

Candidates Statement

Lara Pfadt, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, CPHC

Sustainability Strategist Associate, Finegold Alexander Architects

Lara serves as Finegold Alexander's Sustainability Strategist, bringing a passion for sustainability and expertise in environmentally-conscious solutions to all of the firm's projects. She has 21 years of experience in preservation, adaptive reuse and new construction projects for higher education, government and the private development projects. Lara is especially skilled in managing systems integration as they relate to sustainable practices and the role they play in preserving and reusing existing buildings.

Beth Percy, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, CPHC

Architect, Amenta Emma Architects

Beth is a licensed architect, a member of the Sustainability Team at Amenta Emma, and she serves on the Sustainability Committee for the Boston chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women. She has experience in sustainable design on a variety of project types and sizes including K-12, retail, and development. Beth brings energy and enthusiasm to the practice of sustainability. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Architecture and a minor of Construction Science. Beth moved to Boston in 2017. She has a variety of firm experience in multiple states and in working with sustainability programs at different levels.

Moving to a COMMITTEE on the Environment

A key strength of BSA work groups is the multiple voices & perspectives represented and in our view this too should be reflected in the Committee for the Environment. We proposed the committee be comprised of 6-10 interested BSA members lead by two co-chairs. The co-chair positions will initially be filled during this election process and after a 12-month period appointed by the committee from within the current committee group. An overlap of incoming and outgoing co-chairs is recommended to allow a smooth transition period.

OUR VISION FOR COTE:

Beth and Lara are happy to announce their joint candidacy for COTE co-chairs. They have partnered on sustainability initiatives in the past and understand the important framework of a dynamic partnership. They are passionate about their platform for COTE and excited to implement it through vision-driven programs. Building on the work of the past chairs, we will further position COTE as a forum for the dissemination of knowledge about sustainable design. While continuing to offer a robust program of sustainable educational forums focused to broaden our outreach and further the practice by implementing the following visions:

Inclusivity and Outreach

The importance of sustainable design is widely accepted in the building and construction community. COTE serves as a catalyst for knowledge sharing between architects, consultants and clients with the goal of achieving environmentally conscious high-performance buildings, landscapes and urban designs. Continuing the concept and application-based talks, we propose focusing on programs aimed to break

down the barriers that can impede the progress of sustainable practices in firms with less resources. We intend to develop sessions that not only further sustainability programs at every firm regardless of their size or resources, but also provide all practitioners, regardless of their position, practical knowledge and action items to positively impact sustainable initiatives. This vision will be accomplished through the following actions:

- Collaborate with other knowledge communities and related organizations to expand the audience and unite our shared interests. Specifically offering programs with Revit Users, IT, and SketchUp groups to provide understanding of various programs, practical knowledge and training.
- Create an annual round-table discussion on how practitioners are implementing new sustainability initiatives.
- Invite industry experts to help less resourced firms establish a practical toolbox for sustainability

Legislation & Code

COTE will advance the dissemination of current environmental code and emerging legislation that impacts the built environment. Through collaboration with fellow BSA Committees, COTE will provide the necessary platform to help firms navigate the complex and evolving legislation environmental code and subsequent actions to meet current and future requirements. The goal is to advance sustainable practices within the architecture community and larger corporations that are tangent to the communities who will have the largest impact to these initiatives. This vision will be accomplished through the following actions:

- Develop partnerships to advance sustainable legislation within the BSA and externally
- Provide educational courses on current and emerging code and zoning requirements to further understand the political landscape surrounding sustainable legislation. This will include barriers to positive and impactful legislation which organizations are striving to achieve.
- Host events where BSA members have the opportunity to interact with legislators and environmental lobbyists

Wellbeing through Sustainability

Struggling to advocating for sustainable design is commonplace in the industry; it is sometimes forgotten that the heart of sustainability is about the wellness and happiness of humans. We intend to bring this overarching view, of health and wellbeing for our buildings and inhabitants, to the forefront. Framing sustainability as the positive design force that it is rather than another layer of project complication is will allow this committee to further the goal of making the world a better, more sustainable and habitable place.

- Expand the roles within the COTE planning beyond two co-chairs to a larger planning committee with the goal of providing more opportunities and a broader perspective
- Provide members with opportunities for partnerships and resource sharing
- As we begin to transition from a completely digital world to a world that will allow more opportunities for in-person events, we intend to offer a wide array of programs offered by COTE, including both digital and in-person options as well as synopsis and recordings to give more flexibility to our target audiences
- Roundtable discussions to develop strategies for increasing client buy-in on sustainable design during project proposal