

February 4, 2022

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

ASLA Medal Nomination: Shawn Kelly, FASLA

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

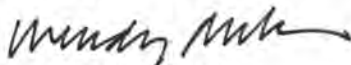
Shawn T. Kelly, FASLA, is the epitome of a service leader and tireless advocate for ASLA and the profession of landscape architecture.

During his thirty plus year career, Shawn's dedication of time, energy, and expertise has brought about lasting change for the betterment of the profession. From the advancement of the State of Wisconsin's Practice Upgrade Act to enactment, to his work in continually increasing awareness of the importance of the profession of landscape architecture through speaking engagements at CELA, AIA, and regional Natural Resources conferences, to the multitude of professional and community endeavors where he advocates for stewardship of our precious water resources and practices with respect for the land and culture of indigenous communities, to his shepherding the individual and collective successes of his students in obtaining and advancing their own careers in landscape architecture, Shawn's motivation springs from the spirit of true and selfless service.

Shawn Kelly tenacity and leadership skills were shaped at an early age working on his father's freight docks, but his discipline was forged through athletics and his time at the United States Military Academy at West Point as a Cadet. Shawn's strength and resilience to remain steadfast through rough times was honed during his days on the rodeo circuit and his quiet and thoughtful approach to the responsibility of caring for our natural resources was a daily challenge during his work in Africa. He has developed a special skill set with every job and occupation culminating in the professional practice of Landscape Architecture. Shawn lives his belief that it should be the goal of every leader to nurture the next generation to take up the charge to make the world and our communities more just, sustainable and humane.

Shawn Kelly's passion, leadership, vision and courage has helped create opportunities and set in motion a new direction for our Society and profession. Shawn embodies the qualities and longstanding contributions the ASLA Medal is meant to recognize. It is with great pleasure that I am putting forth this nomination of Shawn Kelly for the highest honor that the American Society of Landscape Architects bestows.

Sincerely,



Wendy Miller, FASLA



**Department of Planning
and Landscape Architecture**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

February 2, 2021

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

ASLA Medal Nomination: Shawn T Kelly, FASLA

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

It is an honor to submit my endorsement of Shawn Kelly, FASLA, for the ASLA Medal. Shawn's life-long commitment to educating landscape architecture students in sustainable and ethical site design has produced a generation of landscape architects creating spaces both ecologically and socially just.

Shawn has been a teaching faculty at University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Landscape Architecture for over 25 years and we have been colleagues for 18 of those. The students are taught by him in four courses: grading and drainage, construction details, professional practice, and the senior capstone studio.

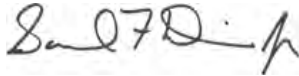
Shawn has a teaching style that draws heavily from his own design practice. His approach to teaching grading and drainage, just like his practice, emphasizes water conservation. This course is perhaps the most meaningful in our curriculum and our graduates practice his design philosophy throughout their own careers.

The department often hears from alumni how important Shawn's courses have been in their professional practice, both informally and through our alumni surveys. Even landscape architects who Shawn taught 25 years ago, identify him and his courses as the most influential on their design. These landscape architects are still applying

Shawn's teaching on stormwater management as an opportunity to not only address local and global water systems, but as design principles that have become part of our collective response to global climate change.

Shawn's influence on our far-flung alumni cannot be overstated. Those he has educated continue to have a lasting impact on the practice of landscape architecture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sam F. Dennis Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Samuel F Dennis Jr, PhD, ASLA
Professor, Planning and Landscape Architecture
Director, Environmental Design Lab
Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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samuel.dennis@wisc.edu

ASLA Medal Nomination for Shawn T. Kelly, FASLA

Commitment to Education and Practice

During the past thirty years Mr. Kelly has both worked full time at the University of Wisconsin, Madison on the Instructional Faculty and as principal in his design firm, Kelly Design Group, LLC. At the University he is mentor to every class, starting in the sophomore year, continuing through the Senior Capstone projects, and well into the graduate's careers. Shawn began a module in his Professional Practice Course that focuses on how to write and pass a law in local legislatures. He promotes an understanding of the similarities and differences between local and national politics and policies, as well as licensure defense. As both educator and mentor, Mr. Kelly has been effective in his nurturing of our professional future. In practice, Mr. Kelly has continued to produce solutions at the cutting edge of water harvesting and quality improvement, bridging practice, academia, and public awareness in a unified effort. Everyone who meets Shawn, from Client to Student, does not leave the first meeting without hearing that "the world is running out of potable water, and this is what we can do about it in this situation...."

