

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – EBRU OZER

The Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is pleased to nominate Ebru Ozer for the ASLA Community Service Award. In addition to her notable achievements as a professor at Florida International University (FIU) and as a Landscape Architect, Ebru has established a lifelong career volunteering in her community, bringing the profession to people (focusing mostly on students) and places that have little knowledge or interaction with Landscape Architecture. The impacts of her sustained dedication and volunteer service have achieved spectacular results: the successful process and implementation of the ACE Legacy Project in Miami, sustained engagement in ASLA at a national, state, and local level, her role in the development and continued growth of the Future Landscape Architects of America, and in her leadership with the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Through these and so many other, she has continuously advocated for landscape architecture nationally, in her community, and with her students. Through her work and passion, Ebru has inspired and educated countless other volunteers on the benefits of our profession. Most notably, her love for student development continues to shine in the forefront as she has brought her skills as a teacher to her volunteer work, patiently guiding students and volunteers through the design and construction process. Her innate ability to creatively inspire and organize others has had a lasting effect on her community and development of future landscape architects. By fostering her relationships and including different volunteer groups from all aspects of her career, Ebru has had a profound impact in transforming the public's awareness of Landscape Architecture and many public spaces and places along the way. The definitive impact and goal of Ebru's volunteer work is and has always been to create inspiring, well-designed spaces that foster community and create a stronger connection with nature.

As this award recognizes individual landscape architects, groups of landscape architects, landscape architecture firms, landscape architecture education programs, or ASLA Chapters who have provided sustained, pro bono service to the community demonstrating sound principles or values of landscape architecture, few embody these principals and have devoted their professional career to service more than Ebru.

Just a few of Ebru's incredible service projects include:

ACE Legacy Project Service and Leadership

More than a decade ago, ASLA introduced the Legacy Project as a gift to the host city of the ASLA annual conference. The host chapter teams up with the local affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program to design a project to be installed after the conference.

In 2020, with the ASLA Conference coming to Miami - the ASLA Florida Chapter committed to the re-development of the Liberty City Elementary School Yard as the site for the Legacy Project. No sooner than the project being suggested to the Florida Chapter, did Ebru step up to lead this volunteer effort. She provided exceptional leadership and guidance to the eleven-student Miami Coral Park Senior High ACE Legacy Team while facilitating this hands-on STEAM (science,

technology, engineering, arts, math) educational project. The project dealt with many obstacles along the way, but – through Ebru’s tenacity and persistence, completed phase one of construction in November 2021.

Starting in early 2020, Ebru began by visiting 10 public schools in Liberty City, evaluated their schoolyards, and met school principals in order to identify potential schools for the ACE Legacy Project. She, along with Emily O’Mahoney (ASLA 2020 Conference Co-Chair and now ASLA President-Elect), Tzu Chen (ACE Southeast Regional Director), Andrew Gotschall (ACE Miami Affiliate), and Charlie DeLahoz (Engineering / Construction / Architecture Magnet Teacher at Coral Park Senior High) selected Liberty City Elementary as the ASLA 2020 ACE Legacy Project Site.

Next, Ebru connected with the existing ACE Chapter in Miami, Miami Coral Park Senior High, met students and faculty, and introduced them the Legacy Project. 11 ACE students in the classroom and their teacher (Charlie DeLahoz) were very excited about the project. They loved the idea of designing a schoolyard and were full of ideas from day one. The schoolyard is very large and ultimately an empty canvas waiting to be transformed into a beautiful schoolyard. Ebru volunteer-teach at the school on Mondays and Wednesdays to educate students about landscape architecture and schoolyard design, putting together a full curriculum for the students. One of her first lectures was about site analysis, observation and site documentation.

After some classroom work with the High Schoolers, Ebru planned a site documentation activity called “see my campus through my eyes,” which focused on actively engaging both the elementary school students (clients) and the high school students (landscape designers) with the identification of site problems and also potential solutions. She paired one high school student with one or two elementary school students and asked them to walk through the schoolyard and discuss and document existing site conditions. Elementary school students pointed out problem areas and the high school students photographed and documented them. “We have a playground but no shade!”, one of the ACE Legacy students commented.

