

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Audra M. Lofton, Affiliate ASLA
Nominee's Address: UGA College of Environment and Design
285 S. Jackson Street
City/State/Zip: Athens, GA 30602
Phone: 706-542-4724

Nominator: John F. (Jack) Crowley, PhD, FASLA, FAICP

Nominee has 23 years of service to the University of Georgia with the preponderance being with the College of Environment and Design (Landscape Architecture Programs) as a Budget Analyst, Business Manager II, Public Relations Coordinator, Career Services and Senior Events Manager. These are all responsible positions at which Audra served well beyond in the interests of the profession of Landscape Architecture.

For ASLA (National) as an "Affiliate" Audra serves on the Public Relations and Communications Advisory Committee and is currently chairing that committee. Additionally she began serving on the Emerging Professionals Committee. Audra has been an avid supporter of the UGA College of Environment and Design exhibiting at the annual ASLA Expo to promote Landscape Architecture education. She has worked to increase student, faculty and alumni participation at the Annual Meetings and the Alumni Night as well as the College and GA Chapter ASLA Happy Hour. Audra continues to encourage students, upcoming graduates and emerging professionals in continuing their membership and participation with ASLA, its Chapters, and the Annual Meeting.

At the State level in Georgia she has actively supported the Chapter's professional activities as well as her duties within the College. She's been the Chair of the Chapters PR Committee since 2013 attending the Public Awareness Summits in Alexandria, Tampa and Charleston making a presentation in the latter. She has tirelessly served as the Chapters Social Media Coordinator and has managed numerous socials and special events such as its annual golf tournament. Audra works with other State level Chapters to cross promote their events and initiatives. She has already begun to work with the Wisconsin Chapter where she will be shortly moving.

At the College level, the home of the country's largest and one of the oldest and most respected programs (undergraduate and graduate) in Landscape Architecture Audra always surpassed her job descriptions. She worked to keep and improve programs to support the profession even when budgets were cut and funding to support them simply didn't exist.

Through social media she IS the contact across the country (and in other countries) for the 4000 or so UGA graduates as well as for many other Landscape Architectural professionals who didn't have such an effective college based support system. When the dean established what has become one of the best game day tailgates for graduates and professionals for "friend" and "fund" raising Audra is credited as its builder keeping it going when funds were not to be had. She is the face in Facebook listing job openings and helping both the graduating and the graduated find positions and new positions. She has always been a source of relevant news and information to keep all of the professionals and emerging one affiliated with Georgia connected. She ran and runs Career Fairs, supports the professional fraternity Sigma Lambda Alpha as a member. She serves as the staff support base for many College offerings to the profession such as continuing education, short courses, and courses preparing applicants for the licensing exams. She serves and is a tireless promoter on the scholarship committee of the College that annually awards more than \$120,000 to its students.

Audra is both in front of the scenes as well as behind them and supporting the many annual events held throughout the College and in its public services as well as the recent hosting of the annual national student conference LABash 2013. She very often simply hosts visitors, incoming students and their families or related professional tours.

Two significant awards recognizing her outstanding work include the 2011 Tri State Conference Edith Henderson Award and the 2011 College Staff Member of the Year Award given during the annuals Honors Dinner.

She built and continues to manage an extensive social network for the promotion, education and the professional and career development of all Landscape Architects and their allied professionals.

This is an outstanding, dedicated individual and a great opportunity for ASLA to honor a key person from the trenches; a "hard worker bee."

Sincerely,



John F. (Jack) Crowley, PhD, FASLA, FAICP
Professor and Former Dean
UGA College of Environment and Design

Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW,
Washington DC 20001-3736

RE: Audra Lofton - Honorary Membership Nomination

Dear Trustees,

I am writing in support of an Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects for Audra Lofton. I worked directly with Audra during my term as Vice President of Communications. I have witnessed first hand how passionately and tirelessly she promotes and supports the profession.

Audra's dedication to her career with the College of Environment and Design at the University of Georgia is clear and visible through her works. She adds value to the profession of landscape architecture at every turn bringing her own brand of enthusiasm and spirit along with expertise realized through a wide range of volunteerism.

