

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

Re: The Emerging Professional Award – Abigail Reimel

Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

The Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is pleased to nominate Abigail Reimel for the ASLA Emerging Professional Award. Abigail possesses all the attributes, qualities, work ethic, communication, skill set and attitude that represent the highest standard of excellence in the profession. Throughout her educational and professional journey, she has maintained involvement in ASLA, including immediately stepped into the role of ASLA Florida - Broward Section Chair, upon relocating to South Florida in 2019. She has recently been elected as the ASLA FL Member-at-Large for Leadership and Membership and is currently involved in several committees at the National and State levels representing not only her employer WGI, but the ASLA Florida Chapter. Additionally, her efforts on celebrating Women and Diversity in Landscape Architecture, is something worth noting. Her nomination comes with great confidence that her first few years in the profession, are just a small glimpse of her potential for greater involvement, innovation, and impact on the profession of Landscape Architecture and the American Society of Landscape Architects, both here in Florida and nationally.

Beginning as a student at Michigan State University in 2014 and continuing to today, Abigail Reimel has shown dedication and a committed involvement within the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) on both a State and National level. Translating into her work at EDSA, her participation with the ASLA has allowed her to draw on her leadership experience and passion for landscape architecture to push boundaries. While still early in her career, Abigail is committed to shifting perspectives and creating a voice for students and emerging professionals where one may not always be heard.

Originally from Michigan, Abigail Reimel attended Michigan State University (MSU) where she earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and business minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Beginning her freshman year, she joined the MSU student chapter of the ASLA as class representative and as her time at Michigan State continued, so did her involvement with ASLA. Abigail took on roles within the ASLA Michigan Chapter and eventually forged a path to serve as a member of the inaugural National Student Advisory Committee, where she assisted in rebuilding and shaping relationships with the more than 70 Student Chapters of the ASLA. In her second year with the committee, she was elected to serve as its chair, in addition to being elected as the National Student Representative to the ASLA Board of Trustees. In her role as Chair of the Student Advisory Committee, Abigail coordinated with state chapters for development of better engagement practices with student chapters through direct contact and support. These practices

came with a focus on lending a voice to issues faced by students and emerging professionals on a national level, targeted recruitment for increasing diversity across student groups, and created tangible value in membership for both young professional groups. While serving as National Student Representative, Abigail was also elected as the ASLA Student Chapter President for Michigan State University where she worked to re-engage the student body and bring back programs that would help support students academically and professionally. Additionally, during her fourth year at MSU, Abigail was selected as an LAF University Olmsted Scholar.

Following her graduation from Michigan State University in December of 2018, Abigail moved to South Florida to join EDSA, a landscape architecture firm based in Fort Lauderdale where her work was focused both locally and internationally.

Since graduating and entering the profession in January of 2019, Abigail studied for, and passed, the five exams required to become licensed to practice as a landscape architect in the state of Florida. She taken her strategy for an accelerated path to licensure while creating a guide for other individuals also pursuing their license by mapping a path to help better navigate the entire licensure process. This includes mentoring her peers who are now taking the exam and leading “tips and tricks” sessions to help pay it forward. She had a personal goal to achieve full licensure in the state of Florida within two years of entering the profession and her incredible work ethic and drive allowed her to achieve that milestone.

To further exemplify her impressive resume and early professional journey, Abigail has also spent time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of Broward County in her free time. On a national level, Abigail has been involved with a variety of ASLA committees including the Member Services Committee (2017-Present), State Licensure and Government Affairs Committee (2019-Present), Constitution and Bylaws Committee (2021-Present), Emerging Professional Committee (2017-2020), Landscape Architecture Magazine Editorial Advisory Committee (2017), in addition to serving as a non-voting member of the ASLA Board of Trustees (2017). During her time with each group, Abigail has been able to participate as part of the teams working to bring together the over 6,000 licensed landscape architects that exist outside of the society, the review of the ASLA Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the teams providing membership value through licensure defense and professional development.

After having the opportunity to participate in the annual ASLA Advocacy Day in Washington D.C., Abigail gained an interest in licensure and the value of advocating for our profession at a local, state, and national level driving her governmental affairs and licensure committee involvement.

