

Sarah Little, PLA, PhD

Associate Director; Division of Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Design

Associate Professor + Graduate Liaison; Landscape Architecture Program

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sarahlittlephd.com

EDUCATION

PhD, *Design* – NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

MLA, *Landscape Architecture* – NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

BA, *Chemistry* – NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022-present

Associate Professor, tenured

2016- 2022

Assistant Professor, tenure-track

2014- 2016

Acting Assistant Professor (during PhD completion)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

July 2023-present

Associate Director; *Division of Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Design, Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma*

- Handle the day-to-day functions of an accredited MLA with 32 enrolled students. Responsibilities include providing strategic leadership, maintaining accreditation status, curricular adjustments, growing enrollments and resources, and overseeing 3 MLA full-time faculty and 3 adjunct faculty and consulting with 4 full-time faculty in other divisions who teach LA courses.
- Manage the operating budget and multiple endowment funds to further the mission of the program.

Major Accomplishments

- Created a strong community of scholars with faculty and students.
- Retained accreditation status through LAAB for the full term of six years.
- Navigated the Discontinuance process to receive a glowing recommendation from the Discontinuance Committee to keep the program active at OU.
- Created infrastructure and administrative redundancies to improve program function, e.g., created a digital course archive and integrated maintaining the archive in annual evaluations to facilitate future accreditation cycles and constructed a SharePoint of administrative files to share with the Director.
- Developed an effective recruitment plan that achieved the highest enrollment experienced in the program's history.
- Supported students to revive SCASLA and create infrastructure to ensure its success, such as

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continued engagement with OKASLA and creating policy where SCASLA awarded conference travel funding.

- Identified a path for developing a 5-year MLA to increase enrollment after three years of negotiation with the Graduate College.
- Expanded course offerings by supporting faculty in developing courses with General Education credit that facilitated recruitment and doubled credit hour generation.
- Coordinated the community engagement activities within MLA courses to create enriching and meaningful experiences for students and to benefit rural communities, tribal nations, and non-profits across Oklahoma.
- Implemented a fundraising initiative that has yielded approximately \$150,000 from AY 2023-2026.
- Collaborated with the Division Director to move the division from the absolute least efficient on campus (cost per credit hour) to the second quartile in 2 years through eliminating redundancies and increasing General Education impact.

July 2022-present

Graduate Liaison; Landscape Architecture Program, Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma

- Conduct individual graduate student advising meetings every semester about course scheduling, relevant electives, opportunities for graduate certificates and dual degrees, final project focus, and available career paths.
- Manage completion of the Graduate College paperwork regarding programs of study and milestones toward graduation.

Major Accomplishments

- Achieved 100% employment rate within six months of graduation.
- Mentored students to increase the quality of the graduate final project.

July 2022-June 2023

Acting Director; Division of Landscape Architecture, Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma

- Assumed leadership of a struggling program with only 12 students that was notified by the Provost's office to increase enrollment in spring 2022.

Major Accomplishments

- Created the foundation for the recruitment plan that would lead to historic enrollment levels in the program.
- Collaborated with faculty on consolidating four academic units (Landscape Architecture, Regional and City Planning, Environmental Design, and Urban Design) into a unified division.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

2008-2014	<i>Landscape Architect; Little Landscape Architecture, Charlotte, NC</i>
2011-2013	<i>Design Associate; Natural Learning Initiative, College of Design, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC</i>
2005-2008	<i>Landscape Designer; Coogan's Design/Build, Charlotte, NC</i>
2002-2005	<i>Landscape Designer; Biggers' Landscape Design, Charlotte, NC</i>
2000-2002	<i>Design Associate; Natural Learning Initiative, College of Design, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC</i>

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

July 1, 2009–present **Landscape Architect, North Carolina #1579**

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, **American Society of Landscape Architects**
Member, **Oklahoma Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects**
Member, **Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture**

AWARDS

2025	Excellence in Service Learning Award; Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture
2025	External Service Award; Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma
2023	'Above and Beyond' Service Award; Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma
2022	EDRA Great Places Award Honorable Mention—Book Category; The Routledge Handbook of Designing Public Spaces for Young People
2022	Early Career Award; Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships, University of Oklahoma
2021	Community Engagement Fellow; Institute for Quality Communities, Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma
2015	Honorable Mention; Urban Land Institute Hines Student Competition Faculty Advisor
2004	Environmental Merit Award; North Carolina Landscape Association
2003	Community Service Award; College of Design, North Carolina State University
2001	Best of Show in the Garden Design Exhibit; Southern Spring Show, Charlotte, NC

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

- Loebach, J., Little, S., Cox, A., & Owens, P.E. (Eds.). (2020). *Routledge Handbook of Designing Public Spaces for Young People: Processes, Practices and Policies for Youth Inclusion*. New York: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Handbook-of-Designing-Public-Spaces-for-Young-People-Processes/Loebach-Little-Cox-Owens/p/book/9781138584921>.

