

FRI-B10 - In Pursuit of Big Ideas: Time-out for Research, Innovation, and Thought Leadership

There's a growing need for opportunities outside the workplace to develop and explore new ideas and research that can inform design practice. Gain insights from leadership at the American Academy in Rome, Loeb Fellowship, Dumbarton Oaks, and the Landscape Architecture Foundation on how these and similar institutions can support such efforts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Discover the range of research and fellowship opportunities available to landscape architects and learn about each program's distinct mission, objectives, and structure.
- Gain perspective from each of these programs on why investing the time to pursue independent research matters.
- Learn about the work and accomplishments of past and present landscape architects through these programs.
- Increase awareness and significance of programs and opportunities that support and strengthen the profession's leadership capacity.

Panel



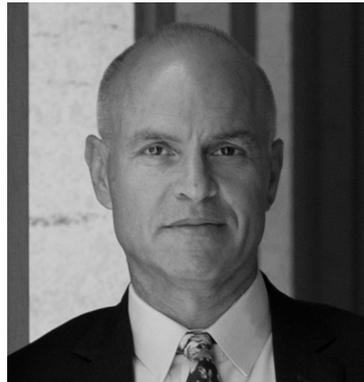
Jennifer Low, ASLA, PLA (Moderator)
Program Manager, Landscape Architecture Foundation

Jennifer is the Program Manager for the Leadership and Scholarship programs, including the new *LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership*. She is licensed Landscape Architect with over eleven years of professional experience in Southern California, San Francisco, New York City, and Seattle. As a designer and project manager, she has worked on a wide range of public and private sector project types and scales in collaboration with a diverse spectrum of client and stakeholder groups and leaders in the design, architecture, and engineering industries on both sides of the coast.



John Peterson
Curator
Loeb Fellowship Program

John Peterson, architect, educator and activist, is Curator of the Loeb Fellowship. Peterson is the founder of Public Architecture, a national nonprofit organization based in San Francisco. The organization's work has been showcased at the Venice Architecture Biennale, MoMA, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, the Benaki Museum in Athens, and the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam. Public Architecture's 1+ program challenges architecture and design firms to pledge a minimum of 1% of their time in pro bono services to nonprofits in need and has attracted participation from over 1500 firms nationwide.



Mark Robbins, ASLA
President and CEO, American
Academy in Rome

Mark Robbins is President/CEO of the American Academy in Rome, an international center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Robbins was previously Executive Director of the International Center of Photography, Dean and Professor at Syracuse University School of Architecture, Director of Design at the National Endowment for the Arts and the first Curator of Architecture at the Wexner Center for the Arts. His creative work bridges both art and architecture. His awards include a 1996 Rome Prize in Design and a visual arts fellowship from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.



Anatole Tchikine, PhD
Assistant Director of Garden and
Landscape Studies, Dumbarton
Oaks

Trained as an architecture historian, Anatole works on the intersections of the histories of architecture, landscape, and science and technology. His research addresses three main areas: the history of early modern botanical gardens and collecting, fountain design and the role of water in urban and garden settings in Renaissance and Baroque Italy, and landscape and identity in Tuscany. He has taught at Trinity College Dublin, Rutgers University, and Maryland Institute College of Art, and held prestigious fellowships from Dumbarton Oaks and the Medici Archive Project in Florence. He is a co-editor of *The Botany of Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century* (Dumbarton Oaks, 2016) and editor of *Constructing a "Third Nature": Gardens and Landscapes of the Italian Renaissance* (University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming).

Presentation Outline

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- Future of Landscape Architecture
- Demand and need in the profession and practice
 - Increased complexity of 21st century challenges
 - Broad scope of the profession
 - Advocacy and policy transformation
- Support toward building capacity for leadership and innovation
 - Rome Prize, American Academy of Rome
 - Loeb Fellowship
 - Dumbarton Oaks
 - LAF Fellowship and Innovation and Leadership

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Loeb Fellowship	CHANGE THE WORLD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Mission and Objectives • Program and community structure • Additional research opportunities, resources, advisors, benefits, etc. • Past Landscape Architects participants and their fellowship work
American Academy of Rome	SUPPORT INNOVATIVE ARTISTS + SCHOLARS		
Dumbarton Oaks	ADVANCE SCHOLARSHIP		

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Independent Research and Design: Why it matters to practice
- The Landscape Architect's role within the context of the broader design community
- How cultural institutions can support Landscape Architects and the profession
- Body of work supported by these programs

Loeb Fellowship

MISSION AND OBJECTIVE

The Loeb Fellowship is designed for civic leaders, journalists, architects, technologists, urban planners and designers, activists, landscape architects, policy makers, and public artists who come from around the world to the Harvard Graduate School of Design with one purpose: to make the world a better place for all.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Overview

Loeb Fellows are accomplished practitioners, influential in shaping the built and natural environment, whose work is advancing positive social outcomes in the US and around the world. In the middle of promising careers they step away from their hectic professional lives for one academic year. Fellows audit classes at the GSD and throughout the vast network of Harvard and MIT. They engage with faculty and students, participate in Fellowship events, and collaborate with their peers. They become part of a powerful growing network of colleagues passionately committed to revitalizing communities.

