



FLORIDA CHAPTER ASLA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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American Society of
Landscape Architects
Florida Chapter

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Greetings, Florida Chapter!

I was excited to cap World Landscape Architecture Month by attending the ASLA Chapter President's Council Midyear Meeting in Washington D.C. The three days of meetings with our ASLA staff members and the rest of the leaders throughout the country was inspiring and energizing. Many of our Chapters face the same challenges and successes, and I was proud to share the wonderful things we are doing in Florida. It was also exciting to tour the newly renovated ASLA Headquarters and Center for Landscape Architecture. The Garden Level was sponsored by the Florida Chapter, which is prominently displayed as you enter.

Thursday April 26th was a very successful ASLA Advocacy Day. We spent the day on Capitol Hill meeting with the staffs of our Florida Senators and Representatives about issues affecting our profession. The primary message we conveyed involved educating our legislators about how Landscape Architects are leading Community Infrastructure Design and Development. This strategy was adopted by ASLA in light of the administration's proposed infrastructure improvement program. During our meetings with our lawmakers, we requested that this infrastructure plan include strategies to fix our nation's water management systems, upgrade to a multimodal transportation network, and to recognize public lands, parks, and recreation as critical infrastructure. These strategies for designing for resiliency were very well received on both sides of the aisle.

It was an important step to communicate these concepts to our legislators in Washington, but it is equally important that we all spread the word to our local lawmakers, city councils, and government agencies. Landscape Architects are experts and leaders in this type of green infrastructure design and development. I urge you all to continue this effort to make our voices heard.

I want to thank the rest of the Florida delegation who joined me in Washington D.C. for Advocacy Day. Deena Bell (President-Elect), Kay Williams (ASLA Parliamentarian), Kona Gray (EDSA), Daniel Rodriguez (University of Florida), and Harley Ramirez (Florida International University). You all did a wonderful job of representing the Florida Chapter.

Our Government Affairs Committee has been busy during our current Florida Legislative session monitoring specific bills pertaining to the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), and the latest deregulation efforts in Tallahassee. Please be on the lookout for alerts from the GAC should the need arise for us to make ourselves heard on these issues.

Our Annual Conference is only two months away. Registration is now open. Sessions and Tours begin on Thursday July 6th and run through Saturday July 8th. I look forward to seeing you all there.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity and honor of representing you. Please contact me at president@flasla.org if you would like to be more involved with the Florida Chapter of ASLA.

David J. Flanagan, PLA, ASLA
2016-2017 Florida Chapter President
St. Petersburg, FL