



**LANDSCAPE  
INSTITUTE**  
THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

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Our new name is *The Landscape Institute at the BAC*. During our upcoming transition to our new home at the Boston Architectural College (BAC), we will retain the integrity of the Landscape Design, Preservation, and History Certificates at an advanced level and will incorporate an additional undergraduate certificate in Planting Design. We aspire to maintain our faculty, staff, students, and programs. In the future, we expect to provide interested students with the option to transfer into the Bachelor (BLA) while retaining the integrity of the certificate programs for those who do not wish to pursue a degree.

Onsite resources at the BAC, combined with the additional services of the full administrative and academic staff, will support our operating systems, academic quality, educational and entrepreneurial endeavors, and outreach programs. Our sister programs at the BAC will include the Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Design, the Historic Preservation Certificate and degree programs in Architecture, Interior Design, Design Studies, and Landscape Architecture. Students will have the chance to meet fellow designers; these students and practitioners may be your future clients and collaborators.

The criteria used for evaluating a new academic home included:

- Maintain the integrity of the Landscape Institute name, curriculum, special programs, and certificate programs
- Maintain an ongoing tie to our alumni and the Arnold Arboretum, as well as educational partnerships with professional organizations such as the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA), Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD), Community Outreach Group (COG), New England Landscape Design and History Association (NELDHA), NorthEast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), and The Underground
- Continue to be an open-enrollment program that is flexible both in terms of the time of day that classes are offered and in the self-paced sequence of study
- Strive to retain the current faculty and continue to offer high-quality courses with our experienced teachers and professionals
- Relocate within close proximity of our current location with enhanced public transportation, parking, and food options
- Be housed within an institution that will support our ambitions to offer online courses and provide a beneficial relationship with a degree-granting program
- Be better able to provide student services and resources including an excellent lending library, computer labs and media technology, and vibrant exhibition program
- Be better able to serve our students with an active Institutional Advancement staff to aid in fundraising, scholarship initiatives, and grants

- Broaden our academic network, both within degree-granting programs and through course reciprocity with schools such as those in the *ProArts Consortium*
- Expand travel opportunities

*The following are a list of common questions that may help those interested in understanding the current situation, our historic relationship to Harvard University, and our future relationship with the Boston Architectural College.*

## **Common Questions and Answers**

### **Section 1: Why the Boston Architectural College? How will the Landscape Institute fit into the BAC's strategic growth?**

#### **1. Who is the BAC?**

The Boston Architectural College is a dynamic institution on the leading edge of design education. Located in the heart of Boston's historic Back Bay, the BAC is the largest independent, accredited college of spatial design, founded in 1883. With over 1100 students, the BAC offers accredited undergraduate and graduate programs in Architecture and Interior Design, undergraduate programs in Landscape Architecture and Design Studies, and Continuing Education and Certificate programs. The BAC stresses excellence in practice-based professional education, and accessibility to the design professions. The BAC is recognized by *DesignIntelligence* as providing World-class Programs with High Distinction.

In addition to its degree programs, the BAC offers an extensive array of Continuing Education courses. Professionals and non-professionals alike can choose to take a course or enroll in certificate programs covering the following areas: Advanced Architectural Rendering and Design Computing, Kitchen and Bath, Residential Interiors, Historic Preservation, Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Design, and now, the Landscape Institutes' landscape design, landscape preservation and history certificates.

The BAC is also a center for professional development, offering practicing architects and interior designers an opportunity to obtain continuing education credit by taking courses at the BAC and in their own firms.

#### **2. Where is the BAC exactly?**

The BAC is located in Boston's historic Back Bay . The main building is located at 320 Newbury Street, and additional classroom spaces are located at 100 Massachusetts Avenue and 951/955 Boylston Street (the former Institute of Contemporary Art). The College is next to the Green Line - Hynes Convention Center stop and close to Copley Square. Numerous bus routes pass within close proximity of the school, and there are an ample supply of parking lots and street parking for the savvy seeker.

