



Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Susan Rademacher
Nominee's Address: 1150 North Negley Ave.
City/State/Zip: Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: 502-876-4647
Nominator: Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA

It is my privilege to nominate Susan Rademacher for your consideration for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Since 2007, Susan has served as Parks Curator for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy where she has been responsible for landscape planning, design, and preservation since 2007. Founded in 1996, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has \$76 million to provide stewardship over more than 1,700 acres and 14 capital projects.

As Parks Curator – a position that was previously only relegated to Museum properties (e.g. George Eastman Museum, Preservation Society of Newport), Susan reveals, preserves, and promotes the cultural significance of Pittsburgh Parks by directing planning and design, conducting research, and communicating the value of the designed landscape.

From 1991-2007, she was Assistant Director of Louisville Metro Parks and at the same time served as President of Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. Susan produced a master plan (in concert with Andropogon and Heritage Landscapes) for the city's system of Olmsted-designed parks and parkways, created a volunteer program for ecological restoration, and built awareness of these cultural landscapes.

Susan's roots go deep with our profession and our organization, as she was Editor in Chief of *Landscape Architecture* magazine (*LAM*) from 1984-1987, and was a co-founder and Editor in Chief of *Garden Design* magazine from 1983-1987, when ASLA owned that publication. Prior to these roles she also served as *LAM*'s Production Editor from 1977-1978 (under the mentorship of Grady Clay) and Managing Editor from 1979-1983.

She has lectured and taught a wide variety of topics, from landscape architecture to planning to historic preservation at institutions and universities including the Smithsonian Institution, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, J. B. Speed Art Museum, Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, Chatham University, U.C. Berkeley, and Harvard University.

Susan is an award-winning author and to name just a few of her books and articles will give you a sense of the breadth of her knowledge: *Garden Design: History, Principles, Elements, Practice* (Simon & Schuster, 1984); *Bold Romantic Gardens* (Acropolis Books, 1990; republished by Spacemaker Press

in 1998) *Outdoor Living Spaces* (Rodale Press, 1992) *Renewing Louisville's Olmsted Parks and Parkways* (1994); "Grady Clay," *Pioneers of Landscape Architecture* (University of Virginia Press, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, 2007); "Introduction," *A Guide to the Wildflowers of the Olmsted Parks* (University of Kentucky Press, 2014); *Mellon Square: Discovering a Modern Masterpiece* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2014).

A native of Columbus, Georgia, Susan is a graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and was a Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Design at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

In recognition of more than three decades of outstanding service to landscape architecture and having done so much to raise its visibility, I hope you will confer honorary membership upon Susan Rademacher, a true friend to our profession.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA
President, The Cultural Landscape Foundation



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Nominee: Susan Rademacher
Nominee's Address: 1150 North Negley Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: 502-876-4647
Nominator: Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA
Supporter: Patricia M. O'Donnell, FASLA

I have known Susan Rademacher and witnessed her important work for some three decades. In each successive role, from Editor of Landscape Architecture Magazine and Garden Design, to the Leader of the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, and Curator for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy she has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to designed landscapes and their enduring values. Susan has also fostered, in each of these roles, research, analysis, communication and advocacy which has underpinned the literature of our profession. Personally she has contributed to that literature through her editorial skills as well as her authorship of important works. The most recent of these is *Mellon Square: Discovering a Modern Masterpiece*, 2014, Princeton Architectural Press, which is a scholarly explication of a Modernist masterwork and its creators, John Ormsbee Simonds and Paul Simonds, Simonds and Simonds, Landscape Architects and Dahlen K. Ritchey, Mitchell and Ritchey, Architects. This monograph is a significant contribution to the publications on the Modern era.

In her current position she works closely with landscape architects to preserve and rehabilitate the legacy of Pittsburgh parks, always bringing her honed sensitivities to the diverse undertakings of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

I fully endorse the nomination of Susan Rademacher, as an individual who should be recognized as an ASLA Honorary Member for her important, accumulated contributions to our profession.

Patricia M. O'Donnell, FASLA

H e r i t a g e L a n d s c a p e s L L C
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Honorary ASLA Membership Support Letter
Susan Rademacher

Ever since Susan Rademacher was a Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Design at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, she has been connected to the profession of landscape architecture. While Production Editor for *Landscape Architecture Magazine (LAM)* and Grady Clay's mentee from 1977-1978, the groundwork was set for her future career achievements. Throughout her career from becoming *LAM's* Editor in Chief, to Assistant Director of Louisville Metro Parks and President of Louisville's Olmsted Parks Conservancy, to her current position as Parks Curator for Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Susan has been a champion for landscape architecture.

In addition to her professional positions, Susan Rademacher authored the recently published book *Mellon Square: A Modern Masterpiece* and has written or co-authored several landscape centered books which include: *Outdoor Living Spaces; Bold Romantic Gardens; and Garden Design: History, Principles, Elements, Practice*, as well as many published articles. Furthermore she has presented within the realm of landscape architecture at both national and international professional conferences.

During her tenure in Pittsburgh, Susan participated on the Advisory boards of the Chatham University's Master of Landscape Architecture program and the Penn State University Stuckeman School of Arts and Architecture. In addition, Susan served as Adjunct Professor in Chatham's MLA program for several years.

Although Susan was never formally educated in landscape architecture, she has been at the helm of issues surrounding our profession and has worked diligently to protect the tenants of landscape architecture. There is no doubt that Susan Rademacher deserves the recognition of Honorary ASLA member. Please consider this letter of support as a complete endorsement for recognition of Susan Rademacher as an ASLA Honorary Member.

With Sincerity,

Lisa A. Kunst Vavro, RLA, ASLA
Trustee, PA-DE ASLA Chapter