

Thomas L. Mroz Jr., ASLA

Senior Vice President / SmithGroupJJR Inc.

ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: Leadership & Management

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration, University of Michigan, 1986

Master of Landscape Architecture, University of Michigan, 1982

Bachelor of Science in Horticulture, Cum Laude, University of Maryland, 1980

EXPERIENCE

2011 – Present

Senior Vice President / AA Office Director, SmithGroupJJR

2001 – 2011

Senior Vice President, JJR

1995 – 2011

Principal and CFO, JJR

1990 – 1995

Studio Director and Principal, JJR

1987 – 1990

Project Manager and Associate, JJR

1984 – 1987

Landscape Architect, JJR

1983 – 1984

Site Designer, Johnson, Johnson and Roy (JJR)

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Chapter ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Thomas L. Mroz Jr., ASLA, for your consideration.

Executive Summary

Tom Mroz has built a career of over 34 years on a foundation of insightful management and dedicated leadership. He has applied these skills to advancements in various areas of the landscape architecture profession—yielding transformative impacts for his clients, his firm, the profession of landscape architecture, and a future generation of landscape architecture professionals.

The influence of Tom's leadership and direction has expanded as his career developed. During the earlier years of his career, Tom served as a team leader and project manager, guiding large and complex project teams to successfully deliver award-winning work. Tom has spent the entirety of his career dedicated to the growth of one firm in particular, SmithGroupJJR, where he has held numerous leadership positions—directly contributing to the professional development of hundreds of landscape architects while also advancing a fully integrated, interdisciplinary design culture.

Recognizing that his business acumen was a valuable asset not only to his firm but also to the advancement of his profession, Tom has put these skills to work through advocacy at the state and national level. This has included multi-year service on the ASLA Finance and Investments and Audit Committees, as well as his current work as a member of the ASLA Executive Committee as the Vice President of Finance. In the spirit of strengthening the profession, Tom participates in the Landscape Architecture Firm CEO Roundtable with other firm leaders across the industry to discuss organizational strategies that leverage the impact of landscape architecture to address new challenges in a rapidly changing business environment.

In his leadership positions both within SmithGroupJJR and through ASLA, Tom has been a passionate advocate and driver of initiatives that support, mentor and develop future landscape architects. Tom provides abundant opportunities, encouragement and flexibility for emerging professionals to meaningfully invest in their careers. Additionally, Tom pioneered the establishment of the Clarence Roy Endowed Lecture at the University of Michigan and the Carl Johnson Endowed Visiting Professorship at Michigan State University, both now in their sixteenth and sixth years, respectively. Last year, Tom organized and launched the inaugural SmithGroupJJR Diversity and Inclusivity Scholarship Program, supporting professional development for landscape architecture students from underrepresented populations.

Integrated Project and Team Leadership

While a student of Landscape Architecture at the University of Michigan, Tom began to realize the tremendous impact that landscape architects could have on the natural and built environments and on society at large. At the same time, he also developed a keen interest in the business of landscape architecture, and the leadership of people as a way to positively leverage the impact he could have through his work.

Thomas L. Mroz Jr., ASLA

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

2016 – Present

VP Finance, ASLA National Executive Committee

2014 – 2016

Chair, ASLA National Audit Committee

2013 – 2014

Member, ASLA National Audit Committee

2011 – 2016

Member, ASLA National Finance and Investments Committee

LEED Accredited Professional

Registered Landscape Architect: States of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Ohio, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Utah, Tennessee, Wyoming

PUBLICATIONS / RESEARCH

1982 Master's Thesis – Construction Management: A Systems Approach to Project Organization and Delivery

HONORS AND AWARDS

2013 – 2017

Detroit Free Press "Top Workplace" Award for five consecutive years

The vital role of team leadership was cemented in Tom's brain in 1983 with his very first project at Johnson, Johnson and Roy (JJR)—a national ASLA award-winning transportation and recreation project in Franconia Notch, New Hampshire that required a high level of multidisciplinary collaboration. Three years later, as a freshly minted project manager on a federally funded Urban Mass Transit Association project in Rochester, New York, Tom honed his ability to wield the power of persuasion and effectively manage polarized interests. As a result of Tom's advocacy for interdisciplinary design with the City Engineer, this successful Main Street project elevated the role of Landscape Architects as prime consultants on complex urban transportation projects, a staffing approach that was still unconventional in the 1980s.

In 1992, Tom helped lead the team designing the new Chrysler Headquarters and the expansion of the Chrysler Technology Center (CTC) in Auburn Hills, Michigan. As Principal-in-Charge and Project Manager for the site work on this 500-acre campus, Tom served as the client's lead advocate for project entitlement, giving dozens of presentations to the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the City Council. Tom's personal investment in moving this multidimensional project through the regulatory process resulted in the CTC successfully consolidating their headquarters, expanding their R&D facility, and improving time to market in the development of new products. By coaching his team to think beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries to address the holistic needs of the client, Tom built significant rapport and demonstrated to key stakeholders the multifaceted and invaluable role of the landscape architecture professional. As a result, this 18-month design effort parlayed into a nearly 10-year relationship with the CTC that spawned over 40 additional projects to implement the campus vision. As testament to the project team's enduring legacy under Tom's leadership, the site still serves as Fiat Chrysler's de facto headquarters and primary R&D facility to this day.

Tom's successful track record in cultivating lasting, collaborative relationships with clients has culminated in his role as Principal-in-Charge of numerous projects for the Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration (NCA), the agency charged with designing, building and maintaining the nation's 135 national cemeteries. Tom's persistent leadership is evident in how he successfully manages to elevate the NCA's vision to create visually inspiring national shrines beyond mundane and bureaucratic governmental requirements. Leading by example as a trusted "go-to" resource, he has instilled in his teams unwavering perseverance amidst contracting constraints to deliver sustainable outcomes that

I have had the pleasure of working with Tom for the last 7 years on numerous NCA projects in Tennessee and Michigan. Many of those projects have been extremely complex, involving numerous technical challenges and multi-faceted teams. Successful delivery of those projects has required superior leadership and management which Tom has repeatedly demonstrated, along with his perseverance and a non-wavering commitment to the NCA. I truly have come to regard Tom as a trusted advisor!

