



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 George W. Curry for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Trustees:

I take enormous pleasure in advocating for George W. Curry's recognition with the Carpenter Medal. I studied with George in the late 1970s, and he made me want to teach landscape architecture myself. For nearly thirty years now, I have been privileged to know him more as a colleague, and I can say without hesitation that he remains, remarkably, still, one of the best teachers I know.

Several areas of special contribution stand out. The first applies mostly to his students and his community, but I know of very few landscape architecture teachers who turn students into urbanists. George has been active over the years in political culture and economic culture in Syracuse, and has been a true catalyst in revitalizing an entire district in the city's downtown. He has continually introduced these aspects of complex, contemporary urban life into the studio with rigor and reality. Our programs need to draw their students toward a commitment to urbanism, because they don't on the whole come to this naturally. George Curry's example is unique and of very long duration.

Secondly, and indeed more broadly, his consistent drive to foreground the ethics and tactics of landscape preservation has helped change the way we work on historic sites. George's studious applied research, with real clients and with real communities, has had a notable impact on practice. Many of his students—I will be immodest here and count myself among them—have in turn made their own contributions to evolving preservation approaches for landscape architecture.

Finally, he has always encouraged involvement in the profession, and I am indebted to him for that. It was for these reasons that I was honored to have George as escort and sponsor upon my election to Fellow of ASLA. He deserves this recognition, and I will be very proud to congratulate him should he receive the honor.

Thanks for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Hilderbrand FASLA FAAR
Principal, Reed Hilderbrand
Adjunct Professor, Harvard Design School