BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
Dear Mayor Bowser:

As chair of the Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Landscape Architecture, and on behalf of all of the Board members, I am pleased to present the annual report of the Board for fiscal year (FY) 2018. First, I would like to emphasize that I remain very excited about serving as chair, and remain pleased with the Board’s efforts in regulating the practices of architects, interior designers and soon the landscape architecture and design firms in the District of Columbia. Please accept this fiscal year 2018, annual report for the District of Columbia Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Landscape Architecture with our sincere gratitude for your support and interest. It is submitted pursuant to DC Official Code 47-2853.10(e) and covers the period October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. The report includes major program objectives, accomplishments, challenging issues which warrant your attention and summaries of Board actions. The Board is awaiting the opportunity to fill the two new landscape architect vacancies.

During FY 2018, the Board continued its active involvement with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB); the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ); and Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards. The Board also participated with other NCARB members at this year’s annual conference regarding NCARB Legislative Guidelines and Model Law/Model Regulations Amendment, Certification Guidelines Amendment, Amendment and Restatement of the NCARB Model Rules of Conduct, and an Amendment and Restatement of the NCARB Bylaws. The Board members conducted several outreach activities with NCARB to educate students in architecture studies about licensure and NCARB involvement with the students’ journey for education, experience and exam, and the licensure requirements and contacts per state jurisdiction. The Board embarked on a new initiative with the first university in this area to participate in the Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL) program. Additionally, the Board embarked on its first educational forums: “Illuminating Design and Practice” and “Ethical Considerations for Practitioners.”

The interior design members of the Board continued their involvement with CIDQ. Board member Sharon Borton served as a delegate to CIDQ this year, and attended the annual delegates meeting in Alexandria, Virginia. The Board will continue to communicate to licensees and the collateral organizations relating to its ongoing activities, including proposed legislation. This year, we communicated via email to licensees and collateral organizations about proposed legislation and regulatory changes being developed by the Board.

Additionally, the Board will continue to identify cases of illegal practice and track complaints until cases are resolved.

In closing, I thank my fellow Board members for their sincere dedication during the year. Additionally, a heartfelt appreciation for the efforts of our staff in the support of the Board. We truly appreciate their professionalism and excellent work.

Sincerely,

Ronnie McGhee

Ronnie McGhee, AIA LEED AP, NCARB
Chair, District of Columbia Board of Architecture and Interior Design
MISSION

To protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the public and ensure that persons engaged in the architecture, interior design, and landscape architecture professions have the specialized education and training required for licensure in the District of Columbia.

OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed review of proposed legislation requiring the licensure of landscape architects and architecture firms, changing the composition of the Board by increasing the number of architects to four, reducing the number of interior designers to two, adding two landscape architects, and retaining one consumer member.
- The Board Chair served a second year as secretary treasurer of NCARB Region 2.
- The Board Chair was elected as a Fellow with the American Institute of Architects.
- Implemented an IPAL program that will allow architecture students to sit for the exam prior to graduating from an accredited university. Catholic University is one of the first universities to embark on this new program.
- Sponsored its first educational forum for licensees on March 23, 2018. Feedback from attendees was highly favorable and included recommendations for future forums.
- Continued compliance with the Open Meetings Act and updated its website to feature a Board profile, including meetings, agendas, and minutes.
- Continued to utilize GovDelivery to send email notices, alerts, and correspondence with information that affects licensees.
- The Board received annual board training from The Council of Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulations.
- The Board continued to receive complaints of unlicensed activity and will work with the Office of Compliance within the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to follow-up on investigations of illegal practices. The Board continued to make sure consumers understand illegal practices.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES THAT AFFECTED THE BOARD

Bill 21-790 – Regulation of Landscape Architecture and Professional Design Firms Amendment Act of 2016 was approved on April 7, 2017. The publication of the rulemaking regarding the facilitation of licensure for Landscape Architects and Professional Design Firms occurred on January 25, 2019.

BOARD’S OFFICIAL ACTIONS

- The Board has effectively explained its mission and programs to the constituents and the public of the District of Columbia by addressing public issues, and the impact on health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- The Board continues to address all responsibilities to ensure professional Board meetings are conducted. Members collaborate to ensure that the agendas, minutes, policy issues, recommendations, annual reports, public information, rules and regulations, operating procedures, and meetings and hearing schedules are handled in a timely manner.
- Complaints from the public were promptly reviewed and specific complaints of possible unlicensed activity were sent to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs’ Regulatory Investigations Section.
- Examination, endorsement, and reinstatement license applications were timely reviewed, approved, deferred, or disapproved. The Board also considered inquiries for licensure or examination from applicants and potential applicants who had unique circumstances that may not have been addressed in the municipal regulations.
FY ’19 VISION

- Recruit new Board members.
- Continue to update the architecture, interior designers’ and landscape architecture regulatory websites and databases on information about disciplinary actions.
- Communicate with licensees via email blasts and other communication technologies.
- Implement licensure of landscape architects and professional design firms.

MEETING DATES

October – No Meeting
November 17, 2017
December 9, 2017
January 26, 2018
February – No Meeting
March 16, 2018
April 20, 2018
May – No meeting
June 1, 2018
July 13, 2018
August 2018 – Recess
September 29, 2018

Website: http://www.dcopla.com/design

BOARD MEMBERS

Ronnie McGhee, Architect
Melissa Cohen, Architect
Cametrick Nesmith, Architect
Barbara Jones, Consumer Member
Lisa Adams, Interior Designer
Sharon Borton, Interior Designer
Mathilda Cox, Interior Designer

BOARD STAFF

Leon Lewis, Executive Director
Patrice Richardson, Board Administrator
Kia Winston, Legal Counsel