

## MON-A01

# Designing the Pulse Memorial and Museum: Mending a Community

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Monday, November 22, 2021  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

## Overview

On June 12, 2016, a violent tragedy shook Orlando when a gunman opened fire on the crowd at Pulse nightclub. In response to the community's desire for a safe and comfortable space to reflect on the lives lost and effected by the event, the landscape architect has worked hand-in-hand with the onePULSE Foundation in the implementation of an interim memorial and the international design competition process.

The Pulse Memorial and Museum will be a sanctuary of quiet reflection dedicated to honoring the loss of innocent life and remembering the tragic attack at Pulse Nightclub. This session will describe the complex process of mending a community following a tragedy.



## Speakers



### **Kody Smith, ASLA, PLA**

Principal  
Dix.Hite + Partners

A Principal at Dix.Hite + Partners, Kody Smith brings 15 years of experience in landscape architecture to the team. Smith joined Dix.Hite in 2013 and quickly grew into a respected leader within the company. With a knack for envisioning how to transform an existing space into something special, Kody has been tapped for high-profile projects such as The Pulse Interim Memorial. He serves on the onePULSE Foundation's Design and Construction committee. Kody is known by his teammates and colleagues for his intense respect and passion for the environment and culture of the places he designs.



### **Chris Hite, ASLA, PLA**

CEO  
Dix.Hite + Partners

As president and CEO of Dix.Hite + Partners, Chris provides visionary leadership to a growing practice, which now includes 40 employees in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. Chris' design work celebrates the unique characteristics of a place's social and geographical context, with a special focus on local ecologies, cultural identity, history, native plants, local materials, urban form, and quality of life. In addition to managing a portfolio of projects, she advances the practice of landscape architecture by providing services among community organizations such as the onePULSE Foundation where she serves as the Vice Chair of the Design and Construction committee.



### **Barbara Poma**

CEO  
onePULSE Foundation

Barbara Poma, owner of Pulse Nightclub, the site of one of the worst mass shootings in American history, now serves as CEO/Executive Director of onePULSE Foundation, Inc. which has been established to oversee a community initiative to create a permanent memorial & museum to honor those who perished, the survivors and all the affected. She has been named one of NBC Universal's 2018 Change Makers, received the 2018 Point Foundation Leadership award, recognized as Ally Ambassador of the year for the 2018 LGBT – Allies Diversity Summit and 2017 LGBT Champion of Equality at the Harvey Milk Diversity Awards.



## Learning Objectives

1. To gain insight into the complex process of both emotional and physical healing in a community following a tragedy and the role landscape architects play.
2. To discuss the expanding role of landscape architects in the creation of public spaces for peace and reflection.
3. To discuss the proposal, design, and construction of both a temporary and permanent memorial.
4. To understand the importance of stakeholder engagement in the design of a highly emotional and contested memorial site.





## Notes:

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