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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS, SOCIAL EVENT AND CALL FOR AWARDS - 2018 CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE

The **Prairie Gateway Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)** will be hosting the **2018 Central States Conference**, themed “*Placemaking, Partnerships and the Public Realm*”. The thirteenth annual Central States Conference will be held at the **Kansas City Marriott Downtown, April 11-13, 2018**. Central States represents six chapters and eight states. Representatives from North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas will gather in Kansas City to learn, celebrate landscape architecture, and foster comradery.

The 2018 Central States Conference proudly announces the following speakers:

- **Mark McHenry** | *Director, Kansas City Parks and Recreation*
- **Ann Holliday** | *Director of Arts Initiatives, Downtown Council + Program Director, Art in the Loop Foundation.*
- **Matt Davis** | *Program Coordinator, Rock Island Rail Corridor Authority of Jackson County, Missouri.*
- **Josh Boehm** | *Development Manager, Rock Island Rail Corridor Authority of Jackson County, Missouri.*

Additional information to follow regarding speaking sessions.

In addition to these exciting speakers, please join us for an “**Experience KC Bar ride/walk**”. This event will be an informal gathering of conference attendees at local attractions accessible via the Kansas City Street Car light-rail. Experience KC will be held following the Vendor happy hour **Thursday, April 12**. Additional information about specific venues will be announced nearer the event date.

Submissions for **2018 Central States Awards** and **2018 Prairie Gateway Chapter Awards** are being accepted. Central States awards will be presented at the conference awards luncheon held at **12:00 pm on April 13, 2018 - Downtown Marriott Hotel**. Central States entry forms can be found on the Central States ASLA website under the awards tab (<http://www.aslacentralstates.org/2018-awards/>). PGASLA awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Gala to be held at **6:00 pm April 13, 2018 – Downtown Marriott Hotel**. Entry forms and submittal information can be located on the PGASLA website (<http://pgasla.org/content.php?page=Awards>). Looking forwards to seeing the magnificent work that’s sure to be submitted!

Finally, we are happy to announce the first round of sponsors + exhibitors for this year's conference. Many thanks to the following companies for their generous contributions to the **2018 Central States Conference**.

- *Ironsmith*
- *Omega II Fence System*
- *Landscape Forms*
- *TreePans*
- *Fry and Associates*
- *Netafim USA*
- *Anova*
- *Victor Stanley*
- *Rosetta Hardscapes*
- *Madrax | Thomas Steele*
- *Tectura Designs & Wausau Made*
- *The Toro Company*

#### **About ASLA**

The Prairie Gateway Chapter of The American Society of Landscape Architects (PGASLA) promotes the *development, education and awareness of the landscape architecture profession throughout Kansas and Western Missouri*. PGASLA members are dedicated to inspiring the public through work that enhances natural and built environments.

Please direct all questions and interview requests to:

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