

## **Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative**

Nominee: Kris S. Jarantoski

Nominee's Address: Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road

City/State/Zip: Glencoe, IL 60022

Phone: 847.835.8222

Nominator: Terry Warriner Ryan, FASLA

For almost 40 years Kris S. Jarantoski has been caring for and shaping the Chicago Botanic Garden into one of the world's great living museums and conservation science centers. With 50,000 members and more than one million visitors from around the world each year, the Garden offers four natural Illinois landscapes and 26 beautifully executed gardens on 385 acres. It is one of only 17 public gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums.

Jarantoski started his career from the ground up. Educated with two degrees in ornamental horticulture (BS, University of Wisconsin-Madison 1974; and MS, University of Minnesota-St. Paul, 1976), he started as an Assistant Horticulturist in 1977, supervising plant records, labeling, home demonstration gardens and natural areas. As a Horticulturist from 1977-1984, he trained and expanded the grounds staff, supervised light construction, production greenhouse operations and maintenance, establishing high standards and developing the most diverse student internship program in North America. As he obtained further education in business management (MBA, Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, 1985) and museum management (Museum Management Institute, UC Berkeley, 1988), he was promoted to Vice President of Horticulture for the Chicago Horticultural Society, and became Assistant Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden. During this time, he directed operations and development of all horticulture departments – Urban Horticulture, Horticulture Training and Support, Plant Production, Grounds, and Plant Collections. In 1993, Jarantoski became Vice President of the Chicago Horticultural Society, and Deputy Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden. In addition, he became liaison to the Cook County Forest Preserve District, procured funding and grants, reviewed and made administrative decisions, developed and executed multi-million dollar budgets, directed a staff of 82 permanent and 58 seasonal employees, assumed full responsibility for all Garden administration including food services, maintenance and custodial services; and oversaw all Garden design and construction including many landscape architectural projects.

Kris Jarantoski was named Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden in 1995 and Executive Vice President of the Chicago Horticultural Society in 2001. As Director, Kris Jarantoski directs the horticulture, plant collections, garden operations, facilities and planning for a progressive botanic garden. He has expanded the Garden's science program and works on funding with the Development Department. While doing all of this, he conducted research, published a dozen articles, and promoted the Garden through lectures and tours, representing the

Garden in various professional organization roles, being most active in the American Public Gardens Association. Jarantoski has frequently spoken at the APGA Annual Conference (2015, 2014, and previously) and other national conferences across the country. Internationally, he chaired the Horticultural Review Panel at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, United Kingdom (April 10-13, 2012) where he led a panel of international botanic garden experts engaged to assess and advise the quality, balance, and scope of horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and report findings to the Director of RGB Kew.

During his time at the Garden, Jarantoski has received a number of notable awards. In 2007, the American Horticultural Society presented Jarantoski with its Professional Award for his significant contributions to the field of horticulture. In 2011, the Garden Club of America presented Jarantoski with its Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding service in the field of horticulture. In July 2014, Jarantoski received the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) Honorary Life Member Award—its most prestigious—recognizing “an enduring commitment and contribution to the organization and leadership in the field of public gardens.” Announcing the award, Casey Sclar, executive director of the APGA, wrote, “Kris’s service to the Association for almost four decades is a beacon of leadership for others to emulate. He not only has taken the Chicago Botanic Garden from fledging garden to one of the great gardens of the world, but has lifted the entire profession along the way with his charismatic, positive grace.” In November 2014, Jarantoski was awarded the 2015 Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal and Award. The Scott Medal and Award, established in 1929 by Swarthmore College, recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding national contribution to the science and art of gardening. It has long been regarded as one of the most prestigious national honors in horticulture. Most recently, Jarantoski was given the 2015 George Robert White Medal of Honor by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society which is given to the individual that has done the most to advance interest in horticulture.

Of particular interest to ASLA members, Jarantoski has significantly enhanced the landscape of the United States by creating one of the most beautiful botanic gardens in the world. From 1993 to the present day, Jarantoski has played a major role in the creation of at least 20 significant capital projects and has promoted the profession of landscape architecture by working with such world class landscape architects as Scott Byron & Co, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Oehme van Sweden & Associates, and Dan Kiley. Mikyoung Kim and Jacobs/Ryan Associates have recently designed a nature play garden which will be featured in Lolly Tai’s new book. In tribute to Kris Jarantoski’s guiding vision and immeasurable contributions to the Garden over the decades, a new campus in the Garden bearing his name is now in development. Integral to the Jarantoski Campus is a garden designed by Belgian landscape architect Peter Wirtz and is dedicated to the beauty and wonder of plants.

It is my great honor to nominate Kris S. Jarantoski for Honorary Membership to the American Society of Landscape Architects.

March 21, 2016

ASLA Board of Trustees  
**C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator**  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Kris Jarantoski Letter of Support - Honorary Membership**

Fellow Board of Trustee Members:

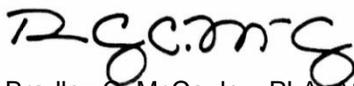
It is with great enthusiasm, I, with the support of the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ILASLA), strongly back the nomination of Kris Jarantoski, Executive Vice President and Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden, for Honorary Membership within ASLA. His nearly 40 year charge for landscape excellence and unyielding commitment to the profession make him the ideal candidate for honorary membership.

