An Editorial Note: Celebrating Our Legacy, Defining Our Future

The year 2025 marks a relevant moment for *Urbana: Urban Affairs and Public Policy*. This year, we celebrate 25 years of uninterrupted online publication, a notable milestone in the ever-evolving landscape of academic publishing. Our roots, however, run even deeper. Since its founding in 1994, *Urbana* has served as a lasting platform for scholarly discourse on the complex dynamics shaping cities and urban life worldwide.

From its inception, the journal has fostered critical, interdisciplinary, and inclusive dialogue on urban challenges and solutions, wherever they arise. Throughout this long and distinguished trajectory, *Urbana* has had the privilege of collaborating with authors from every continent, showcasing a diverse tapestry of perspectives in articles, thematic dossiers, and book reviews. This global participation is not merely a metric of reach; it is the very core of our identity as a truly international forum for urban studies.

Our longevity is linked to our commitment to socially responsible research. In an era defined by intensifying global crises—from climate change adaptation to deepening socioeconomic inequality—the role of urban scholarship is more critical than ever. *Urbana* strives to be an inclusive academic journal, actively seeking out voices that might be marginalized by traditional publishing structures, and prioritizing work that directly confronts issues of equity, sustainability, and justice in the built and lived environment.

Responsible research, for us, means upholding academic standards while simultaneously demanding ethical and societal accountability from the research itself. This involves:

- Multidisciplinary Engagement: Continuously publishing scholarly work across urban geography, planning, public policy, history, political science, environmental studies, and literary approaches to urban spaces.
- Methodological Breadth: Encouraging submissions that employ diverse empirical, theoretical, and methodological perspectives, thereby ensuring a holistic view of the evolving urban realm.
- Focus on the Global South: Maintaining a dedicated focus on urban challenges and innovative solutions originating from regions historically underrepresented in mainstream academic discourse.

This editorial commitment ensures that every contribution published in *Urbana* not only advances knowledge but also makes a meaningful contribution to the pursuit of more just and sustainable cities.

To honor our legacy while ensuring maximum relevance for the next quarter-century, we are pleased to announce a significant digital transition that will begin this year. *Urbana* is moving its entire editorial and publishing workflow onto the Open Journal System (OJS) platform. OJS is now the standard platform worldwide in the publishing industry. This transition enhances our operations and ensures we utilize the most robust infrastructure available for open-access scholarship. Additionally, the migration to OJS will improve the visibility of our authors' work. This directly supports our open-access model, ensuring that research published in *Urbana* reaches the broadest possible audience of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers globally.

By adopting OJS, we are solidifying our position as a modern, forward-thinking academic journal, committed to utilizing technology to disseminate knowledge freely and globally.

As we celebrate 31 years since our founding and 25 years of continuous online publication, we reflect on the thousands of contributions that have shaped our field. The dedication of our authors, reviewers, and editorial team has been instrumental in making *Urbana: Urban Affairs and Public Policy* a vital space for global urban scholarship.

We invite all scholars and practitioners to join us in this exciting new chapter. We look forward to continuing the critical dialogue, publishing responsible research, and addressing the next generation of urban challenges on a platform built for the future.

The Editors