His work with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to form the Center for Sustainable Design has placed him in the forefront of demonstrating the integrity of landscape architecture to academics and administrators otherwise unaware of the impact of the profession.

During his academic career, Mr. Kelly has also lectured widely on the importance of working with indigenous communities to create equity, justice and cultural cohesion. He has received recognition for his work and has been described as, "A Landscape Architect's Landscape Architect." He has been an active member of the Council on Educators in Landscape Architecture and presented numerous times at the annual CELA conference. Seeing issues on the horizon for the landscape architecture programs, he dedicated several years to help formulate a white paper with the ASLA Committee on Education regarding the status of education for landscape architects and STEM education.

Commitment to Licensure and Environmental Advocacy

After moving to Wisconsin, Shawn became involved in the efforts to support licensure for landscape architects. He testified before a Legislative Committee to build support for the first adoption of a Title Act. After the act became State Law, at a celebratory dinner for the law passage Shawn asked, "When are we going to go for the Practice Act?" Through his determination and steady efforts, Shawn began what became an eleven-year effort to research, write, gain support, and lobby for what became the forty-eighth Practice Act. For many years single handedly, he worked diligently to bring more ASLA members on board to lobby legislators for support to pass the law. At the signing of the law, Shawn's dedication was recognized by the Senate and House members by placing Shawn behind the Governor as he signed the bill. Shawn also received the first pen used to sign the bill.

Shawn has continued to be an active advocate for our profession nationally and regionally. Many of his students who participated in licensure lobbying efforts have continued into leadership roles in ASLA Chapters where they carry on the legacy of advocacy. His national award for Advocacy was in recognition of that work. Shawn's advocacy for water resources has taken on a new passionate level in light of rapidly declining aquifer health and extreme weather events across the globe. Shawn's influential voice on the urgent need to manage water wisely has inspired generations of landscape architects.

Commitment to the Profession and ASLA

Shawn's service to ASLA began over thirty years ago with his participation in the ASLA San Diego Chapter and has continued ever since. Along with his advocacy efforts, Shawn served as State Chapter Secretary and then President in the 1999 centennial year of ASLA. During his tenure as Chapter President, he hosted the first tri-state ASLA regional meeting in Madison, implemented the strategic planning methodology he helped prepare, and worked with ASLA National for the events and products for ASLA National's Centennial celebration.

Shawn continued his leadership by serving two terms as the Wisconsin Chapter Trustee. He was never satisfied with the normal participation. He delivered a speech to the Board encouraging them to authorize the spending to renew and improve the ASLA Headquarters building in Washington, DC. resulting in agreement to support the project. Shawn served as a mentor to new Trustees, encouraging them to find their passion and voice. He spoke on issues of importance at the national level, including strengthening accredited landscape architecture programs, inspiring emerging professionals, and following good fiscal management. Shawn also produced a useful orientation document - the "Complete Idiot's Guide to being Trustee" for use by new Trustees to empower them to perform the important work of guiding ASLA's policies and work.

Serving as Vice President of Membership, Shawn worked with a consulting team to evaluate ASLA's membership, with the goal of reaching more landscape architects and finding new members. His diligent and honest evaluation of the team's work led to an improved result and membership strategy. During Shawn's time as a Vice President, he, along with the Executive Committee and Trustees, navigated complex issues related to managing the SITES initiative with the Lady Bird Foundation/ University of Texas and the Botanic Garden as well as complex financial discussions. Shawn clearly articulated the responsibilities inherent in each level of leadership commitment and developed an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of volunteer leadership at the national level. As outgoing Vice President Mr. Kelly was asked to write "The Complete Idiot's Guide to being a Vice President." He also wrote, "The Complete Idiot," a guide to those interested in the Presidency of ASLA.

Mr. Kelly also served as a two-year representative to the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). He was the first representative to file a report of his meeting with the ASLA and noted systemic issues with IFLA governance and dues related to ASLA. Shawn's critical evaluation of the situation led to a frank discussion and ASLA stepped back from the IFLA body until concerns, with income generation, dues equity, etc. were addressed. This clear message relayed through Shawn's observations led to changes in IFLA and opened the discussions for a future agreement regarding ASLA's participation which resumed in 2021.

