

## **Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative**

Nominee: Mayor Knox H. White

Nominee's Address: Office of the Mayor  
PO Box 2207

City/State/Zip: 206 South Main Street  
City of Greenville, SC 29602

Phone: 864-467-4590

Nominator: Thomas R Tavella, FASLA

Knox White has served as Mayor of Greenville for nearly two decades. As mayor he has the goal of making the city of Greenville “the most beautiful and livable city in America.” He has emphasized neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and transformational projects for downtown.

Mayor White understands buildings don't make a city, it's the people and the experience between the buildings that makes a great place. His understanding and commitment to the public realm is what makes him a successful leader and innovator for the City of Greenville.

An example of his foresight was the removal of the Camperdown Bridge and creation of Falls Park, which has just been named as a finalist for the 2015 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence. The project provides a wonderful community asset with a new river front park that has become a destination for the region while prompting new investment and riverfront development.

Additionally he spearheaded the restoration of the Poinsett Hotel and Court Street, new retail (Mast General Store), and a new downtown baseball stadium (Fluor Field) all adding to the vitality of the downtown.

Mayor White understands the importance of taking care of the investment of the public spaces and cultural landscapes. Throughout his tenure he has focused on tree restoration and replacement program along Main Street, between East Court Street and West North Street. The purpose of the project is to achieve the long-term goals of maintaining the aesthetic appeal of Main Street that was designed by Lawrence Halprin. The work includes corrective pruning of selected trees, tree restoration work including mitigation of girdling roots, improved growing conditions and removal and replacement of declining maples.

His initiatives along Main Street also include public art that has made the street an interactive experience for visitors while increasing the economic viability of the business along the corridor.

Beyond the City core his neighborhood initiatives and comprehensive master plans include enhanced beautification efforts, traffic calming, support for neighborhood associations, reinvestment in neighborhood parks, master plans for commercial corridors, and attractive new housing in the city's special emphasis neighborhoods. He has appointed a Green ribbon advisory committee to advise the City Council on sustainability and related environmentally responsible practices in designing, constructing and managing capital improvements and in City operations. The committee assist in developing and maintaining a Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.

Recognizing the importance of connecting residents and visitors alike to popular destinations throughout the City of Greenville. The Trails and Greenways Master Plan was a "Top Priority" project for the Mayor that lead to the initiation of a bike and walking trail system (Swamp Rabbit Trail) throughout the City. The Master Plan, and new trail systems amongst other things, encourages physical activity, promotes safe and sustainable transportation, stimulates economic growth and helps to protect environmental quality of open spaces and creek and river corridors. Which will be another of his many legacy projects that shows his commitment to the public realm.

His passion for the environmental stewardship and his belief in healthy, safe communities are the reasons we strongly urge that he be accepted for honorary membership in the ASLA.



Honorary Membership  
 Nomination American Society  
 of Landscape Architects 636  
 Eye Street, NW,  
 Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: ASLA Honorary Membership for Knox White, Mayor for the City of Greenville, SC

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees,

I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of Mayor Knox White, Mayor of Greenville, South Carolina, for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscapes Architects. I believe the Mayor White embodies the principles that we, as landscape architects live by, as well as the mission of our Society.

As a longstanding leader in ASLA, I have had the privilege to hear the Mayor speak about his tenure as Mayor at many chapter sponsored events. As a South Carolina Resident for more than 34 years, I have witnessed the transformation that has occurred in Greenville under his leadership of over nearly 20 years.

His visionary leadership with the literal reinvention of downtown Greenville has captured headlines throughout the country. The removal of the Camperdown Bridge and creation of Falls Park along with a downtown baseball stadium anchor what is now mentioned as one of the most beautiful Main Streets in all the land.

That feat alone would warrant the Mayors inclusion as an Honorary Member. However, he has also ensured that Greenville is an accessible city through the initiation of an extensive bike and walking trail system (Swamp Rabbit Trail) throughout the City, He has encouraged public art initiatives along Main Street and created an inviting business atmosphere, as evidenced by the many world class businesses that now call the area home.

