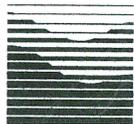


ILLINOIS



ASLA

AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
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March 6, 2006

Executive Committee and Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20001
Attn: Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator

Re: ASLA Olmsted Medal

Dear ASLA Leaders:

I am writing in support of the nomination for Mayor Richard M. Daley for the 2006 Olmsted Medal. His outstanding record of public service and support of issues that are important to our profession and success of a sustainable planet make him an excellent candidate. His influence have touched every aspect of landscape architecture and he has increased awareness of our industry not only in Illinois but nationwide.

His passion for landscape architecture is evident through several green initiative programs including; Chicago Landscape Ordinance, Chicago rezoning reform, streetscape medians, community development, green roof initiatives and urban forestry initiatives.

The Olmsted Medal recognition is well deserved by our green mayor, the Honorable Richard M. Daley.

Warmest Regards,

Carrie Woleben-Meade, ASLA
IL-ASLA President

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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Department of Landscape Architecture

101 Temple Hoyne Buell Hall, MC-620
611 Taft Drive
Champaign, IL 61820



Executive Committee and Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20001
Attn: Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator

Dear Honors and Awards Committee:

It is a privilege to write this letter of support for Mayor Richard M. Daley's nomination for the ASLA Olmsted Medal. Mayor Daley has demonstrated a unique level of support for landscape architecture as a profession that resonates with the expansive scope and spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted.

As the original nomination letter for Mayor Daley conveys his breadth of vision across many fields of urban policy and design practice -- from streetscapes to urban heat island management, this letter of support offers support for Mayor Daley's achievements in additional ways that resonate with Olmsted's philosophy on:

1. The vital role of parks in the natural and social environments of cities.
2. The special roles of water in urban design -- from downspout disconnection and permeable paving to Great Lakes water quality.
3. The emerging role of Chicago as an international center of landscape architecture.

1. The Vital Role of Urban Parks

Mayor Daley has helped revitalize Chicago's historic park system. Along with reformers in the Chicago Park District, he has supported tens of thousands of new plantings, restoration of park lagoon systems, and expansion of urban environmental education and park programming. He is pushing hard for the fulfillment of the 1909 vision for a continuous lakefront park, and today thousands of bicyclists pedal along its paths, swim at improved beaches, and enjoy the manifold moods of Lake Michigan. The jewel in this crown, of course, is Millennium Park, described by Robert Campbell, architecture critic at the *Boston Globe*, as one of the best parks in the world. Many of these park improvements were accomplished by commissioning distinguished landscape architectural firms in Chicago and internationally to work on everything from the initial framework plans to construction documents -- and Mayor Daley and park district reformers made it happen.

2. The Special Role of Water in Urban Design.

Mayor Daley's passion for parks and green roofs is well-known, but just as with Olmsted's work was informed by his early experience with the U.S. Sanitary Commission and urban drainage projects, Mayor Daley's projects are linked with a comprehensive perspective on the special role of water in urban design. Mayor Daley's *Water Agenda* begins with the green roofs that intercept rainfall and put it to good use creating habitat and reducing both indoor energy use and outdoor urban heat island effects -- to programs for downspout disconnection, rain barrel cistern collection, and permeable paving that reduce off-site runoff, storm sewer loading, wastewater treatment requirements, and combined sewer overflow events. At an even larger scale, Mayor Daley helped found and lead the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, which brings together mayors in the U.S. and Canada to ask how urban ecological design in Chicago and the international lake basin can contribute to Great Lakes water quality. Mayor Daley understands the ecological roles of water from the site to city and continental scales.

3. The Emerging Role of Chicago as an International Center of Landscape Architecture.

Mayor Daley's support for excellence in landscape architecture has helped Chicago become a center of landscape architectural practice and built work. As someone who began practicing with AE firms in the late-1970s, I can say that the expansion of landscape architecture under Mayor Daley's administration and Illinois ASLA chapter leadership, has taken off. Many of Mayor Daley's major landscape projects are well-known -- and it is inspiring to see his personal copies of *Landscape Architecture* magazine with scores of sticky tabs and articles circled with questions for staff about their applicability for Chicago, and to imagine their implications for the future of landscape architecture. Some, perhaps many, of those tabs and queries turn into projects for landscape architectural and jobs for new landscape architects. Our Department of Landscape Architecture now regularly pursues Chicago studio projects, as do departments throughout the Midwestern U.S., and increasingly Chicago is a destination for landscape architectural students and young professionals from other regions of the U.S. and the world.

Summary

For all of these reasons and more, Mayor Daley seems the ideal candidate for the ASLA Olmsted medal. It is an honor to write this unqualified letter of enthusiastic support for his nomination.

Sincerely yours,



James L. Wescoat, Jr.
Professor and Head
Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



March 10, 2006

Executive Committee & Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St. NW
Washington, DC 20001
Attn: Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Trustees:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to support the nomination of the Honorable Richard M. Daley, Honorary ASLA, for the 2006 Olmsted Medal in recognition of his many years as an advocate and leader on environmental issues, and for his vision and stewardship as Mayor of the City of Chicago.

Since the early days of the Chicago Worlds Fair, the City of Chicago has had a legacy of quality public spaces. As the mayor of Chicago Richard Daley has not only lived up to that legacy, but has advanced it considerably. He has done so by a variety of means and at different scales that are truly visionary. He has implemented policies that have resulted in the planting of thousands of street trees and programs that have created flower-filled medians, creating a more beautiful and healthful environment for the citizens of Chicago. He has shepherded through ordinances and regulations that have provided transportation choices, preserved community character and made Chicago a more livable city. He has renovated and built numerous parks. Finally, the vision he has shown in developing a green roof on Chicago City Hall and the new Millennium Park has truly made Chicago a green model for other cities in the country to follow – truly a vision that Olmsted and Burnham would be proud of today.

Mayor Daley's accomplishments have been recognized by many prestigious environmental organizations. It seems only fitting that someone who has done so much to advance green, beautiful, healthy environments in Chicago should also be recognized by a professional society (ASLA) that stands for these very things. It is even more fitting that the award carries the name of someone, Olmsted, who not only stood for these same things, but also left his mark on Chicago. I strongly urge you to accept the nomination of the Honorable Richard M. Daley, Honorary ASLA, for the 2006 Olmsted Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick A. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Patrick A. Miller, Ph.D., FASLA
Immediate Past President
American Society of Landscape Architects

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