



February 8, 2019

American Society of Landscape Architects
Medal of Excellence Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

**RE: Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence Nomination
Landscape Architecture Foundation**

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees,

It is with great enthusiasm that we nominate the **Landscape Architecture Foundation** for ASLA's prestigious **Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence**.

The mission of the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) is to support the preservation, improvement, and enhancement of the environment. For over 50 years, LAF has been working to advance this mission through contributions to landscape architecture policy, research, education, and design. As the only organization with this important mission, LAF's exemplary leadership has generated great benefit to the field and the larger world.

"I cannot think of a more worthy recipient than the LAF for an Award of Excellence given the capacity building of the profession that has occurred under its stewardship for the past 52 years. When one thinks of an award of excellence and everything that this recognition entails, the LAF stands out for its multi-faceted sustained building of design excellence in its broadest sense for the profession of landscape architecture. Whether it is through the scholarship programs that attract entries from future leaders for the profession, or research to unlock better ways to practice in a high performance setting, or leadership development, there is a clear correlation between the elevation of design excellence and the work of the Landscape Architecture Foundation."

- Jacinta McCann, FASLA | AECOM

LAF was founded in 1966 by Campbell Miller, Grady Clay, Ian McHarg, Charles Hammond, George Patton, and John Simonds, a small group of landscape architects who shared a concern for the quality of the American environment and its future. LAF's founders worked together to establish a broad foundation and framework for landscape architecture practice in the 20th Century. This work

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culminated in a document highlighting the issues and potential to address the emerging environmental challenges, *A Declaration of Concern* (attached as *Image 1*).

This small group of leaders articulated a powerful message when they wrote that the purpose of *A Declaration of Concern* is to “multiply the effectiveness of the limited number of landscape architects, while producing more trained people to cope with the future environment.” Fifty years later, LAF has built a remarkable legacy as the organization invests in research, scholarships, and leadership initiatives to increase the collective capacity to achieve its mission to support the preservation, improvement, and enhancement of the environment, and to empower current and future landscape architects to use their unique skills to make change in the world.

Leading in three domains (**research, scholarships, and leadership**), their work is emblematic of the ASLA’s Medal of Excellence.

Research

In research alone, LAF has invested over \$3 million in research initiatives that ground our professional practice and expand academic scholarship. Current research initiatives focus on the measurable environmental, social, and economic benefits of landscapes. These strategic efforts are building the body of knowledge, informing practice, and helping to make the case for more sustainable policies and design solutions. From *Barrier Free Site Design* and *Grade Easy* in the 1970s to LAF’s most recent work in landscape performance, LAF’s published research spans 40 years.

Key Research Initiatives include the LAF-initiated *Landscape Performance Series (LPS)* and *Case Study Investigation (CSI)*, as well as training and resources for educators that offer sample teaching materials for integrating landscape performance into landscape architecture course offerings, including studio, seminar, and lecture courses.

LAF’s *Landscape Performance Series* is the primary online resource to help designers, agencies, and advocates evaluate performance, show value and make the case for sustainable landscape solutions. Launched in 2010, the *Landscape Performance Series* is an online portal and collection of initiatives to build capacity and transform the way landscape is considered and constructed in the design and development process. It brings together information and innovations from research, industry, academia, and professional practice. With 150 Case Study Briefs, 120 Fast Facts, and dozens of Benefits Toolkit calculators, LandscapePerformance.org is the go-to place to find precedents, show value, and make the case for sustainable landscape solutions.

The *Case Study Investigation* program is a unique research collaboration that matches LAF-funded faculty-student research teams with designers to document the benefits of exemplary high-performing landscape projects. Research teams develop methods to quantify environmental, social, and economic benefits of built projects and produce Case Study Briefs for LAF’s *Landscape Performance Series*. By investing in this research, LAF is generating essential information and

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precedents to evaluate performance and make the case for sustainable landscape solutions. The CSI program is highly collaborative and helps to bridge the gap between research and practice. CSI is an important impetus in moving the landscape architecture discipline toward designing every project with specific performance objectives, routinely collecting performance data, and integrating landscape performance in design education.

