



LOLLY TAI, PHD, RLA, FASLA

Professor of Landscape Architecture Temple University

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JOT D. CARPENTER TEACHING MEDAL

Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects

908 N. Second St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
www.padeasla.org
717-441-6041

February 4, 2021

ASLA Executive Committee Members and Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal, Recommendation of Dr. Lolly Tai

Dear Committee Members and Trustees:

It is with great honor and privilege to put forth this nomination of Dr. Lolly Tai for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal for the year 2021 on behalf of the PA – DE Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The following is a summary of Dr. Tai's sustained and significant contributions to the Landscape Architecture Program at Temple University and for her continued support of ASLA to her students.

Credentials and Awards

Lolly Tai has a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture with distinction from Cornell University, a Master of Landscape Architecture with ASLA Honor Award from Harvard University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Landscape Architecture from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh College of Art. She received the H.F. Clark Prize, a top award for meritorious writing for her doctoral dissertation, "The Impact of Computer Use on Landscape Architecture Professional Practice: Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Design Creativity." She is a registered landscape architect in Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

Lolly's career as an educator spans over three decades: at Clemson University from 1988-2001 and at Temple University from 2002-present. During this period, Tai has been recognized with numerous awards and recognitions for her exemplar contributions to teaching, research and service.

She is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and is the first Asian Pacific American to earn this honor. She received the Bradford Williams Medal from the American Society of Landscape Architects for best writing on landscape architecture in the article, "Doctoring the Profession." She received the Award of Distinction from the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture for Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Service. Significant awards and recognition at the university include the following: The Board of Trustees Award for Faculty Excellence; Provost Medal for Scholarly Achievement; Outstanding Faculty Award from Clemson University President's Commission on the Status of Women; and Temple University Provost's Honor Recognition for outstanding leadership, teaching and scholarly contributions.

Accomplishments and Educational Impact: Clemson University

Tai strongly believes that students are the present and future ambassadors for the landscape architecture profession, and they will enhance the goals of ASLA and shape our environment. As such, she has

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dedicated her life to academia and to inculcate students with skills and knowledge so that they can perform well and succeed as landscape architects.

Tai began her teaching career at Clemson University after practicing landscape architecture at the firm of Hart/Howerton (formerly Robert Lamb Hart) in New York City from 1979-1987. In 1988, she was the first faculty to be hired in a newly formulated landscape architecture program. In this capacity, she served as a key contributor in the development of the program and attracting prospective students. Her background in practice brought professionalism and real-life experience to her teaching that made it a fuller experience for students. She developed curricula for many courses and taught nearly every required course in the curriculum from 1988-2001.

During her first year, she enthusiastically taught three new courses including grading, materials and methods of construction, and design. She regularly engaged her students in public service projects, exposing them to real world projects and clients, instilling in them professionalism, integrity, collaboration, and the importance of volunteerism and civic duty. Moreover, many of the projects she sponsored placed emphasis on environmental stewardship and sustainability. For example, the master plan for Clemson Elementary School focused on the concept of an eco- schoolyard. This project received the Commendation of Excellence in Service Learning from the Commission of Higher Education. Another example is the master plan for Clemson Habitat for Humanity which focused on creating a beautiful community that supported wildlife habitats.

Landscape students and horticulture students experienced the power of teamwork and collaboration. This project received the Housing Award from South Carolina Housing Finance and Development Authority as well as the Organization Award from South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

"I first met Lolly Tai in the 1970's when she was a graduate student and have followed her career ever since. What I admire most about Lolly is her unwavering advocacy and significant contributions to education, service and research in landscape architecture. Lolly clearly understands that for the profession of landscape architecture to achieve the cultural authority it deserves it must maintain a vibrant academic community."

Richard S. Hawks, FASLA, FCELA

SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, William Munsey Kennedy, Jr. Distinguished Faculty, Chair Emeritus SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Department of Landscape Architecture

Accomplishments and Educational Impact: Temple University

Tai held several important leadership positions. She joined Temple University as Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture (2002-2006.). In this role, she significantly elevated and improved the stature of the program nationally through faculty hires, enhanced student enrollment, enriched curriculum, increased faculty research, and instructional facilities. She recruited outstanding students and nurtured them to be the best they can be in the field of landscape architecture.

She worked closely with student admissions and advised them to recruit excellent and diverse group of students and to develop articulation agreements with neighboring institutions such as Montgomery Community College, Longwood Gardens, and Delaware Valley University. This was important as Temple admitted many transfer students and facilitated their academic pursuits. Tai worked diligently

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with the director of development to foster donor relationships to develop new student scholarships that play an important role in student recruiting and retention. Through her efforts, two new scholarships were developed: one for minority women students and the other for students planning a career in landscape restoration.

