

Michele Lavelle CMLI

All candidates are required to provide a manifesto/candidate statement of no more than 250 words that must address the 2 questions below

- 1 How would you support delivery of the LI corporate strategy whilst living the LI core values?
- 2 Please summarise your skills and experience relevant to the role for which you are standing

Candidate Statement:

Landscape Architecture is a profession in which the skills required are wide ranging and often crossover with that of other disciplines with whom we liaise.

Architects and engineers are often appointed on projects long before landscape architects are involved and consider themselves capable of masterplanning. I believe that we can do it better because we understand how to pull together all of the elements from ground conditions, levels, hardscape, drainage, arboriculture and ecology.

There appears, however, to be a weakness in our profession with regard to softscape planning which is an element that I would like to bring back to the forefront of our practice. It is, after all, the one aspect that is unique to Landscape Architecture within most design teams.

As landscape architects we should have the skill to:

- prepare competent planting plans
- produce realistic plant schedules in line with commercial availability
- have consideration for both short and long term maintenance

I taught the Art of Softscape Planning for five years and equipped many students with a basic ability and the knowledge to develop their planting skills. I would promote greater interaction and understanding between the LI, landscape contractors, nursery suppliers, client maintenance strategies, other disciplines and advise on policy. We can learn a lot from each other and improve competence within our profession.

Landscape Architecture requires a deep understanding of natural context, designing for climate change mitigation and delight. We have the ability to make spaces that make people feel special.