Christopher Dacus, ASLA
Retired, City & County of Honolulu
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: Service

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Hawai‘i Chapter, it is my privilege to nominate Christopher Dacus, ASLA, for your consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: For most of his 18-year career, Chris Dacus was a public servant at the Hawai‘i Department of Transportation and Honolulu’s Department of Parks & Recreation improving Hawai‘i’s open spaces resulting in a significant impact for the state’s residents. In addition to these demanding work responsibilities, Chris also worked pro bono to improve Hawai‘i’s tropical environment through the advancement of the profession of landscape architecture and landscape professionals.

Chris has served on 17 boards with a cumulative total of over 75 years of pro bono service. Of these various boards, he was president of six. He has tirelessly championed environmental causes, leading statewide efforts to address invasive plant species, water conservation, and native plant conservation. His significant pro bono service work includes:

- For 10 years, he co-chaired a project to reduce the use of invasive plants, decreasing the use of the worst invasive plants by 87%.
- As President of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai‘i, he promoted the use of native plants. This effort included the production of a popular native plant poster, which has been reprinted by other organizations and is used among landscape architects and landscape professionals statewide.
- Chris led a diverse team of allied professionals to produce the first Landscape Irrigation Conservation Best Management Practices, which includes 26 best management practices.
- During his 9 plus years of continuous service to the American Society of Landscape Architects, Chris held many positions—culminating in his role as Hawai‘i Chapter Trustee. He promoted the Historic American Landscape Survey and led an effort to submit multiple HALS in 2011.

Through his passion, dedication and leadership, the public and allied professionals have become more aware of the impact of the work of landscape architects, and the landscape industry now employs more sustainable practices.

Under Chris’ leadership, the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai‘i was strengthened and reenergized through his initiatives. With the volunteer board, he planned, collaborated and implemented the design and launch of a new website and new logo. He took the flagging Hawai‘i Landscape newspaper and transitioned to a bimonthly color magazine supported through ad sales and mailed to 4,000 landscape professionals. Chris has given his expertise, his enthusiasm, and his considerable talents to landscape architecture and Hawai‘i.

Christy Martin, Public Information Officer
CGAPS-Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species

1.
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES [Continued]

• 2008 to 2011
  Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Public Outreach Working Group, Chair 2010-2012

• 2008 to 2011
  Hawaii Society of Urban Forestry Professionals, Vice President

• 2007 to 2014
  City & County of Honolulu, Mayor’s Arborist Advisory Committee, Vice Chair 2012 to 2014

• 2006 to Present
  Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, President 2011 to 2016

• 2006 to 2013
  American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Technical Committee on Environmental Design Member

• 2005 to 2010
  City & County of Honolulu, Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Bicycling, Chair 2008-2010

• 2004 to 2010
  American Society of Landscape Architects, Hawaii’s Chapter, President 2009

2011 to 2016
State of Hawaii Department of Health
Effluent Reuse Guideline Advisory Committee, Committee Member

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

• 2014 Dedicated Service Recognition Award, American Society of Landscape Architects

• 2012 President’s Transportation Award - Environment, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

Christopher Dacus, ASLA

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Chris spends his free time hiking, swimming, surfing, and taking landscape photography. He has a deep appreciation for Hawaii’s environment and ecology. Hence it is not surprising that—for over 10 years—Chris has served as a strong leader in the green industry while raising awareness about the importance of issues surrounding invasive and native plant species, and water conservation.

According to the Washington Post article “Is Hawaii ‘the extinction capital of the world’? Exhibit A: The ala bird.” published on April 25, 2016, Hawaii contains 39% of all endangered animal and plants found in the United States.

INVASIVE SPECIES LEADERSHIP

When the Hawaii Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) was introduced to the green industry, there was anxiety about using the WRA to ban plants since there was no benefit information included in the assessment. As the head landscape architect for the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation, Chris was front and center in the discussion. He worked with various landscape architecture and allied professionals to develop guidelines as well as a list of 134 invasive plants that should not be cultivated or planted. He traveled around the state to gather input from landscape professionals and promote the use of the WRA. The guidelines became the construction specifications for minimizing the use of and spread of invasive plants in construction. The effort decreased the use of the worst invasive plants by 87%. Now, ten years later, the WRA is widely adopted and there is no need for a black list.

Chris reached out to the conservation industry by attending countless environmental boards, often the only attending landscape industry representative. He served as the Chair of the Public Outreach Working Group of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council in 2010-2012 and the Chair of the O’ahu Invasive Species Committee in 2009-2010.

Over a ten-year period, he wrote numerous articles for Hawaii’s landscape industry professional magazine with a readership of 17,250.

