Honorary Membership
Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Joel Albizo, FASAE, CAE
CLARB Chief Executive Officer

Nominee’s Address: CLARB
1840 Michael Faraday Drive
Suite 200

City/State/Zip: Reston, VA 20190

Phone: 571-432-0332

Nominator: Jerany L. Jackson, ASLA
President of CLARB

Please describe the nominee’s achievements of national or international significance or influence and how they have benefited the profession of landscape architecture (no more than two pages, single-spaced, typed).

Joel became the executive director of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) in July of 2007. Under his leadership, CLARB has been able to make significant accomplishments which have benefited the profession of landscape architecture.

Through Joel’s collaboration with ASLA in 2009, the Landscape Architect Continuing Education System (LA CES) was developed to meet the expressed needs of state regulatory boards to establish, maintain and enforce standards for professional development and continuing education programs for landscape architects. The program was created with strong input from CLARB and in partnership with ASLA and other key organizations engaged in educating, supporting or regulating the profession.

Joel implemented a comprehensive strategic thinking process for CLARB which lead to a historic research project with the goal of regulating public welfare or well-being as an innovative way to increase the relevance and value of licensure of landscape architecture and the state boards that regulate the profession. The groundbreaking research, which was completed in 2009, defined the impact of landscape architecture on public welfare. The study offers a concise, logical, supportable set of themes, messages and appeals for the profession to better communicate its value to diverse audiences and may create an opportunity to further connect planning and design concepts to practice in a way that enriches the profession and better serves society through enhanced quality of life. The findings might also contribute to a more relevant shared scope of practice and clearer expression of “welfare” concepts in critical standards for practice across...
the globe. To that end, under Joel’s leadership the Ohio Board of Landscape architects was selected in 2014 to serve as a pilot regulatory board in developing a replicable model for regulating welfare for the profession.

Under Joel’s guidance and direction, the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.) was transformed in 2012 to a fully computer delivered model through the pioneering of a unique graphical exam item type. The new computer delivered model increased access to the exam which determines the competency of landscape architects to practice without harming the public. Landscape architect candidates now have over 250 locations to choose from to take the exam as opposed to the 50 locations previously offered. Due to the delivery model, the opportunity for potential landscape architects to take the exam increased by 2100% over the paper and pencil version of the L.A.R.E.

The strategic thinking process introduced by Joel also lead to a partnership with the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) to assess the feasibility of developing a global standard for the practice of landscape architecture. Joel has been recruited in an advisory capacity to the IFLA Committee on Professional Practice and Policy to explore various alternatives to developing a global standard for the profession which could be accepted by all of the IFLA member nations. With the assistance of Joel and CLARB, IFLA is focusing on understanding the core elements of landscape architectural practice around the world (the “universal core”). The idea is that this may lead to consensus on a high (if not aspirational standard) of professional practice and potentially a formal global standard for the practice of landscape architecture.
Carolyn Mitchell, Coordinator, Honors and Awards  
Honorary Membership Nomination  
ASLA  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

When Joel Albizo joined CLARB in 2007 as its new Executive Director, he came with a vision and a plan to increase the relevancy of the profession of landscape architecture through regulation by focusing the efforts of CLARB’s member boards. As the Chief Operating Officer of CLARB, I have worked closely with Joel over the past 8 years and have seen how his leadership skills have benefited the profession of landscape architecture both in the U.S. and internationally.

Under Joel’s supervision, CLARB completed a groundbreaking research effort that identified how the profession of landscape architecture impacts public well-being. These concepts are being presented around North America by licensure board members to allied professionals, to the legislative bodies of each state, and to the public resulting in a broader understanding of what we do as landscape architects and the impact our profession has on the public’s health, safety and welfare.

Joel introduced a strategic thinking process for CLARB which led the CLARB Board of Directors to make significant changes to the Landscape Architect Registration Examination which establishes minimal competency for our emerging professionals to practice without harming the public. These changes significantly increased access to the examination making it easier for emerging landscape architects to become a valuable part of our profession.

