# ASLA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PETER POLLACK

It is my pleasure and privilege to offer this letter of support for Peter Pollack. As someone I have known for over a dozen years, I think Peter is very deserving of this special honor. Having had the wonderful opportunity to work with Peter on a number of different ASLA committees, including the Board of Trustees, I understand how important the right individual can be, in addressing difficult issues and making positive progress through compromise and consensus.

Peter Pollack is one of the most thoughtful individuals that I have ever come in contact. His ability to listen to all points of view, synthesize multiple issues and interests, provoke consensus thinking that lead to the best possible outcomes for all, are characteristics that have served his work in community service well. His long list of significant accomplishments in the Ann Arbor community are a testament to his effectiveness and successful approach. As landscape architects, we are often in a position where we need to reconcile divergent views of multiple groups in order to find common ground and move a project forward. Peter has a keen sense of how to navigate these sometimes treacherous waters by gaining the confidence and trust of the stakeholders involved. His calm demeanor and rational thinking help defuse conflicts and create a participatory framework that allows everyone involved the opportunity to be part of the solution.

Given Peter's busy private practice and teaching endeavors, his level of commitment to community service is remarkable. It is Peter's long term unselfish willingness to share his time, energy and expertise to better his community that distinguishes him from others that are involved in community service.

Therefore, it is without hesitation, that I recommend Peter Pollack for the ASLA Community Service Award.

Yours truly

Leonard Hopper, FASLA

Past President, American Society of Landscape Architects

March 2, 2007



Community Services Area

# CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 8647, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647 http://www.a2gov.org

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Community Development Services (734) 622-9025
Parks & Recreation Services (734) 994-2780
Planning & Development Services (734) 994-2674

Board of Trustees American Society of Landscape Architects c/o Carolyn Mitchell ASLA Community Service Award Nominations 636 Eye Street, NW Washington, DC 20001-3736

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my strong support for the nomination of Peter Pollack for the American Society of Landscape Architects Community Service Award. Mr. Pollack has made many significant contributions to the City of Ann Arbor during my 20-year tenure with the City, most recently through his efforts as a member of the Allen Creek Greenway Task Force and of the Market Commission.

In 2005, Mr. Pollack was appointed chair of the Allen Creek Greenway Task Force by the Mayor and City Council. This task force was engaged in a 15-month process, during which it was charged with evaluating options and making a recommendation to City Council regarding the development of a greenway through the heart of Ann Arbor. This was a controversial and highly charged topic and Mr. Pollack provided steady and unbiased leadership throughout the process.

Mr. Pollack was also appointed by the Mayor and City Council to the Market Commission (Farmers Market) in 2005. The 86-year-old market is one of the largest and longest-running farmers markets in the country and is key to the vibrancy of the downtown. In most recent years, the market has become a very divided group and Mr. Pollack has been instrumental in bringing stability, leadership and focus to the Market Commission's proceedings and activities.

Mr. Pollack's exceptional professional skills and his personal ethics and integrity are a very valuable asset to the community. The City of Ann Arbor is extremely appreciative of and values Mr. Pollack's accomplishments as a member of the Allen Creek Greenway Task Force and Market Commission and highly recommends him for the Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

Jayne S. Miller, Administrator Community Services Area

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### CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 8647, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647 http://www.A2gov.org

February 26, 2007

Board of Trustees American Society of Landscape Architects c/o Carolyn Mitchell ASLA Community Service Ward Nominations 636 Eye Street, NW Washington, DC 20001-3736

#### Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Peter Pollack for the ASLA Community Service Award. When I read the stated purpose of the award: "to recognize an individual who has provided sustained, pro bono, service to the community demonstrating sound principles or values ..." of planning, design and public participation as a landscape architect", I can think of no one I have encountered in my nearly 30 years of municipal government experience who exemplifies this description more than Peter.

Ann Arbor has grown to rely on Peter's ability to bring large community discussions regarding options for site use/reuse to successful conclusions, even when viewpoints are varied and polarized. A recent example of Peter's extraordinary efforts and approach was demonstrated in Peter's leadership working with a team of community volunteers and City of Ann Arbor staff to assess and recommend the ultimate fate of three City properties being vacated by City operations in the near future.

Those properties were in a challenged watershed, had significant portions within floodplains and floodways, have dilapidated structures – some with historical significance, and are in prime redevelopment areas near the heart of the downtown. In addition to stewarding a volunteer team with diverse interests and advocacy positions, Peter committed to administering a televised public process and a proactive public engagement process throughout the term of the effort.