Upon moving to south Florida, Abigail quickly became involved with ASLA Florida by attending local section events, and within three months, she stepped up to serve on the Executive Committee as the Broward Section Chair. With the support of a dedicated team, she facilitated the coordination of 21 events over 18 months including the annual Broward PARK(ing) Day, Women’s Networking Webinar, Community Volunteer Events, and Firm Showcase Series. As the Broward Section Chair, her primary goal was to bring together a wide range of landscape architects to develop a local community of individuals built around a shared passion for landscape architecture.

Since her term as Broward Section Chair has ended, she has remained involved in the Broward Programming Committee. In addition to serving as the Broward Section Chair, Abigail has also been involved in the planning and implementation of the 2019 ASLA Florida Conference as volunteer coordinator, 2020 Conference on Landscape Architecture as the Host Booth co-chair, 2020 ASLA Florida Design Awards Jury as moderator and South Florida group leader, and the 2021 ASLA Florida Conference leading volunteer coordination and graphics development.

In 2021, her efforts led to a successful design awards gala for the Florida Chapter. Several complications from the Covid-19 pandemic created a dynamic process teetering back and forth between an in-person and virtual event, in which she creatively leveraged her relationships and leadership skills to put on an extremely effective and collaborative virtual event with over 250 participants. In November, Abigail transitioned into her leadership position on the Florida ExCom as the Member-at-Large for Leadership and Membership which she quickly established and started executing several of her goals to boost membership numbers and create a better platform for member engagement. She has taken on a leadership role to guide our chapter's section chairs during monthly coordination and planning meetings.

While at EDSA, Abigail was engaged with ongoing internal company efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by coordinating with leadership for targeted actions, conscious decision making, and direct community involvement and has continued this involvement since transitioning to her new role at WGI in West Palm Beach in May of 2022. During her tenure at EDSA, she was promoted to Associate within two years of joining the firm and actually led one of the highest profile projects within the company, Pier 66, an several hundred-million-dollar renovation of an iconic property on Fort Lauderdale's intracoastal waterway. Abigail naturally became a leader amongst her equals and peers and was looked to for her skills from all corners of the firm. Additionally, in June of 2021, Abigail was named as the lead designer and project manager for a massive master planning project in the Bahamas. Managing a team of 8 people, from brand new hires and interns to team members of her equal, she successfully navigated the conceptual development of the master plan and presentation booklet which was delivered and presented to government officials. The execution of this task and feat is extremely impressive for her experience level and during the process she showed great poise, strength of design, and leadership.

Several other opportunities allowed her to step into project management and key roles including a few projects in West Palm Beach (Tortoise One and the Boat Show) as well as the Bahia Mar redevelopment project in Fort Lauderdale. The opportunities have allowed her to continue to use these experiences to develop her craft as a designer and build upon her leadership skills as she mentors and builds up her team members in her new role at WGI.

She has also been an advocate for women in landscape architecture, presenting during company learning sessions on industry data and best practices connected to empowering women. In the Summer of 2020 and again in the Spring of 2021, Abigail co-lead virtual presentation and work sessions with prolific women leaders in our profession. These were dynamic engagement opportunities to showcase the inspiring and incredible work being led by women of Landscape Architecture. Despite transitioning out of the Section Chair (Broward) Role where this idea culminated, she has continued to use that platform as a catalyst to push this initiative forward.

There is no doubt, she herself, will be showcased as the keynote on a similar event someday.

Abigail's service to the society and her community is highlighted not only by her continued engagement, but by her actions and work. As her work and commitment to being involved with both the ASLA Florida Chapter and National ASLA continues, her primary goal is to grow and develop leadership and professional skills, especially within the realm of growing membership and advocacy. Additionally, she aims to offer insights from her national committee involvement to chapter leadership as well as act as a voice for emerging professionals. At a local level she will continue her involvement with the Chapter and communicate the value of membership across all levels of the profession and we see her as a rising star amongst her peers.

