Honorary Membership
Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Dick Rigby

2101 Connecticut Ave. NW #33
Washington DC 20008
202 337 0356

Nominator: Donna Walcavage, FASLA
Principal, Stantec

Dick Rigby is co-founder of the non-profit organization, The Waterfront Center, founded in 1981 in Washington DC. For over forty years, he has written about and spoken of the significance of waterfronts as rich resources fundamental to the health, quality and prosperity of cities. A journalist with a strong background in environmental management and public policy (i.e. Dick was Editor of Marine Technical Society Journal, Director of the National Oceanographic Association, and Deputy Mayor of the Borough of West Cape May, New Jersey), Dick has helped signify waterfronts as the fertile, often unappreciated ground for initiatives that can significantly enhance city design and quality of life for urban residents. He has lectured extensively on the importance of waterfront planning and design to diverse audiences, co-authored myriad articles and several books about their contributions to the quality and health of urban life, and provided technical and policy assistance to well over a hundred waterfront communities around the world. All of his work, along with that of his co-founder Ann Breen (nominated separately), has been seminal in the development of international waterfront planning and policy, education, project design and implementation. The result of this work in cities around the world has generated an understanding that waterfront public space is a fertile field of both study and implementation for landscape architects, recognized by municipalities and planning agencies.

Along with his writings and presentations, Dick co-directs The Waterfront Center with Ann Breen, plans and coordinates the Center's annual conference agenda and presenters, and prepares the internationally known Excellence on the Waterfront Awards Program. He helps select the jury and jury chair for the Program, organizes project submittals, co-convenes the jury process and records jury comments for the final program presentation and report. He is particularly strategic in the selection of jury members, emphasizing the inclusion of journalists along with landscape architecture, design, planning and community interests and professionals – a mix that results in deep discussion about the project submittals and their contributions to the community they represent.

International Importance

Dick has been a tireless advocate for waterfront protection, wise use and, most notably, public access to the waterfront, regardless of purpose, place or country.
His understanding of legislative and public policy and his tenure as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of West Cape May, New Jersey, bring a unique knowledge to The Center’s work of project complexities and the interests required to implement them. This background has helped him facilitate consensus-building processes for waterfront projects around the world, many of which have been adopted by advocates, professionals and communities alike.

Dick has also helped develop and continues to nourish the Waterfront Center’s global network. Like Ann, he has been instrumental in initiating a global public awareness of urban waterfronts as underused public spaces that can provide rich visual, recreation and cultural opportunities for everyone. As a result he is an important, knowledgeable and tireless spokesperson and catalyst for waterfront protection, quality development, community use, economic vitality and most importantly, public access to it.

**Benefit to Landscape Architecture**

Dick has helped promote and establish landscape architects as the lead professionals in waterfront and water-related projects. His understanding of and appreciation for the profession’s skill in creative design, in depth analysis and planning, community collaboration, and project management has gone a long way toward building the profession’s national and international effectiveness and reputation in projects of this kind. As a result he deserves credit for helping landscape architects identify the waterfront as a critical global and community resource, and for our profession’s acknowledgement of The Waterfront Center as its significant national advocate.

Dick’s advocacy and policy planning work with cities across the country, and internationally, has generated an incredible acreage of built work in landscape architecture and helped establish our profession as the most qualified to create a vision and to lead the work of public access to lakes, rivers, bays, bayous, and oceans. Through his work on the Excellence on the Waterfront awards program, he has introduced the work of not only famous landscape architects but that of small firms doing exemplary and beautiful work, who might otherwise not be known.

It is my pleasure to nominate Dick Rigby to honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. He has championed our work, publicized our successes, and taught us much about the value of collaboration, the need for multiple perspectives, the science necessary to work with water, and the value of cultural and creative interpretation of the water’s edge.
RE: Honorary Membership Nomination Support for Mr. Dick Rigby

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I’m delighted to have the opportunity to support the nomination of Dick Rigby for Honorary ASLA Membership. I’ve known Dick for more than 20 years, as the co-founder (in 1981) and co-director of the Waterfront Center (the Center), a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC. Dick is being nominated for honorary membership along with Ann Breen, the Center’s co-director. He continues in his role as co-director today.