Recently, Joel has initiated an effort to reach out to students of landscape architecture to reinforce the importance of licensure and how becoming licensed benefits the entire profession. This effort, in concert with the ASLA Student Chapter Presidents, ensures that when we sit at the table with other design professionals, we are respected for the work we do and the value that we add to each and every project.

On the international front, Joel has initiated discussions with the leadership of IFLA to consider the development of a global standard of practice for landscape architects. Joel along with members of the CLARB leadership have participated in IFLA committee discussions to determine how IFLA member bodies can bring a global standard closer to reality.

Given Joel’s many accomplishments and the value he has added to the profession of landscape architecture, I would highly recommend that the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees acknowledge Joel’s contributions by awarding him with honorary membership in ASLA.

Sincerely,

James T. Penrod, FASLA
ASLA Board of Trustees and Executive Committee

Re: Joel Albizo, FASAE, CAE for consideration as Honorary ASLA member

Dear Colleagues,

I have had the pleasure of working with Joel Albizo over the last seven years, most recently as 2013 President of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB).

Through the years I’ve been involved with both CLARB and ASLA, as a chapter president, as a trustee and as a Vice President of Government Affairs, I have seen Joel move the relationship between CLARB and ASLA to a greater collaboration and partnership.

Through his leadership as Executive Director at CLARB, the organization has provided research into the definition of welfare, and statistics on the determinants of success for candidates and qualifications to sit for and pass the Landscape Architects Registration Examination (LARE).

His leadership has been honored by IFLA, as IFLA seeks to increase the value and viability of licensure globally.

He is a champion for the profession and for educating the profession and for licensing the profession. Joel Albizo is a terrific executive but he is a landscape architect at heart. Without reservation, I encourage you to consider his work on our behalf, and invite Joel Albizo to join us as an honorary member of our Society

Respectfully,

Stephanie V. Landregan, FASLA
Director, UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program
Carolyn Mitchell, Coordinator, Honors and Awards  
Honorary Membership Nomination  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington DC 20001-3736

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Joel Albizo for the appointment as an ASLA honorary member. Mr. Albizo has been the CEO of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) since 2007. For the past seven years, I have served as a member of the CLARB Board of Directors holding elected positions as Regional Director, Treasurer, Vice President and now President-Elect. During this time, I worked closely with Mr. Albizo and his staff. His interpersonal skills and emphasis on efficiency has transformed the CLARB Board of Directors to the highly efficient and functioning Board that it is today. Joel has always kept the Board focused on refining and implementation of the organization's strategic plan.

During Joel's service as CEO, he has lead the Board and staff in the research and development of a true definition of welfare. Through his leadership the licensing exam (LARE) has been updated using a new forward thinking exam method. All this time maintaining the defensibility of the exam through the determinants of success study.

As CEO, he has worked with the Board of Directors and his staff to guide us first from “Average to Good” and now from “Good to Great”. He has always kept our Board educated and focused on what we can be and how we can get there. As a guest of ASLA at the IFLA conferences, Joel has assisted the global community in their consideration and development of a global standard for Landscape Architecture.

I have served on many Boards during my professional career, and I have never served with a more dedicated and passionate CEO/Director. Even though Joel is not a Landscape Architect he has always been an outstanding ambassador for our profession, promoting Landscape Architecture and licensing in all of his actions throughout this global community. Thank you for your time and consideration of this recommendation. If I can provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely Submitted,

Randy Weatherly  
Vice President Ambler Architects, PLA, AIA, ASLA, LEED AP,  
President – Elect of CLARB
Honorary Membership Nomination

ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Letter of Support
Nomination of Joel Albizo, FASAE, CAE

I am pleased and honored to provide this letter of support for the nomination of Joel Albizo, CEO of the Council of Landscape Architectural Boards (CLARB) to Honorary Membership in ASLA. I have known Joel for over seven years and worked closely with him during my six years on the CLARB Board of Directors. He is one of the most dedicated and professional people I have had the pleasure to work with. His zeal and love of this profession and his desire to improve and promote it shows that he is extremely deserving of honorary membership in ASLA.

