

Board of Trustees
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

It is with pleasure that I write you this letter supporting the nomination of Sally Boasberg for the American Society of Landscape Architects' LaGasse Medal. I have known and worked closely with Sally for seven years, and as the Executive Director for Casey Trees, I can tell you with confidence that Sally's work in protecting and expanding the tree canopy of the District of Columbia has been, and continues to be, a truly Herculean effort.

For over a decade Sally has successfully worked the board rooms and offices of the District's decision makers to raise overall awareness of the importance of trees and greenspaces to the District. Her efforts helped secure passage of the District's first law protecting mature canopy trees from needless destruction on both public and private property, increased the District's tree planting and maintenance budget from \$500,000 to \$8 million dollars per year, and increased the Urban Forestry Administration's professional staffing level from 4 to 15 certified arborists. These are some of the highlights, but there are many more – too many to note in this short letter.

I can think of no other individual more deserving of this award, not only for the great things Sally has done, but perhaps most importantly because she has encouraged others such as myself to follow in her footsteps. Sally is a leader in every sense of the word; her initiative and perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds lives on in her accomplishments and in the work of others active in the "green movement" in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Mark Buscaino
Executive Director



at George Washington's River Farm
7931 East Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308-1300
Tel: (703) 768-5700
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Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Trustees:

The American Horticultural Society is pleased to be writing in support of Sarah Boasberg's nomination for the ASLA's Lagasse medal.

Sally Boasberg is a long-time friend of the AHS, having served on our board and executive committee. She has also been a member of the Society for decades.

Sally's involvement with the AHS is but one small indicator of her love for gardening. A self-described "plant nut," Sally has worked tirelessly to bring that wonderful obsession to all. She worked to pass a tree protection law in the District of Columbia and has been at the forefront of the city's urban park renewal movement through her founding and leadership of the non-profit organization, Green Spaces for DC. Sally has intuitively understood what researchers have more recently proven: that plants and green space are not only necessary for the physical survival of life on this planet; their beauty is also a critical ingredient in maintaining the *quality* of life. Sally understands the wonderful paradox that plants have a humanizing effect on humans.

Sally's legacy with the AHS is experienced on a daily basis at the Society's River Farm headquarters. Standing in front of our main building stands a Cutleaf Beech. Its location was chosen several years ago by Sally Boasberg and was recently selected to serve as a central element for our Member's Court of Honor in our master plan for River Farm. It is fitting that Sally's presence should be so central in our Court of Honor.

Kudos to the ASLA for its wise selection of Sally Boasberg as a Lagasse Medal nominee! We are delighted and proud of our association with such a dedicated advocate of public service horticulture.

Sincerely,


Deane Hundley
President

Making America a Nation of Gardeners, a Land of Gardens



DOWNTOWN DC
Business Improvement District

American Society of Landscape Architects
Board of Trustees
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
Honors and Awards Coordinator
626 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees,

Over the past three years I have had the opportunity to collaborate with Sally Boasberg on the preparation of enhancement plans for a number of important parks in the Downtown BID district. Sally served as a member of the Task Force established by the BID and the National Park Service. Her professional judgment and input to this process was invaluable. She frequently would offer valued comments that helped obtain consensus on important landscape design issues.

This collaborative experience has given me insight and appreciation for her commitment to improve the quality of the public realm in Washington. I believe she is very deserving of the La Gasse Medal for her dedication to improving the public realm in Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cy Paumier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Cy Paumier,
Urban Design Consultant

Board of Trustees
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street., NW
Washington, DC 2001

Dear Trustees:

This letter serves as my recommendation and endorsement of the nomination of Sally Boasberg to receive the American Society of Landscape Architects' (ASLA) prestigious LaGasse medal. I can think of no one more deserving of this award dedicated to exactly the kind of contributions Sally has made to the management and preservation of the public realm in our Nation's Capital.

To fully appreciate the scope of Sally's contribution, one must recall the condition of our city's public space a short decade ago: the decline of the tree canopy had reached historic levels; significant public funding for urban forestry had ended; private partners were discouraged from making a contribution; and, in short, the "city of trees" had become a poster child for neglect of open space. It was against this background that I came into office, a student of history and a committed environmentalist. Sally took this historic opportunity – a mayor with as much commitment as lack of resources – and began immediately to fill the gap.

Sally is a mentor, counselor, advocate, and at times, independent critic. With her advice and support we were able to convince Mrs. Betty Casey that a contribution would work in Washington, precisely because it complemented a substantial increase in public funding in urban forestry. Sally was there to educate me and provide the detailed information that I needed to preach the gospel of conserving our trees. The advances in urban forestry in Washington would not have taken place but for Sally's leadership.

In short, Sally's ardent leadership and firm dedication drove an agenda and a campaign that ultimately restored the city's and the private sector's commitment to the cause. Sally is keenly aware that the signature of a great city is its stewardship of public space – libraries, schools, and, open spaces. She has cajoled, pushed, pulled, and instigated Washington's conception of itself as a city with more open space per capita than many in the world. I can think of no better person to receive the LaGasse award, and recommend her for it with great enthusiasm and without any reservation. I would be pleased to provide any more information that would be helpful to you in your decision making.

Sincerely,



Anthony A. Williams
Mayor Emeritus
Washington, DC