

Landscape Architecture Practice in a Time of Physical Distancing

Live webinar 03/27/20 at 1pm ET
Summary and Additional Resources

The Landscape Architecture Foundation's (LAF) panel of board members offered valuable insight and perspectives on the rapid changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Key takeaways are summarized below:

This is Temporary

The current circumstances will likely create roadblocks on the paths landscape architects navigate in pursuit of their goals. This is the time for resilience and adaptability. Don't give up!

Keep Your Skills Sharp

Think critically about your current skill set. What are your strengths? What areas would you like to improve? Use this as an opportunity to be nimble and examine how your skills can contribute to or benefit from roles outside traditional landscape architecture.

Diversify

As much as possible, spread your work across the public, private, and institutional spheres. Each of these realms face distinct challenges associated with COVID-19 and will need to respond accordingly. Diversifying your work reduces the risk of a standstill due to a specific, industrywide impact.

Be Succinct

Clients are facing new pressures and have scaled back operations and people power. In short, they do not have as much time to spare. Keep your design collateral sharp and concise. Clients who used to meet for an hour-long presentation may now only have 15 minutes. Make your case upfront.

Communication is Key

The frequency and method of our communications have changed drastically. Successful communication may rely on innovation. For example, a grid overlay may be a helpful addition to project critique, since simply pointing is no longer an option. Venture to develop new forms of written and virtual communication that is still helpful and personal.

Take Good Mental Care

Meditate, limit social media and news intake, go for a walk. Make time to do whatever it is that will help you focus and unwind as necessary. With the loss of routine, it's easy to forget to tend to ourselves.

Slow Down to Speed Up

This moment has forced us all to slow down. How can we use this time to evaluate our practices and position ourselves for success once we return to normalcy? Rather than getting stuck in a reactionary mode, what can we initiate? Ask yourself: "How can I now do my best work? Who can I help?"

Stay Informed

Consult the appropriate points of contact across your firm's healthcare, legal, and IT personnel to keep yourself aware of changes or opportunities that arise in this constantly-evolving situation.

Our panelists also shared additional resources intended to ground, guide, and inspire throughout this uncertain time.

Books

[*Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?*](#) By Seth Godin

[*Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*](#) By Sebastian Junger

[*Thank You For Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations*](#) By Thomas L. Friedman

Blog Posts

<https://seths.blog/2020/01/choosing-to-be-a-citizen/>

<https://seths.blog/2020/03/today/>

<https://seths.blog/2020/01/priorities/>

<https://seths.blog/2019/11/slack-rules-of-life/>

<https://seths.blog/2017/12/rules-for-working-in-a-studio/>

Podcasts

[The Future of X](#)

[Infinite Earth Radio](#)

[The Science of Happiness](#)