Sincerely,



Alexander Fenech
Trustee
ASLA Florida Chapter



Laurie Hall
President
ASLA Florida Chapter

Nominee Contact Information:

Abigail Reimel

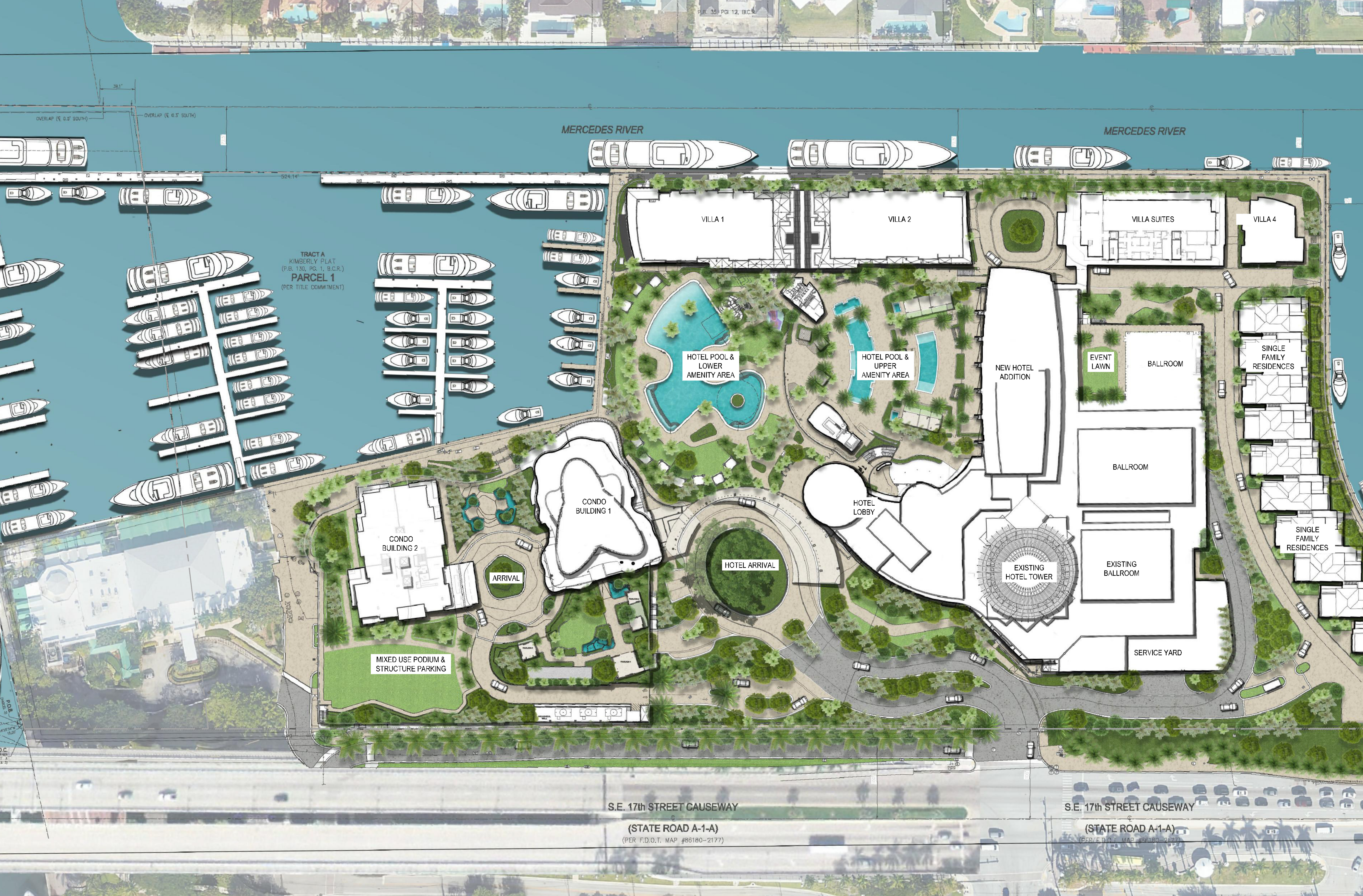
Project Manager, WGI
2035 Vista Pkwy
West Palm Beach, Florida
33411
reimel.abigail@gmail.com
(m) 586.438.0782





