

## MISSOURI

St. Louis and Prairie Gateway Chapters

### Historical Basics

The state licensure law was first enacted as a title act in 1989. In 2001, the legislature enacted the upgrade to a practice act. There is no regular sunset review process.

### Organizing the Profession

The Missouri Association of Landscape Architects was formed in 1962 (prior to both state chapters) to be the voice for landscape architects in Missouri related to attempts to pass legislation for Landscape Architectural Licensure. On several occasions throughout the 60's and 70's Missouri Landscape Architects pushed bills at Jefferson City. Without professional lobbyists, these efforts all failed. In the early 1980's, Wayne Buggenhagen in St. Louis and Jeffrey Bruce in Kansas City realized that we needed a paid lobbyist and we needed a statewide organization. MALA, which had been dormant for many years, was resurrected. At the time, ASLA National advised all chapters that they could not conduct lobbying activities by directly paying a lobbyist. MALA, since it was not an ASLA chapter could however provide compensation to the lobbyist. More importantly, the legislators and the other professional organizations needed to know that the people promoting this bill were truly representing the profession throughout the state.

As a result of several years of concerted effort, countless hours of testimony, dedicated sponsorship and most importantly a well connected lobbyist, we got our bill passed. While the original 1989 bill was a title act which regulated the use of the title of Landscape Architect, it defined the profession and allowed the establishment of rules and standards regarding the profession. A Landscape Architecture Council was formed, the Governor appointed members, the board promulgated rules and the first landscape architecture registrations were issued. MALA continued to provide the statewide representation of Landscape Architects. It was in the original title bill that MALA was tasked with nominating professional board member candidates to the Governor for his consideration.

In 1996 and 1997, Landscape Architects began to explore the possibility of upgrading the title act to a practice act through a series of public meetings hosted by Representative Treadway. The opponents of the proposed bill tried to imply that Landscape Architects did not have appropriate training or education to protect public health, safety and welfare. Landscape architects provided key documentation of the types of projects completed by landscape architects and the competency of landscape architects. During the 2000 legislative session, Dennis Law, Dean of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Kansas State University bolstered the case that landscape architect education and training requirements are equivalent to other licensed professions. Throughout this period, MALA provided the overall statewide leadership Landscape Architects.

With the passage of the Practice Act, the LA Council was dissolved and the Landscape Architectural Division was created in the new Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects (APELSLA) Board. Bob Hartnett, Patti Banks and Jerany Jackson were appointed to the board by the Governor. MALA's responsibilities have increased since our profession has been assimilated into the registration board. The other design professions have active professionally staffed organizations that monitor bills and issues that could impact their members. Many of these issues are common to all design professions and it has become important for MALA to work along side these organization to support or defeat key legislation.

In 2007, MALA proposed new legislation to require Continuing Education requirements of Landscape Architects. This bill was supported by our allied professionals since it created CE requirements similar to those of the other design professionals. Further, we assisted with the

passage of legislation that allows the APELSLA Board to extract civil penalties from the unlicensed practice of one of the regulated design professions.

## **Membership**

All ASLA members and registered Landscape Architects are automatically MALA members. MALA stays in contact with the ASLA chapters by the MALA Secretary sending minutes of meetings to each chapter president. Notification of the quarterly board meetings are sent to ASLA chapters for publication. All ASLA members are automatically members of MALA without paying any additional dues

## **Budgeting and Fundraising**

MALA received nearly all of its support from contributions from St. Louis Chapter and Prairie Gateway Chapter of ASLA.

## **Lobbyist-Sam Licklider**

MALA works with the lobbyist through the MALA president as the point of contact, with written reports to the chapter presidents. The lobbyist participates in conference calls with the MALA board and attends legislative events.

## **Design Alliance**

Two MALA Board Members regularly participate in the "Design Alliance" a committee made up of representatives from AIA-MO, MSPE, MSPS and MALA. This was a committee originally established to make recommendations related to overlapping practice issues between engineers and architects. The Landscape Architects and the Land Surveyors were invited to participate when it was clear that the committee should make recommendations related to appointments, proposed legislation etc that impact all of the design professionals.

## **Conclusion**

MALA needs to maintain its presence in representing landscape architects throughout Missouri. MALA seeks to be accessible and accountable for advice and issue that effect the practice of landscape architects. In building alliances with other design professions, MALA serves as a single statewide entity to fill that function (just as the other design professions do). MALA needs to be strengthened to serve as the organization to respond quickly to legislative and regulatory issues. These issues sometimes find us in agreement with the design professions, sometimes in disagreement. One singular organization must be able to meet, negotiate and help craft language that is acceptable to Missouri Landscape Architects when these issues arise.

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