Expectations

There are very few requirements; fellows create schedules based on their goals for their Fellowship year.

Fellows must agree to step away from any significant roles with their employers and other employment responsibilities; to refrain from professional work during the fellowship year, except as approved by the Loeb curator; and to audit a minimum of one course at the GSD per semester. Fellows also must remain in residence in the Cambridge area while classes are in session and participate in all Fellowship programs, most notably weekly seminars and trips.

The Work Plan: Each fellow develops an individual work plan with input from program leadership, which is updated periodically. At the end of the year a summary of the results of the plan is included in the final program report.

Courses: Fellows are expected to audit at least one course at the GSD each semester and may take additional courses that advance their work plan goals. Fellows may audit courses at Harvard College, any of the 11 Harvard graduate schools, and MIT. Fellows may not take courses for academic credit and may not be enrolled in a degree program.

Seminars: The weekly seminars, jointly organized by program leaders and the Fellows, are a time to debate ideas and share work. Fellows may organize additional seminars open to the GSD community and the public on subjects of interest, often bringing outside colleagues to the school to discuss and present innovative projects and ideas.

Dinners: Following longstanding tradition, the class hosts a weekly or biweekly dinner with an invited guest from the professional or academic community. These are opportunities for lively conversation and a deeper examination of the guest's work and thinking.

Study Tours: Each year fellows participate in two study tours. During the fall semester a study tour to a destination in continental North America is organized by Loeb alumni. Site visits, workshops and discussions with local leaders provide an intensive "Loeb's eye view" of a place. In the spring the class embarks on an international study tour to exchange ideas with professionals and leaders in other countries. The Loeb's typically travel with a GSD studio and engage with the students in that studio throughout the semester.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 5, 2018

WEBSITE: <https://loebfellowship.gsd.harvard.edu>

American Academy in Rome

MISSION AND OBJECTIVE

Founded in 1894, the American Academy in Rome is a leading international center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. A not-for-profit, privately funded institution, AAR annually offers the Rome Prize Fellowship and Italian Fellowships to a select group of artists and scholars, after an application process that begins each fall. The winners, selected by independent juries through a national competition process, are invited to Rome the following year to pursue their work in an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and artistic experimentation and interdisciplinary exchange. Fellowships are offered in the following categories: Literature, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Historic Preservation and Conservation, as well as Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern, and Modern Italian Studies.

To date, AAR has fueled critical thinking, research, and work for over 1,700 artists and scholars who are leaders in their fields and whose rich and significant output continues to fill museums, concert halls, libraries, and universities across the U.S., and around the world.

In addition to the Rome Prize winners and Italian Fellows, AAR also invites a select group of Residents, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars to work within this exceptional community in Rome.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Overview

Each year, the Rome Prize is awarded to about thirty artists and scholars who represent the highest standard of excellence and who are in the early or middle stages of their careers.

Recipients of a full-term Rome Prize Fellowship are invited to Rome for approximately eleven months. Half-term fellowships (lasting about 5-months) are offered in Design. Applicants in Architecture, Historic Preservation & Conservation, and Landscape Architecture have a choice of either full- or half-term fellowships. Pre-doctoral applicants in the field of art history may apply for a two-year fellowship.

A Rome Prize includes room and board, a stipend (\$28,000 for a full term fellowship and \$16,000 for a half term fellowship) and separate work space, as well as privileged access to Rome.

Rome Prize winners are the core of the Academy's residential community, which also includes Affiliated Fellows, Residents and Visiting Artists and Visiting Scholars.

Selection Process

Nine juries, representing a broad cross-section of leaders in the various Rome Prize disciplines are appointed annually to judge the candidate pool. The juries convene from January through March and finalists are expected to travel to the Academy office in New York for interviews. The winners are approved by the Academy Board of Trustees and announced in mid-April.

The Jurors' primary criterion is excellence. They will consider the quality of an applicant's submission and select candidates who are not only outstanding in their respective fields, but also at a point in their careers where the Rome Prize is likely to be crucial to their future growth and development.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 1 with an extended deadline of November 15 for an additional fee.

WEBSITE: www.aarome.org

Dumbarton Oaks

MISSION AND OBJECTIVE

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, affiliated with the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, supports research and learning internationally in Byzantine, Garden and Landscape, and Pre-Columbian studies through fellowships and internships, meetings, and exhibitions. Located in residential Georgetown, Dumbarton Oaks is one of the few institutions in the world with a program devoted to garden and landscape studies that is targeted at both humanities scholars and landscape practitioners.

The Garden and Landscape Studies program was established in 1972 to support advanced scholarship in garden history and landscape architecture, encompassing the study of culturally and artistically significant landscapes around the world from ancient times to the present. The program seeks to deepen the understanding of landscape and gardens as a field of knowledge and research and as a practice carried out by landscape architects, landscape artists, and gardeners.