Scholarships

LAF has awarded over \$1.5 million in scholarships to over 5,800 students in landscape architecture since 1986. The awards recognize leadership, reward outstanding student performance, encourage diversity, support original research, and assist students with unmet financial need. Through two programs, the *Olmsted Scholars Program* and *Student Scholarships*, LAF offers students both financial assistance and the opportunity to connect with rising and established leaders in the discipline.

The LAF *Olmsted Scholars Program* recognizes and supports landscape architecture students with exceptional leadership potential who are using ideas, influence, communication, service, and leadership to advance sustainable design and foster human and societal benefits. The *Olmsted Scholars Program* offers one \$25,000 graduate and one \$15,000 undergraduate prize annually, honoring students both for past achievements and also for their future potential to influence the landscape architecture profession. Now in its 12th year, the program recognizes one outstanding student from each accredited landscape architecture program in the U.S. and Canada, along with the jury-selected graduate and undergraduate national award winners and finalists. These future leaders of the profession join a growing community of over 600 past and present LAF Olmsted Scholars (as seen in *Image 2*).

Each year, LAF offers over \$80,000 through 11 different *Student Scholarships*. LAF scholarships help diversify the pool of talent and increase academic opportunity for new generations of designers. These awards are made possible through funds established by our generous sponsors. Eligible candidates are undergraduate or graduate students enrolled at colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada.

Leadership

Since its founding in 1966 by leading landscape architects of the day, LAF has worked to strengthen the profession and collaborate with leaders in practice, academia, and industry to provide thought leadership in designing sustainable landscape solutions.

Over the past decade, key initiatives highlighting LAF's influence on landscape architecture policy, research, education, and design include LAF's *Fellowship for Innovation + Leadership*, the *Summit on Landscape Architecture and the Future*, the New Landscape Declaration, and the publication of the The New Landscape Declaration: A Call to Action for the Twenty-First Century. (See *Image 3*.)

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The Foundation has instigated programs that support the development of emerging student leaders and young professionals through leadership initiatives. The *LAF Fellowship for Innovation + Leadership* provides an opportunity for mid-career or senior-level professionals in landscape architecture to dedicate time over the course of one year to reflect, research, explore, create, test, and develop emerging ideas into action. In doing so, participants are provided an opportunity to advance the field of landscape architecture through a specific project that demonstrates a potential to bring about impactful change to the environment and humanity.

For LAF's 50th Anniversary celebration, over 700 landscape architects with a shared concern for the future were assembled by the Landscape Architecture Foundation for an event called *The Summit on Landscape Architecture and the Future* at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Inspired by LAF's 1966 Declaration of Concern, this remarkable community came together to inspire, discuss, and debate a new vision for landscape architecture for the 21st century. This is the power of LAF – to convene, to re-imagine, and to call to action. (See *Image 4*.)

The powerful conversations, deliberations, and messages from over 70 presenters and panelists at the Summit inspired the development of the New Landscape Declaration, LAF's update to the Declaration of Concern, as it looks ahead to the next 50 years. This document has been translated into 20 different languages since it was published and it has been shared through professional and public outreach with thousands of people in person and via web views/email by LAF's Executive Director Barbara Deutsch, LAF staff, the Board of Directors, professionals, academics, allied professionals, and interested persons. (See *Image 5*.)

Summary

In summary, the Landscape Architecture Foundation has built a remarkable legacy and its impact touches the very purpose of the Medal of Excellence. The following is a highlight of the impact on policy, research, education, and design:

- **Research** Over **150** Case Study Investigation briefs have been developed to date.
- **Scholarships** Over **580** Olmsted Scholars have been named since 2008. Last year alone, over **\$105,000** was given to students for scholarships.
- **Leadership** Since its inaugural year in 2017, **19** participants have been chosen for the *LAF Fellowship for Innovation + Leadership*, and we are all able to see the product of their work each spring.
 - **Outreach** LAF's Executive Director, Barbara Deutsch, meets with an average of **1,500** people every year to speak about LAF – its mission, its initiatives, and its call to action.
 - **A Call to Action** LAF published The New Landscape Declaration: A Call to Action for the Twenty-First Century, a book about the Summit and the resulting New Landscape Declaration. The New Landscape Declaration has been translated into over **20** different languages since it was published.

