

## **Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative**

Nominee:

**Nina-Marie E. Lister**, *MCIP, RPP, Affiliate ASLA*

Nominee's Address:

School of Urban + Regional Planning  
Ryerson University  
350 Victoria Street, SBB 420

City/State/Zip: Toronto, Ontario, CANADA, M5B 2K3

Phone: 416.979.5000 x6769

Email: nm.lister@ryerson.ca

Nominator:

**Janet Rosenberg**, *FCSLA, AALA, AAPQ, OALA, FASLA, IFLA, RCA*

Founding Principal  
Janet Rosenberg & Studio Inc.  
148 Kenwood Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6C 2S3  
T: 416-656-6665 x 23  
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*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).*

Nina-Marie Lister is Associate Professor (with tenure) of Urban + Regional Planning at Ryerson University in Toronto. From 2009-2014, she was Visiting Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University, Graduate School of Design. In 2012, Prof. Lister was named Senior Scholar with the Centre for Humans and Nature. A Registered Professional Planner (MCIP, RPP) with a background in landscape ecology and environmental planning, she is the founding principal of plandform, a creative studio practice exploring the relationship between landscape, ecology, and urbanism.

Prof. Lister's research, teaching and practice focus on the confluence of landscape infrastructure and ecological processes within contemporary metropolitan regions, with a particular focus on resilience and adaptive systems

approaches. At Ryerson University, Lister founded and directs the Ecological Design Lab, a collaborative incubator for community-based design research and practice, and an experimental generator in rapid prototyping. She is co-editor of *Projective Ecologies* (with Chris Reed, Harvard GSD and ACTAR Press, 2014) and the *The Ecosystem Approach: Complexity, Uncertainty, and Managing for Sustainability* (with David Waltner-Toews and the late James Kay, Columbia University Press, 2008), and author of more than 30 professional practice and scholarly publications. These include recent contributions to *Ecological Urbanism* (Harvard GSD with Lars Müller Publishers 2010) and *Large Parks* (Princeton Architectural Press 2008, winner of the J.B. Jackson Book Prize).

She recently served as Guest Editor of the *Journal of Ecological Restoration* for a special issue on landscape connectivity, and is an invited contributor to the 100th anniversary of the Ecological Society of America in a special edition of ESA's premiere journal, *Frontiers in Ecology*. Her work has been featured in several planning and design exhibitions, including the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montréal, the Chicago Architecture Foundation, the Toronto Design Exchange, and the Van Alen Institute in New York. Prof. Lister served as the Professional Advisor for the 2010 ARC International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition, which developed the concept designs for a wildlife bridge to be built at the Vail Pass in Colorado. The concepts designs are part of a public exhibition on wildlife, infrastructure and urbanism: *XING - (re) connecting landscapes* which launched in Toronto at Evergreen Brick Works in 2013 and opens in Calgary in 2015.

Honorary Membership Nomination  
ASLA  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Honorary Membership Nomination of Nina-Marie Lister

Dear Honorary ASLA Executive Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Nina-Marie Lister as an ASLA Honorary Member. I had the opportunity to have Professor Lister as an instructor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and serve as her research assistant for her recent co-edited publication, *Projective Ecologies*.

Nina-Marie is an a consultant, providing expertise in ecology, large-scale landscape processes and resilience strategies in projects that range from urban, post-industrial parks to degraded waterfront and riverfront sites around the world. She began her career working with various sectors and collaborating with high profile design leaders, hybridizing a practice in ecology and design. Past collaborators include: Field Operations, Hargreaves, Olin, Stoss Landscape Urbanism, Sasaki, MVVA, Janet Rosenberg, Charles Waldheim, Julia Czerniak, and many others. One of the best-recognized examples of her landscape collaborations is her direct involvement in which she led the ARC project, a wildlife crossing infrastructure design competition. The ARC competition was the world's first international design competition of its kind that integrated landscape architecture, ecology, engineering, architecture and transportation for a wildlife bridge over a major interstate highway. The ARC competition has influenced the design, construction and implementation of a new class of landscape infrastructure projects worldwide and has been published in more than a dozen leading scholarly journals and popular press media including the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Fast Company Magazine and many others. Her work has inspired a new generation of design approaches to highway mitigation and is opening a new niche for landscape architectural practice.