Frequently, Chris took the lead role in organizing the industry response to legislative bills. He prepared industry testimonies for legislative bills and distributed them to active landscape professionals to testify. He visited state legislator offices and shared the landscape industry’s concerns.

In 2013, Chris led an effort to produce Hawaii’s first plant fashion show using non-invasive plants. Although 80 attendees were expected, the event was so popular that it required a bigger venue to accommodate 200 people, including Governor Neil Abercrombie.

While I was the president, Chris often took initiatives of his own and sought to work with the Council. As an all-volunteer organization, Chris’ efforts were especially pertinent furthering our mission to increase the use of native plants & decrease invasive species. He kept in touch with the state legislature and coordinated member efforts on legislation. The landscape industry is the better for his 12 years of service.

Boyd Real
Past-President, and Director Emeritus
Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii
NATIVE SPECIES LEADERSHIP

The Hawaiian Islands are the most isolated islands, located over 2,300 miles from the nearest continental shore, resulting in a large number of endemic species. Unfortunately, frequent introductions of invasive species have resulted in a large reduction in native species.

Chris collaborated with landscape and conservation professionals to create the Native Plant Initiative (NPI). The NPI provides a comprehensive strategy for the landscape industry to decrease the use of invasive and increase the use of native plants.

The cornerstone of the effort was the creation of the native plant poster with the top 25 most popular native plants used in the landscape. The poster provided essential information for landscape architects to make good plant selection decisions. Six thousand posters were initially printed, and 5,000 were inserted in an issue of the statewide LICH magazine that was focused on native plants. The poster was extremely popular and well received. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs reprinted thousands of copies.

Upon completion of the poster, Chris worked with a diverse group of landscape professionals to create the 2013 Native Plant Conference. This conference was one of the most well-attended LICH conferences. A large contingency of environmental professionals accounted for the increase. In addition, the conference included the first-ever LICH Sustainability Awards. The awards focused on projects that successfully utilized native plants.

Chris led a diverse team of conservation and landscape professionals to collect native plants not currently in nursery production. The sole purpose was to create a seed bank for the long-term propagation of promising native plants. The initial effort focused on the collection of the native Loulu palm, Pritchardia martii. This group conducted a dozen hikes to collect a geographically diverse set of seeds. All the seeds were propagated and subsequently planted in public spaces that would allow long-term seed collection by industry professionals.

Related to the native plant initiative, Chris secured highway funding for four hydroseed research projects to investigate the use of native grasses for highway roadside planting.

IRRIGATION WATER CONSERVATION

Upwards of 50% of water used for landscape irrigation is wasted in Hawaii. Chris recruited a committee of designers, installers, retailers and manufacturers and government officials to develop the State’s first landscape irrigation water conservation best management practices guidelines. Final BMPs included 16 Installation and 10 maintenance BMPs.
Christopher Dacus, ASLA

The resulting booklet *LICH Landscape Irrigation Conservation Best Management Practices* was distributed in 6,000 copies among landscape professionals statewide. The State of Hawai‘i Department of Natural Resources and the City & County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply reprinted another 5,000 copies of the booklet for additional distribution.

Chris recruited writers and developed a special water conservation issue of Hawai‘i’s landscape industry magazine. The same issue promoted a conference on water conservation centered on the new BMPs.

Since then, the BMP guidelines have been incorporated into various state legislative bills promoting water conservation. Chris served on the State Department of Land & Natural Resources Commission on Water Resource Management.

**ASLA SERVICE**

Chris was a member of the Hawai‘i chapter of the ASLA for over 13 years of continuous service. He served in a number of positions including President and Hawai‘i Chapter Trustee.

When Chris first joined the Board of Directors, he volunteered to create the chapter’s first website, Hawai‘iASLA.org. He chaired the ASLA Hawai‘i Chapter awards. As president, he challenged each executive committee member to individually take ownership of one educational event.

In 2011, Chris led an effort to increase the number of Historic American Landscape Surveys (HALS). A couple of HALS were created, including one by Chris. In 2014, he was recognized by ASLA for his dedicated service to the profession of landscape architecture and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Chris has served on several Boards of Directors at the national level: the Transportation Research Board Landscape and Environmental Committee and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Technical Committee on Environmental Design. Locally, he has been a board member of the State of Hawaii Scenic Byways Committee, Hawaii Restoration and Conservation Initiative, Hawaii Society of Urban Forestry Professionals, City & County of Honolulu Mayor’s Arborist Advisory Committee, University of Hawai‘i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Advisory Council, and City & County of Honolulu Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Bicycling.