Philip Obianwu,
Assistant Director
Design and
Construction Services
National Cemetery
Administration
Department of
Veteran Affairs

Thomas L. Mroz Jr., ASLA

2015

ASLA Michigan Legacy Award, Crosswinds Marsh, MI

ASLA Illinois Honor Award, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, IL

2011

ASLA National Firm Award, JJR (member of JJR's senior leadership team since 1995)

2010

ASLA Michigan Outstanding Firm of the Year Award, JJR

1999

ASLA Centennial Medallion Project, Franconia Notch State Park, NH

1994

Gold Pentastar Award for Performance Excellence, Chrysler Technology Center, MI

Quality Excellence Award for Outstanding Performance on On-Going Projects, Chrysler Technology Center, MI

1989

ASLA National Merit Award, Franconia Notch State Park, NH

ASLA National Merit Award, Detroit Zoo Entrance Renovation, MI

bring the client's vision to fruition on 37 projects over the past 10 years. Tom also demonstrates a strong commitment to the NCA's federal procurement mandate for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB)—going beyond the minimal participation requirements to provide tangible training and professional development opportunities for SDVOSB firms alongside his own staff as part of a truly integrated project team.

Multiple Leadership Roles, National Influence

Tom's 34-year career cannot be separated from the growth and evolution of one firm, and the burgeoning national presence it has enjoyed under his watch. Instead of dictating solutions, Tom developed a management approach that guided his staff to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset and take risks. This inclusive and collaborative leadership style helped develop the business resiliency that the firm needed during the economic recessionary period of the early 1990s and late 2000s. Despite the downturns, Tom's leadership approach and strategies kept up engagement and morale among his staff by defining new outcomes and leveraging business development efforts.

Tom's demonstrated studio leadership led to his appointment as JJR's CFO. During his tenure, Tom oversaw the operations of five JJR offices in Ann Arbor, Chicago, Madison, Phoenix and Washington DC, and he was responsible for managing project performance, profitability and quality throughout the entire firm. Most notably, he worked with three different CEOs from 1995 to 2011 to successfully grow and expand the business both geographically and in its breadth of practice, particularly in environmental science and waterfront design. Recognition swiftly followed as JJR garnered over 150 local, state and national awards, including over 80 ASLA awards, throughout the 16-year period of growth under Tom's senior leadership. Tom's dedication to building upon the legacy of JJR's founding partners as a successful, multi-generational design firm culminated in 2011, when JJR won the esteemed ASLA Landscape Architecture Firm Award.

In 2012, Tom was at the forefront of the reorganization effort that combined the architecture-based SmithGroup (founded in 1853) with its site and landscape architecture-based subsidiary JJR (founded in 1961) into a single organization. The move created SmithGroupJJR, the nation's oldest continuously practicing integrated design firm. Concurrently serving in multiple leadership roles, Tom demonstrates exemplary administrative acumen through his work on the Board of Directors, chairing the firm's Finance Committee, and serving as Office Director of the Ann Arbor office.

I've worked with Tom both as a colleague and client for over 30 years. Tom has always shown great leadership in organizational strategies and planning for the firm's future. While others only talk of talent recruitment and succession planning, Tom's foresight and strategic initiatives have positioned SmithGroupJJR to be an industry leader in sustainable practice. SmithGroupJJR has consistently delivered outstanding quality through generations of professional development, thanks to Tom's insights and strong administrative acumen.

Barry S. Murray
Economic and
Community
Development Director
City of Dearborn

Thomas L. Mroz Jr., ASLA

1982

ASLA National Merit Student,
University of Michigan, MI

TEACHING / ACADEMIC SUPPORT

2017

Program Leader / Organizer,
SmithGroupJJR Diversity
and Inclusion Scholarship
Program

2015 – 2016

Leader / Organizer,
SmithGroupJJR Pro Bono
Team, University of Michigan
Metro Studio Class

2011

Leader / Organizer, Michigan
State University Carl
Johnson / SmithGroupJJR
Professional Landscape
Architect in Residence
Endowment

2001

Leader / Organizer,
University of Michigan
Clarence Roy/
SmithGroupJJR Endowed
Lecture

1991

Adjunct Instructor, LA 480:
Professional Practice,
Michigan State University

Tom continues to support overall business development and growth, with firm revenue increasing 67% and Ann Arbor office revenue increasing 68% since 2011. He has also led a conscientious, significant investment in recruiting practices, mentorship and ongoing staff development to promote the growth of an inclusive office culture. Over the past seven years under Tom's guidance, the percentage of women among professional staff in the Ann Arbor office has increased from 26% to 37%, while the percentage of professional staff from underrepresented populations has increased from 2% to 17%.

Commitment to Diversity and the Next Generation of Leaders

Tom has demonstrated an authentic commitment to the development of landscape architects throughout the firm, both in their project roles and in their personal impact as ambassadors of the profession within the greater community. He seeks meaningful ways to advance the contributions of emerging young professionals and remains deeply invested in their career development. To promote flexibility in work schedules and patterns, Tom actively leverages office resources to empower staff to enroll in master degree programs, teach courses for nationally renowned industry programs and, in the case of one newly licensed junior landscape architect, pursue "work abroad" research opportunities in Europe—all while remaining full-time employees at SmithGroupJJR. Additionally, as a result of Tom's direct encouragement, 33% of the Michigan ASLA chapter's Executive Committee members and two participants in the ASLA National Diversity Summit hail from SmithGroupJJR's Ann Arbor office.

Having worked alongside two of JJR's founding partners, Clarence Roy and Carl Johnson, Tom sought to create a lasting and tangible legacy that reflects their tireless efforts in paving the way for future landscape architects. With Roy's passing in 2001, Tom took the lead within the firm to establish an endowed lecture series focused on sustainability at the University of Michigan, Roy's alma mater. Seventeen years later, the annual Clarence Roy/SmithGroupJJR Endowed Lecture continues to bring together thought leaders, students and environmental sustainability advocates from all over the world to discuss and share ideas, compelling strategies and the latest challenges facing the profession. Likewise, upon Johnson's passing in 2011, Tom helped establish an endowed professorship in his honor to support a Professional Landscape Architect in Residence at Michigan State University.

