

MEMORIALS

(1964, R1984, R2000, R2001, R2008, R2009, R2018)



Policy Statement

The American Society of Landscape Architects believes that well-sited and designed memorials enrich our cultural heritage by recognizing significant events, places, and people within the public realm. ASLA supports a rigorous review and approval process for proposed memorials with sensitivity to design, content, and placement. The design of sculptures, structures, fountains, and other forms of commemoration should respect the physical and cultural environment while providing opportunity for education, celebration, or healing. Siting memorials in public spaces should be done with careful and deliberate review to help ensure the preservation of the public realm, respect of the significance of the proposed memorial, and its relationship to any existing memorials. ASLA also supports informed debate among members of the public, as facilitated by government agencies, to review and potentially alter memorials under evolving common understandings of equity, inclusion, and safety.

Rationale

Memorials, often held for the public trust in perpetuity, help form a community consciousness regarding significant events, places, and people. When the availability of public open space becomes limited, its value toward a community's overall health and well-being increases. Additionally, when places become over occupied with such structures and other forms of commemoration, public spaces can readily be diminished, as can memorials. Nevertheless, careful and deliberate review of memorial design and placement can ensure the preservation of public open space as a primary consideration and can evaluate the individual memorial's impact, as well as the cumulative consequences of including multiple memorials in a public space. Such a process ensures that well-sited and designed memorials enrich the public realm.