Mr. Kelly also represented ASLA at Habitat Three: The United Nations third meeting on the evolution and trends in cities. He returned to ASLA with a report about the New Green Agenda product of the meeting, and a review of global awareness of the work of ASLA. The presentations opened up new dialogue about ASLA and the professional perspective of landscape architects.

Shawn was elected President of ASLA in 2019 and was the first incoming President to receive the President's medal at the meeting where he was sworn in to become the President. This was in recognition of his work for the Society and the profession at large. Beginning at his first meetings he opened a new level of discussion and openness to change. He asked the Executive Committee to meet with ASLA staff to coordinate goals, accomplishments, and concerns. The results of this were new opportunities to collaboratively review the ASLA Annual Operating Program and identify opportunities for greater impact. The Executive Committee, under Mr.

Kelly's leadership, revised several project areas and took a completely fresh look at the allocation of resources and ASLA's organizational leadership. The search for a new ASLA CEO began during Mr. Kelly's tenure.

His leadership and nurturing of fellow leaders in his Executive Committee inspired impactful changes that allowed ASLA to emerge as a stronger organization. Those who worked so closely together in the immense efforts of Mr. Kelly's term as President realized the benefits of teamwork among leaders to realize several major goals. Some of the specific accomplishments of the leadership follow.

- Initiation of a comprehensive strategic plan for ASLA.
- Development of more open dialogue and discussion at governance meetings
- Selection of the Search Committee to find and hire a new CEO and develop a prospectus for the Society including well defined roles and responsibilities for the CEO and volunteer leadership.
- Issuance of an RFP for a new and improved web presence for ASLA.
- Creation of a stronger alliance with a managing professional licensing group and support for state and national scale licensure advocacy.
- Opening discussions to institute free membership for landscape architecture students.
- Writing and gaining approval of the ASLA Zero Tolerance for Discrimination Policy passed by the Board of Trustees
- Exploration of new sources of revenue for ASLA to address business scenarios of the future and removal of barriers to e-commerce solutions for membership renewal
- Diversification and improvements to the ASLA Fund and developing alliances and opportunities for future collaborations to further ASLA goals

ASLA National Service

2019 - ASLA President

2013-2014 - VP of Membership

2005-2010 – Wisconsin Chapter Trustee

2007 – 2009 Member, ASLA Audit Committee

2006 - 2009 Member, ASLA Ethics Committee

2006 - 2008 Member, ASLA Council of Educators

ASLA Wisconsin Chapter Service

2002 - Present Chair, Practice Act Upgrade Committee, Wisconsin Chapter ASLA

2000 President, Wisconsin Chapter ASLA

1999 President, Wisconsin Chapter ASLA, Centennial Year

1998 President Elect, Wisconsin Chapter ASLA

1997 Secretary, Wisconsin Chapter ASLA

1995 Chair, Strategic Plan Committee, Wisconsin Chapter ASLA

Professional and Educational Lectures

"Masterplan for Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College - a Transformative Learning Experience"
CELA 2009

"Transdisciplinary Action Research in Indian Country, a Continuing Effort" CELA 2009

Professional and Educational Lectures (Cont.)

"Transdisciplinary Action Research and Cultural Sustainable Development Strategies" Third International Design Conference, Berlin, Germany 2009

"Transdisciplinary Action Research with Student Involvements: Sense of Place in Culturally Sustainable Development" Technical Universität, Berlin 2008

"Transdisciplinary Action Research in Indian Country" Erasing Boundaries Symposia, City College of New York, New York City 2007

"Transdisciplinary Action Research Team Dynamics" UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA. 2006

"Sustainable Outcomes and Processes" Keynote Presentation, College of Menomonee Conference on Sustainable Practices Co-Sponsored by: United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2005

"Thinking through Details" Paper Presentation, Annual CELA Meeting, Athens, Georgia. 2004

"Strategies for Success," Keynote Speaker, Competitive Edge, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2000

"The Bottom Line to Green Development" Iowa Department of Natural Resources Conference 1998

"Sustainable Development and Local Opportunities" Wisconsin Chapter ASLA Annual Meeting 1997