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- Little, S., & Rice, A. (2021). At the Intersection of the Social and Physical Environments: Building a Model of the Influence of Caregivers and Peers on Direct Engagement with Nature. *Geographies*, 1(1), 63-78. Retrieved from <https://www.mdpi.com/2673-7086/1/1/5>
- Little, S. & Rice, A. (2021). Considering Autonomous Exploration in Healthy Environments: Reflections from an Urban Wildscape. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18 (22), 11867. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182211867>
- Little, S. (2020). Engaging Youth in Placemaking: Modified Behavior Mapping. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(18), 6527. Retrieved from <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/18/6527>
- Harris, J. & Little, S. (2019). Mapping hope: Informal settlement youth and lessons for aspirational urbanization. *Urban Forum*, doi:10.1007/s12132-019-09361-9.
- Little, S. & Cox, A. (2019). Advancing Design Research: Creating a New Framework from Three Approaches to Case Study Research. *Landscape Research Record*, 8, 333-342. https://thecela.org/wp-content/uploads/Landscape_Research_Record-8-v4.pdf
- Cox, A., Loebach, J., & Little, S. (2018). Understanding the Nature Play Milieu: Using Behavior Mapping to Investigate Children's Activities in Outdoor Play Spaces. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 28(2), 232-261. doi:10.7721/chilyoutenvi.28.2.0232.
- Kelley, K., Little, S., Lee, J. S., K. C., B., & Henderson, K. (2014). Articulating Meanings of Positive Adjustment to Aging through Physical Activity Participation among Older Adults. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 32(1), 63-77.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

- Little, S. (2020). Experiential Accessibility: A therapeutic approach to the design of the public realm. In J. Loebach, S. Little, A. Cox, & P.E. Owens (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Designing Public Spaces for Young People: Processes, Practices and Policies for Youth Inclusion* (pp. 64-79). New York: Routledge.
- Little, S. & Derr, V. (2020). The Influence of Nature on a Child's Development: Connecting the outcomes of human attachment and place attachment. In A. Cutter-Mackenzie, K. Malone, & E.B. Hacking (Eds.), *International Research Handbook on Childhood Nature: Assemblages of Childhood and Nature Research* (pp. 151-178). New York: Springer. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-51949-4_10-2.

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- Loebach, J., Cox, A., & Little, S. (2020). Behavior Mapping to Support the Development of Youth-Friendly Public Outdoor Spaces. In J. Loebach, S. Little, A. Cox, & P.E. Owens (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Designing Public Spaces for Young People: Processes, Practices and Policies for Youth Inclusion* (pp. 308-330). New York: Routledge.
- Little, S. & Loon, L. (2016). The Hybrid Zone in Divergent and Convergent Thinking. In Amoroso, N. (Ed.) *Representing Landscapes: Hybrid* (pp. 72-85). New York, NY: Routledge. doi:10.4324/9781315618197.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

- Little, S. & Cox, A. (2019). Advancing Design Research: Creating a New Framework from Three Approaches to Case Study Research. *CELA 2019: Davis, CA*. Retrieved from: <https://ucdavis.app.box.com/s/mknxy85py0x49wvampp7ilnrk58yevxw>.

TRADE PUBLICATIONS:

- Little, S. (2019). Gather together. *topos: European Landscape Magazine*, 106, 70-73. Invited author.

BOOK REVIEWS:

- Little, S. (2022). [Review of the book *Small-Scale Urban Greening: Creating Places of Health, Creativity, and Ecological Sustainability*, by A. Loder]. *Landscape Journal*, 41 (1), 115-116.

PUBLICATION REVIEWS

Loebach, J., Little, S., Cox, A., & Owens, P.E. (Eds.). (2020). *Routledge Handbook of Designing Public Spaces for Young People: Processes, Practices and Policies for Youth Inclusion*. New York: Routledge.

- Casey, L. (2021). All the Youth We Cannot See. *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, 111(4).

MEDIA COVERAGE

Crawford, A. (2020, November 30). There's No Room for Teens in the Pandemic City. *CityLab Design*. Retrieved from: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-30/with-schools-shut-teens-seek-a-space-of-their-own>

Houck, L. (2020, August 26). From Youth Exclusion to Inclusion in Public Spaces. *UC Davis*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ucdavis.edu/uc-davis-books/from-youth-exclusion-inclusion-public-spaces>

Wagenfeld, A. (2020, July 28). Getting Started with Participatory Placemaking. *The Field*. Retrieved from: <https://thefield.asla.org/2020/07/28/getting-started-with-participatory-placemaking/>

Wagenfeld, A. (2020, July 21). The Benefits of Including Children in Participatory Placemaking. *The Field*. Retrieved from: <https://thefield.asla.org/2020/07/21/the-benefits-of-including-children-in->

[participatory-placemaking/](#)

Wagenfeld, A. (2020, July 14). Not Just Climate Strikes: Giving Young People Roles in Community Greening. *The Field*. Retrieved from: <https://thefield.asla.org/2020/07/14/not-just-climate-strikes-giving-young-people-roles-in-community-greening/>

Iowa State University. (2020, July 7). Research Explores How Youth are Excluded from Public Spaces, Design Practices. *News Wise*. Retrieved from: <https://www.newswise.com/articles/research-explores-how-youth-are-excluded-from-public-spaces-design-practices>

London Play. (2020, June 14). All the Youth We Cannot See. *London Play Newsletter*. Retrieved from: https://londonplay.org.uk/our_news/all-the-youth-we-cannot-see/

