



Pennsylvania Delaware
Chapter, American Society
of Landscape Architects

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March 25, 2016

Ref: Nomination of Mayor Michael Nutter
The Olmsted Medal
American Society of Landscape Architects

To: The ASLA Awards Committee

Mayor Nutter has demonstrated leadership, vision and courage in making Philadelphia a national model of a 'green and sustainable' city. Promoting and investing in the city's green infrastructure, even through the most challenging economic downturn, has served as a testament to his strong commitment toward transforming Philadelphia into a truly green city.

Mayor Nutter's 'green renaissance' in Philadelphia has re-energized the city and created a momentum towards embracing emerging ideas of eco-system services, bio-diversity, and green infrastructure, providing social and economic benefits for the community. The Mayor brought multiple disciplines, professionals, and governmental agencies, along with numerous grassroots organizations together to accomplish this goal. His plans for the city placed our profession front and center of the paradigm shift from gray to green, directly resulting in increased professional opportunities for landscape architects in Philadelphia.

The impact of 'greening' policies on the Philadelphia landscape is visible across the city. Highlights of the Mayor's Green2015 plan include building new parks, (Hawthorne and Ingersoll), renovating parks (Weccacoe, Stinger Square, Wissinoming, Carroll and Fotteral), and renovating recreation centers (Hank Gathers, Conestoga and Collazo). This movement can also be seen in other places including renovations of single lots, school yards, streetscapes, and beyond, transforming formerly harsh and barren spaces into places of beauty and diversity.

Completed projects are attracting the attention of research institutions, not-for-profit organizations, and philanthropic foundations in the region, which are starting to undertake the important task of post construction evaluations of the many experimental strategies used in these projects. These evaluations aim to measure the environmental, social and economic impact on the neighboring communities and the larger region. The case studies will provide ways and means of improving future applications.

This development represents an exciting multidisciplinary professional opportunity to measure, document and disseminate the quantitative and qualitative benefits of the Mayor's green initiatives.

Mayor Nutter's achievements over his eight-year term have established a legacy that will inspire and guide the evolution of Philadelphia for many years. He has earned our respect for being a steadfast champion in advocating and advancing environmental goals closely aligned with the practice of landscape architecture. Embodying the spirit of the Olmsted Medal, Mayor Nutter is a highly deserving candidate for this prestigious recognition by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Baldev Lamba". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Sincerely,

Baldev Lamba, RLA, ASLA

President, PA/DE Chapter, ASLA

Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, Temple University



The Olmsted Medal

American Society of Landscape Architects

Nomination of Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Philadelphia

25 March 2016

It is a great honor to nominate former Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter for the American Society of Landscape Architects' 2016 Olmsted Medal.

Over eight years of service, Philadelphia's Mayor Michael A. Nutter championed high quality, thoughtful and inclusive planning, design and sustainability. A key message of his 2007 mayoral campaign was to make Philadelphia 'the greenest city in the nation'; a commitment he fulfilled throughout his tenure.

Mayor Nutter led a team which understood that demands of the 21st century required the city to reform practices, modernize systems and overhaul the regulatory environment to compete and thrive in a globally competitive world. He championed and supported four pivotal initiatives which will shape the city's designed and natural landscapes the decades; **Greenworks** (sustainability), **Green2015** (open space), **Green City, Clean Waters** (stormwater management) and **Philadelphia2035** (comprehensive plan).

Background

Michael Nutter, born and raised in Philadelphia, was elected Philadelphia's 98th Mayor in November 2007. He was reelected to a second term in November 2011.

Mayor Nutter grew up in West Philadelphia where he attended Transfiguration of Our Lord Catholic Elementary School and later St. Joseph's Preparatory School in North Philadelphia. He graduated from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1979 with a degree in business. After graduation, Nutter worked at Xerox and an investment banking firm.

