

# PWP LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

PETER WALKER, FASLA

March 25, 2016

DOUGLAS FINDLAY, FASLA

DAVID WALKER, FASLA

Executive Committee

ADAM GREENSPAN

Board of Trustees

SANDRA HARRIS

American Society of Landscape Architects

CHRIS DIMOND, FASLA

636 Eye Street

JULIE CANTER

Washington, DC 20001

CONARD LINDGREN

ASLA Design Medal Nomination Letter for James Burnett, FASLA

JAY SWAINTEK

Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

MICHAEL DELLIS

TODD MEAD

It is my honor and pleasure to nominate Jim Burnett for the ASLA Design Medal. I am fortunate to have had him as a good friend for many years and to have served with him on many industry committees and leadership positions. His achievements and influence are immense. Like many others, I am a better landscape architect and professional because of my relationship with Jim.

MARTIN POIRIER, FASLA

CARMEN ARROYO

STEVE TYCZ

Originally aspiring to be an architect, Jim's passion for landscape architecture blossomed under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Reich at LSU's Environmental Design School. During his studies at LSU, Jim was inspired by the works of Dan Kiley. Dan at the time was making powerful and innovative statements with his design, but doing so through beautiful yet simple landscapes. After his time at LSU, he was deeply influenced through his exposure to Peter Walker and his use of landscape architecture as a means for artistic expression. These relationships and their impact on the growing influence of modernism in the field of landscape architecture have been consistently reflected in his work throughout his career.

JANET BEAGLE

EUSTACIA BROSSART

CHELSEA DEWITT

BRIAN GILLETT

HEATH HOUSE

LAUREL HUNTER

JUSTIN JACKSON

Jim founded The Office of James Burnett in Houston, Texas in 1989 and has expanded since with offices in San Diego and Boston. Jim's success in leading, nurturing, and growing his firm over the past 27 years into a national and international design powerhouse is well documented. He has guided the prosperous development of OJB into one of the most influential Landscape Architecture firms in the world.

KAZUNARI KOBAYASHI

SU-JUNG PARK

CORNELIA ROPPEL

CHRIS WALKER

MONICA WAY

MI YANG

One of the firm's initial focuses was on health-care design. Jim was instrumental in using landscape to heighten the industry's awareness of its critical importance in patient comfort and advancing patient rehabilitation and expediting patient recovery schedules. He helped change the health-care design conversation from "illness" to "wellness" and established a need for early inclusion of a landscape program into the design process. Jim's innovative approach exposed patients, health care professionals, and visitors to a new environment that allowed them to experience the beauty of nature in the form of new gardens, trails, courtyards, roof gardens, and fountains. Jim's new influence and perspective on healing and restorative design have changed the role of landscape architects on health-care facilities ever since.

This experience in the healthcare industry expanded his design into campuses for corporations, colleges and universities. Jim understood the influence and the importance of landscape design in the corporate and academic environments. The quality of the outdoor environment including its

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public spaces has significant impact on how students make their decision on which university to attend. Jim gave particular attention to the collection of spaces surrounding new and existing buildings and how they must be integrated and redesigned into memorable and functional campus environments. Creating unique and accessible spaces to stimulate and promote study/work/life balance is a constant in Jim's campus design.

Jim's most recent design work has been focused on the restoration of our cities and the aesthetic, economic, environmental, and social transformation of our urban centers. Few designers understand the balance and importance of creating great places that are also extraordinary models of environmental sustainability. Jim has mastered both. While creating great form-giving design, his projects have significant environmental benefits, including stormwater management, carbon emission reduction, and air and noise mitigation. Through his design of great urban parks he has been at the forefront on the integration of strong programming into the design process and operations of the parks. The phenomenal success of these efforts is clearly evident in cities such as Dallas, Oklahoma City, and Seattle to name just a few.

Under his leadership, OJB has been recognized with great regularity for its design excellence. Most recently, ASLA awarded this extraordinary company the Landscape Architecture Firm Award in 2015. Jim's brilliant portfolio of work has been recognized with over 80 state and national awards, including the prestigious Urban Land Institute Open Space Awards in both 2014 and 2015 for Myriad Botanical Gardens in Oklahoma City and Klyde Warren Park in Dallas. These projects have been transformative to the urban cores of both cities. Furthermore, ASLA has acknowledged Jim's talent with national Honor Awards for Sunnylands Center and Gardens in Rancho Mirage, California, the Brochstein Pavilion at Rice University in Houston, Texas, and the Reid Residence in Houston, Texas.