Audra has a strong presence amongst her peers in the field. She currently serves as Chair of ASLA's PR and Communications Committee and actively participates in public awareness programs like Parking Day and ASLA's Visibility Summit. She promotes the profession as a career to students nationwide and she manages a dedicated social media campaign. She was instrumental as host for a very successful LABASH, recruiting participants at the Annual Meeting and coordinated volunteers, programs and aligned venues on campus.

Audra has helped make our profession strong and more visible; she exemplifies the values of membership. It is for this reason I encourage you to endorse Audra Lofton's nomination to ASLA Honorary Membership.

Sincerely,

Pamela J Linn

Pamela J. Linn, FASLA, PLA
Past Vice President of Communications



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Audra Lofton regarding her service with the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Audra and I both served on the Georgia Chapter when I was President-Elect, President, and Past-President. During that time, she served as the Public Relations Chair and provided general support over the years of my tenure. Over that period, I have gotten to know Audra quite well and can thoroughly vouch for her character and abilities.

Audra is a pleasure to work with because her pleasant and positive attitude. She is one of the hardest working people that I know and has served above and beyond her role as PR Chair. In addition to her duties, Audra has stepped up on many occasions to assist our Event Chair with socials and awards, the annual golf tournament, recruited membership and committee members, requested donations, and attend all quarterly meetings. Whatever task was requested of the committee, she was willing to lend a hand.

As the Senior Landscape Architect for the Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., I have reached out to her regarding nominations for student or alumni t internships and fellowships. Based on her outreach and social networking abilities, she was instrumental in increasing attendance for the Atlanta BeltLine's Organic Land Care Symposium. Over the years, she has become the "go to" person for support our profession.

With her relentless motivation and dedication, Audra brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to support any institution or office. I know she would be an excellent fit for any organization. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the above address.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin W. Burke".

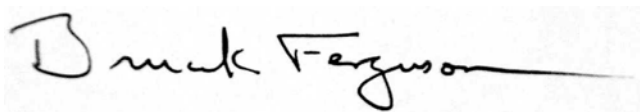
Kevin W. Burke
Sr. Landscape Architect

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.
100 Peachtree St NW, Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.beltline.org
(404) 477-3003

4 January 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is a reference for job applicant Audra Lofton. I am a former faculty member in the University of Georgia's College of Environment and Design, from which I retired in 2015. I have known Audra for 15 years, since she first moved into the design school from the business school. I saw her in a variety of working relationships as she progressed from one staff position to another, and I too worked in a variety of responsible faculty and administrative position, and the needs and programs of the school evolved. Her jobs always had something to do with watching over finances for various programs, projects, or the school as a whole. She also increasingly took on the logistics of events such as conferences, continuing---education courses, alumni events, and football---weekend "tailgating" events. The events ranged in size into hundreds of people; some of them involved travel to other cities and distant states; few of them were limited to weekday working hours. After a while it was no longer a surprise to see here there cheerfully running things in the early mornings or over the weekends, but it was always for me a pleasure and a booster of my confidence that things would go well. She imagined details that I hadn't event thought of; and the first time I heard of them, she had already made arrangements. One of my favorite memories from my many years at the university is her saying about an upcoming large, complicated, intense, expensive event (a college---wide 200---student, week---long "charrette" that was being organized for the first time), in a sweeping generalization about finances, meals, chairs, auditorium reservations, web---site management, mailing lists, student volunteers, table setups, etc.: "Oh yeah, we can do that". And thank God, she always turned out to be right. At all times she characteristically wanted to know what was coming up in the community, and what was needed, so she could be part of it, help, contribute, and make it work. I have seen her overcome some family hardships with admirable strength, determined cheer, and resilience. Through her involvement she became inspired by the kind of work we were doing in the design school, to the extent that she has mentioned the possibility of studying for a landscape architectural degree. I am certain that in the future Audra will be a cheering contributor to our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce K. Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce K. Ferguson, FASLA
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Ann English, RLA, ASLA, LEED BD+C
RainScapes Program Manager
Department of Environmental Protection
Watershed Management Division
Montgomery County, MD
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120
Rockville, MD 20850

February 21, 2016

Re: Audra Lofton

Dear Sir/Madam:

Audra Lofton was working in the UGA Dean's office when I began teaching Landscape Architectural courses for the UGA L. Arch. Department in 1997. I graduated from UGA-CED in 1988 and taught as an adjunct faculty member from 1997 until 2005 when I moved from Athens to the Washington, DC area. Thus, I have a perspective of Audra from that of both an alumna of the College and as a faculty member, and as someone who has known Audra in a variety of roles for UGA-CED.