Therefore, I strongly encourage the Board of Trustees to elect Mayor Know White as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Recognition of his vision, his tireless work and leadership to better the city in which he was born is well deserved. Thank you for your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely.



David L. Lycke, FASLA, PLA  
 Vice President, PMB/PLaCE Studios

Past Vice President of Finance, ASLA

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The purpose of this letter is to nominate Knox White for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. I currently serve the South Carolina Chapter as their representative on the ASLA Board of Trustees. Knox White has served as Mayor of Greenville since December 1995 (almost 20 years). As Mayor he has the goal of making the city of Greenville "the most beautiful and livable city in America." He has emphasized park expansion, neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and transformational projects for downtown.

Key strategic projects include: removal of the Camperdown Bridge and creation of Falls Park, the restoration of the Poinsett Hotel and Court Street, new retail (Mast General Store), a downtown baseball stadium (Fluor Field), riverfront development and initiation of a bike and walking trail system (Swamp Rabbit Trail) throughout the City, public art initiatives along Main Street, record annexations, and a model infrastructure for Clemson ICAR. Neighborhood initiatives include enhanced beautification efforts, traffic calming, sidewalk construction, support for neighborhood associations, reinvestment in neighborhood parks, master plans for commercial corridors, and attractive new housing in the city's special emphasis neighborhoods.

A native of Greenville, and a graduate of Christ Church Episcopal School, Greenville High School, Wake Forest University and the University of South Carolina Law School. Knox White is a partner in the law firm of Haynsworth, Sinkler & Boyd, where he heads the firm's immigration and customs practices. He is married to Marsha P. White and they have two children.

Our firm (SW+) has a small office in Greenville and our firm/studio has been involved in several projects with the City of Greenville, most notably the master plan for the Haywood Road Corridor, the Rhett Street Master Plan, the design of portions of the Swamp Rabbit Trail and the master plan for a 22 acre park along the Reedy River at a site adjacent to downtown and serving several older neighborhoods. We have also been involved in the Clemson/ICAR project, where the City played a pivotal leadership role.

I have spent time with Mayor White in public meetings, workshops, charrettes, and City Council meetings as well as one-on-one time driving and walking around Greenville brainstorming ideas for the City, especially expanding their park system and continuing the revitalization. Mayor White is energetic, enthusiastic and visionary. His dedication to the City of Greenville is best illustrated by his long tenure as Mayor and for the vast strides the City has made during that time. I have the utmost respect for Mayor White and I know for certain, through my own experience, that he acknowledges and values the role landscape architects have played in the growth and revitalization of the City of Greenville. In this way, Mayor White exemplifies everything that we hope to see in Honorary Members of ASLA. He is worthy of and deserves this honor and I implore the Board of Trustees to vote to give him this honor.

Regards,



William T. Eubanks, FASLA, LEED AP  
Creative Director,  
Urban Edge Studio of SW+



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Dear ASLA Board of Trustees,

On behalf of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects we full heartily support the nomination of Mayor Knox White of Greenville, South Carolina as an Honorary Member of our Society.

The Executive Board voted unanimously to support a long time visionary of one of the largest Cities in South Carolina.

Some of us will recall that Mayor White is one of three Mayors representing their City in S.C. to receive the most prestigious South Carolina Chapter award, the "Genius Loci Award" for supporting Landscape Architecture in their City. Mayor White is that individual that sees the benefits of good design in public spaces for his community. A true visionary that was steadfast in bringing about the necessary changes in the infrastructure and changing the direction of growth to bring life to a downtown on the decline. The vision that started in the late seventies and early eighties took some twenty years to mature and has continue to improve and be championed by the Mayor to new highs where the downtown is one of the most family friendly in the state and maybe in the south east region.

Mayor White has been a supporter of Landscape Architects as well as our Society for many years. We are very pleased to help a close friend and urban visionary to be recognized on a national level.

Most sincerely,

Duane F. Christopher, ASLA, PLA

President, SC Chapter of ASLA