Widely published, Jim's work evidences the highest concern for quality, lasting materials, sustainability, and the craft of landscape architecture. His lifetime accomplishments as an innovative business leader, designer, tireless promoter of the profession, and advocate for design educational opportunities for young landscape architects in the profession are inspiring and without equal.

His personal leadership, charisma, and professional passion have inspired many designers and there is no doubt the profession is in a better place because of his unselfish example. By recognizing Jim with the ASLA Design Medal, we will be honoring an individual who truly has contributed a lifetime of excellence to the profession and can continue to serve as an inspiration to landscape architecture far and wide. His achievements during his career and the incredible example he has set for all professionals is so deserving of this honor. I recommend Jim without reservation.

Sincerely,



Chris Dimond, FASLA  
Partner



THE ANNENBERG RETREAT  
AT SUNNYLANDS

March 25, 2016

Executive Committee  
Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse the nomination of James Burnett, FASLA, for the ASLA Design Medal. I have had the pleasure of working with Jim since 2008 while the Sunnylands Center & Gardens was under development.

The amazing design for Sunnylands has won awards but more importantly has resulted in a site that is highly appreciated by its many visitors. Initially, Jim was asked to extend the turf landscape of the historic estate to the new 15-acre public site. He counseled the design team about the need for a more resource-sensitive approach and ultimately, Mrs. Annenberg was convinced that a garden featuring arid-landscape plants was the appropriate approach. She didn't particularly like desert plants so she agreed as long as it was "beautiful". Well, Jim created a spectacularly beautiful desert garden that changes the perception of desert plants, their lushness, and their visual potential.

Inspired by the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings collection that the Annenbergs owned, Jim massed plants in areas to create the sensation of color, texture, and shape from one space to the next. This organized massing has blended formal and informal in intriguing new ways. More than 82,000 people visited the Center & Gardens last year and every single one of them left with a new appreciation of the beauty of desert plantings. Whether they are doing yoga on our Great Lawn, watching films surrounded by a circle of Palo Verde trees, exploring near the wildflower field, or walking the Labyrinth, our visitors are benefitting from the extraordinary combination of nature and design that forms our garden.

Jim's design viscerally impacts visitors and it also allows us to speak about water use and sustainability in the desert. Our mission is directly furthered by the success of the Center & Gardens—a great testament to Jim's creativity, willingness to envision a very specific site tied to our aspirations, and his commitment to the larger issues that define our organization. To me, those traits made working with him a joy and led to the phenomenal success of our site. Jim continues to connect with us as we work to preserve his vision.

Jim has done countless projects throughout the United States for almost three decades, also to great acclaim. I believe he is an excellent candidate for the ASLA Design Medal.

With regards,

Janice Lyle, Ph.D.  
Director, Sunnylands Center & Gardens

24 March 2016

Executive Committee  
Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street  
Washington, DC 20001

*Re: Letter of Endorsement for James Burnett's nomination for the ASLA Design Medal*

Dear Executive Committee Members:

We are deeply honored to write this letter in strong support of Jim Burnett's well-deserved nomination for the ASLA Design Medal. Jim's consistent delivery of graceful, human-scaled and sustainable built landscapes have yielded some of the most recognized and beloved urban environments worldwide. Throughout his exemplary career, Jim has demonstrated a tireless passion and unwavering commitment to his clients and the profession and, as such, is eminently qualified for this distinguished and pinnacle of peer recognition.

For the past two decades, we have had the pleasure of collaborating with Jim on the design of over 20 high profile projects internationally totaling over 30 million square feet. For each project, Jim has brought a fresh and forward-looking vision to not only enliven the streetscape but to also engage and offer comfort to users at every level. As a key collaborator, his efforts have in fact directly contributed to much of the success of our own work. At the core of his approach is the innate desire to make lasting, impactful and inspirational environments that will be enjoyed by not only his clients but by the broader community for generations to come.

Ranging from playful, to serene, to contemplative, to elegant, his body of work has been consistently recognized with many notable awards, including most recently the *2015 ULI Urban Open Space Award* for his design of Myriad Gardens, adjacent to our collaboration on the Devon Energy Center in Oklahoma City. However, more importantly, these awards validate the extraordinary improvements to the quality of life that Jim has brought to each of the communities in which he has practiced. As one of the earliest proponents of the concept of biophilia and its benefits, Jim's work and the sensitivity he has brought to it has always and inherently contributed to the well-being of all who have experienced his work.

