

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: The Hon. Robert A. Peck, Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
U.S. General Services Administration

Nominator: Thomas R. Tavella, FASLA

Some of the best news last year for the landscape architecture profession—and for the design industry in general—was that President Obama appointed Robert A. Peck to be his Commissioner of GSA’s Public Buildings Service (PBS). Bob had held this position from 1996 until 2001 for President Clinton, with much success. He is the first PBS Commissioner who has recognized the importance of federal landscape architecture and the role of landscape architects. There is no public servant more devoted to achieving design excellence in the public realm and it is a privilege for me to nominate him for honorary membership in our Society.

As PBS Commissioner, Bob heads the agency responsible for the nationwide asset management, design, construction, leasing, building management and disposal for 354 million square feet of government-owned and leased space, accommodating one million federal workers. Additionally, he oversees an annual budget of more than \$8 billion and a workforce of 6,300. Between his terms as PBS Commissioner, Bob served as president of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and as a managing director of Jones Lang LaSalle, where he advised corporations, governments, and nonprofit institutions on real estate portfolio strategy and on public-private, mixed-use developments.

His prior federal experience includes positions at the Office of Management and Budget, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Federal Communications Commission. He was associate counsel to the Committee on Environment and Public Works and Chief of Staff to the late U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He has also been vice president for public affairs at the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Bob served as a Special Forces officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. He is a past president of the D.C. Preservation League, a former appointee to the D.C. Board of Education, and has served on numerous other public and nonprofit boards. Bob holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School, and was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design.

An Advocate for Design Excellence in the Public Realm

Bob’s passionate advocacy for public design dates back to his work for Sen. Moynihan, for many years the Senate’s arbiter of public works. He contributed to the landmark book, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in U.S. Government Building*, published by the National Endowment for the Arts in the early 1980s, which upheld the philosophy that the values of nation are reflected in its public buildings.

As vice president of AIA, Bob helped redirect federal transportation policy from highway construction to multi-modal transportation solutions that fit the needs of each community. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Act (ISTEA) restructured funding formulas to give states and communities incentives to invest in planning, public transportation, intermodal solutions, and transportation enhancements. Bob authored much of the language that turned what had previously been known as "The Highway Bill" into a national transportation policy. He helped organize the Livable Communities Coalition and the Surface Transportation Policy Project. Bob invited ASLA to join these groups as a founding member, recognizing the vital role landscape architects play in creating successful surface transportation projects.

In his first term as PBS Commissioner, just after the Oklahoma City bombing, Bob worked with ASLA on security design, acknowledging that the most of the best tactics for preventing crime or terrorist actions lay in the landscape. GSA co-sponsored ASLA's two symposia on security design and incorporated many of the findings into federal guidelines and policies. In 2000, Bob signed a partnering charter between GSA and ASLA publicly acknowledging the important role of landscape architecture in successful federal projects and outlining broad areas of collaboration between the agency and the Society. Eventually, this led to federal procurement opportunities for landscape architects to receive prime contract awards.

A Leader in Sustainability

Now that Bob is back in what he calls "the best job in real estate" he is turning his focus to green building technologies and pushing GSA demonstrate innovative sustainable solutions in its projects in communities across the nation. GSA received \$5.55 billion to spend on public buildings under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to convert federal facilities into high-performance green buildings, as well as to build new energy-efficient federal buildings, courthouses, and land ports of entry. Bob says this not only means creating jobs, but "turning the money into energy-conservation outcomes in public buildings" and leaving "a long-term legacy" for the country.

Knowing Bob, GSA will use these resources to launch a program of continuous innovation, becoming a green proving ground, testing and demonstrating strategies as models for the industry, rather than the other way around. Although he's only been back in office since last August, he's already announced renovation of the 18-story federal building in Portland, Oregon, with a vertical green wall on one entire side, low flow fixtures, and recycled roof water. And I think he's just getting warmed up.

Many people are smart, *or* educated, *or* effective, but Bob Peck is all three. Our nation is very fortunate to have him back in public service where his passion, enthusiasm, and endless energy can do the most good. His recognition by ASLA is long overdue and I recommend him highly for this honor.

Rodney L. Swink, FASLA
825 Babcock Court
Raleigh, NC 27609

ASLA Board of Trustees
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Honorary Membership for Bob Peck

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

I support the nomination of Bob Peck for Honorary Membership in ASLA. I had the pleasure of working with Bob while he was affiliated with the General Services Administration. As President-elect and later President I met with Bob and his staff to discuss ways to advance the presence of landscape architecture not only within GSA but also within other Federal agencies. Bob was more than receptive; he was supportive and encouraging and he was very direct that our profession needed to be more engaged in Federal endeavors, and he worked to make it possible.

