

March 15, 2004

**Mr. Rodney L. Swink, FASLA**

Chair, Honors and Awards Advisory Committee  
*c/o American Society of Landscape Architects*  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

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*Re: LaGasse Medal Recommendation*

Dear Mr. Swink:

Virginia Anderson leads. She inspires. She sees the future of our culture and the essential community significance of our public places. Her many years of powerful leadership in redefining and implementing the vision of Seattle Center has transformed a deteriorating public park into one of the world's great community gathering places. Having experienced the impact of Virginia's visionary leadership, both as a community member with a strong interest in the stewardship of our public places and as an architect involved in designing for those spaces, I strongly recommend Virginia Anderson for the LaGasse Medal.

Her accomplishments include the following:

***As the Seattle Center Leader:***

Virginia inherited a Seattle Center in transition, 25 years after its origin as the World's Fair site and desperately in need of a new life. Under her leadership the community has developed a new masterplan, inspired by an engaging public process, and has implemented hundreds of millions of dollars of projects on campus.

The genius of her vision is in connecting the cultural needs of the community with the strategic stewardship of its public places. From my work with similar civic leaders and prominent public places throughout the country, I can attest to the national reputation of Virginia's extraordinary accomplishments at the Seattle Center.

***As a Client:***

Virginia inspires great ambition for the projects and in design consultants. My work on the Seattle Center Campus has included studio facilities for the Seattle Children's Theatre and the transformation of the old Seattle Opera House into the new McCaw Hall. For each project, her visionary client leadership supported the users, the campus, and the community. McCaw Hall, for example, has been nationally recognized for creating a new standard for major performance facilities which offers a shared ownership of the Opera and Ballet experience to the entire

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community. I consider her to have been the most inspiring client with whom I have ever worked.

***As a Community Leader & Visionary:***

Virginia communicates with wide ranging groups in Seattle and throughout the country. She advocates for inspired, compassionate, responsible public process and use of public resources.

As a jury member for the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows, I had the opportunity to evaluate the credentials of some of the country's strongest leaders in the development of our public spaces. In this context her accomplishments are exemplary. Her vision is the future of our great public places. Should you desire further information regarding my reference please contact me. I sincerely recommend Virginia Anderson for this great honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Reddington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

**Mark Reddington, FAIA**

*Partner*

LMN Architects

cc: Sherrie Boyer, Seattle Center Foundation