In addition to that, Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks has received a major award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create a new interdisciplinary program in urban landscape studies. The Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies is organized around broadly conceived themes and structured to acknowledge the current importance of sustainability, adaptability, and resilience, while encouraging a greater historical awareness of these concepts. The themes promote an understanding of cities as landscape systems by inviting engagement with such topics as topography, hydrology, climate, and urban form; landscape and public history; the urban/rural interface; urban biodiversity; productive urban landscapes; the repurposing of derelict urban spaces; and informal urbanism. In these ways, the project seeks to enlarge the discourse of landscape urbanism, still relatively professionalized and Western in focus, to encompass a wide range of cultures and topics.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

In selecting fellows, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks seeks a balance between historical research and investigations of current practice, between inquiries at the scale of the garden and those addressing larger landscapes. The program invites consideration of all aspects of this interdisciplinary and international field: agricultural, architectural, art historical, botanical, cultural, ecological, economic, geographical, horticultural, social, and technological. Applicants are encouraged to consider topics from a variety of perspectives, including design, patronage, iconography, ideology, reception, preservation, landscape performance, and user experience; and using methods from other relevant fields of the humanities (art history and criticism, literary studies, philosophy) and of the social sciences (social history, cultural geography, cultural studies, social anthropology). Complementing a traditional focus on garden history, the program invites research into the impact of current environmental conditions-accelerated global urbanization and climate change, for example-on contemporary design.

The program involves four principal components: semester-long fellowships to be shared among designers and academics, with additional opportunities for field research funding; shorter-term invitational residencies for senior practitioners; a series of academic events, such as the Mellon Midday Dialogues, that create a framework for interactions among these scholars and practitioners, along with other humanities scholars at Dumbarton Oaks and neighboring academic institutions; and a series of public programs including lectures, colloquia, workshops, and publications, all aimed at disseminating the initiative's work nationally and internationally.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Project Grants, Regular, and Junior Fellowships are due November 1. Mellon Fellowships are due January 4.

WEBSITE: <https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/mellon-initiative-in-urban-landscape-studies/overview>

LAF Fellowship

MISSION AND OBJECTIVE

The LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership was established to foster transformational leadership capacity and support innovation to advance the field of landscape architecture. The \$25,000 fellowship is an opportunity for mid-career or senior-level professionals to dedicate the equivalent of 3 months' time over the course of one year to nurture emerging ideas and to think deeply. It is designed as a time to reflect, research, explore, create, test, and develop ideas into action.

Each year, 3-5 fellowships are awarded through a competitive application process based on a proposed project. Selected Fellows receive a \$25,000 financial award and participate in three 2.5-day residencies over the course of a year, as well as monthly conference calls. Selected projects must demonstrate the potential to bring about impactful change to the environment and humanity and have the capacity to grow the leadership potential of landscape architects.

The LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership nurtures and inspires landscape architecture professionals toward the following goals:

1. Support Innovation in Landscape Architecture
2. Cultivate Transformational Leadership
3. Foster Intergenerational Mentorship

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Three residencies form the core of the year-long LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership. At the residencies, Fellows present their projects and progress, explore the concepts of transformational leadership, and participate in facilitated discussions. The time between residencies provides an open structure for Fellows to work in-depth on their projects with monthly check-in calls. At the final residency, Fellows share their findings and results with targeted stakeholders in a symposium format.

Cohorts

Each year 3-5 Fellows and up to 4 emerging professionals from LAF's Olmsted Scholars Program are selected for the fellowship program. These 6-9 individuals are brought together as a cohort team and participate in the fellowship year together under the guidance and support of their fellowship facilitator(s). The final residency for one cohort overlaps with the first residency for the following year's cohort, allowing for more knowledge-sharing and exchange.

Residencies

Fellows are required to participate in three 2.5-day residencies in Washington, D.C. over the course of the fellowship year. Full attendance and participation in each of the residencies is crucial to the success of the fellowship and is mandatory to receive funding. Travel and lodging stipends are provided.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 1

WEBSITE: <https://lafoundation.org/laf-fellowship>

Appendix

OTHER NOTABLE FELLOWSHIP / RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Landscape Architecture / Architecture / Urban Design Focus

Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies: Dumbarton Oaks, short-term (up to one month) invitational residencies for senior practitioners

Daniel Urban Kiley Teaching Fellowship in Landscape Architecture:

<http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/landscape-architecture/fellowships-prizes-and-travel-programs/daniel-urban-kiley-teaching-fellowship-in-landscape-architecture-2016-2017>

Graham Foundation: http://www.grahamfoundation.org/grant_programs

Forefront Fellowship: <http://urbandesignforum.org/join/fellowships>

Humanities

The MacDowell Colony: <http://www.macdowellcolony.org>

Implementation: Interdisciplinary Opportunities

Knight Foundation: <https://knightfoundation.org>

Roddenberry Fellowship: <https://rodtenberryfellowship.org/about/>

Rose Architectural Fellowship: <http://www.enterprisecommunity.org/solutions-and-innovation/design-leadership/rose-architectural-fellowship>

Travel Fellowships

H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellowship: <http://www.sah.org/jobs-and-careers/sah-fellowships-and-grants/h-allen-brooks-travelling-fellowship>

Discussion Notes