ELEUTHERA MASTERPLAN
ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS
RECENT WORK EXAMPLE FROM EDSA

ABIGAIL REIMEL
ASLA EMERGING PROFESSIONAL MEDAL NOMINATION



PIER 66
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
RECENT WORK EXAMPLE FROM EDSA

ABIGAIL REIMEL
ASLA EMERGING PROFESSIONAL MEDAL NOMINATION




TORTOISE ONE

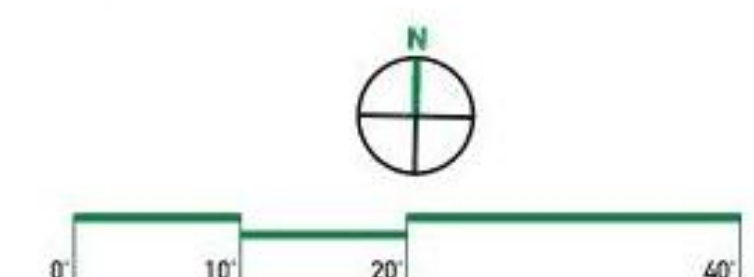
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
RECENT WORK EXAMPLE FROM EDSA

ABIGAIL REIMEL
ASLA EMERGING PROFESSIONAL MEDAL NOMINATION



LEGEND

- 1** Main Entrance
- 2** Bike Rack
- 3** Bike Rack Repair Station
- 4** Drinking Fountain
- 5** Trash Receptacle
- 6** Pedestrian Sidewalk
- 7** Bench
- 8** Playground Equipment
- 9** On Street Parking
- 10** Mounded Planting Area
- 11** EWF Play Base
- 12** Existing Concrete
- 13** Connection to Banyan Elementary
- 14** Proposed Two Rail Fence
-  Existing Trees



BANYAN PARK | PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL PLAN - PLAYGROUND

