

October 12, 2020

Dear Fulbright Finland Alumnus/Alumna,

I hope this letter finds you well, despite these trying times. The ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association arranged its general annual meeting - significantly later than usual – in June. I was elected president of the board and I would like to share with you our goals, membership benefits and invite you to join and get involved. I myself was a fellow in 1981-82, and the experience was extraordinary. Unfortunately, I did not really connect with the Alumni Association at that time, only in the last few years have I learnt to appreciate the great networking opportunity that the Association offers. Still, the benefits only come for active members, and this is why I approach you.

Like most associations with the purpose to arrange activities for its members, our offering is minimal at the moment, but we are counting on getting back to normal eventually. The board is working on a number of projects and we hope to announce some virtual events in the near future. If there is one positive result of the prevailing restrictions, it is the fact that virtual events will offer the opportunity for Association members to participate in the events from all around Finland.

Membership in the ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association provides us with an excellent opportunity to continue connecting with the Fulbright Finland community in Finland as well as internationally. Through the Association's diverse activities and events, we Finnish alumni get to share our thoughts and experiences with each other, while also enriching the journey of American Fulbrighters in Finland by exposing them to different aspects of our culture and traditions. You, as a member of the Association, would have the privilege to participate in a number of unique events and visits to important institutions in Finland. We would also be thrilled about the opportunity to organize activities in collaboration with you! Can you think of a place we could visit, a project you would like to present on, an activity you would like to experience with your Fulbright Finland fellows? We are convinced that Fulbright Finland alumni have a lot to learn from each other, and want to reach out to all of you. Please contribute to our activities with your unique skills and knowhow!

Our Alumni Association is a voluntary organization, which cannot function without the support of its members. Still, our membership fee is only 25€ per year, which not only provides you with invitations to our exclusive events and a chance to network with amazing people – you also receive the Fulbright Finland News magazine, allowing you to stay updated on the most important developments of the Fulbright Finland Foundation. The payment form also includes an opportunity to contribute to the ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Ambassadorial Award. The Association gives this award to a Fulbright grantee with exceptional potential that aligns with the goals of the Fulbright program.

To become a member, you just need to pay the membership fee. Please find the instructions [here](#). If you have any questions or comments about the membership or the events, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Thank you for your attention, and most warmly welcoming you to join our Association,

Magnus Backström
President of the ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association
backstrom@alumni.stanford.edu