### **3. Will Landscape Institute students fit with the BAC student demographic?**

The BAC students in Continuing Education range from 25 to 60 years old and are 53% male and 47% female. The average age is 28.7. The Landscape Institute does not have current age information for its student body, but historically the age range has been between the ages of 34 to 65. Our sense is the BAC's Continuing Education average age is similar to recent trends in our new student demographic which show an increased number of students in their thirties and a greater number of male students. We do not anticipate "fitting-in" to be a problem, as the BAC students juggle similar career transition issues such as: work, family, and professional studies in a manner similar to our student body.

The Landscape Institute student body is diverse in terms of prior education, careers, and upbringing, but has been falsely interpreted as the domain of the leisure class. The BAC student body is composed of serious students intent on practicing design and engaged in rigorous study. The BAC student body is diverse and ranges in age, career and educational backgrounds in ways that are similar to our Landscape Institute students. Both groups are drawn to the study of spatial design out of passion for the design disciplines and arts, for the sake of self improvement and to pursue life-long learning.

### **4. Will the program allow for movement from a certificate program to a degree program? Or have several levels?**

Yes, there are avenues for advanced study beyond the traditional certificate program. Please see opening remarks on pg. 1 for a description of future opportunities for growth.

### **5. The history of the Landscape Institute is unique. Is this going to stay part of the LI/BAC program(s)?**

In the interest of brevity the answer is yes, absolutely.

### **6. Clearly the BAC has resources and infrastructure the LI facility does not have. There seems to be a lot of potential for synergy in the long-run with the BAC. Please outline for the students what some of future advantages will be:**

- a. Full access student identification cards, complete with lending library privileges at both the BAC and the Hunnewell Library in Jamaica Plain;
- b. Student and faculty email services
- c. Students taking more than 9 credits per term may apply for student health insurance
- d. CE offers advising to prospective and current students on BAC's many certificate and degree programs. Since it works closely with the Admissions Office, students are encouraged to seek additional advice from that office for specific information about degree programs. An appointment with staff is suggested.
- e. Access to a facility and computer labs which remain open Monday-Sunday. See the BAC's Resource section on their website for further information. This will

enable students to have access to resources during days/times they were unable to do so at the 30 Chauncy Street location. It will also allow the LI to expand curriculum options into the weekend.

- f. The BAC has on-site security and facilities staff, in addition to a full set of administrative staff to serve students in key areas such as registration, audio-visual and computer services, and a Learning Resource Center (LRC). Students can drop-in or make an appointment with this office, 617-585-0174.

## Section 2: The Move

### 7. The move to the BAC is a go!

The BAC board and sub-committees conducted a series of queries and votes culminating with an affirmative vote July 9, 2009. The Arnold Arboretum and the BAC board have finalized the transfer of the program.

### 8. How will 2009/10 academic year play out? Will it transition slowly, incrementally, or right away?

Fall classes will be held at the Boston Architectural College. The Arboretum is eager to be released from the overhead cost of our current facility.

The Landscape Institute will move the program during the months of July and August 2009, in order to ensure that all is prepared for students to take classes come September 2009. The current LI staff is currently working with a team of BAC staff members to transition the program to the new location.

The first priority is to get registration up and running by July 27, 2009. The LI/BAC staff are currently organizing and moving faculty services to the new location, preparing the course information for the BAC's Registrar, and making sure that as much information is available to all students and faculty as possible.

Once registration is up and running, the LI staff will coordinate the physical move of all records and LI historical materials, and begin the database integration process. While not all of this will be completed by the end of August, we expect to have the physical data transfer completed no later than August 30, 2009. Additional database updates will occur after students have enrolled for the Fall 2009 semester.

