

Environmental Design Research Association

2024-25 Members' Report

by the EDRA Board of Directors

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edra56

Halifax | Nova Scotia | Canada
May 27-30, 2025

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EDRA's Board Chair



Debarati "Mimi" Majumdar Narayan, PhD
Chair, EDRA Board of Directors



edra 56
Halifax, May 27-30, 2025

edra 56

Halifax | Nova Scotia | Canada
May 27-30, 2025

EDRA's Board Chair Message



As we close the 2024–25 EDRA year, I've been reflecting on the resilience, dedication, and creativity of our community. Our members—researchers, students, and practitioners—continue to face significant challenges around travel, funding, and participation in conferences. In the face of these obstacles, the EDRA Board has remained focused and collaborative, working to strengthen the organization and plan for its future. A highlight of the year was the success of EDRA 56—made possible thanks to the dedicated efforts of board members, the local committee, and our Executive and Assistant Executive Directors Dr. Deni Ruggeri and Dr. Marzieh Rezaei, who's behind-the-scenes leadership made the conference possible. Throughout the year, the Board has also been preparing for the transition in executive leadership, laying the foundation for EDRA's next chapter. We are grateful to our members, volunteers, and partners for their continued support and engagement.

EDRA's Mission



The mission of EDRA is to provide a collaborative, multidisciplinary community that connects theory, research, teaching, and practice to recognize, create and advocate for environments that are responsive to diverse human needs. EDRA is committed to equity, inclusion, and respect for all persons.

EDRA's Vision



EDRA's purpose is to advance and disseminate research, teaching, and practice toward improving an understanding of the relationships among people, their built environments, and natural ecosystems.

EDRA bridges theory, research, teaching, and practice to:

- Recognize and create more humane environments in collaboration with global stakeholders/communities
- Promote cutting-edge research and practice that is essential to improve quality of life for all people
- Transcend disciplinary boundaries and industry sectors in collaborative pursuit of environments that are responsive to diverse human needs.
- Advocate for diverse voices in the pursuit of social justice

2024-2025 Board Of Directors & Staff



**Debarati "Mimi" Majumdar
Narayan, Ph.D.**
Chair



B Sanborn
Chair, elect



Elif Tural, Ph.D.
Past-Chair - Ex Officio



Celen Pasalar Ph.D.
Secretary



Lisa Lim, Ph.D.
Treasurer



Deni Ruggeri, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Lorraine Maxwell, Ph.D.
Emeritus Board Member
- Ex Officio



Bo Zhang Ph.D.
Board Member



Alina Osnaga Ph.D.
Board Student
Representative



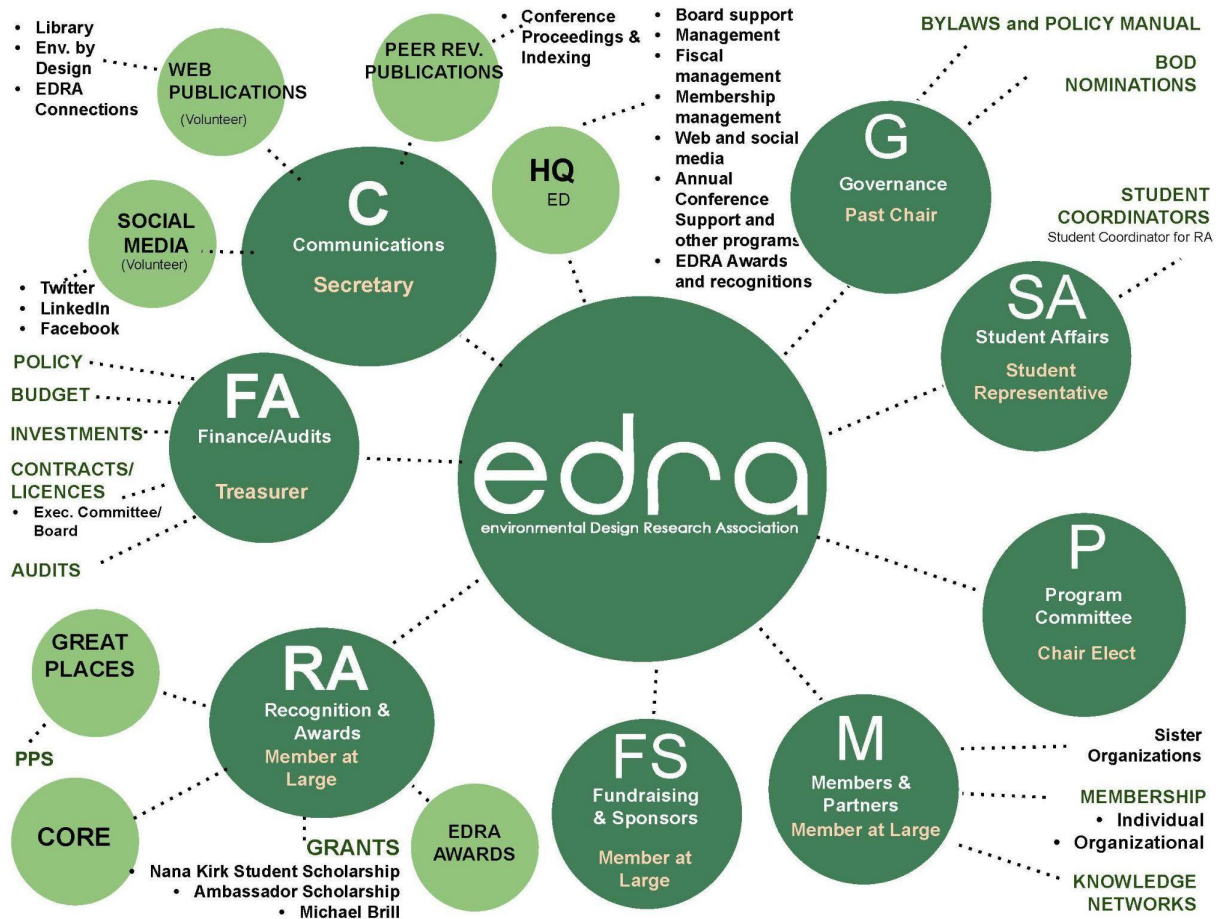
Julie Stevens, MLA
Board Member



**Alexandre H.
Champagne, Ph.D.**
Board Member



**Marzieh (Melika)
Rezaei, Ph.D.**
Assistant Executive Director



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE 2024-25

Our current organizational structure includes the following committees:

- **Governance**
- **Program**
- **Members & Partners**
- **Communications**
- **Recognitions**
- **Student Affairs**
- **Finance & Fundraising**



Reflecting back on EDRA 55 PDX

Synthesis of the next section



EDRA55 was hosted by the University of Oregon in Portland and centered on the promotion of human-centric design that considers people's prosperity, satisfaction, and well-being while celebrating sustainability, resilience, and diversity in the built and natural environment at all scales.

The following pages provide an overview of the conference team and sponsors, attendance statistics, and the awards and recognitions bestowed at the conference on behalf of EDRA.

EDRA55 Local Committee



Ihab Elzeyadi
Chair, EDRA55
Professor of Architecture
University of Oregon



Chandra Robinson
co-Chair, EDRA55
Principal
LEVER



Philip Speranza
co-Chair, EDRA55
Assoc. Prof. of Architecture
University of Oregon



EDRA55 Sponsors

Platinum level sponsor



Platinum and Silver level sponsor



Gold level sponsor



Silver level sponsor



Bronze level sponsor



Exhibitors



With support from



EDRA55 statistics

- 707** Individual submissions
- 547** Accepted submissions (77%)
 - 27** Full papers
 - 395** Presentations
 - 105** Posters
 - 8** Media Shorts
 - 12** Works in Progress (WIP)



EDRA55 keynote speakers



WILSON SMITH
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



FARSHID MOUSSAVI
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



TATIANA BILBAO
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



JOHNPAUL JONES
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



HENRY SANOFF
PLENARY SPEAKER



BILL LEDDY
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

EDRA55 Best Paper Award



2024 Recipients:

Ms. Shreya Jaiswal, LEED AP, D2D Green Design, NY

Martha Bohm, University at Buffalo/ School of Architecture, Buffalo, NY

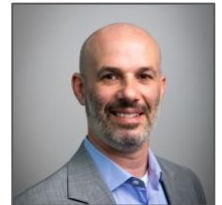
Korydon Smith, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Dr. Edward Steinfeld, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Paper title:

Sensory Engagement And Spatial Harmony:

Unveiling The Role Of Fire In Multisensory Design



EDRA55 Best student Paper Award



2024 Recipients:

Yasaman Gholami, Ph.D. Student, School of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
Raha Rastegar, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
Herminia Machry, Ph.D., EDAC, Assist. Professor, School of Architecture & Design, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Elahn Little, Research Scientist, SimTigrate Design Lab, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
Leandro Miletto Tonetto, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Industrial Design, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Paper title:

Could Social Space Design Boost Social Interactions Among Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment?

