

February 18, 2023

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

Dear Members of the ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

I have the pleasure of introducing Gilbert A. Holmes to you for your consideration for Honorary Member, ASLA. Gil served six years as a Public Member on the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) and it was during our shared service that I came to appreciate the immense intellect, thoughtfulness, and focus that he brought to our group and the many ways he helped to improve our accreditation process. When discussing this idea with previous board members, one called Gil “a transformative presence!” And he was.

Gilbert Holmes is the Dean Emeritus at the University of La Verne, College of Law, having joined the university as dean in 2013. He previously served as the dean of the University of Baltimore Law School and on the faculty of Texas Wesleyan University Law School, Southern Methodist University Law School, and Seton Hall University Law School.

Dean Holmes served on the Accreditation Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Membership Review Committee of Association of American Law Schools (AALS). The University of Baltimore recognized his contributions through the “Dean Gilbert A. Holmes Professorship in Clinical Theory and Practice.”

Prior to entering the legal academy, Dean Holmes had a private practice of law in New York City for 16 years. He has authored articles on a range of family law and constitutional issues. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Bucknell University and a J.D. degree from New York University School of Law.

With his legal and academic background Gil brought “outsider’s eyes” to our LAAB deliberations which helped us to see issues in a new light and from a different perspective. Gil also has accreditation experience, so he understood the process and critical nature of university program reviews. He challenged us to sharpen our thinking and refine our language to be more on point to enhance both the landscape architecture programs and our oversight of them.

Gil has a remarkable ability to move an effort forward and incorporate everyone’s ideas, something he did throughout his tenure on the LAAB. Gil played many roles during his two terms on the board – analyst, writer, critic, negotiator – but in particular he was a leader, providing leadership in three important areas – the LAAB’s interim reporting process, board budgeting, and the diversity, equity, and inclusion revisions to the accreditation standards.

As the LAAB tried to find ways to better support programs through the accreditation process, Gil recognized the need for a better and more robust interim reporting process. When a program receives a recommendation affecting accreditation, they now must file an interim report on their progress addressing the issue. This way a program deficiency can be addressed more quickly for the benefit of the students while also giving programs sufficient leeway to tackle issues that may require broader university support. Gil's recommendation, that programs should not be allowed to wait 5-6 years to address program deficiencies, was compelling and appropriate and the board embraced the opportunity to improve its oversight.

Gil was also very instrumental in helping to establish a budget process for the LAAB, identifying our revenue, expenses, contribution to reserves and most importantly additional funds available for LAAB initiatives. He helped the board to create a mechanism for sharing our goals and budgetary intent with ASLA leadership through the budget spreadsheets which became part of the LAAB annual budgeting process. This has led to greater accountability in the board's financial oversight and management and has helped the board's strategic planning process.

Finally, but not least, Gil led the process to incorporate greater responsibility to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the LAAB standards and procedures. The board recognized the need to better reflect DEI in the accreditation process and Gil helped guide board and committee discussions, pushing where needed, and providing support where the right language was required. This led to some substantial changes to the standards with a very quick turnaround. Gil organized the process to keep the work moving quickly, with appropriate review, discussion, and willingness to adapt ideas to reflect various viewpoints.

It should be noted that the LAAB is comprised of twelve members, three of whom are public (non-landscape architect) members. Most public members need a couple of years to grasp the intricacies and nuance of the landscape architecture accreditation process before being able to meaningfully contribute to the board's work. Gil contributed at his first meeting and continued to do so until his last meeting. On every occasion – full board or committee, face to face or virtual – Gil helped the board get better, smarter, and more efficient in its proceedings. Gil's strong values, his commitment to higher education, his precise language, his spirit and great sense of humor all added greatly to the challenging work of the LAAB. Gil was indeed "a transformative presence" and the LAAB accreditation process, and all the work of the board, is better for his involvement.

I hope that you will give him favorable consideration for Honorary Membership in ASLA. He is deserving and would carry that title with distinction and pride.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney L. Swink". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rodney" and last name "Swink" clearly legible.

Rodney L. Swink, FASLA, PLA  
Former LAAB Member and Chair



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January 26, 2023

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

Dear Members of the ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

I am writing to support enthusiastically Rodney Swink's nomination of Gil Holmes for Honorary Membership in the ASLA. I met Gil in 2017 when I was Chair of the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) and he began his two terms of membership on the board. We overlapped on the board for four years. The LAAB's twice-yearly meetings operate through a process of open discussion that progressively leads to a well-considered decision. Gil Holmes quickly showed the value of his practical intellect in his first meeting and he had the ability always to bring a discussion back to those whom LAAB serves – the students in our Landscape Architectural educational programs.

