



## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

### **2019 Case Study Investigation (CSI) Program Research Fellow Application**

Due November 30, 2018

The Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) is now accepting applications for the 2019 *Case Study Investigation* (CSI) program. CSI is a unique research collaboration that matches LAF-funded student-faculty research teams with leading practitioners to document the benefits of exemplary high-performing landscape projects. Teams develop methods to quantify environmental, social, and economic benefits and produce two (2) Case Study Briefs for LAF's *Landscape Performance Series*.

CSI research teams are led by Research Fellows, select faculty members with demonstrated interest or expertise in landscape performance. Fellows manage the partnerships with firms and provide the knowledge base for preparing case studies, the expertise in quantifying landscape benefits, and the academic rigor needed to support designers, policy-makers, and advocates who are making the case for sustainable landscape solutions.

The CSI program is highly collaborative, with the goal of bridging the gap between academia and landscape architectural practice to advance our knowledge of landscape performance. By investing in this research, CSI can be a key impetus in moving the landscape architecture profession toward designing every project with specific performance objectives, routinely collecting performance data, documenting the value of sustainable landscape solutions and integrating landscape performance in design education.

**The 2019 CSI Program will run February 4 – August 6, 2019.**

**Applications are due November 30, 2018.**

General program information can be found on the LAF website  
<http://www.lafoundation.org/research/case-study-investigation/>

If you are applying in partnership with a firm or firms (strongly recommended), they are required to submit their project(s) independently through the CSI Project Proposal form\*

<https://www.lafoundation.org/what-we-do/research/case-study-investigation/csi-projects>

Completed applications should be e-mailed to Megan Barnes, CSI Program Manager, at [mbarnes@lafoundation.org](mailto:mbarnes@lafoundation.org) by November 30 at midnight in your time zone as a PDF. Contact Megan via e-mail with questions.

Teams selected for participation will be notified in December and announced by January 2019.

LAF provides funding to the research team. The faculty Fellow receives an honorarium of \$1,000, the student research assistant receives \$9,000 to work on the CSI Program under the Fellow's direction, and the host university may accept a maximum of 12% (\$1,200) in Facilities and Administration costs.

Research assistants are graduate students, or undergraduate students in special cases, who have exceptional critical thinking, project management, communication, and quantitative skills and are able to commit to the required work hours for the program's full duration. See below for time commitment details.

\*Research Fellows are strongly encouraged to apply in partnership with one or two design firms to document two specified projects. LAF may attempt to match Fellows with applying design firms based on geographic proximity, common interests, and relevant expertise; however, the LAF Program Manager must be contacted well in advance of the application deadline to arrange this. If applying in partnership with a firm or firms (highly recommended), indicate the firm and project in the appropriate section of the application below. The proposed partner firm or firms must submit an individual CSI Project Proposal for each proposed project by November 30, 2018.



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Submit your completed CSI Research Fellow Application, along with the required attachments, to Megan Barnes, CSI Program Manager, at [mbarnes@lafoundation.org](mailto:mbarnes@lafoundation.org) by November 30, 2018. Contact Megan via e-mail with questions.

If applying in partnership with a firm or firms (strongly recommended), ensure that they submit a separate Project Proposal for each proposed project. Before beginning the application, please review the program description and familiarize yourself with the Landscape Performance Series at [LandscapePerformance.org](http://LandscapePerformance.org).

### Applicant Information

Applicant name	_____		
University	_____		
Department	_____		
Title	_____		
Address	_____		
	<i>City</i>	<i>State/Province</i>	<i>ZIP/Country</i>
	_____		
	<i>Email</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	

### Research Background

1. How do you think CSI and landscape performance fits into the larger context of research in landscape architecture, and how will research shape the future of the discipline?

2. Rate these benefits of participating in CSI according to their importance to you.

Professional development

Supports my research

Recognition/prestige

Training experience for my student

Opportunity to publish

Opportunity to learn from others

Opportunity to build relationships with firms

Opportunity to impact the field of landscape architecture

Other:

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3. Rate the following to best describe your general research proficiencies.

Knowledge of current journal research related to landscape performance

Experience in collecting and analyzing field data

Experience in preparing, conducting and analyzing survey data

Experience with locating tools and methods for quantifying performance

Relevant other:

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Opportunity to learn from others

Opportunity to build relationships with firms

Opportunity to impact the field of landscape architecture

Relevant other:

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4. Rate the following to best describe your topic-specific research proficiencies.

a) Environmental Performance

Stormwater Management

Water Quality

Habitat value/populations/species richness

Temperature and urban heat island

Energy use, carbon, and air quality

Relevant other:

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b) Social Performance

Recreational & social value

Health & well-being

Safety

Educational value

Food production

Transportation

Cultural preservation

Access & equity

Relevant other: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Economic Performance

Economic development

Operations & maintenance

Property values

Relevant other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Assessing landscape performance often involves conducting user surveys. Please indicate your understanding of your university's Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval process for research involving human subjects, including the information needed and what the timeline for IRB approval might look like if surveys are to be conducted starting in June 2019.

### LPS Case Study Briefs

For Questions 6-9, please refer to one of the three Case Study Briefs below and their corresponding Methodology document, accessed through the "download methods" button. Please check the box to select a single Case Study Brief of these three in order to respond to questions 6-9.

**Renaissance Park** (Chattanooga, Tennessee, CSI 2014):

<http://landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/renaissance-park>

**UT Dallas Campus Landscape Enhancements** (Richardson, Texas, CSI 2013):

<http://landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/UT-dallas-landscape-enhancements>

**Cherry Creek North and Fillmore Plaza** (Denver, Colorado, CSI 2012):

<http://landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/cherry-creek-north-and-fillmore-plaza>

6. Which Performance Benefit(s) and method(s) do you believe is/are the most compelling? Why?

7. What are some ways an educator, practitioner and/or advocate could make valuable use of the information presented in the case study?