To advance Temple's landscape architecture program, Tai persuaded the dean for new faculty hires with diverse backgrounds and credentials. She was successful in hiring two landscape architecture faculty, one with a PhD and one with practice and construction expertise.

Tai initiated the development of new courses such as computer technology, research methods, sustainable design, and horticultural therapy to enrich the curriculum and respond to accreditation suggestions. She revived the important junior design-build studio in the curriculum by persuading the dean to fund annual support for the initiative. To stay in close contact with students, she continued her teaching while attending to administrative duties.

From 2006-2009, Tai served as the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Academic Services for Ambler College (LA/Hort/CRP) and Ambler Campus (all other disciplines). She provided leadership for the administration and continued growth of the programs within Ambler College. During this time, she obtained a significant number of grants in support of the necessary new instructional facilities that vastly improved classroom instructions for students. These included the first smart classroom with computers in a design studio, a green roof, a horticultural laboratory, and signage in the campus arboretum.

To elevate research in landscape architecture, Tai advocated for creation of a new Master of Landscape Architecture degree program. She succeeded to get supported to proceed with its development and implementation. The first class for Masters of Landscape Architecture in Ecological Landscape Restoration was enrolled in 2010. Temple University currently boasts a unique, well-established, and respected Masters of Landscape Architecture program. The graduates are employed in design firms, public agencies, and private and public organizations.

In 2009, the Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Department at Temple University was integrated into the College of Liberal Arts. At this time, Tai returned to teaching full time in the department. Since then, she has been teaching undergraduate and graduate design studios, graduate research methods, graduate capstone seminar, and computer technology. She regularly engages students on public service projects involving them with real clients and complex issues. Her projects involve shaping public places to include green infrastructure. Her students learn how to be critical thinkers and creative designers. She goes beyond what is required in the courses to further her students' skills. In the design studio, beyond completing the studio project, she teaches students how to document their work into a published book. Since 2012, nine such books have been published and catalogued in the library.

To advance the stature of her students, Tai consistently mentors and advises them on submissions for ASLA Student Design Awards, LAF Olmsted Scholar Award, the Steven King Award as well as ASLA peer reviewed conference papers. From these efforts, students have garnered many awards. One of Tai's former students, Diana Fernandez, employed at Sasaki, is the recipient of ASLA Honor Award for the studio project and exhibit, "Above Below Beyond" (2013). She recently received the ASLA Emerging Professional Medal (2020). Another example is Zoe Boothe-Jarrett, employed at OLIN since 2015, is a recipient of the Steven G. King Play Environments Award. Yet another former student, Andrew Sargeant, a LAF Olmsted Scholar Fellow, actively participated on ASLA's Diversity Summit (2019), presented at



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the Landscape Architecture Foundation's Innovation and Leadership Symposium (2019), and is part of the leadership for ASLA's Professional Practice Network on Digital Technology. He was formerly employed at OLIN and is currently on a Rose Fellowship through the Enterprise Foundation. Tai currently serves as the coordinator of Temple's ASLA Student Honor and Merit Award. She has served on juries at neighboring institutions such as Penn State, University of Pennsylvania, and Rutgers University.

"I have always thought that great professors can be measured by the lives they have influenced. Their students are their legacy. In the many years I have known Lolly Tai, I have always been impressed by the close and lasting relationship she has built with her students. She has shaped so many lives and molded not only the professional trajectory of many landscape architects but also their lives on a personal level."

*Kurt Culbertson
Chairman / CEO Design Workshop*

Advocacy of ASLA and Communication About the Profession

Tai has been an active member of ASLA for nearly forty years. She was an executive member of SCASLA for seven years. She served as Chapter President during ASLA's Centennial Year Celebration and Secretary in the year prior. She promotes ASLA in the classroom, at professional conferences, and in the community. She was the faculty advisor to the ASLA Student Chapter at Clemson. As a champion for ASLA, she regularly encouraged her students to actively participate in ASLA conferences, projects and field trips. During the centennial year, her students published the first "SCASLA Chapter Resource Guide" that provided important information about the chapter and landscape architecture in the state. It was widely distributed to members and state agencies, promoted landscape architecture, and brought visibility to Clemson landscape architect students and the department. The guide was a significant contribution to SCASLA.

At Temple, Tai continues to promote ASLA with her students and emphasizes the importance of ASLA to their future career and success. She strongly encourages them to attend the state and national ASLA Conferences. As a result, a significant number of her students have participated and also worked at these conferences. Her passion for ASLA and the profession had a great influence on her students as many of them have since served as president and executive members on the state chapter.