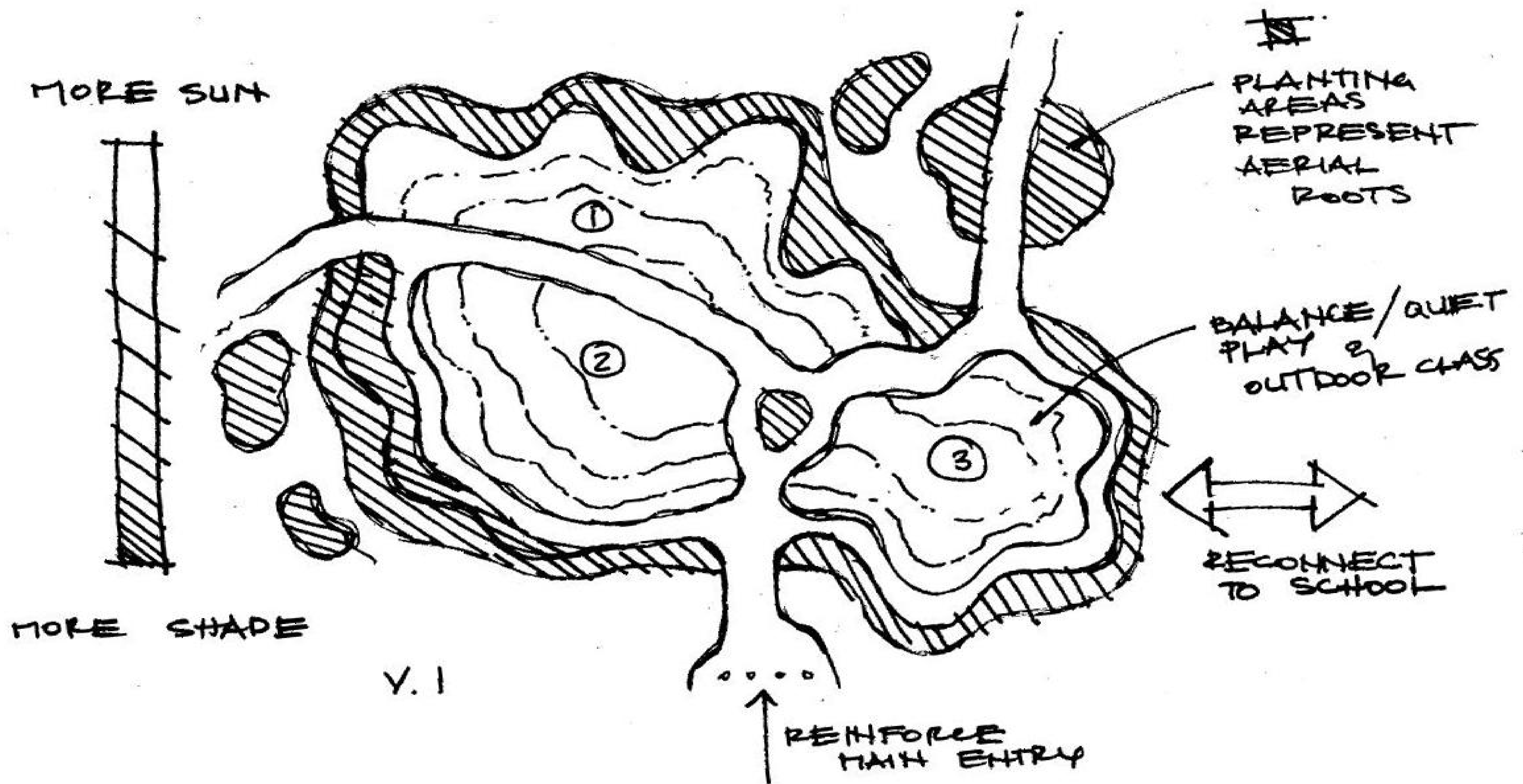
7

BANYAN PARK

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
RECENT WORK EXAMPLE FROM WGI

ABIGAIL REIMEL
ASLA EMERGING PROFESSIONAL MEDAL NOMINATION

PARK
"BANYAN" TREE HOUSE "





THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 GALA CHAIR, ABIGAIL REIMEL



Thank you, Abbie, for your hard work and dedication to the ASLA Florida Chapter. This year has continued to present various obstacles and challenges and you have navigated them with grace. Your leadership is not only appreciated but also admired. We cannot thank you enough and congratulations on the first ever, Virtual Design Awards Gala!

-The ASLA Florida Executive Committee

THANK YOU TO THE 2021 GALA COMMITTEE

Roberto Aragon
Shaylin Castillo
Helen Cohen
John Del Vitto
Alex Fenech
Manuel Gil-Goodman
Dean Hill
Jennifer Jaikissoon
Dominic Mack
Cheryl Ronan
Kelsey Trujeque



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Re: Emerging Professionals Medal – Letter of Endorsement for Abigail Reimel

Dear Nomination and Selection Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter on behalf of Abigail (Abbie) Reimel for consideration of the 2023 ASLA Emerging Professionals Medal. She has exemplified strong leadership, unselfish volunteerism and dedication to developing her craft at EDSA. We have worked alongside each other on several assignments at EDSA and I have been fortunate to experience her dedication to the profession firsthand. I was alerted to pay attention to her from Vanessa Warren when we served together on the ASLA Executive Committee. Vanessa taught Abigail at Michigan State University (MSU) and recommended we consider bringing her into the firm. We made a very good decision, and she has been a tremendous asset to EDSA.

Abbie's leadership has been highlighted with wonderful early impressive achievements with ASLA and LAF. It is very refreshing to engage with a young designer that sees the greater possibilities abundant within the profession. The ability to observe these opportunities early in your career makes a major difference. These aspects can elevate a person beyond the status quo fostering the opportunity to actual give back to the profession as well. She has demonstrated consistent and committed involvement with ASLA. Actually, her dedication began as a student member at MSU. As they say, "she caught the bug" early and took charge as a student. Then, she went on to advocate for her Student Chapter with roles as Chair of the Student Advisory Committee, National Student Representative to the ASLA Board of Trustees. This responsibility in addition to the workload of the academic rigor takes dedication and passion. Her efforts were noticed by the Michigan State Chapter and her peers. Her ability to mend and forge relationships for students that desired more engagement from the profession is commendable. Now, students in her chapter could see the value proposition and opportunities that unfold with involvement in ASLA. This is what it takes to curate the future of the discipline. Abbie is a role model and example of how students will continue to lead in the future.