EDRA55 Best Student Design-Poster Award



2024 Recipient

Anna Ellis, Florida State University

Paper title:

Designing for Wellbeing: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Academic Social Spaces



2024 CORE Merit Certifications



Full Circle: Post Occupancy Evaluation of a Consolidated Transplant Clinic on Patient Experience and Staff Efficiencies

Flad Architects and UW Health | Study team: Kara Freihoefer, Elizabeth Strutz, Preeti Dalvie, Erin Frush, Laura Serebin, Sinh Dinh, Karron Conger

Designing Cancer Infusion Centers: Results from a Pre- and Post-Occupancy Evaluation

HGA and St. Elizabeth Healthcare | Study team: Mahshid Jalalian, Nancy Doyle, Lou Ann Bunker-Hellmich, Abbie Ochsner, Kara Freihoefer

Optimizing Hospital Arrival Experiences: An Integrated Research Protocol for Post-Occupancy Evaluation

GBBN and University of Kansas | Study team: Shan Jiang, Hui Cai, Monalipa Dash, Kirsten Miller, Zahra Daneshvar, Jackson Feinknopf

Blueprint for Mitigating Nurse Burnout: A Social Listening Perspective

HKS, Center for Advanced Design Research and Evaluation (CADRE), and Miller Knoll | Study team: Rutali Joshi, Deborah Wingler, Edward Hunt, Michelle Ossmann

2024 CORE Certifications



Universal Platform for Critical Access Hospitals: Impact on Operations

HGA and Centracare | Study team: Terri Zborowsky, Erin LaBrec, Shawn Sullivan, Centracare

Addressing a Multi-Billion Dollar Challenge: Advancing Knowledge of How High-Quality School Environments Can Positively Affect Educational Outcomes

Perkins Eastman, Drexel University, Invontics | Study team: Emily Chmielewski, Heather Jauregui, Sean O'Donnell, Karen Gioconda, Bruce Levine, Lance Kruse

The Hybrid Report: Designing for the New Hybrid Work Era

Corgan | Study team: Melissa Hoelting, Mahdi Afkhamiaghda, Samantha Flores, Emily Strain

Architecture Matters: Exploring Audiences' Holistic Theatrical Experience through Social Media Reviews

GBBN | Study team: Shan Jiang, Marcene Kinney, Christopher Yost, Julia Clements

"Getting It Right:" a Network-Based Approach to Site Selection for Collaboration

CannonDesign | Study team: Felix Kabo

2024 CORE Certifications



Ameliorating Cold Stress: Examining the Effects of a Severe Winter Storm on Residents of Subsidized Housing Neighborhoods and Modeling a Design Intervention

Texas A&M | Study team: Dongying Li, Xiaoyu Li, Yue Zhang, Robert Brown

Free Address, Work from Anywhere, and Everything in between: A Post-Occupancy Evaluation of an Office Offering Work Flexibility through Design and Policy

Perkins Eastman | Study team: Hanna Negami, Widya Ramadhani, Rebecca Milne, Heather Jauregui, Jeff Young, Jennifer Askey, Connor Glass, Jennica Deely

Regreening Suburbia: An Analysis of Urban Greening Approaches in U.S. Sprawl Retrofitting Projects

University of British Columbia | Study team: Keunhyun Park

Quiet Carrels and Collaborative Hubs: Campus Library As Third Place

University of Florida and University of San Carlos - Talamban Campus | Study team: Margaret Portillo, Jason Meneely, Laura Spears, Adrian Perez Del Monte

2024 CORE Certifications



Cognitive Commons: Connecting a Library's Evolution and Student Achievement

Multi Studio and Free State High School | Study team: Michael Ralph, Brittany Coudriet, Marisa Hegeman

Net Positive Education™: Measuring the Impact of Two-High Performance Schools

Perkins Eastman | Study team: Widya Ramadhani, Emily Chmielewski, Heather Jauregui, Sean O'Donnell

KPI-Driven Design Tool to Inform Post-Pandemic Workplace Design

Arcadis | Study team: Helia Taheri, Shreya Somani, Amy Keller Frye, Kyujin (Q) Song

A Firmwide Exploratory Mixed Methods Research on Post-Occupancy Evaluation in Architecture Practice

Arcadis | Study team: Helia Taheri, John Naranjo, Rachel Bruce, Wei Xia

Place Art

A Symphony in Nature: The Umbrella Pavilion Unfolds

Winner: ZHONGZHONG ZENG; YINGYING HUANG;
XINRAN ZHENG; YONGQUAN CHEN



EDRA55

GREAT
PLACES
AWARDS



Place Art

Handmade Urbanism: DIT Do-It-Together Popup Rooftop Skatepark

Honorable Mention: YOON ZOOSUN



GREAT
PLACES
AWARDS

Place Book

Public Space: Notes on Why It Matters, What We Should Know, and How to Realize Its Potential

Honorable Mention: VIKAS MEHTA



GREAT
PLACES
AWARDS

PUBLIC SPACE

PUBLIC SPACE

Vikas Mehta

notes on

why it matters

what we should know

how to realize its potential



Place Design

Howard Park Renovation

**Winner: ALLIANCE ARCHITECTS; THE LAKOTA GROUP;
M/E DESIGN SERVICES; STANTEC;
ABONMARCHE; TANGO DESIGN; PAUL FUJAWA
ENGINEERS; AMBIENT ENERGY**



EDRA55

**GREAT
PLACES
AWARDS**



Place Design

The Carousel for Companionship

Honorable Mention: **JOSEPH ALTSHULER;**
ZACK MORRISON



GREAT
PLACES
AWARDS



Place Planning

Olympia Armory Creative Campus Concept Plan

Winner: YUANSI CAI; LESLEY BAIN



EDRA55

GREAT
PLACES
AWARDS



Place Planning

OUSD The Center Farm - Seeding Urban Resilience through Collaborative Design

Honorable Mention: **PATRICIA ALGARA; MARTHA CLIFFORD; MaFe GONZALEZ; KIRA MARITANO; SARKA VOLEJNIKOVA; KAT ROMO; MICHELLE OPPEN**



EDRA55

GREAT PLACES AWARDS



Place Research

Making Participants the Photographers: Meaning of Home As Seen through the Eyes of Rural Residents in China

Winner: WEI ZHAO






Place Research

Environmental Affordance for Social Support and Community in a New State-of-the-Science Rehabilitation Hospital

Honorable Mention: **FRANCESQCA JIMENEZ; ABIGAIL HEITHOFF; CAROLYN FREY; AMBER WALTER; DEVIN BOWERS; SANDRA TKACZ; ALLEN BUIE; MELISSA MOSELEY; HAMED AALI; AMOL KARMARKAR; RICHARD KUNZ**



GREAT
PLACES
AWARDS



2024 EDRA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



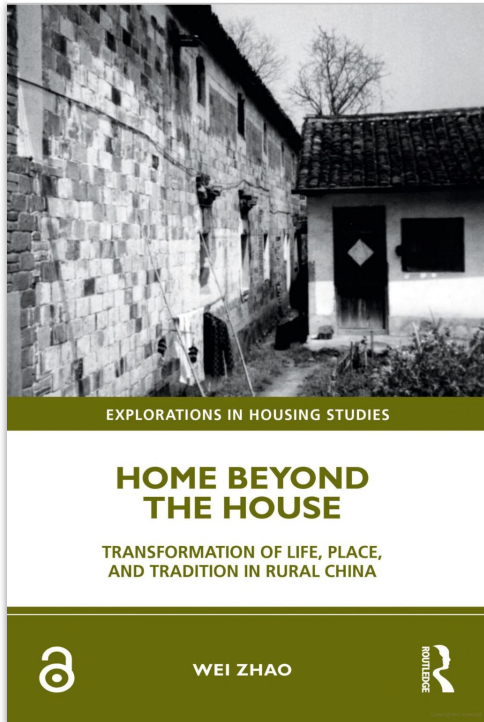
Theorizing Built Form and Culture: The Legacy of Amos Rapoport

Co-edited by Kapila D. Silva & Nisha A. Fernando

Routledge, March 2024.



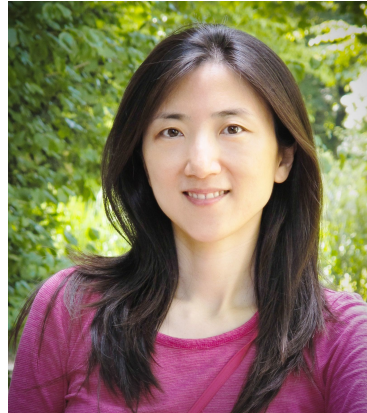
2024 EDRA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Home Beyond the House: Transformation of Life, Place and Tradition in Rural China

Wei (Windy) Zhao, PhD

Routledge, March 2024.





