

Re: Nomination for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council c/o David Archambault II
In consideration for the LaGasse Medal/ Non-Landscape Architect

January 30, 2017

Dear Committee Members,

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA

Associate Professor and
Landscape Architecture
Program Coordinator

UNLV School of Architecture

daniel.ortega@unlv.edu

It is without reservation that I nominate Chairman David Archambault II for the National ASLA LaGasse Medal / Non-Landscape Architect award in recognition of his, and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council's, leadership in the preservation and protection of endangered cultural and natural landscapes. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has engaged in what has become one of this nation's most notable community protection campaigns in modern history. The Tribal Council's environmental efforts were initially focused on resources associated within their tribal lands, which are located in Canon Ball/Fort Yates, ND. While the campaign was indeed initially focused on tribal natural resources, Chairman Archambault has become an articulate national spokesperson who is well versed in relaying an important message regarding the interconnectedness and importance of viewing the protection of natural resources, such as clean water, and native habitat preservation, as a systemic concern that should be important to all people.

The message relayed by Chairman Archambault on behalf of the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux people's commitment to the conservation of vital natural resources is in perfect alignment with the mission of the ASLA's LaGasse Medal. As you may be aware the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council initiated a commitment to protecting against the potential environmental degradation of the tribes water and native habitat rights which were threatened by the re-routing of the Dakota Access Pipeline through tribal lands. The wide-scaled attention created by their resolve inspired thousands of people, including over 300 additional Native American tribes and other indigenous and non-indigenous peoples from around the world to go to Standing Rock and stand with the tribe in solidarity to project the message that preserving and protecting our planet's natural resources should be of critical importance to all of us.

In November, 2016 I was honored and humbled to be one of those people who settled in the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires) camp. The name of the camp is in and of itself extremely inspiring in our country's native communities as the Seven Lakota Nations have not sat in camp together in over 150 years. Never have I met a group of people as inspired, dedicated, and committed to Standing for the protection of what the Landscape Architecture community holds as our core values as are the

Standing Rock Sioux. In reality, the Standing Rock Tribal Council, Chairman Archambault, and those who they have inspired, are Standing to protect the health, safety, and welfare, of not only those who live on tribal lands, but for all of us who inhabit this planet. It is my sincere hope that you look favorably upon this nomination for the ASLA LaGasse medal, as I truly believe that the works of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council and Chairman Archambault have truly earned to be awarded one of the American Society of Landscape Architect's most prestigious honors.

With deepest humility,

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

Daniel H. Ortega, ASLA

January 27, 2017

David Archambault, Chairman of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, Letter of Endorsement

Thanks to the ASLA, the LaGasse medal stands for leadership in the proper management of public lands and the judicious use of natural resources. Alfred LaGasse defined responsibility for the stewardship of land and water resources as a personal mission – even when that stewardship was not easy.

As the elected leader of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Chairman Dave Archambault has had to balance the pragmatic legal, economic and political needs of his community against the deep responsibility he feels to be an active steward of the land and water. The Standing Rock Sioux have realized they must protect their fundamental resources. As an act of courage and conscience, Archambault and his people have decided to stand up and say no to an oil pipeline that clearly threatens their only source of water. Threats to Standing Rock's water supply as a result of the Dakota Access Pipeline are only the beginning of an expanding effort to build new, unnecessary private oil pipelines, in a nation where many hundreds are already in place. The Lakota people have shown the rest of America that it is still possible to say no to unrestricted private pipeline construction, and to demand judicious planning – not reckless, speculative support for private profits.

Archambault has stood firm in a fight to conserve natural resources that affects all of us as Americans. It is no exaggeration to say that the consequences of his principled stand are global, because of the global risks embodied in expanded oil consumption.

As a result of the on-going protests at Standing Rock, Archambault and the Lakota tribes have become THE inspiration for millions of Americans who care about the land and water, and about the clearly disastrous impacts of mining and burning more and more fossil fuels. Their courage in the face of efforts to intimidate them has been inspirational, and reminds all of us that we, too, have limited resources – and should believe in ourselves as water protectors, as warriors who must speak for the land or watch it be destroyed. Children in schools across America and the world have learned about land stewardship through their teachers and via hashtags like #StandWithStandingRock. Creating a whole new precedent, Archambault and his movement have harnessed social media like no other land stewardship campaign in our history, showing the rest of us how to inspire Americans to respond in this current era of threats to our land and water.

