



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

2019 Case Study Investigation (CSI) Program Call for CSI Project Proposals

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 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 quantifying landscape benefits. Fellows develop methods for data collection and provide the academic rigor needed to support designers, policy-makers, and advocates who are making the case for sustainable landscape solutions. Research Fellows are supported by graduate student research assistants, who support research, data collection, project management and coordination.

Participating firms apply with specific projects and are selected based on the quality of the project, availability of information to document performance, staff commitment to the CSI process, and the availability of a qualified Research Fellow with whom to be partnered. Firms submit a separate proposal for each project and may propose as many exemplary, high-performing projects as they wish. For reference, each faculty-student research team investigates two projects, and they may work with one or two primary design firms.

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, documenting the value of sustainable landscape solutions, routinely collecting performance data, and integrating landscape performance in design education.

The 2019 CSI Program will run February 4 – August 6, 2019. CSI Project Proposals are due November 30, 2018.

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

If you are applying in partnership with a faculty member (strongly recommended), they are required to submit their application independently*

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

For the 2019 program, the selection process will give additional consideration to projects that have the potential for strong resilience-related benefits and diversity, equity and inclusion-related social benefits.

Completed CSI Project Proposals should be e-mailed along with attachments to Megan Barnes, CSI Program Manager, at mbarnes@lafoundation.org by November 30 at midnight in your time zone. Contact Megan via e-mail with questions.

Teams and projects selected for participation will be announced by January 2019.



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Participation in CSI requires ongoing involvement and commitment from the firm. Firm participants actively engage in gathering project background information, assist the research team in identifying potential performance benefits and methods to quantify them, provide access to clients and other project stakeholders, and participate in CSI program webinars and reviews.

*Firms are strongly encouraged to apply in partnership with a specific faculty researcher to document one or more projects. This should be indicated in the appropriate area on the Project Proposal below. Please note that faculty applications are also due November 30, 2018. LAF may also attempt to match interested firms with applying faculty based on geographic proximity, relevant expertise, and shared interests. However, successful matching is only likely when the Program Manager is contacted well in advance of the application deadline.

**2019 Case Study Investigation (CSI) Program
Project Proposal
Due November 30, 2018**

Submit your completed Project Proposal as a PDF, along with required attachments, to Megan Barnes, CSI Program Manager, at mbarnes@lafoundation.org by November 30 at midnight in your time zone. Contact Megan via e-mail with questions. If selected for participation in CSI, this Project Proposal will be shared with the faculty Research Fellow and student research assistant assigned to the project.

Firm Information

Firm name _____

Mission/range of services offered _____

Office location _____

Street

City *State/Province* *ZIP/Country*

1 – Project Details

Project name _____

Location _____
city, state/province, country

Project type _____
i.e. streetscape, park/open space, waterfront redevelopment

Project size _____
square feet or acres

Completed* _____
month/year

Certifications/national awards _____
i.e. LEED Silver, ASLA award

* LAF requires CSI projects be built and operating for a minimum of 1 year, and recommends at least 3, but fewer than 10 years. Because performance is measured against design goals and objectives, it is important that project documentation, design team members, or other project stakeholders are available to share this information.

2 - Project Overview

Explain the essence of the project, what makes it exemplary, and how it is significant and relevant to sustainability and the discipline of landscape architecture. Examples are available within LAF’s library of case study briefs (see Overview tab of each case study), available at <http://www.lafoundation.org/research/landscape-performance-series/case-studies/>

3 – Sustainable Features

Indicate the key sustainable features or best management practices for this project. Examples are available within LAF's library of case study briefs (see Sustainable Features tab of each case study), available at <http://www.lafoundation.org/research/landscape-performance-series/case-studies/>

4 – Project Goals

List the primary design goals for the project. For example:

- To provide much-needed recreation opportunities in a park-poor area
- To prevent localized flooding
- To increase student enrollment
- To educate the public about native plants

If your project incorporated resilience-related and/or diversity, equity and inclusion-related goals, please describe these goals in detail.

