

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Roxanne Blackwell

Nominee's Address: American Society of Landscape Architects
636 I Street NW

City/State/Zip: Washington, DC, 20001-3736

Phone: (202) 216-2334

Nominator: Chad D. Danos, FASLA

Over the past eight years, Roxanne Blackwell as Director, Federal Government Affairs of the American Society of Landscape Architects has had a profound influence in successfully positioning landscape architects as a respected voice on sustainability, resiliency, and healthy communities. Her graceful leadership style offers the ASLA volunteer confidence and the necessary preparation to effectively walk into a legislator's office and communicate essential talking points to advocate on behalf of the Society.

Having personally worked with Roxanne during this time and having witnessed her leadership, growth, and commitment to advancing landscape architecture, it is my honor to nominate her for honorary membership into our Society.

In 2002 ASLA launched its Federal Advocacy program, and in its initial years, members struggled to gain traction on the issues we advocated upon. When Roxanne joined ASLA in 2007, she conveyed a confident enthusiasm for advocacy and offered a personable approach for landscape architects to influence public policy and legislation.

Roxanne was quickly indoctrinated into landscape architecture and embodies the spirit that our profession represents. Because of her, ASLA has expanded the number of coalitions in which we are vital members of. ASLA's reputation among Federal agencies is significant and holds an enviable effectiveness amongst our allied professions.

Due to Roxanne's diligence in working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of ASLA, EPA asked ASLA to collect case studies on projects that successfully and sustainably manage Stormwater. Realizing the opportunity at hand, Roxanne was persistent in garnering responses from ASLA members who responded with 479 case studies from 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Not only did these projects showcase landscape architecture, they also demonstrate to policymakers the value of promoting green infrastructure

policies. This collection of data positioned ASLA as a reliable source of credible data and body of knowledge on green infrastructure.

Subsequent to the collection of this data, Mrs. Blackwell recognized another opportunity to advance the profession on this front. With some of ASLA's coalition partners (American Rivers, Water Environment Federation, and ECO Northwest), Roxanne spearheaded an effort to publish a report, **Banking on Green: How Green Infrastructure Saves Municipalities Money and Provides Economic Benefits Community-wide**, a response to the need to further quantify the economic benefits of green infrastructure.

These are a sampling of tools that Roxanne was instrumental in developing so that ASLA members are better equipped to advocate for the Society. It is without doubt, that the ASLA Federal Advocacy program is in a much better position because of the efforts of Roxanne Blackwell.

I encourage you to endorse Roxanne's nomination to ASLA Honorary Membership.





4 March 2015

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Board of Trustees:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Roxanne Blackwell's nomination for honorary membership in ASLA. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Roxanne virtually from the time she first joined the organization, and have seen her significant contributions to our presence in federal policy and advocacy initiatives first hand.

Roxanne's leadership of the Society's federal governmental affairs agenda and activities has been exceptional. Her knowledge of how Capitol Hill works and her insights into what is most effective in advancing issues that are critical to the profession of landscape architecture have garnered us significant attention and exposure. Her management of our annual Advocacy Day activities has transformed the program from an enjoyable experience for the Society's leadership into a real force in creating policy changes as well as educating hundreds of chapter representatives about the importance of civic engagement. Under her leadership and organization, Advocacy Day has gone from something that chapter leaders suffered through once a year to an event that we eagerly anticipate.

At the same time, Roxanne's ability to work with coalition partners has put ASLA in the driver's seat on many critical issues, not the least of which is the National Complete Streets Coalition. As a Steering Committee member of the organization, ASLA helps develop policy and approaches that ensure that landscape architects are involved in driving the discussion of what the future transportation infrastructure of this country will look like – a critical need for us professionally and for the good of the country's future. As ASLA's representative on the Steering Committee, Roxanne has represented landscape architects articulately and effectively, carrying our message forward and ensuring our voice will be heard in the efforts to improve public infrastructure. Beyond this one organization and effort, Roxanne is constantly taking the pulse of the political climate on Capitol Hill to make sure that landscape architects are engaged in the issues and policies that most affect our profession throughout our range of practice and across the country.