2024 Member Survey Results

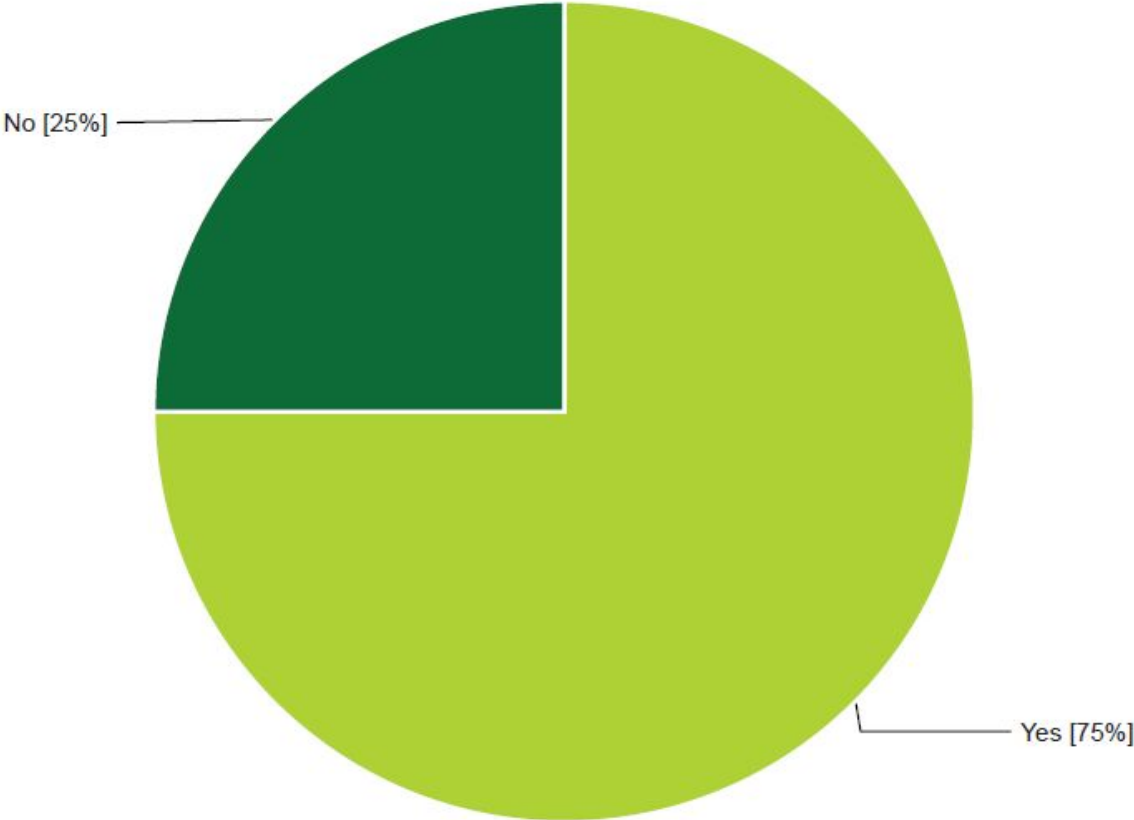
Survey Summary



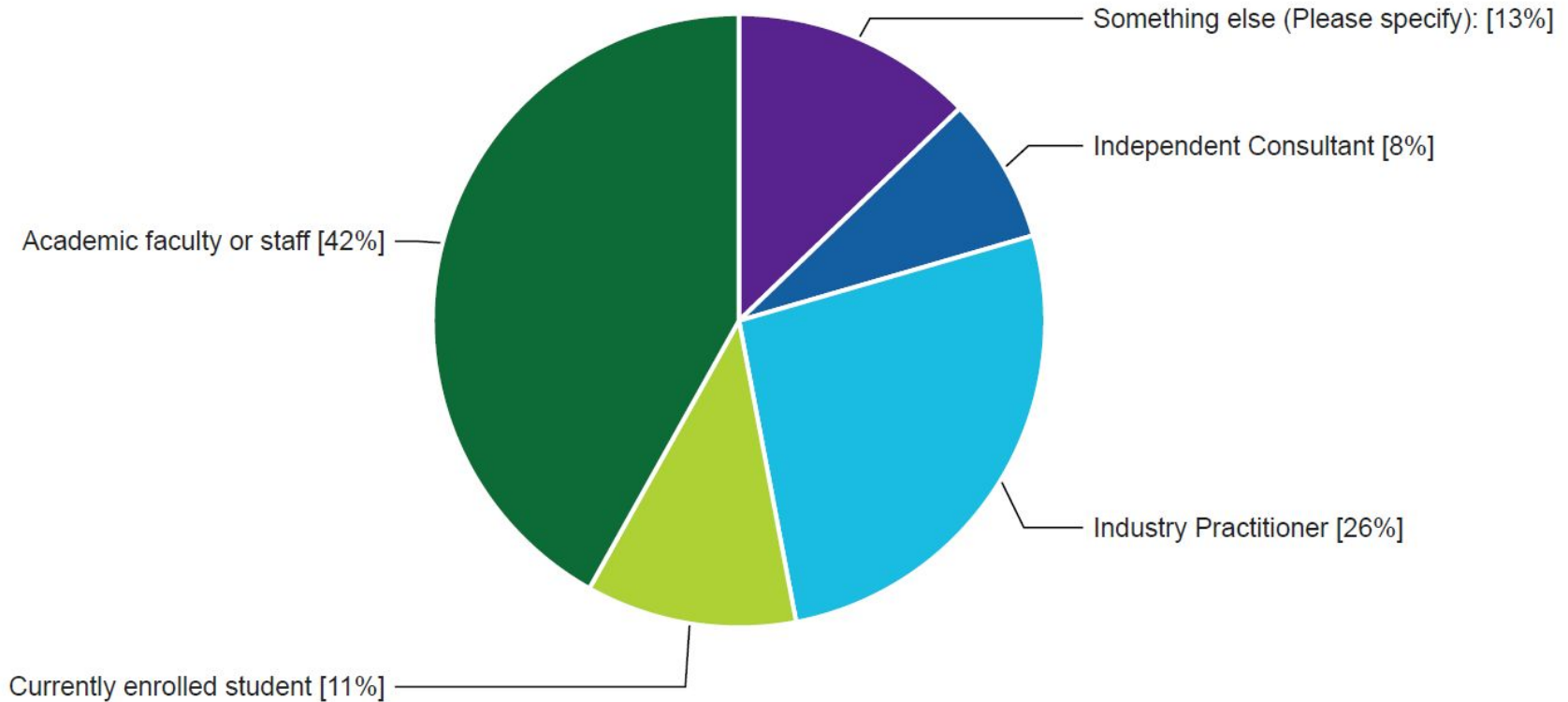
The 2024 Member Survey was distributed to all current and past members of EDRA in summer 2024. It was created in collaboration between the Board of Directors and the Research in Professional Practice (RiPP) Knowledge Network.

In total, 155 anonymous responses were received. The insights from the survey were used to inform Board discussion at the 2024 Retreat, as well as provide information for the RiPP KN on how best to communicate with its members.

Member Status



Current Primary Role

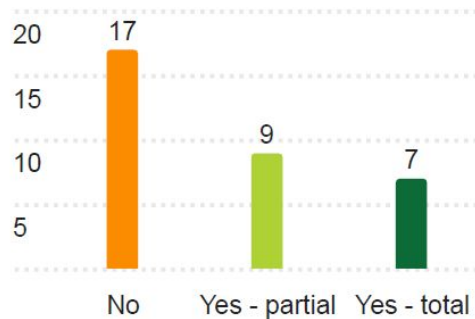


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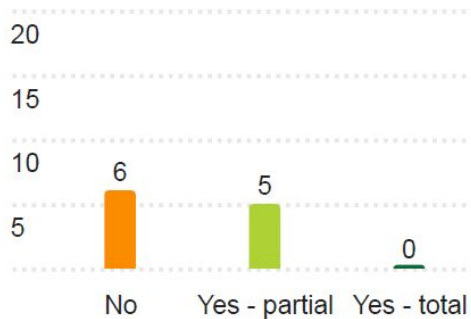
**Respondents who chose "Other" were primarily retired academic faculty or graduate students.*

Do you receive financial support for your EDRA membership?

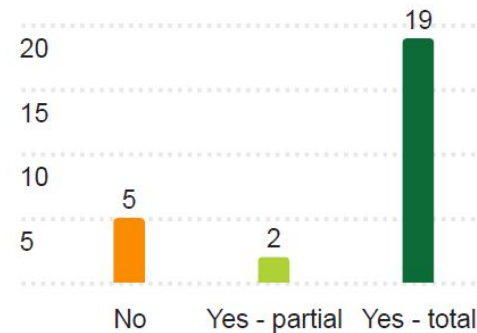
Academic



Student

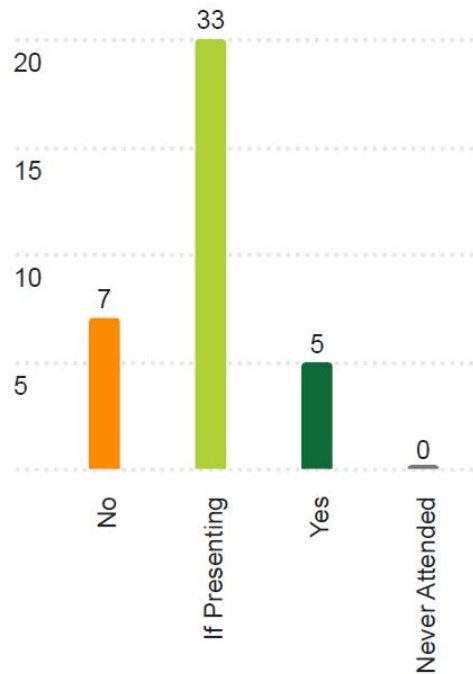


Practitioner

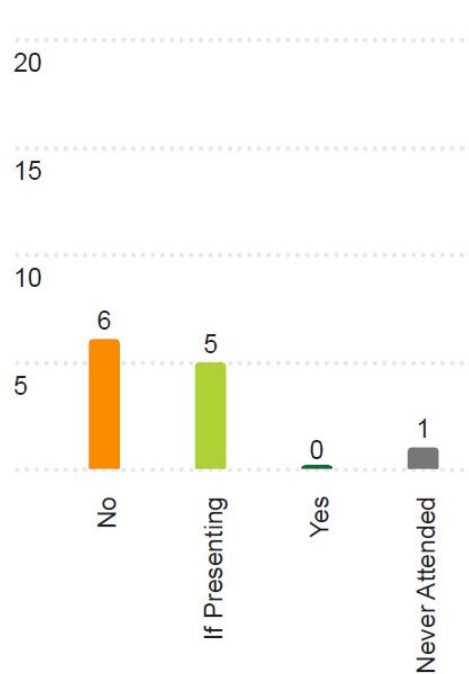


Do you receive financial support to attend the EDRA conference?