Tai has served on ASLA design juries in neighboring universities and in 2007. She was on the national ASLA's Student Awards Jury. She has presented many papers at national and state ASLA conferences, CELA, EDRA, and AHS. She participates on ASLA's Children's Outdoor Environments Professional Practice Network. She has served as the co-chair of the PA – DE ASLA Fellows Nomination Committee since 2015. In this role, she has assisted many nominees of which more than half a dozen have successfully attained FASLA status.

"I enthusiastically recommend Dr. Lolly Tai for the Carpenter Medal. I have known Lolly for 40 years, since we were classmates together at Harvard's GSD. Lolly has always been incredibly passionate about the profession and she continues to inspire future generations of landscape architects through her extraordinary commitment and dedication to the field of landscape architecture. Lolly's extensive published research about children's outdoor play is a valuable resource to students and professionals alike. Particularly relevant now, as children spend much



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of their time online, disconnected from the natural world, educators like Lolly are critical to fostering an environmental awareness that we so desperately need to heal our planet."

Andrea Cochran, FASLA / Principal

Promotion of Licensure and Accreditation

Tai is a strong advocate of licensure and makes it her priority to instill in her students the importance of taking the Landscape Architecture Registration Exam as soon as they are eligible and getting licensed. Many of them have come back later, proudly licensed and thank her for that advice. She was a board member on the South Carolina Board of Landscape Architecture Examiners for five years. During that time, she served as Chair, Vice Chair, and Council Member. Tai served on the board at a critical time as CEU requirements were being developed.

Tai served on seven accreditation visits as Chair and/or Administrator. She is organized and collaborates well with teams to produce a succinct and honest evaluation of the institution being evaluated. An accreditation visit is a rigorous task and a significant contribution to landscape architecture.

Summary

Over the course of more than three decades, Tai has given a significant amount of contribution to landscape architecture education and profession." People who know her, know that she is a hard working enthusiastic and creative individual who leads by action. She is a dedicated teacher who inspires and nurtures her students to design, beautify, and create sustainable places. She is a creative teacher who teaches a variety of subjects in a comprehensive and interesting way that is appreciated by the students.

As a teacher and a scholar, Tai has shared her research and new knowledge on a variety of topics with ASLA as well as the public through numerous published articles, books conferences and presentations.

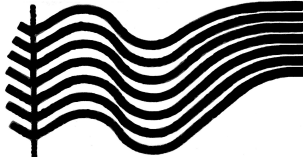
Tai's lifetime of contributions to teaching, research, service, and leadership eminently qualifies her for the Jot Carpenter award.

As Chapter President of the PA – DE Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, I represent the Chapter Executive Committee in offering our sincere recommendation for Dr. Lolly Tai to receive the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal for 2021.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Rauso, RLA, ASLA
President, PA-DE ASLA



Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC. 20001-3736

Endorsement of Dr. Lolly Tai for the Jot Carpenter Medal

Dear Members of the ASLA Executive Committee:

As the recipient of the 2006 Jot Carpenter Medal and retired Head of the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture at Clemson University where Lolly Tai began her academic career as an Assistant Professor, it gives me great pleasure to endorse the nomination of Temple University's Dr. Lolly Tai for the 2021 Jot Carpenter Medal. It would be a most fitting tribute to Jot's legacy for Lolly to receive the recognition for her sustained contributions to landscape architecture education for there is a direct connection between Jot Carpenter, Clemson University and Lolly Tai. Let me explain.

The College of Architecture at Clemson for many years had one or two landscape architects on the faculty teaching architectural students how to design buildings that were responsive to their particular sites and environments. I was one of those, having arrived in the fall of 1972. Just prior to my arrival, the College submitted to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education an Academic Master Plan that called for the establishment of a landscape architecture program. Action on advancing a program of study was delayed until 1978, when I was tasked with putting forward all the necessary paperwork to establish a program of study. The proposal was endorsed at all stops in the process, but when it went from the Provost's office to the University President, it was rejected outright with no discussion other than a note saying it duplicated many aspects of the Civil Engineering program. The President's background included a degree in Civil Engineering and he held an academic appointment in the Department of Civil Engineering.

The "rejecting" President was, a few years later, replaced by Dr. Max Lennon, a Vice President at Ohio State University. He had not been on campus more than a couple of months when he called the Dean of the College of Architecture to his office and asked why the College of Architecture at Clemson did not have a landscape architecture program. It seems President Lennon was keenly aware of the landscape architecture program at Ohio State presided over by Jot Carpenter and also aware that Jot had been President of the American Society of Landscape Architects!