Crum, W. (2017, October 9). Breaking Down Barriers to Play in Oklahoma City's MAPS 3 Park. *The Oklahoman*. <https://www.oklahoman.com/story/news/columns/2017/10/09/breaking-down-barriers-to-play-in-oklahoma-citys-maps-3-park/60565305007/>

Office of the Vice President for Research. (2017, October). Faculty Recognition. In *President's Monthly Research and Development Highlights* (12, 7). University of Oklahoma.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Present	Seminole Nation Museum Master Plan Seminole Nation Museum and the City of Wewoka, OK The master plan of the Seminole Nation Museum affords spaces for cultural learning experiences in the outdoor environment while providing recreational opportunities for the community.
Spring 2025	RestoreOKC Tiny Home Village RestoreOKC MLA students not participating in the ULI Hines Competition worked in groups with RestoreOKC on the design of a tiny home village on two acres of their NE OKC location.
Spring 2024	Osage Veterans Memorial Trail at Luttrell Pond, Pawhuska, OK Osage Nation and Environmental Science faculty and students at OU Working with Dr. Leslie Palacios, MLA student studio work was combined with Osage Tribal members input into a final conceptual design.

- Spring 2024 **Connecting Yukon to Health**
IQC and the City of Yukon, OK
Worried about losing their EPA ozone attainment status, the city of Yukon requested a tree planting project along Garth Brooks Blvd and I-40. The project expanded to address improving walkability and identify placemaking opportunities.
- Fall 2023 **Trailing Tahlequah: Wayfinding Project**
IQC, City of Tahlequah, OK, Main Street Tahlequah, the Tahlequah Planning Department, and TSET Oklahoma
Main Street Tahlequah solicited help for a wayfinding project. Students worked with community members to develop destinations along an existing trail and celebrated the Cherokee culture to connect downtown Tahlequah to the existing trail.
- Spring 2023 **Activate Perkins! Active Transportation Plan**
Town of Perkins, OK and IQC, University of Oklahoma
Perkins, OK requested an active transportation plan. Working with residents, MLA students created an active transportation plan and created designs for destinations along the trail.
- Spring 2023 **OU-OSU Bedlam Spring Charrette**
OU and OSU Landscape Architecture students and Perkins residents
OU and OSU students collaborate over a long weekend to create designs for various sites located in Perkins, OK.
- Spring 2022 **Nature-based Outdoor Learning Environment**
Institute of Child Development faculty and students, University of Oklahoma
The design of the outdoor learning environment at the ICD was co-created with the College of Education faculty and students with Landscape Architecture students. <https://gibbs.oucreate.com/landscape-architecture/icd-collaboration/>
<https://sooneromag.oufoundation.org/stories/a-preschooler-s-paradise>
- 2021-2022 **The Elbow Recreational and Cultural Master Plan**
Town of Guthrie, OK
Working with a steering committee, a master plan contained trails and an augmented reality recreation of the Elbow Community, a historically Black neighborhood in Guthrie, OK displaced by flooding.
- Spring 2021 **The LAF Green New Deal Superstudio: RestoreOKC and Food Security**
Dr. Bryce Lowery and Shane Hampton
RCPL and LA studios were combined to participate in LAF Green New Deal Superstudio. Students worked on creating site designs that addressed food security at the RestoreOKC location in NE OKC.

- 2017 **Accessible Nature Play and Learning Area Design**
AccessWorks, Oklahoma City, OK
Commissioned by a local non-profit, the design of the accessible nature play and learning area demonstrates how the built environment can positively impact the experience of children living with mobility limitations, cognitive issues, and hearing and vision impairments. The project included funding for 0.5 FTE graduate student for a semester and a feature in *The Oklahoman* newspaper.
- Spring 2017 **Arrowhead Mall Reimagined, Muskogee, OK**
Urban Design Studio, Architecture studio faculty and students, and IQC
Students enrolled in landscape architecture and architecture studios worked in groups to create a new vision for a failing mall in Muskogee, OK.
- Spring 2016 **West Bank Trail of the Arkansas River, Tulsa, OK**
Urban Design Studio and Architecture studio faculty and students
Students enrolled in landscape architecture and architecture studios worked in groups to create economic and recreational opportunities along the West Bank Trail in Tulsa, OK.
- May 2014 **Master plan**
John Chavis Memorial Park, Raleigh, NC
The creation of the master plan for John Chavis Memorial Park was the product of an 18-month endeavor led by Skeo Solutions of which I was the landscape architect of record. The project involved community participation and environmental justice. The park was a premier destination for African Americans during Segregation but fell into disrepair once Segregation ended. The process not only informed the master plan direction but helped a community heal.

BUILT WORK/EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 **Pollinator Gardens in NE OKC, RestoreOKC Oklahoma City, OK**
During summer 2023, RestoreOKC invited Dr. Little to host a STEM-based workshop with their interns, i.e., middle and high school students, to design pollinator gardens. Intern designs were selected and installed during 2 workdays on 9/9/2023 and 10/14/2023. During the workdays, Dr. Little supported intern-led crews during installation. In total, 7 pollinator gardens were installed in NE OKC.

