

A painting of a landscape. In the foreground, there are several bright yellow flowers with green leaves and red stems. Behind them is a dark, rocky stream bed with a small waterfall on the left. The background shows more rocks and a tree trunk on the right. The overall style is impressionistic with visible brushstrokes.

JUNE 2011

SITELINES

Landscape Architecture in British Columbia

AWARDS ISSUE!

| Life Members | President's Award | Community Service Award
| Exceptional Contribution Award | Tattersfield Scholarship

BCSLA Community Service Awards

community studio

The BCSLA Community Service Award, Q'PANGO Category, recognizes a Quasi-Public Agency or Non-Governmental Organization that has made major contributions to our local, provincial, or national landscapes through its advocacy—its policy, design-planning, or conservation initiatives. This year, the Community Studio Society of BC is being honoured for raising public awareness about the profession of landscape architecture and for providing pro bono collaborative services to grassroots inner city and rural community groups lacking the financial resources to implement projects requiring landscape design, planning, and management.

SITELINES: What is Community Studio?

COMMUNITY STUDIO: We are a Vancouver-based, design outreach group dedicated to supporting and initiating grassroots projects that restore, revive, and rejuvenate our neighbourhoods. Community Studio was formed in 2003 by a group of University of British Columbia students in response to the numerous requests for project assistance that the Master of Landscape Architecture Program receives, and to the strong interest among students to gain hands-on experience through community service. Since then the group has evolved into a non-profit society bringing together BCSLA Interns, Registered Landscape Architects, planners, architects, and engineers to provide design and planning services for non-profit community-based projects. This collaborative approach equips community energy with professional expertise through an engaging and enjoyable process to create a shared vision. Central to our mission is the belief that landscape architects can contribute unique and valuable skills to the process of building community.

SL: Who are your clients?

CS: Since October 2003, we have supported dozens of projects,

entirely voluntary. We work with organized community and non-profit groups, such as community garden, school, church, and other groups pursuing neighbourhood rejuvenation projects where sufficient funds for a designer are not available and the project would otherwise not move forward. Projects we have supported are typically located on public or semi-public land where the broader community can enjoy the finished project. Our work has primarily served to sustain projects through conceptual development and to promote the value and skills of landscape architects.

SL: What are some of your recent projects?

CS: Building Community – Alexander Blooming Boulevard, Vancouver, BC

The Alexander Blooming Boulevard was developed in collaboration with a neighbourhood community group who sought to transform a troubled site with a range social and health issues typical of the city's downtown east side, by turning it into a community resource that could encourage pro-social activity.

Denman Island Green Cemetery, Denman Island, BC

The Denman Island Green Cemetery is led by the Denman Island Memorial Society (DIMS) who are seeking to establish and maintain a second burial ground for the residents of Denman Island, with a focus on natural burial. Community Studio has assisted DIMS with two community workshops focused on developing a community based design vision and conceptual design ideas for the cemetery.

West End Greenway, Vancouver, BC

The West End Greenway project is located along a pathway running from Denman Street between the Community Centre and King George Secondary School. The project was spearheaded by a group of community members and several Community Studio members have assisted with a public process and design development.

For more information, please visit <http://communitystudio.org>. ►