

Rooted & Reimagined

September 10 - 14, 2026 | Columbus, Ohio

Association of Professional Landscape Designers

INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONFERENCE

September 10 - 14, 2026 | Columbus, Ohio



Welcome to Columbus!

Join us in Columbus, a city defined by strong design culture, botanical depth, and a growing creative influence, as we explore the intersection of landscape design, horticulture, and professional practice.

Far from a flyover city, Columbus offers a rich mix of historic neighborhoods, public landscapes, and innovative institutions, making it an ideal place to get inspired and rethink about how meaningful landscape design is shaped by region, plants, and people.

At its heart, the 2026 International Landscape Design Conference is more than a gathering. It's a welcoming, energized community of designers and professionals who are genuinely excited to learn from one another. It's a place where conversations spill easily from sessions into hallways, garden tours, and shared meals; where ideas are shared freely, and where people show up ready to explore, connect, and grow together.

You'll be among peers who are generous with their knowledge, curious about new approaches and design trends, and eager to push the field forward—whether that's plant-forward design, resilient landscapes, or evolving business practices. Expect practical, real-world tools, from refined planting strategies to AI-supported workflows, that expand creativity, sharpen decision-making, and keep ecological values at the center.

And just as importantly, you'll feel the energy of being at an event where relationships form quickly, ideas take root, and inspiration builds through shared experience.

This is a conference where you don't just attend; you belong. We hope you will join us in Columbus.

From innovative planting strategies to more efficient design workflows, the 2026 APLD International Landscape Design Conference is helping shape a future rooted in nature and reimagined through practice.



Conference Schedule

The schedule is subject to change due to traffic delays or other unforeseeable circumstances.

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Breakfast on Your Own

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Pre-Conference Registration

Pre-Conference Activities

Choose from three pre-conference activities. Space is limited.

8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Offsite

Makers Tour (Limited to 50)

(8:30 a.m. Meet in Lobby to Depart for Pre-Conference Makers Tour;

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tour; Lunch on Your Own at a Market)

This series of maker visits invites landscape designers to step briefly outside their own discipline and into the creative processes of regional artisans. By engaging with makers working with reclaimed materials, flowers, and spirits, participants will have the opportunity to observe how others approach form, structure, sustainability, and storytelling through craft. Experiencing these practices firsthand, designers will see familiar materials in new ways, reflect on their own creative methods, and return to work refreshed with ideas that can provide design inspiration.

OR

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hands-on AI Workshop (Limited to 50)

Discover how artificial intelligence is transforming the landscape design industry in this practical, hands-on workshop. Tailored specifically for landscape designers, this session introduces easy-to-use AI tools that can enhance creativity, streamline workflows, and improve client communication. Participants will also learn best practices to build AI assistants customized to your design process and organization's needs. Whether you're new to AI or looking to deepen your skills, this workshop will equip you with practical techniques to save time, spark inspiration, and stay competitive in a rapidly evolving field. Recommended for any AI skill level.

OR

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Certification Workshop (Limited to 20)

This FREE workshop will provide attendees with a clear understanding of the requirements for APLD's certification program. Through real-world examples and interactive group discussion, participants will gain practical guidance to help prepare a successful portfolio submission.

- Gain a thorough knowledge of certification requirements and expectations
- Get direction on preparing required documentation and records
- Ask questions and connect with industry professionals and peers

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Conference Registration
5:45 p.m.	Pre-Conference Tour Arrives at Hotel
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Opening Reception and International Landscape Design Awards Program <i>Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar</i>

Friday, September 11, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions
8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Session Chanticleer – A Pleasure Garden <i>Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist, Chanticleer Garden</i>
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	The Gravel Garden: Visionary, Drought-Defying, Naturalistic Designs <i>Jeff Epping, Epping Design & Consulting</i>
12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Break
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	AI Foundations for Landscape Designers <i>Lori Robbins, HERizon AI</i>
1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Lunch and Visit with Exhibitors
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Best Perennials for Pollinators <i>Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelly Director, Ornamental Plant Research, Chicago Botanic Garden</i>
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Break with Exhibitors
4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	The Future of Design Panel
6:15 p.m.	Meet in Lobby for Dine-Arounds/Evening on Your Own

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Breakfast on Your Own

8:30 a.m.

Meet in Lobby to Depart for Garden Tours

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Offsite

Garden Tours

Lunch included

Saturday's garden tours highlight the diversity of residential landscape design across Columbus, from compact urban gardens to expansive estate landscapes shaped by long-term vision and careful plant selection. Attendees will experience gardens that demonstrate how thoughtful design responds to scale, context, and place.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Offsite

Garden Party

Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

The day concludes with an evening garden party at the personal garden of Nick and Allison McCullough. This relaxed gathering offers time to connect, reflect, and enjoy conversation within a living landscape that continues to evolve.

8:00 p.m.

Arrive at Hotel

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Breakfast on Your Own

8:30 a.m.

Meet in Lobby to Depart for Garden Tours

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Offsite

Garden Tours

Lunch included

Sunday's garden tours continue with a curated mix of residential gardens that emphasize maturity, stewardship, and the long view of landscape care. From small urban spaces to larger properties, the focus is on how planting strategies and design intent strengthen over time. A visit to the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is also in the works.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Offsite

Closing Reception

Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

8:00 p.m.