After the site documentation activity, the ACE students presented their idea boards to the students and faculty of the Liberty City Elementary. Ebru then lead the ACE Legacy Team on a field visit to the Shark Valley portion of The Everglades National Park. This was the first exposure to this native South Florida ecosystem for many of the eleven-student ACE team, despite being in their backyards. Through short, on-site lectures, Ebru and Dr. Susan Sprunt (FIU adjunct professor) taught students concepts related to regional hydrology, plant communities, and native ecology. All day long, the students fully immersed themselves into the “River of Grass,” at the very heart of the Everglades. They observed alligators, wading birds, and other wildlife right in their natural habitat. Ebru worked to collect donations from ASLA Florida Chapter members, which allowed the students to take a tram tour and learn about endemic flora and fauna not easily observable by just walking near the front entry trails. A park naturalist narrated the tram tour and quick stops allowed students to observe nature at work.

In March 2020, the ACE Team presented their schoolyard design ideas to the stakeholders of Liberty City Elementary. Presentation boards were organized based on thematic ideas emerged during “see my campus through my eyes” activity held on Nov 25 Design Charrette. The ACE students first reported on their site inventory findings by utilizing the photographs they took with the help of elementary school students and then elaborated on their design approaches. They proposed ideas related to improving shade, providing elevated planting beds, new active play fields, fence improvements, new playground elements, and exercise equipment. They also introduced their “tropical themed” murals and patterns to be embedded into the design.

Ebru pulled together elementary school students, their teachers, and the landscape architecture and construction professionals of our region, including representatives from Kimley-Horn, Curtis and Rogers, Studio Arth, 2GHO, Turner Construction, Cadence Living, Witkin Hults, and Savino & Miller, to provide feedback.

Through this work, Ebru was able to help collect donations including benches, trash receptacles, planter boxes, and plant materials to make the project a reality. With the help of a large group of volunteers, Ebru was able to see the project through to fruition in 2021 with the final construction of the play space that will serve these students for years to come. This transformative project is a wonderful example of service and mentorship; both pillars of ASLA and our profession. Seeing children of different ages, races, and backgrounds working together on a project that will transform their school sets an example for all of us. Ebru’s countless hours, weekends, weeknights, and personal time to see this project realized has made an impact on the community and in the lives of these children. Her impact and connection with so many people made not only this project possible, but she advocated for our profession and the education of all levels of students along the way. It is through her direct dedication and hard work that this blank canvas came to life!

Future Landscape Architects of America (FLAA)

In 2015, Ebru played a critical role in the development of the non-profit organization, the Future Landscape Architects of America (FLAA). This organization, created to promote landscape architecture to K-12 students, started as a grassroots effort in Palm Beach County, Florida and focused on programs to serve under privileged students and underfunded schools. From the beginning, Ebru helped to bring FLAA to Miami-Dade County, enlisting the help of her students from FIU and creating a role of FLAA Academic Advisor at FIU. This model has now been duplicated at other universities, and Ebru has continued to use her connections in academia to grow the work of FLAA and expose more children to Landscape Architecture. Since its inception, FLAA has taught over 3,000 K-12 students in over 40 schools, non-profits, and community groups throughout the county.

CELA and her Impacts to the organization and scholarship evolution

Ebru joining the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) board of directors as Trustee in 2019. Ebru was elected in a time of confusion and transition for the CELA after the sudden death of the past Executive Director and while CELA was in the process of retaining the services of a professional association management firm. As treasurer, Ebru walked into a situation of disorganization, disarray and wavering leadership. Ebru immediately stepped up and her energy and

efforts went above and beyond the ask of being treasurer of CELA. After her countless hours of work and volunteer service to the organization, she was able to establish a clear financial plan and bright future, fully supported by her fellow officers. Ebru served two years as the Treasurer of the CELA. During her service, she led the move to consolidate our funds, create annual fiscal budgets, and most importantly convince the Board of Directors and the CELA Executive Board to establish an investment account to generate funding for scholarships. In addition to future scholarships funds, Ebru was instrumental in creation of a scholarship for the BIPOC students in landscape architecture named after late Charles Fountain at North Carolina State University. This was made possible as the CELA Board of Trustees had a clear picture of our finances and capabilities after a long period of unclear and uncertain status due unorganized records and files. The Fountain Scholarship was originally to be awarded to ne student only. Thanks to her investment leadership, CELA awarded one graduate and one undergraduate during the 2022 the CELA Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico forever impacting their future and appreciation for our profession.

