

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Andy Lipkis, Founder and President, TreePeople

Address: 12601 Mulholland Drive; Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Phone: 818-623-4847

Nominator: Perry A. Cardoza, ASLA
Trustee, Southern California Chapter ASLA

It is with admiration and appreciation that I nominate Andy Lipkis for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. For decades, Andy has been a visionary force advocating for the power of natural systems and green infrastructure to heal the urban environment and achieve a sustainable future.

Andy's efforts have been instrumental in educating and activating landscape architects to better achieve fundamental objectives by adopting ideas and approaches that provide optimal benefits to both ecosystems and surrounding communities. His contributions include broad recognition of the critical importance of trees in providing ecosystem services such as urban cooling, greenhouse gas mitigation, storm water infiltration; as well as native habitat development and widespread implementation of best management practices for rainwater harvesting, and widespread integration of the watershed approach that connects the design of individual parcels with overall water system management.

Andy's roots reside in traditional forestry, first making waves at the ripe age of 15 with a grassroots campaign to rehabilitate a wide swath of the San Bernardino National Forest decimated by smog and wildfire. Soon after, in 1973, he founded TreePeople, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization that has spearheaded the citizen forestry movement ever since.

Andy continues to serve as TreePeople President and to act as a guiding light for innovative, sustainable greening practices. Now one of California's largest independent environmental organizations, TreePeople is a global leader in adapting cities for sustainable living. Under Andy's leadership, the organization's proven programs blend the science of urban forestry with an understanding of human behavior, inspiring and empowering people to take personal responsibility for achieving a sustainable future through localized ecosystem management. Since its founding, TreePeople's efforts have resulted in the planting of over two million trees in forests, urban neighborhoods, and school campuses.

For the past 20 years, Andy has championed the implementation of best management practices that integrate a watershed approach to apply a forest's natural infrastructure services to cities. The result: an increasingly sustainable water supply, as well as flood and pollution prevention. Andy's advocacy has resulted in numerous demonstration projects and long-term infrastructure planning efforts, including retrofit of LA's Sun Valley area (pop. 80,000) and adoption of the LADWP's first ever Stormwater Capture Master Plan. More importantly, his vision has driven a paradigmatic shift in general understanding of appropriate water use and landscaping practices.

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Additional contributions and accomplishments include:

- Coining the term “Citizen Forestry” referring to the thousands of residents, TreePeople has trained and supported planting and maintaining trees in urban landscapes. The term has been adopted throughout the United States.
- Helping to guide the creation and successful implementation of LA’s curbside recycling program.
- Co-authoring *The Simple Act of Planting a Tree: Healing Your Neighborhood, Your City and Your World*.
- Spearheading LA’s historic 1990 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. tree planting, where 3,000 volunteers honored the birth and vision of Dr. King with the planting of 300 trees in a single day along a seven-mile stretch. Ultimately, 500 trees were planted, resulting in the largest living memorial to Dr. King, visible from space.
- Founding and co-founding numerous initiatives in LA, including the LA Conservation Corps and Green LA, a collaboration of 60 mainstream and environmental justice groups.
- Producing or appearing in numerous television programs, such as the Emmy award-winning series *How Does Your Garden Grow* and the PBS series *Edens Lost and Found* and *The Visionaries*, as well films including Leonardo di Caprio’s *The 11th Hour*, *Dirt! The Movie*, *Rock the Boat*, *Love Thy Nature*, and *Losing the West*.
- Serving on the EPA’s Green Infrastructure Collaborative, where he represents a partnership of three of the region’s largest water agencies working together on innovative solutions to the historic drought.
- Leading a 2014 delegation of top California water policy leaders to Australia to learn lessons of that nation’s 12-year drought and apply these solutions to Southern California.

Across the country and around the world, Andy has addressed groups involved in the linked issues of environment, urban forestry, sustainability, and water and energy use. These include the United Nations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.K. National Urban Forestry Unit, the U.S. Forest Service, Greening Australia, American Society of Civil Engineers, and many others.

Andy has been and will continue to be a cherished asset to landscape architects and a key ambassador for our values. He is a truly worthy recipient of honorary membership in ASLA.



January 27, 2017

Honorary Membership Selection Committee
Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Andy Lipkis nomination for Honorary ASLA Membership

Dear Committee Members, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

It is an honor to nominate Andy Lipkis for your consideration as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Knowingly or unknowingly, landscape architects around the world have benefited from and built upon the work of Andy Lipkis and TreePeople, the Los Angeles-based community organization he founded in 1973. The Citizen Forestry movement started by Lipkis and his band of volunteer tree planters has since spread across our country and around the globe.

In the United States alone, more than 130 non-profit organizations, coordinated by the Alliance for Community Trees, plant and advocate for trees and green infrastructure in their communities. Inspired by Lipkis and TreePeople, the tree planting and advocacy work of these environmental organizations demonstrates the power of green infrastructure and its role in growing greener, more livable and sustainable communities.

As stated in my nomination narrative, "Andy has been a visionary force advocating for the power of natural systems and green infrastructure to heal the urban environment and achieve a sustainable future." In view of his inspired leadership and vision, I heartily recommend Andy Lipkis for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Cardoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Perry A. Cardoza, RLS, ASLA
NUVIS Landscape Architecture, Executive Vice President
Trustee, Southern California Chapter of ASLA

January 24, 2017

Honorary Membership Selection Committee
Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Andy Lipkis nomination for Honorary ASLA membership

Dear Committee Members, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

I am delighted to recommend and support Andy Lipkis for your consideration as an honorary member in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Andy's work in reforesting areas of Los Angeles and his book *The Simple Act of Planting A Tree*, spurred a citizen forestry movement across the country and globe. Lipkis founded *Treepeople*, a grassroots movement that not only brought trees into blighted areas, but provided green infrastructure demonstrations of cisterns, rain gardens, and other green interventions as educational exhibits instrumental in educating city regulators, children and communities in the value of designing with natural systems.

The environmental stewardship, partnerships with landscape architects, cities and not-for-profits, and Andy's role in creating and inspiring a greener world in Los Angeles and beyond are remarkable in breadth and scope.

I strongly encourage your consideration of Andy Lipkis for membership as Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,



Stephanie V. Landregan, F.A.S.L.A.
2010-2011 ASLA Vice President of Government Affairs
Director, Landscape Architecture Program

January 27, 2017

Honorary Membership Selection Committee
Board of Trustees
The American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

Dear Committee Members:

Please support this nomination for Andy Lipkis to become an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Andy has made a tremendous contribution to Los Angeles and to California. He dove into issues of sustainability and resiliency before it had currency. His ability to deliver a message at multiple levels is powerful. He is an inspiring communicator and has had an impact on government agencies, political leaders and the community at large. For 3 decades I have relied on Andy and TreePeople as a pillar of strength, delivering research and facts, advocating for sound environmental policies and change the way business is conducted in the city. In a region where single purpose infrastructure was the norm, Andy participated in the efforts to change the modus operandi such that watershed agencies would cooperate amongst themselves to jointly address habitat, urban development and transportation issues.

Andy Lipkis understands the values of systems thinking which the American Society of Landscape Architecture values as one of its core goals.

Sincerely,



Mia Lehrer, FASLA
President
2016 LaGasse Medal Awardee