



Glen Dake  
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January 27, 2020

ASLA Community Service Award Nominations

c/o Honors and Awards

636 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is with tremendous enthusiasm that I nominate Glen Dake for the ASLA Community Service Award. The son of the long-time mayor of Saratoga Springs, New York, Glen has political activism in his blood. He is exceptionally skilled at building coalitions and in driving innovative projects from ideation to funding and successful construction. He knows how to work at the highest levels of power to influence legislation that is beneficial to the profession and enhance our mission of protecting and enhancing the environment for the good of mankind.

The projects that Glen has developed as a volunteer are multi-purpose projects that expand the base of support for these new landscapes and improve project performance. Glen joined with two other motivated activists in 1992 to found the non-profit LA Community Garden Council (LACGC) which uses community gardens to improve neighborhood social cohesion and increased the number of community gardens in Los Angeles County from less than 50 in 1993 to 125 gardens in 2018.

Glen led a partnership of the LACGC, City of Los Angeles and Trust for Public Land (TPL) in the community organizing, property acquisition, design and development of the East Hollywood Gardening Achievement Center. In a community with a median household income of \$26,278 and very little parkland LACGC and TPL are building a community garden, an educational building, and a playground. Through public workshops the neighborhood expressed how much they value parks for improving the lives of older

people and families with children living in apartments. Glen was successful in winning \$2.5 million in capital funding from foundations, the State of California and the City of Los Angeles and the results will be on display on opening day in May 2019.

This facility, designed by licensed landscape architects, includes an education building to serve those in the landscape maintenance industry looking to improve their skills or develop new skills, and thus improve their earnings. Glen's leadership led to design of an drywell that makes use of the site's infiltration capacity of 7.1 inches/hour to the Hollywood groundwater subbasin. This small improvement to water supply demonstrates how projects can add to local self-reliance and brought the project a new source of support. Visitors to the park and community garden will have the opportunity to learn about these watershed connections and the value of habitats.

Glen lead the effort to build the Stanford Avalon Community Garden: a 7-block long urban farm worked by 200 families. This volunteer urban farm is a vital link in a network of habitat patches that support native bird, butterfly, and mammal species. Species uncommon in the urbanized core of the LA Basin: American kestrel, Lincoln's sparrow, common yellowthroat, and tarantula-hawk wasp were identified in a wildlife survey. Development of these habitat patches is a result of Glen's leadership at the LACGC, and is an example of how this work cuts across boundaries and builds a broader base of support for landscape projects.

Another rich habitat that was created based on Glen's volunteer work is Silver Lake Reservoir: featuring 81 acres of land and 46 acres of water. In 2001 Glen was able to craft and win a grant of \$1.5 million from the State of California to the City of LA to build the first phase of improvements. Glen led the City's work to competitively-select licensed landscape architects to design the work, and to achieve completion by 2004. This effective implementation of a popular improvement lead by landscape architects created a highly-motivated cohort of activist voters who in subsequent years supported a state-wide funding proposition that included grants for the future phases of work. Glen's leadership was acknowledged when elected by his neighbors to serve on the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council: the first landscape architect to serve on that prestigious body.

Landscape architects like Glen are changing public attitudes about water resources across the United States and this expands opportunities for the entire profession. In 2014 Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed Glen to the board of directors of the Southern California Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the nation's largest water district. Glen is the first landscape architect to serve as an MWD director. In 2018 he was appointed chair of the Finance and Insurance Committee of the MWD board.

He has been a leader in an MWD project to treat and reuse 94 billion gallons per year of sewage plant effluent to recharge over-drafted groundwater basins in Los Angeles and Orange Counties instead of being depositing it in the Pacific Ocean. He won approval for development of the first phase: a water treatment plant now under construction. The re-use of this water will reduce demands to import water from the Sacramento and Colorado rivers and improve the resilience of Southern California in the face of climate change. He led the MWD board on work to improve the effectiveness of its landscape water conservation initiatives. In 2015 MWD launched the nation's largest turf removal program and to date has removed 160 million square feet of lawn.

Glen's service at MWD, an agency serving water to 19 million Californians, is a complement to work he has been undertaking since 2000 to build support for restoration of California's Bay-Delta habitats: a key stop on the Pacific Flyway, a working landscape of unique value to all Californians, a rich habitat for fish, and part of the state's water supply system. In response to these efforts, Mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles said of Glen: "Los Angeles needs leaders like Glen Dake who speak plain language, work hard to form a common vision of community development and follow-through to implement real improvements. Glen and the MWD board members are making progress in developing improved local resilience of our water supply and in restoring more vibrant habitats in the Bay-Delta."

