



# OLIN

ASLA Community Service Award Nominations  
c/o Honors and Awards  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

February 1, 2019

Dear ASLA Community Service Award Nominations, Executive Committee:

It is my privilege to nominate Kimberlee Douglas, RLA, ASLA, for the ASLA Community Service Award. Kim's candidacy for this award is distinguished by a career dedicated to bringing the best principles, practices, and values of landscape architecture to bear in support of healthy, equitable, safe, and resilient environments for all. Throughout her more than thirty years in practice, Kim's contributions to the field of landscape architecture have been rooted in the notion that great design advances the needs and ambitions of the communities it serves. She sees in the design profession that we have the opportunity to not only create beautiful spaces, but to wield our talent, experience, and time to make such spaces possible and accessible for all communities, including those that do not have the financial resources that would otherwise be needed to engage in a professional design and construction process.

Kim's commitment to service and engagement with communities in need is visible throughout her career, as a practitioner and educator. In founding STUDIO GAEA, Kim created an award-winning landscape architectural firm that specializes in projects that combine a well-considered design aesthetic with sustainable and community-driven design solutions. She considers each project not only for its natural systems but also its social, historic and economic frameworks. This commitment to thoughtful, inclusive design has driven the studio's engagement in pro bono work under Kim's leadership, including her role in co-designing and completing Philadelphia's Titan Park Master Plan, and her award-winning conceptual Master Plan for the City's George W. Nebbinger Elementary School.

While Kim's career has been frequently punctuated by community service and pro bono work, her work for the public good is perhaps best manifest in her commitment to fostering the design education of burgeoning landscape architecture students. In teaching and showing how landscape architecture design can truly make a difference, she leverages students' talent and energy, alongside her own, to serve communities in need of support.

Since becoming director of Thomas Jefferson University's landscape architecture program in 2014, Kim has been the driving force behind a number of innovative projects that empower communities to enhance their own public space. Her steadfast ethic of service has helped to advance visibility of the profession, while engaging a broad set of diverse participants.

Kim understands the value of instilling in young designers both empathy and curiosity about the lives of others. As Director of Jefferson's Lab for Urban + Social Innovation (LUSI), Kim helped to establish the Lab as a mechanism for uniting communities, students, faculty and stakeholders in collective action through real-world design, construction, and environmental projects. A collaborative design-based initiative, LUSI's mission is to connect, inspire, and transform the neighborhoods of Philadelphia. While working alongside communities in an inclusive, human-centered approach, the Lab employs a wide range of sustainable strategies and applied research to create resilient, enriching, and healthy design solutions.

Among the Lab's innovative, community-oriented initiatives is the "Park in a Truck" (PiaT) project created by Kim and Dr. Drew Harris. Drawing on Kim's research about the ways children are positively affected by contact with nature, the initiative re-frames "vacant lots" as open-space opportunities to bring nature into everyday life and into every neighborhood by linking unused lots to create networks of green spaces — corridors of high-quality and useful outdoor places that promote health and build communities. Kim's involvement and leadership in LUSI has been critical to forming integrative and multi-disciplinary social projects that increase community participation and raise economic and cultural value.

"Park in a Truck" centers on the understanding that exposure to green spaces boosts mental health and psychological well-being beyond the benefits of physical activity alone, reflecting Kim's view that no one should be far from a safe and comfortable green space. Yet, inadequate access to safe and convenient green places is counted amongst the many disparities that divide our City. The initiative builds upon the ongoing development work of other organizations by using underutilized and idle spaces to fill in the gaps. The project recognizes, however, that communities use green spaces in myriad ways, and centers the needs, desires, and ambitions of communities in creating those spaces ensuring real community buy-in by engaging local residents in all phases of the planning, implementation, and ongoing maintenance process. Through "PiaT", neighborhood groups design and select what they want in their park, then all of the essentials are loaded on a truck and delivered to the site where community volunteers unpack and assemble their park — barn-raising style. As conceptualized by Kim and Dr. Harris, community input and engagement are crucial to the "Parks in a Truck" initiative.