In 1987, Nutter, then leader of Philadelphia's 52nd ward, challenged Democratic incumbent Ann Land for a seat on the Philadelphia City Council representing the 4th District. Though unsuccessful in that election, in 1991 Nutter won election to represent the 4th District. The district includes many neighborhoods in the city's west and northwest areas and over 60% of the city's park and recreation land. With this great asset in his district, Nutter grew to appreciate and champion parks, recreation, open space and environmental matters.

Nutter resigned from City Council in 2006 to run for mayor and quickly positioned himself as a reformer. He embraced progressive environmental initiatives and advocated for quality public spaces. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Philadelphia Daily News* endorsed him for mayor, as did numerous other publications and organizations.

Nutter won the Democratic primary election in May 2007 with 37% of the vote in a crowded four person field. He won the general election in November with 83% of the vote. Mayor Nutter announced his reelection in December 2010. He easily won the primary election with 76% of the vote and defeated two candidates in the general election with over 70% of the vote.

Philadelphia – 'The Greenest City In The Nation'

Following his election, Mayor Nutter aggressively pursued his campaign pledge to make Philadelphia 'the greenest city in the nation'. Despite the greatest economic recession since the Great Depression, the Mayor pursued four profoundly impactful and related initiatives - *Greenworks* (sustainability), *Green2015* (open space), *Green City, Clean Waters* (stormwater management) and *Philadelphia2035* (comprehensive plan).

Greenworks

In 2009 Mayor Nutter announced *Greenworks*, the City of Philadelphia's first comprehensive sustainability initiative. The plan incorporated existing work within government, referenced best practices, and brought new ideas garnered from both employees and external partners. *Greenworks* considers sustainability in the broadest terms through five overarching goals related to energy, environment, equity, economy, and engagement; 15 measurable targets; and more than 160 specific initiatives. As of June 2015, 95% of the 166 initiatives were either complete or underway. Two-thirds of the targets show trends toward meeting established goals. Highlights include a reduction of municipal energy use by 7 percent, alternative energy use increase from 2.5 to 14 percent, nearly 130,000 trees planted, passage of energy benchmarking and disclosure legislation and 11.6 new miles of trails completed since 2011.

City-wide carbon emissions came down more than nine percent from a 2006 baseline, thanks in part to more efficient buildings and vehicles. In 2014 Philadelphia met or exceeded the federal

standard for air quality on 359 of 365 days for the second year in a row. Philadelphia also continues to exceed the *Greenworks* target for waste diversion through recycling and waste-to-energy processing.

In 2012, Mayor Nutter signed legislation amending the 'Energy Conservation' portion of the Philadelphia Code to require large commercial buildings to benchmark and report energy and water usage data to the city. The purpose is not only to make organizations aware of their energy use, but also to identify opportunities for improvement and assist in establishing energy consumption baselines that will help set future goals.

Nutter also implemented the City's first guaranteed energy savings project at four city-owned large downtown office buildings. In 2011, Nutter began implementing nine energy conservation measures (ECMs) in these buildings. The City is using the guaranteed energy savings from the ECMs to fund upgrades which will result in facilities that are easier to operate, more comfortable, and less costly to maintain.

In support of the *Greenworks* tree planting goals, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) launched TreePhilly, a free yard tree giveaway program. To date, TreePhilly has given away 13,000 free trees to Philadelphia residents to plant in their yards or on other private properties like schools and faith-based institutions. In 2014 PPR expanded TreePhilly to offer community yard tree giveaway grants. This program provides small grants to local community groups to host yard tree giveaways. TreePhilly provides the trees, education, and event support, and community groups connect with residents who are interested in tree planting in their yards and invested in their neighborhoods.

Green2015

In 2010 Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) and the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, at the direction of Mayor Nutter and in partnership with PennPraxis of the School of Design of the University of Pennsylvania, completed *Green2015*, a plan to help the City achieve the open space access goals of *Greenworks*. PPR is partnering with the Trust for Public Land and Philadelphia Water to green schoolyards and recreation centers in five priority neighborhoods identified in *Green2015*. The first 10 sites, five PPR recreation centers and five elementary schools, were completed in 2015 and early 2016.

