



March 27, 2017

Florida Chapter Members:

ASLA has taken a rare yet strong stance against the Trump administration's early budget blueprint. Trump's proposal included eliminating two critical community development programs important to the profession—the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs could receive a slight increase but funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Water and Wastewater loan and grant program are being recommended for decrease. The blueprint also axes programmatic funding for critical climate change research at the EPA.

These are interesting political times and we as a professional organization need to remember we are made up of people from both sides of the political isle. Trump's blueprint is far from a serious Congressional budget. While I don't necessarily disagree with points of the statement I feel a knee-jerk political statement can lead to a slippery slope. To read ASLA's statement visit <https://www.asla.org/NewsReleaseDetails.aspx?id=50078>.

I believe ASLA has taken the better approach by joining with other conservation groups in sending a letter to Congress urging them to oppose the severe cuts to conservation, natural resources, and environmental programs proposed in President Trump's FY 2018 budget blueprint. The letter emphasizes the invaluable benefits conservation and natural resource programs provide—especially to the growing outdoor economy—while accounting for a mere one percent of the federal budget.

On March 9, ASLA released a document outlining critical priorities to update and strengthen all forms of infrastructure. "Landscape Architects Leading Community Infrastructure Design and Development" provides policy makers and other stakeholders recommendations on upgrading our nation's crumbling infrastructure, including: fixing our nation's water management systems; upgrading to a multimodal transportation network; recognizing public lands and parks as critical infrastructure; and designing for resiliency. The infrastructure plan highlights the specific expertise of landscape architects and demonstrates the essential role the profession plays in rebuilding the nation's aging infrastructure. Government Affairs shared the recommendations with federal legislators and staff, allied organizations, and ASLA advocates.

ASLA continues to work to protect and preserve the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by urging federal legislators to cosponsor bipartisan legislation (H.R.502, S.569) to make the program permanent, and by urging House Appropriators to provide adequate funding for the program. ASLA encourages all its advocates to use the iAdvocate Network to send a message to their legislators about supporting LWCF. Currently, 1,297 messages have been sent supporting LWCF, but more is needed.

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Landscape Architects
Florida Chapter**

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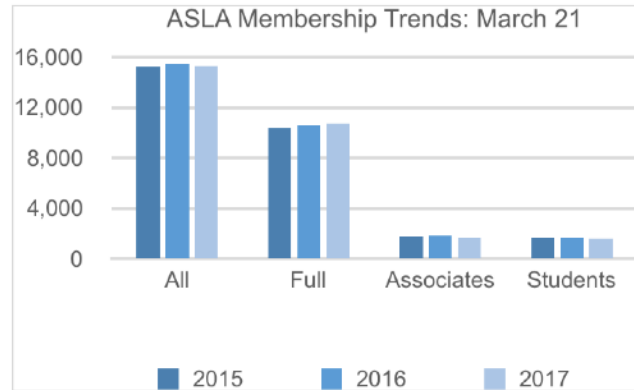
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ASLA reports membership continues to show a slight drop overall; however, full members are growing at a rate of nearly two percent since 2016. The overall drop includes emerging professional members, which is partly attributed to the cyclical nature of the annual meeting registration.



I'd like join other's in congratulating Nicole Plunkett for being one of six selected for the new Landscape Architecture Foundation's Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership. I know you'll do a great job "Creating Future Landscape Architects Through Education". Visit LAF's blog page to read more <https://lafoundation.org/news-events/blog/>

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Ferris".

David Ferris, RLA