

January 2019

LACF Awards \$34,500 in Grants for 2019

The Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation (LACF) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2019 grants in support of research, communication and scholarship.

“LACF is proud to announce the nine grant recipients for 2019. Each project exemplifies the Canadian Landscape Charter; by documenting the expanding role landscape architects play in providing social, cultural, ecological, economic and health benefits to society”, said LACF President, Vincent Asselin, FCSLA. “The grants impact is multiplied as the recipients are required to share the results of their work.” The grants for 2019 cover a range of topics and tackle issues from how landscape architectural projects evolve over time to how we are forever losing valuable natural landscapes to climate change. Documentation of each grant is accessible through LACF’s online portfolio found at <http://lacf.ca/grants-portfolio>.”

2019 marks the grant has been awarded from the Donald Graham Bursary and the second grant from the Northern Research Fund.

Annual grant proposals are adjudicated and awarded by a national jury composed of six individuals from public, private and academic practices areas, representing the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairie, British Columbia regions and Canada’s north. The Board of the Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation extends recognition to the many individuals and component associations who through their annual donations make these grants possible.

Professional Grants

152 / Landmarks in Landscape Architecture

Dr. Alan Tate, University of Manitoba / Recipient of the Donald Graham Bursary / Grant \$5,000

Support for the preparation of a book and its publication with the working title Landmarks in Landscape Architecture. The publisher is Routledge / Taylor + Francis with submission to the publisher by November 2020 and release in mid-2021. The book will be a project-by-project study of significant, still existing works of landscape architecture worldwide, constructed since the Renaissance. A catalogue of 80+/- landscape architecture projects every landscape architect should be familiar with. It is intended to be an informative and convenient reference volume for students and practitioners of landscape architecture, and to have appeal for allied professions and cultural travellers.

The built works are important precedents in the practice of landscape architecture. The works will be organized by type and examined on the basis of date, size, designer, current condition, management and funding, and – in particular – a critique of lessons that they convey for practice of the discipline. The principal underlying theme is that significant works of landscape architecture from whatever era or location continue to exist because they express values and demonstrate design intentions that remain valid and continue to inform the practice of landscape architecture.

151 / Studio Problématiques: Thinking critically about Canadian Landscapes

Heather Braiden, Marcella Eaton, Susan Herrington, Karen Landman, Alissa North, Enrica Dall'Ara, Nicole Valois / Grant \$ 4,500

In 2017, a group of seven academic researchers from across Canada joined to work together to address barriers to, and collaborate on, research projects in Landscape Architecture. With generous support from the LACF, the group formalised the Land|Terre Design Research Network (LTD Research Network) at a 2018 Colloquium in Winnipeg. One key question that arose at the event was, how do we bridge the gap between academic research and research developed through practice? As academics, we acknowledge the challenges currently addressed in practice and aim to create a series of studio problématiques to actively engage and promote collaboration among students, academics, recent graduates, and professionals.

The group plans to develop and deliver a studio+field studies course that will occur concurrently at each of the landscape schools across the country with the support, expertise and engagement of local practitioners. The studio will revolve around a central theme, which each school will interpret to then bring forward to the 'national' studio exhibition. As a collective, the researchers will compare the results and curate the projects as a travelling exhibit for display at each of the schools. Also, LTD Research Network will publish the projects online. The ultimate goal is to build on the foundation of LTD Research Network and foster discussions of landscape architecture research, education, and practice in Canada.

150 / Undone - The Return to Earth

Emilia Hurd and Julia Smachylo / Grant \$6,500

What becomes of our landscape architectural projects as they age and evolve?

Undone - The Return to Earth is envisioned as a published book and a web resource. Landscape architects conceive, craft and construct; however, is there an alternative future end state to consider as part of the design process?