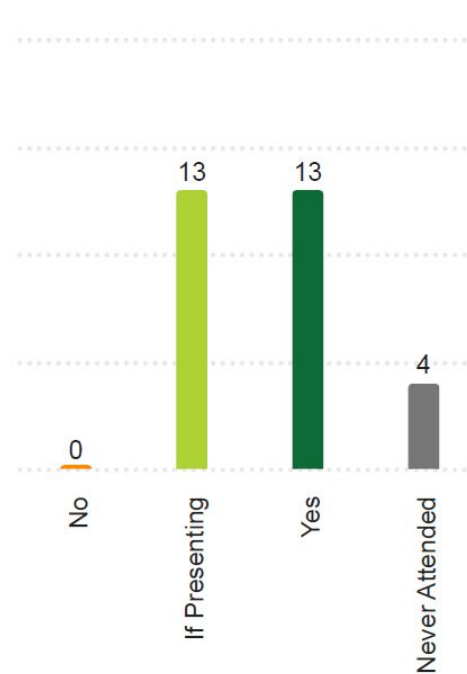
Academic



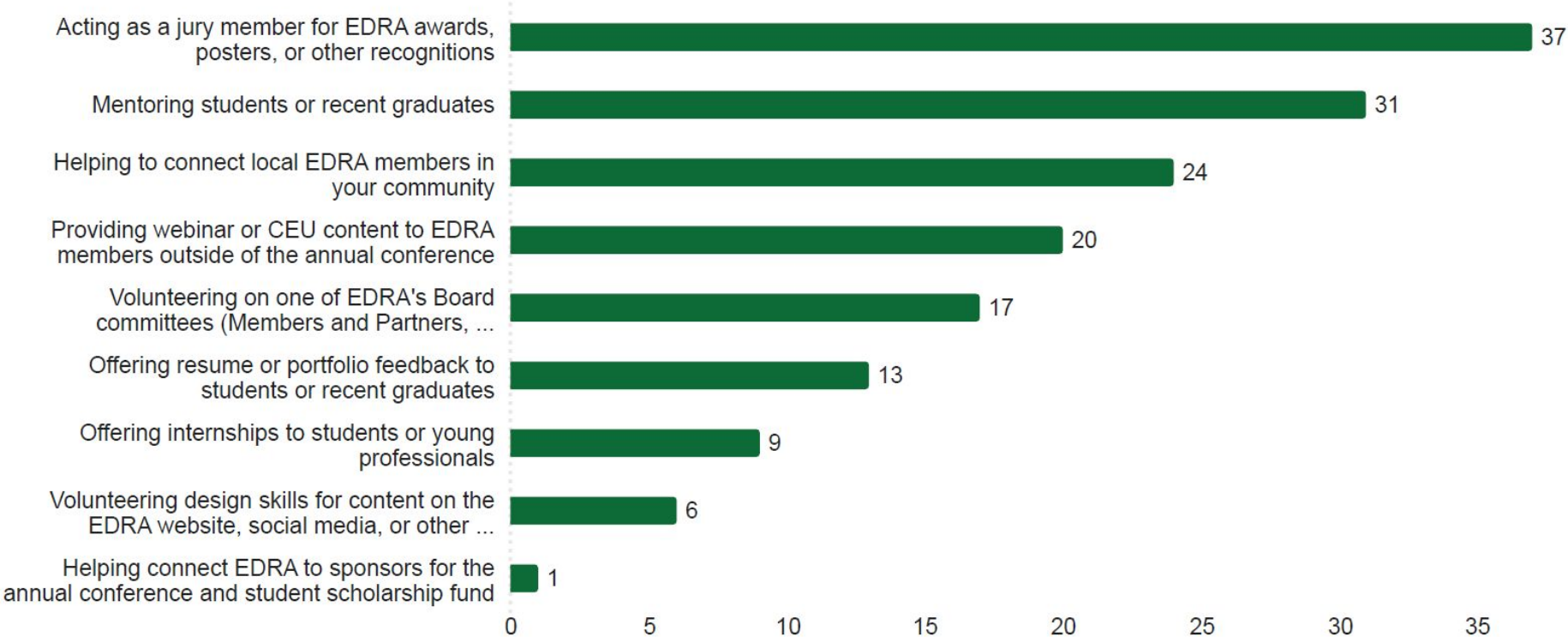
Student



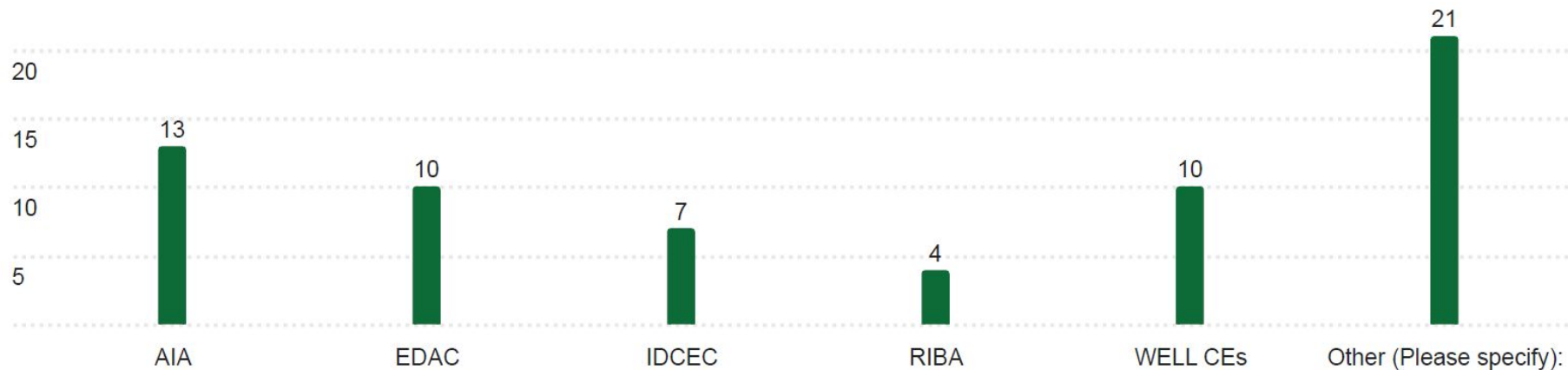
Practitioner



Interest in EDRA Involvement



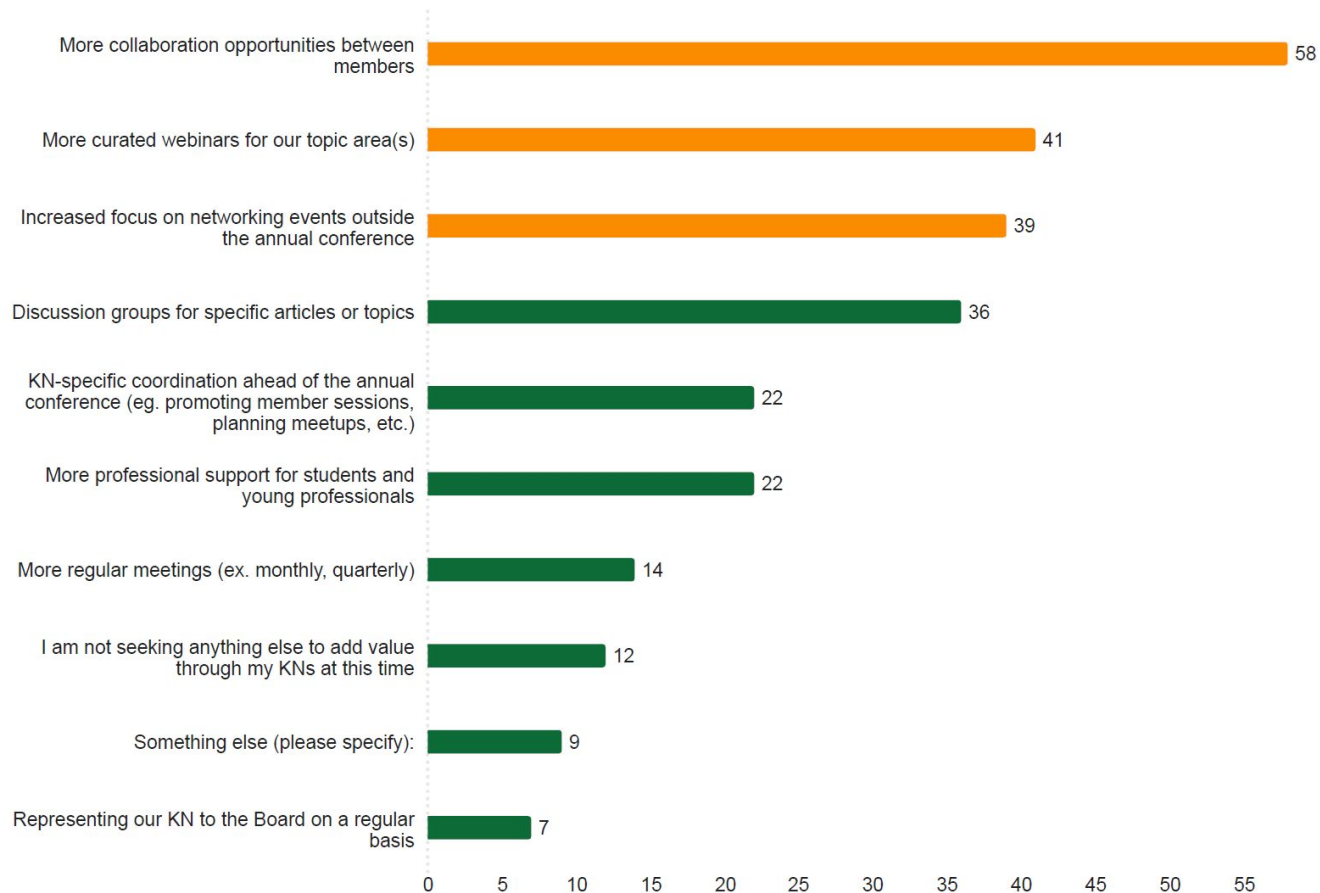
Participant CEU Needs



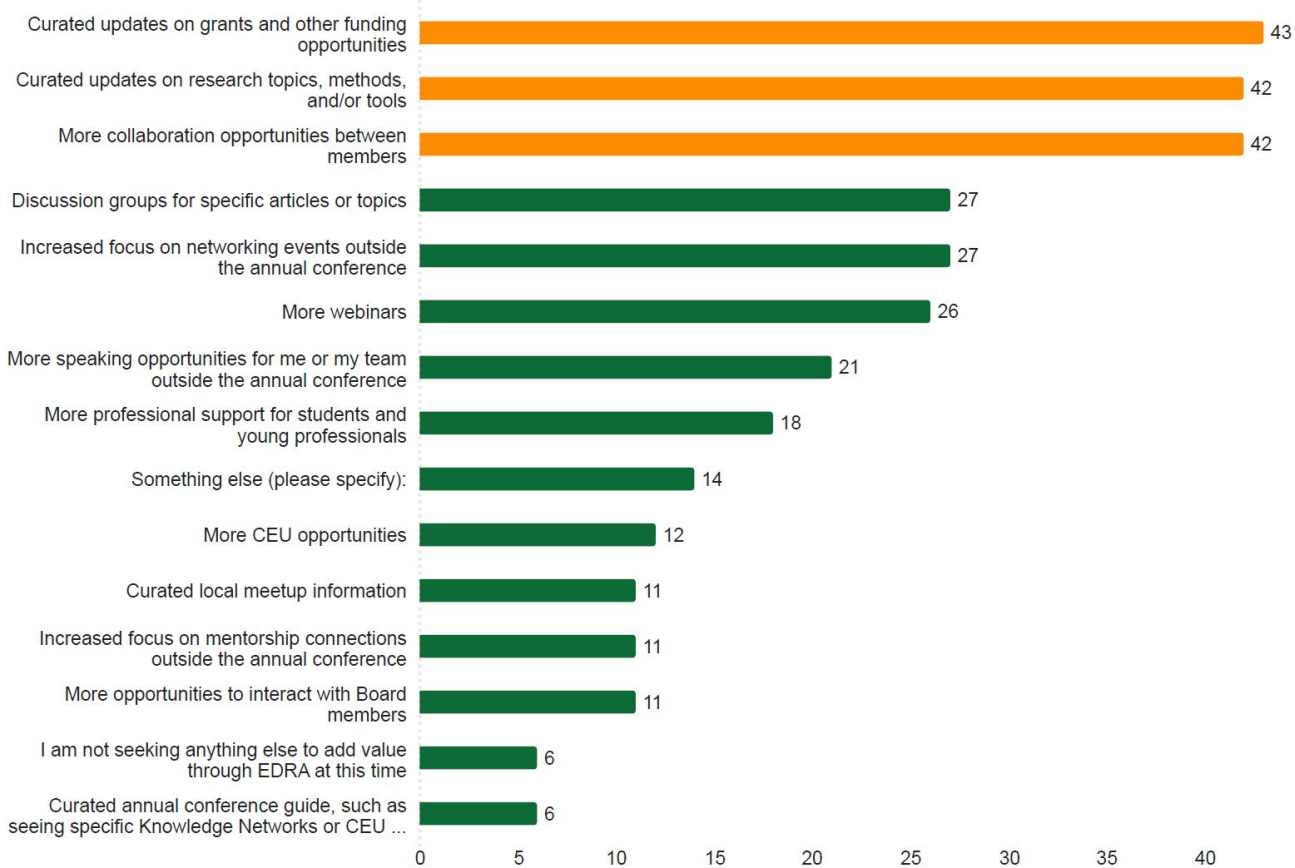
Other:

- Accessibility Professionals Association
- AICP
- ASLA (3)
- Board of Landscape Architects (3)
- GBCI
- International Code Council
- LEED (4)
- USGBC