"Sustainable Landscapes and Interdisciplinary Coordination" Wisconsin Chapter ASLA / Wisconsin Chapter AIA Joint Meeting. 1997

Professional and Community Outreach

2008 - Present Member, UW-Madison College of Ag. And Life Sciences Leadership Development Committee

2005 - 2007 Member, UW-Madison College of Ag. And Life Sciences Instruction Improvement Committee

1997 - 1998 Member, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency Stormwater Management Committee

1996 - 1998 Member, Williams Bay Plan Commission and Growth Management Committee

1995 - 2003 Board Member and Technical Advisor, Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy

1994 - 1998 Board Member, Cedar Point Park Association

Pro Bono Work

2006 Redevelopment Master Plan, Casino and Downtown Redevelopment, Red Cliff Charrette

2006 Athletic Complex and School System Visioning Plan Direction, Williams Bay Schools

2006 Master Plan Update, Williams Bay School System

2003 Indian Bowl Redesign and Supported Housing Redevelopment Options, Lac du Flambeau

2002 - Present Residential Development Charrettes, Red Cliff Housing Authority

1997 Contributor, Williams Bay Growth Management Committee Report

1997 Contributor, Geneva Lake Stormwater Management Plan Committee Report

1996 - 1998 Master Planning and Site Design, Duck Pond Recreation Area, Fontana Recreation Department

1995 Master Plan, Williams Bay School System

1995 Site Design, Entry Courtyard, Williams Bay High School

1995 Site Design, Entry Plaza, Cedar Point Park Association

1995 - 2000 Garden Designs, Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy



January 30, 2022

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

ASLA Medal Nomination: Shawn Kelly, FASLA

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

It is with great honor that I recommend Shawn Kelly, FASLA for the ASLA Medal. Shawn's dedication throughout his career to advancing the practice of landscape architecture has had a profound impact on our profession. His staunch leadership at the ASLA Chapter and National level has been critical to establishing and maintaining the security of the Society. His efforts have been successful because he leads by example, always putting the good of the whole above any desire for self-recognition. The ASLA Medal would be a symbol of the recognition Shawn deserves for the pivotal roles he has played to elevate the standing of past, current, and future landscape architects.

As President in 2019, Shawn was called upon to lead ASLA through one of the most impactful changes in the past several decades. At a time when ASLA was needing to find our way, Shawn was the right person at the right time to question how our long-standing practices were contributing to a vision of our role in a dramatically changing world. I served as Immediate Past President at this time and saw first-hand Shawn's commitment to securing our future. He made tough decisions that at the time weren't always universally popular but were absolutely critical. By listening and being empathetic toward the views of others, he built support for making those decisions. He also bore the slings and arrows.

ASLA now has a clear vision of our future, and a plan for how to achieve that vision. The changes that Shawn spurred are quickly becoming a footnote to this process. This was always his intention, the goal is far more important than the individual acts that initiated change. It is testament to his selfless leadership that future generations of landscape architects won't recognize his contributions. He never wanted credit, only what was best for the Society that he loves.

I think it's important to recognize his achievements by awarding him the ASLA Medal and thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,
MRWM Landscape Architects

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gregory A. Miller, PLA, FASLA
Principal Landscape Architect

ASLA Medal Nominations
C/O Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Attention: Executive Committee/Board of Trustees

Regarding: ASLA Medal

I am pleased to write this letter endorsing Shawn T. Kelly, FASLA to be nominated for consideration for the ASLA Medal for Lifetime Achievements and Contributions to the Profession, which have a unique and lasting impact on the welfare of the public and the environment.

Kelly is a "Landscape Architect's Landscape Architect" through his knowledge in many aspects of our profession from the private and public practitioner's to academia, to which he has contributed his wealth of knowledge.

Kelly's success is measured in his persistent drive for excellence with results being shown in his accomplishments with his academic leadership of the next generation of Landscape Architect, through his environmental leadership in stormwater management and environmental sustainable landscape along with his recent leadership as President of the American Society of Landscape Architect taking it to its next level through his leadership and knowledge of our profession and environment.

Fortunately Shawn is far from completing his contribution and achievement to the profession which continues with his rebirth with boundaries in advocacy and engagement. And always holding his Design Philosophy "To provide opportunities through design for the celebration of life as an important process, to walk softly and leave the site better for our environment."

