (\$32,042.82) | \$41,164.78 | \$33,234.59 |
| Investment Fees | (\$4,462.12) | (\$5,165.09) | (\$5,165.09) | (\$4,271.19) |
| LAF Awards | (\$12,000) | (\$12,000) | (\$15,000) | (\$15,000) |
| LAF Management Fee | (\$2,000) | (\$2,000) | (\$2,000) | (\$1,000) |
| Contributions | \$12,060.00 | \$34,489.98 | \$37,961.97 | \$27,692.68 |
| Year-end Balance*: | \$342,039.12 | \$345,266.48 | \$415,159.10 | \$495,118.27 |

| Year Ending | 12/31/2018 | 12/31/2019 | 12/31/2020 | 12/31/2021 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Prior Year Balance* | \$495,118.27 | \$516,380.90 | \$620,327.07** | \$672,508.46 |
| YTD 1099 Int/Div | \$15,160.29 | \$17,301.73 | \$16,903.86 | \$20,813.08 |
| TD Realized Gain/(Loss) | \$14,307.24 | \$1,566.51 | (\$4,318.34) | \$12,263.29 |
| YTD Unrealized Gain/(Loss) | (\$49,566.40) | \$69,025.66 | \$42,499.15 | \$33,124.58 |
| Investment Fees | (\$4,754.82) | (\$4,736.42) | (\$4,127.55) | (\$4,963.48) |
| LAF Awards | (\$15,000.00) | (\$20,000) | (\$20,000) | (\$25,000) |
| LAF Management Fee | (\$1,000.00) | (\$1,000) | (\$1,000) | (\$1,000) |
| Contributions | \$62,116.32 | \$40,845.34 | \$22,224.28 | \$22,090.15 |
| Year-end Balance*: | \$516,380.90 | \$619,383.72 | \$672,508.46 | \$729,836.08 |

| Year Ending | 12/31/2022 | 12/31/2023 | 12/31/2024 | 12/31/2025 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|
| Prior Year Balance* | \$729,836.08 | \$650,273.73 | \$726,229.85 | |
| YTD 1099 Int/Div | \$19,864.75 | \$18,777.50 | TBD | |
| TD Realized Gain/(Loss) | (\$3,333.97) | \$12,130.72 | TBD | |
| YTD Unrealized Gain/(Loss) | (\$101,766.46) | \$43,634.05 | TBD | |
| Investment Fees | (\$4,783.04) | (\$4,659.45) | TBD | |
| LAF Awards | (\$25,000) | (\$25,000) | (\$30,000) | |
| LAF Management Fee | (\$1,000) | (\$1,000) | (\$2,000) | |
| Contributions | \$46,514.72 | \$32,073.90 | TBD | |
| Year-end Balance*: | \$650,273.73 | \$726,229.85 | TBD | |

*Note: Balances include pledge receivables, the current amount of pledges receivable (PR) = \$18,695.36. Pledges receivable are pledges made by donors that are scheduled to be paid over a specified time period per the pledge and do not represent actual money received. The total for pledges receivable will fluctuate year to year as pledges are paid (decreases PR, increases actual money received) and as new pledges are received (increases PR). The majority of Council of Fellows pledges are scheduled over a 3 year period but can range from a year to 5+ years.

**2020 Column - Prior Year Balance: Final adjustments were made to LAF's 2019 Financial Statements by LAF's auditors and accountants after 2019 reports were sent to donors. The final adjustments caused an increase in the 2019 totals and this is reflected in the 2020 Column: "Prior Year Balance". Totals reflected in the "12/31/2019" column are what were sent to donors in 2019 prior to the final adjustments.