Service and Volunteering - ASLA & CELA

Ebru has volunteered and serviced at all levels within ASLA, giving back to promote and celebrate our profession. Throughout her tenure, Ebru has a sustained track record for stepping up to volunteer when needed, participating in Miami Section, Broward Section, and FIU Student Chapter service day and beach cleanup events. Ebru currently serves as the VP of Education at ASLA National in which she participates as a member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee for ASLA National. In her local Florida Chapter, she serves as the Florida International University Representative on the ASLA Florida ExCom, where she exposes students to the work of ASLA and engages them into our profession. Additionally, she is very active with the committees on Education, Finance and Investments, the LARE Prep Committee, Licensure Committee, Policy Committee, and is a LACES Representative. Ebru also served as the ASLA Florida Awards chair for several years getting the opportunity to connect with numerous landscape architects from a diverse background of works and leading volunteer groups throughout the process.

Ebru served as the Treasurer for the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) from 2019-2021. Joining during a challenging time of transition, Ebru brought leadership to the CELA executive team, working in collaboration with the associate management team to organize and assess their financial records and bringing the Board a sound financial reporting system and fiscal plan to follow. During this difficult time for the organization, she went above and beyond to ensure the strong financial standing of the organization.

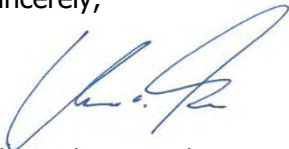
Through Ebru's work with CELA, she was instrumental in the creation of a scholarship for BIPOC students in landscape architecture named for the late Charles Fountain at North Carolina State University. This would not have been possible if not for the work Ebru did to organize CELA's records and files and advocate for progress.

Professional Background & Honors - Florida International University Faculty Advisor

Ebru Özer, ASLA, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design at the College of Architecture and The Arts at Florida International University. She teaches landscape technology and construction, community and regional design, and advanced digital representation. Her teaching efforts have been recognized through awards and honors including the 2015 FIU Faculty Senate Teaching Medal. Her research concentrates on integration of green infrastructure systems into urban design, sustainable landscape construction, and sustainability in park design. Her research has been supported by grants from the national Landscape Architecture Foundation, The United States Department of Education, Florida Department of Transportation, City of Sweetwater, The Metropolitan Center at FIU, the Cejas Family Foundation, and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and The Wolfsonian-FIU. She is co-author of *Best Practices in Sustainable Building Design* (2012). Özer holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from Louisiana State University, a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Dokuz Eylul University, and a Physics degree from Ege University. Özer currently is a member of the FIU President's University Sustainability Committee and serves on the FIU GIS Advisory Committee.

Ebru Ozer's leadership as a volunteer has inspired so many students and future landscape architects while also leading the transformation of spaces as well as attitudes in her community. Through a variety of platforms, initiatives, and audiences, Ebru has sustained, pro bono service to the community, while demonstrating sound principles or values of landscape architecture and elevating the visibility of the profession. She, through her positive energy and natural leadership qualities has brought a new awareness of the benefits and potential of landscape architecture to countless people through her ability to work with others, facilitate complex design, logistical and physical challenges and create beautiful and inspired public landscapes created by volunteers. We enthusiastically recommend Ebru for the ASLA Community Service Award.

Sincerely,



Alexander Fenech
Immediate Past President
ASLA Florida Chapter



Jennifer Daoulas
President
ASLA Florida Chapter



behavioral
mal survive

at an animal
survive

at does an animal do
survive

Egg Drop

	36"	50"	65"
The Egg chub			
Leaving Eggs			
Egg mees			
The Egg chub			

Controls: Eggs, height of drop

Variables: prototype,

Landscape Architecture

SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Career Day, May 17, 2017
Presentation by: Prof. EBRU OZER, Florida International University













FUTURE
**LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS**
OF AMERICA

January 19, 2022

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

RE: ASLA Community Service Award Letter of Recommendation – Ebru Ozer

Dear ASLA Community Service Award Selection Committee:

It is my privilege to recommend Ebru Ozer for the 2022 ASLA Community Service Award. She displays all of the qualities of the service award criteria, and this is evident with her years of selfless dedication to the career field of landscape architecture. I have had the pleasure of working alongside Ebru in a pro-bono capacity since 2015. We first met through the ASLA Florida Chapter Executive Committee, and she has been an amazing mentor and colleague to me throughout the years.

Ebru played a crucial role in the initial development of Future Landscape Architects of America (FLAA), a non-profit created in 2015 to promote landscape architecture within K-12 schools. FLAA started off as a grassroots effort in Palm Beach County, Florida where we focused on underprivileged students and underfunded schools. Ebru played a significant part in helping to expand FLAA to Miami-Dade County. Today, FLAA has taught over 3,000 K-12 students in over 40 schools, non-profits, and community groups throughout the country.

Ebru also stepped up to spearhead the creation of the FLAA Academic Advisor role at Florida International University (FIU). This role was truly groundbreaking since it was the first of its kind. The “model” is intended to be replicated at all universities with landscape architecture programs in the country, and Ebru generously provided the ideal testing ground with her students at FIU. We are now using the FLAA Academic Advisor model at the University of Florida, and we are launching the position in Fall 2022 at Kansas State University and the University of Georgia.

I give Ebru my highest recommendation for the 2022 ASLA Community Service Award and I very much hope that the committee reviews her application favorably. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

Nicole Plunkett, ASLA, PLA, AICP
Founder, Future Landscape Architects of America (FLAA)
Partner, Cotleur & Hearing

January 31, 2022

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

Dear ASLA Community Service Award Nominations, Executive Committee:

I am honored and delighted to nominate Ebru Ozer for the 2021 Community Service Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects. I have known Ebru since the fall semester of 2019. I was a junior at Miami Coral Park Senior High School when she volunteered to teach at the ACE Mentor Club. Her dedication and service to ASLA, FIU, CELA, FLAA, the ACE Legacy Program, her students, and the Miami Community amazes and inspires not only me but everyone who has the opportunity to know her.

2020 ACE Mentor Legacy Project is one of the most important projects that I have worked on and having Ebru as a mentor has given me and my team the opportunity to have first-hand experience and understand what the day-to-day life of an architect is like. In addition, thanks to her connections with Florida International University, we have participated in workshops to learn how to use advanced programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, we have improved our communication skills through presentations, and we have improved our problem-solving skills using creativity to develop solutions for the project.

Ebru has a great impact on my life. Her ethics, leadership, and passion to constantly excel and carry out the 2020 ACE Mentor Legacy Project has influenced me to follow in her footsteps to become a landscape architect.

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Ebru's nomination for the ASLA Community Service Award in recognition of her dedication and service to ASLA, FIU, CELA, FLAA, the ACE Legacy Program, her students, and the Miami Community.

Yours sincerely,



Cesar Deschamps
Student
Florida International University
Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design
cdesc004@fiu.edu

31 January 2022

To: ASLA Honors and Awards Committee

Re: ASLA Community Service Award Nomination for Ebru Ozer

Dear Selection Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit my strongest support for Associate Professor Ebru Ozer's nomination to the ASLA Community Service Award for Community Service. Ebru is a dedicated and exceptional faculty member and community member whose tireless efforts go beyond the classroom and have made tangible improvements to our communities at FIU and in Miami. Ebru is committed, inspiring, focused, and uncompromising in using her expertise to extend the impact of our field into our larger community.

Her contributions span over many years and she is uniquely able to bring her teaching specialties in landscape technology and construction into community and regional design while leveraging her research on the integration of green infrastructure systems into urban design, sustainable landscape construction, sustainability in park design, and community work. It is through her ability to work with students and admirably take on projects with tangible community impact that her pedagogy shines. Ebru has been a steadfast supporter and leader in multiple community initiatives that help address significant challenges in our South Florida community and whose aim has been to seek and find opportunities in areas that have historically been overlooked.

Her remarkable work as Chair of the ACE Mentor Program Legacy Project at the host site in Liberty City Elementary has allowed students in a neighborhood challenged by inequities, lack of economic opportunity, and surrounded by a food desert to see what their agency, involvement, talent, and hard work can do. The physical improvements of their school yard are one thing, but the more profound benefits of seeing how their involvement under Ebru's leadership and guidance has given them a place of their own is the greater and more lasting story. Through projects like ACE, Ebru makes our discipline visible and shows students its great potential at an early age—quite likely shaping their hearts and minds, building meaningful memories, and giving them hope through engagement with transformative design and environmental initiatives.

Another excellent example of Ebru's commitment and dedication to community service was a design studio in 2019 which made the front page of the Miami Herald ("*This neglected, dangerous Miami trail is almost invisible. There's a plan to restore it*") by Robertson, L. on May 10, 2019; accessible from: <https://hrlid.us/2uQt9Hu>). It was 1 of 200 finalists in the Miami Foundation Open Space Challenge and was later exhibited at the Dade Heritage Trust. Assoc. Professor Ozer built a strategic partnership with Friends of the Commodore Trail and worked with nine students over the course of a semester to envision the transformation of this neglected and at times dangerous five-mile trail into a beautiful roadway that connects the Rickenbacker Causeway entrance to the City of Coral Gables.