I can think of no one whose personal leadership and courage on behalf of stewardship has better embodied the values of Alfred B. LaGasse in 2016-17.

By awarding the LaGasse Medal to Chairman Dave Archambault, the ASLA can signal its solidarity with communities that face unprecedented, unchecked risks to their water and land.

I urge the ASLA to take this opportunity to make an alliance with under-served communities, with the environmental movement, with people who rely on rivers for their water, and with the Native American values of courage and stewardship, by awarding the LaGasse Medal to Chairman Dave Archambault of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. This is an important moment in US history, and a unique opportunity to be courageous.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristina Hill".

Kristina Hill, PhD
Associate Professor

27 January 2017

**DAVE ARCHAMBAULT and the TRIBAL COUNCIL OF STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION
LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FOR ASLA LAGASSE MEDAL**

I am humbled to join my colleagues in support of the nomination of Dave Archambault and the Tribal Council of Standing Rock Indian Reservation whose articulate advocacy for the protection of natural resources exemplifies the spirit of the ASLA LaGasse Medal.

Mr. Archambault, the Tribal Council, and many others who are working at Standing Rock to protect and conserve our waters have given voice to and taken principled action for environmental justice and ecological preservation that would suitably honor Mr. LaGasse.

On behalf of a landscape architecture program located in the cradle of environmental stewardship on the shores of the Great Lakes, in the "endless sea" of Great Plains and Prairies, and within the mighty Mississippi River watershed, it is imperative to recognize the advocacy of Standing Rock and the Water Protectors who have worked to conserve and steward these shared landscapes - as has been the way of these tribes for centuries.

It is hard to imagine a more deserving representative than Dave Archambault and the Tribal Council nor an issue more pressing than the protection of water and sacred places in this watershed moment of American history. I urge the ASLA to amplify OUR voice by awarding the LaGasse Medal to Dave Archambault so he may also speak for us.

Respectfully,



Professor Ron Henderson, FASLA

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28 January 2017

**DAVID ARCHAMBAULT, CHAIR OF THE STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION
LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT**

David Archambault's leadership of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and the Water Protectors is in keeping with the highest standards and spirit of the ASLA LaGasse Medal. I join my colleagues in supporting his nomination.

Honoring Mr. Archambault's peaceful, determined, courageous efforts to protect the Lakota Sioux's water and the water that millions of other Americans use would bring attention to this noble cause and will be an action that honors the work and legacy of Mr. LaGasse.

Every day for almost a year now, Mr Archambault, the Lakota Sioux, and thousands of others have stood up the demands that they allow the Dakota Access pipeline to be build under the source of their drinking water.

I joined them for three days in November 2016 and was humbled to hear so many people speaking with great passion and dignity of protecting the water, of honoring the land that their ancestors live on, of defending the wildlife from this new invasion on the land they care for.



At sunrise on 23 November 2016, hundreds of people braved the cold and wind to pray and pledge their protection for the water that is threatened by the Dakota Access Pipeline. Along with the prayer were inspirational speeches about peace, respect for the land, and humility. Photo by W. Sullivan.

David Archambault and many members of the Lakota Sioux spoke with a passion and depth of knowledge about the land and natural resources - they spoke with a depth and caring that I typically associate with landscape architects. They used the occasion of having some many

people at their reservation as a chance to educate people about the traditions of the Sioux, their reverence for the land, and their sense of responsibility to protect it.

I was humbled to be part of their actions for three days and left with tremendous sense of respect for their efforts and a feeling of awe for all that they had taken on.

By awarding David Archambault the LaGasse Medal, we bestow on him, the Lakota Sioux, and the 299 other Native Nations who have taken part in protecting the water, the recognition and respect of the ASLA. What a fitting honor. And what a wonderful way for us to re-assert our values as an organization.

Sincerely,

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

William C. Sullivan, ASLA
Professor and Head



Water Protectors
New England Water Protectors
11/15/17

WATER PROTECTORS
NEW ENGLAND

ATLANTA
UNION

A FULL HOUSE OF
WATER PROTECTORS





