



CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

The John T. Lyle Center
for Regenerative Studies

January 27, 2017

To the ASLA Community Service Awards Selection Committee:

I am writing to nominate the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona), for the ASLA Community Service Award. Since the Lyle Center's inception in 1994, its mission to provide a collective impact toward a sustainable future has resulted in numerous efforts to serve diverse communities, all through services that are provided by affiliated faculty, staff and students, without charge (pro bono). Many projects have received national recognition, but all have served vital functions in empowering local communities to address environmental challenges and opportunities. This enduring impact over two decades, is the reason I believe this organization is worthy of recognition by the ASLA.

The Center has played an important role in raising the profile of landscape architecture, both locally and internationally. Named for the Founding Project Director, Professor John T. Lyle, FASLA (1934-1998), the Center received notoriety with the publishing of his book, *Regenerative Design for Sustainable Development* (Wiley, 1994), and was profiled in numerous national and international publications upon its opening, including *Landscape Architecture Magazine*. At that time, four pillars of its mission were established: education, research, demonstration and outreach. Operating simultaneously as a living laboratory to support student learning, as well as a place of collaboration for diverse groups of students, academic experts, policy makers and community members, the Center has always made commitment to community central to its efforts, particularly in the areas of demonstration and outreach.

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THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY *Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Fullerton, Hayward, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Maritime Academy, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma, Stanislaus*

Located on 16 acres within the Cal Poly Pomona campus, the Center provides a destination for the community to experience an environment designed and managed with regenerative principles. Thousands of visitors tour the facility free of charge each year, to observe demonstrations of low-energy architecture, renewable energy production, organic food production, strategies for utilizing waste as a resource, water conservation and reclamation, and restoration of native ecosystems. Visitors include school children of all ages, college classes from around the country, international dignitaries, elected officials, and community groups from the region. Over the years, numerous free workshops have been provided for the community on various gardening topics such as vermiculture, biodiesel processing, straw-bale building construction, low-carbon diets, and organic beer-making. The Center is truly unique as a free destination for the public, providing a tangible example of sustainability in action.

While the Center's role as a physical demonstration of regenerative practice is noteworthy, I believe the organization's outreach efforts over the years have been far more important in its service to communities. Over the years the Center has established itself as an invaluable resource to communities seeking to improve environmental conditions in their community. Often these are communities of significant economic hardship, where notions of fear, isolation, helplessness, cynicism and stagnancy are dominant. The Center seeks to support the regeneration of these communities through the facilitation of projects that foster a sense of belonging, self-worth, well-being, and possibility among residents. This typically includes Lyle Center students and staff working alongside community members as they seek to build momentum for pro-environmental and pro-social action in their communities. Examples of noteworthy projects over the years include:

- Park-Williams Edible Landscape (Paul Sommers and Juan Araya, Leads) – working with a non-profit housing developer and their residents to design and implement an organic edible landscape for a multi-family apartment complex in Pomona, CA.
- Sustainable Housing for Informal Settlements in Tijuana, Mexico (Pablo La Roche and Irma Ramirez, Leads) – Partnership with local non-profit to design very low cost, zero-energy housing for informal settlements on the outskirts of Tijuana. Winner of 2008 Grand Prize from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

- Food Security Planning in Watts, CA (Kyle Brown, Lead) – Partnership with a local non-profit to assess conditions of food access in South Los Angeles community and develop intervention strategies for increasing food security. Work led to the construction of a large urban agriculture complex.
- Climate Change action at Cal Poly Pomona University (Richard Willson and Kyle Brown, Leads) – Conducted the first greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the University and drafted their Climate Action Plan, establishing the University as a climate change action leader within the community.
- School and Community Gardens, Southern California (Juan Araya, Jill Gomez, and Kyle Brown, Leads) – Served as a resource for local community groups and schools in the establishment of over two dozen gardens over the past 15 years. Currently coordinating a school garden internship program for Cal Poly Pomona students with Pomona Unified School District.
- Support for Local Environmental Action – Over the years, the Center has partnered with numerous local environmental groups to support conservation or revitalization efforts. Most recently, the Center has partnered with Clean & Green Pomona, to support their work planting nearly 350 trees on seven elementary school campuses in Pomona, as part of a major urban forestry grant.
- Regenerative Communities Initiative, Pomona, CA (Kyle Brown, Lead) – a long-term project now in its 6th year, seeking to support the regeneration of Pomona neighborhoods through a focus on the healthy development of young people. Initiative includes a Fellowship program for Cal Poly Pomona students to work in elementary school classrooms, teaching environmental awareness and environmental science, as well as providing mentorship on pathways to college, and nurturing support for young people. This program was profiled by *Landscape Architecture Magazine* in 2014.