Assoc. Professor Ozer has been supported by grants from the national Landscape Architecture Foundation, The United States Department of Education, Florida Department of Transportation, City of Sweetwater, The Metropolitan Center at FIU, the Cejas Family Foundation, and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation|The Wolfsonian-FIU. In both teaching and practice, Ebru is able to think broadly and critically and demonstrate a community service focused capacity to bring out the best in students and in community collaborators.

Ebru's is a committed faculty and community member whose sustained, pro bono service to the community demonstrates the sound principles or values of landscape architecture recognized by this award. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance in endorsing and supporting her nomination.

Sincerely,



Roberto Rovira

Professor & Chair | Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design

College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts

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Department of Landscape Architecture
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Mississippi State University

January 24, 2022

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

Dear ASLA Community Service Award Nominations, the BOT, and the Executive Committee,

It is my distinct privilege to endorse Ebru Özer, ASLA, for the 2022 ASLA Community Service Award. I have come to know Ebru through academia first as an excellent graduate student at Louisiana State University and later as a successful colleague at the Florida International University. Her pro-bono work goes beyond the walls of her institution and out into the City of Miami, the State of Florida, and the nation as an elected member of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA). As her colleagues in the State of Florida will talk and document her **sustained, pro bono service to the community** demonstrating sound principles or values of landscape architecture while elevating the visibility of the profession. Therefore, I would like to share Ebru's contributions and service as the Treasurer of the CELA, I was able to observe her service as the President-elect and President of the CELA during which she served as the Treasurer.

Ebru was elected in a time of confusion and transition for the CELA after the sudden death of the past Executive Director and the CELA's move to retain services of a professional association management firm. As one could imagine our files and financial records were in a total disarray. Ebru working collaboration with our new associate management firm, has organized, assessed, and provided to Board of Directors a sound financial report and fiscal planning to follow. Her work went above and beyond the call of current treasurers or a regular non-for-profit organization treasurer as she literally had to decipher all of the unorganized files and our accounts spread to three different banks in three different states. CELA after Ebru's countless hours of work, finally have a clear financial plan and bright future. Ebru served two years as the Treasurer of the CELA. During her service, she led the move to consolidate our funds, create annual fiscal budgets, and most importantly convince the Board of Directors and the CELA Executive Board to establish an investment account to generate funding for scholarships. In addition to future scholarships funds, Ebru was instrumental in creation of a scholarship for the BIPOC students in landscape architecture named after late Charles Fountain at North Carolina State University. This was made possible as the CELA Board of Trustees had a clear picture of our finances and capabilities after a long period of unclear and uncertain status due unorganized records and files. The Fountain Scholarship was originally to be awarded to ne student only. Thanks to her investment leadership, we will award to BIPOC students this year, one graduate and one undergraduate during the 2022 the CELA Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Although Ebru no longer serving as the Treasurer, her legacy will continue through endeavors of the CELA.

As an academician, it is important to achieve success in tripartite of the Academy: Teaching, Research and Creative Endeavors, and Service and Outreach. I am very happy to share with you that Ebru has been able to find success in all three areas and seamlessly bring her experiences from each area to the others. Her students benefit from her research and creative activities as well as her service and outreach while underserved communities benefit from her professional knowledge, skills, and abilities when she is working with them for various community projects whether she is engaged as an ACE Mentor or working with a community for a service-learning project. This is what I refer to as Knowledge Service for academicians to make a real contribution for a number of endeavors otherwise either would be ignored or would never be done because these communities cannot afford the get professional services needed by retaining professional firms. During her engagements, Ebru works with a number of K-12 students and not only these students learn about the profession of landscape architecture, but also she gets them excited about the profession that they end up enrolling as her students in landscape architecture when they are ready for the college. This is a concrete result of her knowledge services, and this is a concrete example of how her services bear fruit very quickly. Ebru, time and time again demonstrated that she is skilled in not only providing service through design but working with City and State leadership to achieve project support and funding. I believe that this is the kind of 21st century innovative community service that should be recognized by the ASLA – positioning landscape architecture as a means of achieving equity and collaboration within communities.

I offer the highest endorsement of Ebru Özer, ASLA for this prestigious ASLA Community Service Award, in recognition of her service, innovation, and commitment to creating spaces through pro-bono landscape architecture and successfully fusing the teaching, research/creative endeavors, and service/outreach. Through empathy, passion, energy, and a commitment to bettering the world, Ebru and her service to the profession and communities is exemplary of the highest ideals of our profession.

