

4TH ANNUAL BUILT ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM

WEST²⁰
FEST²⁶

Designing for Belonging

As cities continue to densify,
how can we foster *a sense of belonging*
amid digital addiction, a loneliness epidemic and
the rise of AI-driven economies?



IN PERSON (catered) or LIVESTREAM
Parramatta Square Business & Events Centre,
Tuesday, 10 Nov 2026, 8.30am - 1pm

To register, scan QR code or email events@streetfurniture.com

Presented by



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS



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furniture
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Landscape
Foundation of
Australia

Designing for Belonging

2026 PROGRAM

8.30 Coffee and Registration

9.00 Introduction

Natalie McEvoy, *President, AILA NSW*
Christopher Manoski, *Manager Place and Economy, Cumberland City Council*
Deerubbin Land Council

Welcome to Country

9.20 Designed for Loneliness? Shaping Cities for Connection
Reflections of Belonging: A Case Study of the Nepean River Precinct
Belonging After Dark
Youth and Social Connection

Xiaoqi Feng, *Professor of Urban Health and Environment, UNSW School of Population Health*
Anne Sacco, *Head of Design, Penrith City Council*
James Granter, *City Economy and Investment, Cumberland City Council*
Hannah Richardson, *Researcher, The Schoolyard Greenprint, University of Canberra*

10.00 Morning Tea Break

10.30 Belonging through Landscape
Social Infrastructure in the Digital Age

Scott Jackson, *Director, Context*
June Lee Boxsell, *Director of Strategy and Innovation, Street Furniture Australia*

11.00 Panel 1: Q&A with Speakers

11.45 Panel 2: Building Belonging in Local Government

Panel Chair: **Joshua French**, *Chief Executive, Greater Sydney Parklands*
Christopher Manoski *Cumberland City Council*, **Ben Michel** *Strathfield Council*, **Nazanin Azimipannah** *City of Parramatta*, **Ian Andrews** *Campbelltown City Council*, **Maria Rigoli** *Sydney Olympic Park Authority*
Natalie McEvoy, *President, AILA NSW*

Conclusion

12.30 Catered Lunch and Networking

This is an endorsed CPD activity for AILA members for 4 informal points.

HOST



Natalie McEvoy
AILA NSW

PANEL CHAIR



Joshua French
Greater Sydney Parklands

PANELISTS



Christopher Manoski
Cumberland City Council



Ben Michel
Strathfield Council



Nazanin Azimipannah
City of Parramatta



Ian Andrews
Campbelltown City Council



Maria Rigoli
Sydney Olympic Park Authority

SPEAKERS



Xiaoqi Feng
UNSW



Anne Sacco
Penrith City Council



James Granter
Cumberland City Council



Hannah Richardson
University of Canberra



Scott Jackson
Context



June Lee Boxsell
Street Furniture Australia