In our more than four decades of practice, we have often found that our most successful projects have been the result of collaborating with visionary clients with the commitment to profoundly and positively impact the environments where they build and beyond. We believe this to be true for Jim as well. While he has had the opportunity to work with a number of exceptional clients, for each he has exceeded their expectations time and again to deliver benchmark projects that have come to be cherished by those fortunate enough to personally engage them on a daily basis.

It should be noted that for all our projects, Pickard Chilton practices exclusively as a Design Architect in collaboration with Architects of Record on large scale and complex developments in locations across the globe. As such, we have extensive experience working closely with a multitude of highly qualified team members, including many landscape architects. We can easily state that Jim is among the best and most innovative landscape architects internationally with whom we have had the pleasure of working. Jim and his colleagues at OJB have deservedly earned their reputation for offering their clients the utmost degree of professionalism, discipline, integrity and expertise.

We unequivocally urge that ASLA award the Design Medal to Jim in recognition of his most impressive career and extraordinary contributions to our greater urban environment.

Sincerely,



Jon Pickard FAIA, RIBA



William D. Chilton FAIA, RIBA

# PWP LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

PETER WALKER, FASLA

March 28, 2016

DOUGLAS FINDLAY, FASLA

DAVID WALKER, FASLA

ASLA Executive Committee  
American Society of Landscape Architects

ADAM GREENSPAN

ASLA Design Medal Nominations

SANDRA HARRIS

c/o Carolyn Mitchell

CHRIS DIMOND, FASLA

636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

JULIE CANTER

Re: James Burnett Nomination for ASLA Design Medal

CONARD LINDGREN

JAY SWAINTEK

Dear Executive Committee Members:

MICHAEL DELLIS

I wish to lend my recommendation for James Burnett, FASLA for the ASLA Design Medal.

TODD MEAD

MARTIN POIRIER, FASLA

I have known Jim since he began practicing at Caudill Rowlett Scott Architects in Houston, Texas. He was a recent graduate of Louisiana State University (1983) in landscape architecture and was practicing in a famous firm of architects.

CARMEN ARROYO

When he opened his own office in 1989, The Office of James Burnett (OJB), he immediately began winning important commissions and design awards, first in the southwest and then throughout the United States and abroad.

STEVE TYCZ

JANET BEAGLE

His design awards include an ASLA National Honor Award (2010) for the beautiful Brockstein Pavilion at Rice University; the AIA Institute Honors (2011) for the Beijing CBD Plan; The Metropolitan Planning Council's Award for Planning Excellence (2011); the ULI Award of Distinction for City Center Houston (2012); the ULI Open Space Award (2014) for Klyde Warren Park in Dallas; the ULI Open Space Award (2015) for Myriad Gardens; and the ASLA Firm Award in 2015.

EUSTACIA BROSSART

CHELSEA DEWITT

BRIAN GILLETT

His design practice has been of the highest quality and is especially noteworthy for their refined detail and adventuresome planting. Each project not only serves its local function, but importantly, extends into the culture at large.

HEATH HOUSE

LAUREL HUNTER

JUSTIN JACKSON

Jim is a tireless representative of the profession through many lectures, visits to schools, and published articles. He is a strong spokesman for the ASLA and landscape design.

KAZUNARI KOBAYASHI

SU-JUNG PARK

He has served on many ASLA committees, including awards juries where he has served chairman and the CEO Roundtable.

CORNELIA ROPPEL

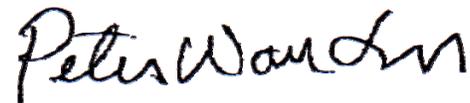
CHRIS WALKER

He is a truly exceptional designer and I recommend him without reservation for the ASLA Design Medal.

MONICA WAY

Sincerely yours,

MI YANG



Peter Walker  
FASLA

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March 28, 2016

Executive Committee  
Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street  
Washington, DC 20001

## ASLA DESIGN MEDAL

To the Executive Committee:

I am quite honored to write a letter endorsing James Burnett for the ASLA Design Medal. I write to express my strong and rather emotional support, and that of my firm, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

### A LONG COLLABORATION

As SOM's partner for planning and urban design, I have worked with Jim Burnett and his office on a number of significant projects around the world and particularly in the United States. It has been gratifying over the past 20 years to have watched his work mature and blossom into such remarkable designs as his recent Sunnylands Gardens on the now-public Annenberg Estate in Palm Desert, California, with its painterly color palette and tranquil appeal to the senses, using minimal water for the nine-acre gardens and providing a rich habitat for many local species. Or his inspirational work at Rice University, or his incredibly active park in the heart of Chicago.

