ASLA 2018 DIVERSITY SUMMIT SUMMARY

The American Society of Landscape Architects convened its sixth annual Diversity Summit with the goal of developing a deeper understanding of how landscape architecture can better represent the communities and people it serves. For the 2018 Diversity Summit, five professionals from the Diversity SuperSummit were invited back and nine new participants were selected from the Call for Letters of Interest to add valuable input to discussions and resource development.

On June 22-24, ASLA hosted the 2018 Diversity Summit at the ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture in Washington, D.C. During the Summit, participants reviewed benchmarks prioritized from the 2017 Diversity SuperSummit and offered suggestions for developing resources that can assist implementing diversity and inclusion practices into business strategies and reaching out to the youth and communities. The following is a summary of action items discussed to help achieve five-year goals established at the Super Summit.

Five-Year Goals

1. Diverse imagery and resources integrated across ASLA
2. All ASLA materials in digital format and easily
3. Diversity efforts are aligned with Presidents’ Council
4. STEM/STEAM is built into the pipeline as integral to landscape architecture
Five-Year Goals and Proposed Action Items

Diverse imagery and resources integrated across ASLA

1. Review, assess, and implement diverse content across ASLA and treat diversity as a feature of the profession, instead of isolating it.
2. Discuss a new ASLA award category to encourage landscape architecture projects and research to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
3. Create a new event at ASLA Annual Meeting to promote diversity.
4. Increase the landscape architecture profession’s impact through various media.
5. Translate current and new materials into Spanish.

All ASLA materials in digital format and easily accessible

1. Develop presentations and promotional materials specific to ASLA diversity and inclusion initiatives for ASLA leadership and staff to present to chapters and general audiences.
2. Ensure that ASLA chapter presidents share experiences from diversity training opportunities with the local chapter.
3. Provide materials for Diversity Summit participants to educate peers, students, and the public about ASLA’s diversity and inclusion initiatives.
4. Create diversity and inclusion training opportunities for local chapters (i.e., webinars, resource links).
5. Develop draft resource or grant proposals for Embracing Diversity and Inclusion in Business Practices (initial concepts from 2018 Diversity Summit).
6. Develop draft resource or grant proposals for Funding Diversity Programs of the Future (initial concepts from 2018 Diversity Summit).

Diversity efforts are aligned with Presidents’ Council organizations

1. Create diversity training opportunities for leaders in the Presidents’ Council organizations.
2. Schedule checkpoints among all Presidents’ Council organizations to ensure actions towards promoting diversity and inclusion in the profession.
3. Align demographic data collection among Presidents’ Council organizations (i.e. race/ethnicity, gender).

STEM/STEAM is built into the pipeline as integral to landscape architecture

1. Ensure that the development of K-12 curricula highlighting landscape architecture meets local requirements for STEM.
2. Encourage accredited landscape architecture programs’ curricula to integrate various STEM disciplines.
3. Discover current resources for K-12 curricula highlighting landscape architecture that meet STEM requirements; provide base resources to customize at the local level.
4. Develop a checklist to assist professionals in selecting the appropriate activity from online resources (i.e., ASLA’s Tools for Teachers) to highlight landscape architecture to K-12 students; checklist may include time and staff availability, age group of students, etc.

Long-term Goal: ASLA becomes best practice model for other organizations