

Development and Use of Public Policies and Position Statements (1980, R1990, R2001)



Policy Statement

The American Society of Landscape Architects shall state its official position on issues of public and professional concern through policies and position statements adopted by the Board of Trustees. All such official statements shall have an external focus and shall be divided into categories as indicated in the index of policies.

Use of Policies and Position Statements

Policies and position statements may be quoted orally or in writing by national and chapter officers and by individual members. Such use allows the addressing of issues with support from or on behalf of the Society. Quotes may be used in statements to private individuals, to federal, state, or local elected officials, to local authorities and organizations, and in newspapers or other media.

Policy Development

A new topic for an ASLA policy may come from any Full, Associate, or International Member of the Society who believes that ASLA should address a current matter of public or professional concern, the Board of Trustees, or any standing committee or professional interest group. The request shall be referred to the Policy Committee for consideration, research, and development in accordance with established format guidelines. The Policy Committee may solicit advice from individual members, ASLA committees, or professional interest groups with particular expertise on the subject being considered. Upon agreement by members of the Policy Committee, the completed policy shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. Existing policies shall be reviewed periodically.

Position Statement Development

The need for a timely response will sometimes require that a position statement be developed without the benefit of input by the Policy Committee and approval by the Board of Trustees. In such cases, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees may issue a position statement which shall expire at the end of one year after Executive Committee approval if not ratified by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees on its own initiative may develop position statements on issues that it believes are important and for which no policy exists.

Position Statements on Local Issues

Chapters and sections of the Society are encouraged to take stands on issues affecting their local areas. Such statements shall clearly indicate that the views expressed are those of the chapter or section, unless the statement has been approved by the Board of Trustees.