



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, New York 10021

Adrian Benepe
Commissioner

March 14, 2005

Dr. Patrick A. Miller, PhD, FASLA
President
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Dr. Miller:

I am writing to endorse Betsy Rogers for the LaGasse Medal. There is no one more deserving of this honor and I do hope you will seriously consider her nomination for the award.

I have known Betsy for over 25 years and consider her a visionary, a leader, a mentor, and a friend. Her work to reclaim Central Park and to restore this world-famous public space was started with her passion for natural areas, horticulture, and landscape design. She saw potential in the decaying park and worked, with her own hands, to restore landscapes and related historic structures. The restoration of Central Park not only reclaimed one of the singular works of 19th century art but also sparked the revitalization of the entire parks system and many neighborhoods, and invented a oft-replicated paradigm of public-private partnerships in public space management.

Since leaving the Central Park Conservancy, Betsy has established herself as one of the country's great public space advocates. She consults on numerous development projects in New York City and speaks at conferences and advises on projects across the country and around the world. Betsy is a champion of the city's and country's great public spaces; there is probably no one in the world who combines her knowledge of the history and practice of landscape and garden design with her practical experience in restoring and managing public open spaces.

In closing, I wholeheartedly support Betsy's nomination for this award. If you have any questions, please call me at 212-360-1305. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adrian Benepe