ARE WE OVERSTATING RESILIENCY AS THE MOST IMMINENT "NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERN"?

#ASLA2021

November 19 – 22, Nashville

ASLA 2021 Conference on Landscape Architecture

Resilience and Stewardship Track

60 Minute Education Session - MON-A05
Monday November 22, 2021
8:30 am – 9:30 am

Lead Speaker: Manisha Kaul, ASLA, PLA, CDT, LEED
Speaker: Jean Kennedy Sleeman, AIA ,LEED AP, AUA
Speaker: Heather M. Morgan, ASLA

Overview

How to integrate resiliency along vulnerable waterfronts while sustaining engagement and inclusion? With targeted funding now being aimed at rewarding sustainable flood risk management practices, it is all the more critical to consider systems' interdependence. Is the narrative around resiliency overshadowing its imminent impact on communities and systems most heavily impacted?

Learning Objectives

1. What is the relationship between Resilience and Sustainability? How does the term sustainability encourage us to change our thinking from a human centric view to a systems centric approach?
2. Learn through examples of resilience-centric planning why it is critical to adapt our timeline and the trajectory of our responsibility to continually inform our sustainability goals.
3. Explore how Resiliency planning done in a vacuum creates practical dilemmas when implementing projects that are trying to implement state mandates while aspiring for barrier free design and construction.
4. Understand how a transdisciplinary approach is the catalytic way to comprehensively help institutions, cities and municipalities, that are currently losing valuable ground to enact a holistic resiliency action plan.

Battery Park City Resiliency, New York City, New York

Manisha Kaul, ASLA, PLA, CDT, LEED AP
Principal, Design Workshop, Inc.

DESIGNWORKSHOP

Manisha Kaul, Principal and Director of Design Workshop's Chicago studio is passionate about creating synergy in the natural environment through an equitable, resilient, and regenerative approach to design. With project experience in the United States, Middle East, Africa and India; she has successfully guided federal, public, private, and institutional clients through complex planning and innovative site design projects resulting in the creative use of the site and its environs. Member of Ely Chapter of Lambda Alpha International and a full member of the Urban Land Institute; she currently serves on ULI's University Development and Innovation Product Council.

Jean Kennedy Sleeman, AIA ,LEED AP, AUA
University Architect, Old Dominion University

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

After over 30 years working on the A/E side on over 18 university campuses nationwide, in 2015 she became the University Architect at Old Dominion University (ODU), Virginia's entrepreneurial-minded public doctoral research university with an enrollment of approximately 24,000. Her primary focus is elevating design while delivering the best experience for students, faculty and staff within mandated budgets. Having created ODU's first Campus Design Standard, Jean is currently grappling with implications of the new Virginia Flood Risk Management Standard for her urban campus over 50% of which resides within the 100- or 500-year floodplain posing serious challenges for an urban University with limited endowment.

Jean is a member of the Association of University Architects and is a credentialed evaluator with the Cal OES State of California Safety Assessment Program to assist local governments in safety evaluation of the built environment in the aftermath of a disaster.

Heather M. Morgan, ASLA
AECOM, Climate Risk Adaptation NYC Metro Region Lead

AECOM

Heather Morgan brings more than twenty years of expertise in flood risk management, infrastructure planning, landscape architecture and landscape archaeology for projects focused on sustaining our nation through adaptation. Morgan applies a transdisciplinary strategy for redefining the relationship between our human inhabitation and the natural system.

Prior to joining AECOM, she worked at Headquarters for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as the Civil Works Sustainability Lead and the National Sustainability Program Manager. She assessed the agencies existing and proposed water infrastructure projects across all Civil Works business lines to create a national sustainability strategy for dealing with urgent, short, and long-term scenarios.

At the New York City local level, Morgan worked for USACE New York District's flood risk management projects such as Fire Island, Passaic River, East Rockaway, Plumb Beach, and Lake Montauk and ecosystem restoration throughout the region. Morgan holds a B.L.A from University of Georgia and a Masters of Landscape Archaeology from University of Bristol, UK.

Learning Objectives

What does resiliency mean to different income groups and institutions?

1. Resiliency should have been inherent in the framework language for design and planning. However, is our response wholistic or it challenged based on the funding mechanisms?
2. Transdisciplinary input is critical to address the quintessential questions of climate change and inspiring institutions and municipalities to innovate and think creatively.
3. Highlight, through multiple project examples, where cities, municipalities and institutions are losing out on adopting creative thinking at the expense of non-controversial, mediocre solutions.
4. It takes bridging the gaps between disciplines to help communities and institutions, from losing valuable ground and think of a resilient response in a holistic way.

