Intertwined Culture and Nature for the Urban Future: Cultural and Natural Heritage Assets Platform for LA’s to Achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals-2030 Global Agenda

Patricia M. O’Donnell, AICP FASLA F.US/ICOMOS UNESCO Culture Urban Future Contributor ICOMOS ISC CIVVIH ICOMOS ISC Cultural Tourism ICOMOS/IFLA ISC Cultural Landscapes-President

Heritage Landscapes LLC
Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners
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Presentation responds to three questions:

1. *How do the UN SDGs - 2030 Global Agenda relate to Biophilia, the urban future and Landscape Architects?*

2. *Why should culture and nature be integrated for a biophilic future?*

3. *How can every Landscape Architect aid the implementation of the UN SDGs yielding benefits to urban populations?*
Integrate UN SDGs Goals & Targets for Authentic Biophilic Cities

- Goal 11 has targets relevant to cultural landscape heritage: 1 housing, basic services, upgrade slums; 2 transport systems; 3 disaster planning and response; 4 air quality, waste management; 5 participatory planning and management of inclusive urbanization; 6 accessible green space; 7 linking interdependent urban, peri-urban, rural adjacencies
- 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
UNESCO SDGs 2030 Global Agenda = 17 Interrelated Goals

Scientific Model - diagram shows direct connections between and among all 17 sustainable development goals. Culture and Heritage relate to many of the SDGs.

UNESCO Global Sustainable Development Report Brief 2, Integrated Perspectives on the SDGs
Human Settlements = Cultural Diversity & Biodiversity Vessels

- Biological Diversity
  - natural habitats

- Cultural Diversity
  - Settlement nature, shaped by sequential human interventions
    - Landscape Character-defining Features:
      - Land Uses
      - Spatial & Visual Organization
      - Topography, Geomorphology
      - Vegetation & Habitat, Flora & Fauna
      - Water, Hydrology
      - Structures, Habitable or Not
      - Furnishings, Objects
      - Archaeological Resources
      - Light, Scent, Motion, Seasonal Change

- human shaped habitats
To implement the UN SDGs and the New Urban Agenda stronger linkages and actions by Landscape Architects are needed that embrace entangled, inseparable Culture and Nature to address inclusivity, social justice, resilience, climate change, water, land, cities and more.
Human Settlements = Cultural Diversity & Biodiversity Vessels

Valuing and uplifting our Commons of urban public landscape heritage creates a useful platform for Landscape Architects to help shape resilient, prosperous biophilic cities.
23 March 2018 World Bank projects 143 Million Climate Change Migrants by 2050

All human settlements have public landscape cultural heritage assets, valued by people, important to urban nature

"We have a small window now, before the effects of climate change deepen, to prepare the ground for this new reality. . . It’s also important to help people make good decisions about whether to stay where they are or move to new locations where they are less vulnerable.“ Cristalina Georgieva, World Bank Chief Executive
New Urban Agenda P14. Environmental sustainability... protecting ecosystems, adopting healthy lifestyles in harmony with nature (but has limited environment focus).

NUA P 37. Commits to promote safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces including streets, sidewalks and cycling lanes, squares, waterfront area, gardens, and parks are multi-functional areas for social interaction and inclusion, human health, economic exchange, and cultural expression.

Heritage public spaces are an important realm for Landscape Architects.
Inclusive Public Spaces - UN SDGs & Reduced Inequalities

Inclusive Public Spaces are critical social, environmental and economic assets to uplift urban quality of life, health and well-being. As the commons shared by city dwellers public open spaces offer multiple benefits.

Our common heritage of public spaces combines cultural and natural assets that can effectively address UN SDGs goals and targets, as cultural diversity and biodiversity are enhanced.

Example - Aga Khan Trust Delhi India Urban Renewal with Rehabilitation of Open Space & Heritage Conservation – Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti Neighborhood, Humayun’s Tomb Complex, Sunder Nursery Monuments together, image courtesy AKT for Culture website
Inclusive Public Spaces Environmental Benefits

- Improve air quality
- Reduce climate change impacts
- Quell urban heart island
- Enhance soil and infiltration
- Manage storm water
- Upgrade ecology
- Provide habitat for resident and migratory species
- Improve resilience

US National Mall Green Renewal HOK team lead, applied best practices to soils, grading, stormwater capture in cisterns and reuse for irrigation, broad public access
USA National Mall Project Outcomes achieve UN SDGs

National Mall project addresses Goals 3 5 6 10 11 12 13 15 of the UNSDGs
Inclusive Public Spaces Social Benefits

- Give the right to the city to all
- Provide democratic access to public space
- Aid in addressing inequalities
- Affirm parks as free speech, dialogue space
- Foster social interaction, cohesion
- Increase neighborhood pride and sense of belonging
- Engage citizens in plans, decisions, and management
- Provide for cultural traditions and practices
- Improve social justice and equity
- Provide space and rules for informal employment
- Focus on enhanced public landscape in low income areas

Jackson Park upgrade historic park character/habitat for people to enjoy landscape/nature
USA Jackson Park Integrated Culture/Nature Outcomes achieves UN SDGs
Project recaptures Historic Character/Improves Habitat, Biodiversity

Jackson Park Project addresses UN SDGs Goals
3 5 6 10 11 12 13 15
Inclusive Public Spaces Economic Benefits

- Spur investments
- Provide landscape care jobs
- Provide space and rules for informal employment
- Improve public health
- Increase resilience reducing impact of disasters
- Provide ecological services
- Uplift neighborhoods
- Increase property values

Restore and extend Modernist Mellon Square, $7 M project $4 M endow ongoing care, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC). Heritage Landscapes team leader
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy & Partners 20 years of Urban Uplift

- 20th century Steel City, population growth/decline
- 3 urban renaissance cycles 1950s, 1980s, 2000+
- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy $100 M invested
- Historic Parks shape the City

- 4 Regional Parks- 1,400-1,700 Acres
- Stewardship Master Plan in 2001
- Updated Master Plan city integration 2012
- PPC/City/Philanthropic/Community Partners
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy & Partners 2012 Master Plan Reaches

- Parks lead the Way toward Resilient City
- Schenley Park Green Streets
- Low Impact Design, Best Practices, Road Diet
- Reduce annual runoff by 3.25 million gallons
- Achieve safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians
Invest in Parks for Lower Income, Diverse Neighborhoods

- Addressing African-American Community
- Neighborhood engaged in planning and design
- Aiding reduction of inequality through a new park on empty lots
1900-1990-2010 green space recaptured for social, environmental and economic benefits, City/PPC/Neighborhood collaboration. New plaza design Sasaki Associates. Overall Pittsburgh urban uplift through historic public parks $100 million infusion, 20 years
Public Spaces = Sustainable Cultural & Natural Heritage Assets
Landscape Architects can and should align works to the UN SDGs

Thanks for your future efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
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