

April 10, 2025

## **BCSLA Conference 2025 Themes and Call for Abstract**

### ***Breaking New Ground: The Future of Landscape Architecture***

**October 17-19, 2025**

This conference brings together landscape architects, researchers, and industry leaders to explore bold ideas shaping the future of the profession. From cutting-edge technologies to ecological wisdom refined over generations, *Breaking New Ground* highlights transformative solutions that drive sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity. Through dynamic discussions on emerging tools, community-driven design, and ecological stewardship, attendees will gain fresh insights and innovative strategies for designing, building, and managing landscapes in a rapidly changing world. *Breaking New Ground* provides a platform for leadership, greater collaboration, and the exchange of ideas and insights that will shape the future of landscape architecture.

#### **Sub-themes:**

##### **Reconciliation in Practice: *Advancing Indigenous Knowledge and Collaboration***

As landscape architecture evolves, integrating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives is essential for meaningful truth and reconciliation. This subtheme explores how practitioners can work collaboratively with Indigenous communities to honor cultural landscapes, implement traditional ecological knowledge, and design spaces that reflect Indigenous histories, values, and stewardship practices.

##### **Climate-Ready Landscapes: *Innovations in Resilience and Nature-Based Design***

With climate change accelerating, landscape architects must lead the way in designing resilient, adaptable environments. This subtheme delves into cutting-edge approaches such as nature-based solutions, green infrastructure, and adaptive urban design that mitigate climate impacts, enhance biodiversity, and create sustainable, future-proofed landscapes.

##### **The Tech-Driven Landscape: *AI, Data, and Emerging Tools in Design***

From AI-driven modeling to smart landscapes and geospatial analysis, technological advancements are transforming the practice of landscape architecture. This subtheme examines how emerging tools are reshaping design processes, improving efficiency, and enabling data-driven decision-making to create more responsive and intelligent landscapes.

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### **Regenerative Futures: *Designing Inclusive and Adaptive Communities***

As cities grow and social needs evolve, landscape architects play a critical role in designing spaces that promote equity, accessibility, and ecological regeneration. This subtheme explores innovative strategies for inclusive place-making, adaptive reuse, and regenerative design that prioritize community well-being, cultural expression, and environmental stewardship.

### **The Evolving Practitioner: *New Skills, Roles, and Business Models in Landscape Architecture***

The landscape architecture profession is expanding, requiring new skills, business models, and approaches to firm organization. This subtheme highlights how practitioners are adapting to shifting market demands, interdisciplinary collaboration, and evolving leadership structures. Topics include alternative business models, new organizational frameworks, innovative workplace cultures, and emerging opportunities that are redefining the profession in response to climate action, digital transformation, and community-driven design.

### **Submission Guidelines**

We invite submissions that contribute to this forward-looking dialogue on landscape architecture.

### **Submission requirements**

- Abstracts must be submitted as an PDF document, in single-space, Arial 12 font
- The deadline for abstract submissions is **Friday, May 16, 2025**.
- Please note that presenters must be registered for the conference.
- Presentations of projects located on Indigenous lands must include an Indigenous co-presenter involved in the project or have the permission of the First Nation, Métis or Inuit community in lieu.

### **Abstracts of proposed Conference presentations are to include:**

- Title and Author(s)
- Email address of the corresponding author
- Notation of whether or not it is a student paper and the name of the student's institution
- An abstract of no more than 250 words that clearly outline the research, project, or case study's objectives, methodology, key findings, and relevance to the conference themes.

Send abstracts or queries about your submission as an email attachment to **[bcslaconference@gmail.com](mailto:bcslaconference@gmail.com)**: with the words "**Conference Proposal**" in the subject line. After initial review, the Committee may approach applicants to discuss changes that could improve their submission.

*Continued overleaf:*

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### **Presentation Format**

The presentation format anticipates a 20-minute Graphic presentation or a 45-minute panel discussion.

We invite landscape architects to think beyond the traditional presentation format and explore dynamic ways to engage their audience. Consider incorporating roundtable discussions that bring together intergenerational perspectives, from senior practitioners to interns, fostering rich dialogue and fresh insights. Interactive storytelling, live design charrettes, or short, high-energy PechaKucha-style talks can make complex topics more accessible and compelling. Creative panel formats—such as debates, audience-driven Q&As, or hands-on demonstrations—can also spark deeper engagement. Whether through multimedia, collaboration, or unexpected formats, we encourage presenters to make their sessions thought-provoking, interactive, and memorable.

### **Review & Selection**

Submissions will be reviewed by the Program Committee using the following criteria:

- Alignment with theme: To what extent does the presentation align with conference themes?
- Meaningful content: does the proposal demonstrate relevant theory, practice, and/or research?
- Audience appeal: Will the session interest, inform and inspire the audience in their professional work?
- All submissions will be reviewed by the BCSLA Conference Committee.
- Notice of acceptance will be sent in early July and abstracts sent before the deadline may receive earlier notice of acceptance.

Join us in shaping the future of landscape architecture through dialogue, innovation, and collaboration. We look forward to your contributions!

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