The Dean of the College of Architecture rushed to my office telling me to dust off and update the earlier proposal for the landscape architecture degree. Within 2 weeks, the proposal had the signature of the new Clemson University president and was on the way to the Commission on Higher Education where it was also favorably received with one Commissioner commenting "this is a good program for us to have in South Carolina. Many of the students whom we have been sending out of state to study landscape architecture under the Southeastern Educational Compact agreement do not return to the state to practice their profession after completing their studies."

With the approval of the new program of study in landscape architecture, the next task was the recruitment of additional faculty. Enter Lolly Tai! Lolly was at a large tree farm in the Upstate of South Carolina tagging trees for her Nashville, Tennessee airport project that she was working on at Robert Lamb Hart's New York City office when she heard about the new program in landscape architecture at Clemson. Out of curiosity, I think, she called me to ask a few questions about the intended

program. Her call was on a Friday. After talking with her for a few minutes and learning of her undergraduate and graduate academic credentials as well as her solid years of work in a professional office, I encouraged her to submit a letter of interest and a portfolio of her work. Again, this was on a Friday. The deadline for submission was the following Monday. She was taken aback a bit by the time frame but said she would see what she could do to pull something together for she had no organized up-to-date formal portfolio. With the deadline, I did not think she would submit for the advertised position.

Monday a package arrived on my desk from New York. It was Lolly's submission. Her portfolio was one of 32 received. I placed them all in the College Library's reserve desk room asking six key architecture faculty members whose insights and thought processes I admired to rank the portfolios. To a faculty member, they ranked Lolly Tai as their first choice. "Wow, that was easy," I thought. Now to see if we could get her to come back to South Carolina for an interview. Invitations were extended to Lolly and two others. They all accepted the invitations to come to Clemson.

The day of her campus visit, I remember so clearly walking up the hall and meeting her for the first time at the entrance to the College of Architecture and thinking there is no way this sophisticated professional woman from the Big Apple is going to give up her solid career in practice to take a position teaching in an unaccredited, fledgling program that has no students, little funding, shared office space, and a gauntlet of objectives to meet in working toward a fully accredited program. But she did. But only after I was able to convince her that while offering her a salary that was well below the dollar amount she was receiving in New York, she was actually getting a raise when the cost of living difference between New York and Clemson was factored in to the equation. Accepting Clemson's offer confirmed she was a risk taker and a seeker of challenges, just the kind of faculty members I wanted to build the program around. Risk taking, meeting challenges and making doors open for herself and her students where none existed characterized her time at Clemson and from what I know of her at Temple nothing has changed about her outlook and dedication to creating opportunities for her students.

Let me give you a Clemson example of her Clemson determination. Initially, the University indicated it would support CAD for both PC and Mac platforms. The landscape architecture program invested in Macs only to have the promise of CAD support withdrawn. So what did Professor Tai do? She simply invested in appropriate Mac CAD software out of her own pocket and proceeded to master the program and share her knowledge with her students. While not exactly the same, what she was able to share allowed many students to pick up what they needed to master CAD on university PCs. Some invested in their own Mac CAD software. Today, thanks to Lolly's pioneering effort and the work of other Mac pioneers, the university fully supports CAD on both platforms. Let me add, however, that Clemson's landscape architecture program never had, under my tenure or Lolly's involvement with the program a specific CAD course. CAD was simply another "language" to be learned and utilized wherever it was needed, be it in a studio or in a technical subject.

As the five-year program's curriculum unfolded and additional years were added, I found it necessary on occasion to ask Professor Tai to hand off a technical course she had developed to a younger faculty member and call on her years of professional experience to develop the next, more advanced technical course. She never turned me down on such a request.

Thanks to her professionalism and contribution, the program thrived. So much so that only 14 or 15 years after launch, the Clemson program was ranked 12th nationally (as I recall) by Design Intelligence out of some 70 landscape architecture programs! Lolly Tai played a huge roll in this measure of the program's success. Other measures of her value to the Clemson program in landscape architecture include the more important initial Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) review in 1994 and the favorable comments we received on the quality of student work as demonstrated by the show staged in the College of Architecture's Rudolph E. Lee Gallery.

Initial LAAR reviews, as you know, occur after the first graduating class and if successful, grants accreditation backwards to cover the first class. But it also only grants accreditation forward for only two years. The second LAAR accreditation visit in 1996 also went smoothly, again with a strong showing relative to the type of work in which our students were engaged and the quality of the projects. Again, Lolly's students' contributions to the impressions gained by the LAAB visiting team were a major factor in the successful outcome of the visit. At the conclusion of the third LAAB visit in 2001, the team "Found no recommendation for improvement" for the program! Clemson accreditation in 2001, to the best of my knowledge, was the first landscape architecture program to be granted a six-year accreditation period. Lolly played a huge roll in the success of these visits in that she had the responsibility of organizing the exhibitions that demonstrated the level and breath of the program. Beyond orchestrating the Gallery showing, Lolly participated in and gave me great counsel in the drafting of the written reports for the LAAB visits.