Moreover, Nina-Marie has developed new synergies between ecological science and landscape design, working with landscape architecture students. In addition to her tenure position as Professor in Urban Planning at Ryerson University in Toronto, she has led design studios and seminars as a visiting Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and the University of Toronto.

Through discussions in the last decade, the opposing views of "ecology" as a science and "ecology" as a medium of design have begun to synergize. This

is largely due to the contributions of Lister's publications including: *Sustainable Large Parks*, *Projective Ecologies*, *Ecological Urbanism*, and most recently, *Is Landscape Ecology?*. Through this work, she has articulated and developed an influential and interstitial space between ecology, landscape architecture and urbanism. Nina-Marie's has transformed the way the field of landscape architecture is engaging sites and conducting researched based design practices. Through her work, she has influenced new ways of thinking about landscape infrastructure as a tactical maneuver; one that plays out over time through precise interventions, unfolding responsively - promoting renewal and regeneration. Given its trajectory, the field of Landscape Architecture has emerged as a leading curator of these new infrastructural ecologies and it through Nina-Marie this has been made possible.

It is clear that Nina-Marie has impacted and changed the way the field of landscape architecture and has positioned the field to become influential leaders in tackling complex and large infrastructural challenges. I nominate her very highly and without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Garza', written in a cursive style. The signature is centered on the page.

Kimberly Garza, ASLA

Carolyn Mitchell  
Honors & Awards Coordinator  
American Society of Landscape Architect  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736  
United States of America

Dear Carolyn,

While I have known Nina Marie personally for only a little over a year, I have known about her work and reputation as an educator and scholar for over a decade. Nina Marie Lister's twenty year career links ecology, planning, and landscape architecture through collaborative, creative scholarly research. Nina Marie is a tenured professor in Urban Planning (at Ryerson University) who frequently collaborates with landscape architecture programs. Her time as a professor of Visiting Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University's Graduate School of Design from 2009-2013 inspired many of the talented designers who now work in my office.

Before he was the big name he is today, Nina Marie collaborated with James Corner helping him develop proposals that revealed the dynamic relationship between ecology, urbanism, design and planning. She was the consulting ecologist and planner for the Emergent Ecologies submission to the Downsvew Park competition. The proposal had a major impact on landscape architecture influencing new trajectories with new modes of representation, emphasizing process and flow in large-scale system-based and post-industrial place making.

Nina Marie has continued developing a hybrid practice of ecology and design, with international high-profile collaborations with leading landscape architecture firms including Field Operations, Hargreaves, Olin, Stoss Landscape Urbanism, Sasaki, MVVA, Janet Rosenberg, Charles Waldheim, and Julia Czerniak, among others. She is routinely consulted for her expertise in systems-ecology, large-landscape processes and resilience strategies in projects that range from large urban post-industrial parks to degraded waterfront and riverfront sites around the world.

An advocate for the profession, she directed the ARC project for wildlife crossing infrastructure ([www.arc-solutions.org](http://www.arc-solutions.org)). The 2010 ARC competition was the world's first international design competition that integrated landscape architecture, ecology, engineering, architecture and transportation for a wildlife bridge over a major interstate highway. The ARC project influenced the design, construction and implementation of a new class of landscape infrastructure worldwide and has been published in more than a dozen leading scholarly journals and popular press media including the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Fast Company Magazine and many others. It has inspired a new generation of approaches to highway mitigation and is opening a new niche for landscape architectural practice.

Nina Marie continues to develop new synergies between ecological science and landscape design. Her publications are often focused on articulating and developing an influential and interstitial space between ecology, landscape architecture and urbanism, and many are collaborations with leading scholars and practitioners of landscape architecture. Her book projective Ecologies co-edited with Chris Reed is a particularly compelling work. She also co-authored Sustainable Large Parks (with Julia Czerniak and George Hargreaves); Ecological Urbanism and Landscape Ecology (both edited by Charles Waldheim).

