

APLD CERTIFICATION SCORE SHEET

Applicant: _____
Review panel: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____
70 is passing

Approve Deny Please write comments on separate sheet with applicant's name at top.
(Circle one)

CATEGORIES TO REVIEW

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education is the foundation of quality design. The review panels have found that there is a strong and clear correlation between landscape design education and submission success. There is a defined landscape design curriculum including the design principles and elements, drawing and rendering and plant knowledge and composition. The education requirement generally equates to at least a full year of the study of landscape design. This is difficult to quantify. Courses in art and horticulture should be complemented by the study of landscape design. The education requirement may be accomplished through concentrated study in an accredited or certificate program, the completion of courses and workshop over a period of time, an apprenticeship with a master designer or a combination of these options. The submission should include transcripts from landscape design programs or lists of courses and workshops taken and descriptions of apprentice programs. **Be aware that the review panel will notice missing educational background through examining the submitted projects and may require that the designer complete further study prior to resubmitting an application.**

WORK EXPERIENCE

An applicant must have a minimum of four years experience as a designer. Since the requirements include three projects installed for at least two growing seasons, the years of experience need to be at least four years. It is unlikely that designers' very first projects would meet the requirements and criteria. The APLD certification program raises the bar of professionalism. A designer who passes the certification process has demonstrated a depth of knowledge and experience.

DESIGN INTENT STATEMENT

(Maximum Score: 5) Panel Score _____

The design intent statement should be clear, concise, and specific and include any information that enables the review panel to better understand the project and should include the reasoning behind the design. Does it include the following?

1. Client wants and needs including restrictions put on designer such as directions and budget.
2. Existing site conditions, problems and limitations (e.g. drainage, slopes, exposure, soil pH and soil texture, governmental restrictions, grade changes, easements and existing hardscape elements).
3. Off-site conditions (e.g. adjacent views, structures or other existing situations).
4. Arrangements for installing the design (designer's company or other) and consideration of general maintenance accessibility and requirements.
5. The designer's creative solution to working with the characteristics of the site and the client's desires.

DESIGN COMPETENCE

(Maximum Score: 35) Panel Score _____

Exhibits an understanding of art principles (unity, balance, focal points, interconnection and rhythm, scale, repetition and variety) and how line, form, color and texture can be manipulated to create a unified design. Has the designer used this knowledge to accomplish the following? Refer to the design principles and elements when answering the questions.

1. Does the design meet the aesthetic and functional needs of the client?
2. Has the designer used appropriate pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns?
3. Does the design complement the architecture of the house or building?
4. Is the hardscape used effectively?
5. Are there focal points in the design?
6. Has the designer shown a creative solution working with the characteristics of the site and the needs of the client?

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

(Maximum Score: 5) Panel Score _____

Consider how the designer has addressed drainage, soil erosion, water use and choice of plants and hardscape materials.

Has the designer shown sensitivity to the ecology of the site?

Has the designer addressed sustainability?

PLANT KNOWLEDGE AND COMPOSITION

(Maximum Score: 30) Panel Score _____

1. Does the arrangement of plants enhance the design through the use of color, form, texture, shape and scent?
2. Is there multi-seasonal interest?
3. Are plants arranged using massing, layering, repetition, balance, variety and scale?
4. Does the design show knowledge of plants and their appropriate use for site and design style?
5. Does the design show consideration of plant maintenance issues?

GRAPHICS AND OVERALL PRESENTATION

(Maximum Score: 25) Panel Score _____

1. Is there overall clarity and readability (including line and lettering) of the design plan?
2. Is there clear **labeling** of plants and hardscape elements, including existing elements?
3. Is there a title block with names and locations of client and designer? Is the scale indicated by an equation and graphically? Is there a north arrow?
4. Is the line weight hierarchy adequate and is there consistent use of symbols?
5. Are windows, doors, utility boxes, major grade changes indicated?
6. Is there a complete plant list with a key (if a key has been used on the plan), amounts, botanical and common names, sizes and remarks?

BUSINESS PROGRAM

To gain insight into the type of business the applicant has, each applicant is asked to submit a short statement. This will help the panel assess the design. Briefly describe how you operate your business.

This statement should include the following:

What is your typical program with a client?

How many designs do you complete in a year?

What is your typical client base? (rural, urban, high end, do-it-yourself)

What is your business style? (sole owner, employee, partner)