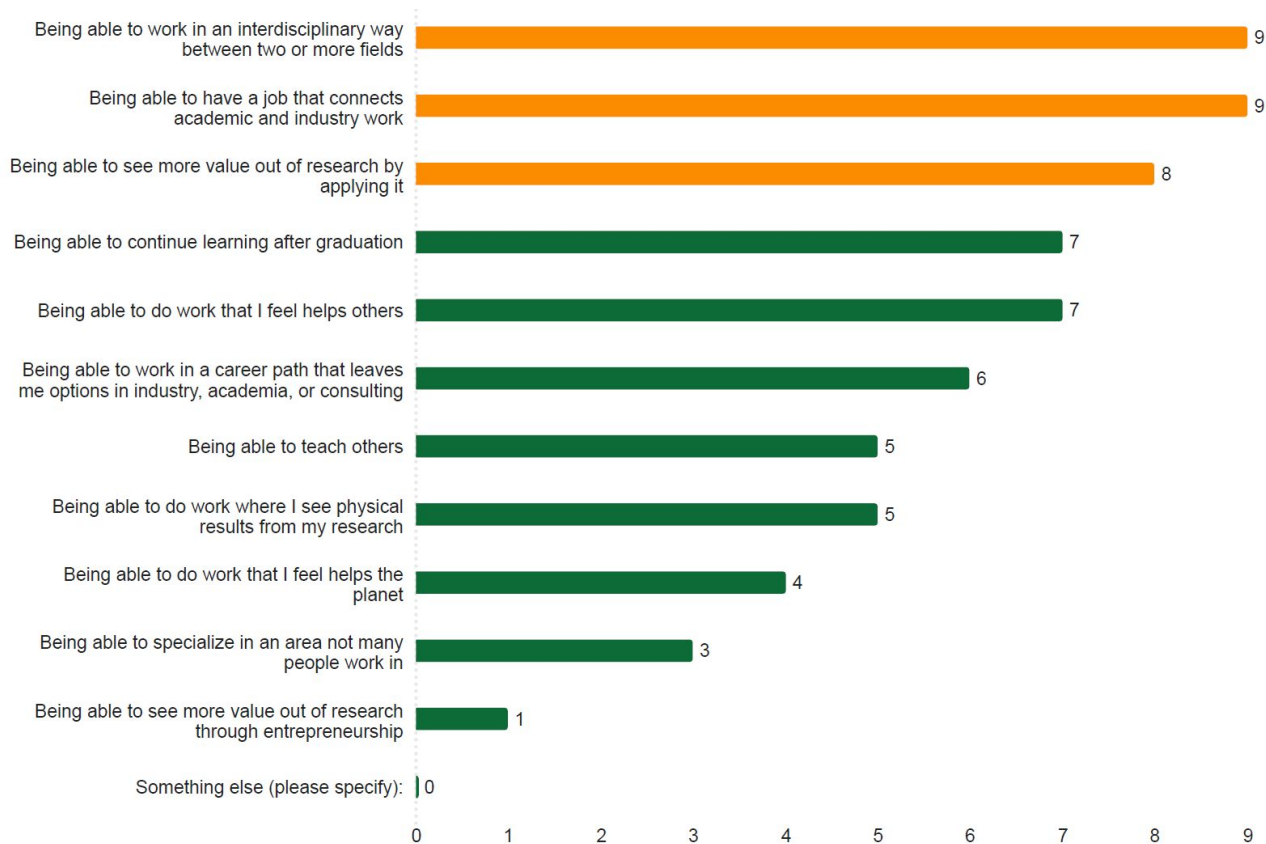
Knowledge Networks: Improving Value



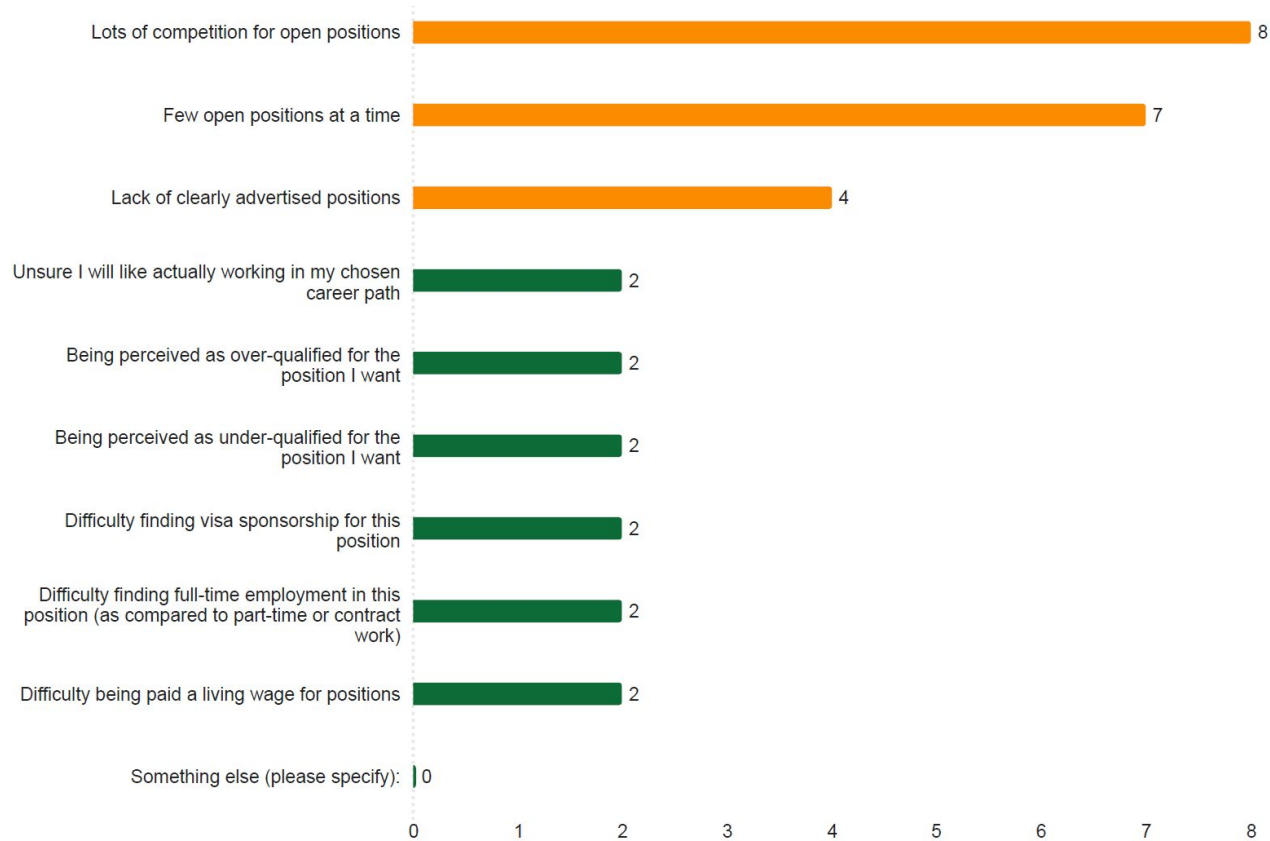
EDRA: Improving Value



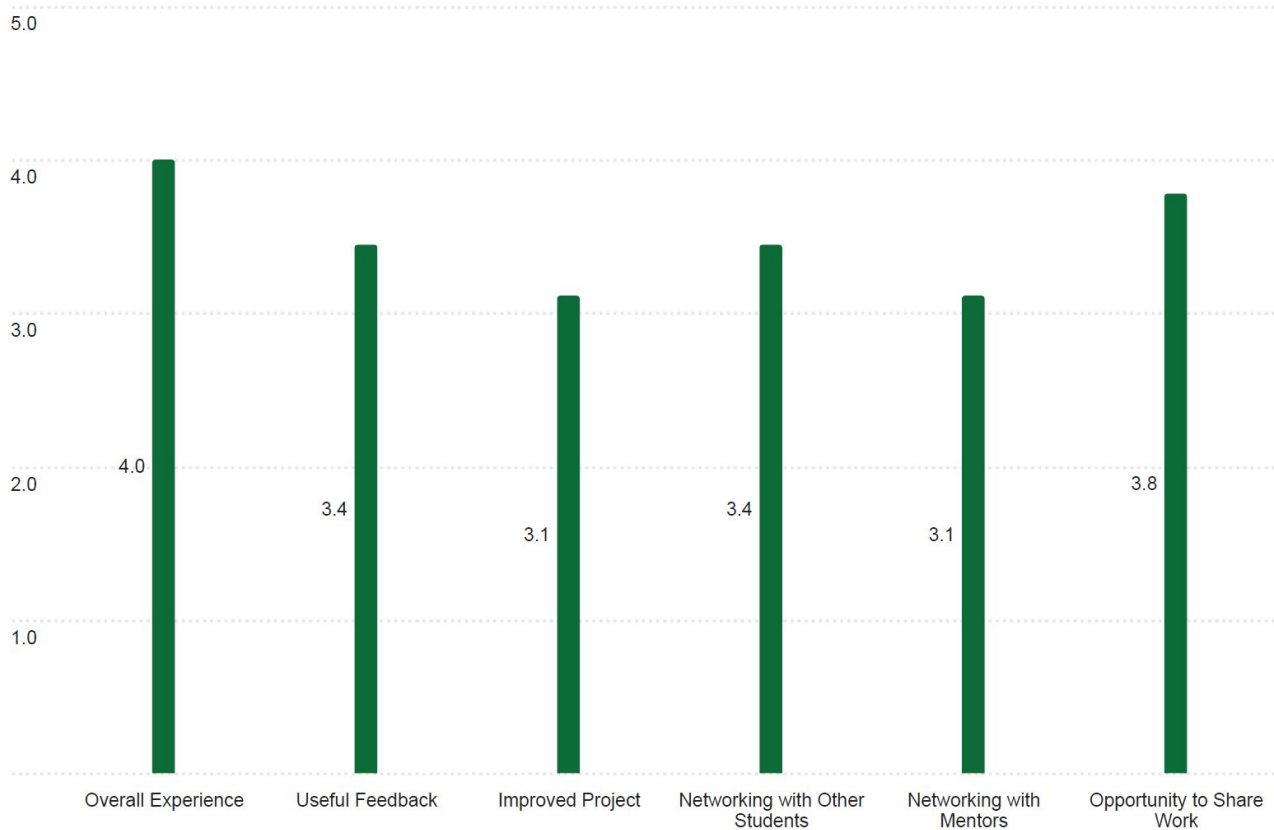
Student Reasons for Studying E-D Research



Student Perceptions of Potential Career Challenges



Average Student Satisfaction with GSMW





2024-25 Board Retreat

Synthesis of the following section



The following slides highlight the 2024–25 Fall Board Retreat, which included a site visit to Halifax in preparation for the year's activities and the EDRA 56 conference. The retreat served a dual purpose: to scout venues and engage with the host city, and to undertake a strategic visioning and planning process to guide the organization's direction for the coming year.

Retreat Goals Included:

- Aligning on EDRA's strategic vision and organizational priorities
- Strengthening board relationships through collaborative team-building
- Identifying key challenges and opportunities facing the organization

Site Visit









Looking forward to a year of collaboration



Strategic visioning process



The board engaged in reflective exercises using the Technology of Participation (ToP) method, analyzed member survey results, and conducted a consensus workshop focused on identifying the core concerns of EDRA's membership.

Committee-specific action planning sessions followed, where members outlined key next steps, responsibilities, and resource needs to move initiatives forward.

Reflection Exercise

Using Technology of Participation
focused conversation method

Guiding Questions for Board Reflection

- Which pieces of data struck you?
- Were you surprised/elated/confused by anything?
- What was your key insight?
- What is one thing you think we should do differently based on the survey results?



Consensus Workshop

Focus Question

What are some key issues EDRA members might be experiencing?

Action Planning Workshop

Committee work - Identifying action items for each committee

Planning Guiding Questions

- What specifically is going to happen?
- Who is going to carry it out?
- When are they going to do it/complete it?
- What resources (money/staff) are needed?
- Who needs to know about it?

Action Guiding Questions

- What is one thing you can start doing next week to achieve this?
- Does any of this have to happen at or before the conference?

Strategic Visioning Process and Outcomes (I)



Value

Members face challenges accessing the full value of EDRA membership due to financial pressures, competing demands, and limited visibility. They seek stronger career support through mentoring, publication opportunities, and clearer benefits. Students, in particular, need more accessible financial and professional resources beyond the annual conference.

Infrastructure

Frequent leadership changes and a confusing, outdated website hinder organizational stability and usability. Members struggle to find essential information online, including membership details and archives. There's a clear need for streamlined communication, improved digital infrastructure, and expanded sponsorship opportunities to support growth and sustainability.

Strategic Visioning Process and Outcomes (II)



Community

There is strong interest in strengthening community connections between conferences through knowledge networks (KNs) and virtual engagement. Current KNs lack visibility, clear purpose, and consistent communication. Members want more accessible collaboration, intergenerational engagement, and year-round connection to support professional growth and a sense of belonging.

Communications

EDRA must raise awareness of its mission, values, and offerings. Communication is often infrequent or poorly timed, leaving many members unaware of available resources. More consistent, strategic use of social media and other channels is key to showcasing EDRA's work, building recognition, and staying relevant to both academic and practice communities.