5 – Landscape Performance Benefits

Identify the potential performance benefits of the project. Please list at least five benefits that you think can be quantified -- including at least one environmental, one economic, and one social benefit -- along with information you know is available to quantify the benefit. The main project goals set out in section 4 *must* be addressed (e.g. if the primary purpose of the design is to foster nature-play in children, at least one potential benefit must attempt to quantify this). Examples are available within LAF's library of case study briefs, available at <http://www.lafoundation.org/research/landscape-performance-series/case-studies/>

If your project has strong potential for resilience-related and/or diversity, equity and inclusion-related benefits, please clearly describe these in the appropriate section below.

Environmental

For example:

- Reduced stormwater runoff by xx% – We have calculations done by the civil engineers for LEED documentation.
- Provides habitat for xx species, x of which are threatened – Local university students did a survey last year.

Social

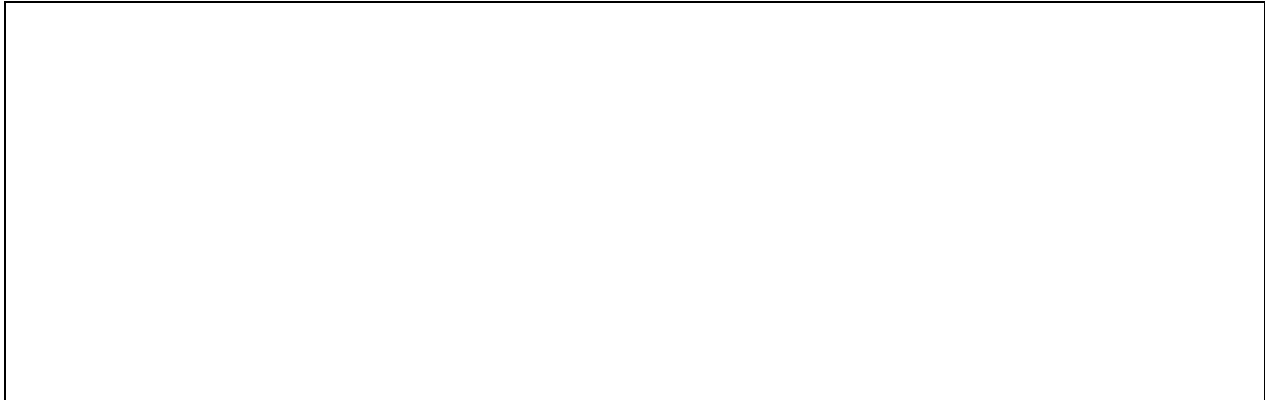
For example:

- Provides active recreation opportunities for xx people daily – Could be obtained through field observations or surveys.
- Educates xx students about urban agriculture annually - Client tracks education program offerings and attendance.

Economic

For example:

- Increased property values by xx% – City should have annual tax information.
- Saved \$xx in waste disposal and hauling fees by reusing existing pavement as sub-base – Demolition plan would have material amounts that can be used to estimate cost.



6 – Project Images

Each case study opens with a pair of Before/After images or images that compare traditional approaches to a more sustainable approach. These images are a critical part of the case study and show the site's transformation, the value of high-quality design, and the power of vision to create a place. The two images must be similar in scale and vantage point.

If compelling before/after or traditional/sustainable images have not been provided by the time of acceptance to the program, the project will be removed from consideration from the CSI program.

Please send your two images as .jpg attachments along with your completed proposal and indicate which pair you have attached:

- Before/After site images attached
- Traditional/sustainable images attached

Please also provide up to 4 .jpg images that fit the following descriptions. If images are too large to send in a regular attachment, .zip files or large file sharing links be used for application submittal.

- General site plan
- Images that highlight the site's sustainable features
- Images that show users on the site
- Other – describe briefly: _____

7 – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Participating projects are analyzed by CSI team members both remotely and onsite. To ensure that the program is accessible to all individuals, LAF requires participating faculty members 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.

Is the proposed site ADA compliant?

Yes

No

If not, can accommodations be made to allow a person with disabilities to access the site?