Because I was practicing in Athens for several years after graduation, I really saw up close, the difference that one individual can make in a department's presence in its alumni community. When Audra started at UGA, she efficiently organized materials for the main office and provided the necessary resources for me, as an adjunct faculty member, so that both my students and I had the proper support and materials.

Later, she took on the role of coordinating outreach to alumni and her skills at organization really began to shine, as events were well organized, publicized and increasingly well attended under her direction. Her personality and dedication to the job manifested in many positive changes at the college.

I want you to know that Audra TRANSFORMED alumni relations outreach and, particularly during the economic melt-down of 2008-2011, stepped up and provided a valuable lifeline to many UGA alumni who were in the position of finding new positions. She became an incredible source of referrals and job information for both recent and no-so recent graduates, matching job postings with those with appropriate skills in an effort to boost employment of UGA grads.

Sir/Madam

February 21, 2016

Page 2

Now that I am in the Washington DC area, I have continued to be very impressed with the breadth of the career work she has provided, in addition to all of her other outreach and event coordination duties she has had for the department at both local and national levels. I have met LAs who were trained from all around the country; no other LA departments appeared to provide the service that her efforts did. UGA Landscape Architecture's reputation for supporting graduates really has been enhanced because of her efforts.

When I was in school and for many years after my graduation, graduates were not given much, if any, career guidance support. Under Audra's leadership, this has changed. Now, she has taken her initial effort and morphed it into CareerLA; this Facebook based resource has continued to grow and provide a strong resource for UGA grads; and now other landscape architects are able to participate as well. It has filled a void in career resources at a time of great need.

Audra is a highly motivated and intelligent individual. She has proven skills in managing the logistics for events in a variety of settings, working with a wide range of people on both local and national scales and works to improve and expand her skill set over time.

If you would like additional information about Audra, you can reach me by phone at 301-356-1838.

Sincerely,

Ann English, RLA, ASLA, LEED BD+C
RainScapes Program Manager

Quynh Pham

225 Paces Commons Drive | Duluth, GA 30096
404.997.9757 | qpham216@gmail.com

February 11, 2016

To whom it may concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this recommendation letter for Audra Lofton. She is an immense talent and an invaluable asset to the University of Georgia's College of Environment & Design. She is easily one of the hardest working people that I know. How she is able to manage alumni relations, plan events, advocate for the college and its students, all the while being a friend, confidant and mentor to those same students, is beyond me.

During my studies, I had the opportunity to work with Audra in planning LABash, a national student-led landscape architecture conference. Having never undertaken such a large task before, I felt anxious taking on the role of logistics chair. However, with Audra's advice, guidance and support, I became a key member of the planning committee. More than 400 students from across the nation attended the 3-day conference, from whom we received nothing but praise and positive feedback. The conference was a success, to say the least. I would not have gained the confidence and skills that I needed as logistics chair without Audra there guiding me.

I will always remember her as a significant part of my college experience. She was at every college function, engaging with professors, guests and students. I recall volunteering early in the program and being amazed at how she seemed to know every single person, from current students to alumni from various graduating classes. While at the college, I saw her truly make an effort to know the students. She makes it a point to remember their interests and where they wish to go after graduation. She then tries to find contacts to help them get their foot in the door. Her personality and hospitality has allowed her to build numerous relationships with those within the profession. With those connections, she helps students find employment opportunities. I am at my current position as a landscape designer at Foresite Group, Inc. because of her recommendation.

Audra is an exemplary role model. Her work ethic, dedication, and passion are inspiring and are just some of the reasons why I hold her in such high esteem. Although her leaving the college will be a devastating loss, I gladly support her in her endeavors and hope that you will strongly consider her for the position. Should you have any questions for me, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Sincerely,

Quynh Pham
Landscape Designer, CED Alumna