Tom is a great friend to those of us in academia. The recently instituted SmithGroupJJR Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship Program, established under Tom's leadership, will play a critical role in attracting a more diverse pool of professionals to landscape architecture. Tom also led the establishment of the Clarence Roy/SmithGroupJJR endowed lecture that has brought a wide range of national and international scholars to lecture in the landscape architecture program at the University of Michigan since 2002.

Robert E. Grese
Director, Matthaei
Botanical Gardens
and Nichols
Arboretum
Professor, School
for Environment and
Sustainability
Theodore Roosevelt
Chair of Ecosystem
Management

Thomas L. Mroz Jr., ASLA

In 2010, SmithGroupJJR served as a Founding Partner of the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) Landscape Performance Series, providing an online library of case studies with quantifiable performance metrics for sustainable site design and restoration. Under Tom's leadership, the firm continues to provide both financial support and board-level leadership for innovative programs that advance professional practice and research. During LAF's recent 50 & Forward Campaign to expand existing educational programs and invest in new initiatives that deepen the pool of talent in the industry, Tom undertook a campaign of his very own. Believing deeply in the position and capacity of emerging landscape architects to meet the escalating needs of our world, Tom solicited personal financial contributions to LAF's campaign from 100% of the Principals in the Ann Arbor Office.

Lastly, Tom has worked diligently to address the systematic issues of gender, racial and ethnic diversity that exist within the profession, focusing on topics that include the missing 32%, unconscious bias, flexibility and work-life balance, and career outreach. His dedication to authentically promoting diversity is most evident in the development of implementable strategies to recruit, retain and support professionals from underrepresented populations, both among his 80 Ann Arbor-based staff and within the larger field of landscape architecture. Under Tom's guidance, 2017 has seen significant in-office momentum to employ diverse perspectives in decision-making through internal surveys, proactive brainstorm sessions, and studio presentations led by a newly created Inclusivity Task Force. Most notably, Tom spearheaded the successful development and roll-out of the inaugural SmithGroupJJR Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship, focused on supporting African American, Hispanic and Native American landscape architecture students enrolled in accredited undergraduate or graduate programs. Influenced by Tom's pioneering example in Ann Arbor, SmithGroupJJR has established five additional Diversity and Inclusion Scholarships across the firm's other disciplines—a legacy that speaks to Tom's guiding belief that landscape architects can and must lead the way.

I have worked with Tom and his staff for over 20 years. The consistency of professionalism, creativity, and independent initiative his teams have brought over the years is a testament to his leadership. Tom has instilled a sense of personal responsibility and ownership in his staff, and has nurtured their professional growth and development. I have had the pleasure of witnessing this maturation first hand and attest that they are ultimate evidence supporting his nomination!

Connie Pulcifer, PLA
Systems Planner
City of Ann Arbor

Summary by Chapter President

Tom's consistent leadership and example have significantly advanced the practice and profession of landscape architecture, particularly in the State of Michigan. Serving in multiple leadership roles for the largest private employer of landscape architects in the State, Tom has successfully led integrated, multidisciplinary design teams for numerous award-winning, high-profile projects that interface with the public through media communications and extensive community outreach.

What sets Tom apart is his deeply rooted commitment to cultivating the next generation of emerging landscape architects. Under Tom's guidance, dozens of SmithGroupJJR professionals are active members of Michigan Chapter ASLA, and their contributions to the Chapter and the community through volunteerism, advocacy and educational initiatives have been vital to the big-picture growth and representation of landscape architecture throughout Michigan and nationally. Furthermore, Tom's success in developing and executing initiatives that promote greater diversity within the profession have gained significant momentum and admiration as a new standard of leadership to strive for among many of his colleagues at Michigan Chapter ASLA.

I hope you will join my enthusiasm in endorsing Tom's merited elevation to the ASLA Council of Fellows. Thank you very much in advance for your consideration.



Sincerely,
Wesley Landon
President, Michigan Chapter ASLA

Michael Edwin Nichols, ASLA

Mayor and City Council Member, Solana Beach, California
Principal, Nichols Design Group, Inc.

ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: Leadership/Management

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

2012-Present

National American Society of
Landscape Architects, Member,
Government Affairs Advisory
Committee

2014, 2016-2017

California Council of the American
Society of Landscape Architects,
Member, Board of Directors

2015

Vice President, Membership, San
Diego Chapter of American Society
of Landscape Architects

CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

2006-Present

City of Solana Beach, CA
City Council Member – Leadership
includes the following city council
committee assignments: Parks and
Recreation Committee, Highway 101
& Cedros Development Committee,
Public Arts Committee, School
Relations Committee, 22nd
Agricultural District Community
Relations Committee

2009, 2013, 2017

City of Solana Beach, CA
Mayor

2008

City of Solana Beach, CA
Deputy Mayor

2006-Present

Vice Chair,
Regional Solid Waste Association,
Joint Powers Agency for the cities of
Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas,
Escondido, National City, Poway and
Vista, CA

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the San Diego Chapter ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Michael (Mike) Nichols, ASLA, for your consideration.

Executive Summary

Mike Nichols has demonstrated a sustained leadership role as mayor and city councilmember since 2006. He is also a licensed, practicing landscape architect since 2000. Through his extensive public service as an elected official, he has greatly enhanced the public's appreciation and broadened recognition of the profession in a prominent way.

Since 2002, Mike has served and provided leadership on a variety of high-profile boards and commissions as a community volunteer and elected official. In addition, he's been active in ASLA serving on the Government Affairs Advisory Committee, as a member of the California Council of ASLA, and locally with the San Diego Chapter.

Consistently, and with considerable influence, Mike has proven his ability to leverage his elected leadership position in concert with his professional background to effectively advocate from a landscape architect's perspective on development of public policy and best management practices to address a variety of issues from local land use planning, to global crises such as effects of climate change and the effects of sea-level rise on the natural and built environments.