**EXPERIENCE**

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<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013 - 2016</td>
<td>Executive Assistant of Historic Parks, City &amp; County of Honolulu</td>
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<td>2004 - 2013</td>
<td>Landscape Architect V, State of Hawaii Department of Transportation</td>
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<td>1993 - 2000</td>
<td>Marketing Representative, Outrigger Hotels &amp; Resorts</td>
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Chris has demonstrated that he is a leader among leaders, striving to make a difference in the landscape industry. One of his many accomplishments was recruiting diverse landscape professionals and government officials to develop Hawai‘i’s first landscape irrigation water conservation BMP guidelines. These included 26 installation/maintenance BMPs which, through his lobbying, were incorporated into various state legislative bills promoting water conservation by various water users and eventually adopted by government agencies.

Allan G. Schildknecht, ASLA
Past President,
Hawaii Chapter ASLA
Irrigation Design Consultant
Christopher Dacus, ASLA

CHAPTER LETTER OF SUPPORT:

For the past 13 years, Chris Dacus has served as a public servant and worked with numerous nonprofit organizations to make Hawai‘i a better place for the next generation. He provided the leadership and the tools for landscape architects to make a difference. He worked with allied professions, earned the public’s appreciation, and demonstrated the value of landscape architecture.

Although his career was cut short by Parkinson's disease, he has been true to himself and is now focused on improving the lives of people with Parkinson's with his website, www.movingparkinsons.com. He most recently completed a 1,080-mile walk from Spain to Rome to increase awareness and share his 10 points to living well with Parkinson's disease.

He continues to serve on landscape-related organizations, demonstrating his commitment to the local community and to the profession of landscape architecture. He is an example of how service can make a sustaining difference in the community.

As Chris often says, even with Parkinson's Disease, “his best days are ahead of him.” We fully expect Chris to continue to be a great service to our community.

It gives our chapter great pleasure to recognize his continuous and sustained service to the public and the profession of landscape architecture. The Hawai‘i Chapter of the ASLA nominates Chris Dacus for ASLA Council of Fellow for service.

Aloha,

Grace Zheng, ASLA
Hawai‘i ASLA Chapter President
David Gorden, ASLA
Landscape Architect, Mark M. Holeman, Inc.
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: SERVICE

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Indiana Chapter ASLA it is my privilege to nominate David Gorden, ASLA, for your consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For nearly 30 years, David Gorden has had a profound and long-term impact on the profession of landscape architecture nationally through his advocacy, representation outside the profession, technical advisory positions, and wide-ranging community service. He has provided a guiding presence and strong voice for the profession through his countless leadership positions on a diverse variety of local, state, and national committees, boards, advisory groups, and societies. In doing so, he has increased knowledge within the profession and greatly promoted landscape architecture to allied professionals and the general public.

The national and regional impacts of David’s many avenues of service all stem from his desire to see that landscape architects are appropriately represented in initiatives where they should be, sometimes beyond the precise boundary of the profession. He regularly finds himself as the only landscape architect in many of his endeavors, and he relishes the opportunity to serve as a representative of his profession in a manner that evokes its professionalism, creativity, and breadth of knowledge. Specifically, his work with invasive plant control has brought a broader perspective on this issue to landscape architects and to people throughout the Midwest. His involvement with the Indianapolis Museum of Art has supported, promoted, protected, and enhanced nationally important works of landscape architecture. His involvement with the Indiana Chapter of ASLA (INASLA) has focused on increasing outside recognition, leading successful service projects, and engaging its members in events and issues that increase their knowledge and standing in the community.

David is typically engaged in several volunteer commitments at once—all outside of his regular work. He not only seeks to serve where he thinks landscape architects should have a presence, but is regularly recruited by groups seeking his leadership, knowledge, and enthusiasm. David’s brand of service improves environments for people, provides additional tools for practicing landscape architects, and promotes the profession beyond its chapters and practitioners.

INCREASING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES

In 2001 David became a participant in the invasive plants discussion that was formalizing in Indiana. He recognized the issue’s relevance to the profession and wanted to make sure landscape architecture was represented. He stepped up as a founding member of the Indiana Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working...
David Gorden, ASLA

Group, a committee including representatives of state agencies, the nursery industry, agricultural groups, and conservation nonprofits. David remains an active member of the now-named Indiana Invasive Plant Advisory Committee as its sole landscape architect, more than 15 years after its inception. He is also the only landscape architect on the board of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN), a regional organization working to reduce the impact of invasive plants throughout the Midwest. During his years of service with invasive species control, David has spoken at conferences about the role of landscape architects in the management and control of invasive plants, spoken about this topic to fellow landscape architects at INASLA Annual Conferences and students at LABASH, provided updates for newsletters, guest lectured multiple times for landscape architecture classes, and enlightened his Committee and MIPN colleagues about ASLA’s policies on invasive species. He has been an active participant in the ongoing statewide assessments of plants—studies to determine plants’ degrees of invasiveness, based on their spread, controllability, and other science. Of particular value has been his knowledge of the commercial availability and use by the public and professionals of plants that could be considered invasive. He has helped produce and distribute educational materials for the general public and landscape professionals on invasive species, including suggestions of alternative plants.