2022-2023 **Nature-based Play and Learning Area, Institute of Child Development, University of Oklahoma**

In spring 2022, Dr Little collaborated with the College of Education at OU for a 6-week project where MLA and Early Education students designed the playground at the new Institute for Child Development on the OU campus. At the end of the semester, I lead College of Education faculty in combining student ideas into a final design. I worked with contractors to install hardscapes during summer 2022. Then during the OU Big Event in April 2023, I led crews of volunteers to install the vegetation.

FUNDING

Fall 2025 **Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) Built Environment Grant (\$113,700.00)**

Wrote a TSET grant application for the City of Wewoka, OK to apply for funding for design development and construction documentation for the grounds of the Seminole Nation Museum. (under review; outcome notification expected in March 2026)

June 2024 **SEC Faculty Travel Program; Southeastern Conference (\$2,050.00)**

Covered the cost of travel to Fayetteville, AR to collaborate with Dr. Robyn Lane in developing proposals to secure funds for an augmented reality project.

2021-2022 **Community Engagement Fellow, Institute for Quality Communities, Gibbs College of Architecture (\$24,050.00)**

Funded the creation of a Master Plan for The Elbow Recreational and Cultural Area in Guthrie, OK honoring a historically African American neighborhood that was condemned due to the flooding of Cottonwood Creek.

Fall 2021 **University Libraries Open Access Fund, University of Oklahoma (\$1,500)**

Covered the open-source publishing fee for The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Spring 2021 **Goff Chair of Creative Architecture Lecture Series, Gibbs College of Architecture (\$4,000.00)**

In conjunction with the LAF Green New Deal Superstudio, Bryce Lowery, Shane Hampton, and Sarah Little applied for funds to cover honorarium costs associated with hosting a series of (3) lectures to support the Superstudio.

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- Fall 2020 **University Libraries Open Access Fund, University of Oklahoma (\$1,500)**
Covered the open-source publication fee for The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.
- Fall 2018 **Research Enhancement Grant; Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma (\$4,500.00)**
Purchased (3) tablets to collect behavior mapping data.
- Fall 2017 **Research Enhancement Grant; Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma (\$5,000.00)**
Conducted behavior mapping with 5th graders, included funding for a graduate assistant.
- Spring 2017 **Presidential International Travel Fellowship; University of Oklahoma (\$650.00)**
Funded travel to Calgary, Canada to present at the International Play Association Conference.
- Spring 2017 **Engage Learning Oklahoma (\$2,785.16)**
A matching grant to combine with the AccessWorks grant to provide funding for a 0.5-time GA position.
- Fall 2016 **AccessWorks, Inc. (\$11,500.00)**
Funding for creation of the design of an accessible nature playground. Included ½ time funding a graduate assistant for (1) semester.
- Summer 2016 **Research Enhancement Grant; Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma (\$2,700.00)**
Funded travel to the Cincinnati Nature Center to conduct behavior mapping research.

PRESENTATIONS

HIGHLIGHTED:

- November 19-22, 2021 **American Society of Landscape Architects, Nashville, TN**
P.E. Owens, S. Little, & I. Goldman
Panel discussion: *Youth-inclusive Public Places: Why we should involve youth in the design of public spaces*
- September 21, 2018 **Keynote Speaker; Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK**
Presentation: *Bridging Connections between Research and Design Practice*

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

- June 11, 2025 **International Federation of Landscape Architects, Sustainable Inclusion in Public Areas & the Future of Sustainable Play Design Panel Discussion, virtual**
Moderator and Panelist
- November 8, 2024 **Landscape Architecture Studio, The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR**
Presentation: *Creating Engaging Play Environments for Children*
- September 9, 2024 **Early Childhood Education, The University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK**
Presentation: *How Nature-based Playgrounds Support Healthy Child Development*
- December 8, 2023 **Lake Frances Wetland Restoration Workshop, Siloam Springs, AR**
S. Little and P. Steger
Presentation: *Tools to Generate Engaging Outdoor Environments*
- February 28, 2023 **University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Panel**
S. Little, K. Melcher, A. Cox, J. Torres, M. Fernandez
Presentation: *The Right to the Experience the City: Experiential Accessibility*
- August 18, 2022 **Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Monthly CES Webinar**
Presentation: *Designing Youth Inclusive Public Spaces*
- March 2, 2021 **Parks Workshop, Institute for Quality Communities, University of Oklahoma**
Presentation: *Changing perspectives on playground design*
- February 10, 2021 **College of Architecture Brown Bag Seminar**
Presentation: *Publishing an Edited Handbook*
- October 22, 2019 **Institute for Quality Communities, University of Oklahoma**
Presentation: *Nature play best practices*
- April 24, 2019 **College of Architecture Brown Bag Seminar**
Presentation: *Making access to nature equitable for children living with disabilities*
- September 21, 2018 **Keynote Speaker; Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK**
Presentation: *Bridging Connections between Research and Design Practice*

- October 20, 2016 **College of Architecture Brown Bag Seminar**
Presentation: *How to formulate a research question using grounded theory?*
- April 22, 2016 **OU Symposium on Health Disparities, Social Science and Humanities of Health**
Presentation: *Resilient Children, Resilient Cities: Building a Capacity for Resilience by Managing Risks during Autonomous Exploration in an Urban Green Infrastructure in Raleigh, NC*