Arrive at Hotel



Monday, September 14, 2026 – Post Conference Tour

Breakfast on Your Own

8:30 a.m.

Meet in Lobby to Depart for Post Conference Tour

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Offsite

Post Conference Tour (Limited to 50)
Lunch included

Extend your conference experience with this unique tour that offers fresh perspectives on plant performance, sustainable design, emerging technologies, and creative landscape solutions while providing valuable opportunities to connect with fellow design professionals.

This exclusive tour will visit three of central Ohio's most remarkable landscape destinations. Explore the beauty and research-driven plant collections of The Ohio State University's Chadwick Arboretum, get a behind-the-scenes look at cutting-edge horticultural technology at the Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex (CEARC), and find design inspiration among the stunning gardens, woodlands, water features, and seasonal displays at Inniswood Metro Gardens.

6:30 p.m.

Arrive at Hotel

The schedule is subject to change due to traffic delays or other unforeseeable circumstances. Garden tour arrival and departure times are approximate.





Hotel Information

Hilton Columbus Downtown

402 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-384-8600

APLD has secured a discounted room rate for conference attendees, available during the conference dates and up to three days before and after, based on availability.

Please note: rooms in the APLD block are extremely limited and are expected to sell out quickly.

Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and the discounted rate is only available while rooms remain. Booking within the official hotel block ensures convenience and supports the event.

The reservation deadline is **Friday, July 10, 2026**. **Do not wait for the deadline to book** — the block may fill well before then. We strongly encourage you to reserve your room as soon as possible to guarantee availability and the discounted rate.

Room Rate:

Standard King or Standard Double Queens
\$219.00 (Single Occupancy) + applicable taxes and fees

[Click Here to Make Your Reservation](#)



2026 APLD International Landscape Design Conference Registration Form

September 10 – 14, 2026, Columbus, Ohio

Registration and Cancellation Deadline: August 28, 2026

A separate form must be completed for each conference attendee.

Remit payment and form to: APLD, 2207 Forest Hills Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112, fax this form with credit card payment to: (717) 238-9985 or register online at www.apld.org.

Attendee Name (as it should appear on badge): _____
Include CPLD or FAPLD if you are certified or a certified fellow.

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Is this your first APLD Conference? Yes No

Dietary Requirement:

Gluten Free Pescatarian Vegan Vegetarian I do not have a dietary requirement.

Emergency Contact Information:

Please provide the information of a person who is NOT attending the conference that should be contacted in case an emergency should arise.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Contact APLD Headquarters if you have any additional dietary needs or require specific accommodations in order to fully participate in the conference.

Members of organizations affiliated with APLD (America in Bloom, AILD, CLNA, CNLA, ELA, GBC, GBCI, GRHC, Holden Arboretum, NALP, PCS, PPA and SGD) may register to attend the conference at the professional member rate. Please list the affiliated organization you are a member of:

Payment Information:

Total Due: _____

Check (made payable to APLD) Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx Wire Transfer

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Name on Card (please print): _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

*Cancellations must be made in writing by **August 28** to receive a refund, less a \$25 administrative service fee plus any processing fees. After this time, there will be no refunds.*

Non-Members – If you join APLD today, you will receive the professional member rate for the conference, which is a \$800 discount off of the non-member main conference registration fee.



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Landscape
Designers

2026 APLD International Landscape Design Conference Registration Form

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Certified Designer/APLD Fellow

Main Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,465
Pre-Conference - Thursday, September 10		
- Makers Tour	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
- Hands-on AI Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$350
- Certification Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	FREE
Post Conference - Monday, September 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$300
Friday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600
Saturday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600
Sunday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600

Professional, Emerging Professional, Landscape Design Enthusiast & Retired Member

Main Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,600
Pre-Conference - Thursday, September 10		
- Makers Tour	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
- Hands-on AI Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$350
- Certification Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	FREE
Post Conference - Monday, September 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$300
Friday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600
Saturday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600
Sunday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600

Student/Educator Member

Main Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,175
Pre-Conference - Thursday, September 10		
- Makers Tour	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
- Hands-on AI Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$350
- Certification Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	FREE
Post Conference - Monday, September 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$300
Friday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600
Saturday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600
Sunday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600

Non-Member

Main Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2,400
Pre-Conference - Thursday, September 10		
- Makers Tour	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$375
- Hands-on AI Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500
- Certification Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	FREE
Post Conference - Monday, September 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$425
Friday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$900
Saturday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$900
Sunday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$900

Spouse/Companion

The spouse/companion rate applies only to those who are not in the industry.

Main Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,600
Pre-Conference - Thursday, September 10		
- Makers Tour	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
- Hands-on AI Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$350
- Certification Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	FREE
Post Conference - Monday, September 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$300
Friday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600
Saturday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600
Sunday only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600

Attendee Name

(as it should appear on badge):

Company:

Registration Options:

Main Conference includes the opening reception on the evening of Thursday, September 10; breakfast, lunch and all sessions on Friday, September 11; lunch, garden tours and garden party on Saturday, September 12; lunch, garden tours and closing reception on Sunday, September 13.

Pre-Conference on Thursday,

September 10 offers the choice of three options: Makers Tour, Hands-on AI Workshop, or Certification Workshop.

Post Conference on Monday,

September 14 includes lunch and tours.

Please review carefully what is included in each registration option before making your selection.

If you have any questions, please contact events@apld.org.