As a public figure and a licensed landscape architect with his own design firm (Nichols Design Group), Mike's actions and accomplishments span the private and public sectors and have greatly broadened the understanding and appreciation of the profession in the eyes of the public. He has also successfully collaborated and demonstrated influence with policy makers locally in the San Diego region, within the State of California and with our federal representatives in Washington, D.C. While always emphasizing positive contributions that our professional can have on the development of public policy and projects.

Through his dependable leadership activities and his constant messaging of the value of superior design, strong community outreach and stewardship of the land, he has drawn upon his knowledge and training to accomplish positive results in his public role. All while highlighting the value and importance of our profession in the process.

Mike's leadership has positioned Solana Beach as one of the most environmentally progressive cities in Southern California. He is hands-on tackling policy issues and was instrumental in the development of the City's first Climate Action Plan to address global climate change.

He is a trailblazer in the San Diego region and proudly represents the profession of landscape architect by consistently demonstrating that stewardship of the land is the highest priority in development of public policy.

Hon. Todd Gloria
State Assemblymember
78th District, California

Michael Edwin Nichols, ASLA

CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES (Continued)

2006-Present

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Member, Board of Directors (alternate); Member, Transportation Committee (alternate); Member, Shoreline Preservation Working Group

2012-Present

League of California Cities, Member, Executive Committee (San Diego Region), Member, Coastal Cities Working Group; Member, Local Legislative Committee

2012-Present

San Dieguito River Valley Joint Powers Authority, Member, Board of Directors (alternate)

2012-2016

Member, Board of Directors, North County Transit District (NCTD)

2002-2006

Member, Solana Beach Parks and Recreation Commission, (Chairperson, 2004-2006)

SELECTED PRO-BONO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

"Tide Park Scenic Overlook", Solana Beach, CA, public beach access improvements with Boy Scout Troup 782

"Community Gardens Project", grant writing, design and implementation of two community gardens in Solana Beach, CA

"Fallen Soldier's Memorial", design for war memorial in collaboration with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5431, Solana Beach, CA

"Fletcher Cove Community Center", Solana Beach, CA, site design and construction administration services, project processing for LEED-Silver rating

Address the nominee's exceptional accomplishments sustained over an extended period of time.

As a landscape architecture undergrad at the University of Georgia in the 1990's, Mike worked for the Athens-Clarke County Parks and Recreation Department where he was inspired by his experiences working with others and witnessed the selfless charity of civic-minded volunteering. He channeled this energy into a senior class project that addressed the lack of recreational programming for "at-risk youth" in the community. This process, initiated by Mike's leadership, gained momentum and the attention of city leaders. The result of Mike's efforts led to the successful creation of the first public skateboard park in the community.

In 1997, Mike moved to Southern California with his zeal for making a difference and his interest in furthering his community activism. He immediately began working professionally as a landscape architect, sharpening his design skills and looking for opportunities to volunteer and share his talents and passion. He became involved with his community as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, donating countless hours on community-based projects.

He provided pro-bono conceptual design services for the community's "Linear Park" project, which greatly contributed to a 1.7-mile-long pedestrian and bicycle trail through the center of town. He also designed, acquired grants and constructed the city's first "Community Garden" project, and successfully led the effort to design and install a "Fallen Soldiers" veteran's monument with the local VFW Post. In all cases, Mike donated his services for these community-centered projects, many of which were featured in local newspapers or magazines and garnered an increased public appreciation and provided positive exposure for the profession in the press.

Inspired by public service, Mike's positive experiences with volunteerism and civic involvement, he ran for elected office and won a seat on the Solana Beach City Council in 2006.

He is currently in his third term on the city council, where he also represents the city on numerous local and regional boards and commissions, including the region's metropolitan planning organization (SANDAG), the region's transit agency (North County Transit District) and served three times as the city's mayor.

As mayor, he has represented the interests of his constituents and demonstrated a positive reflection on the profession of landscape architecture when working with other jurisdictions, governmental agencies and law makers at the local, state and federal levels.

I'm writing today to recommend Mayor Mike Nichols to become a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

As the former President of San Diego City Council, one of my initiatives and passions was to implement smart urban planning.

I know Mike shares this goal for San Diego County and has exemplified this through his work as a landscape architect and elected official. His design talent has resulted in better projects for his community.

Hon. Scott H. Peters
U.S. House of
Representatives
(CA-52)

Michael Edwin Nichols, ASLA

SELECTED PUBLIC SPEAKING

2013

San Diego North Economic Development Council, Presentation, "Downtown Redevelopment and Revitalization"

2013

California Coastal Commission Hearing, Speaker, US Army Corps of Engineers project "50-year Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project"

2012-2013

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Hearings, Speaker, "San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Safety Issues"

2012

Citizens for Coordinate Century 3 (C3), Presentation, "Community Revitalization in North County"

2012

New Partners for Smart Growth National Conference, San Diego, Field Session Speaker/Contributor, "Exploring North County Coastal Revitalization" (with Dan Burden)

2011

Walk San Diego
"Complete Streets Case Study: Highway 101 through North County Cities"

2010

American Planning Association, California Chapter Annual Conference, Presentation, "Rethinking San Diego County's North Coast Highway 101"

2007

Sam Diego State University, Guest Lecturer, Parks and Recreation Department, "The Landscape Architect's Role in Park and Recreation Design Process"

Address the influence and impact of the nominee's work on the profession of landscape architecture and contribution to public advancement of the profession.

Throughout Mike's history of leadership in public service, from 2002 to today, he has utilized his skills and training as a landscape architect to make a positive difference and enhance the quality of life within the communities he has served. As a result, his actions have greatly advanced and positively influenced the public's perception of the profession. His direct involvement and contributions to the public through his position as an elected leader and landscape architect, have earned Mike the respect of his elected colleagues, other landscape architects and allied professionals.

