

THE GREAT PLACES DECLARATION

WHEREAS

We are faced with urgent challenges of population growth, climate change, and environmental degradation;

And, many patterns of recent development are endangering the natural environment as well as eroding the sense of place and community that supports a civil society and democracy;

We believe that Great Places in the built environment offer an important solution to these challenges and collectively provide the following characteristics.

Great Places:

- are accessible and welcoming for diverse groups of people;
- offer a variety of activities;
- respond to changing community needs;
- are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable;
- promote health and safety;
- inspire people to take ownership;
- allow for creativity, pleasure and excitement;
- invite chance encounters and surprise;
- appeal to all the senses;
- engender personal well-being, renewal, and a feeling of connectedness;
- spark cultural and economic vitality; and
- encourage active participation in public life.

NOW, THEREFORE

We assert that Great Places act as a magnet, drawing people together to live, work and play in complete and sustainable communities, allowing us to preserve natural spaces and enhance the health of the planet.

Furthermore, we affirm these ideas and together pledge to create new policies, systems and initiatives to shape Great Places for the enrichment of future generations.

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