

**2017 BCSLA Annual Conference, Showcase of Products & AGM
March 30-April 1, 2017 | Delta Grand Okanagan Resort, Kelowna, BC**

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

Conference Theme:

“Whatever the weather: Resilient responses to climate change”

*Whether the weather be fine
Or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold
Or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not.
— Anon*

*It is not the strongest of the species that survives,
nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one
that is most adaptable to change.
— Charles Darwin*

*I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.
— Thomas A. Edison*

*Resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected.
Sustainability is about survival.
The goal of resilience is to thrive.
— Jamais Cascio*

Background

Until recently, human beings have generally had a free hand in shaping nature to fit our lifestyles. Consequently, we now find ourselves facing planetary climate change that is not particularly human-friendly. Understanding the capacity of ecosystems and landscapes to cope with change, depending on their history and management, is essential to removing uncertainty from our actions. A good understanding of our vulnerability to climate change, – is the key to creating resilient communities. We ask, *“What kind of world has a place for each of us, and for future generations?”*

Communities across Canada face dramatic changes in demographics, population growth, and increasing frequency of severe climate impacts. Planning and designing for resilience – environmental – social – economic – is the only way to help cities survive, adapt, grow, and thrive as these changes affect demands on the built environment, infrastructure, transportation systems, and water and energy resources. Basic to our actions are the concepts of human (social) adaptation, local and traditional knowledge, environmental values, place attachments, and cultural landscapes. The entry point to action is understanding nature [including human nature], and what role it has in placing limits on, or even directing, our actions and efforts to adapt and become more resilient as humans.

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The time for dreaming about a better planet is over. We don't need, or have time, to discuss "why" any longer.

The time for action is now: Educate us, motivate us, activate us.

This is an action-based conference. We want to know more, and seek on-the-ground stories and contributions from members and allies that can answer any of these questions:

"What are you doing about resilience now, in this moment, environmentally, socially, and economically?"

"How are you mobilizing for resilience: personally, collectively, in community, institutionally?"

"What projects (big or small, paid or unpaid) have you participated in that are addressing resilience?"

"Who are you collaborating with?" "How's that going?"

"What worked, what didn't? What have you learned from what you have done?"

"What can we take away from your experience to inspire and compel us into our own actions tomorrow?"

"What do we need to do that we aren't doing now: personally, collectively, in community, and institutionally?"

CONFERENCE FORMAT

Through a landscape design lens, invited key speakers will frame the conference theme and sub-themes. Presentations in the four sub-theme formal sessions and a general poster session, will address what we are doing, on the ground, and in our communities.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: PAPERS AND POSTERS

This Call for Abstracts is open to all BCSLA Members and allies. University students in studies related to the conference sub-themes are also invited. We invite submissions from any area or discipline of landscape architecture, from wide points of view (and especially from interdisciplinary or collaborative perspectives and practices), responding to the conference theme of resilience and the four sub-themes of Mobilizing for: 1) Community Transformation to Resilience, 2) Equitable and Inclusive Livable Cities, 3) Blue-Green Infrastructure 4) A Better Built Environment. The four sub-themes are described in more detail below.

SUB-THEMES

1 Mobilizing for Community Transformation to Resilience

Resilient communities value and use their assets; understand and address their challenges; and are able to adapt, recover, and rebuild. This sub-theme is intended to attract papers on working policies that affirm and guide local actions towards building resilient communities.

2 Mobilizing for Equitable and Inclusive Livable Cities

Statistics Canada reports that over 80% of Canadians live in urban areas. Urbanisation brings many societal benefits and challenges connected to economic growth, but with it comes visible disparity in income and social inequality, which adversely affects social capital and community resilience. In the worst scenarios, which are increasingly becoming commonplace, the number of Canadians excluded from access to affordable housing, food, clean water, sanitation, education, play spaces, social services, and healthcare is rising. How do we balance economic growth with social and economic equality in cities diminished in nature and nature's wealth? What are we doing to ensure people living in our communities are thriving, and not just subsisting? How are you contributing to creating a "Just" city or community?