In March 2000 and again in 2002 more than 60% of California voters approved parks and open space bond. Glen was a leader in the Los Angeles campaign for these statewide measures. 2000 was the year that urban voters started to recognize that habitat and natural services have value, while in prior years only flood control and water supply were judged to be valuable. These bonds funded over 2,000 trail, park, and habitat



projects statewide. Among these was restoration of riparian habitats at the Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve in the Bay-Delta. Assemblywoman Laura Friedman said of Glen: Glen's campaign work helped to make this change and the projects being undertaken now are multi-purpose, and demand a landscape architect provide services. The riparian habitat restoration work that California is undertaking in the Bay-Delta now, known as "Eco-Restore" is an example of such multi-purpose projects. To build public support for a better class of water supply projects we have shown that landscape architects can deliver habitat benefits as well as water. *"Today there are habitat patches along the LA River featuring coots and herons that would not be there but for the leadership Glen Dake has exercised. Glen is a landscape architect, but he's also someone who will marshal resources and obtain the support of the community to restore the river. Glen is able to forge a common vision for a project and follow through to implement improvements. This is a leadership role and it's what is needed if our river restoration work is to succeed."*

In 2013 Glen joined the board of directors of the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV). He was elected board president in 2018. In this post Glen has worked with his peers to evaluate and endorse candidates for the California legislature who press strong environmental agendas and to support legislation that improves environmental performance in California, such as the extension of California's nationally-significant Green House Gas law. The results of this work include a renewed emphasis on California forestry programs during the 2017-18 legislature and a very strong bond measure to fund water and open space projects put to voters in June 2018 (prop 68). Holding fundraising events for candidates, creating opportunities for landscape architects to participate in candidate discussions: Glen has improved the participation of landscape architects in our political discourse and that has resulted in more robust environmental programs in California.

In 2004 Councilmember Garcetti (Hon. ASLA) and his fellow councilmembers placed a city bond measure "Proposition O" on the November ballot. Glen volunteered to raise campaign money and secure endorsements for the measure. The campaign raised \$1 million, won approval of 2/3 of the electorate, and the City of LA has installed watershed improvements worth \$500 million. The results of this work today include: development of

South LA Wetlands Park, North Atwater Park on the LA River and renovations of Echo Park Lake and Machado Lake: all designed by CA licensed landscape architects. These projects each reduce concentrations of nitrate, nitrite and trash in the Los Angeles River dramatically. The success of this measure is due in part to the strong project management provisions included in the enabling ordinance and Glen assumed a key role in the team that drafted the ordinance due to his project experience as a landscape architect. This demonstrated the value landscape architects bring to the public sector, and in 2018 landscape architects had lead roles in crafting LA County Measure W on stormwater management. Measure W was adopted by the voters, carrying this work to the entire County of LA.

Glen has served California communities as a leader of possibilities. His community building, his activism, his leadership and fundraising are just tips of the iceberg of his service. For a lifetime of service to the people of Los Angeles and of California, I nominate Glen Dake for the ASLA Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kurt Culbertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "K" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kurt Culbertson

Chairman | CEO



Alliance LA Corps Garden





Leading Design Process





Standord Avalon



Stanford Avalon Childrens Garden



EMPOWERING  
NEIGHBORHOODS  
ONE VACANT LOT  
AT A TIME

January 1, 2020

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

Dear Honors and Awards Committee,

From Lot to Spot is pleased to submit this letter in support of Glen Dake's nomination for the ASLA Community Service Award. Glen has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving disadvantaged communities in order to improve the quality of life of individuals and neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County.

From Lot to Spot (FLTS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating community designed greenspaces in low income, communities of color throughout Los Angeles. FLTS has worked closely with Glen Dake for over 15 years to ensure the creation of greenspaces is prioritized in communities that need them most. Glen has also dedicated his career to ensure the developments of community gardens in Los Angeles are community driven and become successful community gems. Together, we have ensured that projects help our communities THRIVE, not just survive.

We strongly support Glen Dake for this nomination to honor his work and dedication to disadvantaged communities throughout LA County.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Viviana Franco**  
*Founder and Executive Director*  
From Lot to Spot, Inc.





**ERIC GARCETTI**  
**MAYOR**

February 1, 2020

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

It brings me great pleasure to submit this letter in support for Glen Dake's nomination for the ASLA Community Service Award. Glen has demonstrated a constant commitment to the Los Angeles community and in particular under-resourced neighborhoods.

Engaging people in a design process that truly incorporates community input is a dance and an art. Balancing limited resources with the needs of residents in communities that want to see improvements in their quality of life takes a thoughtful and genuine approach. Glen brings a charm and style to his engagement that allows community members to feel comfortable in expressing what they'd like to see in a design.

For the reasons stated in this letter, I ask that you consider our strong support for Glen's nomination for the Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti".

ERIC GARCETTI  
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles