



Mitch Lawrence, CCS, CCCA
Candidate – Institute Director from the West Region



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| Year Joined CSI: | 2007 |
| Home Chapter: | Los Angeles, CA |
| Firm: | Mitch Lawrence, Architect |
| Occupation/Position | Architect/Principal |
| Email: | mlla@earthlink.net |
| Education: | Master of Architecture, University of California, 1984 Master of Environmental Design program, Yale University, 1982 Bachelor of Arts, University of Connecticut, 1976 |
| Professional Registrations, Licenses and Certifications: | Registered Architect, State of California Certified Construction Specifier (CCS) Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA) |
| CSI Awards: | LOS ANGELES CHAPTER AWARDS 2016-17, President's Award: for Financial Controls and Budgeting, Dedicated Service 2015-16, President's Award: for Website, Dedicated Service 2015-16, Commendation: for Programs Team 2014-15, Certificate of Merit: for Education Committee Chair 2014-15, Certificate of Merit: for West Region Representative 2014-15, Certificate of Merit: for Website 2013-14, Certificate of Merit: for Instructor Certification Program 2012-13, President's Award: for Education Committee Chair 2012-13, President's Award: for Finance Committee, Controller 2010-11, Certificate of Appreciation: for Bylaws, Finances, Instructor Certification Program 2009-10, President's Award: for Distinguished Service WEST REGION AWARDS 2016-17, Frank Smith Memorial Award, West Region, 2016-2017 2014-15, President's Award: for Distinguished Service, West Region |

**Other Professional/Civic
Organizations and Awards:**

American Institute of Architects, Member

**Current/Previous Experience as a
Board Member for Organization(s)
other than CSI:**

Not specified

Candidate Statement:

I currently have my own architectural practice. I am an experienced architect and project manager for all phases of project delivery from concept design through construction contract administration, and hold both the Certified Construction Specifier and the Certified Construction Contract Administrator credentials from Construction Specifications Institute.

I am an active member of CSI Los Angeles Chapter and have served on the Chapter Board of Directors since 2008. I currently hold the office of Controller. I have served as chair, co-chair, and member of numerous committees, including Long Range Planning, Governance, and Communications. I am currently quite active in the Education committee which I chaired for several years, and have taken on the position of webmaster, and revitalized the chapter's website. I have recently worked to redesign the Chapter Newsletter and continue on the publication team. LACSI Chapter has recognized my work with numerous awards (below).

As chair of the Education Committee, I organized our Chapter's education program into a series of seminars on various interests in order to promote the quality of our offering. And I have been the Chapter chair for our AIA Continuing Education providership for many years, responsible for registration and attendance for our educational programs. With the Institute task team, which rejuvenated the Construction Documents Education Program (CDEP), I played a lead role in a major update and revision to the CDEP program.

In the role of Chapter Controller, I am in charge of the yearly fiscal budget. I have reorganized the Chapter financial accounts to reflect the many new and revised Chapter activities and events, developed systems for tracking income and expenses, set up financial controls to audit expenditures, and established reporting techniques including protocols and forms -- all of which have resulted in transparency, accountability, and the efficient flow of Chapter finances.

As Chapter Webmaster, I have revamped the website, making the site a more friendly and informative location to process event registration, disseminate useful industry information, and reveal the character of Chapter events through photo archives and galleries.

I have been the LA Chapter Director to the West Region board since 2012. I have served on the Institute's Education Committee, the CSI Academies Task Team, the Construction Documents Education Program Task Team, and Bylaws Amendment and Revision Task Team with the Institute.

What leadership skills do you possess that you could apply as a member of CSI's Board?

My leadership skills have been demonstrated during my 9 years on the LA Chapter Board of Directors through my service as Vice-President in charge of Education, and through my service as Controller. As Controller I lead the development of our fiscally responsible annual budgets. Additionally, I lead the Governance Committee in making bylaws revisions. My leadership as Education Committee Chair and long-standing committee member has led to a robust educational seminar program.

What skills and experience make you uniquely qualified for the position for which you are a candidate?

As an Institute board member, I understand my role will be to consider issues and policies facing the entire organization. From my service on both the LA Chapter and West Region boards of directors, I come with an understanding of many of these issues, and I know how to work in a group of interested and dedicated CSI members to solve problems. I can listen. Based on my long CSI experience, I am in a position to contribute meaningfully to the discussion on both financial and technical policy issues. Also, as demonstrated by my successful completion of region and chapter tasks, I am dependable.

What do you think should be changed about CSI or what changes would you make? What shouldn't change about CSI?

I am not sure that anything should be changed at the Institute level. But I think there needs to be an increased focus on the Institute's role in education for the AEC industry. See my comment in Item #5, below

What do you see as critical to CSI's future success?

Education. But how, exactly? CSI has been strong at developing standards - outlines for excellence in quality control in the construction process. Why not engage that very same excellence to develop a standard curriculum for what is required to produce quality construction documents. The Building Technology Education Program (BTEP) that Bob Johnson proposed several years ago seemed to have this idea in mind at its inception, but perhaps due to a misconception that the task was too demanding from the standpoint of developing the content to be taught, and the teachers to teach, it has apparently come to a standstill.

The need for such a program, as Bob Johnson discussed on 4spec, is just as urgent today as it was then. The architectural internship program does not, by itself, seem to be able to provide emerging professionals with the technological knowledge necessary to document the construction of today's complex buildings.

It has been suggested, by Liz O'Sullivan back in the earlier 4spec discussion and by Ed Buch in a more recent discussion early last year, that the body of knowledge for the BTEP need not rely on newly created information, but rather could cull existing information to fill out a curriculum.

I believe that CSI's future lies in the further development of standards to provide the industry with quality processes, and one such process still to be developed is a detailed approach toward what technical knowledge the team putting together the construction documents needs to have or acquire in order to insure that the documents developed are of the technical specificity and sophistication necessary for quality construction. We have stated our purpose of "Building Knowledge" and "Improving Project Delivery," and it is under this banner that I offer these suggestions.