



January 11, 2017

Dear Landscape Architect Colleague,

More than 1,000 landscape architects may lose professional licensure in Colorado in 2018

You may be among them.*

As you may be aware, the Colorado Landscape Architects Professional Licensing Act (Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-45-101), enacted in 2007, is due to expire next year unless renewed by the legislature. In response to this challenge, ASLA Colorado is spearheading an effort to preserve and extend our licensure law.

Will you help us to help you, and our profession?

ASLA Colorado's Licensure Committee has been developing and implementing a strategic Licensure Preservation Plan. We began discussions with Colorado's Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) last spring. Now, we need to be prepared to act quickly to advance a pro-licensure bill in the legislature.

** IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are renewing your LA license this year, or getting one for the first time, please continue with DORA's renewal or application process while we advocate continuation of the licensure act.*

Here are 3 things YOU can do right now:

1. Stay informed.

Make sure we have your email contact information and follow ASLA Colorado on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn (@aslacolorado, #ASLACOLicensure). Sign up on aslacolorado.org for email updates.

2. Join the effort. Advocate for licensure.

Your voice matters. Talk with your state legislators to discuss landscape architecture, its importance in your community and to your livelihood. Tell them about the critical need for licensure. A link to find your legislator and other resources are at aslacolorado.org/resources/advocacy.

3. Donate to ASLA Colorado to help support licensure advocacy efforts.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make a generous \$50 (or more) contribution to ASLA Colorado to cover costs of advancing our Licensure Preservation Plan. You may also contribute online soon via credit card or PayPal at aslacolorado.org/resources/advocacy. The contribution is not tax deductible.

In the end, it all comes down to the question

Is licensure of Colorado's landscape architects important to you?

If your answer is yes, we urgently need your advocacy support and your generous financial contribution.

Thank you for your support,

Brian Nicholson, ASLA
President, ASLA Colorado

P.S. – Your involvement and support is critical. Your generous donation now will help our advocacy efforts. Licensure is the only effective regulatory measure to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and to enable landscape architects to compete on a level playing field with other licensed design professionals.

ASLA Colorado

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Key reasons for licensing Landscape Architects

Public Safety – Licensure protects your community

- **The practice of landscape architecture should keep the public safe from hazards**, protect and maximize natural resources, and prevent damage to public or private property from changes in the built environment.
- **Landscape architects provide stormwater solutions** that effectively manage water to minimize runoff, improve water quality, control erosion, and eliminate safety hazards from standing water/ice.
- **Landscape architects design sites that coordinate all uses to avoid injuries and reduce the threat of crime.** Roads, parking lots, medians and other transportation elements should safeguard driver and pedestrian safety, are ADA accessible, and also provide environmental and community benefits.
- **The only way to make sure that landscape architects protect the public in these ways is to license landscape architects.** The education, experience, and examination required to earn licensure provides a guarantee that the individual has demonstrated competency in all of the areas that impact public health, safety, and welfare.

Economic Competitiveness – Licensure protects clients and fosters competition

- **States and localities recognize the dangers the built environment poses to the public.** This is evident not only through licensing, but through building codes and ordinances related to water, landscape, and other aspects that can pose a threat to the health and safety of our communities.
- **These codes demonstrate the public trust of these communities in licensed professionals.** Codes require a licensee to oversee and stamp public and private projects that require public approval.
- **Excluding landscape architects from this system only serves to limit expertise and stifle competition.** In the end, less competition means higher fees for these services. Errors and omissions insurance typically requires a license to qualify for coverage, making sure licensees are adequately able to take responsibility for any legal liability.

Recognition of Professionalism – Landscape architecture is regulated by every state

- **All 50 states recognize that regulation of landscape architecture is necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare.** 47 states including Colorado have a Practice Act, requiring a license to both practice and call oneself a Landscape Architect. The remaining three states have a weaker title act.
- **A practice act is important because it is a stronger form of regulation.** It recognizes the danger to clients and users of improperly designed public spaces, including physical injury, property damage & financial ruin.

Competency – The three E's of licensure ensure competency of landscape architects

- **Education** – An MLA or BLA from one of 68 accredited academic programs.
- **Experience** – 2-4 years working under a licensed landscape architect.
- **Examination** – The 4-part LARE, a definitive measure of competence.

Please contact ASLA Colorado if you have spoken with your legislators about licensure.

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Colorado

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