In 2015 the John S. and James L. Knight and William Penn foundations announced an \$11 million investment, *Reimagining the Civic Commons*, in support of *Green2015*. The Fairmount Park Conservancy, in collaboration with five project leaders, will coordinate the project which will reinvent and connect five public places as a network of civic assets to advance economic

opportunity, encourage residents to become more engaged in shaping their communities, and begin to level the playing field between more affluent communities and those in need.

Green City, Clean Waters

Green City, Clean Waters is Philadelphia's plan to reduce stormwater pollution currently entering the combined sewer system through the use of green infrastructure. *Green City, Clean Waters* represents a major shift in the way stormwater is managed in Philadelphia. Living landscapes are being created to slow, filter and consume rainfall by adding green to streets, sidewalks, roofs, schools, parks, parking lots and any impermeable surface that's currently funneling stormwater into sewers and waterways.

The decades-long plan will reduce the stormwater pollution entering waterways by 85%! That means that rivers and streams will be swimmable, fishable and drinkable again.

By employing 'green' infrastructure instead of traditional 'gray' infrastructure, like pipes and storage basins, Philadelphia will meet standards set by the Clean Water Act while saving an estimated \$5.6 billion.

Since adopting *Green City, Clean Waters*, the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) and private partners have installed green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) that manages the first inch of stormwater for more than 581 acres, putting PWD well ahead of its goal to install 450 new greened acres by 2015. *Green City, Clean Waters* relies on both public and private investment. PWD installed and manages more than a quarter of the current 581 greened acres, while private development and retrofits account for the remainder.

To advance development of projects and to incentivize projects by private landowners, PWD offers a robust set of programs to help install GSI. Rain Check offers homeowners a free rain barrel or cost sharing for installation of a downspout planter, rain garden, or porous paving. The Stormwater Management Incentives Program (SMIP), established in 2012, provides stormwater grants directly to non-residential property owners who want to construct stormwater retrofit projects. The Greened Acre Retrofit Program (GARP), created in 2014, provides stormwater grants to contractors, companies, or project aggregators to build large-scale stormwater retrofit projects across multiple properties. Together, SMIP and GARP have created 298 greened acres.

Philadelphia2035

Under Mayor Nutter's leadership, the city undertook a complete overhaul of the zoning code. Accomplished in only four years, the initiative was the first systematic rewrite in 50 years. A

companion comprehensive plan, *Philadelphia2035*, addresses the needs of every neighborhood in the city, making it essentially the roadmap for using the new zoning code. *Philadelphia2035* is arguably the first truly comprehensive plan since the city consolidation in 1854.

While a physical development plan looks far into the future, it deals with the projects, policies, and changes needed to be made today to create a more livable, healthy, and economically viable city in the future. *Philadelphia2035* makes recommendations for actions that the Mayor, City Council, government agencies, and community partners can take to invest in neighborhoods and increase the city's competitiveness in the global economy.

Philadelphia City Council passed legislation in December 2011 which repealed and replaced Title 14 of the Philadelphia Code (Zoning and Planning) with The Final Report of the Zoning Code Commission. Mayor Nutter signed the bill into law in December 2011. The law dictated that the new Zoning Code took effect on August 22, 2012.

Broader policy recommendations were adopted as a first component of the Comprehensive Plan called the Citywide Vision in June 2011. Geographically specific recommendations are contained within District Plans, which are being prepared for every section of Philadelphia (2011 – 2017).

Conclusion

Since ending his term in early 2016, Mayor Nutter has joined the faculty at Columbia University as a professor in urban policy, accepted a teaching position in urban affairs at New York's Columbia University, joined the cable news network CNN as a commentator and been appointed by President Obama as an advisor to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Mayor Nutter continues to advocate for thoughtful, inclusive and well-designed public spaces and meaningful and impactful environmental and planning policies. He shares the lessons learned making Philadelphia 'the greenest city in the nation' to assist government, non-profit and civic organizations achieve similar results.