3 Mobilizing for Blue-Green Infrastructure

We talk a lot about green infrastructure, and sometimes blue-green infrastructure which brings land and water together. Blue-green infrastructure takes an ecosystems approach to solving urban design challenges such as storm water management, climate adaptation, reducing the impact of urban heat islands, increasing biodiversity, local food production, improved air quality, sustainable energy production, cleaner water and healthy soils. According to the literature, the bonus of dealing with infrastructure in a blue-green manner is increased quality of life (human health & well-being) for urban-dwellers. In this sub-theme, we seek project examples of blue-green infrastructure that are improving the urban environment for nature, and the quality of life for culture (society).

2017 BCSLA Call For Papers

Whatever the weather: Resilient responses to climate change

4 Mobilizing for a Better Built Environment

The built environment includes all of the buildings and spaces created or modified by people, including public spaces, housing, workspaces, roads, and other infrastructure that supports communities, sometimes successfully, oftentimes, not. Planning and designing the city as an urban ecosystem requires us to take a very holistic approach to our work. Are we thinking about and working beyond the individual property lines of every project? Are there projects designed to work seamlessly and synergistically across all landscape scales and sub-systems including: housing, transit, materials, biodiversity, water, infrastructure and blue-green infrastructure, health and well-being, education, work, and play? In this sub-theme, we seek examples of how social and environmental change is happening on the ground and being pushed by grassroots expertise and collaborations seeking long-lasting, resilient change, for the betterment of humans and their urban environments.

Trigger Words: actions within the four sub-themes include but are not limited to:

Truth & Reconciliation | Urban Biodiversity | Health & Well-being | Human Rights | Air Quality | Water Security: Fresh & Saline | Natural Disaster Resilience | Urban Ecosystem Services | Urban Forests | Urban Energy Sources & Supply | Decarbonization | Green/sustainable Buildings | Industry of Cities | Infrastructure Systems | Retrofitting & Re-purposing the Public Realm | Food Systems, Food Security, & Sustainable Urban Agriculture | Sustainable transport | Urban Adaptation to Climate Change | Urban Metabolism | Vulnerability: Cultural, Economic, Environmental | Accessibility | Aging Populations | Community Engagement | Cultural Diversity & Cultural Integration | Resilience Education & Literacy | Poverty / Anti-poverty | Governance & Policy | Environmental Justice | Social Justice | Sanitation: Waste Disposal & Clean Water Access | Security | Urban Conservation: Natural & Cultural | Rural — Urban Migration | Urban — Rural Emigration | Regional Resilience

2017 BCSLA Call For Papers

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THERE WILL BE TWO FORMATS FOR PRESENTATIONS

PROPOSALS FOR PAPER PRESENTATIONS

We invite abstracts on any of the conference sub-themes. Paper presentations must focus on actions, results, measures of success, and their broader significance to the profession and society. Paper (PowerPoint) presentations will be restricted to 20 minutes in length. This will be strictly enforced at the conference.

PROPOSALS FOR POSTER PRESENTATIONS

We invite Posters on any of the conference sub-themes. Posters provide an opportunity for an informal presentation featuring “give and take” with conference attendees. Presenting a poster is also a good way in which to discuss and receive feedback on a work in progress that has not been fully developed into a paper.

If your proposal is accepted, your poster will be displayed for a two-hour time period during the conference. You will be expected to “present” your poster at that time. At least one author for each accepted poster must register for and attend the conference. The space available for your poster will be 3 feet high by 4 feet wide. You must bring all printed materials with you. Power sources will not be available.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The deadline for abstract submissions is 12 Noon PST, Friday, January 6th, 2017.
- All submissions will be peer reviewed. Notice of acceptance will be sent to you by 13th January 2017.
- Please note that presenters must be registered for the conference.

Abstracts for papers or posters must be submitted in a MS-Word document, in single-space, Arial 12 font. They must include:

- Title of the paper
- Author(s)
- Email address of the corresponding author
- Physical address of the corresponding author
- Indicate whether the submission is for a paper (podium presentation) or a less-formal poster presentation (24 x 36 format)
- Indicate whether it is a student paper or poster, and the name of the institution
- Indicate which sub-theme the abstract relates to
- Abstract of no more than 250 words for both papers or posters

Send abstracts as an attachment to: office@bcsla.org with ATTN: BCSLA CE Committee as the subject.