As the projects described above attest, it is the people affiliated with the Lyle Center, which constitute the legacy of Professor Lyle's work in advancing environmental awareness and regeneration. This work, in communities that are often struggling with substantial pollution burdens, linguistic isolation, vulnerable immigration status, and a lack of financial resources, is often challenging. The Center leverages the greatest asset of Cal Poly Pomona, its students, in

accomplishing this work. Many of our students have their own stories of poverty, learning English as a second language, growing up exposed to substantial pollution, or being the first in their family to go to college. As such, they are well-prepared to connect with the communities in which we work, and model pathways of opportunity for both young people and adults.

The work of the people of the Lyle Center, and other groups like them, are more important than ever before. That is why I believe it is critical for the ASLA to recognize their accomplishments and I am appreciative of this award category. The list of past recipients includes many inspirational individuals and organizations, and I urge you to consider including the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies, among this list of those recognized for their community service.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle D. Brown".

Kyle D. Brown, PhD, ASLA
Director and Professor of Landscape Architecture
kdbrown@cpp.edu; 909.869.5178



CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

Landscape Architecture
College of Environmental Design

January 31, 2017

- To:** **American Society of Landscape Architects**
2017 Awards Program: Community Service Medal for a Group or Organization
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736
- Re:** **Community Service Medal Nomination for the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies (LCRS) at Cal Poly Pomona**

I am writing to express my complete support for the nomination of the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies (LCRS) at Cal Poly Pomona for the ASLA Medal for Community Service for an organization or group. The Lyle Center has been a substantial force in facilitating community change, community education and community action since its construction in 1994.

This letter of support is based in both the legacy of the LCRS as it is in the current pro-bono programs of the center. The Lyle Center was the life's-work of Cal Poly Pomona emeritus professor of Landscape Architecture, John T. Lyle, FASLA (1934-1998). John envisioned a world of communal and ecological equity- a model for the future of society. Though this vision has not come to pass in the complete, this vision has influenced and directly benefited numerous communities that have been involved with the LCRS, its students and its faculty.

The LCRS is a tremendous community resource as it continues to provide formal programs, events and serve as an open learning-lab of the principles of sustainability in action. Thousands of people tour the LCRS annually learning the sustainable principles of everything from energy-efficient building design to sustainable community processes. The LCRS is a location where individuals and groups can come to learn about and witness tangible regenerative principles that can be put into action in their own communities. The Lyle Center is designed to demonstrate the integration of sustainable systems that meet the needs of any community.

In addition to its free programs, tours and workshops, the LCRS has always positioned students as future leaders at the core of its mission. Through its numerous programs, the Center has placed students into communities, free of charge, to help organize and empower social and landscape change. Typically focused on under-represented and under-served communities, these programs have ranged from design-build projects in Tijuana, Mexico to the Regenerative Communities Initiative that places students in local elementary classrooms to teach environmental science and awareness. Through these programs of direct action and

community service, many students of the Lyle Center have gone on to play critical roles in the communities they serve.

The Lyle Center is truly worthy of the ASLA Medal for Community Service. The Center has always had service to the community at the core of its agenda. For more than 20 years the faculty, staff and students of the Lyle Center have continued to serve, educate and empower children, families and communities. The LCRS exemplifies the best of what Landscape Architecture can be in service to community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew O. Wilcox".

Andrew O. Wilcox
Professor and Chair
Department of Landscape Architecture
aowilcox@cpp.edu

To the ASLA Community Service Awards Selection Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically support the nomination of the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, for the ASLA Community Service Award. The ongoing work of the Center focuses on propagating sustainable planning and design practices through research, teaching, demonstration and community outreach. The ASLA Community Service Award offers significant recognition to individuals and/or agencies, which provide pro bono services to surrounding communities with the aim of demonstrating the efficacy of Landscape Architecture design and planning principles through public participation and education. This is one of the primary missions of the John T. Lyle Center and its record of achievement in community outreach and education is a sterling example of excellence.