Mayor Michael A. Nutter embodies the principles of landscape architecture and is a very deserving of The Olmsted Medal.



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
MICHAEL DIBERARDINIS
Managing Director

1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
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Philadelphia, Pa 19102-1683

March 21, 2016

Olmsted Medal Nominations
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Ms. Mitchell,

It is my pleasure to offer this letter of endorsement for the nomination of Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter for the American Society of Landscape Architect's Olmsted Medal. From 2008 through 2015, Mayor Nutter led an administration which transformed the way in which government, citizens and partner organizations think about our environment, sustainability and public space. Despite experiencing the greatest recession since the Great Depression, the Mayor fulfilled his 2007 campaign pledge to make Philadelphia 'the greenest city in the nation.' This was largely achieved through four major, inter-related initiatives; *Greenworks* (sustainability), *Green2015* (open space), *Green City, Clean Waters* (stormwater management) and *Philadelphia2035* (comprehensive plan).

After serving as Governor Rendell's Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, I was honored to join Mayor Nutter's administration in 2009 as Deputy Mayor for Community and Environmental Resources and Commissioner of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR). At PPR, we implemented many *Greenworks*, *Green2015* and *Green City, Clean Waters* projects. These include tree planting, forest management, extensive green infrastructure, greening of recreation centers and school yards, urban agriculture and improving citizen's access to high quality public spaces.

Mayor Nutter remained interested and engaged in this work throughout his eight years in office. He regularly attended press events, conferences and meetings about environmental and



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public space issues. He spoke intelligently and passionately about the importance of public spaces which are maintainable, sustainable and responsive to user's needs. Under his leadership, the administration produced the city's first comprehensive sustainability plan, first comprehensive open space plan, the nation's only EPA-approved plan to use green infrastructure to manage stormwater and the first comprehensive plan update in over fifty years.

It is hard to think of another non-landscape architect who better embodies the principles of Frederick Law Olmsted and has been able to put into place such transformative initiatives. Mayor Nutter's environmental and public space legacy will benefit Philadelphia for decades to come. I enthusiastically endorse Mayor Michael A. Nutter for The Olmsted Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael DiBerardinis".

Michael DiBerardinis
Managing Director
City of Philadelphia

Alan Greenberger FAIA

March 22, 2016

Carolyn G. Mitchell
Honors and Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Nomination of Michael A. Nutter for the Olmsted Medal

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

I am writing in support of the nomination of former Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter. Mayor Nutter has been nominated to receive the Society's Olmsted Medal for environmental leadership, vision and stewardship by a person outside of the profession. I served under Mayor Nutter as his Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Chairman of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission between 2008 and 2016 when his second term in office expired. I can think of no better person than Mayor Nutter to receive this prestigious honor.

I practiced architecture in Philadelphia for 34 years when the newly elected mayor asked me leave professional practice and join his administration as the Chief Planner for the City. Though leaving my practice (Mitchell/Giurgola Architects and its successor MGA Partners) was a very difficult decision for me, the opportunity to serve my adopted home and to serve under what I considered to be Mayor Nutter's compelling leadership was a challenge I readily accepted.

During his original election campaign in 2007, Mayor Nutter made it clear that he was inspired by planning, by place-making and by the prospect of Philadelphia becoming a leader in sustainable practices. No other candidate articulated these issues. The Mayor will tell you himself – as he did many times both in private and public – that he is not a designer and was not sure himself what it meant to be, in his words, the 'leading green city in the United States'.

But he knew that the demands of the 21st century required us to reform our practices, modernize our systems and overhaul our regulatory environment if we were to be able to compete and thrive in a globally competitive world. This vision allowed him to assemble in his administration people of extraordinary talent from the world of policy, landscape design, water and transportation systems, urban design, and planning who were expert in their respective fields. He entrusted this group with his vision and gave each of us the space to define our respective goals, craft an agenda, assemble our teams and implement plans in coordination with one another. He allowed us to lead, but always had our backs and always advocated on our behalf.