CONFERENCES:

- March 7, 2023 **OKAPA Annual Meeting, Enid, OK**
S. Little, S. Hampton, M. Hoffner, S. Schaefer, and M. Sweeney
Presentation: *ACOG CERI: Transforming Hometown Oklahoma*
- May 10, 2022 **Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, Oklahoma City, OK**
Little, S.
Presentation: *Guthrie, OK: The Elbow Recreational and Cultural Area*
- November 19-22, 2021 **American Society of Landscape Architects, Nashville, TN**
P.E. Owens, S. Little, & I. Goldman
Panel discussion: *Youth-inclusive Public Places: Why we should involve youth in the design of public spaces?*
- September 8, 2021 **Oklahoma Municipal League Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK**
Hampton, S. and Little, S.
Presentation: *Parks + Public Spaces: Trends + Youth Participation*
- March 17-19, 2021 **Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, virtual**
J. Canfield, S. Hadavi, S. Little, B. Lowery, and Y. Wang
Panel discussion: *Grounding the Green New Deal: A multi-scale approach*
- March 18-21, 2020 **Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Louisville, KY**
Cancelled due to Covid-19
P.E. Owens, S. Little, J. Loebach, A. Cox, and K. Melcher
Panel discussion: *Designing Public Spaces for Young People: Processes, and policies for youth inclusion*
- March 30-April 2, 2019 **US Play Coalition, Clemson, SC**
S. Little
Presentation: *Making Access to Nature Equitable for Children Living with Disabilities*

- March 6-9, 2019 **Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Davis, CA**
S. Little and A. Cox
Full paper presentation: *Advancing Design Research: Creating a Framework from Three Approaches to Case Study Research*
- June 6-9, 2018 **The Environmental Design Research Association Conference, EDRA49, Oklahoma City, OK**
S. Little
Presentation: *Making Access to Nature Equitable: A Design for an Accessible Nature Play and Learning Area in Scissortail Park, Oklahoma City, OK*
- June 6-9, 2018 **The Environmental Design Research Association Conference, EDRA49, Oklahoma City, OK**
S. Little
Symposium: *Making Access to Nature Equitable: Extending Therapeutic Activities into the Public Space*
- September 13-16, 2017 **International Play Association Conference, Calgary, Alberta, Canada**
A. Cox, S. Little, & J. Loebach
Workshop: *Learning to use Behavior Mapping to capture and access children's play in outdoor and natural environments*
- September 13-16, 2017 **International Play Association Conference, Calgary, Alberta, Canada**
P.E. Owens, S. Little, A. Cox, & J. Loebach
Workshop: *We were young once, too: Lessons learned that still matter*
- September 13-16, 2017 **International Play Association Conference, Calgary, Alberta, Canada**
S. Little
Presentation: *Making access to nature equitable: Extending therapeutic activities into the outdoor environment*
- September 13-16, 2017 **International Play Association Conference, Calgary, Alberta, Canada**
S. Little, A. Cox, & J. Loebach
Presentation: *Utilizing behavior mapping to capture children's outdoor play behaviors: Findings from natural playscape observations*

- May 31-June 3, 2017 **The Environmental Design Research Association Conference, EDRA48, Madison, WI**
A. Cox, S. Little, & J. Loebach
Workshop: *Behavior mapping: Considerations of Technology, Procedure, and Evidence-Based Design*
- April 18-21, 2017 **The Children & Nature Network International Conference and Summit, Vancouver, BC, Canada**
A. Cox, S. Little, & J. Loebach
Workshop: *Learning to Use Behavior Mapping to Capture and Assess Children's Nature Play in Outdoor Environments*
- May 18-21, 2016 **The Environmental Design Research Association Conference, EDRA47, Raleigh, NC**
J. Loebach, S. Little, A. Cox, & P.E. Owens
CYE Call for Papers: *Fostering the Inclusion of Youth in the Public Realm*
- May 27-30, 2015 **The Environmental Design Research Association Conference, EDRA46, Los Angeles, CA**
S. Little
Presentation: *The Work of Gilbert Gottlieb: A Framework for the Integration of Neuroscience into Design*
- May 27-30, 2015 **The Environmental Design Research Association Conference, EDRA46, Los Angeles, CA**
S. Little
Poster: *Extending the work of the Kaplans and Ulrich to include Neuroscience*
- May 28-31, 2014 **The Environmental Design Research Association Conference, EDRA45, New Orleans, LA**
S. Little
Poster: *The Site Safari: A Participatory Adventure for Children*
- October 8-10, 2013 **NRPA Congress and Exposition, Houston, TX**
K. Kelley, S. Little, S., J. S. Lee, B. K.C., & K. Henderson.
Presentation: *Articulating Meanings of Positive Adjustment to Aging Through Physical Activity*
- October 4, 2013 **NLI Design Institute; All About Food: Designing, Gardening, and Eating, Chapel Hill, NC**
S. Little
Session: *Beyond Jack-o'-lanterns: Using Pumpkins to Support Scientific Learning*