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There is more – but clearly the role of LAF in the past 50 years is a legacy of leadership which the ASLA and landscape architects are rightfully proud. We know that the effort makes a difference in our profession, our discipline, and our world.

"In all aspects of the programs LAF provides, it continues to be a leader and influencer, and is beloved by the professional community. The Foundation's efforts have been clear, consistent, and visible, and LAF is seen as a pillar in our profession because of its programs and thought leadership. There is no organization more deserving of ASLA's Medal of Excellence."

- Mark O. Dawson, FASLA | SASAKI

It is for these reasons that we enthusiastically endorse the nomination of the **Landscape Architecture Foundation** for the **ASLA Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence**. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



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Founding Principal, GGN
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From 2010 to 2018, Jennifer Guthrie had the privilege of being on LAF's Board of Directors, joining the Executive Committee in 2012 (Finance Chair, Incoming President, President, and Past President). Thaisa Way has had the honor of nominating students selected as Olmsted Scholars and finalists.



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

A DECLARATION OF CONCERN

On June 1 and 2, 1966, at Independence Ball in Philadelphia, a small group of landscape architects who shared a concern for the quality of the American environment and its future were assembled by the Landscape Architecture Foundation. This was their declaration:

We urge a new, collaborative effort to improve the American environment and to train a new generation of Americans equipped by education, inspiring example and improved organizations to help create that environment.

A sense of crisis has brought us together. What is merely offensive or disturbing today threatens life itself tomorrow. We are concerned over misuse of the environment and development which has lost all contact with the basic processes of nature. Lake Erie is becoming septic, New York City is short of water, the Delaware River is infused with salt, the Potomac River with sewage and silt. Air is polluted in major cities and their citizens breathe and see with difficulty. Most urban Americans are being separated from visual and physical contact with nature in any form. All too soon life in such polluted environments will be the national human experience.

There is no "single solution" but groups of solutions carefully related one to another. There is no one-shot cure, nor single-purpose panacea, but the need for collaborative solutions. A key to solving the environmental crisis comes from the field of landscape architecture, a profession dealing with the interdependence of environmental processes.

Man is not free of nature's demands, but becomes more dependent upon nature. Natural resources are where they are -- not where we wish them to be. Those who plan for the future must understand natural resources and processes. These are the basis of life and the prerequisite for planning the good life. They must know geology, physiography, climatology, ecology to know why the world's physical features are where they are; and why plants, animals and man flourish in some places and not in others. Once they understand landscape capabilities -- the "where" and "why" of environment, the determinants of change -- they can then interpret the landscape correctly. Only then are they qualified to plan and design the environment.

Like the architect, the landscape architect practices an historic art. However, the landscape architect is uniquely rooted in the natural sciences. He is essential in maintaining the vital connection between man and nature.

The demand for better resource planning and design is expanding... Today's demands require far more landscape architects than are available. Schools are expanding, as are the ranks of practitioners, but they are stretched thin. The gap between demand and supply widens. The environment is being built hastily and too often without such professional advice or help. In the process, far too much is damaged beyond recall.

The solution of the environmental crisis demands the skills of many professions. So that the landscape architects may make their vital contribution, we propose a four-point program to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice: (1) recruitment, (2) education, (3) research and (4) a nationwide system for communicating the results of research, example and good practice. Its purpose is to multiply the effectiveness of the limited number of landscape architects, while producing more trained people to cope with the future environment.

We pledge our services. We seek help from those who share our concern.

Campbell Miller
Grady Clay
Ian L. McHarg
Charles R. Hammond
George E. Patton
John o. Simonds





LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

THE NEW LANDSCAPE DECLARATION

On June 10-11, 2016, over 700 landscape architects with a shared concern for the future were assembled by the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Inspired by LAF's 1966 Declaration of Concern, we crafted a new vision for landscape architecture for the 21st century.

THIS IS OUR CALL TO ACTION.