The efforts that continue today to advance the role and visibility of landscape architects in key government agencies are built upon the foundation that Bob Peck and others laid. He demonstrated an appreciation for what we do and a recognition of the value of collaboration among disciplines. He is very deserving of this consideration and would be honored by our action. I hope that you will join me in supporting his nomination.

Sincerely;



Rodney L. Swink, FASLA



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Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

I strongly support Bob Peck's nomination for honorary membership in ASLA. For many years, he's shared our vision for design excellence in the public realm and I can think of no better way to recognize his good work than to make him an honorary member of our profession.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my endorsement,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Nicolaus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John H. Nicolaus, FASLA

Ellen C. Stewart, ASLA
City of Saint Paul
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
25 West 4th Street, 400 CHA
St. Paul, MN 55102

ASLA Board of Trustees
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

I extend this letter of support for the nomination of Robert A. Peck as submitted by Thomas Tavella, FASLA for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Throughout his career, Robert Peck's work has demonstrated continuous and strong support, for and understanding of, the practice of landscape architecture. His repeated involvement of landscape architects in federal projects emphasizes his recognition that the practice is integral to the creation and preservation of enriched public properties. The result is a tangible legacy of the federal government that exhibits the value of our profession among the other design practices.

It is without hesitation that I support and encourage Robert Peck's nomination for honorary membership in our Society.

Sincerely,



Ellen C. Stewart, ASLA



ASLA Board of Trustees
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator
636 Eye St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Carolyn:

It gives me great pleasure to support the nomination of the Hon. Robert A. Peck, Public Buildings Service Commissioner of the US GSA, for honorary membership in the ASLA.

Bob demonstrated his commitment to design excellence in the public realm and his understanding of the importance of landscape architecture when he first held this position in the Clinton administration from 1996-2001. In the aftermath of the tragic Oklahoma City bombing, he led the effort to engage the ASLA and landscape architects in the conversation about appropriate strategies for security design. During this time, he co-sponsored ASLA symposia on security design and integrated many of the findings from those sessions into federal policies and design guidelines. Further, he signed a partnering charter between GSA and the ASLA that recognized the value of landscape architecture to the success of federal projects. It also laid out in general terms potential areas for future collaboration between the two organizations. This was a highly significant public show of support that led to landscape architects being eligible to receive prime federal contracts.

With his re-appointment to the GSA in the Obama administration, he is now championing green building technologies and innovative sustainable design solutions, an agenda that offers a myriad of opportunities for additional collaborations with the ASLA as well as project opportunities for landscape architects across the country.

It is my sincere hope that the Board will recognize the many ways Bob has helped to advance the work of landscape architects and visibility for the profession by awarding him honorary membership in the Society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Kesler".

Gary Kesler, FASLA

ASLA Board of Trustees

c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator

636 Eye St. NW

Washington, DC 20001

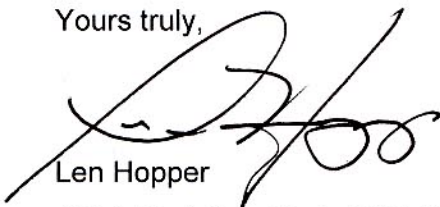
Dear Board of Trustees,

It is an honor and pleasure to offer this letter of support for the Honorary Membership of Bob Peck in ASLA. As President of ASLA in 2001, I had the great opportunity of working with Bob and members of his staff at the General Services Administration on a number of site security issues. Bob was serving as Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service at that time. The culmination of this series of meetings was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between GSA and ASLA that helped define a working relationship between our two organizations. Bob very much recognized the value of landscape architects in his agency and what their talents could contribute to the work of the GSA.

His reappointment as Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service by President Obama and his current focus on green initiatives will certainly bring together exciting opportunities for collaboration between GSA and ASLA. Bob's enlightened awareness of green initiatives coupled with his outstanding leadership qualities will certainly bring positive change to this critically important area that we all share a common concern and desire to improve.

Therefore, I whole heartedly support Bob Peck's nomination for Honorary Membership in ASLA. He is a true friend and important contributor to our Society's goals and objectives, and is very deserving of this special recognition.

Yours truly,



Len Hopper

ASLA Past President, 2000-2001