

## BOTANICAL GARDENS: DESIGNING PLACES FOR ENRICHMENT AND GROWTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

### SESSION OVERVIEW

This panel discussion will explore the changing role of botanical gardens in the 21st century, serving to advance the beneficial principles of good landscape architecture to the general public. They are now taking their rightful place alongside other significant cultural, social and educational institutions, engaging a wide range of residents and tourists.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Learn about the specific challenges landscape architects face in Botanical Garden design;
2. Understand how to translate a Garden's mission and messaging into effective design solutions;
3. Understand how well-designed Botanical Gardens contribute to human well-being;
4. Learn how ecological sustainability and stewardship can be demonstrated and taught at Botanical Gardens.

# ALLAN SUMMERS - ROBINSON ANDERSON SUMMERS / RAS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



## DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS

Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek (DBG) in Dagsboro, Delaware is a new world-class, inspirational, educational, and sustainable public botanic garden in southern Delaware with a public opening planned in 2019. An ecologically based design ethic guided the planning process for the 37 acre site. Partnering with architects Lake/Flato and the renowned garden designer Piet Oudolf, RAS developed the site Master Plan and initial concepts for the entry and arrival sequence, parking, buildings, and meadow garden. The gardens showcase the rich diversity of plants that occur naturally or are well-suited to growing conditions in region.



## KEY COMPONENTS

- The gardens will provide an exceptional coastal plain environment for teaching and learning about nature and create a greater awareness of native Delaware ecosystems.
- Once constructed, the Visitor Parking lot will feature stormwater best management practices including permeable crushed shell paving in the parking stalls and a central rain garden feature.
- Installation of the 2 acre meadow was overseen by Piet Oudolf in fall 2017 and spring 2018. It includes 67,000 perennial plugs and was installed almost entirely by volunteers.
- The design process was plant driven - translating the garden's mission into gardens that will showcase the rich diversity of plants well suited to the Delmarva Coastal Region. The local architectural vernacular, land characteristics, and patterns of use were inspiration for the design.



## NOTES

# ALLAN SUMMERS - ROBINSON ANDERSON SUMMERS / RAS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



## MT. CUBA CENTER

In 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Lamot du Pont Copeland established a 570-acre estate and hired landscape architects Thomas Sears and Marian Coffin to design the formal gardens. In the 1960s, the Copelands developed artistic native plantings in the adjacent woodlands and meadows. Their estate is now Mt. Cuba Center, which inspires an appreciation for the beauty and value of native plants and a commitment to protect the habitats that sustain them. Renowned for its extensive native plant collections and research against the backdrop of the formal estate, Mt. Cuba required sensitive renovations as it transitioned from private to public garden.



## MT. CUBA CENTER TRIAL GARDEN

The Trial Garden evaluates native plants and related cultivars for horticultural and ecological value and to highlight the ecosystem services the plants provide. RAS transformed the estate's original cut flower garden to create the 15,000-SF Trial Garden.

- Species and cultivars of a selected plant are grown side by side, allowing researchers to develop unbiased results and highlight plants best suited for the mid-Atlantic region.
- Researchers required both sun and shade conditions.
- Shade structures could not create negative visual impacts from the historic Mansion.
- Visitors are encouraged to cast their vote for their favorite plants. Mt. Cuba has completed trials on coreopsis, heuchera, phlox, baptisia, monarda, echinacea, & aster.



## NOTES

# CHRISTINE TEN EYCK, FASLA - TEN EYCK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



## SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

Recognized nationally for commitment to outstanding displays, botanical diversity, education, environmental stewardship, and experiences that connect people to the natural world, San Antonio Botanical Garden serves as a museum of plants, a tranquil escape, a living classroom, a research and conservation facility, and entertainment venue where art, architecture, music, and theater experiences come to life for more than 150,000 annual visitors, including 50,000 children. Hundreds of volunteers provide a beautiful and engaging environment for children and adults to experience the world of plants and nature, learning practical ways to care for our environment.



## GARDEN EXPANSION

8.5-acres of improvements, including infrastructure, hardscape, a two-acre Family Adventure Garden, a culinary garden, and rain-harvesting system.

- Design Considerations and Process: Translating the Garden's mission and messaging into tenable design solutions while balancing stakeholder needs and budgetary constraints;
- Sustainability: Demonstrating LID/sustainable best practices;
- Social Impact: Creating community and human connections to horticulture and the natural world; providing outdoor places to gather for improved health and well-being.
- Educational Impact: Conducting research and teaching the public about the beauty and uses of plants through programming, interaction and display; and emphasizing environmental stewardship.



## NOTES



## CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG), located in Glencoe, IL, opened more than 40 years ago. It is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and operated by the Chicago Horticultural Society. A collection of living laboratories, the Garden comprises 385 acres on and around nine islands, with six miles of lake shoreline. CBG has over 50,000 permanent members, over a million visitors annually, and is an example of a successful public-private partnership.

## THE DONALD F. and ADA L. RICE PLANT CONSERVATION SCIENCE CENTER

- A LEED-Gold facility that includes classrooms, laboratories, interactive public displays, and masters and doctoral programs in biology and conservation;
- The five-acre site and building are viewed as a single resilient system;
- The building is elevated to utilize entire site as a bioswale known as the 'Rainwater Glen;'
- The Rainwater Glen treats 96% of the rainwater events;
- A 16,000-square foot research and display green roof includes soil depths of four, six, and eight inches.



## NOTES

## PANEL



### JOHN TROY, ASLA - MODERATOR

John Troy has enjoyed a diverse career in landscape architecture, passionately advocating the profession's value to students, clients and community groups. After receiving a 1981 CELA Outstanding Educator award at West Virginia University, John launched a residential design practice in the San Antonio, TX region. His classic designs in arid environments have been featured in numerous publications. Currently serving as president of the San Antonio Botanical Garden, John has contributed 30 years of service to infuse sound design principles into its development. Texas ASLA has honored John with the 2016 Community Service Award as well as several design awards.



### LISA DELPLACE, ASLA - PANELIST

Lisa Delplace joined OEHME, VAN SWEDEN | OvS in 1988. Throughout her tenure, she has broadened the firm's ecological depth of bench while emphasizing collaboration between architects and scientists—a crucial factor in expanding OvS' portfolio of significant work. She was appointed CEO in 2003, yet continues to oversee a range of award-winning projects at every scale. Both lead designer and managing principal, she has been key to expanding the firm's revolutionary aesthetic and shepherding its evolution. Lisa has served as a visiting critic and lecturer nationally and internationally for distinguished universities and professional organizations.



### CHRISTINE TEN EYCK, FASLA - PANELIST

Christine Ten Eyck, FASLA is founding principal of Ten Eyck Landscape Architects of Austin, Texas, previously of Phoenix, Arizona. During her career of over 35 years, Christine's work has celebrated the inherent beauty of Texas and the southwest, the culture of its people and the sacred path of water, pioneering contemporary regionalism. She has created restorative outdoor environments which are infused with natural beauty, encourage social interaction and foster human healing. Importantly, her work also illustrates the capacity for place-based landscape architecture to address pressing global issues such as climate, habitat and water quality protection.



### ALLAN SUMMERS, ASLA - PANELIST

Allan has a passion for horticulture and fine art and has over 25 years' experience providing planning and design services through all phases of landscape architecture. His interests are reflected in a wide variety of projects that include institutional work, private estate gardens, botanical gardens, arboreta, conservatories, and historic landscapes. Some of Allan's clients have included the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, Nemours Mansion & Gardens, Morris Arboretum, Delaware Art Museum and Astra Zeneca.

---

ASLA  
PHL2018

#ASLA2018