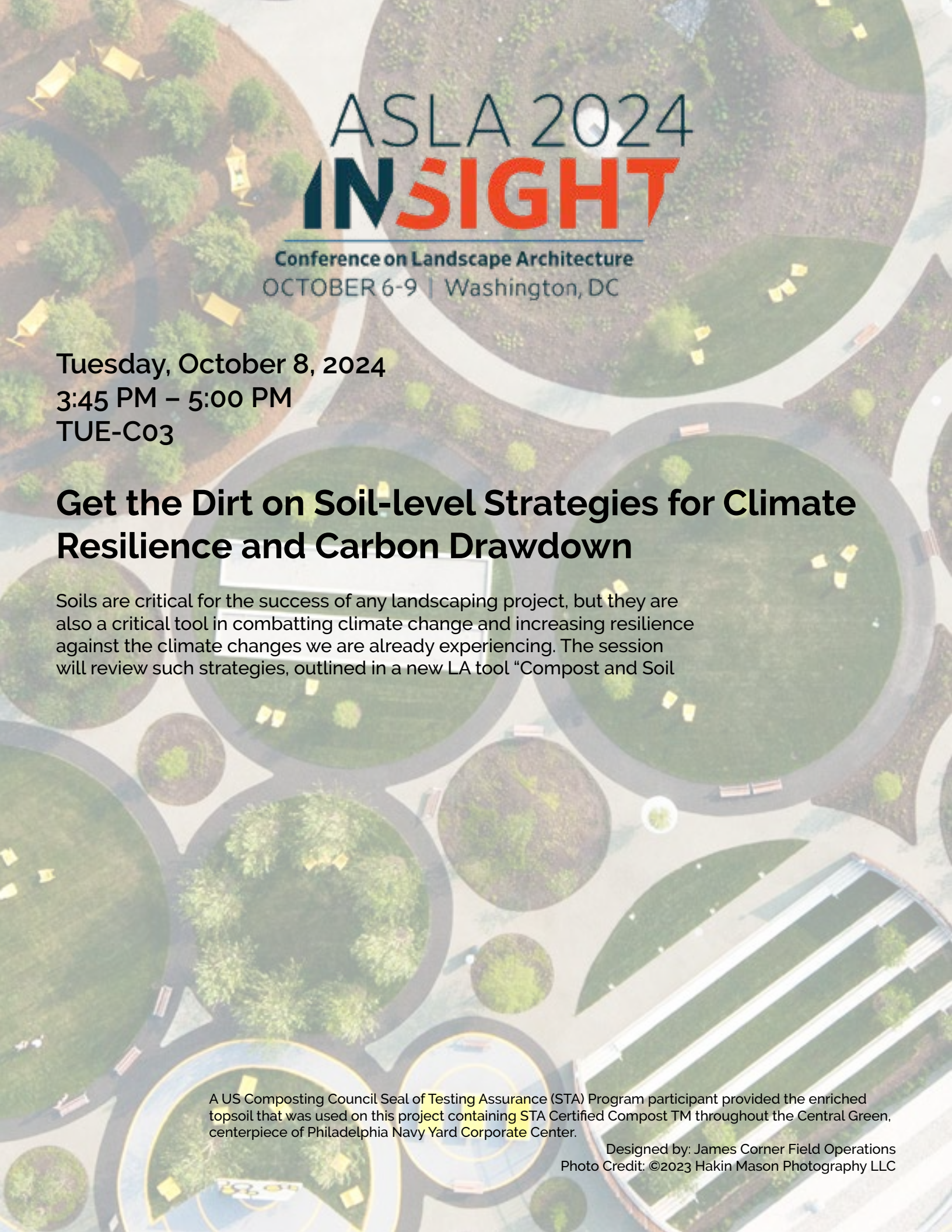




ASLA 2024 **INSIGHT**

Conference on Landscape Architecture
OCTOBER 6-9 | Washington, DC

Tuesday, October 8, 2024
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM
TUE-C03

Get the Dirt on Soil-level Strategies for Climate Resilience and Carbon Drawdown

Soils are critical for the success of any landscaping project, but they are also a critical tool in combatting climate change and increasing resilience against the climate changes we are already experiencing. The session will review such strategies, outlined in a new LA tool "Compost and Soil

A US Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program participant provided the enriched topsoil that was used on this project containing STA Certified Compost TM throughout the Central Green, centerpiece of Philadelphia Navy Yard Corporate Center.