The results speak for themselves:

- A comprehensive sustainability plan for the city and a mechanism to implement specific plans and monitor progress.
- The complete overhaul of the zoning code, accomplished in four years, the first systematic code rewrite in 50 years.
- A companion comprehensive plan, known as Philadelphia 2035, for every neighborhood in the city – the roadmap for using the new zoning code – arguably the first such truly comprehensive plan since the city consolidation in 1854.
- Implementation plans for parks, open space, and water infrastructure, including significant changes in the way the city manages storm water that are now recognized worldwide as 'best practices'.

- The creation of new plans for the redevelopment of 37 miles of Philadelphia waterfront, the majority of which is recovered from obsolete industrial uses, including the award-winning 'boardwalk' on the Schuylkill River and several new park piers on the Delaware River.
- The redevelopment of significant public spaces such as Dilworth Park adjoining Philadelphia City Hall, the Ben Franklin Parkway and LOVE Park currently under construction as well as new trails, bike paths and natural preserves throughout the park system.
- Population increase - led by millennials, empty-nesters and immigrants – the first population increase in Philadelphia since 1950.

No mayor accomplishes these things by himself. Mayor Nutter will be the first to say that. But at the same time, none of these accomplishments happen without the vision and unequivocal support and leadership of the mayor. Michael Nutter provided all that and more at every level of his administration.

As you can see from my 'signature' below, I have chosen the education of the next generation of leaders in design as my next professional chapter. And though I have had a long association with teaching during my career as an architect, I was also inspired by Mayor Nutter's commitment to the well-being of the city long after his tenure in office would be over. He set out to fundamentally change the course of this historic city and to convince Philadelphians above all that we can again be a city of consequence, a city of ideas, and a city of optimism for a better future.

I firmly believe that history will prove that he accomplished these goals. It was an honor for me to serve with him and with my colleagues whom he assembled. I am certain that you will do credit to him and, more importantly, to your own professional organization to honor him with the Olmsted Medal.

Sincerely,

Alan Greenberger FAIA
Distinguished Teaching Professor
Drexel University Westphal College

Mark Allen Focht, PLA, FASLA

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23 March 2016

Olmsted Medal Nominations
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Ms. Mitchell,

It is my great pleasure to endorse the nomination of former Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter for the American Society of Landscape Architects' Olmsted Medal. During Mayor Nutter's eight year term (2008-2015) I was privileged to serve as First Deputy Commissioner for Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR). I was directly and deeply involved in implementing the mayor's pledge to make Philadelphia 'the greenest city in the nation'.

As contained in the nomination package, the mayor's commitment took the form of preparing and implementing related initiatives addressing sustainability, open space, green infrastructure and comprehensive planning. At PPR, we implemented many projects and programs in support of these plans. We worked in every neighborhood, engaged thousands of citizens and improved hundreds of acres of public space.

Further, Mayor Nutter knows and appreciates the work of landscape architects and ASLA. When I was fortunate to be a candidate for ASLA President in 2012, Mayor Nutter frequently joked that he was my campaign manager! He regularly attended park and open space events, including a 2013 ASLA National Landscape Architecture Month event at which a park in Center City Philadelphia was rededicated in the name of landscape architect John F. Collins.

In July 2014, when I hosted the ASLA Executive Committee and invited guests in Philadelphia, Mayor Nutter made a surprise appearance at the opening reception. He personally welcomed everyone and offered inspirational comments on what was transpiring in Philadelphia and commented on the significant role our profession plays in shaping the environment, particularly in urban areas.

Through his leadership, dedication, participation and tenacity, Mayor Nutter has demonstrated his strong commitment to the principles of sustainability and landscape architecture. I enthusiastically endorse former Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter as a candidate for The Olmsted Medal in 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Focht". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark A. Focht, FASLA

First Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

ASLA Past-President