Perseverance in action: Looking for a straw each time it rains

1. Resiliency planning at Old Dominion University in Norfolk the heart of operational issues facing the Campus today.
2. An urban campus over 50% of which resides within the 100- or 500-year floodplain is at risk of having to rethink the connections between newly constructed buildings and campus open spaces. The passage of VFMRS, the strongest flood elevation standard in the nation, has created unintentional challenges for accessibility and building programming.
3. Deliberating new building locations and future land development on the urban, stormwater challenged campus needs out-of-box thinking to ensure a sustainable Campus into the future.

Set new values: human well-being, ecosystem integrity, & national security

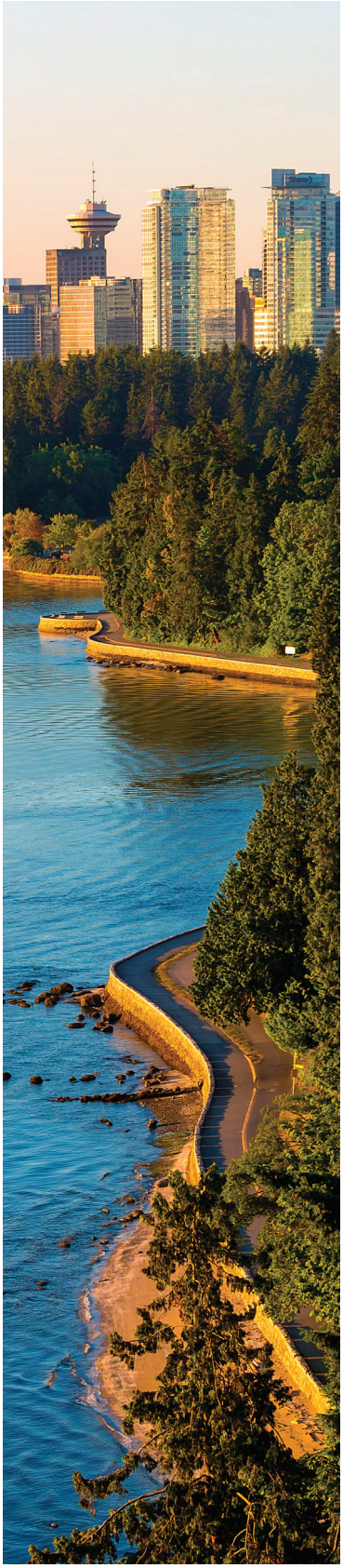
1. We need to adjust the timeline and trajectory of our responsibility to integrate a holistic approach to resilience planning. Considering a human centric view does not address the holistic issue of our sustained existence on this planet.
2. Sustainability must inform resilience. Resiliency Planning needs to continually improve our sustainability.
3. It is important to set new values and integrate systems thinking into resiliency planning. Learn through various examples like the Battery Park City, the importance of innovation to sustain alternative future scenario and turning crisis into an opportunity.
4. Being resilient in unsustainable areas is an oxymoron and resiliency must be informed by long term guidance of sustainability - no longer “trumped for the urgent”.

Closing the Resilience Gap

1. Leading edge planners and designers are increasingly investigating how their projects can further resilience. Climate change acceleration and its growing impacts are converging with pervasive social problems, but our level of preparedness for these risks are not, thus creating a resilience gap.
2. Methods to uncover resilience assets, find sources of revenue for resilience projects, illustrate resilience collateral benefits and decrease designer liability are valuable to determining actionable strategies.
3. An overview of coastal resiliency plans.

Conclusions

1. It takes more than landscape architects to achieve resilience.
2. Planners and Designers are uniquely positioned to push the inclusion of human well-being and ecosystem integrity as an essential part of resilience planning.
3. Resiliency planning is imperitive to surviving long term on the planet?



Notes

Further Reading + Resources

https://oduadaptationandresilience.org/
Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR): ICAR, a national center for the science and practice of coastal resilience at Old Dominion University, launched in 2018 to leverage ODU faculty's disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary breadth in leading research, education, and community partnerships to develop practical solutions to challenges faced by coastal communities.

https://www.pbs.org/video/tidewater-mgqr0m/
Hampton Roads, Virginia is the region whose vulnerability to sea level rise most affects military readiness. It is our country's highest concentration of military assets. The military and surrounding municipalities are struggling to keep up with the effects of rising waters by working towards solutions in the name of strengthening national security and enhancing economic prosperity.

https://www.naturalresources.virginia.gov/initiatives/resilience/floodstandard/
Governor Northam signed Executive Order 45, on November 14, creating the Virginia Flood Risk Management Standard.
A first of its kind for any state, the Virginia Flood Risk Management Standard will improve flood protection in coastal areas by discouraging building in floodplains and incorporating sea level rise projections that have been developed based on the best available science and adopted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.