- September 14, 2013 **North Carolina Association for the Educators of Young Children Conference, Raleigh, NC**
R. Harkey & S. Little
Presentation: Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns: Teaching Children in Outdoor Learning Environments
- May 29-June 1, 2013 **The Environmental Design Research Association Conference, EDRA44, Providence, RI**
S. Little & M. Monsur
Poster: Considering Humans in Stream Restoration: The Role of an Urban Stream and Perceptions of Safety
- October 12, 2012 **NLI Design Institute; Designing Living Environments for Children and Other Creatures, Chapel Hill, NC**
S. Little
Session: Plant Selection with a Purpose
- October 6-7, 2011 **NLI Design Institute, Design for Early Childhood: Health, Play, and Learning, Chapel Hill, NC**
S. Little & S. Werner
Session: Do it Yourself: Plants, Planting, and Plant Protection

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS:

- Summer 2023 **RestoreOKC Intern Workshop, Oklahoma City, OK**
S. Little
Presentation: STEM-based Workshop: Planting design that supports pollinator life stages
- February 25, 2017 **Stakeholder Workshop for AccessWorks, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK**
Presentation: Accessible nature playground in the Lower Park of the MAPS 3 Downtown Public Park in Oklahoma City, OK
- January 20, 2017 **AccessWorks, Inc., Executive Board Meeting, Oklahoma City, OK**
Presentation: Accessible Nature Play
- October 9, 2014 **Center for Children and Families, Inc. (CCFI), Norman, OK**
Presentation: Nature Playgrounds: How to Incorporate Nature into the Lives of Children

TEACHING AND MENTORING

STUDIO COURSES:

- **LA 5515: Introductory Graduate Studio I** (*core curriculum course*) The course introduces design fundamentals and project management principles and focuses heavily on understanding the design process, specifically ideation. Students learn how to observe like a landscape architect and to create an experience within the landscape using design fundamentals.
fall: 2014-2019, 2022
- **LA 5525: Intermediate Graduate Studio II** (*core curriculum course*) Students evaluate existing natural systems on the site in addition to social and cultural systems to inform final master plans.
spring: 2023
- **LA 5545: Advanced Graduate Studio IV** (*core curriculum course*) Focuses on unraveling the complex urban systems that influence the existing built environment and how these systems can be levered to transform urban/developed areas. Studio topics include housing typologies, food security, environmental justice, public transportation, campus planning, economic development, climate change adaptation, and brownfield remediation. Community engagement is an essential component.
spring: 2014-2017, 2021-2023, 2026
- **LA 6590 (fall) and LA 6595 (spring): Final Project Studio sequence** (*core curriculum course*) Traditionally taught as an independent study with committee chairs, I reorganized these courses as a studio to offer students a higher level of support during their final project completion.
fall and spring: 2022-present

LECTURE COURSES:

- **UNDERGRADUATE**
 - **En D 4993: Environmental Design Capstone** (*core curriculum for En D*) Provides students a hands-on service/learning opportunity, presenting real world challenges that require collaboration and the application of acquired expertise within the dynamic context of a community's social and built environment.
spring: 2024
 - **LA 4423/5423: Human Experience of the Environment** (*Social Science GenEd*) An introduction to the understanding of how people interact with the world around them. We will explore the many ways in which environments have shaped us, how we perceive and interact with the world, what tools researchers use, how places are designed to accommodate human behaviors, and how designers can create healthy environments.
I created this course and applied for and received General Education: Social Science approval.
fall: 2015-2021

- **GRADUATE**

- **LA 5052: Landscape Architecture Professional Practice** (*professional practice elective*) Survey of career options, internship, licensure, firm organization, office management, professional conduct and ethics within the practice of architecture.
spring: 2024
- **LA 5243: Landscape Architecture Technology: Materials and Construction** (*core curriculum*) Technical requirements and design characteristics of landscape construction materials. Brick, concrete, asphalt, stone, wood, paving curbs, walls, steps, small structures, site furnishings, lighting, and basic construction documentation.
spring: 2017-2020
- **LA 5343: Landscape Architecture Technology: Site Issues** (*core curriculum*) Technical aspects of land and water interactions in site planning and landscape engineering. Introduction to contours, grading and earthwork; watershed and site drainage; horizontal and vertical curves; erosion control, and sedimentation.
fall: 2021-2022
- **LA 5923: Planting Design** (*core curriculum*) An intensive lecture course emphasizing the use of plants in landscape architecture design.
spring: 2020-2021
- **LA 5950: Graduate Project Proposal** (*core curriculum*) Proposal development for terminal graduate project in landscape architecture.
spring: 2021-2023; fall: 2023-present
- **LA 6643: Urban Design Theory** (*core curriculum*) A survey of theory relevant to the urban design process, including social and behavioral concepts, visual and aesthetic theory, spatial and geographic factors of urban form.
spring: 2024

STUDENT MENTORING:

- **PhD Committees:**

AY 2024-
present **Committee Member:** Olivia VanBuskirk, Geography
Project title: *Climate Adaptation, Greening, and the Growth Machine: Implications for Equity and Justice*