This work is about changing procedures, understanding, and minds, and is therefore unlikely to win awards, not being a definable “project.” However, David’s work has become the standard reference—the standard way of doing things—across the Midwest. The tangible impact of David’s service is that landscape architects, students, and the public have become more aware of the threat of invasive species and the choices of possible alternatives. Working side by side with scientists, naturalists, land managers, and other partners involved in preserving and enhancing biodiversity, he has increased the credibility of the profession with his presence and valuable contributions. Most recently he has brought his plant passion to the Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund, a national, ASLA-supported initiative. For the 2018 “Tour des Trees,” a 500+ mile bike ride, David will captain “Team ASLA,” a group of cycling landscape architects, as it raises funds to connect youth with green careers.

PROTECTING AND SHOWCASING LANDSCAPES AND GARDENS

Driven by his love of gardens, plants, and design, David began active leadership service with the Indianapolis Museum of Art’s (IMA) Horticultural Society in 2009, having been a member for many years prior. The IMA is a unique institution in that, in addition to its encyclopedic visual art collection, it curates a suite of designed landscapes and buildings, including the circa-1920’s Lilly House and Oldfields landscape created by Percival Gallagher of the Olmsted Brothers firm, and the Miller House in Columbus, Indiana, with its Dan Kiley-designed landscape. The Horticultural Society is the community steward of the IMA’s landscape works. David served as the Society’s president for four years, overseeing fund-raising.
David Gorden, ASLA

2000-present, Advisor and designer, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

2004-2008, Indiana Board of Registration for Architects and Landscape Architects (Chair 2005-2006)

2004-2007, Board of Directors, Indiana Urban Forest Council

2000-2001, Chair, Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society Annual Conference

1998-2004, Indianapolis Art Center Building Committee

1991-1996, McKenzie Career Center Horticulture Program Advisory Committee


PRO-BONO SERVICE-RELATED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND CLASSES

2016, LABASH, “Invasives and Landscape Architects”

2014, Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, “The Role of Landscape Architects in the Control of Invasive Plants”


Ball State University Department of Landscape Architecture

Purdue University Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

White River Gardens, Indianapolis

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1989-present, Design Manager/Partner, Mark M. Holeman, Inc., Indianapolis

1982-1989, Tour Escort, Ambassadair Travel Club / ATA Airlines, Indianapolis


1978-1979, Gardener, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL

David’s background as a landscape architect and his active involvement has been extremely valuable in bringing significant attention to the museum’s gardens and landscape. He has connected my staff with many others in the profession. In his volunteer activities for the museum, he has well represented the principles and skills inherent in the profession. Very importantly, he has been a loyal friend and mentor to me in managing our facility and it’s important historic landscapes.

David has additionally provided years of volunteer service to a variety of landscape-related organizations, including five years on the horticulture program advisory committee for the McKenzie Center for Innovation and Technology, a career center for local high schools. He was twice chair of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society’s annual conference (for which he ensured landscape architects were featured speakers), served as a board member for the Indiana Urban Forest Council, and ten times has served on the design committee for the St. Margaret’s Hospital Guild Decorators’ Show House and Gardens, a major fundraising event that has raised more than $4 million during David’s time of service. Five times he has received the Guild’s “Maggie’s Award,” given annually to one landscape designer who “goes above and beyond the call of duty.” While his fundraising efforts for IMA were about using a gala to raise funds for needed garden projects, the St. Margaret’s service is the inverse: it uses a garden show to raise funds for local health service programs. David’s landscape expertise is relied upon to make the show a success. Through landscape-related service, David

In 2017, David coordinated the Indianapolis edition of the Cultural Landscape Foundation’s nationally known series of What’s Out There Weekends. He designed and organized tours, planned receptions, and contributed to the publication of a guidebook and creation of a database of landscape architectural works. More than 1000 local residents participated in the weekend’s events, ensuring that the general public experienced firsthand the landscapes they see every day but often overlook. As a member of Indiana Landmarks’s Cultural Landscapes Committee he continues to work, beyond this one weekend, to preserve, protect, and promote his state’s historic landscapes.
David Gorden, ASLA

is helping improve health outcomes in Indianapolis. The impact of David’s service goes way beyond the profession—reaching out to community members with significant needs.

