ML+A Firm Profile

Established in 1997, MLA Green Inc., d.b.a. Mia Lehrer + Associates (ML+A), a California corporation, is a full-service international landscape architecture practice based in Los Angeles, California. Mia Lehrer, FASLA leads a team of landscape architects and technically-skilled professionals on a wide variety of sustainable open space projects, including multi-use trails, public parks and streetscapes. Working closely with non-profit organizations, public agencies and local communities, ML+A has collaborated with large multi-disciplinary teams on milestone projects to form a synergistic project vision, develop sustainable design strategies and programming goals, facilitate neighborhood workshops, and foster lasting community bonds. The firm has performed services for the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Metropolitan Water District, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, the California Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Beverly Hills Unified School district and other public agencies and non-profit organizations.

ML+A has garnered significant experience collaborating on watershed master plans throughout the Los Angeles area, such as the Pacoima Wash Vision Plan, the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, and the Compton Creek Garden Park Master Plan. In each project, the firm has skillfully managed to balance the needs of client and community with preservation, conservation, and active recreation and while planning trails that will connect neighborhoods to creeks and rivers as well as connecting neighborhoods to one another. Presently, the firm is working on a number of riparian restoration and riverfront projects, such as Compton Creek Park, the Atwater Multimodal Bridge, and the Los Angeles Riverfront Greenway Phase II multi-use trail.

For many years, the firm has been involved in Los Angeles River programs, many of which have contributed to the current revitalization effort. Working in tandem with Friends of the L.A. River (FoLAR), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, TreePeople, and other stakeholders, Mia Lehrer has organized professional charrettes to foster design visions for the river and attended multiple programs and public education events. ML+A served as the local design firm on the national interdisciplinary Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan team. ML+A’s role on the master plan effort included GIS mapping, and leading efforts to identify and plan a comprehensive open space network integrated with channel restoration and urbanism.

We do not begin our projects with a preconceived notion; rather, we ask questions of ourselves, our client, and our team that inform the project’s design and implementation process. The diverse nature of our clients and projects inspires our ambitious and comprehensive approach. Regardless of a project’s scale or level of complexity, we remain committed to innovative design, quality service, the process of collaboration, and the belief that landscape design has the power to enhance the livability of a city and heal the land.
Pacoima Wash Vision Plan - Greenway Map
Pacoima Wash Vision Plan
Pacoima & Sylmar, CA

Size: 4 linear miles
Completed: October 2011
Project Team: Mia Lehrer, President
Jan Dyer, Project Manager
Client: Pacoima Beautiful

The Pacoima Wash Vision Plan is funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health through a competitive grant awarded to Pacoima Beautiful in 2008. The Vision Plan focuses on a four-mile stretch of the Pacoima Wash running through the Sylmar and Pacoima neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles. The goal of the grant is to create both policies and a physical project that improve public health by promoting active living. Pacoima Beautiful partnered with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and Initiating Change in Our Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (ICON CDC) to meet the goals of the grant.

The intent of the Pacoima Wash Vision Plan is to generate ideas and community-based action toward the creation of a multi-use path and new recreation amenities along the length of the Pacoima Wash through the communities of Sylmar and Pacoima. The Vision Plan achieves the following: it communicates ideas that emerged from comprehensive dialogue with community leaders and residents for transforming the wash into a vibrant multi-use trail; it provides specific input for the City of Los Angeles which can be incorporated into the Community Plan updates for the communities of Sylmar and Pacoima; and it advances the effort to develop the improvements proposed by the plan. The plan also elaborates on previous plans created for the wash, such as the City of San Fernando Pacoima Wash Greenway Plan, and the Pacoima-Tujunga Watershed plan by specifically focusing on the areas of the wash located within the communities of Pacoima and Sylmar.

The vision plan takes a systematic, holistic approach to the Pacoima Wash corridor by incorporating and considering movements that occur adjacent to the Wash and throughout the study area. The plan recognizes that a multi-benefit planning and design approach can achieve a variety of goals, including improvements in public health, recreation, wildlife habitat, water quality, transportation, and community building. This approach creates a cohesive vision that identifies, preserves, and enhances the area’s unique character.
ML+A Project Experience

MRCA Attachment
3/13/14
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SECTION/PERSPECTIVES
1. Pacoima Wash Multi-Use Trail
2. Pacoima Wash Bicycle Path
3. Maclay Street Greenway
4. Gladstone Avenue Street-End Park
5. Study Area Longitudinal Section
6. Naturalized Reach Cross Section
7. Lopez Debris Basin Cross Section
8. Channelized Reach Cross Section

LEGEND
- Vision Plan Study Area
- Current Channel Course
- Class I Bike Path
- Class II Bike Lane
- Class III Bike Route
- Multi-Use Trail
- Green Street
- Accessible Open Space
- Managed Natural Area

Regional Gateway
Enhanced Street Crossing
Interpretive Area/View Point
Best Management Practice (BMP)
Park/Pocket Park
New/Enhanced Gateway Bridge

PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL