

UW graduate student recognized as 2017 National Olmsted Scholar

The Landscape Architecture Foundation is delighted to announce that David de la Cruz, a master's student at the University of Washington, was one of two students selected as the 2017 National Olmsted Scholars.

David receives the \$25,000 graduate prize and will use the award to work on environmental justice issues in his home community in South Central Los Angeles. David plans to work in partnership with educators, school administrators, and students at under-resourced high schools to collaboratively identify and implement a landscape invention project that will cultivate self-expression and environmental remediation. The proposal expands on David's 2016 "Lot Liberation" event, which gathered local artists, key community members, activists, and local vendors to transform vacant lots into bursts of art, color, and hope. David graduates with a Master of Landscape Architecture in June 2017.

Two independent juries of leaders in the landscape architecture profession selected the winners and finalists from a group of 50 graduate and 31 undergraduate students nominated by their faculty for their exceptional leadership potential. These top students earned the designation of [2017 University Olmsted Scholars](#) and join the growing community of 549 past and present Olmsted Scholars.

The 2017 jurors for the graduate award were: Jennifer Guthrie, LAF President and Principal at GGN; Gregory Miller, ASLA President-Elect and Principal at Morrow Reardon Wilkinson Miller, Ltd.; Kim Wilson, Professor and Director of the Landscape Architecture Program at University of Nebraska-Lincoln; D'Arcy Deeks, President and CEO at IRONSMITH; Martin Pedersen, Executive Director of Common Edge; Stephanie Pankiewicz, Partner at LandDesign; and Azzurra Cox, 2016 National Olmsted Scholar (Graduate) and Designer at GGN.

Now in its tenth year, the [Olmsted Scholars Program](#) is the premier national award and recognition program for landscape architecture students. The program honors students with exceptional leadership potential who are using ideas, influence, communication, service, and leadership to advance sustainable design and foster human and societal benefits. The *Olmsted Scholars Program* is made possible with support from Lead Sponsor: The Toro Company; Annual Sponsors: EDSA, HOK, OLIN, Sasaki Associates, IRONSMITH, LandDesign, Thomas C. and Gerry D. Donnelly, Steven G. King, FASLA, and Bill Main, Hon. ASLA; Promotion Partner: American Society of Landscape Architects.