

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Landscape Architects Lead Discussion on Liveable Cities of Tomorrow at CSLA Congress in Mexico City, May 20-23, 2015

(OTTAWA) – April 8th, 2015 – From May 20th to 23rd, 2015, landscape architects will meet in at the Canadian Society of Landscape Architect's Congress in Mexico City to focus on how to make cities more sustainable while retaining and improving their livability.

The CSLA's Congress will explore how our cities will change and how landscape architects will influence and provide leadership to redefine cities into the future.

City form is strongly reflective of decisions made over time. Landscape architects have ensured the success of urban planning, planning and creation of green and other infrastructures, urban design, transportation planning and the creation of parks and open space. As our cities grow and change, how will landscape architects expand beyond their traditional roles and extend their influences?

Historically, our cities were formed based on the social, economic and cultural needs of the people who lived in them. Cities are also made up of communities steeped in their own heritage of place and social structure. In Canada and Mexico, many landscape architects have successfully identified heritage influences, both people and spaces, and recognized their contribution to a livable city. The successful cities of the future will focus on retaining and preserving these heritage and cultural influences. Landscape architects' uses of historic and cultural values in their work are an important aspect of our role which contributes to the success of a city, the creation of strong communities and the confidence of its inhabitants.

According to Serge Poitras, the 2015 CSLA Congress Chair:

"Holding the 2015 CSLA Congress in Mexico City, a world class metropolis, provides a remarkable environment in which to explore the concept of "livable cities" and the themes of the Congress -- active transportation, heritage conservation, a green approach to infrastructures -- a unique training and enrichment opportunity that our members will be able to apply in their professional practice."

In addition to a series of papers being presented at Congress, two keynote speakers will also take the stage on the issue of liveable cities:

- **Mario Schjetnan**, Mexican architect and landscape architect that manages to "unite social concerns, aesthetics and, increasingly, ecology- all by way of interpreting and celebrating Mexico's rich and diverse culture." He is co-founder of the interdisciplinary firm Grupo de Diseño Urbano in Mexico City known for designs in which the building is subordinate to the landscape.
- **Gil Penalosa**, Executive Director of 8 – 80 Cities and an important advocate of creating cities for people which improve public health and the quality of life for all while advancing economic development.

The objective of the 2015 CSLA Congress theme is to explore and understand how the goals of livable and sustainable cities are defined, to challenge our future thinking and motivate our profession in key areas of influence to benefit people and communities.

The **CSLA Congress**, to be held May 20-23, 2015 at the Hilton Mexico City Reforma in Mexico City, is the premier networking and educational event for the growing Canadian landscape architecture profession. The CSLA represents all major decision-makers from Canada's landscape architecture profession, including landscape architects from private practices, educational facilities, municipalities, government ministries and agencies.

The **Canadian Society of Landscape Architects** (CSLA) is a professional organization with over 1,900 landscape architects as members represented by provincial and territorial associations plus academic programs across the nation. As the voice of the profession in Canada, the CSLA is an advocate for its members on issues such as urban renewal, sustainable development and cultural heritage.

For more information about the Congress, including the provisional program and speaker abstracts, visit <http://www.csla-aapc.ca/events/2015-congress>.

Further Information

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