

**DAGMAR EPSTEN, LFA****President & CEO | PlanAPlanet LCC**

Location: Atlanta, Georgia (United States)

Project: [Epsten Group Inc., LBC Petal Certified \(2020\)](#)

“By achieving LFA in early 2016 and maintaining it since then, I see myself as part of a class of leaders working toward a common goal. ... Pursuing and achieving LFA has broadened my understanding of how buildings fit into the cycles of ecosystems.”

Why did you choose to pursue LFA?

I consider the [Living Building Challenge](#) certification the highest recognition for a building that supports the thriving of life on earth. By achieving LFA in early 2016 and maintaining it since then, I see myself as part of a class of leaders working toward a common goal.

How did you earn General LFA continuing education credits?

I am a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, a LEED Fellow with five LEED AP specialties, a WELL AP, and I have four architectural registrations, so I earn my General LFA CE credits while keeping up other qualifications. Most of these credits I obtain by going to events or conferences, and online, especially recently.

How has achieving LFA impacted you and your work?

Pursuing and achieving LFA has broadened my understanding of how buildings fit into the cycles of ecosystems. And specifically, it tied in with gaining a [JUST Label](#) with the architecture and engineering firm that I owned, leading it toward the first LBC Petal certification for a client in Georgia and initiating the firm’s involvement with the first Living Building anticipated in Georgia.

What's next for you?

I own two commercial buildings (both LEED-NC Platinum) and am busy updating them as needed and addressing tenant needs. I have also taught two architecture courses at Georgia Tech. I am active on a Georgia Tech board and a community design review committee, and participate in professional and leadership organizations. I maintain my ties to Germany, where I grew up, and will travel there again soon. In general I try to keep up with what’s going on in the world. I keep up my credentials such as the LFA, because I see myself as a life-long learner and contributor to improving community and life.

What's your biggest inspiration?

Actually, Jason F. McLennan and Amanda Sturgeon have both been amazing inspirational people for me to cross paths with, and I look forward to seeing where the International Living Future Institute is headed. I continue to be inspired by ILFI, and the [Trimtab](#) magazine is one of my favorite readings that keeps me up-to-date and connected.

**MICHÈLE ANDREWS, LFA****Communications & Community Outreach | Maitland Tower**

Location: Maitland, Ontario (Canada)

Project: [Maitland Tower Imaginarium](#), Registered for [LCC Certification](#) & Maitland Tower Boat House, Registered for [LBC Certification](#) & Maitland Tower Chart House, Registered for [LBC Certification](#)*“[LFA] gives me confidence and credibility as an ambassador of ILFI and a spokesperson for our Living Community Challenge project. It is also a conversation**starter - and starting conversations is an essential first step in broadening the impact of ILFI.”***Why did you choose to pursue LFA?**

I was inspired by the mission of ILFI to lead the transformation to a socially just, culturally rich and ecologically restorative world. I wanted to learn as much as I could so I might be able to help spread the ILFI message. I am also on the core team of Maitland Tower, a [Living Community Challenge](#) project in Eastern Ontario, Canada, where we are trying to spark interest and action in redefining what it means to create a thriving community.

How did you earn General LFA continuing education credits?

I pursued a number of [Living Future Education](#) online courses, and attended the 2019 [Living Future unConference](#). I also attended a number of other conferences related to learning more about the climate crisis and finding inspiring ways to help my community take action, including becoming a Climate Reality Leadership Corps member, and learning about Project Drawdown.

How has achieving LFA impacted you and your work?

It gives me confidence and credibility as an ambassador of ILFI and a spokesperson for our Living Community Challenge project. It is also a conversation starter - and starting conversations is an essential first step in broadening the impact of ILFI.

What's next for you?

I am leading the initiation of a charitable organization whose mission will be very complementary to the ILFI. We will be working locally in our community at the Maitland Tower LCC site, and connecting with an online community as well. I look forward to sharing more when we launch!

What's your biggest inspiration?

I think about my children, now in their 20s, and future grandchildren, including our first expected in early 2021. And I think about Margaret Mead's quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."