

March 16, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in order to lend my voice to the many others who recognize Renata von Tscherner as a special person in our community and to recommend her for the LaGasse Medal. I first met Renata about 4 years ago when she was beginning her efforts to create the Charles River Conservancy. At that time I was President and Director of the Museum of Science, which is located atop the old Charles River Dam. As you can imagine we had a point of mutual interest.

>From that time to the present I have watched Renata lead and develop the CRC to the point where I believe I can say with confidence that not only is the subject of the River's conservation on many peoples minds but so too is the use of the parklands along the River. Through her efforts, I believe all of us now see the potential for this "jewel of Boston" in a new way. Her holistic and creative way of thinking, her energy and commitment which are enormous, her ability to bring people into the effort which is becoming legendary and her overall leadership of this creation of hers--the Charles River Conservancy, are all evidenced in the tremendous progress made to date and in the momentum already established. I could go on for many paragraphs describing Renata's career and the specifics of what she has accomplished but I am sure you have that information from others. Suffice it to say, this effort was needed but no one had taken on the mantle. Now Renata has and for that we all should be thankful.

On a more personal note, I should say that Renata has been very skillful in keeping me involved in the efforts of CRC and I am truly honored to be a part of her team on behalf of the CRC.

Sincerely,

David W. Ellis
President Emeritus
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