During his tenure at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Kris has worked his way from assistant horticulturalist to his current post as director where he has overseen the creation of more than 20 world-class landscape improvement projects. His inclusion of a diverse consultant pool of landscape architects, bracketed by his ability to manage complex teams and stakeholders has helped renown the Garden and elevate awareness of the profession of Landscape Architecture around the globe.

As further tribute to his merit, Kris has been unanimously selected by the ILASLA to receive our very own 2016 Public Recognition Award, our highest honor for non-members that have significantly enhanced the Illinois landscape or promoted the profession. I hope that this nomination, coupled with his proven track record, will help elevate even further our appreciation for all he has done for the profession.

I strongly encourage the Board of Trustees to also recognize Kris Jarantoski with Honorary Membership to ASLA to thank him for a lifetime of dedication to our craft.

Sincerely,



Bradley C. McCauley, PLA, ASLA, CDT  
Trustee, ILASLA



# OEHME, VAN SWEDEN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

March 8, 2016

ASLA Board of Trustees  
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator  
636 Eye Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Honorary Membership Letter of Support for Kris Jarantoski

Board of Trustees:

It is with great pleasure that I express my unqualified support for the nomination of Mr. Kris Jarantoski for honorary membership in ASLA. I have known Kris for over 16 years while working at the Chicago Botanic Garden, and I can think of no one more committed to creating places of great beauty for the education and enjoyment of the American public than Kris.

Kris has been instrumental and remains committed to the important role that landscape architects take in shaping the public garden realm. Under his leadership as Executive Vice President and Director, Chicago Botanic Garden has become a living testimony to what is achievable when artistic expression and scientific understanding equally drive design. Kris' 30-plus year tenure at the Garden has fostered not only the exponential growth of dynamic landscapes on the 385-acre campus but also a new understanding of how landscape architects help to shape the botanic experience through the conceptualization and implementation of design. With a keen eye for design and the selection of world-renowned landscape architects, Kris has established the Chicago Botanic Garden as one of the most preeminent botanical gardens in the world.

I support the nomination of Kris Jarantoski as an honorary member of ASLA and encourage the Board of Trustees to recognize his contribution to the profession.

Sincerely,

LISA E. DELPLACE, ASLA  
Principal & CEO

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# mikyoung kim design

March 8, 2016

ASLA Board of Trustees  
*c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator*  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

re: Support letter for Honorary Membership: Kris Jarantoski

To the ASLA Board of Trustees,

I am honored to submit this letter of support for Kris Jarantoski as honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Since 1995 Kris has served as Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden. I have had the pleasure of working with him to develop a new Learning Garden Center at the Gardens. Over the past two decades, he has played a vital role in the expansion of this world class botanic garden. I believe that he has provided an important contribution to the profession through his leadership and collaboration as a master horticulturalist with Landscape Architects throughout the country.

I strongly support this application with the American Society of Landscape Architect and encourage the Board of Trustees to recognize him with this honorary membership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mikyoung Kim', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mikyoung Kim, FASLA



March 9, 2016

ASLA Board of Trustees  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Honorary Membership Letter of Support for Kris Jarantoski

Board of Trustees:

It is with honor that I write this letter of support for the nomination of Kris Jarantoski, Executive Vice President and Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden for honorary membership in ASLA.

I have worked with Kris for over 30 years on a number of garden design projects at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Kris influence in the development of these projects was to bring horticulture and landscape architecture together to create respected public gardens that use great design in harmony with horticulture and to help educate and inspire the million plus visitors that visit the garden each year.

His efforts have helped build the Botanic Garden to its respected position while showcasing the important contributions that landscape architecture brings to the public. His leadership has helped direct the garden and our profession. He is truly a steward of the land.

I wholeheartedly support his nomination. I cannot think of a better representative for our profession or someone who is more deserving of membership.

Regards,  
SCOTT BYRON & CO., INC.

Scott L. Byron, ASLA  
Chief Executive Officer



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4100 Illinois Route 53  
Lisle, IL 60532-1293

ASLA Board of Trustees  
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors Coordinator  
636 Eye Street. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Honorary Membership Letter of Support for Kris Jarantoski

Board of Trustees:

It is with great pleasure that I offer this letter of support for the nomination of Kris Jarantoski, Executive Vice-President and Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden for honorary membership in ASLA. His long term collaboration with and support of the importance of our profession make him an excellent candidate for honorary membership.

Through his influence and work to bring Landscape Architecture to the table on important issues within the public garden world, he has demonstrated his support and respect of our profession. This public recognition of our profession has helped shape the world renowned Chicago Botanic Garden, showcasing not only plants but award winning spaces for people designed by many landscape architects from around the country. His leadership in the Public Garden world has helped elevate the professional design aesthetic in public gardens around the world.

I support this nomination with enthusiasm, and encourage the Board of Trustees to recognize Kris Jarantoski with honorary membership.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan L.B. Jacobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan L.B. Jacobson, FASLA, PLA