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February 4, 2009

President Angela Dye, FASLA  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Chicago Park District and City of Chicago for 2009 Award

Dear President Dye:

I am writing in support of the Illinois Chapter of the ASLA's joint nomination of the Chicago Park District and City of Chicago for a 2009 Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence.

Throughout my career, I have worked with both agencies on numerous open space initiatives. Most recently in my role as the director of the Chicago Area Office of The Trust for Public Land, I have been assisting both agencies on the acquisition of new properties and funding for park improvements with a particular focus on underserved neighborhoods. TPL is currently the coordinator for the Bloomingdale Collaborative, which was an outgrowth of the Logan Square Open Space Plan. The collaborative consists of twenty organizations and agencies committed to the creation of the Bloomingdale Trail, a 3-mile elevated linear trail/park that will repurpose an unused freight rail line. The City of Chicago and Chicago Park District have been instrumental members of the Collaborative and deserve kudos for their demonstrated commitment to community participation and the highest standards for landscape design.

Our city is fortunate to have two municipal agencies that have made such a strong commitment to creating and enhancing parks and open space especially in highly developed neighborhoods that are underserved by parks. I enjoy working closely with the outstanding and dedicated staff members of both organizations and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts. These staffers are unsung community heroes who work creatively and passionately to create new parks for all Chicagoans to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth White  
Director, Chicago Area Office



Chicago's Best Friend

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February 5, 2009

Angela Dye, FASLA  
President, ASLA  
636 Eye Street NW  
Washington DC 20001-3736

Dear President Dye:

Friends of the Parks is a 34-year-old non-profit advocacy organization devoted to preserving, protecting, enhancing and promoting the use of Chicago's parks and open spaces. We are pleased to submit this letter of support of the nomination of the Chicago Park District and City of Chicago for a 2009 Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence.

For nearly 20 years, both the Chicago Park District and the City of Chicago have developed outstanding landscape designs for public projects including beautiful park gardens and planted median dividers. Both the downtown area and the neighborhoods showcase gorgeous public landscapes at gateways, in parks and in community gardens created on previously abandoned vacant lots. Recognizing that the city historically had a deficit of open space per capita, both the Chicago Park District and the City of Chicago completed the CitySpace Plan and aggressively followed the plan to add more parkland to the communities most in need. In the last 10 years, hundreds of new acres were acquired for parks, community gardens, and children's playgrounds.

Friends of the Parks has been involved and supported many of the projects outlined in the nomination application including the development of framework plans for many parks, preserving historic landscapes, new park and open space initiatives, greening and sustainability and volunteer stewardship of parks and natural areas. These very successful efforts have made Chicago a greener and more beautiful city.

Friends of the Parks enthusiastically supports the award nomination.

Sincerely,

Erma Tranter  
President

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Preserving, Protecting and Improving Parks  
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parkwaysfoundation

February 9, 2009

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President Angela Dye, ASLA  
636 Eye Street NW  
Washington DC  
20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Chicago Park District and City of Chicago for 2009 Award

Dear President Dye:

I am writing in regards of the IL Chapter of the ASLA's joint nomination for the Chicago Park District and City of Chicago for a 2009 Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence. I would like to provide strong support for awarding this medal to the two agencies.

Parkways Foundation is devoted to enriching the physical and cultural landscape of Chicago's parks to encourage the feeling of community, foster a sense of ownership, and enhance the quality of life throughout the city. The organization raises millions of dollars annually for projects conceived and developed by the Chicago Park District. As the executive director of the organization, I work closely with the Park District's professional staff and am very impressed with the caliber of work relating to landscape architecture, planning and horticulture. I am aware of the relationship between the Chicago Park District and the City of Chicago, and I believe that this affiliation has resulted in a synergy that benefits the entire city. The results include a number of projects that can be held up as national models.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Palm  
Executive Director

fundingfun





President Angela Dye, FASLA  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

**Re: Nomination of Chicago Park District and City of Chicago for 2009 Award**

Dear Ms. Dye:

I understand that the Illinois Chapter of the ASLA has submitted a joint nomination for the Chicago Park District and City of Chicago for a 2009 Landscape Architecture Medal of Excellence. I am writing this letter to voice strong support for awarding this medal to the two agencies.

As the Founder and President of the Landscape Cultural Foundation and in my previous position as Coordinator of the Historic Landscape Initiative for the National Park Service, I have worked closely with both agencies. I have been extremely impressed with the high caliber of work produced by both the Chicago Park District and the City of Chicago. In myriad capacities, I have been involved with national conferences that highlight historic preservation projects such as the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool and Columbus Park (which have also been recognized as National Historic Landmarks with significance in Landscape Architecture). In addition, I collaborated with Chicago Park District staff on the development of an interactive web-based education module, *Cultural Landscapes as Classrooms* focusing on Jens Jensen's Prairie Style design for Columbus Park (which was awarded an ASLA Communications Honor Award in 2007).

I am convinced that Chicago deserves to be recognized as a national leader in its efforts to preserve, interpret, and rehabilitate its historic designed landscapes. In addition, Mayor Richard M. Daley has been an inspiring, national leader through the City's pioneering efforts in urban greening and sustainable design. The outstanding synergy between the Park District and the City has helped foster these achievements and I can think of no better way to honor this thoughtful collaboration which has done much to safeguard and build upon the city's unrivaled collection of celebrated landscapes that range from Olmsted and Jensen to Kiley and Gustafson.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles A. Birnbaum', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR  
Founder + President, TCLF