"PiaT" has received overwhelming political support from local partners, matched with financial contributions to lift the burden of cost from communities served by PiaT. "Park in a Truck" has tremendous potential for improving the lives of the citizens of Philadelphia, where 40,000 vacant parcels can be primed for improvement. These lots represent 40,000 chances to bring communities together to design and build spaces that meet local needs, raising property values, lowering health care costs, and making Philadelphia a magnet for further investment.

As an example of Kim's ability to extend service and learning beyond the walls of her institution, she is working with the Kingsessing Community in Southwest Philadelphia to create a series of public parks which emphasizes ecological health, specifically aimed at providing "pollinator corridors. The project is done in collaboration with the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and Audubon, PA, with the hope of restoring much-needed spaces for pollinators in Southwest Philadelphia. Kim and her student volunteers will continue to be involved with the park past its construction next year, where they will monitor the post-occupancy impacts of the park - both its social function and pollinators.

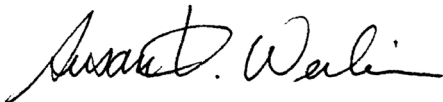
Perhaps most visible to the national landscape architectural community was and continues to be Kim's role as co-chair of the Architecture Construction Engineering (ACE) Legacy Project Committee. Pete Simone and I, as Co-Chairs of the 2018 ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo in Philadelphia, worked directly with Kim in establishing this initiative. The 2018 ACE Legacy project marked an important ten-year anniversary for the initiation of the project and was a homecoming effort for the very first ACE project that was created in Philadelphia. Kim engaged thirteen high school students to design an open public space - an effort never undertaken by these young students before. Inspiring these young people with her leadership, Kim engaged this community and led them through a design process which created something wholly of the student and community's design. The project site is currently being evaluated, and fundraising is being undertaken in partnership with ASLA to make this important

public project a reality. Once completed, the ACE Legacy project will have engaged a new generation of potential landscape architects while also leaving behind civic space which can serve the community for decades.

I am pleased and honored to offer my wholehearted support of this nomination for the ASLA Community Service Award. Kim's candidacy for the Service Award is distinguished by her extensive accomplishments in supporting underserved communities within Philadelphia, while also elevating the role of landscape architecture in the view of the general public. Kim is an exemplar of successful leadership, collaboration, and service at every scale. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan K. Weiler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Weiler" clearly distinguishable.

Susan K. Weiler, FASLA, PLA  
Partner, OLIN

## NOMINEE CONTACT DETAILS

Kimberlee Douglas, RLA, ASLA

Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University)

Director, Landscape Architecture Program

Director, Lab for Urban and Social Innovation (LUSI)

Anton Germishuizen-Stantec Term Chair

Associate Professor

College of Architecture + the Built Environment

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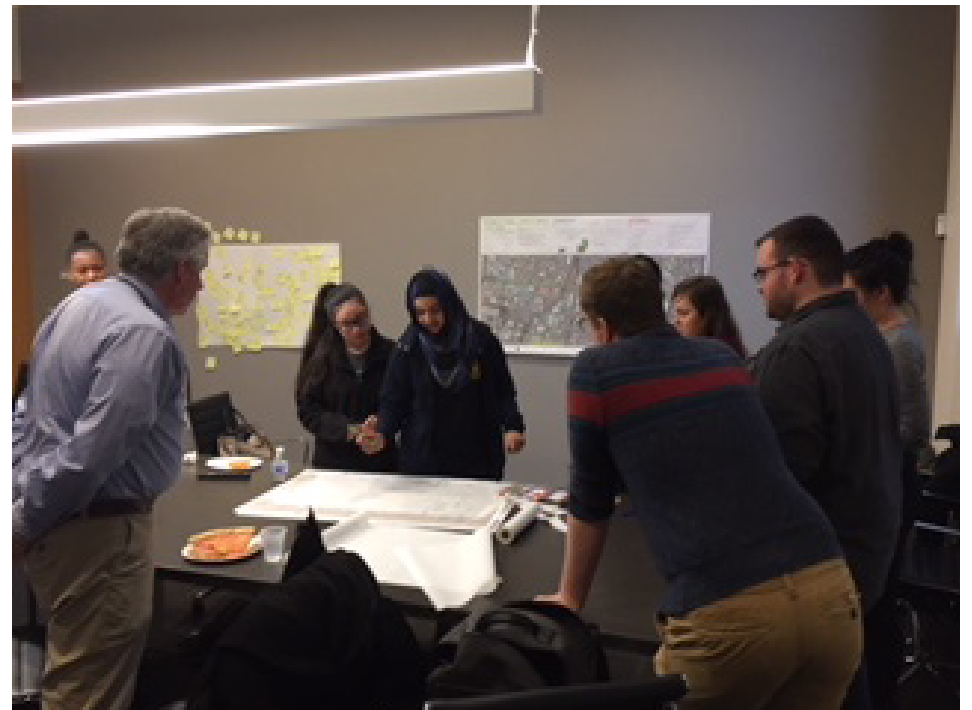
Kingessing Community Garden in Philadelphia, PA was created with the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and Audubon, PA, as well as the larger Kingessing Community.



