

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles

Nominee's Address: 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 978-0600

Nominator: Duane Border, ASLA, PLA

Eric Garcetti is the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles and a fourth generation Angeleno raised in the San Fernando Valley. He earned a BA and MA from Columbia University, majoring in urban planning and political science, and studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and the London School of Economics.

Prior to being mayor, Garcetti was elected to City Council in 2001, and served as Council President from 2006 to 2012. His District included Hollywood, Echo Park, Silver Lake and Atwater Village, all of which were revitalized through his progressive planning, neighborhood involvement and environmental initiatives.

As Councilman, Garcetti was a leader in environmental policy and a proponent of landscape architecture. He was the author of multiple environmental measures including two of the nation's largest municipal green building ordinances requiring all new and expansive building projects to meet LEED standards, and Proposition O, the largest clean water bond in the country.

Garcetti also supported changes to the City landscape ordinance and plumbing codes to promote water conservation as Southern California faced a record drought. These measures and ordinance positioned landscape architects as leaders in the future development of Los Angeles by requiring sustainable site design and water conserving irrigation and planting design.

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust was founded by Garcetti in 2005 to "grow healthier, safer, and stronger communities by creating urban parks and community gardens that remedy the critical lack of green and recreation spaces in greater Los Angeles' underserved neighborhoods". The non-profit's vision is for every LA area resident to live within walking distance of a park or garden. Its goal of building two new parks per year provides landscape architects with the opportunity to improve the most challenged neighborhoods and connect Angelenos to the wonders of the Southern California environment.

Since being elected mayor in 2013, Garcetti has created multiple initiatives to support the growth and livability of the City of Los Angeles and the profession of landscape architecture.

“Los Angeles has more streets than anywhere else in America. They are our largest public asset, forming and reflecting the character of our neighborhoods, our people and our City.”
– *Mayor Eric Garcetti*

Streetscapes provide landscape architects with many of the largest, most influential public projects in Los Angeles. The Mayor’s *Great Streets Initiative* focuses on walkability and transit to increase street health. Garcetti’s goal is to take advantage of these underutilized assets to activate public spaces, increase safety, enhance local culture, and support great neighborhoods.

“Conserving water now will shape our City’s future for generations,”
– *Mayor Eric Garcetti*

In 2015 Mayor Garcetti released the City’s first ever *Sustainable City pLAN* as a roadmap of short-term and long-term strategies to transform the City toward a cleaner environment and stronger economy. In the first year of its release Los Angeles reduced water use by nearly 20%, a year ahead of its goal, to become the most water efficient big city in the US.

A pilot program of the *Sustainable City pLAN* is the “Save the Drop” water conservation initiative that installed 100 state-of-the-art water meters in 28 City parks to automatically detect leaks and capture detailed data. The program was developed in collaboration with landscape architects in the Department of Recreation and Parks. As a result, water use was reduced by 26 percent in its first year allowing Los Angeles to invest in critically needed water infrastructure, develop local water supplies and expand water conservation efforts.

“Thanks to our partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers, we have reached a watershed moment for the riparian revival of Los Angeles.” – *Mayor Eric Garcetti*

Mayor Garcetti’s contribution to green infrastructure and landscape architecture is most apparent in his unparalleled support for the Los Angeles River Restoration. Garcetti partnered with, and received approval from, the US Army Corps of Engineers to request Congressional funding to transform this vital aquatic ecosystem through a Water Resources Development Act. The project restores an 11-mile stretch of the river in the heart of the City. This will offer landscape architects opportunities to reestablish approximately 719 acres of open space with trails, vista points, education gardens and pedestrian bridges through river widening, restructured river banks, daylighting small streams and removing invasive vegetation.

For all he has done for the City of Los Angeles, its environment, and its landscape architects, I encourage you to endorse Mayor Eric Garcetti’s nomination to ASLA Honorary Membership.