BUILDING AWARENESS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

In addition to serving outside the profession, David has committed 20 years to the Indiana Chapter of ASLA. The focus of his work has been on increasing exposure of and recognition for the profession, serving the community, and enabling practitioners to broaden their knowledge and experiences. He has held a variety of positions with INASLA through the years, including Vice-President, President, Trustee (in which role he has served since 2013), and chair of two annual meetings and INASLA’s 30th anniversary celebration. Three times David has been recognized by INASLA for his long time contributions to it and the profession. In 2017 and 2000 he received the Chapter’s Outstanding Service Award and in 2010 was presented with its highest honor, the Claire Bennett Legacy Award.

David was chapter president in 1999 and coordinated the chapter’s variety of ASLA centennial activities. In this critical year, David’s regional service had national impact, as all ASLA chapters came together to promote the profession across the United States and beyond. David planned the placement of the ten Indiana ASLA Centennial Medallions and organized a chapter public service and awareness project called the 100 Trees School Planting Program, which won a Gold Leaf Award from the International Society of Arboriculture and the Indiana Arborists Association. With funding from an Indiana Department of Natural Resources grant, the program planted 142 trees on 25 school grounds throughout the state. Following David’s guidelines, chapter members across Indiana carried out planting events that included educational sessions about landscape architecture and the value of trees. This program was entirely led by David. He wrote the initial grant application, managed the funding, coordinated volunteers, and secured the plants.

In another service project for the centennial (part of ASLA’s “100 Parks, 100 Years” program), David oversaw the creation of a new trailhead on the popular Monon Trail at the Indiana School for the Blind. Working with students and staff, David coordinated design and construction and procured donated materials and construction services. He led students on planting days and then managed several post-planting clean-ups for chapter member volunteers. David has since continued his pro bono relationship with the school, and is currently working to expand the school’s horticultural studies facility. His long-term service with the School for the Blind—born out of a chapter service project—has had a positive impact on hundreds of children. David shows how landscaping, horticulture, and design is a real possibility for these students, regardless of physical limitations.

From 2004 to 2008, David served on the State’s Board of Registration for Architects and Landscape Architects, chairing the board in 2005 and 2006. He helped write the language for the state’s initial continuing education requirements and coordinated implementation and enforcement. To educate chapter members, he wrote an overview on the new rules for the chapter newsletter and presented an educational session at the annual meeting. His knowledge of continuing education and willingness to serve garnered attention beyond the Midwest and led to his 2017 appointment with national impact: ASLA’s representative to the LA CES Monitoring Committee.

Since the earliest days of his INASLA involvement, David has been the primary link between the chapter and the state’s green industry. For 14 years he organized an annual luncheon at the Indiana Green Expo that featured a noted landscape architect speaking to the gathered throng of nursery and construction professionals. From 2002 to 2012 he represented the chapter in its involvement with the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Monumental Awards by serving on the program’s steering committee and as the jury chair for the landscape architecture category. This prestigious award program recognizes projects that best improve the city through development, beautification, and design. The prominent presence of landscape architects in this program introduces or reinforces the profession to other design professionals, elected officials, municipal staff members, developers, and businesses.

IMPROVING LIVES LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

David has a strong belief in giving back to the community and has done so generously and with significant positive impact. He is the sole landscape architect on the land use committee of the Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association where he lives, in which capacity he spends his own out-of-work time reviewing development proposals for consistency with neighborhood plans and needs. He has additionally organized several neighborhood tree plantings, participated in design charrettes, and even took a leadership role in developing a pocket park in the neighborhood. For this Monumental Award winning project, David was part of the pro bono design team and then coordinated and personally participated in the
David Gorden, ASLA

construction. He continues to assist with volunteer maintenance of the park. David’s service has created lasting benefit in the neighborhood. David has also worked with Binford Redevelopment and Growth (BRAG), a neighborhood group near his office. On a fully pro-bono basis, David produced planting plans for beautification of a one-mile stretch of commercial boulevard, and assisted in the organization of a volunteer work day during which more than 800 community members planted 200 trees and thousands of shrubs, perennials, and bulbs. This project also won a Monumental Award, along with recognition from the International Society of Arboriculture and the Indiana Arborists Association.

For fifteen years, David has served Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), an organization with the mission of enhancing the visual and environmental quality of the city. During that time he has participated in or led nearly twenty volunteer activities, including fund-raising events; neighborhood tree plantings; career education events; highway bulb plantings; a school landscape plan; and planting plans for street medians, a downtown park, and other community sites. In 2016 David coordinated landscape work carried out by 75 volunteers in as part of a city-wide corporate day of service.

David’s service to the community has extended far beyond Indiana. He has led or been a part of eleven work teams traveling to Bolivia, Cuba, South Africa, and elsewhere to carry out construction projects on medical, educational, residential, or religious sites. Most recently, in 2017, he was given an award of recognition for his work in Bolivia on a rural health care clinic. The impact of this local and international community service is the improvement of people’s day-to-day lives. Because of David’s service, people have more beautiful, healthier, and better functioning neighborhoods in which to live, work, and play.

