

*The following letter was sent to SLA members on October 17, 2018 announcing SLA going to Charlotte, North Carolina for the 2020 Annual Conference.*

Fellow SLA members,

Preparations have begun for our 2020 Annual Conference, and I'm excited to announce SLA is going to Charlotte, North Carolina.

As some of you may recall, our 2018 conference was originally planned for Charlotte but was relocated to Baltimore after the North Carolina state legislature passed House Bill 2 (HB2), the so-called "bathroom bill." HB2 defined "male or female" for public discrimination purposes as the gender stated on a person's birth certificate; it was enacted to retaliate against Charlotte for trying to expand its anti-discrimination laws. HB2 violated SLA's anti-harassment policy, so the board of directors voted in April 2016 to pull out of Charlotte and find another location. With the repeal of HB2 by the North Carolina legislature in March 2017, SLA has decided to take a stand for this important issue.

Our 2020 Annual Conference in Charlotte is SLA's opportunity to expand our efforts to not only continue the discussion about diversity and inclusion, but actively participate. SLA is working with the city of Charlotte and the local LGBTQ community to create opportunities for SLA 2020 attendees to support diversity initiatives. We will share information as these opportunities develop.

Charlotte has continued to be an advocate of the LGBTQ community and is excited to have SLA in their vibrant city. Their welcoming spirit has permeated our interactions with everyone we've contacted: the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (which manages the convention center), hotel executives (from SLA's room block), the Charlotte LGBT Chamber of Commerce, and local civic and business leaders. They are committed to treating SLA members and conference attendees not as customers, but as valued partners and welcome guests. Charlotte is also easily accessible by air and rail, and the meeting space is right-sized for our conference.

There is no doubt that SLA annual conferences are occasions for professional development and networking. In addition, our annual event is a time for celebrating—celebrating our profession, our association, our colleagues, and ourselves. SLA 2020 will be no different, as we continue to celebrate and fight for the values of equal access and openness that we hold dear.

The decision for us to go back to Charlotte is an important one. To better understand the decision, read the [FAQ](#); to learn more about the SLA 2020 Annual Conference, explore this website.

Start making plans to celebrate with us at SLA 2020 in Charlotte. Together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,

Roberto Sarmiento

2018 SLA President