

## **Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative**

Nominee: Pat Faust, President, Landscape Structures, Inc.

Nominee's Address: 601 7<sup>th</sup> Street South

City/State/Zip: Delano, MN 55328

Phone: 763-972-5200

Nominator: Jeffrey A. Townsend, FASLA

It is a pleasure to nominate Pat Faust, president of Landscape Structures, for Honorary Membership in ASLA, in recognition of his steadfast support of ASLA and his industry leadership in the important emerging field of inclusive, nature-inspired play.

As President, Pat oversees all strategic operations for the company, including sales, marketing, product development and design. He began his career with the organization in 1994, joining Landscape Structures as vice president of operations.

Many of us recognize Landscape Structures as the premier sponsor and exhibitor at our annual meeting each year. The company is also a frequent magazine advertiser and has been a Corporate ASLA member since that program began. When the Sustainable Sites Initiative was founded and ASLA was seeking funds to get it off the ground, Landscape Structures provided \$200,000 in lead funding for the project. All told, under Pat's leadership, Landscape Structures has provided millions of dollars in just the past ten years in support of ASLA's ongoing programs and special projects.

Since becoming president, Pat has led Landscape Structures to a world leadership position in the emerging area of inclusive play, going beyond a focus on meeting accessibility guidelines and allowing all children and their families to play together, regardless of their abilities. As landscape architects, we know that simply getting a child with limited mobility onto the playground doesn't necessarily enhance their play experience. Nor does it take into consideration children with sensory deficits and other developmental issues.

Pat was also instrumental in developing the genre known as nature-inspired play, which is near and dear to the hearts of all landscape architects. The great outdoors is the number one spot where kids can play naturally—making up their own games while freely exploring the world around them. Pat's leadership with nature-inspired play has led to Landscape Structures' creation of the first of its kind destination nature-inspired playground in 2010.

Early in his career at Landscape Structures, Pat introduced the concept of continuous improvement to the organization, helping it become the first company in the industry to achieve ISO 9001:2000 certification for quality in 1996. This was followed by ISO 14001:2004 certification for environmental in 1998, also an industry first.

From there, Pat led the company's efforts in lean manufacturing, or continuous improvement. Pat employed the "kaizen" approach; kaizen is a Japanese word meaning "change for the better," the process of continually improving every aspect of one's business. Under Pat's leadership, the kaizen approach to manufacturing has carried the company from delivering goods to customers in 38 days to getting it done in *two* days. This was accomplished by moving from a batch production model to a one-order flow. Within five years, Landscape Structures was named 2004 Minnesota Manufacturer of the Year. Kaizen techniques are still employed throughout the organization.

Pat was integral in establishing the Landscape Structures' Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) program in 2004. Today, the company is 100% ESOP owned. Currently, Pat serves as a trustee for the Landscape Structures' ESOP program, and represents the ESOP on the company's board of directors.

Prior to Landscape Structures, Pat spent two formative years at Aveda Corporation as operations manager. There he sourced and worked with unique raw materials from third-world countries to support this company's early mission to create high-quality, all-natural beauty products. Pat was intrigued by their willingness to set seemingly impossible goals, and then finding smart ways to achieve them. Fortunately, Pat brought his love of a good challenge with him to Landscape Structures.

Pat holds a B.S. in industrial technology/business management from Minnesota State University Moorhead, and earned an MBA in business administration from Capella University. He is often asked to speak on topics ranging from inclusive play and custom design to lean manufacturing. Pat is also active in his local Kiwanis Club, volunteering time to support and create opportunities for community members.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this nomination. I hope you will recognize Pat Faust's many accomplishments and his steadfast support of our profession with Honorary Membership in ASLA.



**Landworks Design Group, P.A.**  
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Board of Trustees  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell  
Honors & Awards Coordinator  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Board of Trustees:

I am writing in support of your consideration of Pat Faust for honorary membership of ASLA.

Pat's focus on inclusive play has brought much-needed improvements to the area of accessibility and enrichment in playground environments. Additionally, his focus on nature-inspired play has helped propel play structures beyond traditional "post and platform-style" play experiences to something that can help lead children away from their game consoles and back to nature.

As president of Landscape Structures, Pat has been a tireless supporter of the profession as well as the Society. Their generous support of ASLA has been a key component of the success of our Annual Meeting and EXPO each year.

For these reasons, it is my pleasure to recommend Pat Faust for honorary membership of ASLA.

Sincerely,

**Landworks Design Group, P.A.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew D. Langston".

Matt Langston, PLA, ASLA, LEED™ AP BD+C  
President

Chair, ASLA Government Affairs Advisory Committee  
Member, ASLA Finance and Investments Committee  
Past NC Chapter Trustee

## **BROOKS** Landscape Architecture

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

Dear Trustees:

I am writing in to encourage an affirmative vote for Pat Faust's Honorary Membership to the American Society of Landscape Architects. He is a familiar face to many of us due to his commitment to our society and our common goals. As President of Landscape Structures, Pat has steered his company into the leading role in inclusive play and nature-inspired play. He has also provided unwavering support to ASLA through corporate membership, sponsorship, advertising, contributions and full participation.

We will be privileged to have him on our membership roster.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis G. Brooks, PLA, ASLA  
Arkansas Trustee