For more than two decades, David has had a profound impact on the profession and on community members in Indiana, nationally, and beyond borders. He has selflessly served people and the profession by bringing his expertise, experience, and knowledge to a wide range of working groups, awards programs, neighborhood organizations, and horticultural societies. His long-term service to INASLA is exemplary, but he has not been content to work within the chapter. As president and in other roles, he has reached beyond the chapter to connect with neighborhoods, with the green industry, and with the Indianapolis government and development community. He has had significant regional and national impact in the area of his first love—plants and gardens—through his work on invasive species control and service with nationally significant landscapes at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. He has helped to beautify multiple Indianapolis neighborhoods, thereby improving quality of life for thousands of residents.

The kind of service to which David has committed does not always garner awards—though he does have many accolades of recognition. Instead, his work has variously inspired others to expand their own service, has become standard practice in the profession, or has bettered peoples’ lives in myriad small ways that don’t usually warrant formal thanks. David has happily served the profession outside of his regular work and without expectation of recognition, and in doing so he has improved the landscape of the region and quality of life for its residents. He has increased the tools landscape architects have available to do their work. He has actively promoted the profession through his presence on boards and committees, through his chapter service projects, and through his community workdays and fundraisers. He has raised significant sums of money for both social causes and the stewardship of iconic landscapes.

For nearly three decades of exceptional and generous service to the profession through leadership and advocacy—both inside and outside the profession, and for the resultant positive impact on the profession and the community, David Gorden is worthy of elevation to the ASLA Council of Fellows.

Sincerely,

April Westcott, ASLA, President
Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
Kas Kinkead, ASLA
Principal, Cascade Design Collaborative
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: SERVICE

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Washington Chapter ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Kas Kinkead, ASLA, for your consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Kas is a recognized leader in the profession of landscape architecture, in the City of Seattle, at the state level and at the national level. She has brought the role of the profession to the table for sustainable building, green infrastructure/LID, and public K-12 educational facilities – elevating the conversation with her diplomacy, technical expertise, and conviction. Kas has dedicated her professional career to the public realm. For 25 years, Kas has been an invaluable part of several organizations that focus on promoting women in design, championing the role of landscape architects in the design of our public schools, developing low-impact development strategies, and strengthening communities.

HISTORY OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES
ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE – State Contributions

From 1992 to 1998, Kas served as a board member for the Association for Women in Architecture (AWA), as president, newsletter editor, and conference planner. Kas played an instrumental role, building a network of support for women in architecture, planning, landscape architecture and construction at a time when women were becoming leaders in largely male-dominated offices. In addition to facilitating monthly meetings, numerous networking events, and editing the monthly newsletter, Kas helped establish a tradition of annual dinners (Women in Power) to honor local women leaders in the City of Seattle. Fund raising for the organization was successful enough to create an annual scholarship for women students in architecture and landscape architecture at the University of Washington (UW). One of the final conferences Kas organized honored the tenureship of Dr. Sharon Sutton, the first African American woman professor in the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Washington.

Annual work parties were coordinated by Kas – one-day events or spanning an entire weekend – women got hands-on experience with building projects, collaborating with Habitat for Humanity and other housing non-profits. The work parties gained popularity – enough to attract leading women at UW and Seattle’s planning and housing offices. Weekend work parties gave participants the opportunity to build lasting bonds across disciplines – women contractors showed women-in-design how to wield a hammer and square a footing in the field. Though it’s been 20 years, those bonds remain.

Kas is a national leader on the design of effective spaces that support education. She is committed to the creation of rich, sustainable and interactive places for learning that reinforce collaboration between students and the natural environment. Her work has resulted in exemplary spaces that teach by example. Her contributions and distinctive body of work have significantly influenced clients, institutions and colleagues on a Regional and National level, greatly enhancing the practice of landscape architecture.

Gerald Butch Reifert, FAIA, Former Managing Partner, Mahlum Architects (Retired)
Kas Kinkead, ASLA

MOVING TO A LARGER STAGE

Leading AWA gave Kas confidence in her standing as a professional who could work as an equal with sister professions. She found her interest in public K-12 educational facilities designs and combined her commitment to public works and her belief in the importance of bringing nature to our public spaces and into learning.

She teamed up with professors from the UW to give numerous presentations on environmental education and site learning opportunities (see sidebar) at ASLA national and other national, regional, and local venues. Partnering with professors of education, Kas was able to apply the perspective of educational pedagogies, learning theory and delivery models, and approaches of how the site could support learning. Early efforts were met with resistance, even outrage, that she was advocating ‘environmental education,’ grounding in learning theory, and effective approaches of teaching using hands-on-learning or project-based-learning. Kas gained valuable experience navigating the teachers’ and the facility directors’ worlds by introducing the importance of well-crafted, educational site design.