Across borders and beyond walls, from city centers to the last wilderness, humanity's common ground is the landscape itself. Food, water, oxygen – everything that sustains us comes from and returns to the landscape. What we do to our landscapes we ultimately do to ourselves. The profession charged with designing this common ground is landscape architecture.

After centuries of mistakenly believing we could exploit nature without consequence, we have now entered an age of extreme climate change marked by rising seas, resource depletion, desertification and unprecedented rates of species extinction. Set against the global phenomena of accelerating consumption, urbanization and inequity, these influences disproportionately affect the poor and will impact everyone, everywhere.

Simultaneously, there is profound hope for the future. As we begin to understand the true complexity and holistic nature of the earth system and as we begin to appreciate humanity's role as integral to its stability and productivity, we can build a new identity for society as a constructive part of nature.

The urgent challenge before us is to redesign our communities in the context of their bioregional landscapes enabling them to adapt to climate change and mitigate its root causes. As designers versed in both environmental and cultural systems, landscape architects are uniquely positioned to bring related professions together into new alliances to address complex social and ecological problems. Landscape architects bring different and often competing interests together so as to give artistic physical form and integrated function to the ideals of equity, sustainability, resiliency and democracy.

As landscape architects we vow to create places that serve the higher purpose of social and ecological justice for all peoples and all species. We vow to create places that nourish our deepest needs for communion with the natural world and with one another. We vow to serve the health and well-being of all communities.

To fulfill these promises, we will work to strengthen and diversify our global capacity as a profession. We will work to cultivate a bold culture of inclusive leadership, advocacy and activism in our ranks. We will work to raise awareness of landscape architecture's vital contribution. We will work to support research and champion new practices that result in design innovation and policy transformation.

We pledge our services. We seek commitment and action from those who share our concern.



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION
PennDesign

1969 | 2019
THE NEW
LANDSCAPE
DECLARATION

SO THAT THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS MAY MAKE THEIR VITAL CONTRIBUTION

of inclusive leadership
and activism



7 February 2019

American Society of Landscape Architects
Medal of Excellence Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence Nomination
for the Landscape Architecture Foundation

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees:

I am writing with strong and sincere support for the Landscape Architecture Foundation's nomination for the ASLA 2019 Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence.

As an educator, I have deep appreciation for the transformative opportunities that the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) provides for students and emerging professionals. The intellectual and financial support for future landscape architects created by LAF initiatives is unparalleled in the United States and, perhaps, the world. I'd like to share four LAF programs that are particularly impactful in the academic environment :

- Landscape Performance Series and Case Study Investigations
- New Landscape Declaration and Action Plan
- Scholarships
- Olmsted Scholars

The **Landscape Performance Series** and **Case Study Investigations** are part of the \$3 million LAF has invested in research since 1986. In my role as an academic administrator, I see the impact of these programs on the education of students and the careers of faculty members. The [Landscape Performance Series](#) is the go-to resource for students as they incorporate evidence-based design into their work and look for tools to measure the landscape performance. The Case Study Investigations bring students, faculty and professionals together to quantify environmental, economic and social benefits of landscapes. These collaborations integrate research and practice, teaching students research skills, honing faculty knowledge and informing future practice.

Second, The **New Landscape Declaration**, released in 2017 has inspired students across the country and helped shape academic content. It is exciting to see students energized by a declaration that expresses their hopes and desires. Classes across the country are using the New Landscape Declaration to shape seminars, frame conversations and launch students' personal declarations.



Third, LAF has awarded over \$1.5 million in **scholarships** to over 580 students. LAF is the primary source of scholarship support for landscape architecture students across the country with 11 different scholarships offering over \$75,000 annually. LAF stewards donations from individuals, organizations, firms and vendors to create support that rewards performance, supports diversity, and assists with need. In my three decades as an educator, I have seen student financial need grow beyond individual programs' capacity. At the same time, academic programs seek to match projected demographic shifts and ensure proportional representation of our country's diversity. These challenges require financial support and LAF is an important partner for universities. LAF support is essential to attracting and retaining students in landscape architecture programs.