- **Graduate Final Project Committees:**

AY 2026 **Committee Chair:** Jeremy Crites
Project title: *Aesthetic Preferences and Native Plant Adoption in Designed Landscapes*
Committee Chair: Monte Dunham
Project title: *Communicating Applications of Conservation Research Technology in Zoological Spaces to Visitors*
Committee Chair: Afrah Faheem
Project title: *Addressing Habitat Loss and Fragmentation to Increase Bird*

Population as an Economic Development in Oklahoma City, OK

Committee Chair: Frank Hicks

Project title: *The Adaptive Reuse of Brownfields to Preserve Cultural Identity and Promote Ecological Restoration in Oklahoma City, OK*

Committee Chair: Fatemeh Momeni

Project title: *Utilizing Low Impact Development and Ecological Design to Mitigate Pollution and Enhance the Ecological and Social Viability of the Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City, OK*

Committee Chair: Salomon Murillo

Project title: *University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Master Plan: Integrating social spaces in stormwater management*

Committee Chair: Jessica Steele

Project title: *Seminole Nation Museum Master Plan: Cultural connections as a gateway to health*

Committee Chair: Peyton Steger

Project title: *The Design of Outdoor Space in Memory Care Facilities Ameliorate Aggressive Behaviors in People with Dementia*

Committee Chair: Blaise Voight

Project title: *Historic Preservation and Placemaking Strategies as a Catalyst for Economic Revitalization in historic downtown Checotah, OK*

Committee Chair: Giselle Walker

Project title: *How Policy impacts Data Centers in Texas and California: Examining energy usage and air quality*

AY 2025

Committee Chair: Grace Broussard

Project title: *Levering Historic Properties to Increase Housing Stock*

Committee Chair: Iman Moradi

Project title: *From Runoff to Resilience: A strategic approach to stormwater management at OU*

Committee Chair: Anahita Niknejad

Project title: *Rammed Earth for Landscape Architecture Applications: Assessing the Impact of Weathering on Durability*

Committee Chair: Jarrod Pace

Project title: *TQOK: Recreational trail as a wildlife corridor in Tahlequah, OK*

Committee Chair: Karina Salazar

Project title: *The Connection of Indigenous Cultural Representation into Landscape Architecture*

Committee Chair: Natalie Young

Project title: *Designing a Successful Community Garden: A best practice design guide on Oklahoma and Texas case studies*

- AY 2024 **Committee Chair:** Rajith Kedarisetty
Project title: *Prairie Waters: A sustainable vision for Oklahoma's stormwater*
- AY 2023 **Committee Chair:** Peyton Kroh
Project title: *Grey Snow Aviary: Bald eagle sanctuary and nature park*
- AY 2023 **Committee Chair:** Brett Karp
Project title: *Perkins, OK: Creating nature-based destinations to increase economic development opportunities*
- AY 2022 **Committee Chair:** Melisa Seward
Project title: *Project Management Strategies in Landscape Architecture*
- AY 2022 **Committee Member:** Emma Mangum
MLAS Qualifying Exam Committee
- AY 2022 **Committee Member:** Micky Walkup
MLAS Qualifying Exam Committee
- AY 2022 **Committee Chair:** Bethany Grissom
Project title: *The Role of Vestibular Stimulation in Public Art*
- AY 2022 **Committee Chair:** Shawndale Pina Huff
Project title: *Sustainably Grown Cannabis as a Vehicle for Social Justice*
- AY 2022 **Committee Chair:** Kevin Mink
Project title: *Storm Water Management in Oklahoma City, OK*
- AY 2022 **Committee Member:** Luci Hunter Whitaker
Project title: *Economically, Environmentally, and Socially Sustainable River Front Development*
- AY 2021 **Committee Member:** Yi-Wen Yeh
MLAS Qualifying Exam Committee
- AY 2021 **Committee Member:** Matthew Kessler
Project title: *Turf Grass Front Lawn, An American Dream?*
- AY 2021 **Committee Member:** Mingzheng Chen
MLAS Qualifying Exam Committee
- AY 2021 **Committee Member:** Yung Chieh Liu
MLAS Qualifying Exam Committee
- AY 2020 **Committee Member:** Haley Powell
Project title: *Text Food Forests as a Way to Address Food Insecurity*
- AY 2020 **Committee Member:** Chao Wang
MLAS Qualifying Exam Committee
- AY 2019 **Committee Chair:** Amanda Thomas
Project title: *Retrofitting Existing School Playgrounds to Accommodate Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*
- AY 2018 **Committee Chair:** Eric Sabin
Project title: *Low Impact Development Guidebook; Prepared for the City of Midwest City*

Committee Member: Aubrey Pontious

Project title: *Investigating Drones within Landscape Architecture*

Committee Member: Rachel Ware

Project title: *Brock Creek Corridor: Rediscovering the Value of Urban Creeks*

AY 2017 **Committee Member:** Yiwei Lin

MLAS Qualifying Exam Committee

Committee Member: Xiaoxiao Wei

MLAS Qualifying Exam Committee

AY 2016 **Committee Chair:** Hejun Wen

Project title: *Greening the Gap: Dallas Downtown Park Design*

Committee Member: Corey West

Project title: *Tennis Complex: Norman, OK*

- **Student Awards**

- **National**

- Alesha Milsap and Sraboni Das Meem, CELA Student Award, Honorable Mention 2026
 - Frank Hicks, LAF Ignite Fellowship 2025-2026
 - Olmsted Scholar Nominee:
 - AY 2026 Adrian Ochoa
 - AY 2025 Fatemeh Momeni
 - AY 2024 Iman Moradi
 - Afrah Faheem, CELA Poster Presentation, 2025