Several of the LAAB visitors complimented the program on the rigor and professionalism apparent. I can lay much of that to the determination that Lolly embodies. When she accepts a challenge, she is going to see that it is completed with the upmost of care and results that will have a lasting effect. Which reminds me of once when I heard a student refer to Professor Tai as the "Dragon Lady," I challenged the student for what I perceived to be a derogatory remark. The student replied that it was not so intended but instead a moniker adopted by many of her students out of the utmost respect for her as an educator. The student went on to say that no faculty member in landscape architecture program demanded more of their students than Professor Tai and no faculty member in landscape architecture gave more in return of themselves in educating their students. Even in leaving Clemson, Professor Tai continued to be involved with Clemson faculty in producing a book and articles of value to landscape architects. When I meet up with program graduates wherever it may be, I know she had an impact on their lives for they will always ask if I have heard from her lately. And I can say yes, because we still touch base with each other a couple of times a year despite having gone separate ways nearly two decades ago.

My biggest regret, with respect to Lolly Tai, is that she did not get the opportunity to stay at Clemson to take my place as Head of the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture and Director of the Landscape Architecture Program, but I do understand her reasons for leaving for the Temple opportunity. Clemson would have become even a better program with her understanding and leadership in landscape architectural education for she is dedicated to elevating all those she encounters. Clemson's loss was Temple's gain.

I will leave to others to speak to her time at Temple, but I am sure that her productivity at Temple has equaled or exceed her productivity and contribution to the education of landscape architects at Clemson. Lolly has sustained being Lolly in her advancement of herself and the profession of landscape architecture. That she has sustained her commitment to landscape architecture education for so many years is evident in her curriculum vitae. I had little hope at the time that I hired her that she would commit the rest of her career to the educations of landscape architects. I am glad she did so for we as landscape architects are all better off for her sustained involvement with teaching. Jot Carpenter would be proud of her example.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and stylized.

Don Collins, RLA, FASLA
Jot Carpenter Medal Recipient, 2006

Letter of Support for the Nomination of Lolly Tai, PH.D., RLA, FASLA for the
2021 Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal, awarded by the American Society of Landscape Architects

I am very pleased to offer this letter in support of the nomination of **Lolly Tai, PH.D., RLA, FASLA** for the 2021 Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal awarded by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). I have known Lolly for close to twenty years, since she joined Temple University (Ambler, PA) as Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture in 2002. I had the pleasure of serving as an Adjunct Professor in landscape architecture at Temple from 1989-2011.

Lolly's commitment to educating future landscape architects is apparent in her engagement with students. While at Temple, I regularly interacted with Lolly. She would engage with the Professional Practice students I was teaching and would welcome me as a visiting critic or juror in her classes. Lolly engages students in thoughtful, compelling, and relevant projects. She pushes, challenges, and supports them. She encourages deep immersion in understanding a site, program, users, and clients.

The quality of Lolly's instruction and the resulting student work is evident in the four Landscape Architecture Foundation Olmsted Scholar recipients and six ASLA Chapter and National awards won since 2013. In addition to her commitment to Temple, and before that at Clemson University, Lolly has participated in seven landscape architecture accreditation team visits, serving as Chair for four of those. In these engagements, she brought her experience, knowledge, and warm personality to bear for the betterment of the programs and universities she visited.

Beyond her interaction with students, Lolly held two significant leadership positions which guided the growth and shaped the spirit of Temple's Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. From 2002-2006, Lolly served as Chair of the department, providing leadership for both horticulture and landscape architecture programs. She oversaw thirty faculty and staff positions, taught classes, directed service projects and conducted research on designing outdoor environments for children.

From 2006-2009, Lolly served as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Academic Services for the Ambler College and Ambler Campus. In this capacity, Lolly led major initiatives involving faculty policies, facilities, strategic planning and fundraising for over 300 faculty and 3000 students on a 187-acre campus which also serves as an arboretum.

Among many awards, Lolly received the 2005 Award of Distinction for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service from the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, the 2004 Bradford Williams Medal for recognition of provocative writing in *Landscape Architecture* from ASLA and the Provost Medal for Scholarly Achievement from Clemson University in 2000.

For over thirty years of teaching at Clemson and Temple universities, enriching the lives of thousands of students and advancing the scholarship of landscape architecture, I can think of no person more deserving than Lolly Tai, PH.D., RLA, FASLA for the 2021 Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal.