2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year landscape architecture students worked with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on a redesign of a detention basin in West Philadelphia in the West Park neighborhood. The students envision a wildlife refuge with outdoor education areas for use by the local community.



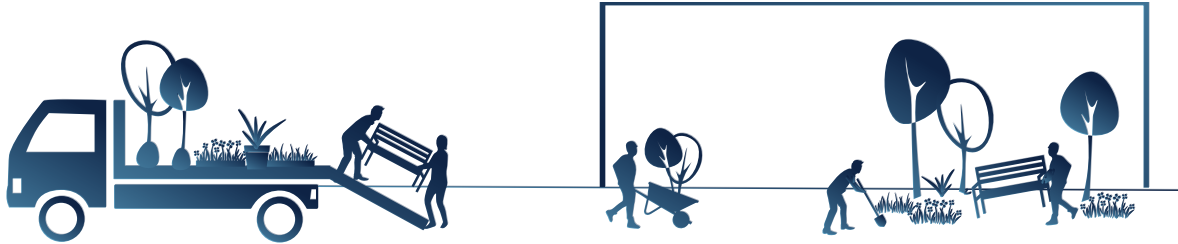
Above: The Cecil Street Community Garden was designed by the community, and created flexible spaces for play and enjoyment of nature. Below: The design for the Kingsessing Community Garden in Philadelphia, PA was achieved through multiple community engagement sessions with many opportunities for interaction and collaboration.



The 2018 ASLA ACE Legacy project continues a 10-year tradition of the ASLA Annual Meeting + Expo by leaving behind a significant park in the city that hosts the convention each year. Kim's leadership helped the project to celebrate this important milestone for a tradition that began in Philadelphia, and will be completed in 2019 after fundraising is complete.

# Park In a Truck

**That Comes**



**Let's bring nature back into everyday life.**

## Nature Park



- Watch Birds
- Build a Fort
- Chat by the Fire
- Climb a Tree
- Explore

## Sanctuary Park



- Read a book
- Relax
- Community Classes
- Stroll in Garden
- Talk with Neighbors

## Edible Park



- Eat fresh berries
- Tend Gardens
- Community Dinners
- Cook Vegetables
- Harvest Tomatoes



**Builds Community**



**Improves Health**

**Restores Environment**

Park in a Truck is a new model of service that brings landscape architecture to communities, both in its design process and its delivery. It is a community effort that beautifies neighborhoods one lot at a time.

By linking unused lots into a network of green groups design and select what they want in their park. All of the essentials are loaded onto a truck and delivered to the site, where community volunteers build their park, barn-raising style. "Park in a Truck" is a simple, fast and cost effective community effort that beautifies our neighborhoods, one lot at a time.