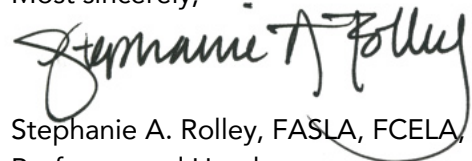
Finally, I'd like to share the value of the LAF Olmsted Scholar program. As a part of the scholarship focus of LAF, the **Olmsted Scholars** program just celebrated its 11th year. Each of the 100 programs at 74 universities in the United States and Canada have the opportunity to select a university Olmsted Scholar and nominate them for the national award. Each year a graduate student receives \$25,000 and an undergraduate student receives \$15,000 to support and reward their research and creative activities. There are now over 600 past and present Olmsted Scholars, creating an amazing cohort of leaders. Once named an Olmsted Scholar, students become part of a professional network connected by LAF webinars and meet ups. Olmsted Scholars can apply for the LAF Innovation + Leadership Fellowship, furthering their development and expanding their network. From personal experience, I can attest to the power of this award. Students aspire to receive it and are motivated in their professional pursuits if named an Olmsted Scholar.

The university scholars and national Olmsted Scholars gather prior to the *ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture* each year for workshops and recognition. Picture a room full of students from across the country, excited to meet their peers in excellence and share their ideas. It is truly one of my favorite professional events because it embodies the power of landscape architecture and inspires hope for the future. The first cohorts of Olmsted Scholars are now leaders in private and public practice and in academic positions and recent cohorts promise to follow in their footsteps.

The growth and development of our profession requires a broad range of initiatives led by organizations with specific foci. The Landscape Architecture Foundation fills a critical role in this effort through its mission of supporting the preservation, improvement, and enhancement of the environment. The results over LAF's fifty-two year history are significant and most deserving of the Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspectives and thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this nomination.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie A. Rolley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'S' and 'R'.

Stephanie A. Rolley, FASLA, FCELA, AICP
Professor and Head

mikyoung kim design

ASLA Board of Trustees

Attn: Makeeya Hazelton
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

re: support letter for the Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence

Dear ASLA Trustees and Nominating Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support nominating the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) for the **ASLA Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence**. For more than five decades, LAF has been an important non-profit organization that has supported the research and practice of landscape architecture in the civic realm. Their tireless efforts span the full range of the profession, from research and education to planning and design innovation.

I first came to know and admire LAF for their amazing work in supporting students while I was a Department Head and Professor at the Rhode Island School of Design. Their scholarship programs have proven instrumental in students' lives, providing crucial financial support that enables students to focus on their design and academic work. The scholarship awardees' diverse cultural, artistic, and intellectual representation clearly shows the Foundation's commitment to supporting students of color and bringing a multitude of voices to the table.

I had the pleasure of participating in the LAF Honor Scholarship in memory of Joe Lalli jury last year. The experience opened my eyes. The student applicants' inspiring personal stories resonated deeply with me, and reading them helped me to vividly imagine the scholarship's impact on their lives and ability to realize their potential. The Joe Lalli Scholarship exemplifies how LAF unites the past and the future—celebrating Joe's amazing legacy by providing the foundation for emerging landscape designers. Over the past few decades, the LAF has provided over \$1.5 million dollars in academic support to students across the country!

The Landscape Architecture Foundation prioritizes inclusivity throughout its mission-based programs. Through case studies, evidence-based research and online interviews, LAF shows us vital, unique work that living landscape architects are doing nationally. Strikingly, the Foundation is telling these stories in ways that feel compelling and relevant to practitioners of all ages. To contextualize my own experience, I asked designers in our multi-generational office for their thoughts on the Landscape Architecture Foundation. Everyone easily understood its mission and could describe its focus on contemporary landscape architectural issues.

Always future-minded, LAF has energetically championed the connections between sustainability, health and well-being, as well as issues of equity and social justice within the profession. Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Barbara Deutsch, we have also seen the organization expand its mission to include design innovation and community-building. It frames both as key factors shaped by resiliency and ecological systems. The organization's embrace of this expansive, ambitious agenda has excited us. From their conferences to smaller workshops, their work's breadth has impressed me, as its reflection of the profession's own complexity and richness.