Thank you for considering her nomination.

Mark A. Focht, PLA, FASLA

Deputy Commissioner / Chief Operating Officer

NYC Parks

ASLA Past-President, 2014

January 3, 2021

Jot D. Carpenter Award
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

I consider it a great honor to support the nomination of Lolly Tai for the 2020 Jot D. Carpenter Award.

Tai, whose career as an educator spans over three decades, has distinguished herself as an enthusiastic and caring teacher, a creative scholar, and an active participant in the activities of the campus, community, and profession. Very deservedly, she has been recognized with numerous awards and honors for her outstanding contributions in teaching, research and service. She is the first Pacific Asian woman to become an ASLA Fellow; the recipient of ASLA's Bradford Williams Medal; the recipient of CELA's Award of Distinction for Excellence in Teaching; and the winner of Board of Trustees, President and Provost awards for leadership, teaching, and scholarly contributions.

I have known Lolly Tai for nearly 20 years. When we first became acquainted, I was the new dean of Temple University Ambler College, recruiting a department chair for our Landscape Architecture and Horticulture department. Very quickly during the search process, it became evident that Tai was the right leader not only for the program, but for the campus and the community. Her exceptional intellect, outstanding credentials, and commitment to students set her apart from others.

Tai did not disappoint. In her role as department chair, she elevated and improved the stature of Temple's program nationally through faculty hires, enhanced student enrollment, enriched curriculum, increased faculty research, and instructional facilities. She also recruited outstanding students and nurtured them to excel in the field of landscape architecture.

Tai is a proven leader in landscape architecture education. Over the years, she has taught a wide range of Landscape Architecture courses, from introductory landscape design through graduate research methods. Prior to joining Temple, her distinction as a teacher was recognized with many awards, including the Commendation of Excellence in Service Learning from the Commission of Higher Education for the master plan for the Clemson Elementary School.

Since joining Temple in 2002, Tai has continued her brand of creative teaching. In her effort to bring cutting edge technology to the program, she helped secure \$90,000 to build the first digital studio. She taught the first landscape computer graphics course in the curriculum. Tai also initiated the development of new courses such as computer technology, research methods, sustainable design, and horticultural therapy to enrich the curriculum and respond to accreditation recommendations. She revived the important junior design build studio and secured recurring funding for the initiative. To provide

students with a global experience, she initiated an exchange program with Edinburgh College of Art in Scotland. She regularly engages students on public service projects involving them with real clients and complex issues. Her projects involve shaping public places to include green infrastructure. Her students learn to be critical thinkers and creative designers. Tai's courses at Temple have been evaluated as top notch by colleagues within and outside of the University. Their enthusiastic letters stress her love of teaching and enthusiasm for learning. Her teaching is also viewed as outstanding by students, who point to the personal attention and mentoring that she gives them as well as her willingness to get involved in their work. As a frequent participant in her studio reviews, I can personally attest to her passion for teaching, command of her subject, and ability to inspire students.

To advance the stature of her students, Tai consistently mentors and advises them on submissions for ASLA Student Design Awards, the LAF Olmsted Scholar Award, the Steven King Award as well as ASLA peer reviewed conference papers. From these efforts, students have garnered many awards. One of Tai's former students, Diana Fernandez, employed at Sasaki, is the recipient of the ASLA Honor Award for the studio project and exhibit, "Above Below Beyond" (2013). She recently received the ASLA Emerging Professional Medal (2020). Another example is Zoe Boothe-Jarrett, employed at OLIN since 2015. She is a recipient of the Steven G. King Play Environments Award. Yet another former student, Andrew Sargeant, a LAF Olmsted Scholar Fellow, actively participated on ASLA's Diversity Summit (2019), presented at the Landscape Architecture Foundation's Innovation and Leadership Symposium (2019), and is part of the leadership for ASLA's Professional Practice Network on Digital Technology. He was formerly employed at OLIN and is currently on a Rose Fellowship through the Enterprise Foundation. I consider Tai's deep commitment to the intellectual development and professional success of students to be one of her most significant attributes. It is evident to me that she has read widely and thought deeply about pedagogical issues, that she is committed to curricular rigor, and that she succeeds at creating an enriched learning environment.

