

ASLA Board of Trustees
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator
636 Eye St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

I am writing to nominate landscape historian **Arleyn A. Levee** for Honorary Membership in ASLA.

Arleyn is the foremost preservation consultant specializing in the work of the Olmsted firm. She has worked extensively with non-profit preservation groups, particularly those concerning historic landscapes. She helped found the Massachusetts Association of Olmsted Parks, which was the pre-cursor and model for the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP). She has served in various capacities with NAOP, including Co-Chair, and is currently a member of the Leadership Council.

She has helped the world recognize that there is more than one Olmsted. Her life's research has been on John Charles Olmsted, stepson of Frederick Law Olmsted. In addition, Arleyn has lifted the veil about the many other landscape architects who practiced in the Olmsted office, including Edward Clark Whiting, Guy Hunter Lee, and Harold Hill Blossom to name just a few of the forgotten early members of the Society. She is the first person in the last half-century to write about these people and their contributions to the built environment and in establishing our profession.

In addition to her extensive body of work as an Olmsted scholar and landscape historian, she is also a practicing landscape designer. Arleyn is always thinking about how people use historic landscapes today and provides the pragmatic reality that bridges research to how we move forward. She has served as a consultant for various cultural and historic landscape reports for several municipalities or private clients in Massachusetts; in Louisville, KY; in Essex County, NJ; in Lake Geneva, WI, among others. She was also a consultant for the renovation of the U.S. Capitol Grounds.

Arleyn is a Trustee of Historic New England, where she chairs the Landscape Committee and sits on its Library and Archives Committee. She is a founding board member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation, the Belmont Historic District Commission, the Stewardship Council of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and is an appointee to the Maintenance & Management Oversight Committee for the Muddy River Restoration Project in Boston and Brookline, MA. She received degrees from Wellesley College, Harvard University and the Radcliffe Seminars Program in Landscape Design.

I hope you will bestow honorary membership upon Arleyn Levee in recognition of her incredible contributions to advancing knowledge and the practice of our profession.

Sincerely,



Gary Kesler, FASLA
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Outreach
College of Arts and Architecture
Penn State University



Dear ASLA Honorary Awards Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of recommendation for Arleyn Levee. I have known Arleyn for three decades, with our first encounter through the National Association of Olmsted Parks (an organization we served as co-chairmen for a decade later.) I was immediately drawn to her rigorous research standards and exemplary communication skills -- not to mention her ability to "read" a landscape as text and a dynamic system where people live out their lives (in contrast to more traditional art and architectural historians of the time). I was drawn to her unique way of seeing, her infectious intelligence and, perhaps most of all, how she referred to herself as "a community loudmouth" -- all in support of our shared landscape heritage, and in particular, Frederick Law Olmsted, his sons and his successor firm. Her passion is magnetic and infectious. We immediately became friends.

Over the past twenty-two years in my work at the National Park Service and The Cultural Landscape Foundation (where she served as a Founding Board Member, 1999-2013), Arleyn has contributed to more than a dozen books and publications including 3 essays each to *Pioneers of American Landscape* (McGraw Hill, 1999) and *Shaping the American Landscape* (University of Virginia Press, 2009) as well as an essay on the Olmsteds' residential subdivisions for *The Landscape Universe* (NPS, 1996), and one about Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and his benefactors in the forthcoming *Landscapes and Patronage*.

Additionally, over the past several decades Arleyn has contributed to important and influential Cultural Landscape Reports (e.g. Louisville Olmsted Parks, U.S. Capitol Grounds) and in her myriad roles on national and regional boards, advisory commissions, and town planning boards, she has mentored and inspired multiple generations of landscape architects, and raised the bar for landscape historians, decades before PhDs in the field were as accessible as they are today.

There is no greater ambassador for the profession - the time has come for the Society to make her an honorary member.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' and 'B' followed by a horizontal line.

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR
The Cultural Landscape Foundation



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Dear ASLA Leaders:

On behalf of the National Association for Olmsted Parks, I am writing to add NAOP's support to the nomination of landscape historian **Arleyn A. Levee** for Honorary Membership in ASLA.