The Center has demonstrated a capacity to investigate how design and planning professional protocols may be enhanced to address the need to pursue design and implementation strategies that are more sustainable and less entropic with regard to preserving and enhancing food, water, and air quality, while improving environmental equity across metropolitan regions. The documented record of achievement includes work in all of these vital cultural and environmental areas, which reside in the heart of the Center's purpose and mission, (Regenerative Communities Initiative, Pomona, CA; Clean and Green Pomona ongoing tree planting program, School and Community Gardens, Southern California; Park-Williams Edible Landscape, Food Security Planning in Watts, CA; Climate Change Action at Cal Poly Pomona University, among others).

In addition to the Center's record of achievements, which includes long-term local planning and design initiatives, it maintains an integrative approach to the study of landscape architecture, engineering, architecture and planning within its resident teaching and research activities that exemplifies John Lyle's theory of practice integration required of effective environmental design.

Therefore, the John T. Lyle Center deserves the ASLA Community Service Award for its outstanding and well-documented history of community outreach and education, and for its commitment to transforming landscape architecture design and planning practices into a body of knowledge that is dedicated to tempering spatial design processes with the environmental sciences aimed at creating cultural and environmental artifacts that sustain life, enhance cultural vitality, and promote social and economic equity. Through its hands-on and participatory community practices, the work of the Center has consistently fostered a deeper community understanding of, and an appreciation for the capacity of the profession of Landscape Architecture to improve the life of a community in a variety of cultural and environmental settings. By any reasonable standard of measurement, the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies exceeds the criteria for the ASLA Community Service Award and I strongly urge the Selection Committee to give the highest consideration to this nomination.

Sincerely,



Nicholas T. Dines, FASLA
Emeritus Professor of Landscape Architecture

ASLA Community Service Awards Selection Committee:

Since 2006 I have had the pleasure of intimately observing the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, evolve to become an extremely crucial and important collaborator in support of Landscape Architecture and the community that surrounds The Center. Around campus you will hear students and faculty alike refer the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies as "The Center." Not our Student Center, not the Faculty Center, but the Center for Regenerative Studies has laid claim to the title of "The Center." This alone speaks volumes to the impact it has had on students and faculty throughout Cal Poly Pomona Campus. Even students who have not taken a Regenerative Studies course will know it colloquially as "The Center."

This impact, has had a lasting impression on myself and my work in the landscape architecture community. I am one of the professionals that has gone on to work in the municipal government industry through public service, and I continuously call on and look to The Center as a place of inspiration and innovation. The Center itself sits on 6.5 hectares of land with observable practices in sustainability where the landscape brings a truly interdisciplinary collaborative approach to solving some of the world's most demanding issues. As someone who has worked in water for the last nine years with a landscape architectural background and as a member of ASLA, I have frequently called on The Center for guidance in helping solving local municipalities' problems and in particular during the most recent and historic California Drought. I have used The Center as an example and institution than can help guide California Water Policy when speaking to the California Urban Water Conservation Council. In particular I have worked with The Center to help develop a "Billing, and Messaging Framework" to help municipalities design a portfolio of billing methods and messaging that help cities and water districts encourage their rate payers to conserve water.

This is just an example of how I have personally benefitted from The Center's work with the community around itself and though they may never receive significant accolades for this collaboration, my partnership with The Center has definitely helped define my career and my contributions to the field of water resource sustainability in which multiple water districts and cities have benefitted from.

For this, I highly endorse and recommend the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies of Cal

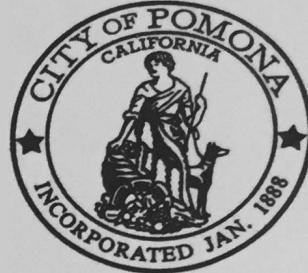
Poly Pomona for the ASLA Community Service Award.


Andrew M Kanzler
Vice Chair, Garden Grove Planning Commission
Resource Programs Specialist II, City of Anaheim

THE CITY OF
POMONA
Office of the Mayor

To the ASLA Community Service Awards Selection Committee:

I am writing to strongly endorse the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona), for the American Society of Landscape Architects Community Service Award. The Lyle Center has been an invaluable resource to the City of Pomona, our residents, and our neighbors for over 20 years. I have had the opportunity to visit the Center on multiple occasions, to attend meetings and events they have hosted focused on important community issues. It is a marvelous environment for such activities, providing a forum for dialogue which engages the community, academic experts, policy-makers and students, in the context of a facility demonstrating regenerative practices.