This is confirmed by his invitation to speak at a variety of conferences, participate in field sessions and attend other public venues to educate and raise awareness for the proper planning, design and development of programs for public improvement projects, such as streetscapes, parks and recreation. He has also addressed the development of policies to mitigate for sea-level rise and climate change, and testified as an elected official with subject matter authority to State and Federal agencies regarding land-use issues related to environmental protection, planning and public safety.

The results of Mike's efforts to influence and impact the profession of landscape architecture and contribute to the public advancement of the profession are easily witnessed throughout the entirety of his time in public office. During his tenure, he has used his landscape architecture background as a public official to direct and influence the conversation regarding land use and the environment. In often cases, he has helped to facilitate public projects in cooperation with commissioned landscape architecture consultants working for the city or agency that Mike represents.

The development of La Colonia Park in Solana Beach is an excellent example of Mike working in his role as an elected official to advance and assist in the development of programming, community outreach, various design features and implementation of a city park. Van Dyke Landscape Architects worked on the project, and Mike regularly met with them to review plans, provide feedback and direction, attend public workshops to educate the public input on design alternatives. Mike also worked to establish priorities and assist with possible phasing plans to address City budget allocations.

The ability for Mike, as an elected official, to share and use his knowledge of landscape architecture to effect and enhance the development of a public projects distinguishes him from others in his field.

As a consultant to the City, I have worked with Mike for many years.

Mike exhibits excellent skills as a leader and problem solver, which pays tribute to his training and education as a landscape architect

His actions and leadership have truly broadened the understanding and appreciation of our profession in the eyes of the public, and he has provided these skills to the benefit of the projects that he oversees as an elected official.

Mitch Phillippe, ASLA
President
Van Dyke Landscape Architects

Michael Edwin Nichols, ASLA

EDUCATION

2006

Master of City Planning
San Diego State University

1997

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
University of Georgia

- American Society of Landscape Architects Georgia Chapter, Certificate of Honor for Excellence in the Study of Landscape Architecture

1993

Bachelor of Arts, Multidisciplinary Studies, Minor in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management
North Carolina State University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2011-Present

Principal, Nichols Design Group, Inc.,
Solana Beach, CA

2001-2011

Senior Associate, MW Peltz + Associates, Solana Beach, CA

1997-2001

Associate, KTU+A, San Diego, CA

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATIONS

Member, American Society of Landscape Architects

Registered Landscape Architect:
California #4414
North Carolina #1990

Council of Landscape Architectural Record Boards (CLARB #48926)

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

AICP Advanced Specialty Certification, Certified Urban Designer

LEED Accredited Professional

Address the nominee's personal leadership role and administrative ability demonstrated in the accomplishment of project initiation or design, policy formation, or planning.

Through his unique experiences as a landscape architect, a business owner and an elected official, Mike has developed his leadership and management acumen with an understanding of the complexities required to balance an economic growth while weighing development with community context and environmental protection. His dedication and accomplishments have set an example and continue to influence others.

Directly, Mike's actions have placed Solana Beach in the spotlight of environmental sustainability in Southern California by innovating and developing progressive environmental programs ahead of other jurisdictions since his election in 2006. In 2009 the city received a "cool cities" award from the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter, and over the past decade the city has won awards from SANDAG, the Institute for Local Governments, ASLA San Diego Chapter, California Parks and Recreation Society, San Diego Chapter of the American Planning Association and others as they relate to projects, programs or policies that Mike had a direct involvement.

In 2011, Mike was instrumental in the movement to establish Solana Beach as the first city in the county to ban single-use plastic bags, and in 2015 to eliminate the use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) products from food establishments. Mike used his professional expertise to craft ordinances for landscape requirements, public arts programs, and require LEED certified public projects. In 2007, he encouraged the city to join the US Mayors Climate Action Protection Agreement, and 10 years later in 2017, as mayor, he signed onto the #wearestillin ("We Are Still in" Declaration) and wrote letters to demonstrate his leadership in delivering on the promise of the Paris Agreement after President Trump withdrew from the accord. He has also voiced his objection to the recent federal proposal to consider off-shore oil drilling, and other policies to roll back regulations that protect the environment.

Most recently, as mayor in 2017, he successfully led the charge for two very important environmental programs. First, the development of a local government energy district that would provide green energy choices for electric ratepayers within the community at competitive rates with a reinvestment of funds from the proceeds to be dedicated for future city projects, such as parks and public beach access. Second, the culmination of a 10-year effort to develop and adopt the city's first-ever Climate Action Plan (CAP) to address the challenges of climate change and sea-level rise. The CAP provides a roadmap towards environmental sustainability for the City, and has become a model for other communities in the region to follow.

As a resident of Solana Beach, and landscape architect, I have witnessed Mike's leadership and management in action as Mayor, guiding our city to become an environmental frontrunner on issues such as climate change, walkability and green development with projects like the redevelopment of Highway 101.

He enthusiastically represents, and has triggered an increased public awareness of our profession through his actions, motivating other communities to follow suit. I support Mike for Fellowship in ASLA.

Jim Burnett, FASLA
President
OJB Landscape
Architecture

Michael Edwin Nichols, ASLA

Mike has been an outspoken leader, an advocate and a champion for the environment. In 2015, he was instrumental in the nomination of Senator Barbra Boxer as an Honorary ASLA member and has written numerous letters of support as an elected official to influence or support programs that align with ASLA's mission and in support of other landscape architect's applications for appointment to boards or commissions. In 2012-2013, he spoke out publicly, in letters, and at meetings with Nuclear Regulatory Commission members in support of closing the troubled San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, citing the dangers of the failed generators and possible public safety and environment catastrophes for the nearly 8 million people living within 50 miles of the facility. The nuclear power plant was permanently closed in 2013.

One of the best examples of Mike's leadership achievements was his direct, decade-long effort to successfully manage and guide the redevelopment of Solana Beach's primary business corridor, Highway 101, into a prime example of a "complete street" by emphasizing pedestrian and bicycle circulation, public transportation and green infrastructure into every aspect of the \$7 million transformation. Mike took a strong leadership role in this project, working directly with design and engineering consultants. He walked the corridor to meet with business owners, held meetings with stakeholder groups and residents. He personally checked design plans and details to ensure the perfect outcome for this major undertaking. The award-winning project was recognized by local and state agencies and highlighted nationally in AARP's "Dangerous by Design 2014" report as case-study for good planning and street design to address safety and the pedestrian experience.