In regard to volunteering, Abbie sets the gold standard. I feel grateful to have experienced Abbie's unselfish ability to give back as an emerging professional. After attending a few events sponsored by our State Chapter and local partners, Abbie realized the potential for leadership and fellowship. She jumped in and raised her hand to serve as the Broward Section Chair on the Executive Committee for the State of Florida Chapter. At this point Abbie is still very early into her position at EDSA. Most of our designers are putting considerable time learning and developing work for our clients. So, the extra pressure and commitment on top of the day-to-day work as a practitioner is taxing. Somehow, she balances work, life and volunteering like a professional. Abbie has committed herself to the profession locally and has volunteered to serve many more initiatives within the State Chapter. The efforts include numerous events and outreach opportunities such as PARK(ing) Day, Networking Events and Office Visits. As Section Chair, she reengaged Landscape Architects with the Chapter in our area by promoting business opportunities, learning engagements and social events. There is no doubt here efforts contributed to gains in membership as well. In addition to ASLA, Abbie dedicates her time to Habitat for Humanity and EDSA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative. She continues to advocate for Women in Landscape Architecture to advance the opportunity to grow our profession by providing access for young women as well as educating EDSA leadership in regard to the value. As you can see, Abbie's volunteerism is not just about her. She gives back to worthy causes that truly matter to humanity. It is easy to sit back and watch the world pass by but Abbie never shies away from making things better through helping others. It seems easy but if it were everyone would volunteer. It takes a

special person that has been influenced by good people to take care of people and the planet. In my opinion, this is our purpose as Landscape Architects.

In practice, I have watched and overserved my mentors, peers and colleagues over several years. One thing that is clear to me is that some folks just understand the bigger picture. These are the people I would like to orbit the planet with as we navigate the challenges of the world. Abbie is one of the few that fit this description. During the height of the pandemic, I was approach by a client to help envision the future of a small island called Ragged in the Bahamas. The island was catastrophically damaged after the devastation of Hurricane Irma in 2017. Several years later and after the effects of Hurricane Dorian on another family island, our client said, “enough is enough” and dedicated herself to give back. As a decedent of The Bahamas, she had an understanding for the people. She engaged EDSA because of our knowledge of the land. Together we volunteered our services to provide a resiliency master plan for Ragged Island as a model for all the family islands in the Bahamas.

I immediately thought of Abbie to get involved in the effort and she said yes. Abbie stepped in

During the years of my career, I have been positively influenced by my heroes in the profession as a young designer and have been able to pay it forward by positively influencing young designers as well. However, it is such a remarkable feeling when someone you mentor inspires you in return. **She** has taken on the responsibility to get involved with ASLA and spread the joy of landscape architecture across the country. It is my privilege to recommend **Abigail Reimel** as I am convinced, she is deserving of this honor because of her extraordinary leadership and meaningful contribution to the profession of landscape architecture in the early stages of her career. I can’t wait to see what she accomplishes next.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kona', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kona Gray, FASLA
Principal



THE
CHAMPION
of TREES

4100 Illinois Route 53 • Lisle, IL 60532
630-968-0074 • mortonarb.org

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Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Abigail Reimel's nomination for the ASLA Emerging Professional Medal. I have worked with Abigail on the ASLA Constitution and Bylaws Committee, where she has shown thoughtful dedication and insight. We updated both documents through monthly online meetings over a year-long timeline and she was a valuable contributor to the discussion and debate. Abigail is an emerging professional who did not hesitate to volunteer her time and talents to an important committee that benefited from her fresh perspective.

Abigail's dedication to the profession and enthusiastic contributions to help edit, clarify and update a document that is core to our professional association is just one way in which she has exemplified the characteristics that should be recognized in an outstanding emerging professional. In addition to serving on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Abigail has also volunteered for four other national committees as well as being active in the Florida Chapter. As the student representative to the ASLA Board of Trustees in 2017-18 she embarked on an ASLA volunteer pathway that has continued into her early professional career.