**Honorary Membership
Nomination**

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Nominee's Address: 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 978-0600

Nominator: Duane Border, ASLA, PLA



Photo Courtesy: Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

January 24, 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 Mayor Eric Garcetti to become an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Since his first election as City Councilman in 2001, Mayor Garcetti has been an advocate for parks and public spaces. He has been a great friend and supporter of landscape architects and other allied professionals. I know that he sincerely believes in the power of landscape design to improve quality of life.

Following on the great work of his predecessors, he has made tremendous strides towards advancing catalytic projects for the Los Angeles landscape – lobbying tirelessly for federal support for the most ambitious alternative of the US Army Corps of Engineers' LA River revitalization scenarios, launching a robust Great Streets campaign, and sponsoring the City's first Sustainable City Plan, a plan which set ambitious goals for increasing local water & energy supplies, improving mobility & air quality, creating green jobs and addressing environmental justice.

Comprised of 88 distinct cities, the governance of the Los Angeles Metropolitan region is highly complex. Recognizing the urgency of addressing our urban and landscape systems from a holistic perspective, he brought all 88 mayors together for the first time in decades to discuss important issues associated with housing, education and the environment. Whereas Los Angeles has always been at the forefront of new technologies, this mayor has led with panache a major transformation of this city and region, promoting densification, mobility and open space, with the recognition that parks and connectivity make for better places.

As the majority of the world's population is shifting to cities, mayors hold an increasingly important responsibility for addressing quality of life issues in the urban realm. More than ever, we need our mayors to be in support of the landscape architecture profession. With the ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo in LA this year, it would make a tremendous impact on the future of Los Angeles and the future of the profession if we brought Mayor Garcetti into the fold of the American Society of Landscape Architects. By becoming an honorary member, we will strengthen his awareness and support of the profession, and he will in return help advance the important mission of the ASLA to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.

For these reasons, I strongly support Mayor Garcetti becoming an honorary member of the ASLA.

Sincerely,



Mia Lehrer, FASLA
President
2016 LaGasse Medal Awardee

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the nomination of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Mayor Garcetti has a long record of support for conservation of nature and building better cities from his first election to the City Council and continuing to his current post as Mayor.

He lead the City Council to adopt the Projected Tree Ordinance in 2003, his work tripled the number of parks in his dense LA District between 2001 and 2013 and he has been a leader in a series of initiatives on Green Building.

As Mayor of LA he developed and earned support for the “Sustainability pLAn” in 2015 that sets the course for a cleaner environment and stronger economy on a foundation of social equity. He set, and LA is on track to meet, ambitious goals for reducing the impacts of energy generation and water imports. In 2016 he lead the successful campaign for LA County voters to adopt a far-reaching new revenue source for transit that includes groundbreaking investments for \$2.4 billion bike and pedestrian improvements to go hand in hand with \$29.9 Billion for Bus and Rail operations. These projects will include important new opportunities for Landscape Architects.

For these reasons Eric Garcetti would be an outstanding choice to receive an honorary membership in the ASLA.

Sincerely,



Glen C. Dake, ASLA
Principal Landscape Architect

January 19, 2017

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

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to personally support the nomination of Mayor Eric Garcetti as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Mayor Garcetti has been instrumental in restoration of the Los Angeles River. Under Mayor Garcetti's leadership the City has embarked upon a \$1.3 billion plan to restore a portion of the Los Angeles River.

The Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works Review Board has approved a draft of the final environmental impact report for the plan, which is aimed at restoring the natural ecosystem of an 11-mile stretch of the Los Angeles River that flows between Griffith Park and downtown Los Angeles. More than 700 acres would be restored under the plan, through widening and landscaping of parts of the river to allow for vegetation, exposing small streams, taking out invasive plants and creating marsh areas.

Mayor Garcetti has also put together a broad plan that outlines his vision for environmental goals and programs for the City. The plan is a collection of environmental initiatives that look to creating a more sustainable city. The plan addresses everything from electric vehicles to solar power and quality of life in poor neighborhoods.

Mayor Garcetti's goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water imports and to reduce poverty. Based on Mayor Garcetti's goals and work to improve the green space within the City of Los Angeles, the environment and equity, I would highly recommend Mayor Eric Garcetti for an honorary ASLA membership.