## CURRENT COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Greenfield Foundation  
 West Philadelphia Real Estate  
 Philadelphia Water Department  
 Pennsylvania Horticulture Society  
 Neighborhood Gardens Trust  
 PAD-Police-Assisted Diversion  
 Safe Routes to School + Parks National Partnership  
 Greenplay LLC  
 Patricia Kind Foundation  
 NaturePHL  
 Plan Philly  
 Overbrook Environmental Center  
 Social Innovations Partners  
 Fast Forward  
 PA CDC  
 Councilman Kenyatta Johnson  
 Councilwoman Janne Blackwell  
 Councilman Derek Green

The Park in a Truck mobile service creates a pop-up forum for community design, and later delivers all necessary park components identified by the community - for installation "barn-raising" style by the same neighborhood that designed it.



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

## CITY COUNCIL

KENYATTA JOHNSON  
COUNCILMAN – 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT  
ROOM 580, CITY HALL  
(215) 686-3412 OR 3413  
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February 1, 2019

Dear ASLA Community Service Award Nominations, Executive Committee:

It is my privilege to endorse Kimberlee Douglas, RLA, ASLA, for the ASLA Community Service Award. As Councilmember for the Second District in Philadelphia, I encountered Kim's work through her service in the Kingsessing neighborhood in Philadelphia, with a park located at Cecil Street and Kingsessing Avenue. Kim and her volunteer students worked with my constituents and the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge to develop a public park that served the community while enhancing the ecological health of the neighborhood. I attended the ribbon-cutting for this important neighborhood park, which is currently in the fundraising process.

Serving on Philadelphia City Council's Committee for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, I understand the value of quality public open space. This is a shared value with Kim and her service in the community. As Councilmember, I am exploring a possible partnership with Kim on the Park-in-a-Truck (PiAT) concept to serve my district, and hope to work with Kim to locate an appropriate lot to implement this initiative. Kim's visionary concept of the services provided by PiAT supports 'clean and green' initiatives within my District, and would benefit communities with access to civic space.

The City of Philadelphia and its communities will continue to benefit from Kim's service, and I highly endorse the recognition of her work by this prestigious award from the ASLA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kenyatta Johnson'.

Councilman Kenyatta Johnson  
Second Council District

January 30, 2019

The American Society of Landscape Architects  
The Community Service Award 2019

Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA  
President, Thomas Jefferson University  
CEO, Jefferson Health

**RE: Kimberlee Douglas, RLA, MLA, LEED, GA**  
Director and Associate Professor  
College of Architecture and the Built Environment  
Thomas Jefferson University

This is an important award recognizing important community leadership by one of my faculty members, Kim Douglas, and I am honored to offer my endorsement.

Universities today face questioning about their role in sustaining much that we care about in the built environment, in our society, and especially in communities that face the challenges we face in Philadelphia.

Kim Douglas has shown her dedication and brilliance across the country, but I am most proud of her work in our city - a city very much on the front lines of urban decay, which sadly records the worst gap in longevity between zip codes of any major U.S. city.


Philadelphia is also a city with deep history and its own spirit. As a result, Professor Douglas's green design in parks, storm water projects, schools, has critically been integrated with the social and historical network in which those solutions work.

I am especially excited by the "park in a truck" idea. Anyone who understands Philadelphia understands the difficulty of vacant lots - and the need to clear collapsing homes. Reviving those neighborhoods with a quick park solution is sheer genius, and her leadership of this project is fantastic.

We need a future where cities work. A future where history and society provide the backdrop for solutions that make people healthier - mentally, physically and socially. I am excited to see Professor Douglas's leadership in achieving exactly that for this much-loved city.

I enthusiastically support her nomination for this award. Thank you.

Stephen K. Klasko



President, Thomas Jefferson University  
CEO, Jefferson Health

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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RE: Kimberlee Douglas, RLA, MLA, LEED, GA, Director and Associate Professor  
College of Architecture and the Built Environment, Thomas Jefferson University  
ASLA Community Service Award 2019

Dear Review Committee:

I am very pleased to enthusiastically endorse Professor Kim Douglas' nomination for the 2019 ASLA Community Service Award. A licensed landscape architect, she serves as Director of the Laboratory for Urban and Social Innovation (LUSI) in the Jefferson College of Architecture and the Built Environment and as program director of the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. I have known her since my arrival as Dean in 2012 and worked together with her on many projects in the academic realm. Kim provides sustained pro-bono service to communities in need exemplifying the sound principles and values of landscape architecture.

