



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

Board Members

April 9, 2025

Educators

Weimin Li, Ph.D., ASLA
LAAB Chair-Elect
California State Polytechnic University

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Allan Shearer, Ph.D., FASLA
University of Texas at Austin

Margarita Iglesia, Affiliate ASLA
Director and Faculty
School of Landscape Architecture
Boston Architectural College
320 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02115

Practitioners

Mark Hough, FASLA
Duke University

Susan Jacobson, FASLA, PLA
The Morton Arboretum

Juanita Shearer-Swink, FASLA, PLA

Dear Professor Iglesia,

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its February 26, 2025, meeting granted provisional accreditation for a period of two (2) years to the course of study leading to the professional BLA degree at Boston Architectural College. This status is subject to the review of annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

Public Representatives

Derek Niec-Williams
LAAB Secretary
Howard University

Chelina Odbert, Hon. ASLA
Kounkuey Design Initiative

David N. Yellen
University of Miami School of Law

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The two-year period of accreditation ends December 31, 2026. Accordingly, the BLA program at Boston Architectural College is next scheduled for a review during the fall of 2026.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

ASLA Representative

William Estes, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP
MIG

CELA Representative

Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair
Pennsylvania State University

LAAB had an extensive discussion about Boston Architectural College and its compliance with the minimum number of full-time faculty with an accredited professional degree in landscape architecture. Given Boston Architectural College offers professional degree programs at both the bachelor's and master's levels the academic unit is required to have an FTE of at least seven instructional faculty, with at least six of these instructional faculty holding professional degrees in landscape architecture and at least five who are full-time. Currently, the program meets or exceeds having an FTE of at least seven instructional faculty with at least six holding professional degrees in landscape architecture; however, the program only has three (3) full-time faculty members with an accredited professional degree in landscape architecture, which is the requirement for an academic unit offering a single professional-degree program. While the program did request a waiver for this standard, the LAAB voted to deny the waiver request. The board determined that Boston Architectural College did not adequately address one or more of the conditions required in the Procedures for granting a waiver.

CLARB Representative

Christine Anderson, ASLA, PLA
Mark Thomas

Director

Kristopher Pritchard, Hon. ASLA

The LAAB is particularly concerned about the four Recommendations Affecting Accreditation, two of which were related to Recommendations Affecting Accreditation from the last accreditation review in fall 2021.

Since one or more standards were met with recommendation, more than one of which was continued from the previous review, and the cited deficiencies are such that continued overall program quality or conformance to standards is uncertain, LAAB voted to grant the BLA program at the Boston Architectural College provisional accreditation for a period of two (2) years.

Enclosed is a list of Recommendations Affecting Accreditation. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting. The program should work to address these recommendations and demonstrate compliance with the standards by the fall 2026 review. As a reminder, provisional accreditation status is not deemed to be an adverse action and is not subject to be appealed, as outlined in the LAAB Accreditation Procedures.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,



Roxi Thoren, ASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Mahesh Daas, President Executive

**Boston Architectural College
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
February 26, 2025**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. Increase the availability, accessibility, and visibility of support for faculty development (Standard 2).
2. Comply with LAAB minimum standards for full-time faculty with landscape architecture degrees (Standard 2).
3. Develop resources and/or accommodations to support and promote the core faculty's professional advancement and development (Standard 5).
4. Regularly evaluate salaries and support of faculty to promote retention and productivity (Standard 5).