SCHOOL FACILITIES ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAB/TAC) – State Contributions With a National Effect

In 2000 Kas was appointed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to represent ASLA on a state review committee that provided oversight for the state’s public K-12 facilities. The committee, now known as the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), is a team of allied professionals involved in the construction and management of design for publicly funded K-12 schools. Kas has served as Chair twice and contributed to a number of the ad hoc committees. She represented the landscape architects of the state and reminded architects and facility directors the importance of site and its significant impact on learning. We now have a law in the state recognizing outdoor classrooms as a valid place of learning and potentially eligible for state funding.

In 2003 LEED silver was suggested as a baseline for all publicly funded buildings including K-12 schools. As a member of the TAC, Kas served on the Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol (WSSP) committee that crafted an alternative to LEED. Kas was instrumental in securing the inclusion of stormwater, Low Impact Development (LID) strategies, soil management and compost amended soils, as well as irrigation auditing and scheduling as part of the credits. Over the three years it took to get the law passed, Kas testified numerous times in front of the Senate and House Committee sessions reviewing the draft legislation as the bills evolved and the success of sustainable projects advanced. The effort resulted in legislative changes which require all state-assisted K-12 new construction or significant modernizations to be designed to a sustainable high-performance standard. Kas remains involved in the ongoing efforts to update the WSSP and this year drafted a new credit for outdoor classrooms. She coordinated with the curriculum directors, helping them to translate the learning objectives into design criteria. The State of Washington

Her partnership, passion and determination to provide integrated educational learning environments are evident in her work with the Bainbridge Island School District. Kas’ designs challenge students to pursue an intimate understanding of nature and sustainability while reflecting on their personal commitment to the environment. She personalizes projects through a methodical understanding of the educational goals, community values and age appropriate connections to landscape.

Tamela Van Winkle, Executive Director Facilities, Operations and Capital Projects, Bainbridge Island School District
Kas Kinkead, ASLA

now has a formalized set of guidelines that will inspire future school buildings to consider the inclusion of outdoor classrooms and gain a green credit in the process.

ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS (A4LE) (Formerly known as the Council of Education Facilities Planners International - CEFPI) - Local Chapters and National Presence

At Kas’ first national A4LE (formerly CEFPI) conference in 2000, two A4LE members asked her, “As the only landscape architect here, what do you think of our award-winning projects?” Kas responded that she was dismayed and deeply concerned that there was no thought given to the site. In response they challenged her to get involved.

In 2008 Kas worked with research scientists and professors in childhood development at Washington State University to present their findings on how play affects learning. In 2011 she collaborated on a presentation with a local chef who was designing kitchens and food delivery from Farm to Table for schools. For the national A4LE symposia in 2014, Kas brought in a leading professor and author specializing in brain development patterns of emerging adolescents. In June of that year she planned a symposium for the local chapter entitled “Outdoor Learning: Elements Attributes and Curriculum,” a one-day symposium at the Bloedel Reserve, a stunning landscape designed by a group of notable landscape architects, including Rich Haag. For the symposium, Kas brought in state leaders for the Next Generation Science Standards and a local school district director of curriculum to talk about the new learning standards. The setting was well suited for project-based learning, compelling architects and facility directors to participate in outdoor hands-on learning projects.

Kas was originally the only landscape architect attending A4LE events; however, today there are many landscape architects in attendance who she has inspired to get involved. Her presence in the room reminds other architects in attendance who she has inspired to get involved.

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Kas's greatest accomplishments may have been her concentrated work with the development and implementation of the Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol (WSSP). I have personally known Kas to be a dedicated and valued friend who is esteemed by a great many other professionals.

Gordon Beck, Director of School Facilities and Organization, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Retired)

I have had the great privilege to know Ms. Kinkead and be familiar with her efforts to improve design and construction for K-12 schools in the state of Washington for fifteen years. Kas’s greatest accomplishments...
Kas Kinkead, ASLA

delivery models, and design theory. Out of state architects were often surprised to find her in attendance, but were quickly convinced of the valuable addition.

Following the conferences Kas was invited to serve as a national juror representing A4LE for the National School Board Association Awards for Schools held in Washington D.C. That same year she was invited to be a participant of a weeklong workshop run by the American Architectural Foundation’s Great Schools program. In both cases, Kas was at the table as the only landscape architect.

