

Honorary Membership - Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Charles Waldheim, ASLA (Affil.), OALA (Hon.), FAAR

Nominee's Address: 48 Quincy Street

City/State/Zip: Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone: (312) 275-8765

Nominator: Peter L. Schaudt, FASLA, FAAR

Dear Executive Committee Members,

Charles Waldheim, a licensed architect, has been a champion of landscape architecture for nearly 30 years. When I first met Charles, over 28 years ago in 1997, we were both at the very early stages of our careers and he was serving as the Founder and Chair of the Landscape Urbanism Program and Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Charles was leading the effort, long ago, to couple both landscape and urban design strategies as a model for intellectual discourse. Charles is responsible for creating the term "landscape urbanism" which in academia and practice today is well known throughout the world.

Charles is an intellectual with a unique ability to communicate and connect with all audiences. He is one of the few leaders in landscape architecture with the true talent to passionately and effectively articulate our profession's core objectives to improve the quality of life for our communities.

His accomplishments as an advocate, educator and administrator fill more than 20 pages of a resume. A snapshot of his varied roles and remarkable contributions to our profession include:

**John E. Irving Professor and Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture
Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 2009-present.**

**Associate Professor and Director, Master of Landscape Architecture Program
University of Toronto, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, 2003-09.**

Ruettings Curator of Landscape, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2011-present.

Affiliate Member, American Society of Landscape Architects, 2009-present.

American Society of Landscape Architects, CEO Roundtable, 2009-present.

Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture, American Academy in Rome, 2006-07.

Honorary Member, Ontario Association of Landscape Architects, 2005.

As the **Chair of Landscape Architecture Department at Harvard University, Graduate School of Design** and as the **Associate Professor and Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Toronto**, Charles has doubled the size of both programs, budgets and faculty members. This alone, in my opinion, is worthy of an honorary ASLA title! Charles is personally responsible for **growing** our profession while simultaneously making it relevant in our contemporary culture today.

Other aspects of Charles' career that have directly enlightened our profession are numerous honors, funded research, publication, conferences, public lectures, organized symposia, moderator of numerous symposia, competitions, design jury appointment and committees. This is all above and beyond his "day job" as a Director of a graduate department.

His advocacy and personal contributions have impacted **thousands** of students and practicing professionals across the country, myself included. His reach and impact extend all over the world, and at the same time, *down the street*.

In closing, Charles undoubtedly earned his "**ASLA**" status (beyond his current affiliate status) as an honorary member and I strongly recommend that he be honored. Charles has already been granted this honor with the Ontario Association of Landscape Architecture (OALA) in 2005.

It's time to honor him in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter L. Schaudt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter L. Schaudt, FASLA FAAR
Partner
Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects

ASLA Honorary Membership Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I am delighted to provide my strongest endorsement in support of Charles Waldheim's appointment to Honorary membership of the ASLA. Although Charles is an Architect by record of his degrees and professional training, he has dedicated his career to the advancement of Landscape Architecture. His service as Professor and Chair of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, since 2009, as well as his preceding Directorship of the Landscape Architecture program at the University of Toronto (2003-2009), clearly attest to his commitment to and leadership of the field of landscape architecture. His additional service as the Ruettggers Curator of Landscape at the Isabella Gardner Museum further attests to this, as do his extensive and widely referenced publications on landscape urbanism, design and planning. Not only is Charles an effective writer, critic, educator, and administrator, but perhaps most importantly he continues to be a highly visible advocate for the field, advising design juries, working with academics, professionals, municipalities, mayors and media around the world.

I know that Charles is incredibly dedicated to landscape architecture and has achieved an extraordinary amount in terms of advancing the field, both academically as well as professionally. There is no doubt in my mind that he is fully deserving of membership as an Honorary member of the ASLA -- such distinction will not only recognize Charles and his over two decades of contributions to the field, but will also help to enrich and serve the ASLA body more broadly. Charles has my highest endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JC', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

James Corner, ASLA

Honors and Awards Committee
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC
20001-3736

It's my pleasure to write in support of awarding Charles Waldheim the very noble distinction of Honorary ASLA. I can offer a thousand rounds of support for this action by ASLA.

I'm very aware that Charles can be a controversial figure. I observe him from a very close position, as a colleague at Harvard. I am offering unequivocal support. I have watched his journey from being a challenger-someone who questioned landscape architecture's commitment to urbanism -to being one of our best advocates. I think we met his challenge directly, and I've observed his migration to unerring defense of landscape architecture's claim on the city-its heritage and its opportunity. He has learned. And contributed. And he's built his own nuanced knowledge base of landscape architecture's evolution in this country. He's been teaching this to our students with passion and conviction, and he's been taking the same message out to conferences in Europe, China, South America, and across the U.S. He is a tireless booster in a job that takes him to places where he can be heard.

In another vein, as a curator at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Charles has brought the best of landscape architecture to a new audience. His lecture series, conceived by him alone, is always a sellout, at \$15 per ticket. And it has had many superstars: Pete Walker, Laurie Olin, Michael Van Valkenburgh, George Hargreaves, Martha Schwartz, Jim Corner, Cornelia Oberlander, Andi Cochran, Kathryn Gustafson, Ken Smith, Claude Cormier, and others. Here, there's no question. Charles is circling the square with landscape architecture and its widening public reception. Let's give him this well-deserved honor. He will in turn honor it with seriousness and good will.

