

Susan Cohen Landscape Architect

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350 Riverside Avenue  
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

LaGasse Medal Nominations (Non-LA Category)  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Nomination of Gregory Long, LaGasse Medal

Dear Trustees:

It is my pleasure to nominate Gregory Long for the LaGasse Medal in the Non-Landscape Architect category. I have known Gregory since 1989, and I have seen first-hand his visionary accomplishments at The New York Botanical Garden and his appreciation of the landscape architect profession that he credits with helping him achieve his goals.

As President and CEO of The New York Botanical Garden, Gregory has devoted 25 years to the restoration and revitalization of one of the world's greatest botanical gardens and research institutions. He is recognized for achieving the remarkable resurgence of this century-old garden, often in times of challenging austerity. According to a *New York Times* editorial, "The Garden has succeeded in its wildly ambitious effort to become one of New York City's leading cultural institutions."

Among the extensive projects completed under Gregory's leadership are the restoration of the Garden's historic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and the building of new facilities for the herbarium, the library, as well as a new plant research laboratory, additional greenhouses and a visitor center.

But it is the extraordinary 250-acre landscape that draws visitors again and again to this Bronx treasure, with 50 different gardens and plant collections. In Gregory's own words, "The renaissance of The New York Botanical Garden has depended entirely on the brilliant work of a team of landscape architects over the past 25 years."

More than a decade ago Gregory Long commissioned a *Cultural Landscape Report* from Patricia M. O'Donnell FASLA, and her report became a foundational document for future planning. Subsequently, in 2006, Laurie Olin FASLA was retained to develop a *Landscape Master Plan* for the Garden. Both of these documents guided a period of unprecedented attention to The New York Botanical Garden's landscape.

A roster of landscape architects and significant projects undertaken with Gregory Long's leadership follows:

Shavaun Towers FASLA, a partner in Towers|Golde Landscape Architects in New Haven, helped restore the 15-acre Benenson Ornamental Conifer Collection, for which she reinterpreted drawings and plans for entrance pavilions designed by Marion Cruger Coffin, one of the first American women to work as a professional landscape architect. Shavaun Towers was also on the team of landscape architects for the Azalea Garden that transformed a challenging 11-acre hillside site. Now nearly three years old, it is a favorite with visitors.

Carol Franklin FASLA, founding partner of Andropogon in Philadelphia, contributed to the restoration of the 50-acre Thain Family Forest, the largest stand of old-growth forest in New York. Thanks to her work, visitors can traverse the Forest without damaging it.

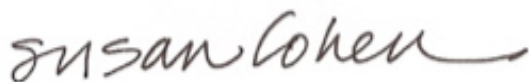
Sheila Brady, principal, Oehme, van Sweden Landscape Architecture, designed the 3.5-acre Native Plant Garden to take full advantage of the stunning natural landscape in all four seasons. Created with sustainable materials and a self-cleaning water feature, this newest garden, opened in 2013, is highly educational as well as ecologically responsible.

In addition to these major projects, Signe Nielsen FASLA, of Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects in New York City, has worked on various smaller projects at the Garden. Also, over many years, Gregory has called upon landscape architects, including Raymond Jungles and Jorge Sanchez to design temporary exhibitions at the Garden. Having designed two of these exhibitions, and co-designed another with landscape architect Marc Peter Keane, I can confirm that Gregory and his staff work in a highly collegial way, with respect and admiration for the contributions of landscape architects.

Finally, it should be mentioned that for 15 years Gregory Long has promoted and supported the work of landscape architects from the United States and abroad through the Garden's annual fall lectures known as the *Landscape Design Portfolios* series. To date, more than 50 landscape architects have shared their work and design philosophies with an audience of students, practitioners and the general public. We believe it is the longest-running series of public lectures in the U.S. devoted to landscape architecture.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination of Gregory Long for the LaGasse Medal. Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Susan Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan Cohen FASLA



Dear ASLA Board of Trustees:

It is a distinct pleasure to write in support of Gregory Long's receipt of the LaGasse Medal. I can think of no one who more deserves this recognition. His many achievements towards advancing the great legacy of the New York Botanical Garden represent a highlight in its long long standing inclusion as a premier New York City institution. Both preserving and enhancing its mission as a scientific research center for botany as well as a prized resource for the study of the literature about plants, he has invigorated all aspects of an institution created to serve both scientific, education and public concern for the life on this planet. Its expanding herbarium and research center, funded by prominent corporations, offer many ways to study the last three centuries of change in our natural environment.

