



FLORIDA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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December 21, 2012

Dear Florida Chapter Members, Fellows, and Associates:

Whether you are busy meeting a project deadline, or busy searching for the next gig, you can all agree that *we are all very busy*. That's why we're all grateful when *another* landscape architect volunteers to take on any assignment to assist the Chapter or profession. Volunteers, *any volunteer*, will tell you that they get more from the experience than they give. At ASLA it is no different.

**Right now, the Florida Chapter Government Affairs Committee needs a few new members. The profession cannot ask or rely on anyone else.** Rightfully so, the architects and engineers are too busy looking out for themselves. The Government Affairs Committee is established by the Chapter *to preserve, protect, promote, and strengthen the regulated practice of Landscape Architecture in Florida, and to reduce barriers to the practice as a responsibility and service to FLASLA members*. Serving on the Government Affairs Committee is an opportunity for professional growth, leadership development, and a meaningful way to give back to the profession, to make sure landscape architecture in Florida can attract the next generation of students and emerging professionals. Every new committee member brings his or her own strengths, and finds the best way to participate and contribute. The committee meets monthly by phone and corresponds frequently. From time to time, committee members represent the Chapter and profession in government chambers and leadership offices. Long time committee members are eager to mentor new members while they develop understanding, or become refamiliarized with the legislative processes and issues.

In 2013, elected and appointed government officials in Florida are going to make important decisions affecting each landscape architect's career. Most of the officials, through no fault of their own, do not know a landscape architect, and do not know what landscape architects are educated, experienced, and licensed to do. Many times, until it is too late, Florida landscape architects are unaware that their city, county, or state leaders are debating and enacting legislation that is harmful to the profession and its practitioners. **Florida landscape architects need more eyes, ears, and voices in city halls, county courthouses, and the state capitol.**

Among all Chapters of ASLA, Florida is fortunate to have the most active and engaged Government Affairs Committee. Other Chapters look to Florida as a leader and model. Volunteer committee members are assisted by a well respected and highly capable team of professional lobbyists and legislative experts. Together, through phone calls, emails, visits, speaking points and speeches, the committee is making landscape architecture a



well known profession; visible and vocal; seen and heard in local, state, and national governing bodies.

**Now, as the new year begins, is a very good time to volunteer a few hours a month** helping inform elected and appointed officials and the community at large about the laws and rules governing the profession; about the rigor of required study for professional practice; about the built landscape architecture that creates jobs, protects public health, safety, and welfare; conserves natural resources and scenic beauty; and improves everyone's quality of life. The Chapter can only accomplish what its members are willing to do. *Certainly*, no one else has responsibility to speak for landscape architects. Advocacy for the profession will always be a reality of being a registered landscape architect.

Please contact either of us with any questions, suggestions, or your readiness to serve. Thank you and we wish you a prosperous new year.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Miller".

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