Dynamic leadership and governance has helped to set the organization's distinctive direction. In its leaders and board, I see a group of diverse minds who represent different genders, ethnicities and generations, and who find unity in the LAF's mission. They both appreciate the organization's history and desire to reimagine its future. Echoing the LAF's "Declaration of Concern" in 1966, they gathered hundreds of landscape architects at the Call to Action conference in Philadelphia in 2016. There, they announced a "New Landscape Declaration." I felt fortunate to participate, and I've seen how the vision has since helped to light a way forward for all of us in the twenty-first century.

Landscape architecture should honor the Foundation not only for its historical importance, but also for its capacity for great listening. It has shown extraordinary responsiveness in transforming to anticipate the complicated challenges today's practitioners face, weaving together ecological resiliency with geopolitical and social concerns. Meaningfully, their case studies have highlighted the importance of community-based issues – missing from the forefront of many academic curricula today – filling a contextual gap for many emerging designers. LAF foresaw social infrastructure issues' importance and has consistently supported research to further understand the ways in which we can help to connect our increasingly-atomized cities.

The Landscape Architecture Foundation is among the most important twenty-first-century global institutions for landscape architects. Their amazing body of work merits the Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence, given the vital role that they continue to play in the profession. Please feel free to call with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mikyoung Kim', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mikyoung Kim, FASLA

February 6, 2019

Medal of Excellence Nominations
c/o ASLA Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

I am writing in support of the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) as recipient of the 2019 ASLA Award of Excellence. The award recognizes sustained achievements by an organization in the areas of policy, research, and education. LAF has been a national leader in research and scholarship in landscape architecture for over fifty years and is widely recognized as the premier organization in those areas.

Ten years ago, LAF sharpened its focus to sustainable landscapes, and under its new leader, Barbara Deutsch, made a renewed effort to heighten public awareness, increase research, and amplify its scholarship programs with that focus. Today, LAF awards more scholarships than any other organization and offers a huge trove of research that is universally available on its website.

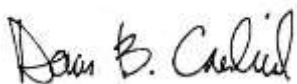
A variety of new programs were instigated, including the Case Study methodology and Case Study Briefs, in which the criteria of landscape performance was a seminal component, providing quantifiable data about the ecological services that landscapes provide. The term landscape performance is now used by peer professionals and the Case Study methodology has been adopted by many universities as a part of their teaching. The notion that landscapes are intrinsic, and not merely cosmetic, for healthy communities is now apparent to business leaders, lawmakers, and the general public as a consequence of these programs.

Many new scholarships have been initiated over time and the organization annually awards over \$100,000 in scholarships to students across the globe. Recently, a mid-career fellowship was created for young professionals with funds supporting their time to pursue individual research. This research is presented in a public forum annually, as well as on the web, further extending the reach of the organization to a global audience.

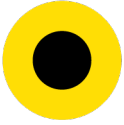
The true value of LAF may lie in its support of young people, through its research and scholarship. They are the future of our profession and LAF provides information and financial support to elevate them to professional status, whether as private practitioners, public officials, or academics. LAF is ultimately an agency of optimism, seeding the future with a new generation of leaders, steeped in the knowledge of ecological services and energized by the opportunities to change the world, one landscape at a time.

The Landscape Architecture Foundation certainly deserves your strong consideration for the 2019 ASLA Medal of Excellence.

Sincerely,



Dennis Carmichael, FASLA, LEED AP
Principal



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Medal of Excellence Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

SUBJECT: ASLA Medal of Excellence

1 February 2019

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) as a worthy recipient of the Medal of Excellence.

As a former LAF President and as co-founder of the LAF Fellowship in Innovation and Leadership, I have had ample opportunity to directly observe the leadership of the Foundation in the arena of Research, Scholarship, and Leadership - the very three prongs of their mission.

In particular, the Landscape Performance Series (LPS) established by the Foundation offers empirical evidence for sustainable goals that often have their genesis in the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SSI). The anticipated synergy between SSI and LPS is emerging and is having an impact on the efficacy of our profession to a wider audience. Further, LPS performs an important opportunity for academics, professionals, and students to research together, to cross-pollinate, and to discover alongside of one another. This is a win-win program for the profession *and* it is an unparalleled opportunity for students to be compensated for meaningful research that directly benefits the profession.