A landscape historian and preservation consultant, Arleyn Levee specializes in the work of the Olmsted firm and she is an authority on John Charles Olmsted. Her background in residential landscape design as well as in landscape history has enriched her work as a historical consultant for numerous landscape rehabilitation projects, working with municipalities, institutions, and private clients across the country, advising them on the assessment, preservation, and revitalization of their historic properties. She has lectured and published articles concerning the Olmsted firm's design work, including several biographical sketches about the firm's professional designers.

Ms. Levee has served as a valued member of the Board of Trustees of the National Association for Olmsted Parks and continues her service to NAOP as a member of the NAOP Advisory Committee, actively contributing to the work of the organization on a wide variety of levels.

We strongly support Ms. Levee's nomination for Honorary Membership in ASLA and are pleased and proud to be able to contribute in this small way to her receipt of such a high honor.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Katherine Adams
Executive Director

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Dear ASLA Leaders,

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the nomination of Arleyn A. Levee as an Honorary ASLA Member.

Her work as a landscape historian and preservation consultant, focusing on the Olmsted firm, with a special interest on John Charles Olmsted, has led to a greater understanding of the firm's century-long existence. The spotlight she placed on the numerous landscape architects that helped shape the profession and the land was trailblazing.

Her contributions to numerous non-profits and initiatives further documents her support for the profession over her extensive history of service. From serving as a founding board member for The Cultural Landscape Foundation, the Belmont Historic District Commission, and the Stewardship Council of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Arleyn has participated in the establishment of organizations that act as stewards of the built environment from a local to national level. She continues her stewardship as a Trustee of Historic New England and as chair of the Historic Resources Committee for the Muddy River Restoration Project locally. Her committee's work will address the rehabilitation of elements of the historic landscape within four section of the Emerald Necklace: Charlesgate, the Back Bay Fens, the Riverway, and Leverett, Willow, and Wards Ponds in Olmsted Park. Her training as a landscape designer at the Radcliffe Institute, among other educational achievements, provided her a firm foundation in design upon which she has drawn.

Of significant note is Arleyn's major contributions to the two most recent ASLA Annual Meetings held in Boston. In both 1999 and again in 2013, she led interesting field sessions of historic properties, which led to increased appreciation for their significance in today's world.

Arleyn's contributions to the profession of landscape architecture are remarkable and worthy of an honorary membership. I trust you agree.

Regards,

Tim Nickerson, ASLA
President

**Shaun Saer Duncan
2709 Camp Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130**

28 March 2014

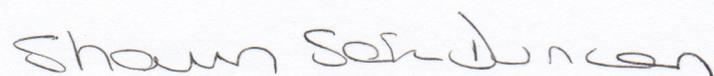
It is daunting to write to support Arleyn Levee's candidacy for ASLA Honorary Membership. I have been enchanted with, and inspired by, Arleyn since meeting her in 2001 in Louisville, when I heard one of her characteristically erudite and unparalleled presentations. Who can so seamlessly combine the history of the Olmsteds and their firms, while eloquently describing a multitude of their projects and attendant influence - all in 45 minutes?

Arleyn and I served together as board members of The Cultural Landscape Foundation for ten years, which is just one of the many organizations indelibly shaped by her acumen and perspective. Arleyn synthesizes scholarship and pragmatism in her advice and analysis - whether the nuts-and-bolts of board decisions or the stewardship of Olmsted designs. She is as equally adept on practical levels as she is dedicated to rigorous academic standards, which she translates into guidance on the sensitive treatment of Olmsted landscapes, whether the U.S. Capitol Grounds or the Louisville system of Olmsted parks and parkways.

One can only surmise on the state of the National Association of Olmsted Parks or the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and the execution of their joint project, the Olmsted Research Guide Online, *without* Arleyn's wisdom and advocacy. The intangibles of her perseverance and commitment to these institutions and projects must be mentioned, these achievements augmented by ever-looming funding challenges.

Realizing that it is impossible to sum up Arleyn's contributions to the profession, to landscape design history, and to the understanding and interpretation of the Olmsted legacy, I hope these comments add and aid in the review of another legacy's so beautifully-deserved candidacy for honorary membership. Arleyn is an exemplar teacher, scholar, writer, consultant, citizen, and friend. Thank you for giving me the privilege to give back to Arleyn a morsel of the enrichment she has added to my life. I sign with pride in my own designation as an ASLA Honorary Member.

Yours sincerely,



Shaun Saer Duncan, Honorary ASLA