Thank you for allowing me to offer these observations.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Hilderbrand FASLA FAAR
Principal/Reed Hilderbrand
Professor in Practice / Harvard Graduate School of Design

Honorary Membership Nomination
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Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing in support of the election of Charles Waldheim as an honorary member of the ASLA. Charles has been an affiliate member of ASLA since 2009 when he moved to the United States. He was named an honorary member of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects in 2005 for his service to the profession. In both Canada and the U.S. he has worked to build capacity for the profession through his various roles as an advocate, educator, and administrator. To be honest, I assumed that he was already an honorary member of the ASLA - as the Department Chair of one of our country's leading programs in the education of landscape architecture - it seemed to me that surely he was. Learning he was not, I immediately agreed to support his election as an honorary member.

GEORGE HARGREAVES
MARY MARGARET JONES
GAVIN MCMILLAN

KIRT RIEDER
CATHERINE MILLER
KEN HAINES
MISTY MARCH

BRETT MARSENGILL
MARY LYDECKER
WRIGHT YANG

I knew Charles as a scholar, author and educator at the time that he was awarded the Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture at the American Academy in Rome, and as a member of the Board of Trustees I followed his Fellowship and the work he did while at the Academy. Awarded to only two landscape architects each year, Charles was recognized as a leader in the profession by the jury, and he followed in the footsteps of such notable members of our profession as Norman Newton (one of the first), Laurie Olin, Gary Hildebrand, Tom Leader, and Walter Hood to name a few.

As Department Chair at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, Charles has worked with hundreds of students in design studios, lectures, seminars, and workshops in MLA Programs and launched new public programs in landscape architecture at the Gardner Museum, exposing diverse public audiences to the profession through exhibitions, lectures, and installations of the finest work by landscape architects. He has doubled the size of the MLA Programs as well as budgets and faculty numbers. He has recruited hundreds of incoming students into those MLA Programs, convincing them of the significance and vitality of the profession of landscape architecture.

He has lectured internationally to public, professional, and academic audiences. His writing on landscape architecture has been published and translated internationally and he regularly serves on professional design juries and advises municipalities, mayors, and media on the role of landscape architects in shaping the contemporary city. I have participated in symposia and exhibitions that he has led at the GSD and I can attest that they have attracted participants from around the world, elicited broad and significant discussions and resulted in impactful publications on current topics affecting our profession.

In closing, I strongly support his election based on his leadership role in the discipline of landscape architecture and his ongoing contributions to the professional and academic community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jones', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Mary Margaret Jones FASLA, FAAR
Sr. Principal, President

**MICHAEL
VAN
VALKENBURGH
ASSOCIATES
INC**

ASLA Executive Committee
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC
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To Whom it May Concern,

It is my sincere pleasure to provide a recommendation for Professor Charles Waldheim's Honorary Membership to the American Society of Landscape Architects. Charles' contributions and dedication to the profession of landscape architecture over the last 20 years is more than deserving of this recognition.

As a student of Charles, I had the privilege to interact with and learn from him in his position as John E. Irving Professor of Landscape Architecture, and Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University, Graduate School of Design for the duration of my graduate program. Over this period I saw the impact of Charles's significant efforts in his administrative role, and also witnessed his dedication and commitment to teaching as my graduate thesis advisor. I experienced him not only as an excellent teacher and educator, but also as a unique role model with outstanding personal dedication to shaping landscape architecture. His approach to teaching and his capacity as an educator are of the highest quality, and his commitment to the medium and discourse of landscape architecture instills a passion in the next generation of students. As Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture, Charles has transformed the program over the last five years. By increasing the student body of the MLA program, its budget and faculty, he has created a rich and diverse program, offering a unique and rigorous approach to design. Under Charles's influence, the program challenges students to consider landscape as a tool for shaping the urban condition by addressing a variety of layers including ecology, infrastructure, culture, and economy. Charles's efforts at the GSD have had a profound impact on my work and that of my colleagues, and on our approach to the profession in general. His work as an educator within Harvard University and beyond, and his advocacy for the profession and dissemination of discourse have impacted an entire generation of new landscape architects.

In addition to his role within the university, Charles's contributions to the profession of landscape architecture, through his research, publications, and public engagement, have impacted both the design practice and public appreciation and visibility of the field. As a student of architecture influenced by his work to transition to landscape architecture I can personally attest to the power of

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his example. Over the last few years I have seen the success of this public engagement through Charles's role as Ruettggers Consulting Curator of Landscape at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. The exhibitions and lecture series he has led at the museum have brought awareness and appreciation for the practice and theory of the profession to the public.

I have no doubt that Charles will continue to contribute to and shape the profession of landscape architecture in years to come through his continued service and dedication towards the field. I enthusiastically support the nomination of Professor Charles Waldheim as Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. I know he will continue to go above and beyond our expectations, offering new ideas and insights for the profession and its future.

Sincerely,



Aisling O'Carroll
Senior Project Manager