



LUTHER E. SMITH & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

On behalf of the North Carolina Chapter of ASLA, it is my pleasure to nominate Rodney L. Swink, FASLA, for the LaGasse Medal for his notable contributions to the management and conservancy of natural resources and/or public landscapes.

Rodney is the director of the North Carolina Office of Urban Development within the state's Department of Commerce and heads the North Carolina Main Street Center. He is responsible for leading downtown revitalization and development efforts statewide. His award-winning work has resulted in over \$700 million of new investment in Main Street community downtowns since 1984 when he became director.

Rodney has been active in ASLA for over 20 years, serving as national president in 2001-2002 and as vice president for policy in 1993-95. He has held several North Carolina chapter offices including president and trustee. Rodney has chaired numerous ASLA committees, including the Annual Meeting Program Committee, the Honors and Awards Advisory Committee, the Task Force on Diversity, and the committee that rewrote the Society's Code of Professional Conduct. He also has chaired the Licensure Committee and worked with CLARB and CELA on a model definition of landscape architecture. He has served on the Task Force on Public Practice and the Membership Committee, as well.

In 1998, Preservation North Carolina presented Rodney with the prestigious Robert E. Stipe Professional Award stating, "perhaps no other individual in this state has been called upon by so many communities with an urgent cry for help to assist in saving that community's historic fabric." He was the recipient of the the 2001 Bramham/Marcus Humanitarian Award from NC Partners of the Americas, the 2002 Frank B. Turner Award from the NC State Construction Office, and the 2003 North Carolina Award from the North Carolina ASLA Chapter.

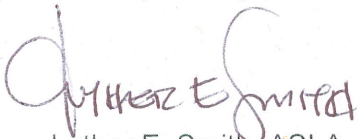
Rodney has a long history of community involvement including serving as chair of the Raleigh Appearance Commission when it tackled billboard regulation, initiated its citywide landscape ordinance and improved its street tree program. He is a founding member of the board of Scenic North Carolina and he has served on several other advisory boards including Preservation North Carolina and the NC State University Friends of the Gallery. Rodney has served as president of North Carolina Partners of the Americas, a non-profit organization working with Cochabamba, Bolivia. He has lectured at the Universidad Mayor de San Simón in Cochabamba, led workshops with local government planners and citizen groups on strategic planning, development, and natural resource protection, and facilitated the exchange of cultural and technical resources.

Upon graduation with a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture from NC State University, Rodney went to work with the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources where he helped create the state's urban forestry program. He serves on the Landscape Architecture Advisory Board for both his alma mater, NC State University, and for North Carolina A&T State University. Rodney is a 2004 recipient of the "Wings on Wings" award of the NC State University College of Design.

He is a Visiting Lecturer in the College of Design at NC State University and a guest lecturer at other area universities.

In 2006, then ASLA president Dennis Carmichael, FASLA, presented Rodney with the President's Medal for unselfish and devoted service to the Society, saying "In his professional work, Rodney exemplifies the spirit of smart growth and sustainability of small town America through the Main Street program. He has served as a mentor to many and a leader to all at ASLA."

Thank you for your kind consideration of this nomination,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Luther E. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "S".

Luther E. Smith, ASLA  
President  
North Carolina Chapter