He has also improved public access to the Garden's 250 acres and 28 different gardens through new exhibitions in its great signature greenhouse and creation of completely new installations such as a Pinetum, a Children's Garden or the new Native Plant Garden. The latter achievement uses the original contours and trees found on the site and introduces a water feature that accent svIEWS of its numerous native plant species.

Perhaps the salient contribution by Gregory Long to the public experience of the Garden is his conviction that this handsome landscape environment should be given the same respect and attention granted museums because plant species are as worthy of considerate contemplation as works of art. In fact, his first act upon assuming the presidency was to banish automobiles from the Garden's pathways, claiming that even in a nation obsessed with automobiles, no one is encouraged to *drive through* a museum.

In short, Gregory Long's many achievements have given New Yorkers and outstanding institution, one whose landscape continues a tradition of great beauty and scientific study.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hugh Hardy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hugh Hardy, FAIA



## OEHME, VAN SWEDEN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

March 10, 2014

ASLA Board of Trustees  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator  
636 Eye St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Gregory Long Nomination for the LaGasse Medal

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to voice my enthusiastic support of the nomination of Gregory Long, President and CEO of the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), for the ASLA LaGasse Medal in the non-landscape architect category.

For the past six years, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Long on the design and implementation of the Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx, New York. Under his leadership, the Native Plant Garden was transformed from a concept into a public landscape of unique horticultural and landscape architectural quality. Mr. Long's guidance was integral to Oehme, van Sweden's design process, and I greatly benefitted from his astute insights and observations throughout the project's delivery. His keen appreciation for excellent design and commitment to native ecology allowed us to jointly create a garden that showcases the beauty and resilience of native plants for thousands of annual visitors.

In addition to his advocacy of the Native Plant Garden, Mr. Long possesses the qualities of a visionary leader: he is an innovator, a collaborator, and a mentor. He espouses leadership by engagement, and actively involves consultants such as OvS and his Garden staff in the management and planning of the Garden. He is respected among his peers for his deep expertise of horticulture, science and education, and has expertly stewarded the Botanical Garden through periods of expansion and restoration for nearly 25 years. His support of our work secured him my loyalty and trust, and leaves me confident of the Garden's continued success under his governance.

I am honored to endorse Gregory Long's nomination for the 2014 LaGasse Medal. I believe strongly that the contributions he has made to this national landmark botanical garden make him an excellent candidate for this honor.

Sincerely,

SHEILA A. BRADY, FASLA  
Principal

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800 G STREET, SE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

202-546-7575 FAX 202-546-1035

EMAIL [ovs@ovsla.com](mailto:ovs@ovsla.com) WEB [www.ovsla.com](http://www.ovsla.com)



ASLA Board of Trustees  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator  
636 Eye St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear ASLA Leaders:

I am grateful to have this opportunity to support Susan Cohen's nomination of Gregory P. Long for the American Society of Landscape Architect's LaGasse Medal. When I was president of the New York Public Library, I had the distinct privilege of working with Gregory when, as Vice President for Development, he was one of the architects of the renaissance of that august institution. Now, as the chief architect of the renaissance of the New York Botanical Garden, he is surely worthy of receiving this great honor from the Society

I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of an award for "notable contributions to the management and conservancy of natural resources and/or public landscapes." Under his brilliant leadership, the Botanical Garden has been restored, re-invigorated, and transformed into the preeminent global research center that it is today.

There is actually a historical relationship between the Botanical Garden and Carnegie Corporation, which I now lead. Andrew Carnegie was a founding board member of the New York Botanical Garden in 1891 and was instrumental in the creation of the Mertz library, which has become well known in the United States and abroad as the world's most comprehensive botanical and horticultural library. In 2012, in recognition of this longstanding relationship and in recognition of Gregory Long's outstanding achievements since taking the helm, Carnegie Corporation awarded a Centennial Grant to the New York Botanical Garden. It was my pleasure to recommend this grant to our board of trustees, since I knew it would contribute to the ongoing expansion and revitalization of this great cultural and horticultural gem of New York City.

New York City owes a great debt to my friend Gregory Long for his 25 years of visionary yet steady stewardship of this extraordinary botanical garden and research institution. I hope you will recognize his achievements with the LaGasse Medal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Vante Gini'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.