

2024 LANDSCAPE X SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, 8/24

Landscape X Ecology X Restoration

NCC24-004 A Path to Climate Action: Sustainability Performance + Funding (1.25 PDH, LA CES/HSW)

Event Type: Panel Discussion
Time: 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm
Location: Broadway Event Hall
Capacity: 80

Join us for a discussion of collaborative climate action! In this panel, we'll dive into how landscape architects can advance climate based strategies in our work - through funding mechanisms and sustainability performance analysis.



Image: Will Elder, nps.gov

Panelists



Mariana Ricker | Associate, SWA Group | Session Moderator

Mariana Ricker emphasizes the importance of site-specific, sustainable landscape design. She enjoys working in urban settings that engage diverse user groups and activate spaces essential to civic life. As a licensed landscape architect, Mariana seeks to create memorable experiences, connect people to the environment, and provide elegant solutions to accomplish the project vision. She is committed to climate action and advancing sustainability efforts within her project work and professionally.



Kristen DiStefano | Director, Atelier Ten, San Francisco

Kristen has lent her sustainability expertise to over 100 projects and has successfully led some of Atelier Ten's most ambitious projects including the NVIDIA Headquarters in Santa Clara, CA, the SF Giants' Mission Rock Development, the UC Merced 2020 project, and the California College of Arts Unified Campus in SF. Kristen is the director in charge of Atelier Ten's Carbon Management practice and is an integral part of the firm's Masterplanning and Daylight practices. She balances her expertise in detailed carbon reduction strategy with big picture guidance for large scale projects. Kristen holds a Master of Architecture degree from Cornell University and she has taught at Cornell University and the University of Oregon.



Cecilia Latapi | Manager of Government Relations, Momentum

Cecilia is the Manager of Government Relations at Momentum, supporting over 20 companies in funding and implementing clean technology projects across diverse industries including power generation, transportation, and real estate. At Momentum, she assists clients in navigating the public funding landscape and accessing incentives such as grants, loans, and tax credits to facilitate sustainable projects. Cecilia holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from ITESM and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

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Session Outline

This panel will explore the intersection of design, sustainability performance analysis, and public funding opportunities. Each panelist will share their specific expertise and participate in a conversation about how our disciplines can effectively collaborate on the path to implement climate action projects.

Introduction: Mariana Ricker

The speaker will first establish context for the panel, by highlighting ASLA's Climate Action Plan as a call to action for landscape architects. To set the table for the discussion to follow, we'll highlight the Triple Bottom Line approach as an effective way to make the case for climate action. Identifying co-benefits throughout design strategies, funding mechanisms, and performance analysis techniques can unlock the potential for greater collaboration opportunities.

Funding Priorities and Mechanisms: Cecilia Latapi

The speaker will address how public agencies receive funding and how they decide to allocate it (how public money flows), as well as what happens after a grant gets awarded: metrics and reporting. We'll discuss two or three programs that can fund projects that include a landscape component, highlighting items like eligibility, project lead and sub applicants, and the recent focus on projects that deliver community benefits.

Sustainability Performance Analysis and Applicability: Kristen DiStefano

The speaker will talk about sustainable landscape design and methods for turning risk into resource; highlighting the co-benefits of risk mitigation, resource conversation, and human experience. Examples will cover heat waves, extreme weather & flooding, drought, power outages, and climate positive design as a whole.

Moderated Conversation on Collaboration Opportunities throughout the Lifecycle of a Project

Before opening up for general discussion and Q+A, the full panel will talk through the typical lifecycle of a project and discuss opportunities for improved collaboration and a streamlined process.

Audience Q+A

Learning Outcomes

- Recognize the importance of identifying co-benefits to advance climate action on projects.
- Learn about the different types of grant funding mechanisms available at the federal and state level.
- Understand the range of sustainability performance analysis to communicate the co-benefits of sustainable design strategies.
- Identify how design teams can effectively integrate with grant strategists throughout the project lifecycle.

Guided Questions

- How can Landscape Architecture firms engage in climate-aligned funding?
- What are the most relevant social and environmental metrics to measure? (spoiler alert - it will depend on the audience and the project)
- Is there a certain scale of project that is necessary for certain grant sources? Or are there opportunities for a variety of scales, portions of projects, and entire efforts?