The success of the project and Mike's direct contributions to influence the project design and implementation placed him personally in a leadership role as a spokesperson for complete street projects within the region, including his participation as a featured speaker at the American Planning Association's California Chapter Annual Conference in 2011, and as a field session speaker at the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in San Diego in 2012.

Summary by Chapter President:

Mike Nichols has an established track-record for progressive environmental programs and policies and is a recognized leader in the San Diego region, far beyond his involvement with landscape architecture. Yet, in all his accomplishments as a local elected official, he has held true to his profession and consistently makes a point to advocate and bring landscape architecture into the conversation when working on the development of public programs or policies, and when speaking publicly at events with other elected officials or business leaders and the public. As a result, he has used his position as an elected official to advance our profession in the eyes of the public, and he has bettered the communities in which he serves.

His prominent position in local politics also serves an example and inspiration for other landscape architects who volunteer their time on community projects and serve on community or foundation boards. Last year, our local chapter ran an interview with Mike in our quarterly newsletter about his path to becoming an elected official and how landscape architects can become involved with advancing the profession through advocacy or service on boards or commissions. We are hoping that more landscape architects will follow Mike's lead.

The San Diego Chapter strongly endorses Mike's nomination as an ASLA Fellow. We believe that he is worthy of this honor through his proven, and exceptional level of leadership and his significant advancement of the practice of landscape architecture. He is an excellent representative for our profession.

Sincerely,



Michael Brennan, ASLA
President, American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego Chapter

Ted H. Spaid, PLA, ASLA, CLARB

Co-Founding Principal, SWT Design, Inc.

ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Kansas State University, 1984, cum laude, Manhattan, KS

EXPERIENCE

1995 - Present
Partner, Founder, SWT Design

1984 - 1995, Associate, HOK

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

1996, ASLA Member, Past President

2005 - 2015, St. Louis City Planning Commission, Commissioner

2014 - 2017 Washington University, St. Louis Urban Issues Studies, Guest Lecturer

2014 - Present, Washington University, St. Louis, Tree Campus USA Advisor

2003 - Present, Dean's Advisory Council for the College of Architecture, Planning & Design (CAPD) at Kansas State University, Council Member

2008 - Present, Gateway Greening Advisory Committee, Committee Member

1996 - 1999, Forest Park Advisory Board, Inaugural Board Member

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the St. Louis Chapter ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Ted H. Spaid, PLA, ASLA, CLARB for your consideration.

In 35 years Ted Spaid has made a significant and sustained impact on the profession of landscape architecture through his actions, passion, and civic leadership. After co-founding SWT Design in 1995, Ted has cultivated one of the largest stand-alone landscape architecture firms in the Midwest that continues to advocate for sustainability and evidence-based design. Under his management, the firm has impacted more than 130 communities throughout the country in the last 21 years, grew 30 percent during the economic downturn in 2009, and in 2016 opened its second studio in Kansas City. In 2009/2010 he was a practitioner and leader in developing the SITES rating system during its pilot phase and in the subsequent certification of two SITES Pilot Projects. Prior to founding SWT Design, Ted was a design associate with HOK, Inc. From 1984 to 1995 he broke new ground as a key authority in the development and use of CAD technology. During this time, Ted worked on major projects such as New York Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, resorts in Japan and Indonesia, corporate world headquarters, and large-scale development projects across 11 countries. He has elevated the profession within the greater design and construction community, and has dedicated his career to growing the public's perception of landscape architecture's diverse impact on the public realm. For this, the ASLA St. Louis Chapter presented Ted with the Robert Goetz Award in 2013 for his lifetime of achievement. His legacy continues through his 25 years of mentoring young professionals and working to revamp design curricula at leading landscape architecture programs.

Advancing the Profession.

At a national level, Ted advocated for and contributed design leadership to the technical foundation of the "SITES Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks." From this came what is now known as the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES), the rating system used across the globe to promote the sustainable design and development of our landscape. In 2010, Ted would go on to lead the design of two SITES certified pilot projects, further promoting and advancing the profession as a global leader in sustainable design. These projects continue to serve as relevant case

Ted is a true leader and his impact in our region is respected by many. His work spans a variety of scales and complexities, and almost always involves a rigorous public engagement process. It is in this complicated alignment venue where Ted's leadership and management is so effective. His individual effort and contribution to our public realm is relentless.

Chip Crawford, FASLA
Sr. Principal
Forum Studio

Ted H. Spaid, PLA, ASLA, CLARB

HONORS AND AWARDS

Robert Goetz Award,
St. Louis ASLA Lifetime
Achievement Award

2017, Audubon Center at the
Riverlands, Central States
ASLA Excellence Award

2017, The Commons
at Cortex Innovation
Community, Central States
ASLA Merit Award

2016, Webster Groves
Sculpture Garden, Central
States ASLA Honor Award

2015, Echo Bluff State
Park Master Plan, St. Louis
Chapter ASLA Honor Award

2014, Brightside St. Louis
Urban Demonstration
Garden, Missouri Arbor
Award of Excellence

2013, Washington University
Campus Tree Master Plan,
St. Louis Chapter ASLA
Award of Excellence

2013, Saint Louis Zoo
Expansion Framework Plan,
Missouri APA Outstanding
Plan Award

2013, Brightside St. Louis
Urban Demonstration
Garden, St. Louis Chapter
ASLA Honor Award

2012, SWT Design Campus,
2-Star SITES Certification

2012, Novus International
Headquarters, 3-Star SITES
Certification

2011, Novus International
Headquarters, St. Louis
Chapter ASLA Presidential
Award of Excellence

studies within our industry. In a press release from ASLA in 2012 announcing the first SITES certified projects, ASLA Executive Vice President & CEO Nancy Somerville said, "The innovation and analytical thinking of these first certified projects is helping point the way for the next iteration of the guidelines, which will form the basis for open certification in 2013" (asla.org). In the proceeding four years, Ted gave more than 30 presentations to academics, professionals and the public on the benefits of the initiative's core concepts, further positioning landscape architects as leaders in the greater design community.