### 9. Will tuition change?

Tuition will change, gradually. The program currently receives a subsidy from the Arnold Arboretum and tuition has not increased during the last four years. The subsidy provided by the Arboretum will go away, and it will be necessary to bring tuition gradually up to the market rate for the region and the BAC's established programs. For all **returning Landscape Institute students** (anyone who is currently in our database as having taken and completed a class for credit) the tuition will raise in ¼ increments over a two year period until it reaches the continuing education graduate-level credit cost. A full schedule of tuition rates will be available

shortly. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE YOUR LI STUDENT DISCOUNT YOU MUST REGISTER WITH THE BAC BY MAIL, FAX (617-585-0121), PHONE (617-585-0101), or in person only. Manual registration will allow the registrar to identify you as a returning student and apply your discount.

**10. What advice do you offer students who are either new, currently enrolled for the fiscal year 2008-09 and will be returning, and for those who are “ever so close to finishing”?**

Current students and students returning to the program after an extended absence of more than one year:

Students returning to the program will receive full credit for their coursework to date as well as a graduated tuition discount for the first two years. A graduated tuition discount means that tuition will rise in 4 equal increments, Fall/Winter 2009-10, Spring/Summer 2010, Fall/Winter 2010-11, and Spring/Summer 2011. By the Spring of 2011, tuition will be equal to the established rate of the certificate programs at the BAC, with the steepest discounts being given for the Fall of 2009. Instructions on how to receive returning student discounts are available on the Arnold Arboretum and Boston Architectural College website. Students who have completed 25% of their coursework with the LI of the Arnold Arboretum may request a certificate from which bears the insignia of both the Arnold Arboretum and the Boston Architectural College.

Students nearing completion of the program:

Students who complete the program in the next two years will receive a dual certificate from both the BAC and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Students who have completed 40% of their coursework by September 1, 2009 may apply to receive a dual certificate as well and are encouraged to identify themselves to the director via email, [heather.heimarck@the-bac.edu](mailto:heather.heimarck@the-bac.edu). *In addition to the BAC student discount, the Arboretum has provided a special tuition relief fund for students nearing completion of the program.* Instructions on eligibility and how to apply will be available before registration opens on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

New students:

Welcome to a dynamic community! Students who have never enrolled in a Landscape Institute class before will not receive a tuition discount at the new facility. The discount will also not be available to current BAC students who cross-register in Landscape Institute programs.

**11. What will happen to the current director, Heather Heimarck; Administrative Coordinator, Ann Greaney Williams; and Registrar/Bursar, Laura Wilson?**

The Director, Heather Heimarck is looking forward to her continued directorship, is already enjoying collaboration with the BAC staff and is working on expanding the programs that the Landscape Institute offers over time. Ann Greaney-Williams and Laura Wilson are currently considering their options, we hope they will continue with the program.

**What's NEXT?** *You are invited to participate!*

- **Student Community Meeting:** Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Landscape Institute, 30 Chauncy Street, Cambridge
- **Open House Reception at the BAC** for students, alumni, and faculty and friends on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Meet the President and staff of the BAC.
- **Registration** will be open on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. Registration will occur by mail, fax, phone, or in person, and with digitally emailed forms (no online registration this semester). Additional information will be provided shortly.
- **On-line catalog** will be available starting Thursday, July 23 at <http://arboretum.harvard.edu/programs/ld/courses>
- **BAC Continuing Education Info Session: Saturday, August 29, 10:00 AM to 12 Noon.** Receive additional information about our continuing education courses and certificate programs; learn more about the Landscape Institute at the BAC.

Resources:

If you have not been receiving emails please check your spam filter and contact Laura Wilson to check your email address in the registration database.

Online resources include:

The Arnold Arboretum website: [www.landscape.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://www.landscape.arboretum.harvard.edu))

The BAC website: [www.the-bac.edu/LI](http://www.the-bac.edu/LI) and

The BAC Continuing Education website: [www.the-bac.edu/ce](http://www.the-bac.edu/ce).

We are now on LinkedIn. [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2000470&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2000470&trk=hb_side_g)