8. Case study preparation requires strategy, resourcefulness and coordination among contributors. In general terms, what are some strategies you might use to capture environmental, social, and economic performance data similar to that presented in the chosen case study? What channels might you consider, and what other benefits might you investigate which are not addressed?

## Student Research Assistant

Each Research Fellow selects a currently-enrolled graduate student (or undergraduate student in special cases) to participate in the CSI program as a research assistant and work under the Fellow's direction. This student *must* be available to participate for the duration of the program (February-August; see time commitment requirements below) and be able to work collaboratively with firm liaisons and leaders, clients, other project stakeholders, and LAF staff. The student should have strong critical thinking, project management, in-depth fact finding and quantitative skills, and should have completed a Research and Methods course prior to the start of CSI. The student should also have excellent communications skills and professionalism, given the requirement to liaise with participating firms and project stakeholders. While having only one research assistant is encouraged, more than one student may be selected with the understanding that only one student stipend will be provided by LAF; it may be divided as the research team sees fit.

The student(s) will:

- Assist in identifying performance benefits and developing research methods
- Gather project data from firm archives, project summaries, site evaluations, clients, consultants, and other sources
- Gather information related to methods, precedent research and studies
- Perform measurements and calculations
- Conduct site observations, distribute surveys and otherwise manage or assist with on-site research
- Manage the research and documentation process in a timely and communicative manner
- Prepare Case Study Brief/Methodology for reviews, including multiple reviews by LAF and firm
- Participate in CSI program webinars

Student's name

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Degree information

*Anticipated graduation date*

*Anticipated degree*

Area/track of study

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Contact information

*Email*

*Telephone*

List relevant course work completed by student, including required Research Methods course completion:

10. Why do you recommend this student for CSI?

11. Does this student have previous experience or demonstrated interest in landscape performance or conducting post occupancy evaluations? If so, please describe.

12. Why is this student interested in participating in CSI? (Please have the student respond in their own words)

13. Does this student have or expect to have any other significant commitments during summer 2019? If so, please elaborate and describe how CSI work will be accommodated.

**Time Commitment**

The CSI program is highly intensive and is divided into spring and summer phases. The exact time commitment to develop metrics and methods and produce two (2) Case Study Briefs depends on your previous experience, the strength of the research assistant, and your relationship with the collaborating firm. Research Fellows and research assistants are expected to attend five (5) program webinars and participate in a vigorous iterative case study review-and-revision process with LAF staff. Research teams also contribute LAF communication materials related to the CSI experience, including team photos and blog posts.

The role of the Research Fellow is to provide the knowledge base for preparing case studies, expertise in quantifying landscape benefits, and the academic rigor that is needed to support designers, policy-makers, and advocates who are making the case for sustainable landscape solutions.

Specifically, the Research Fellow is expected to:

- Lead the CSI collaboration among faculty, practitioners, and students
- Work with firms to identify performance benefits of select landscape projects
- Develop methods to quantify environmental, social, and economic benefits
- Oversee on-site research and the case study preparation process and coordinate with LAF staff
- Serve as LAF’s liaison to the university for administrative matters
- Participate in CSI program webinars and ongoing case study reviews
- Deliver a timely, high-quality final product

15. Will you devote these hours to the CSI program to fulfill these responsibilities?

**February – May 2018:** 1 - 5 hours per week

**June – August 2018:** 5 - 20 hours per week

If no, explain:

16. Will your student devote these hours to the CSI program?

**February – May 2018:** 5 - 10 hours per week

**June – August 2018:** 30 - 40 hours per week

If no, explain:

**Design Firm Partners (Optional but strongly encouraged)**

Design firm \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed project \_\_\_\_\_

Design firm \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed project \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for selection: (e.g. previous knowledge of project, working relationship with firm, alignment with research agenda, matched by LAF, etc.)

**Curriculum Vitae**

18. Please include a current CV with your completed application. If you would like to include any attachments relevant to your experience with studying and assessing landscape performance, please do so.



## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

19. Participating universities are required to be in accordance with ADA guidelines. Team members analyze these projects both remotely and onsite, but travelling to the site is not required (although strongly recommended). The vast majority of each team's research work will be carried out within the university environment. To ensure that projects are accessible to all individuals, LAF requires each faculty participating to confirm any ADA requirements for themselves or their student research assistants. LAF will ensure that all participants with specific needs are assigned a project which is suitable to them.

Participating university is in accordance with ADA guidelines

**Choose an item.**

If no, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate any accommodation requirements for Faculty Fellow or student research assistant:

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(Continue to final page)

## Department Head/Program Chair

Participation in the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) Case Study Investigation (CSI) program requires a time commitment of 1-5 hours per week from February-May 2019 and 5-20 hours per week from June-August 2019 on part of the faculty researcher and access to basic university services (computer, internet, telephone, library databases). For each student-faculty team selected to participate in CSI, LAF will pay a \$1,000 honorarium for the faculty member, a \$9,000 stipend for the student, and up to 12% (\$1,200) in Facilities and Administration costs. LAF's written Facilities and Administration policy is available upon request from [mbarnes@lafoundation.org](mailto:mbarnes@lafoundation.org).

All case studies produced through CSI undergo an intensive, iterative review process with LAF and receive feedback from at least one independent reviewer. LAF retains final approval and editorial rights. Participation in CSI does not guarantee that a resulting case study will be published in the *Landscape Performance Series*.

With my signature, I indicate my approval of this application and the faculty member's potential participation in the CSI program.

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*Signature of Department Head or Chair (required)*

*Date*

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*Print name*