

September 17, 2021



The Honorable John Cooper
Mayor of Nashville
Historic Metro Courthouse
1 Public Square
Suite 100, Mayor's Office
Nashville, TN 37201



Dear Mayor Cooper:

Our organizations, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) are excited to be holding our annual conferences in Nashville in November and September, respectively. Our collective membership of 75,000 is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and to working towards a future where all people have fair and just access to quality spaces, programs, and services.

This fall, we look forward to converging upon the Music City Center and surrounding areas for our 2021 Conferences. These events will bring together professionals from across the country and the world into Nashville in order to learn about and celebrate recreation, parks, and public spaces and to experience the tastes, sounds, and sights of the city. Together, these events are estimated to generate over \$14 million in economic activity in Nashville.

Our members bring diversity, health, and vibrancy to cities, such as Nashville, through smart and inclusive design, planning, maintenance, and stewardship of parks, recreation areas, residential spaces, commercial developments, downtown plazas and streetscapes, and many other important public spaces. Our members strive to create and design public spaces to be inclusive and welcoming to all, and as such we want to express our support for your opposition to the recently enacted anti-transgender laws in the state of Tennessee. ASLA and NRPA stand with you in support of full equality in public accommodations and access to public spaces for transgender and non-binary people. We applaud your efforts to stand against discriminatory laws and to ensure that residents and visitors alike feel welcomed in Nashville. We also stand with you in fostering inclusive spaces and cultures that generate a sense of belonging and promote equitable opportunity for all.

Once again, we appreciate your efforts and commitment to ensure that communities and public spaces in Nashville are open, accessible, and just for all. Please do not hesitate to call upon our organizations as you continue to work toward this goal.

Sincerely,



Torey Carter-Conneen
Chief Executive Officer
American Society of Landscape Architects



Kristine Stratton
Chief Executive Officer
National Recreation and Park Association