Tai's commitment to enhancing the reputation and visibility of the Temple program goes beyond the classrooms and studios. In an effort to enhance the size and quality of the student body, Tai broke new ground in collaborating with colleagues on and off-campus. As department chair, she helped Admissions analyze recruitment and retention efforts, establish micro plans for transfer students, and develop targeted financial aid strategies. Their efforts led to significant outcomes, including the development of articulation agreements with neighboring institutions such as Montgomery County Community College, Longwood Gardens, and Delaware Valley University. As a result, the program saw increases in enrollment, retention, diversity and academic profiles. Over the years, Tai has helped the Ambler College raise money not only by increasing enrollment, but also by developing innovative courses and programs, and seeking public and private support. At Temple, she worked diligently with the director of development to foster relationships with donors and to raise funds for much needed scholarships for students. Through her efforts, two new scholarships were developed: one for minority women students and the other for students planning a career in landscape restoration.

These scholarships were instrumental in our ability to recruit and retain students, many of them from first-generation families. Tai also participated in numerous fundraising activities, from Board of Visitors meetings to serving on numerous committees. She never shirked from responsibility, even when she was booked 24/7.

Perhaps the area in which Tai has made her greatest contributions is faculty excellence. To advance Temple's landscape architecture program, Tai advocated for resources for new faculty hires with diverse backgrounds and credentials. She was successful in hiring two landscape architecture faculty, one with a PhD and another with practice and construction expertise. During this period, with rare exceptions, there were very few doctoral-holders in Landscape Architecture in the US as the terminal degree is the Masters. Thus, Tai hiring an additional PhD not only strengthened the reputation of the faculty, it also brought distinction to the program.

One of Tai's greatest legacies as a department chair is the development and implementation of the Master of Landscape Architecture in Ecological Landscape Restoration. Tai worked constructively with the Dean of the Graduate School, University officials, faculty leaders, and curricular committees to achieve approval. This unique, well-established, and respected program has not only strengthened the visibility and reputation of the department, it has also produced outstanding graduates who are working in design firms, public agencies, and private and public organizations to enhance the environment.

Tai understands the importance of being an advocate for an organization, its people and programs, and she has a long history of engaging with individuals and organizations to advance the mission and goals of institutions. Internally and externally, she has been very successful in developing and enhancing relationships, participating in a variety of business, social, and cultural events and serving on boards to advance higher education and the landscape architecture profession.

Tai has been an active member of ASLA for nearly forty years. She has served her profession and academic discipline in a variety of leadership roles: Chapter President of ASLA's Centennial Year Celebration, member of ASLA's Student Award Jury, and co-chair of PA/DE ASLA Fellows Nomination Committee, since 2015. In this latter role, she has assisted many nominees, with several successfully attaining FASLA status. She has traveled across the country and internationally, giving lectures and presenting papers at national and state ASLA conferences, CELA, EDRA, and AHS. Highly skilled at "telling the story" of landscape architecture, she promotes ASLA in the classroom, at professional conferences, and in the community. Her students follow her example, attending and working at ASLA meetings and taking on leadership roles (president, executive members) in state chapters. Tai has also served on ASLA design juries in neighboring universities, including Penn State, University of Pennsylvania, and Rutgers University.

Tai has served on seven accreditation visits as Chair and/or Administrator. She has earned a reputation for being organized and collegial, working well with teams to produce succinct and honest evaluations of the institutions being evaluated. I admire her hard work and commitment to the profession, and I am grateful to her for encouraging me

to serve on two Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board review teams (West Virginia and University of Massachusetts).

Tai also played a prominent role in Temple's strategic initiatives; key among them was the development of the University's master plan. In addition, she was actively involved in faculty governance, serving on a number of committees of the Faculty Senate and the President's Tenure and Promotion Committee. Service on these institution-wide committees not only expanded the scope of her knowledge of emerging University issues, it also brought attention and resources to Ambler College and the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. Serving in high-profile leadership roles, Tai was able to develop relationships with academic and administrative leaders and to obtain a significant number of grants in support of new instructional facilities that vastly improved classroom instruction for students. These included the first smart classroom with computers in a design studio, a green roof, a horticultural laboratory, and signage in the arboretum. It is worth noting that in addition to her role as department chair and later as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, she also maintained appreciable accomplishment in both teaching and scholarship. Further, to stay in close contact with students, she continued her teaching while attending to administrative duties. She returned to full time undergraduate and graduate teaching in 2009, when the Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Department was integrated into the College of Liberal Arts. She continues to have a reputation for a strong work ethic and being visionary and solution-oriented in everything that she does.

Lolly Tai is a truly rare find. I think it is remarkable that she has been able to contribute so much to further landscape architecture education and the profession. Her unwavering commitment to teaching, research, and service is exemplary. Her uncompromising dedication to serving her current and former students, faculty and colleagues are inspiring. She embodies the core values of the landscape architecture profession and is eminently qualified for the Jot D. Carpenter award. I recommend her with my greatest enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sophia Wisniewska". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sophia" being more prominent and the last name "Wisniewska" following in a similar style.

