

Dear IFLA Delegate,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today to discuss this year's IFLA membership dues and to reflect on the accomplishments of our organization over the last 12 months. I have attached your association's invoice for your convenience.

I know that times are tough for many of our members, but I want to assure you that IFLA is committed to providing its members with the best possible value for their money. We have worked hard over the past year to solidify our governance and improve the services that we offer to our members.

Governance

We have initiated a comprehensive review of our governance structure to ensure it remains effective, transparent, and responsive to the evolving needs of our members and the profession. This review is helping us optimise our organisational structure and decision-making processes for greater efficiency and inclusivity.

Secretariat

The IFLA Secretariat has expanded with the addition of new staff members. Sally Robertshaw, IFLA Executive Secretary, continues to provide exceptional support and assistance to members. Anushruti Ganguly, IFLA Communications and Events Manager, manages communication channels, fosters stakeholder relationships, and delivers high-quality events. Melanie (Jiying) Zhao, IFLA Corporate Membership and Sponsorship Manager, develops and implements strategies to foster corporate partnerships and secure sponsorships.

Events

Our annual World Congress in Istanbul was a resounding success, drawing landscape architects from around the world for a dynamic exchange of knowledge, ideas, and best practices. The congress served as a powerful reminder of the crucial role landscape architecture plays in addressing global challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanisation, and the need for more equitable and inclusive communities. We're now



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gearing up for our IFLA World Congress in Nantes, 10-12 September. We hope to see you all in France!

Advocacy

We actively participated in the three COPs organized in 2024—COP16 on Biodiversity (Cali, Colombia), COP29 on Climate Change (Baku, Azerbaijan), and COP16 on Desertification (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia). We've also attended the World Urban Forum 12, organised by UN-Habitat in Cairo, Egypt. Our presence at these critical summits underscored our commitment to environmental stewardship and highlighted the vital role landscape architects play in mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, and combating desertification, among many other issues. We're now preparing for COP30 on Climate Change, which will be at the beginning of November in Belem, Brazil. Our IFLA regions have actively lobbied for the betterment of the profession and organised numerous meetings to promote the importance of the profession. We also launched our IFLA Pairing North-South Project to bridge the gap between the Global North and the Global South.

Partnerships

We have strengthened our partnerships with several UN agencies, particularly UN-Habitat, where we signed a comprehensive MoU of collaboration at WUF 12 in Cairo. We've also boosted our collaborations with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Urban Health Programme. We also forged impactful MoUs and partnerships with key organisations like WGIN (World Green Infrastructure Network), CELA (Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture) and URBIO (Urban Biodiversity Network), on top of the very successful MoUs already signed with ISUH (International Society for Urban Health), CCN (Circular Cities Network) and AIPH (International Association of Horticultural Producers). We've also reigned our work with ISOCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners) and the UIA (International Union of Architects). These collaborations amplify our collective voice and expand our capacity to address critical global issues. We're working hard to enhance other partnerships with UN agencies and other stakeholders where the voice of landscape architecture is needed.

Education and Capacity Building

We have invested in mapping out the educational programmes available worldwide so we can better allocate resources and support the next generation of landscape architects. Our



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three Standing Committee Chairs (CER, EAA, and PPP) have organised workshops, seminars, and public lectures to raise awareness about the importance of landscape architecture in addressing contemporary challenges. The IFLA GSP—Global Studio Programme has been a smashing success, bringing together four student charettes associated with major LA events across four IFLA regions to foster future leadership and establish a global network of LA education institutions. We'll keep going forward with the IFLA GSP.

Awards

We celebrated the exceptional work of our members through our award programmes, including the Jellicoe Award and the IFLA President's Award, respectively bestowed to James Corner and Prof Maria Ignatieva. We celebrated other accomplishments through our regional IFLA AAPME Awards and IFLA ME Landscape Awards. These awards recognise the transformative power of design excellence and innovation in landscape architecture.

Membership

We welcomed Lappset Group to our IFLA Corporate Membership programme and renewed our intentions with CLARB and LAND F/X.

As we embrace the next 12 months, we will continue expanding our global network, championing sustainable practices, empowering future leaders, and advocating for the profession. We will also keep developing our Global Professional Standards initiative, revising our Global Educational Standards and expanding our Global Recognition and Accreditation Programme. We'll be launching a series of Working Programmes soon, and we'll need your support and participation. We aim to keep recruiting more Category A members, assist emerging countries in establishing professional bodies, and expand our portfolio of Category D corporate members. IFLA will continue supporting numerous initiatives across our committees and working groups, particularly Climate Action and Biodiversity, Knowledge Hub, Education Capacity Building, Agricultural Landscapes, Landscape Architects Without Borders, and many more.

We believe that IFLA is a valuable resource for landscape architects around the world. We offer a unified global platform for landscape architects to collaborate, share knowledge, advocate for the profession, set standards, and promote sustainable and innovative approaches to designing and managing the built environment.



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We hope that you will continue to support IFLA by paying your membership dues. Your support is essential to our success.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Bruno Marques
IFLA President



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