Waterfronts are “unique, finite resources... (that) often represent the best opportunity for community enhancement, (and that) can be... a force for community enrichment... which is essential for community environmental, economic, and social advancement.”

— from The Waterfront Center website mission statement, http://www.waterfrontcenter.org

Dick has been a long-time supporter of waterfronts (and urban revitalization in general) through his ongoing advocacy, preparation of publications, public charrettes to raise awareness of urban water resources, and the Center’s awards and education programs.

The Center’s broadly based group of supporters and advocates features landscape architects prominently, as well as engineers, architects, and other design professionals. Importantly, the Center’s support extends beyond the design professions to include public agencies, nonprofits, environmental organizations, and citizen activists. The Center has an international reach, with its annual awards program drawing submittals from across the globe. It has been a long time champion of the professional work of landscape architects, as evidenced by the Center’s December 2017 newsletter, which highlights the work of Carol Mayer Reed, FASLA, an award winner in the Center’s 2017 annual design awards program.

For over 30 years Dick, together with Ann Breen, has:

- organized and conducted an annual Excellence on the Waterfront Design Awards program;
- organized an annual International Conference on Urban Waterfront Planning;
- published two books on waterfronts, both of which highlight U.S. and international case studies of successful waterfronts;
- published a book on trends in urban living, which highlights revitalization of the urban centers of multiple American and Canadian cities; and
- published An Excellence in Waterfronts series, which highlights the Waterfront Center award-winning projects from 2004 to 2016.
A current project of the Center includes planning for the production of an hour-long documentary on the waterfront phenomenon of the last 35 years, and organization of almost 30 years of award-winning Waterfront Center projects into a searchable database.

Dick is a committed urbanist that has been committed to the preservation and revitalization of our cities, and to the preservation and revitalization of waterfronts and urban water resources. He has been a champion of landscape architects and our professional work. Recognition of his work and commitment to creating a better world is long overdue. I urge you to recognize his efforts by honoring him as an Honorary ASLA Member.

Respectfully yours,

William E Wenk, FASLA
January 29, 2018

Honorary Membership Committee
Terry Poltrack
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington DC, 20001

Re:  Dick Rigby Nomination for Honorary ASLA

Dear Members of the Honorary ASLA Review Committee:

I am pleased to recommend Mr. Dick Rigby for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. I am a Fellow of ASLA, a landscape architect and principal of Mayer/Reed, a multi-disciplinary design firm in Portland, Oregon. Our work is focused on large public and private projects in the Pacific Northwest, including a number of waterfronts. I have known Dick for about 30 years through his work in establishing and operating a non-profit organization, The Waterfront Center, headquartered in Washington DC.

The Waterfront Center, since its inception in 1981, has been transformational in assisting local jurisdictions, non-profits and consulting firms tackle the many challenges of re-inventing waterfronts throughout our country and the world. The center offers resources, newsletters, advice, and conferences on waterfronts. Topics range from recovery of urban brownfields, transportation and access, economic development, community-building, amenities, trails, social gathering places, water quality and ecology. The center underscores the fact that every waterfront is different and deserving of unique design solutions. The center stays abreast of current issues and is increasingly focused on challenges of resiliency, water shortages, flooding and other effects of climate change.

The center offers an annual juried awards program of exemplary work on waterfronts. The program, commenced in 1987, was modeled after the one that ASLA offers. Numerous landscape architecture and urban design firms have benefited by having their works recognized and featured in the awards program.