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Dennis Otsuji, is written over the typed name and title.

Dennis Otsuji, FASLA
Past President ASLA, 1994-95

January 27, 2022

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in the strongest possible support of Shawn Kelly, FASLA on the occasion of his nomination for the ASLA Medal. It is an honor to write this letter of support as it was an honor to serve with Shawn, especially on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. I will focus my support on Shawn's character, qualities as a leader, and his contributions to the society he so wonderfully served.

Shawn led with clear vision, thorough research, and most importantly, by listening to those around him and incorporating their input into his plan of action. Shawn was deliberate and spoke with a calm and reassuring voice. He thought before he spoke and did not allow emotion or the urgency of the subject to cloud his vision and response. He possesses many important character traits. He is honest, hardworking, and trustworthy. He forms friendships easily and those around him naturally seek his counsel and opinion. Shawn's first instinct is as a listener and asker of thought provoking questions, which in turn lead him to act for the collective good rather than pursue short term or immediate and partial solutions.

It was my pleasure and honor to serve with Shawn on the Executive Committee during a time of great challenge, change, and transition of leadership within ASLA. During this critical time Shawn was the voice of reason...never losing sight of the importance of the mission of ASLA and the opportunity to strengthen its effectiveness and to secure the future of the profession and our professional society. He nurtured the leadership skills of those around him and insisted that every voice be heard and debate conducted in a positive and effective manner. Shawn is above all else fair and inclusive. Shawn did not shy away from difficult situations or fail to lead when the easier course would be to remain silent.

Shawn inspires others while not falling into the snare of self-importance. He does not presume to know better, but to learn and grow and respond. He does not hesitate to take action but does so with a carefulness and genuine love for others and our profession. Shawn exhibited these noteworthy leadership qualities in positions of service to our profession, but also in his teaching, mentoring of students, professional practice, and advocacy.

Throughout all, Shawn was wonderfully informative, responsive to suggestions, fair and inclusive in dealing with his colleagues, clear and strong in explaining his convictions, ethical in his decision making, and effective in exploring sustainable solutions with a fresh and inventive approach. He maintained an aura of knowledge, confidence, openness and collegiality.

I trust Shawn. I respect his contributions, and our beloved profession and professional society are stronger, more inclusive, and in a better position to continue to grow in recognition and stature because of his exemplary leadership.

Sincerely,



Dennis R. Nola, PLA, FASLA
University of Maryland

RQ

STUDIO

February 1, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Support for the ASLA Medal – Shawn Kelly, FASLA

Dear ASLA Leadership,

I am writing in support of Shawn Kelly's nomination to receive the 2022 ASLA Medal. A member for almost four decades, Shawn has dedicated countless hours to the profession through his private practice, teaching and service to ASLA. His efforts have and will continue to provide a positive impact on the environment and public welfare.

As a leader of the Wisconsin Chapter ASLA, Shawn led the effort to secure licensure within the State of Wisconsin. This endeavor took years of work, including endless committee hearings and advocacy efforts at the State Capitol. Today, Wisconsinites enjoy a strong practice act for licensed landscape architects, that provides a basic level of public safety for the built environment.

Through his private practice and teaching, Shawn educates his clients and students about the delicate balance of environmental stewardship and human interaction with our world. He has created a legacy of designers, landscape architects, and individuals who will seek to do better because of their exchanges with him. Also, there are very few individuals who know more about stormwater management, potable water supplies, and the potential environmental risks facing us than Shawn. His passion and advocacy for this subject will help millions in the years to come.

Shawn is a humble man, and I'm sure that there are countless many examples of his achievements, but I believe that his most important contribution, to date, involves his leadership as President of ASLA. We will look back and acknowledge that 2019 was a pivotal year for ASLA, where the Society changed course to be bolder, more active, and more visible concerning environmental, social, and public welfare issues. I witnessed him lead the ASLA Executive Committee through gut wrenching decisions, while remaining steady, firm, and forward thinking. This will benefit the Society and public for years to come because landscape architects will be better positioned to play a larger role involving the world that we live in. I know Shawn does not advertise the nature of his work, nor seeks recognition for his actions, but it's time to acknowledge his contributions to the profession, environment, and welfare of the public. Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,



