

## Presidents Council October 2, 2019 Conference Call

### Actions for a Sustainable and Resilient Future

On October 2, 2019, leadership from ASLA, CELA, CLARB, CSLA, LAAB and LAF discussed topics for inclusion in the 2020 Presidents Council (PC) meeting agenda which will be hosted by CELA in Raleigh, NC, January 8-10, 2020.

Urgency was placed on organization policies and activities regarding landscape resilience, transformative societies and environmental sustainability. The current leaders share an understanding in the critical role and impact that Landscape Architects have for designing a healthy global existence.

Below are statements, articles, and policies shared in good faith and collaborative spirit, as inspiration for environmental advocacy. Whether policies are developed and adopted, the PC has been challenged to develop thoughtful and progressive activities which can be implemented throughout our various organizations and presented at the 2020 Presidents Council meeting.

### CSLA's climate message

- The CSLA recognizes that climate change is causing fundamental impacts in ecosystems and communities.
- Landscape architects are in a unique position of adapting our society and ecosystems to prepare for short and long term environmental change associated with changing weather and changing climates.
- Governments and businesses rely heavily on the advice of landscape architects on a wide range of environmental, resource management and land use planning decisions. It is therefore critical that the professionals who are making key decisions about our ecosystems and the evolution of our communities are fully informed on the most current climate science, increasing their ability to make accurate and timely recommendations to government and industry.
- The CSLA recognizes that climate change imposes new and challenging responsibilities; however, the Society will take steps to enable and encourage their members to incorporate the best available climate-science into their professional decisions.

### CSLA's climate position paper

Resilient, Transformative and Sustainable: A Positive Approach to a Changing Future:

[https://www.csla-aapc.ca/sites/csla-aapc.ca/files/CSLA%20CC%20Position%20Paper%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.csla-aapc.ca/sites/csla-aapc.ca/files/CSLA%20CC%20Position%20Paper%20(1).pdf)

### ASLA's climate change and resilience policy

- The American Society of Landscape Architects believes climate change intensifies the negative impacts of development and puts ecosystems and communities at serious risk.
- Mitigation and adaptation require new paradigms that work with human and natural systems.
- Skillful, knowledge-based planning, design, and management contributes to addressing climate goals, including reduction of greenhouse gases, and significantly enhance resiliency in the face of extreme weather, sea-level rise, and shifting climatic patterns.
- Landscape architects have the responsibility to address these challenges in practice, advocacy, education, and research. As understanding of the effects and extent of these challenges grows, landscape architects should continue to respond with innovation and leadership.
- ASLA supports federal, state, and local policies that promote resilient and climate-smart design and planning; educate and empower communities; promote equity; promote active and multimodal transportation; protect natural systems; and support resilient agricultural practices.

### ASLA's advocacy and public policies

<https://www.asla.org/ContentDetail.aspx?id=50016>