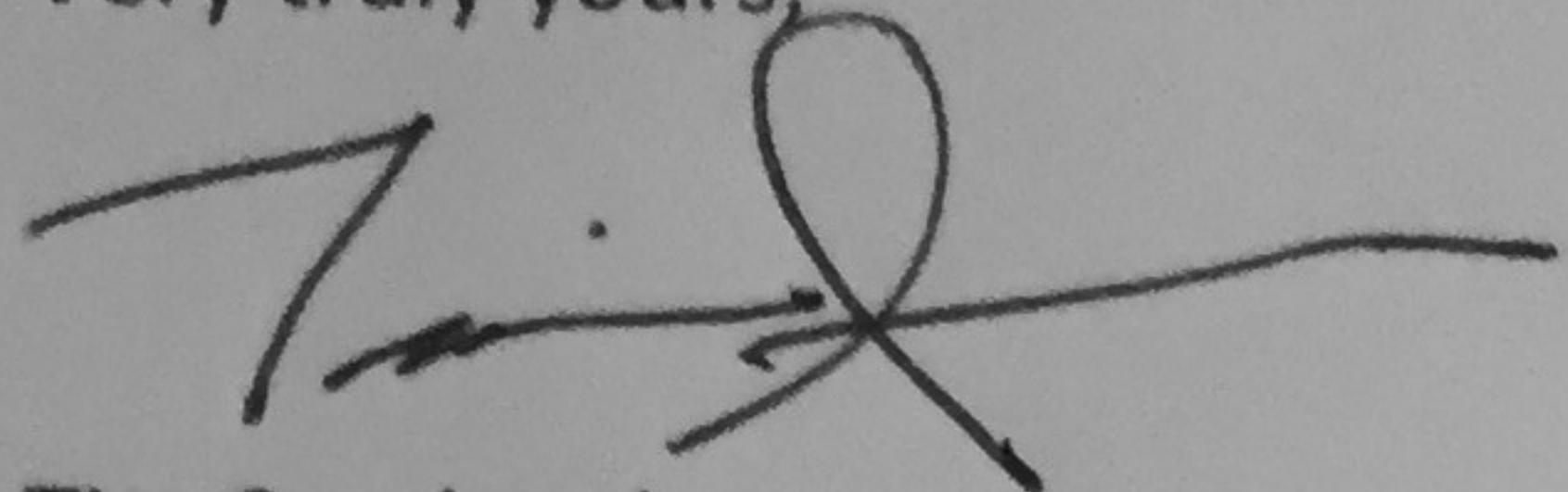


While I appreciate the physical resources of the Center as a venue for demonstrating sustainability through regeneration, I have an even greater appreciation for service the faculty, staff and students of the Lyle Center provide to the community. Just within Pomona, they have been active in supporting the healthy development of our young people through environmental education outreach efforts with the school district. Over the years, they have helped establish numerous community and school gardens in the City, and provided environmental analysis on behalf of local environmental organizations such as *Clean & Green Pomona*. Lyle Center faculty have participated on the City's Waste & Recycling Task Force, a group charged with developing stronger regulations to protect the environment and public health from adverse impacts of processing facilities. They have also supported the work of *Pomona's Promise*, our City's collective impact effort, providing input and analysis on regenerative economic development strategies. Over the years, the Center and its staff have been recognized by the City of Pomona and the School District on multiple occasions for their contributions.

I often tell people that I see tremendous possibility in our City, but to realize this potential we must work closely and collaboratively to build on key assets that make our community special. The Lyle Center is one of these assets. They bring expertise, compassion and commitment to all of their work, along with a mindset that focuses on instilling a sense of belonging, self-worth, well-being and possibility among community members – empowering them to make a difference in their

own community. In my view, these qualities separate the work of the Lyle Center from many other service organizations. That is why I believe they are so deserving of this important award.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Sandoval".

Tim Sandoval
Mayor, City of Pomona

¿Dónde están los
ANIMALES
SAVLAJES
en
Westmont?

Where are the
WILD ANIMALS
in
Westmont?





WESTMONT



