

Rooted & Reimagined

September 10 - 14, 2026 | Columbus, Ohio

Association of Professional Landscape Designers

INTERNATIONAL

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

CONFERENCE

September 10 - 14, 2026 | Columbus, Ohio

Conference Schedule

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

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Breakfast on Your Own

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Pre-Conference Registration

8:30 a.m.

Meet in Lobby to Depart for Pre-Conference Tour (Limited to 50)

Pre-Conference Activities

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Makers Tour (Limited to 50)

(Lunch on Your Own)

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 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.

Participants will leave the workshop with:

- A clear understanding of certification requirements and expectations
- Practical guidance on preparing required documentation and records
- Opportunities to ask questions and connect with industry professionals and peers

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Main 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 Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist, Chanticleer Garden
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break with Exhibitors
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Jeff Epping, Epping Design & Consulting
12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Break
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lori Robbins, HERizon AI
1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Lunch and Visit with Exhibitors
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Richard Hawke, Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Director of Ornamental Plant Research, Chicago Botanic Garden
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.	Garden Tours <i>Lunch included</i>

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 gardens 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 Activity

Breakfast on Your Own

8:30 a.m.

Meet in Lobby to Depart for Post Conference Activity

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Offsite

Post Conference Activity
Lunch included

6:30 p.m.

Arrive at Hotel

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