

MISSION STATEMENT

Aims of the network

The Network of European Landscape Architecture Archives (NELA) seeks to enhance the quality, visibility, and use of landscape architecture archival institutions and to raise awareness of the importance of collecting landscape archival material. Its goal is to help support the practice and profession of landscape architecture, to promote historical research, and to instil in future professionals and scholars an awareness of the historical continuum.

DISCLOSE, CONNECT, PRESERVE, INFORM, RESEARCH, EDUCATE

NELA offers an exchange of experience and knowledge relating to acquisition, the custody and use of landscape architectural archives, and the provision of public access. The topics covered range from collecting, inventorying, preservation, restoration, digitization, creating repositories, using archival documents, and information in practice to research and teaching.

Guidelines

- NELA members adhere to the Universal Declaration on Archives adopted by the International Council on Archives in 2010, and by UNESCO on 10 November 2011, appended in [Annex I](#).
- NELA members adhere to the Code of Ethics appended in Annex II.
- NELA member archives' focus, in terms of geography and content, is coherent with the relevant cultural, historical, and political context.
- NELA member archives are of a non-commercial character.
- Archival material should be made publicly accessible in digital and/or analogue form.
- The network provides a point of contact for people who wish to donate, deposit, or use archives. NELA member Archives offer advice and counselling to private/public institutions and private persons holding landscape architecture archives; they accept donations and deposits.
- NELA member Archives support professionals in garden and landscape heritage, work involving restoration or redesign, and any other landscape design task by providing information (e.g. original plans, etc.).

Members agree to support the activities of NELA:

- to increase the significance of landscape architecture archives, to highlight the importance of collecting landscape archival material, and to give NELA member Archives international visibility
- to share experience and collaborate in teaching
- to develop collaboration in research and the dissemination of ideas (publications, exhibitions, etc.)
- to develop joint projects and apply for funding (project types include joint research/teaching projects, exhibitions, acquisition, publications, and visits to other member archive centres)
- to address professional and academic associations (ECLAS, IFLA-Europe, ICOMOS and ICOMOS-IFLA, national professional associations, etc.)

Membership types

NELA is a network for institutions and individuals whose interest it is to enhance the importance of landscape architectural archives and archival work and to further mutual international support on a European level.

1 - Institutional members: Institutions and organizations (e.g. archives, libraries, universities) that manage and conserve collections and/or archives of landscape architecture and which have expertise in one or more areas related to the aims of NELA

2 - User members: Institutions and organizations of any kind (e.g. schools, research institutions, professional practices) that have expertise in one or more areas related to the aims of NELA and make use of landscape architecture collections/archives for practice, research and/or educational purposes

3 - Affiliate members: Institutions and organizations other than those in category 1 and 2 that are interested in landscape architecture archives, historical research, and education and wish to support the aims and activities of NELA

4 - Individual members: People with an interest and/or expertise in one or more areas related to the aims of NELA

Interested institutions and individuals can send an email to the NELA contact address with a request for membership in one of the categories. They should include information about their professional and institutional background and their focus of interest in NELA.



Endorsed by 36th Session
of the General Conference
of UNESCO Paris,
10 November 2011



Adopted at the General
Assembly of ICA Oslo,
September 2010.

Universal Declaration on Archives

Archives record decisions, actions and memories.

Archives are a **unique** and **irreplaceable heritage** passed from one **generation** to another. Archives are managed from creation to **preserve** their value and meaning. They are **authoritative** sources of information underpinning **accountable** and **transparent** administrative actions. They play an **essential** role in the development of societies by **safeguarding** and **contributing** to individual and community **memory**. Open access to archives enriches our **knowledge** of human society, promotes **democracy**, protects **citizens' rights** and enhances the **quality of life**.

To this effect, we recognize

- **The unique quality** of archives as authentic evidence of administrative, cultural and intellectual activities and as a reflection of the evolution of societies;
- **The vital necessity** of archives for supporting business efficiency, accountability and transparency, for protecting citizens' rights, for establishing individual and collective memory, for understanding the past, and for documenting the present to guide future actions;
- **The diversity of archives** in recording every area of human activity;
- **The multiplicity of formats** in which archives are created including paper, electronic, audiovisual and other types;
- **The role of archivists** as trained professionals with initial and continuing education, serving their societies by supporting the creation of records and by selecting, maintaining and making these records available for use;
- **The collective responsibility** of all – citizens, public administrators and decision-makers, owners or holders of public or private archives, and archivists and other information specialists – in the management of archives.

We therefore undertake to work together in order that

- Appropriate national archival policies and laws are adopted and enforced;
- The management of archives is valued and carried out competently by all bodies, private or public, which create and use archives in the course of conducting their business;
- Adequate resources are allocated to support the proper management of archives, including the employment of trained professionals;
- Archives are managed and preserved in ways that ensure their authenticity, reliability, integrity and usability;
- Archives are made accessible to everyone, while respecting the pertinent laws and the rights of individuals, creators, owners and users;
- Archives are used to contribute to the promotion of responsible citizenship.

ANNEX II, CODE OF ETHICS

- 1) The members of NELA adhere to the Universal Declaration on Archives adopted by the International Council on Archives in 2010, and by UNESCO on 10/11/2011.
See [Annex I](#)
- 2) The members of NELA recognize and defend the cultural and fundamentally non-commercial nature of landscape architecture archives.
- 3) The members recognize the prior right of each country/region to collect and conserve their own archives as part of their cultural heritage.
 - a. To the extent possible, members should avoid acquiring archives related to other territories/countries/regions than their own, without prior consultation of the members concerned. A coordinated solution should be sought in any case.
 - b. Excluded from this principle are past acquisitions, including recent ones.
 - c. This principle can accommodate exceptions, e.g. when the integrity of fonds or the express wish of the donor takes precedence.
- 4) Members in possession of archives known or believed to be of interest to the country/region of other members will take all necessary steps to make documentation or copies available to members in the country/region of source.
- 5) Within a given country/region, member Archives strive to make contact and/or constructively collaborate with other Archives dedicated to landscape architecture.
- 6) In the interests of research in the realm of landscape architecture, members agree on the principle of the integrity of fonds.
The acquisition of archival records related to landscape architecture should, as in the case of other types of records, respect the principle of the integrity of *fonds*: *fonds* should be acquired in their entirety rather than as a selection of the best drawings or documents.