Peter stewarded the often-passionate discussion over community and individual values and options with grace. Peter brought respect for perspectives to the table, taking what could have been a very contentious recommendation to agreement on site options. Ultimately Peter's leadership lead to design alternatives that embrace a core consensus of values and will be the basis for the City's exploration during an upcoming request for proposal (RFP) process. The options for the sites are both creative and well grounded in the public feedback obtained.

Peter spent countless hours in the effort described above, and while the final report of this effort is still on the presses, Ann Arbor has asked Peter to step up to lead the effort of area Architects on yet another pro bono effort for our community. In recent weeks a major Ann Arbor employer and landowner announced that they are leaving Ann Arbor. On the heels of completing the previous effort, Peter has accepted this new assignment which is to envision redevelopment options for a site that is nearly as large as Ann Arbor's existing Downtown. Peter has come to this new assignment with enthusiasm and creativity and a heartfelt desire to serve the community.

Peter's ability to be creative while taking the community's planning goals, design principles and public process ideals to an exciting end goal is what Ann Arbor can rely on when Peter is called to service. He is truly deserving of the ASLA Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

Sue F. McCormick

Public Services Area Administrator

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City of Ann Arbor



# Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
c/o Carolyn Mitchell ASLA Community Service Award Nominations
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

### To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, we are pleased to express our unqualified support of the nomination of Peter Pollack for the **ASLA Community Service Award**. Peter's career spanning service to the Washtenaw County community makes his nomination most appropriate.

For over 30 years Peter has provided his expertise on a variety of significant community projects undertaken by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. During that time, his design skills and environmental knowledge have been instrumental in the development of our highly acclaimed parks system. His public service efforts in Washtenaw County have been recognized nationally -- including a Merit Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects, for Independence Lake County Park (1982).

Of particular significance to this current nomination though, is Peter's continuing involvement with the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP). The purpose of NAPP is to preserve unique natural areas within Washtenaw County. The program is administered by the Parks & Recreation Commission with the assistance of a Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC).

NATAC is an appointed committee of seven citizen volunteers who offer their well respected technical expertise to evaluate prospective properties. Peter has been a member of NATAC since it was established in 2001, and served as NATAC chairperson in 2005 and 2006. As a member of NATAC, Peter provides guidance and leadership for both the Committee members and the Commission. His irrepressible energy and effort have been instrumental in the establishment and success of a land preservation program that has also been recognized nationally.

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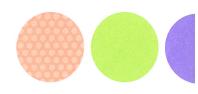
Again, it is with sincere conviction that we support the nomination of Peter Pollack for the **ASLA Community Service Award**. Through his service, Peter has made a significant contribution to the quality of life we enjoy in Washtenaw County.

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Robert L. Tetens, Director

Tom A. Freeman, Deputy Director





Where Creativity and Community Meet

Board of Trustees American Society of Landscape Architects C/O Carolyn Michigan, ASLA Community Service Award Nominations 636 Eye Street, NW Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Peter Pollack

To Whom It May Concern:

When you cannot tell someone's day job from their volunteer work, you know you have a dedicated professional willing to give of their time and expertise for the well-being of whatever project they are working on

I have been President/CEO of the Ann Arbor Art Center since 1980. I have known Peter Pollack throughout that time as a fellow traveler on the footpath from parking to office and on many committees dealing with the aesthetics, safety, maintenance and many other features of the town landscape. I remember well hearing Peter deliver a presentation on why wider sidewalks were better, and, naively, all I could see was parking spaces going away. I have learned much from his considered and well expressed ideas over the years. In every role I have seen and interacted with Peter it is not only his unflappable style, the thoroughness of presentations and his willingness to hear the other side, but also his "currentness" on issues that makes him a true contributor to our community. He informed, facilitated and brought people to an understanding of issues, identified values and helped reached conclusions. I spent equal time in committee meetings trying to figure out where Peter stood and what facilitating. He is good at bring ideas and building consensus.

Peter and I served on the Broadway Bridges Advisory Committee and the Commission on Art in Public Places. While I don't know if Peter would see it this way, in every case I saw him as thoughtfully educating people and moving the discussion forward both by that education and by his willingness to express a considered opinion, not an arbitrary "I am the expert" statement. When you use your personal time to further others' interests, it is my experience that you expect your time to be recognized by relying on your expertise. It is a hallmark of Peter's volunteerism that he did not ever force an issue. He helped people understand and think it through.

I have spent my professional career managing nonprofit organizations. I know how hard it is to lead and facilitate simultaneously. I also know how hard it can be to have expertise and to participate without using that expertise to dominate the discussion. Peter Pollack had contributed thousands of hours on design projects on art, life style and community development that have served the City of Ann Arbor and its residents well. It is my pleasure to support his nomination for a Community Service Award by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely

Marsha Chamberlin President/CEO