Thank you for your consideration of the nominations of this outstanding candidate Abigail Reimel, for the ASLA Emerging Professional Medal.

Sincerely,

Susan L.B. Jacobson, FASLA
Head of Site Planning and Design



ASLA
FLORIDA

American Society of Landscape Architects Florida Chapter

February 2023

Dear Nomination and Selection Committee,

I am honored to submit this letter of endorsement of Abigail Reimel for consideration of the 2022 ASLA Emerging Professionals Medal. Abigail has quickly established herself as a leader amongst her peers. I have had the privilege to work with her in multiple capacities professional, both within ASLA and in the workplace. Her energy and skillset were prevalent during her time at Michigan State University, and she was highly endorsed by her professors and staff within the program. I feel extremely fortunate that she came to Fort Lauderdale and took an immediate interest in participating with our Florida Chapter.

During her time at Michigan State, Abbie's knack for leadership was evident and apparent by her proactive actions and early desire to volunteer and get involved. As a MSU alumni myself, I had a direct channel to the professors, staff, and department chair of the LA Program and there was a unanimous excitement about Abigail's character and potential to lead in our profession. She stepped up early on as an officer of the MSU Student ASLA Chapter and served as Chair of the Student Advisory Committee and National Student Representative to the ASLA Board of Trustees. It should be noted Her efforts were recognized by the members of the MSU Landscape Architecture Program, ASLA Michigan Chapter and her fellow students. In fact, faculty of the Michigan State Landscape Architecture Program supported her by nominating her for the prestigious LAF Olmsted Scholar award. She fostered the opportunity to create a bridge between professionals and students and led the way, on many fronts, in growing the communication between her student peers and the ASLA leaders in Michigan. She has a rare energy and work ethic that our profession's future depends on and I'm so encouraged to see how she continues to inspire others around her to grow, volunteer, and make a difference. Abigail

Immediately upon graduation and arriving at EDSA in Fort Lauderdale, Abigail approached me to ask "what can I do to get involved, make a difference?". She began attending ASLA FL Executive Committee meetings (as a member) just to absorb the process and stay in the know with our chapters happenings. Only a few months later the opportunity opened up for her to join our Executive Committee and from that point on, she has been a force to be reckoned with. As volunteering goes, she has set the bar high in many aspects. It has been an honor to watch her grow and develop as an emerging professional and positively impact not only ASLA, but the profession. Once elected as the Broward Section Chair on the Executive Committee for the State of Florida Chapter she immediately cultivated a culture of events to include education, community service, and of course fellowship. She has dedicated countless hours and energy to the profession locally and has stepped up to volunteer on numerous initiatives within the Chapter. With a craving to engage with and inspire more people, she has participated on numerous committees at ASLA National and continuously serves on at least two at any given time. Her name has become common place amongst the ASLA Leadership and professionals around the county.

In addition to serving as the Broward Section Chair, Abigail also was heavily involved in the planning and implementation of the 2019 ASLA Florida Conference in Orlando, as volunteer coordinator, 2020 ASLA Florida Design Awards Jury as moderator and South Florida group leader, the 2021 ASLA Florida Design Awards Jury as Site Host, and the recent 2021 ASLA Florida Conference (Tampa) leading volunteer coordination and graphics development. When the 2020 National Conference was slated to come to Miami, Abigail quickly stepped up to take on the Host Booth duties. Her vision and leadership were significant in organizing tasks and colleagues from around the state. In 2021, she volunteered to serve as the ASLA FL Design Awards Gala Chair and was responsible for planning, organizing, and leading the efforts for the event. Covid-19 continued to complicate the logistics; however, her poise and resolve were the difference to persevere and create the most successful virtual event our Chapter has done to date. It was her relationships with vendors and the award winners that highlighted the success of the event.

