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Board of Trustees
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Nomination of Sarah S. Boasberg for the LaGasse Medal

Dear Trustees:

It is an honor to recommend Sarah S. Boasberg, Affiliate ASLA, for the LaGasse Medal in the non-landscape architect category for her many notable contributions to supporting the management and conservation of our natural resources and public landscapes.

Sally, as she is called by her friends far and wide, is a true ally and tireless advocate of the landscape architecture profession. She has been an Affiliate ASLA member since 1991. While she has been a national force on many issues of interest to landscape architects, nowhere is her work more readily displayed than in our nation's capital.

Sally is the founder and president of Green Spaces for DC, a non-profit organization working closely with the District's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to deliver recreational facilities that are open, accessible, and of the highest visual quality. In 2004, Green Spaces for DC provided seed funds for the city to hire the first landscape architect on the DPR staff. This experiment proved so successful that the city is now hiring three more full-time landscape architects for the DPR staff. This private-public partnership is commended on the city's web site:

With an internal advocate with significant expertise, DPR has already begun to show marked improvement in its ability and predisposition to protect and improve city-owned green space. These improvements include an agency-wide review of design and maintenance procedures and the adoption of more environmentally friendly practices.

When Sally recognized that the tree cover of Washington was rapidly disappearing due to construction and development, Sally became instrumental in passage of the District's Urban Forest Protection Act of 2002. This law requires private property owners to obtain permits from the DC Department of Transportation before cutting down mature trees.

Sally is a member of the distinguished Committee of 100 on the Federal City. The Committee of 100 was founded in 1923 to sustain and safeguard the fundamental values of the L'Enfant Plan and the McMillan Commission that give the Nation's Capital so much of its distinction, beauty, and grace as a community. Not only is the Committee of 100 the oldest planning body and the oldest citizens' forum on planning issues in the Nation's Capital, it is also one of the most effective and vigorous organizations of its kind. In 2003, the Committee presented Sally with a Vision Award for her comprehensive and persuasive study, "Re-Greening Washington: Managing the Street Tree Crisis in Our Nation's Capital."

In 2005, Sally worked with Green Roofs for Healthy Cities in planning and promoting their annual conference which convened in Washington. Later that year, she provided ASLA with invaluable advice on the city permitting process to facilitate construction of the Society's green roof on its headquarters and enthusiastically attended the dedication ceremony in April 2006.

She is a past chairman of the American Horticultural Society and serves on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the National Arboretum (Vice Chairman 1997-99). She was a founding co-chair of The Cultural Landscape Foundation and serves on its Board of Advisors. Sally is a member of the Advisory Council of the Catalog of Landscape Records and is a past member of the Board of Directors of US/ICOMOS. She has also served in the leadership of the William Paca Garden (Annapolis, MD), Trees for the City (Washington, DC), and Friends of the Smith College Botanic Garden (Northampton, MA). She currently serves on the All Hallows Guild of the National Cathedral and the Casey Tree Endowment Fund Technical Advisory Board.

A 1958 graduate of Smith College, Sally's love of landscape architecture drew her back to George Washington University where she received her Certificate in Landscape Design in 1985. She has worked tirelessly ever since to promote and expand the GW certificate program—one of the few options for landscape studies offered in an urban setting—leading to a cooperative agreement with Virginia Tech to accept certificate holders into their Master's program. She continued her study of garden design privately in England with landscape architect John Brookes, 1985 and 1988.

I can think of no more fitting tribute to Sally's many years of devotion to landscape architecture than to present her with the ASLA LaGasse Medal. Thank you for your kind consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas P. Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Douglas P. Reed FASLA
Principal