By bringing together rich descriptions, diagrammed depictions and in-depth interviews, our intent is to examine the status quo of fast construction, fast consumption and obsolescence and use this as a powerful motive for reflection on our design process. Theoretical and technical research will document the physical, chemical, biological and cultural agents of these processes. In addition, real-world case studies act as hybrid examples of how these processes recombine and impact the world. Whether through abandonment and neglect, or active demolition. Our research serves as a way to assert the end-of-life as an essential design consideration and point of speculation in the formulation of constructed projects. Not only do these realities re-frame how projects are conceived and designed, they challenge us to find other means to have a positive impact.

149 / Dispossession by Design: Recovering the role of landscape architects in the early colonial history of national parks in Canada

Tiffany Kaewen Dang, PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge, UK / Recipient of the Gunter Schoch Bursary / Grant: \$6,000

National Parks hold iconic significance in the Canadian imagination as the proverbial ‘natural jewels’ of the nation. However, behind these important landscapes lies a dark history of colonization, beginning with the establishment of Banff National Park in 1885 and the subsequent displacement of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation. For over a century, the Canadian national parks system has been utilized as an instrument for colonizing the so-called ‘frontier,’ promoting through tourism and conservation, an imaginary vision of untamed wilderness; thereby implementing procedures of Indigenous erasure and cultural domination.

Landscape architects have contributed to this national myth-building through the design of landscape projects within the national parks; the first Superintendent of Banff National Park, the first national park of Canada, was himself a landscape architect. Accordingly, this historical research allows for the interrogation of an alternate lineage of landscape architecture in Canada as having emerged from a geographical practice. This project aims to revisit the early history of the Canadian national parks system—as a continentally-scaled political tool of settler-colonialism and territorial assertion of settler-supremacy across the Canadian dominion—revealing its colonizing intent and dispossessive design through intersectional studies in geography, cartography, conservation, political theory, and landscape studies.

148 / The Reparative Logics of World War II Confinement Camp Preservation: British Columbia, Alaska and Hawai’i in Context

Desiree Valadares, PhD Candidate, UC Berkeley / Grant \$5,000

On April 1st 2017, the British Columbia Register of Historic Places recognized more than 56 sites, buildings, and landscapes as part of the Provincial Recognition Program’s Japanese-Canadian Historic Places Project to promote the study, management, preservation, and interpretation of these sites and their associated material culture. Included in the recognized places are World War II internment camps, self-supporting sites, and road camps, in addition to fishing, mining, and logging communities that confined Japanese-Canadians from 1942-1949. This dissertation aims to uncover the role of landscape/ruins/ material traces in the larger project of government recognition and redress for historical injustices.

The link between Canadian and U.S. wartime civilian internment practices remains unexplored in the historical literature despite valuable, recent contributions. Specificities of the internment and redress experiences in outlying geographies such as British Columbia, Alaska and Hawai’i are almost always written in separate volumes, with little to no reference to each other despite significant similarities. This doctoral thesis aims to work in dialogue with other scholars, primarily critical ethnic and indigenous scholars, who to challenge the concept of redress and reparations through a political economic lens to argue that neoliberal imperatives hamper the politics of reconciliation and instead, promote a false logic of economic equality and colorblindness.

Student Grants

147 / Literature Review of Available Research on Therapeutic Gardens and Designing for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Emily Thorpe (student intern) with Virginia Burt, FCSLA, FASLA of Virginia Burt Designs Landscape Architecture / Grant \$2,000

The intent of this research is to expand conceptions of universal design by accommodating the needs of neurological-diverse populations, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), in landscape and therapeutic garden design. Through the review of existing literature on therapeutic gardens, this research intends to increase awareness of the benefits of the natural environment. By reviewing literature on ASD, this research intends to distill design principles that further current recommendations on designing for human diversity.

The intent is to apply this research and resulting design principles to a healing garden project dedicated to people with ASD in a day program at Monarch School – for adults with ASD to be designed by Virginia Burt. It will be an application of the principle of People, Place and Program. It is this synergy that makes a healing garden truly beloved in relation to maintenance and long term health and wellness both of the environment and the people using it.