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) / GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – Regional Contributions With a National Effect

Kas was invited to the first training in the state of Washington for Low Impact Development (LID) sponsored by the Department of Defense as they embarked on master planning for the army base in 1999. From contacts at that multi-day workshop, she was invited to join the advisory committee for the first Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound and then again for the revisions in 2009. Lively arguments with civil engineers and state public works directors drove Kas to dive deep into the research to support her firm conviction that LID, bioretention, and compost-amended soils were vital to the system of stormwater cleansing and essential to the burgeoning field of green infrastructure. Her research into LID helped formulate her work on the state's Sustainable Schools Protocol.

By using her connections in the LID community she began to cross pollinate the LID discipline leaders with the A4LE organization, facilitating education on the new stormwater approaches. She invited a prominent LID hydrogeologist to a number of A4LE conferences to present strategies, argue LID topics, and provide evidence on the effectiveness – especially cost effectiveness – of LID strategies. Throughout the built environment community, Kas is known for having a detailed understanding of soil sciences and the process of bioretention systems. She has assisted the City of Seattle with their soil specifications, working with their soil vendors and geotechnical engineers, helping them define what is needed for success. She has been asked to review other agencies’ soil specifications, most recently for the Seattle School District. Recognized as a leader in the field, Kas has been invited to present to students, enjoying the great pleasure of working with students from elementary to high schools as they take on green infrastructure on their own campus (Anacortes rain garden construction project – funded by Monsanto; and Tahoma School District, middle school). Kas provided pro-bono services to Peter Donaldson and his Sustainability Ambassadors program to create a LID manual for schools (http://www.sustainabilityambassadors.org/lid-manual-for-schools), and she remains involved as a Sustainability Ambassador. In 2016 she gave a presentation, titled School Campus Stormwater Solutions, now featured on their national website. I invite you to review it at http://www.sustainabilityambassadors.org/apps/videos/videos/show/18826282-school-campus-stormwater-solutions

Kas has brought a professional design perspective to two capital campaigns and the strategy for ongoing management of two 100+ year old landmarked buildings. She’s talked down nervous parents who wanted to deforest the campus, has come out to jump on a rotting tree stump on a Friday night to assess the damage, and makes us laugh with crazy (but true!) stories. Kas has provided significant in-kind design and regularly advises on site projects.

Lee Harper, Phinney Neighborhood Association, Executive Director
Kas Kinkead, ASLA

PHINNEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (PNA) – Local Contributions Creating a National Model Neighborhood

As part of her interest in community building and sustainability, Kas became involved with the Phinney Neighborhood Association (PNA), a model community organization recognized at the state level for providing valuable community services. The organization was taking on an ambitious expansion project to improve accessibility to its National Landmarked building. Kas served as chair on the committee that advised and provided oversight for the project, providing many hours of consultation, review, and advice to the Executive Director. Early on the PNA embraced the Living Building Challenge and an alternative project delivery – Integrated Project Delivery – which gained national attention, subsequently receiving an invitation to present at the Living Building Conference in Vancouver, BC. Kas continues to serve on the board and as site committee chair as the non-profit embarks on site improvement projects and the acquisition of new property.

STATE LICENSURE – State & Professional Contributions

Up until 2000 the state of Washington had only a title act for landscape architects. When that law was set to sunset Kas worked with other WASLA members to develop and deliver testimony at the State Capitol to convince legislators that landscape architects deserved a practice act. Over the span of two legislative sessions, she headed to our state capitol to testify at critical hearings for the bills that were being proposed, coordinating with the chapter to fight back on amendments that were detrimental to the profession.

CASCADE DESIGN COLLABORATIVE (CDC)

As President of CDC, Kas’ mission is to focus 100% of the firm’s energy and effort on improving the public realm. The CDC philosophy is that the quality of our public environment defines the quality of who we are as a culture - and the firm holds a deep commitment to the idea that few public environments are more important than those that house this nation’s children. Kas has been a driver for excellent design in public education for 30 years. She is intentionally designing for the future good.

CHAPTER PRESIDENT SUMMARY

As you can see, Kas Kinkead has performed exceptional neighborhood, local, state, and national service for the profession of landscape architecture. She is an excellent candidate for Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. As a professional in the State of Washington I am deeply grateful for the work Ms. Kinkead has done on our behalf. She has increased the expectations of what our profession brings to educational projects and green infrastructure. Reaching well beyond the “shrub-it-up” approach, Kas has brought to the forefront meaningful dialogue and a command of technical detail. Over the years, she has been the landscape architect shaping the outlook of architects and engineers through presentations and conferences. I love the idea that she has inserted our perspective overtly, and sometimes subtly, into the built environment conversation. Kas is an inspiration for how to get involved, influence, and effect positive change. I truly believe that she has crafted a larger role for us in the industry.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Thompson, ASLA
President, Washington Chapter, ASLA