Dick Rigby is co-founder and co-director of the Waterfront Center, along with Ann Breen. He is also a journalist and photographer. He is an astute follower of politics and understands the critical consequences of decision-making at planning to set the stage for successful waterfront projects. He co-authored their book in 1994 Waterfronts: Cities Reclaim Their Edge, a resource that became pivotal in increasing awareness for the many ways that cities can increase livability and economic vitality through responsible waterfront development. Now, through Dick’s efforts, the information and images of the award-winning projects are included in a comprehensive data base available on-line resource.

Dick’s qualifications to be considered for honorary member of the ASLA are best exemplified through his advocacy, leadership and activities with the Waterfront Center. Over the last 36 years, Dick has worked tirelessly to lead, connect and inspire communities to improve their waterfronts. In particular, he has continually expanded the center’s programs of visibility and community outreach through various media. Dick has ensured that landscape architects and planners are represented on the awards jury and has been an advocate for the role of women professionals as jury members in the center’s awards program. In these ways, Dick has made significant contributions to the quality of our built environment and our profession as a whole.
Thank you for your consideration of Dick Rigby’s Honorary Membership of the ASLA. Please contact me if you would like additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mayer/Reed, Inc.

Carol Mayer-Reed, FASLA
Principal and Landscape Architect
Honorary Membership Nomination
c/o Terry Poltrack
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Letter of Support for ASLA Honorary Membership

Dear Committee:

**Dick Rigby**

I am pleased to support the nomination of Dick Rigby for honorary membership in ASLA. My career as a landscape architect and planner has focused on the renewal and redevelopment of waterfront places.

Together with Ann Breen, Dick is Co-Founder of the Waterfront Center, an organization that has proved to be a great resource of inspiration and knowledge to me as a landscape architect. Since the early 1980s Dick and Ann have lead the non-profit organization dedicated to educating communities, decision makers, and design professionals on best practices for revitalizing waterfronts to provide access to the public.

Dick’s background in reporting, research, and legislation provides a unique perspective to the phenomenon of waterfront development and renewal. Along with Ann, he has authored several informative publications that cover waterfront developments located throughout the world. These publications bring a depth of understanding to professionals and communities undertaking waterfront planning or development. The Waterfront Center’s Annual International Conference has also been an important source of current and topical information, in addition to providing great inspiration.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have Dick as a colleague and supporter.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

James A. Brennan, ASLA
Principal
J.A. Brennan Associates, pllc
January 28, 2018

Honorary Membership Nomination

C/o Terry Poltrack, ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Strong Professional Endorsement of Nomination of Richard Rigby, Co-Director, of The Waterfront Center, For Honorary Membership in ASLA

Dear ASLA Jury:

I am pleased to be in a position to provide the subject strong professional endorsement for Richard (“Dick”) Rigby, by personal knowledge of, and directly working with, Mr. Rigby many times since we met in 1979. (Let me emphasize here that I am also writing a similar letter on behalf of strongly endorsing Ann E. Breen as well. Please consider that Ann and Dick are a Team—like the Wright Brothers and other two-person teams, and as I hope you will come to agree, both very much deserve such recognition).

In 1979, Dick was working, with Ann Breen, at NOAA in the Office of Coastal Zone Management, in Washington, DC. I and a few of my team from The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey’s Waterfront Redevelopment Study, met them there for a “brown bag” lunch presenting our interest in promoting mixed used redevelopment of by then obsolete breakbulk marine, industrial, and railroad properties along the urban waterfronts of our Bi-State region.

In particular, we reviewed our work and plans for redeveloping the, by then, obsolete breakbulk cargo Hoboken Marine Terminal, and adjacent properties into a mixed-use waterfront development featuring public access as a defining component. Ann had more than just a general interest in Hoboken, since she had earlier done a graduate paper on Hoboken’s waterfront.

Dick and Ann sensitized us from that first meeting to including landscape architects in our planning and development teams—to enhance the quality of public space and access components of our waterfront developments. I went on to spend the rest of my career at the Port Authority and thereafter as well, focusing on promoting balanced waterfront redevelopment, and regional
development projects that reflected the input and participation of landscape architects in such work.

