

Chapter Statement of Support

Dr. Cermetrius L. (CL) Bohannon, ASLA has dedicated his career to academic research and education. By sharing this work in academic, professional, and public realms he has expanded knowledge of the profession of landscape architecture.

He is an active member of ASLA and has previously served on the executive committee of the Virginia Chapter. In 2019 he became the first African American Virginia Chapter President.

His research on African American landscapes has expanded our profession's understanding of the needs of marginalized communities and the histories that led to their marginalization. Through his work as an educator his design studios have studied various communities throughout the state of Virginia and worked on projects which focus heavily on community engagement. This approach to design education advances the profession of landscape architecture by educating the public on the capabilities of landscape architects and provides students with realistic experiences that can be applied in professional practice. His academic research on community engagement as pedagogy has transformed the way engagement is taught and actualized in design education. CL's publications and speaking engagements on this topic have not only grown the public knowledge of landscape architecture. They have advanced the state of our profession's academic curriculum with the integration of this approach into design education. CL has researched the history and evolution of the confederate monuments of Richmond, Virginia and is currently finalizing several publications on this topic. These chapters will focus on the transformation of these spaces from symbols of division to spaces of activism and how landscapes of memory can shift in meaning. This research is important to the profession of landscape architecture to understand the history of these spaces. However, it is even more important that this research is being completed by someone who was not always welcome in these public spaces. CL is the first African American to be a tenured landscape architecture faculty member at Virginia Tech and has strived to bring minority students into landscape architecture. CL's commitment to this important work was acknowledged in 2022 when he became the inaugural Dean of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) for the architecture school at the University of Virginia, where he is a tenured professor. His current research focuses on the diaspora of Black faculty in landscape architecture.

Through his community work, research and professional engagements CL will continue to elevate the stature of landscape architecture to students, professionals and the general public. It is with great honor for me to support the nomination of Dr. Bohannon to the ASLA Council of Fellows.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Lahy', written in a cursive style.

Nathan A. Lahy, ASLA
President Virginia Chapter, ASLA