The 2019 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture marks the first collaboration between ASLA National and the BlackLAN. ASLA provided space within the conference venue for the luncheon activities and the BlackLAN Sponsors paid for the luncheon. The Luncheon was attended by 49 black students and professionals.
2019 BlackLAN LUNCHEON  
August 15, 2019  
Hosted by: American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) National Headquarters, Washington, DC  

Lisa Jennings, Manager-Career Discovery and Diversity/ASLA suggested and promoted this event to bring together black landscape architects from the Potomac, Virginia and Maryland area Chapters. Glenn LaRue Smith, ASLA, Founder/Administrator of the BlackLAN, collaborated with ASLA to coordinate the BlackLAN participation. The event drew a group of young black students and professionals. The participants were welcomed by Rosanne Blackwell, Hon. ASLA and Co-Interim Executive Director/CEO. The event was attended by 35 black landscape architecture students and professionals.

2019 ASLA Fellow Distinction at The National Conference  
Diane Allen  
In San Diego in last November, Allen was nominated and elevated under the ‘Service’ fellowship category for her tireless work in community engagement and design. Diane is currently, Director of Landscape Architecture - College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs, University of Texas - Arlington. She is also Founding Principal of the landscape architecture firm Design Jones. Way to go Diane, thanks for leading us and teaching future generations.

United States Artists: 2020 USA Fellow  
Sara Zewde  
USA Fellowships are annual $50,000 unrestricted awards recognizing the most compelling artists working and living in the United States, in all disciplines, at every stage of their career. Sara Zewde is a landscape architect, urbanist, and public artist. She is founding principal of Studio Zewde, a design firm devoted to creating enduring places where people belong. The studio’s work explores the “aesthetics of being,” syncing site interpretation and narrative with a dedication to the craft of construction. In parallel with practice, Zewde regularly writes, teaches, and exhibits work. Congratulations Sara, keep inspiring us.

Source: The Architect’s Newspaper, January 22, 2020
The BlackLAN Luncheon was followed by a two-hour Session that was open to all Conference attendees. The two panels included “Mentor Professionals” who discussed the history of the BlackLAN and insights into the experiences of black landscape architects to date. The second panel, “Emerging Professionals,” included a dialogue about professional opportunities, challenges and opportunities as black landscape architects.

Mentor Professional Panel

Austin Allen, ASLA, Moderator
Professor of Practice, University of Texas Arlington, School of Architecture (CAPPA)

Charles Cross, ASLA
Director of LA at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center and Adjunct Professor, Detroit, MI

Karen Phillips, FASLA
Vice President – Director of Sustainability at New York State Homes and Community Renewal, New York, NY

Glenn LaRue Smith, ASLA
Founder and Principal, PUSH studio, LLC, Washington, DC and Administrator, Black Landscape Architects Network (BlackLAN)

Emerging Professionals Panel

Andrew Sargeant, ASLA
LA Designer, Lion Heart Places, Austin, TX

Whitney Barr, SASLA
Graduate Landscape Architecture Student, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Monique Bassey, ASLA
LA Designer, SmithGroup, San Francisco, CA

Kene Okigbo, ASLA
LA Designer, RDG Planning & Design, Omaha, NE

Breeze Outlaw, ASLA
LA Designer, Sasaki Associates, Watertown, MA

Top: Stacy Martines, Elizabeth Kennedy and Brieanna Robles; Bottom BlackLAN Members getting to know each other

Zoom Happy Hour

The Black Landscape Architects Network held its first Zoom Happy Hour in response to the Covid-19 crisis in the United States. Moderated by Marc Miller and Glenn LaRue Smith, the ninety minute session centered around how black landscape architects were responding to and affected by the Covid-19 crisis. Hosted virtually by ASLA National, forty members of BlackLAN participated in the session. This was the first in a series of Zoom Discussions and Webinars planned for the future.
Coordinate
Nature Walk Workshop
Reach out to network members & plan something great

On October 21st 2018, in coordination between an University of Texas - Austin landscape design studio run by Sara Zewde held an in the field workshop with community members and Design Jones landscape architecture firm in New Orleans, Austin Allen and Diane Jones Allen - Principals. In the studio, students used the concepts of Monuments, Movements, and the Mississippi River to prescribe a system of intervention that hosts new commemorative landscapes with new narratives, as well as for addressing the embedded historical legacies in the city that manifest themselves in the contemporary city Ecologies of Memory in the City of New Orleans.

Co-Guest Editor: Kevin Jeffery
A Texas native, he obtained a marketing bachelor’s degree in 2008 from University of Texas at Arlington. After living in Washington, DC and working for 7 years on environmental water management, he received a MLA from the University of Texas, Austin in 2019. Kevin is now an urban designer and landscape designer with MRV Architects in Juneau, AK. Kevin is the designer of the BlackLAN Newsletter and its first Co-Editor.

About us -
Black Landscape Architecture professionals and students from around the world networking to promote opportunities, highlight accomplishments, and mentor students. The Group is open to International professionals and students of African ancestry who are educated and work in areas of the landscape architecture profession. The BlackLAN was established as a LinkedIn communication platform in 2012.

How to Join: If you meet the criteria above:
• Establish a LinkedIn account
• Connect with Glenn LaRue Smith or Kofi Boone to join
• An Invite will be sent to you after connecting