

cela

**COUNCIL OF EDUCATORS
IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

March 8, 2005

American Society of Landscape Architects Trustees
636 Eye St NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: **Nomination of Wangari Maathai for Olmsted Medal**

Dear ASLA:

The Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture is proud to support the nomination of Wangari Maathai for the Olmsted Medal. The purpose of the Olmsted Medal is to *"recognize individuals, organizations, agencies, or programs outside the profession of landscape architecture for environmental leadership, vision, and stewardship."* Wangari Maathai is an international exemplar of environmental leadership, vision and stewardship. Her vision, enthusiasm and social engagement in environmental conservation programs have been very effective and inspiring to people around the world.

There are conservationists who have advocated environmental conservation as a worthy goal in and of itself. In the case of Ms. Maathai, conservation, tree planting, soil and water resources protection are a means to a much higher calling – providing healthy and supportive environments that improves the economic and political stability of families and communities. Her environmental conservation activities have lead to an improvement in the standard of living and the quality of life for people participating in the Green Belt Programs that she has started and nurtured.

For ASLA to recognize this quality of service and a person of this international visibility, not only brings honor and recognition to Ms. Maathai and her life's work but also to landscape architecture and environmental conservation as a means for improving living standards, environmental justice and the peace of political stability.

The Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture share with ASLA and other landscape architecture organizations, an interest and concern for environmental quality and the stewardship of conservation. We also find it compelling that Ms. Maathai's work uses environmental education to advance this vision of conservation.

CELA encourages your support of the nomination of Wangari Maathai for the Olmsted Medal.

Cordially,



Kenneth R. Brooks, ASLA, RLA
President, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture

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