This career included direct oversight of large scale waterfront developments from concept through planning, development, and operations, and management of other regional economic development projects as well, until my retiring from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in 1996. Thus, about 25 years of my career involved working/overseeing work done by architects, including landscape architects, engineers and others. Thereafter, I soon served as Special Waterfront Counsel to the City of Hoboken until 2000, and in 2000 began serving as Special Waterfront Adviser to Hon. Mayor Keimi Harada, Minato-Ku, Tokyo until 2003.

I was fortunate to have agreed to serve on the Board of Advisors of The Waterfront Center ("the Center") since its founding by Dick and Ann in 1981, participating and speaking at many of The Waterfront Center’s International Waterfront Conferences, encouraging the establishment, under Ann and Dick’s leadership, of the Excellence on the Waterfront Awards Program, serving as a member of its first Jury, along with, for example, the late David Wallace, founding partner of Wallace, Roberts and Todd.

Over time, I found an increased focus on landscape architecture at the Center’s conferences and in the awards which also included recognition of international projects. I am thankful for having been a part of The Waterfront Center’s promotion of balanced waterfront development worldwide and to be part of supporting Dick and Ann’s educational work, including emphasizing the importance of landscape architectural elements in waterfront planning and development and sensitivity to maintenance issues as well, and dealing with the challenges from climate change and storm damages.

Dick’s contributions include his having worked with Ann in jointly giving many, many presentations nationally and internationally, providing consulting to numerous cities and communities over the years, as summarized on The Waterfront Center’s website, and with Ann Breen, writing many pieces and two major books aimed at providing a font of information for use in understanding good and "not so good" waterfront public space planning and development. Dick also served as Deputy Mayor of West Cape May, NJ from May 2005 through May 2009 overseeing public works, parks, Shade Tree Commission, etc.

My decades long involvement with Dick and Ann helped in enhancing my abilities to teach others as well. For example, in 1990, on behalf of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, I represented the USA in speaking on waterfront redevelopment in Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan. In 1993, I served as a Juror for the International Academy of Architecture ("IAI")
and International Forum for Young Architects in Kobe, Japan. My co-Jurors included famed Japanese Architect Kiyouichi Kitukake—the champion and architect of the Edo Tokyo Museum, the French architect who designed the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, and architect Boris Stolov, also a former Mayor of Sophia, Bulgaria, among others I was proud to serve with.

When then Hon. Mayor Keimi Harada, a noted Japanese architect, who served as Secretariat at the 1993 IAI Forum, requested my service as waterfront adviser in 2000, he knew of my involvement with Ann and Dick’s work, and himself became more involved in the work of The Waterfront Center as well.

More recently, The Waterfront Center co-sponsored the 2016 “Water Edge Symposium for Waterfront Development Leaders,” in Auckland, New Zealand—based upon the Auckland’s waterfront leaders being so impressed with the work of Dick and Ann and their influence on other professionals in the field. In Auckland, I spoke and participated, as did Dick and Ann. Among our contributions there included our work as part of teams to advise a community faced with a proposal for a regional transportation corridor that would literally block the waterfront. Each of the teams came up with ideas for the local community that would address transportation objectives of the regional agency, but in a way to include landscape architectural, and public access, sensitivity, and components, as part of possible alternative implementation options.

I would hope by this point, I have convinced you to recognize Dick—and Ann in my similar letter—as an Honorary Member of ASLA. But, just in case, the following should “put the icing on the cake” as they say. What follows is a true story of how the Region and Hoboken came to be blessed by the preservation of an old marine cargo FIVE ACRE pier over water, as a public largely passive type park area—strongly influenced by the work of Richard Rigby and Ann Breen—and contrary to fairly advanced other governmental plans for Hoboken Pier A.