Strategic Visioning Process and Outcomes (III)



Conference Program

Conference planning is hindered by logistical delays, inconsistent formats, and unclear communication. Issues like Confex abstract submissions, unresponsive local teams, and late announcements affect participation and planning. There is also a strong call for improved hybrid access, higher-quality dissemination of work, and alignment with evolving academic and practice trends.



EDRA Webinars

Summary of Webinars in 2024-25



As part of the goal to increase value and knowledge sharing beyond the conference, EDRA organized 3 webinars in 2024 featuring Great Places Award Winners and student work.

EDRA also promoted webinars hosted by Knowledge Networks, including Children and Youth Environments, Research in Professional Practice, and Work Environments.

The Power of Place Planning: Inspiring Stories from Great Place Award Winners

EDRA 2024
Great Place Planning
Winner Award



Lesley Bain, FAIA, APA
Principal and Co - Founder @ Framework

EDRA 2024
Great Place Planning
Winner Award



Yuansi Cai AICP
Designer @ Framework

EDRA 2024
Great Place Planning
Honorable Mention



Patricia Algara FASLA, RLA
Principal in charge @ BASE Landscape Architecture

Hosts: **Dr. Bo Zhang**
Ass. Professor @ Oklahoma State University
EDRA Recognition Committee Co-Chair
&
Dr. Helen Ho, EDAC
Research Project Manager @ DLR Group

OCTOBER 31th @

1:00 - 2:00 CST
2:00 - 3:00 EST

Following Us:

From Place Research to Recognition:
The Journey of Book Award-Winning Author

The 2024 EDRA Great Place Book Award winners' webinars will offer invaluable insights into the world of research, writing, and publishing. Participants can expect to in-depth discussion about conducting rigorous and impactful research, honing their writing skills to effectively communicate complex ideas, and navigating the publishing process with confidence. Through the shared experiences and expertise of these award-winning authors, attendees will gain practical tips, best practices, and valuable lessons that can elevate their own academic pursuits.

SEPT. 19th

12:00 - 1:00 CST
1:00 - 2:00 EST

Host: **Dr. Bo Zhang**

Associate Professor at Oklahoma State University
EDRA Recognition Committee Co-Chair

EDRA 2024
Great Place Book
Winner Award



Galen Newman, PhD.
Professor at Texas A&M University



EDRA 2024
Great Place Book
Honorable Mention Award



Vikas Mehta, PhD, MArch

Professor at University of Cincinnati



Following Us:



Marta Saniewska
Environmental Psychologist



Leila Jackson
Designer & Researcher

2:00 PM ET
3:00 PM CT
11:00 AM PT

Register for the
webinar today

Moderator : B Sanborn, EDAC, AIA National Affiliate
EDRA Chair Elect

Research in Practice:
Engaging communities to explore
Spatial Justice, Belonging and Healing

Follow us

Executive Director Report summary



Welcome to all EDRA members!

- EDRA membership fluctuates, but student, and corporate members are growing
- Financial stability and reserves are solid
- Conference attendance is slowly decreasing. Need to ensure it become stable
- Over the past 6 years, I have tried to manage the organization, emphasis on:
 - a. Promoting better communications with members
 - b. Supporting Awards programs,
 - c. Financial stability
 - d. Upholding the EDRA story

To dos

- Nurturing existing programs and partnerships (such as CEB-ASC, China Environmental Behavior-Architectural Society Committee *(formerly EBRA)*)
- Working on making an EDRA membership a good investment for members
- Enlisting volunteers and greater participation/engagement of KN and members



Deni Ruggeri, Ph.D.
Executive Director

A global membership



edra56

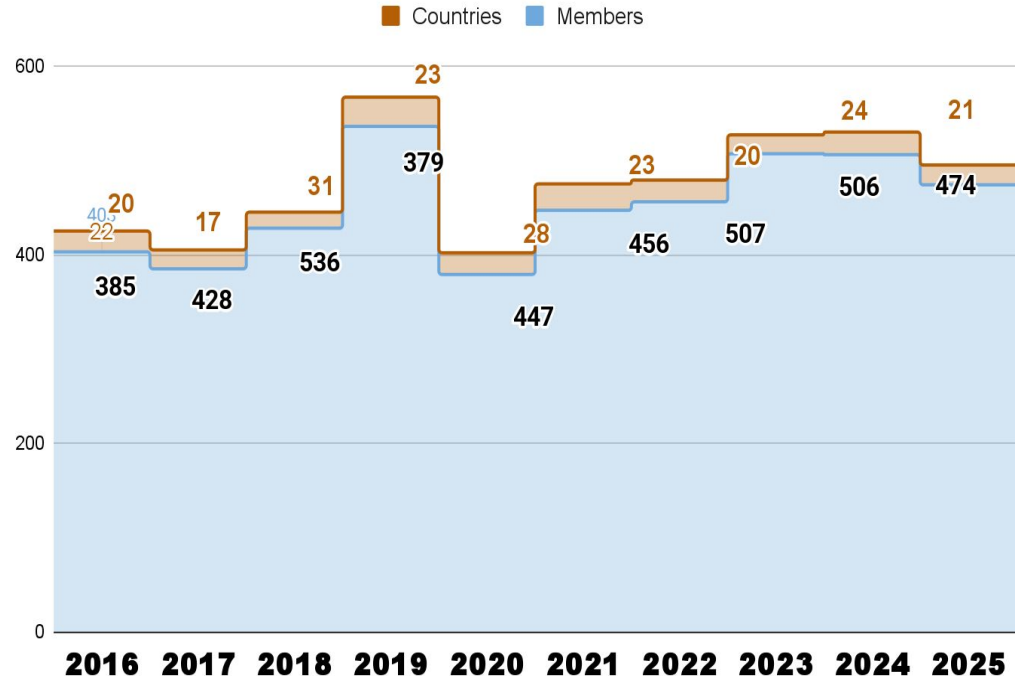
Halifax | Nova Scotia | Canada
May 27-30, 2025