While only in the second year, the LAF Fellowship for Innovation and Research is an educational and research program fully funded for ten years. It was developed because of two observed needs in our profession: 1) practitioners who have spent years (6-20 for mid-career and 20+ for senior) "in the trenches" have gained valuable insights. If these professionals are nurtured by providing space for deeper reflection and research, they could influence the world in an important way and thereby enhance the efficacy of the profession; and 2) emerging professionals just leaving academia need mentors to support their research interests. In fact, one of the very special aspects of the program is the way mentorship truly plays out. The cohort mentors one another: seasoned professional to emerging professional, emerging professional to seasoned professional, seasoned professional to seasoned professional and emerging professional to emerging professional. This is unique and impactful. For instance, in year two alone, a book on homelessness and the interface with



the landscape is in the works; a practice has since been established that specifically works at the interface of youth and landscapes in the schoolyard setting; with the support and endorsement of the government, community landscapes are being constructed in villages in India; and, the youth in Florida are being introduced to landscape architecture through a program that is sweeping across the state. The full effect of this program will undoubtedly be seen in the near future.

Finally, the Olmsted Scholars Program, a program that firmly brought OLIN into the fold of LAF because, at the time, we could not think of a more worthy program to support. The ongoing strength of the program means that our support has been robust and enduring. While the phrase, "youth are our future" may be hackneyed, there is no time in history where validating, supporting and encouraging emerging landscape architects is more pressing than now. The Olmsted Scholars Program does just that.

It is with enthusiasm, passion, and wisdom that I encourage you to please consider LAF as the recipient of ASLA's Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence.

Respectfully,

Lucinda R. Sanders
CEO and Partner

William Main
10035 Woodlawn Drive
Portage, Michigan 49002

February 6, 2019

To: Executive Committee and Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects

Re: Medal of Excellence

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I support the nomination of the Landscape Architecture Foundation for the 2019 ASLA Medal of Honor.

Over the last 10+ years I have been well acquainted with the work of LAF as a former board member, past president, and continuing supporter. I believe strongly that LAF meets and exceeds the Medal's criteria for significant contributions to landscape architecture policy, research, education, project planning and design.

LAF recently celebrated its 50th year of continuous contributions to the field of landscape architecture, after being founded amid an environmental crisis by early leaders of the professions Campbell Miller, Grady Clay, Ian McHarg, Charles Hammond, George Patton, and John O. Simonds. Their ambitious goal "to multiply the effectiveness of the limited number of landscape architects" to address the crisis still propels the organization today. Their Declaration of Concern was revisited and renewed at a gathering of current leaders in 2016 and an action plan is underway.

LAF serves as an important thought leader and a unique initiator and incubator of ideas. Some of these ideas can be rolled out by LAF directly (such as the Landscape Performance Series, Case Study Investigations, and the Case Study Method) and others influence the work carried out by other organizations, institutions, universities, firms, and suppliers.

Through the Olmsted Scholars program LAF has provided recognition and visibility to over 600 future leaders of the profession, in collaboration with their educational institution. The best of the best received significant financial support along with their award. Receiving the Olmsted honor was a truly life-changing event for many of these students.

LAF has also funded over \$3 million in research related to sustainability. It has used publications, presentations, workshops, websites and web tools to distribute this research as well as to provide access to other useful research (such as the Benefits Toolkit available at LandscapePerformance.org).

During my time on the LAF board I was tremendously impressed by the caliber of people it attracted and the wisdom, dedication, and commitment they so willingly contributed. It is an important vessel of knowledge and makes an important contribution to the field. For 50 years LAF has been an organization of landscape architects working to help their fellow landscape architects address the environmental crisis. The output and impact of LAF has been growing in breadth and depth and it continues to inspire the best from everyone it touches.

I encourage you to recognize the Landscape Architecture Foundation with the Medal of Excellence.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Main", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Main
Honorary ASLA