

Saskatchewan Chapter

Member Update - Spring 2021

From the Chapter President

Dear members, sponsors and colleagues,

As I enter my first year as President of A4LE this will be my first formal message to you. I hope everyone is doing well and managing to enjoy our weather as it finally warms up. This summer should be quite interesting with Covid still lingering, but the vaccination process accelerating, we hope to meet as a group soon. We continue to plan for virtual events this year, but the opportunity to meet in person remains temptingly within our grasp. Watch for details as we fine tune things over the next little while.

We want to acknowledge a couple of new members to the Chapter Executive, Victoria Yong-Hing and Leif Friggstad. Brief bios are available further into this newsletter. Welcome to the team Leif and Victoria, we are welcome your expertise and fresh perspectives.

The Gerry McCudden scholarship for students heading to post-secondary education is once more being offered, with submissions closing June 24, 2021. It is always exciting to see the responses from the students and get a sense of how the design and operation of educational facilities are being experienced.

Thank you for your continued participation and enthusiasm in our professional community, and sponsors for your incredible support and advice.

Finally, I'd like to give a special shout-out of appreciation to our Chapter Board of Directors and to Donna Robinson, our Director of Region & Chapter Services, for their tireless work on behalf of A4LE.

Best regards,
Daniel Reeves, President

Governor's Report

The Spring is finally bringing some glimmer of hope that we will come out of the pandemic. Our thoughts remain with those who lost loved ones or contracted the virus.

The USA recently announced relaxing restrictions for those that are fully vaccinated, and plans for LearningScapes this fall are moving forward for an in-person event.

A4LE is offering a chance to view some of the great speaker sessions that were going to be offered at the Regional conferences this past year. You should have received an email to register and more details are offered later in this newsletter.

We lost a few members this past quarter, likely due to Covid and financial cutbacks. Hopefully we will see these members return and appreciate those who continue to support A4LE and stay involved. School construction is active in Saskatchewan and there is much to be learned from our colleagues and peers.

We are always happy to hear from you with suggestions or updates on new projects that we can share.

Stay well,
Heather Morgan, Governor, Saskatchewan Chapter

PS. As always – we would love to see what you are doing! remember to tag your photos with @a4le2 and @a4le_pnw or #a4le_pnw

International Update

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (JEDI)

Members – This is an opportunity to affect and shape A4LE policy on an international level.

The Regional Board recently added 2 positions to grow the JEDI awareness and involvement and to liaison with the international committee. We would like to welcome Faye Strong as the Canadian representative, and Ruwan Jayaweera in the USA. Faye and Ruwan will both bring a tremendous amount of insight to this role and we welcome their guidance.

**Get Involved; Stay Engaged;
Change the World**

We invited Faye to introduce herself and tell us a little more about what inspired her interest in the JEDI committee:

“My name is Faye Strong, I work for a firm in Cochrane, Alberta, as an ALEP and a Canadian Gold Seal Construction Manager. My work focuses on Indigenous (FNMI) education infrastructure. My dream is to see equitable learning environments established within Indigenous Communities that support traditional languages and pedagogies. Too many Indigenous Students in Canada must leave their communities in order to complete their education and consequently leave behind language, culture, and the support of the families and communities. Most of these communities have sufficient demographics to justify K – 12 programs and facilities. I work with Youth, Educators, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Language/Cultural Instructors, and Community Leaders to document retention, demographics, and education programing requirements. The traditional methods of sharing knowledge within Indigenous Communities are effective and engaging; they have a higher rate of retention than Eurocentric education programs. Out of concern for the lack of infrastructure within these communities, as a volunteer, I have met with federal and provincial departments to try to build understanding and close the gap on capital funding. As I see programs building within communities, I see youth gaining confidence to overcome the impact of colonialism in Canada.”

Board members Paul Blaser and Heather Morgan took part in a 5k walk on May 5th to promote awareness for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG), organized by the Tsow-Tun Le Lum First Nation.



20 Under 40

The 20 Under 40 event has been a highlight for young professionals who are looking for the opportunity to network with their peers. We are hoping to resume this event in 2022, in Calgary AB. Keep posted for future updates as we get closer to the event.

Register Now for A4LE's Association Days Digital Conference!

Feeling a little FOMO lately? The membership not only missed out on connecting with their peers, but also on dozens of great speaker submissions for the **Regional Conferences!**

A4LE is offering a chance to make up for that with their A4LE Association Days Digital Conference. You should have received an email with a link. Your registration gives you access to one conference. The additional 'tracks' are access to others. The sessions are still being confirmed, along with the agenda. Look for more on that in early June or register at the link below:



A reminder to members that the A4LE Member's Forum is a treasure trove of information from within the group on COVID measures used across the chapters. There are white papers, documents and reports addressing measures and protocols in use.

[Members Forum Web Link](#)

Gerry McCudden Scholarship

The [Gerry McCudden Scholarship](#) is a competitive, merit-based scholarship program designed for graduating grade twelve students who desire financial support for their pursuit of post-secondary educational opportunities.

We are pleased to be able to offer one scholarship this year, with the submissions due June 24, 2021. The information packages have been sent to the school divisions. Please contact [Dan Van Buekenhout](#), Regina Public Schools, if your school did not receive theirs. This is a terrific opportunity for students contemplating higher education.

Schools NEXT

The [SchoolsNEXT](#) Design Competition offers an opportunity to illustrate the kind of creativity that students bring to the planning and design process.