Describe: _____

8 – Reasons for Participation

Rate these potential benefits of completing a case study through CSI according to importance to you:

Find precedents and inspiration for design solutions

Educate clients about sustainable landscape solutions

Prepare a presentation/competitive bid to win a project

Make the case for a design choice on a particular project

Advocate for policies or programs to support landscape solutions

Learn to use tools to quantify performance benefits

Use as education resource (in-house, classroom, outreach)

Opportunity to work more with clients and other stakeholders and partners

Other: _____

8 – CSI Project Liaison

Please designate the person at your firm who will serve as the point person for the CSI academic team assigned to this project and be the liaison for firm leadership, staff, the client, and other project stakeholders. This position carries the responsibility of being responsive and engaged with the research team throughout the program. Although the Project Liaison is not required to have been affiliated with the project studied, it is extremely helpful if the Liaison was involved with the project in some way and if they can offer institutional knowledge on the initial project objectives, design process, and ultimate outcome. Specifically, the liaison is expected to:

- Commit roughly 20 to 35 staff hours to the program, depending on available information and previous work done to document the project. In 2018, most CSI teams had between 2-4 formal meetings/calls with their Firm Liaisons, as well as email correspondence throughout the program
- Provide access to key project information, photos, illustrative drawings, and staff within the firm
- Assist research team in identifying potential performance benefits and methods to quantify benefits
- Provide access to clients, agency contacts, collaborators, stakeholders, other project contributors
- Provide information on the firm's design process, including key drivers for decisions and challenges and lessons learned along the way
- Participate in CSI program webinars and case study development

Firm liaison

Name

Title

Role on project (if any)

Email

Telephone

9 – Marketing/Communications Contact

LAF promotes CSI research and the resulting Case Study Briefs through its *Landscape Performance Series* website, blog, e-newsletter, and social media channels. Participants are encouraged to showcase the CSI research through their respective communications channels. Please list the person at your firm/organization/agency responsible for this.

Marketing contact

Name

Title

Email

Telephone

10 – External Project Contacts

While CSI does not require a time commitment or contributions by client groups, some of the most successful research collaborations have included clients who engage with the Research Teams by providing data and information about site use, maintenance, and ongoing performance. Please indicate potential client involvement below. If there are any other individuals or organizations that have been instrumental in bringing the project to fruition or managing the project post-completion, please also list them below. These could include project champions at the relevant city office, BID, community organization, park conservancy, etc. If client or other stakeholder involvement is not possible, please elaborate below.

Additionally, for all private projects or projects with restricted access (e.g. residences, hospitals, schools), it is critical that clients or site managers are able to provide site access to the CSI researchers. The following is **required** for private/restricted access projects and **optional** for public projects. Provide a letter from the individual, pledging to permit the CSI researchers to access the site. If you would like LAF to provide more information to your client on how CSI research generates information that is relevant to them and beneficial to the profession of landscape architecture, please contact Megan Barnes at mbarnes@lafoundation.org.

11 – Letters of Support (Optional)

One or more letters supporting the study of the project may be submitted by the aforementioned project contacts, including clients, management entities, or other relevant stakeholders. Letters should be submitted as PDF attachments and can include the following:

- a) Reason for interest in studying the environmental, social, and economic performance of the project.
- b) Ability to provide data: explaining type of survey data, reports, and other information that is available.
- c) Willingness to be interviewed by the research team.

12 – Academic Partner (Optional but strongly recommended)

If you plan to partner with an academic researcher who is submitting an application to be a LAF Research Fellow in which this project is named as case study of choice, please provide details.

Researcher

Name

University

If this researcher is not selected for participation in 2019 CSI:

- LAF may assign the project to another researcher
- I am not interested in participating in 2019 CSI

(Note that this part of your application will not be shared with CSI researchers)

(Continue on to final page)

Supervising Principal Approval

Participation in the CSI program requires a time commitment on part of the firm averaging a total of 20 to 35 staff hours between February and August 2019, depending on the information available and previous work done to document the project. As noted above, it also requires that the academic team have access to key project staff, clients, and stakeholders.

All case studies produced through CSI undergo an 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 particular case study will be published in the *Landscape Performance Series*.

With my signature, I indicate my approval of this project proposal and my firm's potential participation in the CSI program.

Signature of Principal (required) *Date*

Print name