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President

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JEREMY FLOYD
Tallahassee

GARRETT NOBLE
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HELEN COHEN
Member at Large for Education
and Research

SHAYLIN CASTILLO Member
at Large
Public Relations and Marketing

ABIGAIL REIMEL
Member at Large
Leadership and Membership

KEVIN WHITE
Member at Large
Advocacy and Licensure

CARO RUBIO
Member at Large
Emerging Professionals

CHARLIE JOHNSON
Florida Greenways and Trails
Foundation

BRIAN DICK
Florida Urban Forestry Council

EBRU ÖZER
Faculty Representative, FIU

DAN MANLEY
Faculty Representative, UF

BRANDICE PELFREY, CMP
Executive Director

HEDLEY WARREN, MPA
Associate Director



ASLA
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Faculty Representative, FIU

DAN MANLEY
Faculty Representative, UF

BRANDICE PELFREY, CMP
Executive Director

HEDLEY WARREN, MPA
Associate Director

Her latest impressive accomplishment was her appointment to the ASLA Florida Executive Committee as the Member-at-Large for Membership and Leadership. The is a statewide prevue of advancing our membership engagement and interactions. When running for the position she established a directive, which just continues to show her character and leadership which is beyond her years in many ways. Her primary goal is to bring together a wide range of landscape architects expanding on our local community of individuals built around a shared passion for landscape architecture. Casting a wider net to extend the reach to non-members through her network of relationships will allow for her to springboard a much needed growth boost to our Membership. She has already begun to apply her understanding of how the Florida Chapter operates as a unique extension of the ASLA, especially within the realm of growing membership and advocacy to quickly re-envisioning how this position can serve as a catalyst and platform to educate, grow and engage the ASLA Florida Membership. This has been a welcome energy to the Officers of our chapter and something that we hope Abigail continues to serve as a role model for other volunteers and her peers. As a member of the executive committee, she regularly offer insights from her national committee involvement to invigorate and contribute to the chapter leadership overarching mission and vision, especially as we are in the process of revisiting our Strategic Plan.

Abigail is one of the most well-rounded young women in the profession that I know and have had the pleasure to work with. Her volunteering and dedication to ASLA and her community are a major part of who she is, and I haven't even scratched the surface on her impacts in the workplace. She exemplifies who and what the American Society of Landscape Architects should be honoring and recognizing with the Emerging Professional Medal and I whole heartedly endorse Abigail Reimel to receive this distinguished accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Alexander C. Fenech
ASLA Florida | *Trustee*
HITCHCOCK DESIGN GROUP | *Principal*

DIV/32

To the Nomination and Selection Committee,

It has come to my attention that Abigail Reimel has been nominated for these years National ASLA Emerging Professional Award. I am writing today to not only whole heartedly endorse her nomination but to also share some of my experiences working with her over the last three years.

I first met Abigail in 2019 in her role as Broward County ASLA Section Chair. She and I worked hand in hand in our roles as sponsor and section chair in organizing and putting on multiple events for the section. From social events for the section members to community outreach programs and inter-firm collaborations Abbie, as she is referred to by her friends and coworkers, has always exhibited a great facility for planning, organizing and bringing busy professionals together with the primary intent of advancing her profession. Additionally, through her fine work she is able to simultaneously foster an atmosphere of camaraderie in a very competitive climate. This is an intangible that should not be overlooked.

I again had the pleasure of working with Abbie last year in my role as Gala chair for the ASLA Florida Design awards. It was my first year as Gala Chair and I can say unequivocally, that without her input on procedural aspects and support in general my tenure as chair would have been much more difficult. Not only was she helpful in my work, but I witnessed firsthand as she and others were forced to pivot when the Gala moved to being a virtual event. I see the awards as being very important to the industry in that they highlight and recognize some of the important work being done in the state. In recognizing that excellence it further encourages and challenges those within the industry to keep pushing boundaries and in doing so advances the profession in a very tangible way. Abigail was without question a big piece of the Awards Gala success this past year.

Over the years I have seen her mature from a recently graduated, highly motivated go-getter to a more knowledgeable, confident and mature leader. This evolution I can only attribute to her dedication to her work. Not only does she excel at her primary vocation, but she rarely misses an opportunity to volunteer her time, effort and passion with ASLA at both the local and national levels.

I am proud to support Abigail's nomination and wish her continued success in her journey.

Best,

Manuel

Manuel Gil Goodman

786 457 6351

manuel@div32.com