The results of the research and project will be shared widely via presentations and publications in the hopes that many others can benefit from the research and make spaces more accessible to all.

146 / Developing a manual and framework for iterative place-making in Canada's North

Thevishka Kanishkan, MLA Candidate, University of Toronto
Recipient of the Northern Research Fund Grant / Grant \$2,000

Canada's northern communities are changing fast. Climate change will lead to numerous social, economic, and infrastructure changes, including melting permafrost; possibility for food production; increased populations, shared wealth, and tourism; and a shifting sense of place, traditions, and connection to the land for Indigenous people. In addition, expanded natural resource exploration, tourism, and a history of "building wherever possible" has led to seasonal and temporary population booms, exacerbated social barriers, and undemocratic urban design decisions in these communities.

Iterative place-making is a tool of user-generated urbanism that can establish citizens' right to the built environment in their communities, improve safety, create a sense of place and belonging in times of flux.

The goal of this Master's thesis is two-fold. To develop an easy-to-read well-designed manual for every day northerners to use for iterative place-making. And secondly, development of a framework for iterative place-making in the north for landscape architects to build upon within the profession.

145 / Memory, Place & Change on the Tantramar Marshes

Aiden Fudge, MLA Candidate, University of Guelph / Grant \$1,500

The Tantramar Marshes, located at the heart of the maritime provinces of Canada, is a landscape layered in cultural and natural significance. As one of the largest contiguous salt marsh ecosystems on the east coast of North America, it possesses a stunning diversity of ecological services. A rich cultural history parallels its ecological value, a past that tells the story of pre and post-Canadian history, writ large across its fields, rivers, dykes, and architectural and landscape artifacts.

It is a landscape of 7,000-year-old evidence of Mi'kmaw hunting practices, 350-year-old Acadian traces of land reclamation from inhospitable salt marshes and the site of their expulsion by the British colonial forces. It is recognized in the maritime provinces as a cultural and ecological crossroads, an essential bridge of fragile land that connects Nova-Scotia to New Brunswick and the western expanse of mainland Canada. Rising sea levels and intensified storm systems are now threatening its future. It is in a vulnerable position. It has no overarching protection; there is currently no implemented adaptive strategy to protect its assets. This Master's thesis will tell its story as a landscape narrative, capture its genius loci through an inventory and analysis of its features, overlaid by predictions of the drastic change that is forecasted by the effects of climate change. This research will help to inform and empower future landscape interventions and conservation practices that seek to respond to the challenges of our times on the Tantramar Marshes.

144 / Urban Abundance: Alternative Future Landscape Scenarios to Increase Urban Food Security and Optimize Ecological Integrity in Ottawa, Canada

Kira Burger, MLA Candidate, University of Guelph / Grant \$2,000

Urban agriculture, defined as the cultivation, processing and distribution of crop and livestock goods within cities and towns, is widely regarded as an important strategy to enhance urban food security. Urban agriculture is associated with both positive and negative environmental impacts, and research the field of landscape ecology suggests that the spatial pattern of land uses, agriculture included, has critical ecological implications. Current efforts to increase urban agriculture in many North American cities are opportunistic, and lack a diversified, holistic approach that incorporates landscape pattern analysis to site urban agricultural activities in the urban matrix in configurations that optimize their benefits. This Master's thesis seeks to answer the question: What landscape pattern of urban agricultural production systems will optimize both food production and ecological integrity? Using a normative landscape scenario approach, alternative land-use schedules for the City of Ottawa will be developed to demonstrate how evidence-based placement of suitable, high-yielding urban agricultural typologies across the urban fabric can contribute positively to food security, public welfare, and ecological integrity. This research will challenge conventional planning approaches for urban agriculture and contribute to a better understanding of the limitations and potential for cities to enhance both food security and environmental quality.

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