Not only is she an amazing academic, a great collaborator and a trusted friend she is also an important inspiration for women in the profession raising four boys on her own in Toronto. I admire her a great deal and am actually surprised that we haven't reached out to bring her into our fold sooner. I recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susannah C. Drake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Susannah C. Drake, AIA, FASLA  
Principal  
Dlandstudio PLLC Architecture & Landscape Architecture

ASLA Honorary Membership Nomination  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Honorary Membership Committee,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Nina-Marie Lister as an honorary member of the ASLA. As I understand the purpose of honorary membership to be the recognition of persons other than landscape architects whose work has been in service to the profession and been of international significance, I believe Nina-Marie to be an extraordinary candidate. Nina-Marie's contribution to the field of landscape architecture through academic writing, teaching, and professional practice has been both influential and inspiring to me first as a student of hers at Harvard University and more recently as a co-collaborator with her on professional projects. Her passion for the relationship between design, ecology and the built environment, and the depth of knowledge she brings to this field from across disciplines should be recognized as critical to the progress of the discipline as landscape architecture/landscape architects continues to take on more and more complex projects, projects that require thoughtful engagement and critical dialogue that embraces multiple points of view, interests and potential outcomes/consequences of our work.

As a student of landscape architecture I read many of Nina-Marie's scholarly articles, most notably her work in *Sustainable Large Parks* and *Ecological Urbanism*. These articles provided an important articulation of the relationships and critical differences between ecology, landscape architecture and urbanism. This work provided both an important bridge between the sciences or scientific thinking and design and a critical voice to the dialogue regarding the relevance of ecology in design, at what scale, and to what end. Nina-Marie's writing and the material she covered in her Critical Ecologies course at Harvard GSD, helped me to shape ideas about both design and ecology and think more about when to step back, be critical, and ask questions of the practice that might help make design decisions ultimately more tuned to both social and ecological needs or interests. I believe this is a very important point that too often gets left behind as designers focus on the graphic and conceptual development of their ideas. For this reason, over the past 3 years I have consistently included Nina-Marie's articles in the reading list for a class I now teach, Contemporary Topics in Landscape History and Theory. I find her work to be an invaluable tool for helping students to understand what it is we are talking about when we speak about ecology in the field of design.

In addition to teaching landscape history and theory at University of Toronto, I currently am an Associate at Stoss Landscape Urbanism. Our office has a long history of collaboration with Nina-Marie, largely on conceptual, ideas-based competition work such as The Lower Don River in 2007, the Minneapolis Riverfront park design competition in 2011 and currently the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and Harbour Park design competition in Toronto. Nina-Marie's role in these competitions has been as an active advisor, not just in technical matters regarding ecological concerns, but also as a contributor to the conceptualization of projects

that consider new ways in which to integrate design, ecology and urbanism. As a collaborator she brings both a critical eye and an interest in developing new potentials. Her engagement with the projects elevates the work conceptually while also making it more grounded and considerate of ecological systems without rejecting the often very urban nature of the project or site. For this reason, many of the projects to which she has contributed, both with our office and with other nationally and internationally known practitioners, are recognized as important landmarks in the recent history of landscape architecture and will continue to be projects that designers and students will use as case study in their own work.

Nina-Marie is a passionate practitioner working at the cutting edge of a number of fields; ecology, design, and planning. The breadth and quality of her work and her frequent assumption of leadership roles in each of these fields demonstrates both her passion and the need for her voice, and others like her, to be recognized as strongly contributing to the evolution of the profession of landscape architecture. I wholeheartedly support her nomination and hope that you will approve her as an honorary member of the ASLA.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further with me.

Sincerely,  
Amy Whitesides

Associate  
Stoss Landscape Urbanism  
423 W. Broadway  
Boston, MA. 02127  
aw@stoss.net