Membership trends

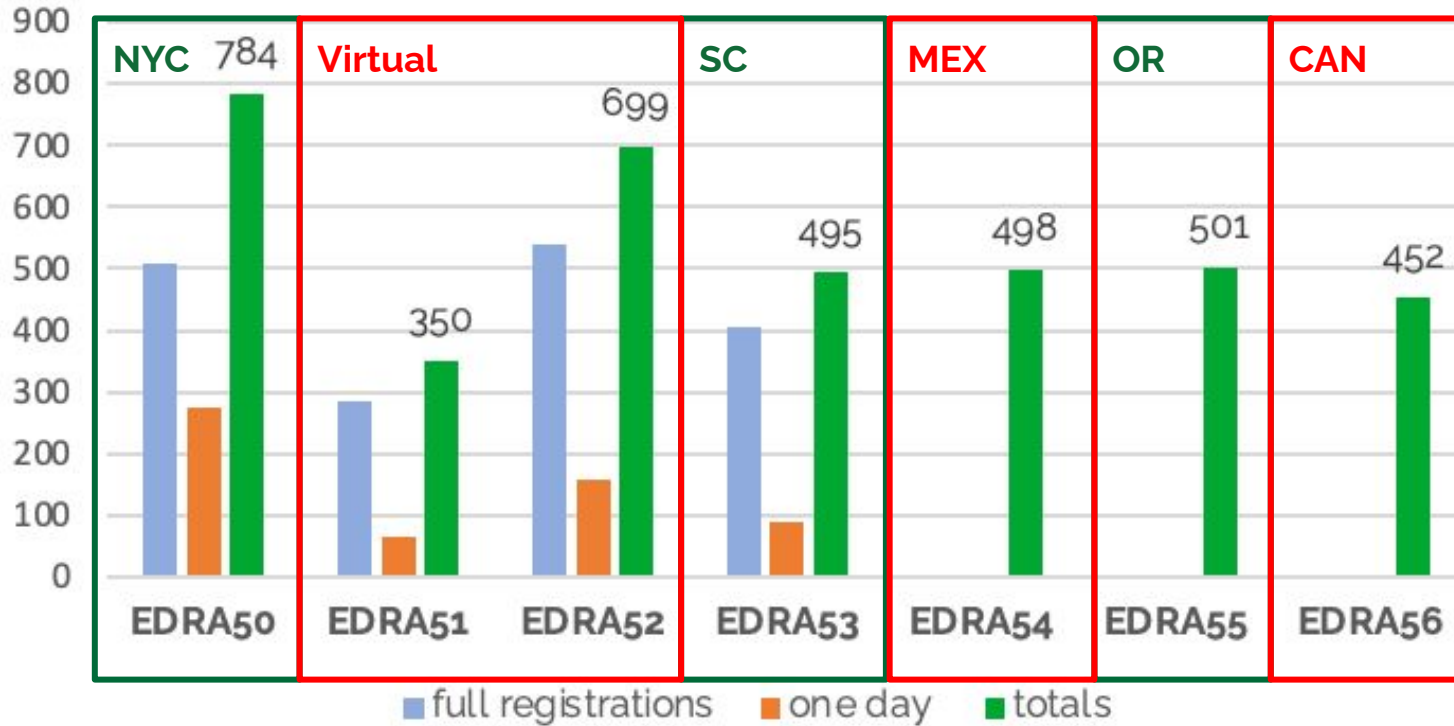


We are slowing slightly

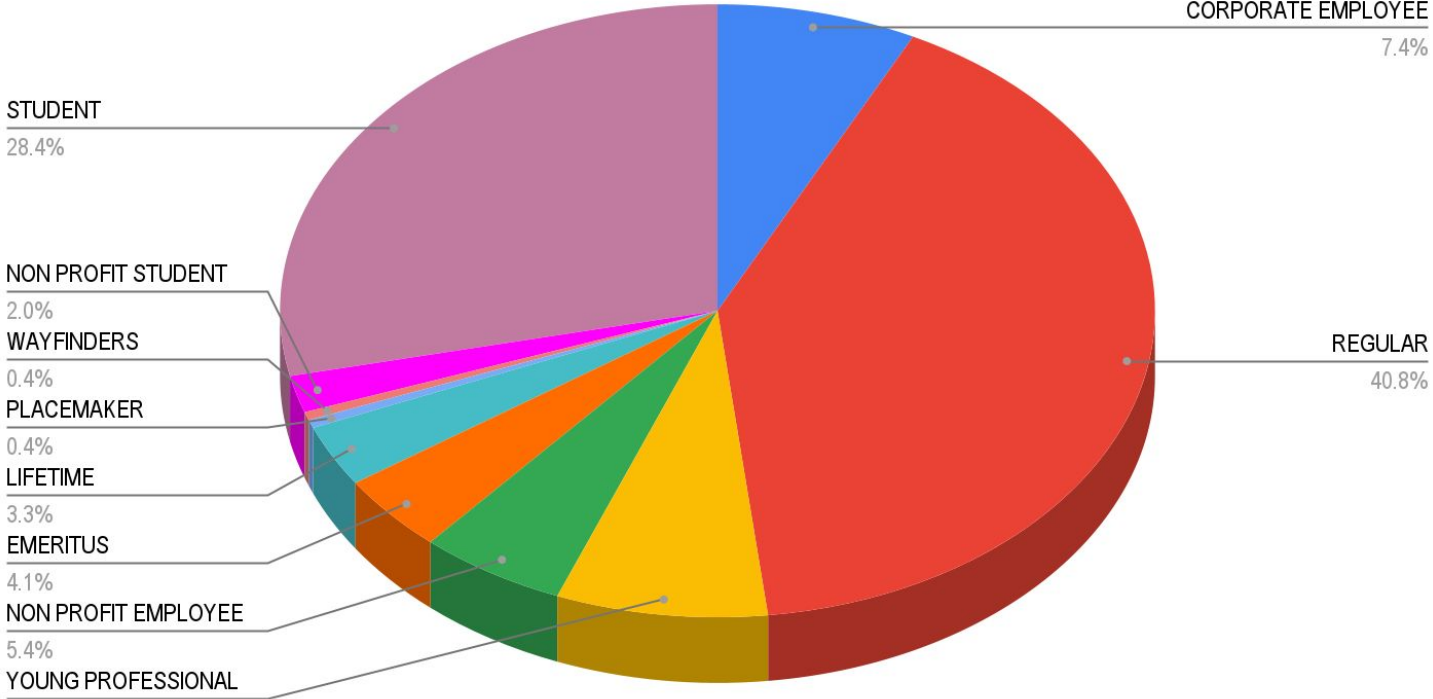
- Membership is slightly lower this year
- *Membership is still highly dependent on conference location and fee structure*
- We are favoring discounted rates for members
- *Less international members due to global circumstances*



Conference registration stats



Membership breakdown by type



Non Profit and Corporate Members



CORPORATE

CORGAN

DLR Group

HGA Architects and Engineers

LAKE FLATO ARCHITECTS

PAGE SOUTHERLAND PAGE, INC.

SMITHGROUP

HKS Inc.

NON-PROFIT/INSTITUTIONAL

Boston Architectural College

University at Buffalo - School of
Architecture and Planning

University of Colorado Boulder
Program in Environmental
Design

Cornell University - Human
Centered Design

University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign - Landscape
Architecture

Kuwait University

University of Maryland, College
Park - Plant Science and
Landscape Architecture

Michigan State University

Rutgers University - Center for
Green Building

University of Idaho - College of
Art and Architecture

Pennsylvania State University

Lifetime, Wayfinders & Placemakers



LIFETIME

Clinton J. Andrews
Mohamad Araji
Meredith Banasiak
John Barbour
Mallika Bose
Susan Drucker
Kelleann Foster
Peter Haratonik
Esperanza Harper
Vibhavari Jani
Lisa Lim
Maria Papiez
David Seamon
Nicholas Wise
Julie Zook

EMERITI

Thierry Rosenheck
Chris Burda
Sue Weidemann
Mardelle Shepley
Anne Lusk
D. Michael Murtha
Ann S. Devlin
MaryAnn Sorensen Allacci
Zena O'Connor
Henry Sanoff
Peter R. Hecht
Satoshi Kose

WAYFINDERS

Cherif Amor
Daniel Stokols

Sherry Ahrentzen
Robert W. Marans
Renee D. Christensen
Gary Gumpert
Robert Gifford
Randolph T. Hester
Richard E. Wener
Rotraut-Maria Walden
Sanjoy Mazumdar