Covid led the committee to re-examine how the current framework could evolve to make it more accessible to more students and increase participation from remote communities and mentors. Watch for updates in coming months.

2021 Pinnacle Award – Registration now open!

The Pinnacle Award Program recognizes outstanding educational facilities in the Pacific Northwest Region. The program follows criteria from the Association's LEResolutions Planning & Design Awards Program, to encourage regional projects to also compete at the international level.

This program recognizes learning projects which positively impact teaching and learning and result from a sound planning process reflecting the needs and expectations of the community. With robust

building activity in SK, we should see some great entries!

Eligible Projects: Built preK-12 learning environment projects completed in the last **4 years** in Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Saskatchewan and Washington are eligible. These include learning environments designed for early childhood learning, elementary, middle/junior high and high schools, alternative schools (e.g. charter schools, magnet schools), and other innovative learning environments (e.g. museums, outdoor education facilities).

Award Type: Trophy for Pinnacle Award. Paper Certificates for Projects of Distinction and Honorable Mention.

Award Categories:

- Pinnacle Award – Awarded to the single most distinctive project, which best satisfies the criteria; one winner.
- Project of Distinction – These awards recognize exceptional projects that were not the Pinnacle Award winner but were deserving of recognition according to the criteria. Number of awards is at the Jury's discretion, if any.
- Honorable Mention – Given at the discretion of the jury for some outstanding and compelling component of the project.

To read the full requirements and submission details, [click here](#).

Fees are as follows per project, to be paid at the time of registration:

A4LE Members

\$350 USD for projects registered

Non-Members

\$450 USD for projects registered

LearningSCAPES 2021 – REGISTER NOW



DISRUPTIVE OPTIMISM:
EDUCATION, PLANNING, AND DESIGN IN FIFTY YEARS

For decades educators, policymakers, planners, and design professionals across the globe have been nibbling around the edges of positive change. However, recent disruptive forces surrounding the global pandemic, social injustice, and economic stresses have made the need for holistic and radical change more visible. The 2021 Global Conference will explore the disruptive forces at play around the world, the positive opportunity they represent, and the actions necessary to create an optimistic and more effective future. We are looking for speakers who see the opportunity in this moment to inspire us, to challenge our thinking, and to help us increase the pace of change.

With that as the goal, the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE) is bringing [LearningSCAPES](#) to Denver! Come join your colleagues as the Association for Learning Environments hosts the event of the year for those who plan, design, equip, furnish, and maintain places where students learn.

LearningSCAPES offers it all – groundbreaking educational sessions, inspiring keynotes and a showcase of state-of-the-art tools that move learning into the future.

LearningSCAPES will also host the single most important market place for suppliers of educational furniture, flooring, technology, and the widest array of products used in places where children learn.

Need CEU's? With over 50 learning sessions, LearningSCAPES offers the most in the business – all at one location, at one time.

Association for Learning Environment's mission is to connect those who passion is to create the best possible learning spaces that encourage innovation, critical thinking, collaborative teamwork and other skills that will empower students to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Grand Hyatt in Denver... fingers crossed!

Chapter Officers news 2021

Know any of these great folks? Feel free to reach out to them to learn more about A4LE!

President

[Dan Reeves](#), Group 2 Architecture

Past-President

[Tyler Ottenbreit](#), Regina Catholic School Board

Secretary

[Paul Blaser](#), RBM Architecture

Treasurer

[Kelly Nadler](#), KRN Tolentino Architecture

Governor

[Heather Morgan](#), DIRTT Environmental Solutions Ltd.

Directors

[Derek Kindrachuk](#), Kindrachuk Agrey Architecture

[Chris Roszell](#), P3A

[Dan Van Buekenhout](#), Regina Public Schools

Ad Hoc Directors

[Victoria Yong-Hing](#), HAD Architecture

[Dan Olmsted](#), Chinook School Division

[Greg Hasiuk](#), Number TEN Architectural Group

[Leif Friggstad](#), AODBT Architecture

[Kirstin Mahan Thompson](#), Edwards Edwards McEwen Architects

We want to welcome some new faces on our Chapter executive.

Victoria Yong-Hing is a registered Architect with the SAA, and an Associate Principal at Henry Downing Architects. Educated in both engineering and architecture, she uses her multi-disciplinary background to serve the community.

Victoria currently serves on the Board of Directors for the regional section of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA), the Meewasin Valley Authority's Development Review Committee and the City of Saskatoon's Design Review Committee.

Victoria is an active advocate for design in the larger community, and currently spearheads the Architecture + Design Film Series with Remai Modern Art Gallery.

Leif Friggstad is a registered Architect with the SAA since 2016 following a decade of school and work opportunities in Winnipeg and Vancouver. He moved back to Saskatoon and is a Partner at aodbt architecture + interior design. He also currently

serves on the Business Advisory Committee for the New Saskatoon Central Library project.

Leif started joining A4LE conference opportunities about the same time he returned to Saskatchewan and was also an attendee of the inaugural Pacific Northwest Region's '20 under 40' hosted in Portland in 2017. Following his involvement on the event planning committee for 2019 PNW regional conference hosted in Saskatoon, Leif put his name forward as an ad-hoc member of A4LE Saskatchewan Chapter Executive in early 2020.

Involvement at the Chapter Executive level is rewarding and a great way to support education in Saskatchewan. Please reach out to Dan Reeves or Heather Morgan if you would like to learn more about getting involved!

And because you can't go wrong with a puppy picture...**Kelly Nadler** shared the newest member of their family, Gisele 😊

