

2024 LANDSCAPE X SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, 8/24

Landscape X Culture X Community

Garden Wonderland & Black Sanctuary Gardens (1.25 PDH, LA CES/HSW)

Event Type: Lecture
Time: 10:30 am - 11:45 am
Location: Lakeside Suite
Capacity: 40

Leslie Bennett of Pine House Edible Gardens will present her landscape design work, including her new garden design book, *Garden Wonderland*, and her Black Sanctuary Gardens project, a series of visually inspired, nourishing and culturally grounded garden installations created in collaboration with Black women and communities in and around Oakland, CA.



PINE HOUSE
EDIBLE GARDENS

Panelists



Leslie Bennett | Founder and Owner, Pine House Edible Gardens

Leslie is a landscape designer and writer based in Oakland, California, who creates gardens that help to nourish us and tell the story of who we are. She is the founder and owner of Pine House Edible Gardens, an Oakland-based landscape design/build firm that creates culturally grounded gardens that provide as much visual inspiration as they do organic harvests of food, flowers and medicinal herbs. Leslie is also the founder of the Black Sanctuary Gardens project and is co-author of *Garden Wonderland* (Ten Speed Press, 2024) and *The Beautiful Edible Garden* (Ten Speed Press, 2013). She is included on the Elle Decor A-List for 2023 and the two years preceding, was named a Top 50 Black Trailblazer by Oprah in 2022, and is a recipient of the American Horticultural Society's Landscape Design Award. Raised in the Bay Area, Leslie holds degrees from Harvard University, Columbia Law School, and University College London in the fields of environmental justice, land use law, cultural property and preservation. She lives and gardens in Oakland with her two children.



Sarah Kuehl | Founding Partner, EinwillerKuehl Landscape Architecture

Sarah is known for being an idealistic pragmatist who can translate financial goals, words, desired experiences, community empowerment, and ecological goals into three dimensional spatial ideas. A master storyteller, Sarah has been recognized for her urban design visions that create generational impact. She lectures frequently about her work and the work of Einwiller Kuehl and is committed to improving the questions asked about land. Sarah was a fellow at the American Academy in Rome in 2004 and has twice served as a leader of the Xtreme LA Challenge. She graduated from Harvard with honors and wrote her senior thesis on the conflict between visual experience and 2D property rights through the lens of Hip Hop Graffiti Writers. She lives in Oakland, CA with her artist husband and their 3 children.

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Session Outline

In this lecture we will hear from garden designer and writer, Leslie Bennett, about her approach toward creating life-changing landscapes. We'll explore her belief that gardens can be places where we can experience awe-inspiring beauty, deepen our relationship with plants and each other, attune with nature and the seasons, and remember the stories we choose to tell about who we are and how we belong.

Leslie will share about her journey toward her career as a landscape designer and owner of Pine House Edible Gardens in Oakland, CA, expand on her philosophy of garden design, and share about her firm's equity pricing framework and Black Sanctuary Gardens project. Finally she will tell us about the inspiration for her new book Garden Wonderland, taking us on a photographic tour of some of the inspiring and beautiful garden spaces she and her team have created around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn about the Garden Wonderland themes of designing gardens for experience, beauty, connection and belonging
- Learn about the Black Sanctuary Gardens project and see gardens that center Black women and communities
- Learn about the photographic documentation of Black women in their gardens and the extension of place into message

Guided Questions

- Question 1: Gardens are an opportunity to create new realities for ourselves in collaboration with nature; how do the homeowners who enjoy the gardens included in Garden Wonderland describe their experience of connecting to plants and nature?
- Question 2: How does the photography of Black Sanctuary Gardens and Black women in their gardens augment our sense of what's possible?
- Question 3: How could this idea of centering Black women's wellness and experience extend into public spaces?