The review of programs and the development of LAAB accreditation actions is the ongoing work of the board. There are also many one-time initiatives that support and improve the board's work. Gil Holmes led three important initiatives during his service.

He worked with the entire board to clarify LAAB's budget process and our ability to plan for future initiatives. This made a huge improvement in our cooperative, but quasi-independent relationship with ASLA.

Gil additionally led a committee to create a clear process that required programs to correct deficiencies and to report on their progress to the board in defined time frames. Gil convinced us through our discussions that this would support the educational experiences of landscape architecture students. I learned in my role as a Department Chair that it had the intended effect. When the Board cited our program for some facilities deficiencies and gave us a time limit on reporting on improvements, we were able to negotiate swift action from our university.

His last major act as member of the LAAB was to head a working group that revised the Standards for Accreditation to include clearer expectations for programs in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Gil led this effort always with an eye on the goals of better access, better support, and

see blue.

*An Equal Opportunity University*

better educational and career outcomes for all students. One of the consistent challenges in our discussions was whether programs could achieve what the Standards would ask of them. Gil was able to keep our focus and language on continual progress and its documentation within a program's geographic and economic context. Always the visionary and the pragmatist, but with a healthy dose of good humor.

Gil Holmes consistently challenged the board to consider the legal, ethical, and practical implications of our decisions. He helped us think about the cascading effects that may result from a change in procedure and how those might affect programs' progressive improvement. When reviewing accreditation visit reports and potential board actions, he always moved us toward clarity in expectations and protection of the programs' ability to work within the contexts of their institutions and missions. In his work with LAAB, he gained our respect and our affection for his enthusiasm for Landscape Architecture and his dedication to our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ned Crankshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ned" being more prominent and the last name "Crankshaw" written in a continuous script.

Ned Crankshaw, FASLA  
Acting Dean, College of Design  
Former LAAB Member and Chair

January 30, 2023

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

Dear Members of the ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation for Gilbert A. Holmes for your consideration as Honorary Member ASLA. Gil served six years as a Public Member on the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) which overlapped with my service on LAAB for four of his six years. We worked closely together as members of the committee to develop a more robust interim reporting process requiring that programs report progress towards addressing any recommendations affecting accreditation on an annual basis.

On the most basic level, Gil brought his law background, higher education experience and service to the Accreditation Committee of the American Bar Association to LAAB. He shared this wealth and combination of such relevant experiences with the Board and the issues that needed to be addressed. He contributed perspective, insight, strategies and solutions to every issue that came up for discussion and action. I believe that many of LAAB's accomplishments would not have happened without the benefit from the "outside of landscape architecture" contributions that Gil shared with the Board.

It was my pleasure to work with Gil on developing a framework where programs receiving recommendations affecting their accreditation were required to report annual progress towards addressing serious deficiencies. Previously, many programs would wait until a year before their next accreditation visit to begin to take action, sometimes resulting with the same recommendation still being made on the following visit. This could result in a program deficiency lingering for a decade or more. Now with mandated annual interim reporting a school must address recommendations in a timely manner or face possible penalties including loss of accreditation. Gil's experience with the Accreditation Committee of the American Bar Association was a critical component in this effort to provide accountability, timely action and meaningful improvement to our accreditation system that benefit our programs and most importantly, the students.

As the ASLA Representative to the LAAB, my role was to serve as a liaison between the two groups. One of the important issues of this relationship was clarifying funding provided to LAAB from ASLA while still keeping the required "distance" between the professional society and the Board that accredits the professional programs. This had been an ongoing issue back to my first serving ASLA at the National level beginning in 1992. As LAAB evolved during my tenure, it was clear that a broader role for the Board was important if it was to serve the programs consistent with its mission. It was with Gil's leadership that a framework was created to budget the activities of the Board balanced with support from ASLA and annual dues received from the programs. Hard to believe that prior to this a system of accountability did not exist. Gil spearheaded the development of a budget process that detailed for the first time LAAB's revenue and expenses. The result was the Board being able to take on new and important initiatives that provided schools and their students with the support they needed to strengthen their programs all within

the framework of a balanced budget. The level of detail and accountability included as part of LAAB's budget provided a predictability of funding that was critical to the Board's strategic planning process.

It was in my final year of service that LAAB addressed issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. It was no surprise that this was yet another occasion where Gil stepped up to lead the Board's efforts. The timeliness of the issue was matched with Gil's extraordinary organization and shaping of the Board's direction and amazingly quick response. The result was the incorporation of diversity, equity and inclusion into LAAB's procedures and standards for accreditation.