Professor Douglas is a very visionary leader and initiated the proposal and development of LUSI which she leads today. The laboratory is the college's outreach and research arm and works alongside local communities to help them develop and create resilient and healthy communities through interventions in the built environment. The Lab for Urban and Social Innovation's process uses a wide range of sustainable design strategies to create resilient, enriching and healthy solutions for communities. Most of the work focuses on landscape architecture solutions and provides pro-bono design work. Supported by the broad expertise of its accomplished faculty, LUSI works alongside communities for research and design with a human-centered approach providing pro-bono services for communities in need. Professor Douglas has been leading a team of several faculty members and students in envisioning and ultimately creating this forward-looking initiative which has positively impacted the communities we serve in Philadelphia. Through her work, she engages landscape architecture students in focused and intense discussion of pressing social issues and the potential for landscape design to act as a catalyst for social change and a contributor to ecological balance.

Kim has a long history of working with communities helping them envision a better built environment in support of their families. Her previous projects included the Titan Park Master Plan in Philadelphia and the award winning conceptual Master Plan for George W. Nebinger Elementary School in Philadelphia. Together with her students, she has provided numerous pro-bono design visualizations for communities in Philadelphia steering communities through design charrettes and helping them envision the future of their neighborhoods. Most recently she started the Park-in-a-Truck initiative, a design/build community operated green network, established through low-cost, fast turn-around renovations of vacant lots that improve environmental, social and physical health in low-income neighborhoods. On top of her demanding job, she spends hundreds of hours with community members and leaders helping them to transform one vacant lot at a time into community green spaces. Many of her projects were featured in regional and national news including Park-in-a-Truck, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Re-Wilding Cities, and revitalization projects in Germantown and East Falls in Philadelphia.

Kim's enduring and sustained community service has made a lasting impact on many neighborhoods in Philadelphia in providing quality green spaces in low-income neighborhoods. She serves as an enthusiastic ambassador of the power of landscape architecture in transforming the urban environment. Kim Douglas deserves the kudos of the American Society of Landscape Architecture for her innovative and inclusive approach in bringing the values of the profession to those in need.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Klinkhammer", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Barbara Klinkhammer, Dipl.-Ing.

Dean and Professor  
Jefferson College of Architecture and the Built Environment

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Dear ASLA Community Service Award Nominations, Executive Committee:

It is my privilege to endorse Kimberlee Douglas, RLA, ASLA, for the 2019 ASLA Community Service Award. I have come to know Kim through academia and the local design community, and am consistently impressed with her boundless energy devoted to community service. Her pro-bono work goes beyond the walls of her institution and out into the City of Philadelphia, elevating the visibility of our profession while serving critically underrepresented neighborhoods. Kim has made tremendous strides in offering mentorship to young students by empowering them to engage in design - hopefully forming a new generation of landscape architects who may have not otherwise known about our profession.

I remember long ago hearing Kim's idea to provide design services for underserved communities - offering design and engagement from a mobile truck that could travel through the City. Seven years later, this idea is being brought to fruition, forming a totally new way of providing community design services. Through her innovation and fortitude, neighborhoods across the City will be served by inclusive and equitable design. Kim is skilled in not only providing service through design, but working with City and State leadership to achieve project support and funding. This is the kind of 21st century innovative community service that should be recognized by the ASLA - positioning landscape architecture as a means of achieving equity and collaboration within communities.

I offer the highest endorsement of Kim Douglas for this prestigious ASLA Community Service Award, in recognition of her service, innovation, and commitment to creating quality civic spaces. Through empathy, passion, and a commitment to bettering the world, Kim and her service to communities is exemplary of the highest ideals of our profession.

Sincerely,



Laura Stedenfeld, PLA, ASLA, APA  
Landscape Architect, Land Collective