Jim and I have shared some common principles throughout our careers, including an interest in discovering and improving on the environment in which we are living, developing a better understanding of our larger ecosystems and how design can create environments that touch the souls of everyone.

As the world unfolds in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are seeing an emerging reality within the design community that is about collaboration rather than single imposed initiatives, win/win priorities over win/lose strategies, emphasis on balance over extremes, and interdependence rather than independence. This positive and optimistic "new reality" as Jonas Salk wrote about in the 1980's is epitomized by Jim and his work. As the world grows by a billion people every 12-14 years, I think it is critical to recognize those unique professionals like Jim, that strive to keep us in balance with our environment.

His design work is humble yet strong, native yet global, engaging yet contemplative.

We both share a love of watercolors and painting in general. We spent four days oil painting in the area of the Chamas River in Northern New Mexico two years ago, attempting to capture that which moved us, the power of a landscape which creates such powerful settings. I see the paintings of Jim's in his designs. The idea that landscape can envelope, inspire, enrich and motivate.

### RETHINKING THE NORM

Jim has exceeded our firm's design problem solving expectations on a wide range of projects. His knowledge of native plant materials, impacts on human health, awareness of larger sustainable challenges, and how people use and experience landscape is remarkable. Jim and his firm are redefining the normal aesthetic. Our joint projects include Lakeshore East's 6-acre urban park on downtown Chicago's last major undeveloped site, Virginia Beach's 19<sup>th</sup> Street Beach District and its Convention Center, Harvard University's Sciences District, the Heron Quay district of London's Canary Wharf, Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Tempe Center for the Arts in Arizona, the Texas Medical Center in Houston, Beijing's expanded Central Business district, and a number of competitions and proposals. Jim's understanding of the relationships among planning, landscape, architecture, urbanism and the human being is reflected in each of these design projects. Jim designs landscapes that promote health, that address the serious drought challenges of the Southwest, and challenge us all to rethink today's standard aesthetic that is so unsustainable.

### TRANSFORMING THE AMERICAN CITY

Jim is dedicated to making cities more livable. His approach to urban design concentrates on revitalizing public spaces with a strong focus on designing landscapes that promote healthy living and social interaction. Jim listens and responds creatively. His firm resolves complex site challenges in innovative ways on a range of scales that embrace the vision of users, and that connect inhabitants to cities, neighborhoods and more comfortable streets. His contributions to Oklahoma City have been transformational. The enhancement of quality of urban life through landscape design has been key in Jim's design and urban planning.

I have been very fortunate to collaborate with many of the world's leading landscape architects, and I believe Jim and his office reflect the caliber, quality and awareness that are at the core of your recognition and honor. The ASLA Design Medal has honored some of the greatest landscape architects we have ever seen. I have been very lucky to work with quite a few recent recipients, including: Peter Walker, Laurie Olin, Richard Haag, Kathryn Gustafson, and Michael Van Valkenburgh. I very much see Jim as a designer of this caliber and talent. He is simply...one of the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Enquist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Philip Enquist, FAIA  
Partner



KLYDE WARREN  
PARK

March 25, 2016

Executive Committee  
Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Executive Committee,

This letter is written in support of Jim Burnett to receive the ASLA Design Medal for his stunning and innovative landscape architecture design. Klyde Warren Park is an example of his world-class standards and attention to detail.

We are very proud of the work Jim has done on behalf of Klyde Warren Park beginning in 2003 when the first conceptual design was created for this transformative space. Together with Jim, we have won many outstanding awards, including the prestigious 2014 Urban Land Institute's Open Space Award, the Texas Society of Architects Citation of Honor and achieved a LEED Gold Certification. Jim and his team at OJB are an integral part of the success and the acclaim that Klyde Warren Park has received.

Klyde Warren Park is a 5.2-acre deck park, bridging Uptown Dallas to Downtown Dallas. The park includes a performance pavilion, restaurant, dog park, children's park, great lawn, shaded walking paths, water features, free Wi-Fi, ping pong and foosball tables, and a reading and games area. The mission of Klyde Warren Park is to provide free daily programming for the enrichment of our patrons' lives, showcasing the multitude of cultures and talents Dallas has to offer and be a town square where citizens can congregate and create traditions. We produce over 1300 free programs and events annually and average over 1 million guests each year. Klyde Warren Park is privately operated and managed by the Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Jim Burnett is a visionary leader in the field of landscape architecture with his thoughtful and innovative designs that leave a lasting imprint on our park patron and their experience at Klyde Warren Park. We strongly endorse his candidacy for the 2016 ASLA Design Medal.