These highlights of Gil's contributions during my tenure on the Board are complemented by the thoughtfulness, perspective, points of view, sometimes differing opinions and spirited discussions that occurred at every meeting. These exchanges made LAAB decisions and actions far better than they would have been without Gil's involvement. His presence on the Board was a catalyst that resulted in significant accomplishments. Most importantly, these accomplishments are ones that will have long term positive impacts and improvements to our landscape architecture programs and their students. This is the incredible legacy of Gil Holmes' contributions to LAAB, our landscape architecture programs and ultimately through the students that graduate, our profession.

Gil was one of the most extraordinary Board members that I had the honor of serving with over my six year tenure on LAAB. It is therefore without reservation that I recommend Gilbert A. Holmes be given favorable consideration as Honorary Member ASLA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Hopper', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leonard Hopper

ASLA Past President and former LAAB member



*City of Encinitas*  
*From the desk of Deputy Mayor Joy Lyndes*

January 1, 2023

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

Dear Members of the ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

I have the pleasure of submitting this letter of recommendation for Gilbert A. Holmes in support of consideration for Honorary Member, ASLA. I have known Gil since 2016, we served 4 years together on the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). During this time Gil served the Board and our profession in an exemplary manner that rose to the level of national significance and influence. His unique expertise on LAAB Standards; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and his work as a Principal Reader for program review contributed exceptional value to our profession. I respected his knowledge, communication style and leadership. He raised the bar and improved our accreditation processes. Bringing outside expertise is exactly what is expected of a Board Public Member, and Gil met and exceeded this expectation by challenging norms and pushing dialogue outside the box to spur discussion and inject forward-thinking ideas.

Gil's successful resume as Dean at several notable law schools and as a board member on the ABA Accreditation Committee represent his career long passion for education and leadership. In addition, he is a consummate mentor. In his role on LAAB and in his current professional focus, he stands out as an effective coach and a mentor to both high-level executives and next-generation professionals. His passion for coaching constructively guided the LAAB to excellence throughout his tenure.

I strongly support Gil for consideration for ASLA Honorary Member status because his involvement in LAAB has improved our profession. Through his LAAB duties Gil demonstrated exemplary leadership. During my 2020 tenure as Chair, through COVID he helped lead the improvement of standards for virtual accreditation visits, curriculum, and on-line delivery of programs.

I hope that Gilbert Holmes receives your favorable consideration for Honorary Member of ASLA. His work for ASLA represents excellence that is of national significance and influence.

Sincerely,

Joy Lyndes, FASLA, PLA  
Former LAAB Member and Chair  
Deputy Mayor City of Encinitas CA



# Murray Design Group, Inc.

Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

February 18, 2023

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

Dear Members of the ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Gilbert A. Holmes for Honorary Member, ASLA. Gil and I served together as members of the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). Our tenures overlapped for 5 years, which afforded me the opportunity to know him personally and professionally. When most public members join LAAB, they need at least a year to somewhat understand the accreditation process. With Gil's experience with the American Bar Association's accrediting body and as a former law school dean, he stepped right in and offered invaluable insight into how to better support the LAAB mission.

Gil provided dedicated and unwavering guidance through an important time in LAAB's history. With his help, the board instituted the Interim Report—a process in which the board monitors an academic program's progress in addressing concerns revealed during accreditation reviews. Gil was also influential in guiding the implementation of significant language on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) during the Standards revision process. Incorporating thoughtful DEI language included a series of townhall meetings with stakeholders and months of document edits and revisions. Gil challenged and encouraged the board through meaningful and robust conversations. LAAB is so much stronger for his focused and persistent challenging of the status quo.

Furthermore, Gil is one of our profession's biggest advocates. Although his role in moving the landscape architecture accreditation needle forward is significant, Gil gained as well. I believe he developed a newfound appreciation for the practice of landscape architecture. As time progressed Gil not only began to appreciate landscape architecture based on his favorite sport golf, but also in terms of design and environmental issues.

There are plenty of colorful, anecdotal stories that I could share about Gil Holmes, but one statement in particular sums up Gil's influence on landscape architecture accreditation. During his introduction to the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board, he started with a simple statement. "I am an accreditation junkie." Landscape architecture education and the profession has greatly benefited from his addiction. And for that, I whole-heartedly support this nomination and all the benefits it brings.

Sincerely,

Ramon V Murray, PLA, FASLA  
Former Board Member and Secretary





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