Sophia Wisniewska
Dean (former)
Temple University, Ambler College

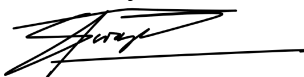
To: ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees

It gives me great satisfaction to recommend Dr. Lolly Tai for the Jot Carpenter award. As a student of Dr. Tai's for multiple years, I can attest to her contagious enthusiasm for the field of landscape architecture which she shared with her students and our program at Temple University. It was in her classes that I crafted an intense passion for detail and care within landscape architecture design. Dr. Tai was the first and only professor who taught the importance of extending our design sensibilities should include soft skills such as writing and speaking, ensuring that her students were able express themselves and their designs. I can honestly say Dr. Tai changed my life, as she functioned not only as teacher but also a mentor and advocate for my growth and success throughout school and as a professional.

Dr. Tai firmly established herself as leader among her colleagues and earned the respect of students and faculty because of her deliberate teaching style. I knew of her teaching ability and reputation far before I became her student. All her previous students testified to the care and responsibility that she puts into all her students' educations. Dr. Tai took tremendous pride in the growth and wellbeing of all her classrooms. She often stayed late in studio, brought us food and snacks, and tirelessly worked alongside us to ensure our success. While her students engaged in traditional jury presentations for studio classes, she pushed them to do more, and as a result, her students published work on a yearly basis. "Mount Moriah: Restoring A Historic Cemetery", the book published in my senior studio will forever serve as memento of the commitment that she gave to our class and represents the achievement of creating work that I can be proud of. She saw us not only as students but as future professionals that she had duty to help support by imparting the knowledge and skills needed build a career. Her fondness for her students and her charisma that brings them together, set the tone for the studio class to function as family.

Dr. Tai would call us her "chickadees", a nickname for all the students, which meant we were more like her children. She incentivized and encouraged students to work together and share knowledge with immediate classmates, as well as students at all levels, which cultivated an attitude of openness and learning. She encouraged former students to return to campus as lecturers and teacher's assistants, after graduation, which led to a close network of alum. It was incredibly helpful to engage with successful professionals and former students including Diana Fernandez, who was established in the field by the time I was senior. Many of Dr. Tai's students are now at the forefront of the profession and are greatly impacting the field of landscape architecture and I am sure that there will be many more as she continues to teach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Sargeant", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Andrew Sargeant

03 January 2021

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

Subject: Support for Lolly Tai's Nomination for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

It is with the utmost respect and admiration that I write this letter in support of Lolly Tai's nomination for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. I had the privilege of being a student of Lolly's while completing my studies at Temple University. Her tremendous ambition and determination for the profession have certainly shaped my career trajectory and that of many of her students over the years. Lolly is the embodiment of a fearless leader and mentor whose influence on the future of the profession is profound.

When I first entered Lolly's studio, I was at a point in my academic studies where I was uncertain about how my identity and experiences influenced the profession. It was in her studio that I found my voice as a landscape architect. She gave me the confidence and offered opportunities to excel and spread my gifts to the world. Her determination for my success and that of my cohort was boundless; she saw no barriers and enabled us to achieve success beyond our wildest imagination. I owe a great debt of gratitude to Lolly for showing me through example the bountiful opportunities the profession of landscape architecture has to share. I cannot think of a more selfless professor, mentor and friend, always putting others above herself and enabling them to step into their power.

In 2013, Lolly, Amy, Susan and I, stood on the awards stage to receive a National Student Award of Excellence for "Above Below Beyond." This project was a reflection of Lolly's exceptional leadership as a professor, a mentor, and friend. Lolly led us down an ambitious endeavor that resulted in the publishing of a book over 500 pages in length. She enthusiastically supported us when we approached her about creating an exhibition and did not even flinch when we raised thousands of dollars to support the advancement of the work. She had the gift few educators have, she truly believes in her students and sees opportunity in places others cannot. I am who I am because Lolly believed in my potential.

Lolly's own experiences as a minority have also deeply influenced her empathy towards cultivating diverse professionals. I can personally attest to the fact her understanding the systemic issues affecting students of color significantly influenced my career trajectory. Lolly has always had a way with understanding her students' needs while still holding us to the highest standards and propelling us forward into success. Lolly exemplifies the best the profession has to offer, and her legacy of cultivating diverse students is a model for our profession.

Lolly exemplifies the best of landscape architecture education; she is a fierce leader, an advocate for all and an indelible contributor to our profession. I confidently endorse Lolly Tai to be acknowledged with the distinction of the Jot D Carpenter Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Fernandez Bibeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "D".

Diana Fernandez Bibeau, PLA, ASLA

Senior Associate

Sasaki