- **Regional**

- Central States ASLA
 - Iman Moradi, Merit Award, 2024

- **Local**

- APAOK
 - Rajith Kedarisetty, Outstanding Student Award, 2025
 - Rajith Kedarisetty, Outstanding Student Award, 2024
 - OKASLA
 - Alesha Milsap & Sraboni Meem; Merit Award, 2025
 - Tanvin Mahtub Fariha; Merit Award, 2025
 - Fatemeh Momeni; Honor Award, 2024
 - Fatemeh Momeni & Anahita Niknejad; Honor Award, 2024
 - Rajith Kedarisetty, Honor Award, 2023
 - Natalie Young, Rajith Kedarisetty & Jake Lange; Merit Award, 2023
 - Jarrod Pace; Merit Award, 2023
 - Peyton Kroh; Merit Award, 2023

- Iman Moradi, Merit Award, 2023
- Anahita Niknejad, Merit Award, 2023
- **Student Enrichment**
 - **Studio Potluck.** *Organized an MLA studio potluck around Thanksgiving since November 2023.*
 - **Community Engagement Coordinator.** *Developed community engagement projects and collaborated with faculty to implement in courses.*
 - **Gibbs College of Architecture Portfolio Panel Discussion.** *Organized and moderated a panel of six practitioners across the country to discuss the hiring process and tips on creating an engaging portfolio.09.19.2025*
 - **SCASLA.** *Faculty advisor*

INVITED LECTURER:

- **Guest Lecturer, External to University of Oklahoma:**
 - *University of Arkansas, Landscape Architecture Studio, 11.08.2024*
 - *The University of Central Oklahoma, Early Childhood Education, 09.09.2024*
 - *The University of Georgia, Environmental Ethics Panel, 02.28.2023*
- **Guest Lecturer, University of Oklahoma**
 - *Public Health: fall 2025*
 - *Gateways to Belonging: fall 2024, fall 2025*
 - *Environmental Design Practicum: spring 2024*
 - *OU Honors College: fall 2023*
 - *Research Methods (Masters): fall 2019*
 - *Architecture Studio: fall 2019*
 - *Research Methods (PhD): spring 2019*
 - *Intro to Landscape Architecture: fall 2017, fall 2018*
 - *Garden History: spring 2017*

INVITED JUROR:

- **Guest Juror, External to University of Oklahoma**
 - *University of Arkansas, 12.05.2023*
 - *University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 11.20.2020*
 - *Kansas State University, 09.28.2020*
 - *Kansas State University, 09.25.2020*
- **Guest Juror, University of Oklahoma:** *Landscape Architecture, Architecture, and Regional and City Planning studios; Environmental Design Practicum and Capstone; and GIS for Land Use Planning.*

SERVICE

INTERNATIONAL / NATIONAL:

2025-present **Co-Director**, Child and Youth Working Program, International Federation of Landscape Architects

2022-2023 **Member**, Low Impact Development Conference Committee, American Society of Civil Engineers

2022 **Vice President of Research and Creative Activity**, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture

2015, 2016, 2018 **Faculty Advisor**, ULI Hines Student Competition

Conference Reviewer Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA)
Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA)
International Play Association (IPA)

Journal Reviewer *Children, Youth and Environments Journal*
Sustainability
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health
Landscape Journal
Landscape Research Record
Qualitative Research

STATE:

2022-present **Faculty Representative**, Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

2023 **Member**, Strategic Planning Committee, Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

2021 **Grant Reviewer**, The University of Central Oklahoma

October 16, 2015 **Organizer**, Lunch & Learn, 1-hour credit HSW
Presentation: *Reviewing the new ADA Standards for Accessible Design of Outdoor Play Environments*

UNIVERSITY:

2015-present **Affiliate Faculty**, Environmental Studies

2017-2019 **Member**, Budget Council, University of Oklahoma

COLLEGE:

2017-present **Member**, PhD Committee

2022-present **Member**, IQC RFP Review Committee

2022-present **Juror**, Graduate Student Research and Creativity Day, reviewer

2023-2024 **Chair**, Ad Hoc Tenure and Promotion Committee

Sarah Little, PLA, PhD

2023-2024 **Member**, IQC Visioning Committee
2022-2023 **Member**, Committee A; *Tenure and Promotion Committee*
2021-2022 **Chair**, Creating_Making Lab-IT Committee
AY 17, 18, 22, 23 **Member**, Search Committee
2015- 2017 **Member**, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

DIVISION:

2023-present **Member**, PLAD Committee A; *Tenure and Promotion Committee*
2023-present **Member**, PLAD Curriculum Committee
2022-2023 **Member**, PLAD Merger Committee
2014-2017, 2022-2024 **Faculty Advisor**, Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape
Architects (SCASLA)