

EMERGENCE

ASLA Associate Advisory Committee's Newsletter

February 2021



American Society of
Landscape Architects

ASLA Celebrates Black History Month

The violence seen last year shined light on the systemic racism that permeates into policy, planning, and public spaces. We often unintentionally do more harm than good as landscape architects, but these generational injustices and racial bias are finally being called into question. We are seeing a growing number of initiatives and educational programs to elevate black landscapes and empower black voices.

This year, ASLA will spend the 28 days of February celebrating Black History Month with a series called "Design Excellence by Black Landscape Architects" in collaboration with The Black Landscape Architecture Network. Every day of the month, they will feature 28 individuals or projects from David A. Williston, the first professionally trained Black landscape architect, to emerging professionals at [The Urban Studio](#). "Design Excellence by Black Landscape Architects" can be found across ASLA's social media.

In addition, [The Black Landscape Architecture Network](#) will be hosting its inaugural Black Landscape Symposium intended to "highlight the contributions of Black-identifying landscape architecture students, staff, faculty, and practitioners". The four-part lecture series will take place every Thursday of February at 6 p.m EST

An Interview with Kiki Cooper on Design as Protest

Kiki Cooper is an emerging landscape designer and activist. They attended Penn State University and work for Verdant Landscape Architecture in Brookline,



Image Left: Kiki Cooper, Emerging Designer. Image Right: Direct Action Protest Signs as a part of Design as Protest's GOTV Campaign Series on Election Day, November 3rd, 2020 / Taylor Holloway, Design as Protest

How did Design as Protest begin and what is your involvement with the collective?

Design as Protest actually started back in 2015 and was reactivated as the DAP Collective (Design as Protest Collective) in June 2020. June 2020 was the beginning of my involvement with this grassroots organization after a National Call to Action Zoom Meeting following the murder of George Floyd and the protests in Minneapolis.

DAP is fairly new and we have roughly 230+ BIPOC organizers. Within those numbers are about 30-60 Core Organizers that co-lead all of our efforts. In true, Kiki fashion I have managed to be involved with every DAP Organizing Branch. Our current organizing branches are Direct Action, Youth Organizing, Student Organizing, DAP Studio/Storytelling & Documentation, Field Organizing, Data & Research, and our Sister organization DMU (Dark Matter University). There have been various projects of many different scales that I have participated in. Some roles I have taken on for certain projects are co-facilitator for meetings nationwide, DAP wide, and smaller organizing meetings. I have been on so many speaking engagements and given so many presentations that I've lost count. Other involvement can include structure building of our organization, onboarding new members, website maintenance, social media PR, partnership engagement inquiries, designing protest signs, delegating project tasks, meeting agenda curation, the list goes on for what seems like forever!

How would you like to see DAP grow?

There are so many potential areas of growth for DAP! One area I hope to see DAP grow in, and hopefully soon, is membership growth and interaction. As we all discover and communicate our capacity for activism work as individuals that make up the collective, there really is meaning to the phrase "if everyone does a little, no one does a lot". A lot of trust goes into the work we do so I hope that we really gain dedicated members and supporters of our efforts. I would also like to see DAP grow to be financially independent, I feel as though once we can register as a 501-c3, we will be able to do a lot more and have more financial transparency. I also look forward to our organization aligning ourselves with our own anti-racist Design Justice Index. It's important that we hold ourselves accountable just as much as we expect everyone else in this profession to be held accountable.

How can others get involved?

We have a form that everyone can fill out to join! Our process involves a vetting phase and then an onboarding phase before anyone can actually begin to organize with Design as Protest. We know it's been a long time since June 2020 but we are trying very hard to onboard the remaining 900+ people who have shown interest in our work.

The form can be found at bit.ly/dap-form

Everyone can find a weekly round up of events we support/events we are organizing on our instagram [@designasprotest](#)

All of the revolutionary work we are doing is being done for free! But we do have projects that could be funded to see them through! If you would like to support our efforts please consider providing an offering at www.dapcollective.com/support

What We're Reading

[Black Landscapes Matter](#), Walter Hood

["The Bottom: The Emergence and Erasure of Black American Urban Landscapes"](#) by Ujjiji Davis

[The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#)

Who We're Following

[@designasprotest](#)

[@blackspaceorg](#)

[@crxlab](#)



[@AmericanSocietyofLandscapeArchitects](#)



[@NationalASLA](#)
[#studentasla](#)



[@NationalASLA](#)

Looking Ahead

April LARE Registration is now open!

Questions?

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