At a regional scale, more than 80 individual communities throughout the greater Midwest and 50 more across the country and Canada have recognized economic, environmental, and human-health benefits from his design leadership and management of SWT Design.

Locally, Ted has brought greater recognition and understanding of the profession to local civic leaders. Prior to 2015, no landscape architect led or managed a project under the direction of the City of St. Louis. Through Ted's persistent lobbying of civic leaders and city engineers, SWT Design is now the first landscape architecture firm to lead a St. Louis City-funded project through the Board of Public Service – a \$5.5 million redesign of 32 acres in Forest Park, one of our nation's largest city parks. Likewise, Ted's dedication to expanding the public's understanding of the profession is evident in his management of the strategic and business planning process for the CityArchRiver Alliance. This process, now led by a landscape architect, will create a 20-year business plan for the Alliance, whose members include the City of St. Louis, National Park Service, and 4 other public/private partners who direct the daily operations of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

Academic Leadership.

For the past 15 years Ted has served as one of five landscape architects on the 25-member Dean's Advisory Council for the College of Architecture, Planning & Design (CAPD) at Kansas State University. Here, his leadership has advised the college on numerous major curriculum advancements, including the development of its 5-year Master of Landscape Architecture program in 2005. Since this time, the program has consistently ranked as a top five national program, and in 2014 it ranked 2nd in the nation. While serving on the Dean's Advisory Council, Ted provided review and recommendations for program accreditation, aided in the preliminary study for new and updated classrooms in all departments, and lobbied for the formation of interdisciplinary

Ted has redefined the role of landscape architects not only in St. Louis, but in our larger region. I have known him for more than 20 years, and have seen his passion and design impact millions, bringing influential change to our city through urban renewal, inclusion, mentorship, and sustainability. His service to the city has positioned our region for prosperity for years to come.

Lyda Krewson
Mayor
City of St. Louis

Ted H. Spaid, PLA, ASLA, CLARB

2011, The Little Lighthouse,
St. Louis Chapter ASLA
Presidential Award of
Excellence

2011, Des Peres Lakeside
Improvements, St. Louis
Chapter ASLA Presidential
Award of Excellence

2011, SWT Design Campus,
Central States ASLA Merit
Award

2010, Southeast Missouri
Hospital Nature's Landing,
Central States ASLA Merit
Award

2010, The Magic House,
Central States ASLA Merit
Award

2009, Indian Camp Creek
Park, Central States ASLA
Merit Award

2009, Ranken Jordan
Pediatric Care Hospital,
Central States ASLA Merit
Award

2008, St. Louis Children's
Hospital "Together We Play"
All-Inclusive Playground at
Tilles Park, Ladue News
Platinum Award - "Most Fun
Playground in Town"

2008, The Orthwein Animal
Nutrition Center - St. Louis
Zoo, Central States ASLA
Merit Award

2007, Saint Louis
Art Museum - Art Hill
Restoration, Central States
ASLA Honor Award

2004, 1904 World's Fair
Flight Cage - Saint Louis
Zoo, St. Louis Chapter ASLA
Merit Award

design studios after advocating for greater collaboration across disciplines. In 2017, at the conclusion of a decade-long campaign, Ted collaborated with Dean Dennis Law, FASLA, and Dean Tim de Noble, AIA, on a \$75 million renovation and expansion of the CAPD. The result was 114,000 square feet of integrated design labs, fabrication shops, and a 300-seat auditorium. In addition to advising both deans, Ted personally contributed to the funding of preliminary studies that led to the implementation of the expansion. Afterwards, Ted and his wife personally contributed to a \$4.4 million scholarship endowment for CAPD students, and have recently provided a lead gift for the expansion's new roof garden laboratory and event space. He often serves as a guest critic for design studios, developed a professional mentorship program, and provided guidance for the internship and study abroad program.

Aside from his leadership on the Dean's Advisory Council, Ted believes in mentoring students and young professionals. Throughout his career, he has mentored 35 student interns who have transitioned into professional practice, two of whom became partners of SWT Design. Under his management, SWT Design provides regular opportunities for high school students to job shadow, and offers educational tours of the firm's campus to scouting groups, grade schools, and local universities.

Environmental Leadership.

Ted's leadership in landscape architecture extends well beyond environmental best practices. In 1996 Ted and his business partner Jim Wolterman, FASLA made a philosophical and financial commitment to invest in an office culture that embodies sustainable design. As SWT Design continued to grow and expand, the campus joined the SITES Pilot Program in 2010 as one of 150 pilot projects evaluating the 2009 version of the rating system. Under Ted's leadership, the firm invested more than \$250,000 in campus improvements. As a result, the project earned a 2-star rating from SITES in 2012, making SWT Design the only design firm in the world at the time to have its own campus certified. With continued success, Ted led the design of the firm's most recent addition in 2016. Following the SITES guidelines, the campus now manages 95 percent of stormwater on site, and is comprised of 33 percent pervious hardscape surface and 75 percent native plant species. It continues to serve as a living laboratory not only for staff, but also as a model for sustainable corporate campus design and construction.

Mr. Spaid has been a valued contributor to our success over the last 20 years. He has been a part of well over \$75 million worth of construction - construction that has changed the Zoo's trajectory, and almost tripled our revenue over the last two decades. He is a remarkably talented and dedicated man who has made a difference, not just to our Zoo, but to the community of which we are a part.

Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D.
Dana Brown President
& CEO
Saint Louis Zoo

Ted H. Spaid, PLA, ASLA, CLARB

1999, Whitecliff Park Master Plan for Crestwood, MO - St. Louis Chapter ASLA Presidential Award of Excellence

1996, Top of the Rock Golf Course Resource Management Plan - Governor's Town Treescape Award

PUBLICATIONS / SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2017, "St. Louis Sings the Blues" (Interview on the State of Stormwater in St. Louis) *Journal for Surface Water Quality*

2017, "Influencing Community Perception on Urban Design," ONE STL Sustainability Summit

2016, "Trends in Parks and Recreation," University of Missouri Sports, Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Association

2016, "Defining What Will Steward the CityArchRiver Area," NRPA Conference

2016, "Innovation Inspired by Nature," Shaw Salon Series

2016, "Cortex Innovation Community: Innovation Inspired by Design," Washington University - St. Louis

2016, "SITES as a Tool for University Campuses," Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges, Missouri Chapter

During this time, Ted also served as Principal-in-Charge for the design, construction, and development of a long-term maintenance strategy for Novus International Headquarters in 2010 under the guidelines of the Sustainable Sites Initiative. In addition to the SWT Design Campus, Novus became a second of 150 pilot projects evaluating the 2009 rating system. Earning a 3-star certification, Novus International Headquarters stood as the highest-rated sustainable landscape in the world for two years after its certification. Through his design leadership, Ted brought together more than a dozen stakeholders during the process, including the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri to redevelop this existing greyfield into a regenerative landscape that contributes to the ecological system's overall performance and biodiversity. Later published in *Landscape Architecture Magazine* in 2013, Novus continues to serve "as a model project relative to SITES refinement" (*LAM*, Feb 2013).

In 2015 Ted served as Principal-in-Charge for the master plan and phase one construction of Missouri's newest 440 acre state park in the heart of the Ozarks. This park represents Missouri's newest and largest addition to its state park system since 1933. Working in conjunction with the State of Missouri, Department of Natural Resources, and Division of State Parks, Ted led the master plan of a park that was founded on the sustained economic impact it would provide for the surrounding communities. He worked closely with Governor Jay Nixon to realize a vision for the park that would respect the natural beauty of the site, sustain development with low-impact design, and promote local, regional, and national connectivity. Phase One of the park was recently completed in 2016 with the average lead time for reserving lodging within the park currently at nine months.

As a way to give back to the local business community and educate others on the benefits of sustainable design, Ted led a collaborative effort with the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association (RCGA) in 2010 to become a more sustainable business operation as outlined by the RCGA Green Business Challenge. Ted provided leadership and resources for SWT Design employees to successfully implement and monitor environmentally-conscious improvements to the studio campus environment, including single-stream recycling, a food composting program, reduction in printing, and alternative travel methods for employees. As a result, in 2011 SWT Design was recognized for earning the highest point total on the

It isn't every day that you get to build a new state park, and the partners you choose are paramount. Ted has been a visionary leader in working with me on creating Missouri's newest state park, recognizing the impact this will have on the region for future generations. This is a legacy of which I am very proud. Echo Bluff State Park is a great success. Ted's leadership in his profession is certainly worthy of this national recognition.

Jay Nixon
Former Governor
State of Missouri

Ted H. Spaid, PLA, ASLA, CLARB

2015, "Below-Grade Exploration: Innovative Soil Solutions for Stormwater Management," *Landscape Record*, vol. 1 2015.02

2014, "Contributing to the Urban Biodiversity Network: Appropriateness Assessment," Missouri Chapter American Planning Association Conference

2013, "Welcome Back, Nature" A Corporate Three-Star SITES Project Looks No Farther Than Its Surroundings," *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, vol 103 no.2

2012, "Positive Impacts of Stormwater," St. Louis Engineers' Club

2011, "Beyond the Normal Landscape: Immersive Design," Michigan Green Industry Association

2010 - 2012, "An Overview of the Sustainable SITES Initiative," National Green Center Conference and Multiple ASLA Chapters

2010, "Stormwater Friend or Foe: Rain to Recreation," Missouri Parks and Recreation Association

2008, "Greening Your Infrastructure: Defining Infrastructure in the Public Realm," Missouri Parks and Recreation Association

2007, "Parks, Playgrounds and Conservation Areas: The Evolution of the American Park," National Garden Clubs

2006, "Going for the Green," *St. Louis Business Journal*

Green Business Challenge scorecard. In subsequent years, Ted continued his collaboration with RCGA to provide mentorship opportunities to more than 150 participating companies throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Civic Leadership.

Throughout his 35-year career as a practicing landscape architect, Ted has been dedicated to the development of the greater St. Louis community. From 2005 to 2015, Ted was the only landscape architect to serve as a City Planning Commissioner. During this time, he collaborated in the development of a city-wide comprehensive land use plan, representing the city's first update to its comprehensive plan in 60 years. The new plan was adopted in 2005, and Ted would go on as a planning commissioner to work with Mayor Francis Slay to adopt the city's first sustainability plan in 2013.

From 1996 to 1999, Ted served as one of the first inaugural members of the Forest Park Advisory Board (FPAB). Established by city ordinance, the FPAB was developed to provide ongoing citizen input into the implementation of the Forest Park Master Plan. Forest Park represents one of our nation's largest urban parks with more than 13 million annual visitors. Members are appointed by the Mayor of St. Louis and serve on a voluntary basis, representing a diverse array of expertise within the community. Within the last 22 years, Ted has navigated more than \$130 million worth of restoration projects for the park's various cultural landmarks and institutions, including the Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Science Center, The MUNY (our nation's oldest outdoor theater), and the Missouri History Museum.

Since 2008, Ted has served as an active member of the Advisory Council for Gateway Greening, a St. Louis City non-profit whose mission is to empower, educate and provide urban residents with access to fresh produce and safe open space. During his 10 years on the Advisory Council, Ted has helped the organization grow to include more than 200 gardens throughout the greater St. Louis area. In this time, Gateway Greening has seen its budget grow from \$600,000 to over \$1 million.

Ted Spaid's commitment to advancing the profession of landscape architecture is evident in his many decades of leadership in our region. On behalf of the Executive Committee of the St. Louis Chapter of ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Ted H. Spaid, PLA, ASLA, CLARB for elevation to the American Society of Landscape Architects Council of Fellows.

Sincerely,



Cory Murner, PLA, ASLA
President

ASLA St. Louis Chapter