Designed by: James Corner Field Operations
Photo Credit: ©2023 Hakin Mason Photography LLC

Session Outline

Presenting the science, the how to, the results and the benefits of Soil Improvement as a Tool to Manage Climate Impacts

Speaker 1 - Sally Brown - Dr. Brown will review the science behind Compost and Soil Improvement as Tools for Climate Resilient Landscapes, a resource which was inspired by the ASLA Climate Action Field Guide. She will also review the goals of soil enhancement and compost's place in established climate models and role in carbon drawdown.

Speaker 2 - Ron Alexander – will review strategies on purchasing and specifying soils and soil amendments and review standard soil improvement techniques and standardized specification language.

Speaker 3 - Jake Chalfin – will provide real world examples of projects where soil improvement was specified and used to enhance soil conditions, plant establishment and manage storm water

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the scientific basics of soil amendment and improvement, and how they impact plant growth and climate change.
2. Review and understand how to use the new "Compost and Soil Improvement as Tools for Climate Resilient Landscapes" manual in tandem with the ASLA's Climate Action Plan.
3. Understand how to better specify the use of healthy soils and compost soil amendments.
4. Better understand how to evaluate soil product submittals and samples.
5. Obtain a deeper understanding of soil improvement benefits, walking through a variety of recent projects.
6. Better understand composts place in established climate models and its role in carbon drawdown

Sources

1. Compost and Soil Improvement as Tools for Climate Resilient Landscapes, US Composting Council, 2024
2. BioCycle article series, Can Compost Drawdown Carbon?, Dr. Sally Brown, 2020
3. Landscape Architect Specifications for Compost Utilization, Ron Alexander, 2020
4. The Best & Worst States for Climate Change in the U.S., SafeHome.org Team, Updated: June 31, 2021
5. Carbon Accounting for Compost Use in Urban Areas, Compost Science & Utilization, Sally Brown & Ned Beecher, January 2020



**Dr. Sally Brown**

Research Professor, University of Washington

Sally Brown, PhD. (soil scientist) University of Washington – Primary author of "Compost and Soil Improvement as Tools for Climate Resilient Landscapes". Dr. Brown is an award-winning research professor and science writer whose work focuses on soil health, climate change mitigation, organics recycling and wastewater treatment. At the root of her work, she believes that soil amendments, in the form of residuals from different industries (composts, for example), offer the potential to help us to live in a more sustainable manner.

**Ron Alexander**

President, R. Alexander Associates, Inc.

Ron Alexander (horticulturist and specification developer) – President, R. Alexander Associates, Inc. – soil and organic recycled product consultant – co-author of "Compost and Soil Improvement as Tools for Climate Resilient Landscapes". Mr. Alexander has 40 years' experience working on soil management projects and is the author to many local, state and national compost and soil specifications. He is also a LACES certified trainer, having trained thousands of LA's throughout his career.

**Jake Chalfin**

Sales Manager, Laurel Valley Soils

Jake Chalfin (soil producer and practitioner) Laurel Valley Soils – Jake Chalfin (compost and manufactured soils producer) – Sales Manager, Laurel Valley Soils, Inc. – For over 20 years Jake has been producing compost and manufactured soils and providing industry specific products for agriculture, landscape, sports turf, ornamental, and construction. Directly linked to projects as a supplier, Jake has seen first-hand what works and what has not. With this lens he shares his boots on the ground experience for specification writing, soil design and installation best practices.



Download the New Compost White Paper: Compost & Soil Improvement: Tools for Climate Resilient Landscapes



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Healthy Soils and Compost

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