Best,



Jan Dyer, RLA
Principal
Mia Lehrer + Associates

January 24, 2017

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

Re: Mayor Eric Garcetti nomination for Honorary ASLA membership

Dear Committee Members, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

Los Angeles' Mayor Eric Garcetti most certainly merits consideration as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects due to his influence locally, regionally and nationally.

Locally, Mayor Garcetti appointed the first ever Landscape Architect, Glen Dake to the Metropolitan Water District Board. This 26 agency Water District covers most of Southern California, and is instrumental in providing water to over 19 million people.

In 2014, Mayor Garcetti started the Great Streets Initiative, Garcetti said the effort represents "a shift from the way that our neighborhoods have been planned in Los Angeles," with a new focus on "walkability" and transit.

In 2015, the Mayor presented the Sustainable City **PLAN**. The **pLAN**'s action items include increasing LA's supply of affordable housing, upping the minimum wage, improving schools, facilitating urban farming and increasing park access.

Nationally, Garcetti, has served as chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Latino Alliance. Los Angeles was chosen as one of the first 100 Resilient Cities by the Rockefeller Foundation, setting national and international policy and agenda and is a contender for the 2024 Olympics due to the efforts of the Mayor.

The programs and policies of Mayor Garcetti have provided landscape architects opportunities to improve and partner in creating a more walkable, greener Los Angeles.

I strongly support Mayor Eric Garcetti's nomination and consideration 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

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ASLA

636 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Letter of Recommendation for Honorary ASLA Membership for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
To the Attention of the Honorary Membership Nomination Committee

This letter supports Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as a candidate for an Honorary ASLA membership. We would like to bring to your attention the Mayor's track record of improving the quality of life of Angelenos by focusing on a simple, yet powerful concept: a better city by design. As a long-time resident of Los Angeles, a business owner in downtown Los Angeles, and a seasoned practitioner, I would like to resoundingly support Mayor Garcetti's nomination because he leads our city with boundless optimism, enacts pragmatic policies, and gains positive results that improve our daily lives.

With just a cursory review of Mayor Garcetti's Directives, one can already identify a direct kinship between his political agenda and its alignment with the practice of landscape architecture. Directive No. 1, the Great Streets Initiative alone, has brought together a multi-agency cooperation on improving issues of pedestrian safety, neighborhood improvement, economic development, and promoting alternative transportation in our car-centric city. Directive No. 7, the Sustainable City pLAN is a groundbreaking initiative that directs all City Departments to contribute to and be responsible for a sustainable future for the City of Los Angeles. Directive No. 10, Vision Zero, is a life-saving initiative for enacting design measures such as clearly marked crosswalks, innovative crosswalk and traffic light design, and a call to drivers to be aware that unsafe speeds are prohibitive of promoting a safe and healthy city. Furthermore, before his nomination as Mayor, as a City Council Member Eric Garcetti helped to found the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, an innovative non-profit that operates and maintains public parks in Los Angeles County.

Mayor Garcetti's far-reaching advocacy of equal access to opportunity is evident in his policies regarding: housing and neighborhood revitalization, reducing homelessness, promoting post-secondary education, and focus on reversing environmental degradation. Under the Mayor, we have seen an extraordinary renaissance of downtown Los Angeles, where new construction and renovation of historic buildings have resulted in a more beautiful and lively cityscape. Innovative transportation funding measures have enriched public transit, connecting the downtown to the Santa Monica piers and the Pacific Ocean. The Mayor has also been an energetic advocate of revitalizing the Los Angeles River by championing a multi-agency effort, resulting in the LA City Council adoption of Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in 2016.

A gifted orator, an energetic leader, and a compassionate policymaker, Mayor Garcetti recognizes the value in our multi-cultural city. He continuously cultivates our diversity by providing opportunities for its residents and businesses. It is with great honor that I, on behalf of SWA, submit this letter of recommendation for recognizing Mayor Eric Garcetti as a leader who embodies the values, mission, and purpose of the ASLA.



Gerdo Aquino, FASLA, Assoc. AIA

CEO / Principal, SWA