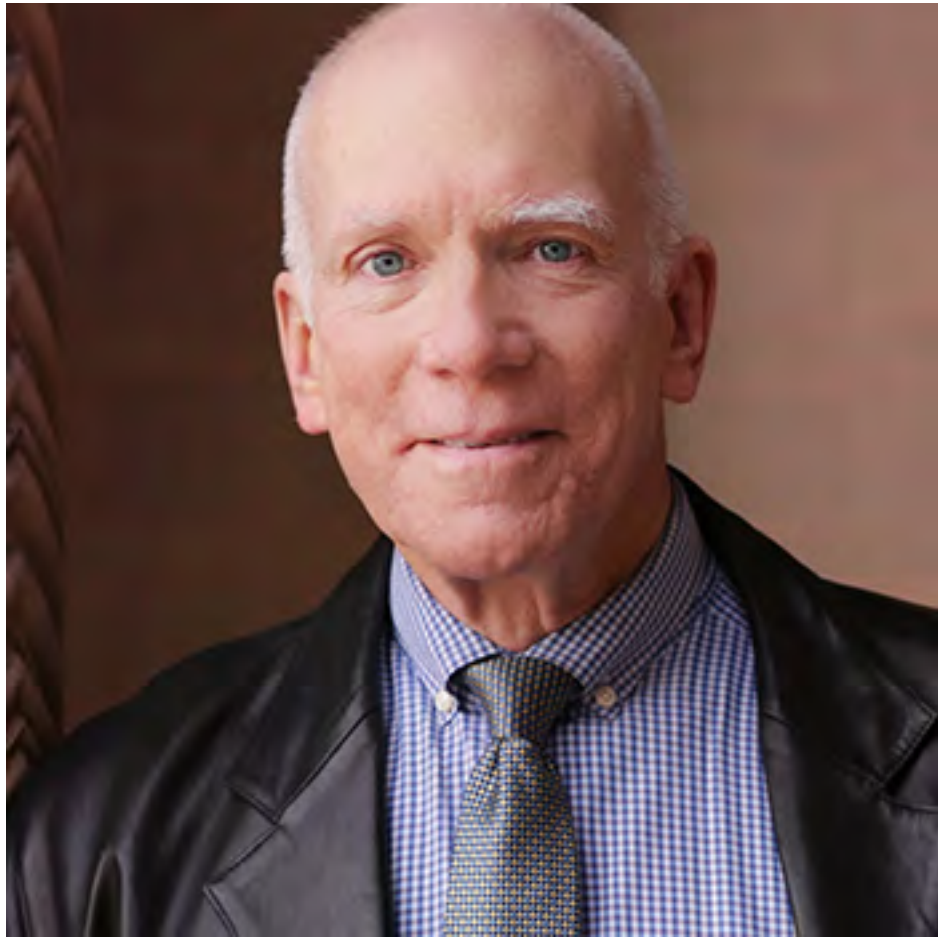
Marq Truscott, FASLA

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AMERICAN
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1899











22. Acknowledgements and Recognitions

After three (3) years of service, Alaska Chapter Trustee, Mark Kimerer, ASLA
After three (3) years of service, Michigan Chapter Trustee, Bob Ford, ASLA
After six (6) years of service, New Jersey Chapter Trustee, Nick Tufaro, ASLA
After three (3) years of service, New York Upstate Chapter Trustee, Douglas McCord, ASLA
After three (3) years of service, Potomac Chapter Trustee, Ron Kagawa, ASLA
After six (6) years of service, South Carolina Chapter Trustee, William Eubanks, FASLA
After six (6) years of service, San Diego Chapter Trustee, Mark Steyaert, ASLA
After three (3) years of service, Utah Chapter Trustee, David Harris, ASLA
After six (6) years of service, Vermont Chapter Trustee, Ann Milovsoroff, FASLA
After six (6) years of service, West Virginia Chapter Trustee, Roger Kennedy, ASLA
After one (1) year of service, National Student Representative, Abigail Reimel, Student ASLA
After one (1) year of service, National Associate Representative, Magdalena Aravena, Associate ASLA

Meeting
2018

American Society of
Landscape Architects

ASLA Medal Nomination for Shawn T. Kelly, FASLA

Nominee Contact Information

Shawn T. Kelly, PLA, FASLA
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Principal, Kelly Design Group, LLC
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