



1989



1993



2000

History of APLD

In 1986, two landscape designers, Donna Swansen and Peggy Connors, met and discovered that they had similar professional concerns and issues. Over the next two years, they met to plan how an association for professional landscape designers might address these issues and how it might be structured. In 1988, the name, Association of Professional Landscape Designers, known as APLD, was chosen. They decided to embrace the idea that great design is global in scope and that the association would welcome an international landscape design membership.

Recognizing that a larger community was needed to form a true association, Peggy and Donna attended Joel Lerner's "Leave No Stone Unturned" conference in Washington, DC to gather contacts from other designers who might also want a professional association. By the following winter, there was enough interest to begin fleshing out the details of a new organization.

Incorporated in February 1989, the newly elected APLD Board of Directors held its first meeting, with Donna Swansen as President. During the first few years, association membership was concentrated in the northeast United States, but within a few years, news of APLD spread and membership grew throughout the country as well as internationally.