As a member and chairman of the Government Affairs Advisory Committee, and now as Vice President of Government Affairs, it has been my pleasure to work with Roxanne on a continuing

basis for the past seven years. I am always impressed by her professionalism, her deep understanding of the profession of landscape architecture, and her commitment to doing her best for the members of the Society and for the profession as a whole. I cannot think of a person more deserving of honorary membership in ASLA as a tribute to her commitment and dedication to the Society and the profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. R. Doolittle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Thomas R. Doolittle, ASLA
Principal Professional
Vice President, Government Affairs, ASLA



February 6, 2015

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington DC 20001

Re: Honorary Membership for Roxanne Blackwell

Dear Board of Trustees,

It is a pleasure to craft this letter of support for Roxanne Blackwell to be an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Roxanne represents the Society with intellectual sophistication and poise in an environment that is incredibly challenging, Capitol Hill. For years she has kept ASLA in the forefront of legislative issues that directly affect our livelihood and careers. I can only assume that she is a well-respected mentor to all of those that are associated with Government Affairs. Roxanne consistently brings a level head and calm demeanor to every conversation she has when representing ASLA.

Personally, over the years, Roxanne has become a friend. She is always available for a conversation about DC or St. Louis when the occasion presents itself. Not to mention, she and her husband have a passion for the best Artisan Cured Meats in St. Louis, Salume Beddu. I had to say it.

She is incredibly deserving of this honor and I am proud to provide this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Hunter Beckham', with a stylized, flowing script.

Hunter Beckham, FASLA

March 3, 2015

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington D.C. 20001-3736

Dear Board of Trustees

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter of support for the nomination of Roxanne Blackwell for honorary membership of ASLA.

I met Roxanne in 2007 when she started working for ASLA. It was my first meeting as Trustee and her first time addressing the Board of Trustees and Chapter Presidents Council. I was very impressed by her knowledge of governmental affairs and how she went about preparing us for Advocacy Day. She calmed us down with her clear level headed delivery of what to expect and then helped us refine our presentation, but, more importantly, she made us realize the significance of what we were doing. The total effect was nothing short of inspirational and led me to believe that I could help ASLA best by working on advocacy, hence I joined the Government Affairs Advocacy Committee (GAAC) and have been a member since.

In Roxanne's eight years at ASLA she has been focusing the GAAC and ASLA members on that advocacy which most affects our profession. On our monthly GAAC conference calls she adeptly and gracefully brings the uninformed up to speed and expands the knowledge of the informed. The legislative process is complex; she interprets, explains nuances, outlines the process, and lays out the next steps needed ultimately to win support on the hill - all this while retaining her cheerful countenance.

I fully support the nomination of Roxanne Blackwell for honorary membership.



Christopher Kent
(ASLA Trustee, Northern California 2007 – 2013)

Principal



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February 17, 2015

Board of Trustees
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 Roxanne Blackwell for honorary membership of ASLA.

It seems that landscape architects in general are dragged, kicking and screaming, into the arena of politics, through licensure campaigns and challenges, as well as Federal-level advocacy and awareness. Since joining ASLA, Roxanne has been instrumental in helping to draw ASLA into the conversation on the environment, transportation, green infrastructure, and other issues at the national level. More importantly, she has helped position the Society as a resource for expert opinion.

During my time on the Government Affairs Advisory Committee, Roxanne has always helped us understand the political process in DC, so that we can make informed decisions about the policy strategy for ASLA.

As our profession matures and increases in prominence, this position as "expert resource", rather than "just another noisy special-interest group" is quite valuable, and I attribute to a considerable degree, to Roxanne's assistance.

That said, I have the utmost respect for Roxanne, and I wholeheartedly support her for honorary ASLA membership.

Sincerely,

Landworks Design Group, P.A.

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

Chair, ASLA Government Affairs Advisory Committee
Past NC Chapter Trustee