As you well know, Honorary Membership in ASLA is given to those non-landscape architects whose achievements are of national and international significance or influence. During his almost eight years as CEO of CLARB the significant and influential impacts he has had on this profession are profound. He has taken CLARB from a small, struggling organization to one that is focused on its core mission, financially sound, is forward thinking and highly respected among the landscape architecture community in North American, other licensed professional organizations and the landscape architecture community worldwide. As a result of Joel’s leadership he has inspired CLARB staff and the landscape architects that serve on the CLARB Board and committees to strive for greatness, thereby making the organization a leader for the profession.

Through his leadership he helped the CLARB Board and membership focused on the key reasons for CLARB’s existence which included the regulation of the profession, establishing standards for the licensed landscape architect and developing and administering the Landscape Architects Licensing Exam, a.k.a. the L.A.R.E.. He oversaw the upgrading of the L.A.R.E. to a 100% computer administered exam. This move resulted in candidates having more opportunities to take the exam and also cut the time it took to grade and notify candidates of their results in half. However this wasn't all he accomplished. As part of the move toward a 100% computerized exam two new computerized testing methods, “click and drag” and “hot point” were developed that had never been used in the professional testing environment before. These new testing items have revolutionized the testing environment. Their impact goes beyond the landscape architecture profession. NCARB (National Council of Architectural Registration Boards) is working towards incorporating these new testing items into the architect's exam and doing away with the computer aided drafting program that they developed for their exam years ago. NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying) is also exploring how they can incorporate the new testing items into their licensing exams. Joel, thorough his leadership and guidance changed the testing environment for landscape architect candidates as well as future architecture and engineering candidates.

Joel initiated a research project that no design profession had tackled, defining public welfare for the landscape architecture profession. He believed that it was how the landscape architect addressed the protection of public
welfare that differentiates the landscape architecture profession from the other design professions. The research report resulted in showing the impact the profession has on protecting the public welfare. As a result of this ground breaking research tweaks were made to some L.A.R.E. questions so that landscape architect candidates are tested on protecting the public welfare. Additional research has been undertaken by some in academia on additional research on this topic. Joel has taken the research to the next level having CLARB partner with one of the regulatory boards to study how the welfare research can be brought into the regulatory environment of the profession.

Internationally Joe has help coordinate inquiries from the Chinese, Mexican and Brazilian landscape architect professions on how the profession is regulated in North America. This has included the L.A.R.E. used in North America for determining competency to practice the profession. China specifically invited him to speak at a special conference in China on regulating the profession.

In 2013, Joel was invited to attend the International Federation of Landscape Architects meeting in New Zealand. The response to his attendance was overwhelming surpassing anything any of us could have imagined. Members at the conference wanted his thoughts and insight on the topics of regulating the profession, the L.A.R.E., and working towards an international standard for landscape architecture. As a result of his participation he was invited back in 2014 and asked to take the lead in working on an ISO Standard for landscape architecture. That work continues today.

He has help expand the yearly meeting of the Inter-professional Council on Regulation (ICOR) with NCARB and NCEES with additional meetings and conference calls throughout the year. He has also been instrumental in expanding the dialogue with the other landscape organizations involved with the President’s Council.

Joel’s impact on our profession has been profound. From the changes at CLARB, to the exam, to working on the national and international stage to promote and expand the profession, Joel has worked tirelessly and with a passion and understanding of this profession more than anyone I’ve known. Most importantly he has been a great ambassador for our profession since becoming the CEO of CLARB. There is no one more deserving of the title of Honorary Member of ASLA than Joel Albizo. I hope that all of you will agree with me and unanimously grant him this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,

Dennis E. Bryers, FASLA, PLA
Past President, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB)
Chairperson, Nebraska State Board of Landscape Architects (NSBLA)
Past Trustee, Great Plains Chapter/ASLA (1996-2002)
Past President, Great Plains Chapter/ASLA (2003-2004)