Sincerely,



Sadik C. Artunç, FASLA
Professor and Head

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George G. Gentile FASLA

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January 28, 2022

Board of Trustees

The American Society of Landscape Architects

636 Eye Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

RE: Ebru Ozer, ASLA
Nomination for the ASLA Community Service Award

Dear Board,

This is a letter of endorsement for Ebru Ozer, ASLA, to receive the ASLA Community Service Award as put forward by the Florida Chapter. I can't think of anyone more deserving!

I first met Ebru when she moved to Florida to take the teaching job at FIU in 2007 and immediately joined the Florida Chapter as the FIU representative. I was drawn to her open personality and her way of digging down to the meat of the matter. She is always thinking of what is best for all in any situation and expresses well thought out ideas or observations.

Ebru deserves this award for the selfless service she has done and continues to do for the ACE Mentor Program and the Liberty City Elementary School in Miami. She has tied together an international body of students at FIU to a primarily Hispanic high school ACE program to twelve African American Girl Scouts at Liberty Elementary. She is truly a teacher at heart with a great love for the profession.

When I was Conference Co-Chair for Miami 2020, the conference that never was thanks to COVID, we had to find someone to chair the ACE Legacy project, the actual built project which ASLA leave behind in the host city of the conference. The best thing I did was to ask Ebru to be that chair. She readily accepted. Chapter leadership had already reached out politically to find the best area for the most impact, a place where we could make a difference. From the senator's office, we were directed to Liberty City. With that direction, Ebru visited over twelve schools and came forward with a recommendation after sharing pictures and analysis of all the schools. She became entrenched with the principal of Liberty City Elementary and with the ACE Program at the high school.

During the school year, the whole school year, she went every week to the ACE Program to teach them about landscape architecture while following the process of developing ideas for the school grounds at Liberty Elementary. These students had workshops and presentations to the client, the students at Liberty Elementary. Close bonds were created between all. The ACE students developed plans and concepts to improve the school grounds as they saw fit through site visits and surveys with the clients. Their work was reviewed during pin-ups by local landscape architects. The professionals and the FIU students in landscape architecture were invited in to guest speakers to the ACE students.

COVID hit and in-person events ended. Even virtual was difficult as the ACE program was in an underserved school with limited resources. Ebru led the effort to have the drawings compiled and

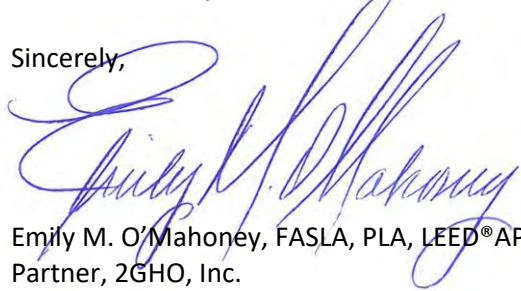
finished up by our own emerging professionals. We entered the second school year working to get the drawing permitted through the Miami Dade School District. Ebru spearheaded getting the permit landscape and hardscape drawings done, working through the District, communicating with the principal while also sitting on the ACE Mentor board for Miami Dade County. When schools resumed in-person teaching, Ebru was once again going weekly to the ACE program and impacting students.

Entering the third school year, Ebru organized the installation of the first part of the project which is most of the landscaping. With tree donations gathered from two different organizations by Ebru, two days of planting were planned. Local landscape architects, FIU, and ACE students were involved while the elementary students spent much of Saturday with Ebru digging holes and planting plants. Ebru has a way that is patient and nurturing with these young students. It will be etched in their minds for a long time is my guess. They were asked to be stewards of these new trees which they willingly embraced.

Ebru continues to check on the condition of the trees and keep in contact with the school. In the future, we hope to complete the project. In addition, many of the ACE students have graduated but still are in contact with Ebru. Several are heading towards a career in landscape architecture! With the younger set, she has planted the seed, and we wait to see what happens!

Ebru's dedication to service and to the profession is incredible. She leaves nothing hanging, nothing undone. What is left in her wake are connections between people and such positive connections with landscape architecture. She is uplifting to all who come in contact with her. Ebru is well deserving of the ASLA Community Service Award.

Sincerely,



Emily M. O'Mahoney, FASLA, PLA, LEED® AP
Partner, 2GHO, Inc.
ASLA President Elect



ASLA
FLORIDA

American Society of Landscape Architects
Florida Chapter

Ebru Özer Contact Information:

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Phone Number: 305-215-9633

Title: Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design

Organization: Florida International University