PLACEMAKERS

Gowri Betrabet Gulwadi
Lynn Paxson

Treasurer's Report



Lisa Lim, PhD
Treasurer, EDRA Board of Directors



edra 56
Halifax, May 27-30, 2025

edra 56

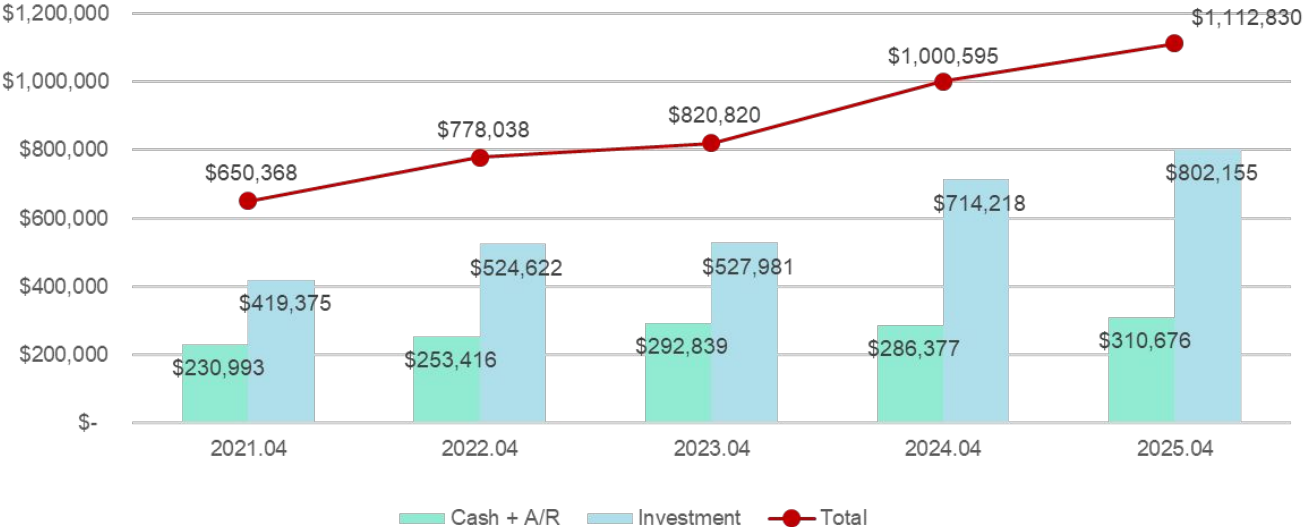
Halifax | Nova Scotia | Canada
May 27-30, 2025

From the Treasurer



The following pages present a financial overview of EDRA, including a summary of our assets over the past five years, annual income and expenses, and a breakdown of how we allocated and spent our budget in 2024.

EDRA Assets (Last 5 Years)

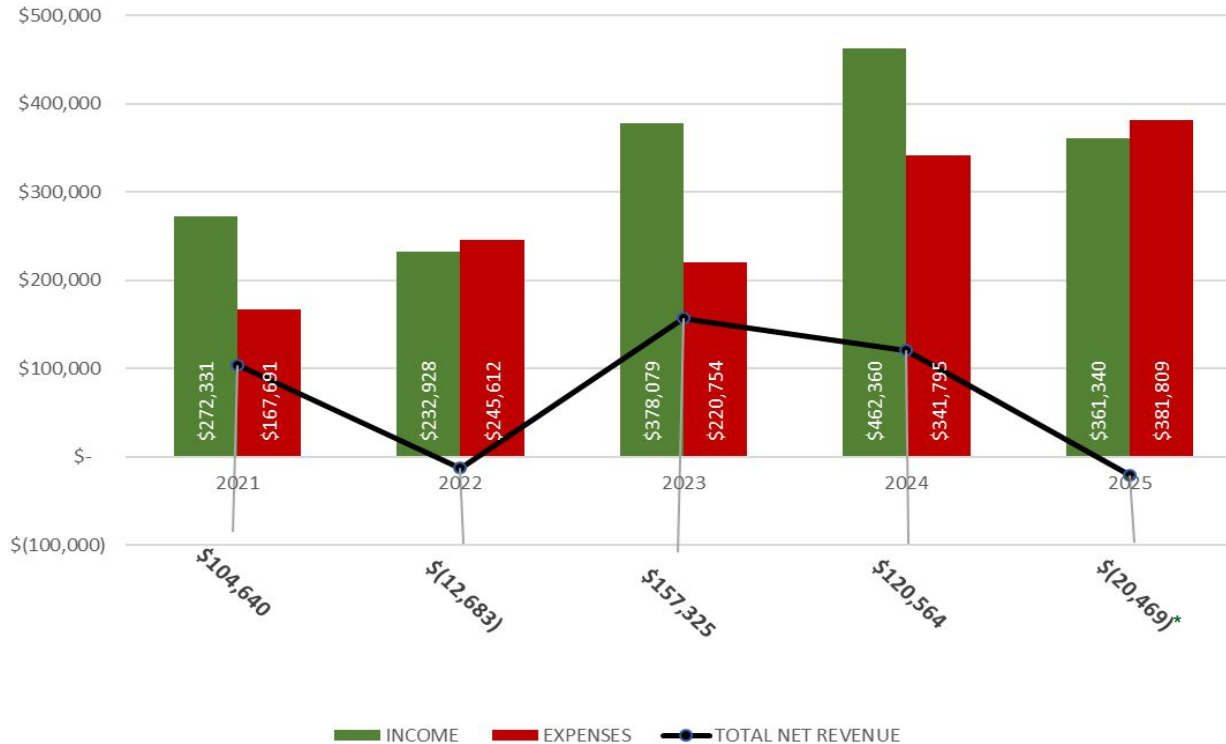


EDRA Assets at a Glance

(4/30/25)

Cash & Accounts Receivable:	\$ 310,676
Investment Accounts:	\$ 802,155
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$ 1,112,830

Annual Income & Expenses



* 2025 represents the expected income and expenses based on the annual budget.

2024 Income & Expenses Breakdown



TOTAL INCOME	\$	462,360
Conference Income	\$	250,904
EDRA CORE	\$	7,625
Great Places Awards	\$	6,500
Membership Dues	\$	68,645
Publications	\$	9,077
Restricted Revenues	\$	3,695
Other	\$	115,915
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	341,795
Administrative	\$	124,037
Board of Directors	\$	13,259
Conference Expenses	\$	187,808
EDRA CORE	\$	1,272
Great Places Awards	\$	-
Publications	\$	494
Other Expense	\$	14,925
TOTAL NET REVENUE	\$	120,564





EDRA Leadership Transitions

EDRA's leadership and organizational resilience



In the coming year, EDRA will undergo several leadership changes.

With the current Executive Director transitioning out, a new Interim Executive Director and an Association Management Company will soon take on operational and administrative responsibilities.

On August 1, 2025, B. Sanborn will begin their term as Board Chair. Three board members will complete their service, while one will extend her term for continuity, and another will shift into a new role. EDRA also welcomes three newly elected board members, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to the team.

These changes reflect EDRA's continued commitment to strong leadership and organizational resilience.

Gratitude for our outgoing Executive Director

We extend our thanks to Dr. Deni Ruggeri for his six years of service as EDRA's Executive Director, a role he held during a time of significant organizational change and global challenges. Throughout his tenure, Deni navigated the complexities of multiple changes in board leadership with adaptability and steady guidance. The COVID-19 pandemic also presented unique obstacles impacting both EDRA's operations and the broader community.

Despite these challenges, Deni remained committed to supporting the organization and fostering continuity during uncertain times. His efforts have helped sustain EDRA as it moves forward.

We appreciate his dedication to the EDRA community and thank him for his service during this important chapter in the organization's history.



Deni Ruggeri, PhD
EDRA Executive Director



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Welcome to our incoming Board Chair

Effective **August 1**, B Sanborn will assume the role of Chair of the EDRA Board for the 2025–26 term. B brings a proven track record of leadership, strategic thinking, and a strong commitment to EDRA's mission and values. Their ability to translate vision into action, foster collaboration across disciplines, and support inclusive engagement positions them well to guide the organization into its next chapter.

Leading a newly elected board with fresh perspectives, B and this new team are well positioned to build upon the organization's established strengths, pursue new initiatives, and continue supporting the community of scholars and practitioners that define EDRA.

The outgoing Chair will remain on the board in an ex officio role to ensure continuity. The board looks forward to a successful and stellar year under B. Sanborn's leadership.



B Sanborn, EDAC
Chair Elect,
EDRA56 Program
Committee Chair



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From the incoming Chair of the Board



As EDRA enters a new chapter, we remain committed to what makes us unique: fostering connections across disciplines and bridging research and practice. Our strength lies in working at the intersection of human-environment research, belonging to no single field but creating impact through diverse perspectives.

Together, we're not just discussing the future of our field—we're building it through the relationships we forge and the interdisciplinary work we champion. The connections you make and collaborations you build transform our shared knowledge into meaningful action, positioning EDRA to continue making a real difference in the world.



GRATITUDE & GOODBYE

Outgoing EDRA Board members



Elif Tural, Ph.D.
Past-Chair - Ex
Officio



Julie Stevens, MLA
Board Member



Lisa Lim, Ph.D.
Treasurer



Alina Osnaga
Board Student
Representative

DEEP GRATITUDE

Continuing EDRA Board member



Lorraine Maxwell, Ph.D.
Emeritus Board Member -
Ex Officio

WELCOME

Incoming EDRA Board members



Alina Osnaga
Board member
2025-2028



Maja Kevdžija, Ph.D.
Board member
2025-2028



Zhe Wang, Ph.D., RA
Board member
2025-2028



**Mireya Jocelyn
Gomez-Nava**
Student Representative
2025-2027



Next Conference

EDRA57 goes to UMass Amherst



The Department of Architecture at University of Massachusetts with Landscape Architecture, Regional Planning, Environmental Conservation, and the Five Colleges Consortium will host EDRA57.

We are excited to spend time in a vibrant university community exploring the conference theme “Embracing Regional Sustainability.”

edra57

**Embracing Regional Sustainability:
Networks for People and Places.**

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst
May 27th-30th, 2026**



EDRA57 Academic Chair Professor Stephen Schreiber and the Local Committee will work with the Board to craft a CFP that invites papers, panels, and creative formats about:

- Multi-scalar approaches to sustainability — linking the local to the global.
- Social and ecological networks that enhance community well-being and environmental performance.
- Interdisciplinary methods that connect design, policy, planning, health, and social sciences.
- Case studies of projects that successfully bridge people, place, and sustainability.
- Collaborative practices that activate regional identities and build long-term stewardship.



A sincere thank you to EDRA's
members from all of us!