



**AIA**  
**Los Angeles**

American Institute of Architects | Los Angeles  
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November 30, 2016

Councilmember Paul Krekorian  
Councilmember Joe Buscaino  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Council File: 14-0163-S3 = Sidewalk Repair Policy & Urban Forestry Masterplan**

Dear Councilmembers Krekorian and Buscaino:

As the Director of Government & Public Affairs for the Los Angeles chapter of The American Institute of Architects, I am writing to share strong support for the concept of an Urban Forestry Masterplan.

Along with safer and more accessible sidewalks, we need a healthier urban forest and we need more street trees that will:

- shade our sidewalks
- clean our air
- cool our streets
- provide habitat and promote biodiversity
- absorb and clean stormwater
- enlighten the public realm with more delight and beauty
- enliven the public realm with more walkable sidewalks
- foster more pride with stronger placemaking
- brand our city with an evolving sense of identity
- mitigate the impacts of climate change

We'd also like to see this effort more intrinsically tied to a holistic program to rebuild, repair and restore sidewalks and walking paths citywide.

The City of Los Angeles has the opportunity to adopt greater innovative design and technology strategies that better integrate sidewalks and healthy street trees. We also have the opportunity to streamline the development process and the zoning code parameters to ensure that more street trees are planted in response to new development. New street standards and design guidelines need to be developed in order to optimize tree placement in proximity to all of the other utilities impacting the public realm.

**I encourage you to involve the architecture and design community more deeply in your efforts as you design your outreach process.**

I welcome you to integrate more architects and landscape architects at the decision-making table as you advance these two initiatives. We can especially share with you best-management practices of how sidewalk and tree canopy programs are advancing throughout our nation in that many of our 3200+ members implement solutions in many other cities and places throughout the world. LA deserves access to that knowledge and expertise!

I realize we've met numerous times to further discuss how the AIA/LA can get more involved. Therefore, as you discuss these items at Council tomorrow, please know that we are here to serve as a leadership



resource.

Reach out to us and invite more architects to get involved. This is not about aesthetics - this is about the environmental performance and optimization of the entire citywide program will benefit greatly by having more design-thinkers involved in the formation of the program.

We look forward to remaining helpfully engaged on this initiative. Please connect with me directly if you'd like to further discuss the best strategies for integrating the ideas of the architecture profession into the final draft of your ordinance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Wright', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Will Wright  
Director, Government & Public Affairs  
AIA Los Angeles