Sincerely,

Tara N. Green  
President





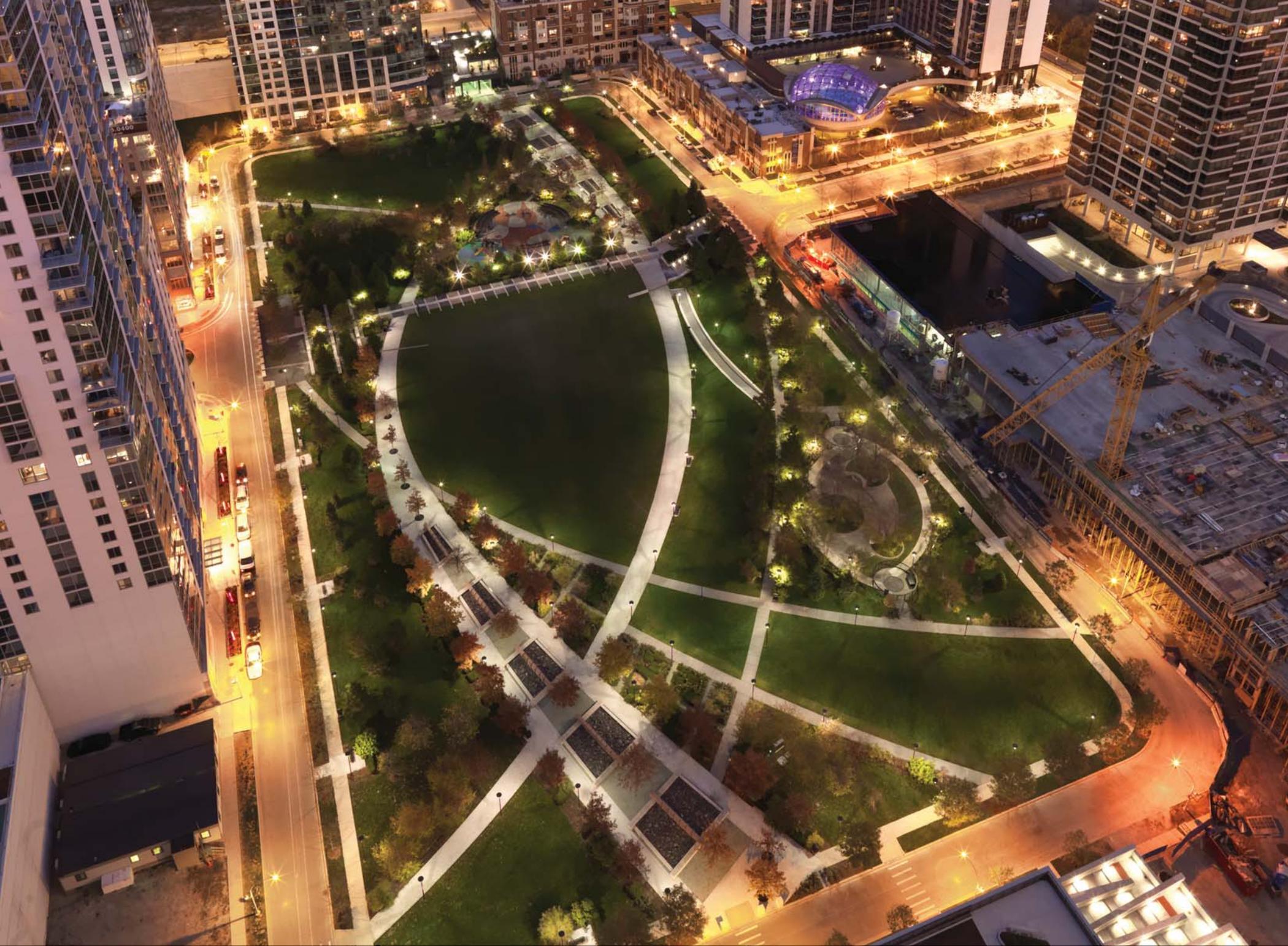
ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

Sunnylands Center & Gardens, Rancho Mirage, CA



ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

Sunnylands Center & Gardens, Rancho Mirage, CA



ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

The Park at Lakeshore East, Chicago, IL





ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

Playa Vista Central Park, Los Angeles, CA



ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City, OK



ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City, OK



ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, TX



ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

Klyde Warren Park, Dallas, TX







ASLA Design Medal Nomination - James Burnett, FASLA

CityCentre Houston, Houston, TX