Working under a grant from the NJDEP, Dick and Ann advised on public space goals relating to the Hoboken Waterfront Development before implementation of fairly advanced plans. I was in charge of that Development for the Port Authority at the time. Dick and Ann took the position opposing any buildings for office or housing on Pier A, which was a major part of the governmental plan arrived at through a thorough public participation process—and what City Officials wanted to assure enough revenue producing uses as part a well thought out plan including ample public access and parks areas, including on Pier A itself too.

The issue was their view that the entire Pier A—about 5 acres—be preserved as open space/passive park type activities. Needless to say, while Dick and Ann were good friends and colleagues of mine at that time for over ten years, as I served on The Waterfront Center Board, I
was not happy with their position, at least initially—it further delayed the project and from a Regional Planning perspective did not respect the fact that the immediately adjacent rail/bus and ferry facilities along with then planned, now in existence “light rail,” made Pier A the most logical place to concentrate the needed revenue producing uses of the Development and would have allowed a larger development with less proportional local transportation impacts.

Some, not all to be clear, of Hoboken’s citizens did not want taller buildings and densities like those found acceptable in the adjacent City of Jersey City—so achieving enough revenue producing development on the remainder of the site was challenging. In the end, we changed the plan and Pier A today sits as a public park area surrounded by water. I came to feel that we were all fortunate, even though it was painful at the time for me professionally, to have a rare five-acre park area on a pier for posterity! Dick and Ann both contributed to forces that led to this result. I point this out to buttress that my recommendation of each of them for Honorary Membership in ASLA is “unbiased,” even though I certainly count Dick and Ann as good friends, and yes, I have known them for all these years. As a professional, however, I respected their view then and now, and have come to appreciate how they helped contribute to a wonderful urban park result. (Not just Hoboken residents benefit from the Hoboken Pier A park—it is adjacent to that major regional transportation center, so folks from all over our region benefit!)

Of interest, the “South Waterfront” in Hoboken is reported by The Port Authority of NY and NJ as one of its successful financial investments, and has been cited by many as including very well-designed waterfront public access and waterfront landscape architecture components.

So, based on the above “cake with icing,” I would hope you would agree to make Richard Rigby an Honorary Member of ASLA. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at 201-291-0700, ext. 106.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you my basis for strongly endorsing Richard Rigby, and Ann Breen, for recognition as an Honorary Member of ASLA.

Very Truly Yours,

[Handwritten Signature]

[Printed Signature]

L. Michael Krieger, Esq., J.D., M.B.A.
**Retired General Manager, Regional & Economic Development
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey;
**Balanced Waterfront Development Advocate/Adviser
January 26, 2018

Honorary Membership Nomination

c/o Terry Poltrack

ASLA

636 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Mr. Poltrack,

It is my privilege to offer enthusiastic support to the nomination of Richard Rigby for Honorary Membership in the ASLA. Dick’s life has been dedicated to the promotion of one of a community’s most important landscapes: its waterfront. His devotion to waterfronts can be measured in decades of leadership and commitment. His efforts have had a lasting and consequential impact on how the profession and local leaders think about their waterfronts. Dick’s advocacy efforts through the Waterfront Center helped change the negative narrative concerning many waterfronts and led to revitalization efforts that featured new waterfronts all over the world.

Dick’s contributions to practice include authoring some of the important early guides to revitalizing waterfronts, providing technical assistance to dozens of waterfront communities concerning a host of aspects pertaining to successful waterfronts, and organizing the annual Urban Waterfronts conference for decades, bringing leaders from around the world to discuss important issues and innovations in waterfront planning and design. In addition, the Excellence on the Waterfront Awards have inspired thousands of communities to improve their waterfronts and learn from the best projects around the world. Dick has been an important and inspirational leader for waterfront designers all over the world.

Over the years, the Waterfront Center has been an important partner for the AIA’s Center for Communities by Design in its own work on waterfronts around the world. It is my privilege and honor to support this nomination.

Sincerely,

Joel Mills

Senior Director

Center for Communities by Design

joelmills@aia.org