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February 17, 2005

Mr. Patrick Miller, President  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

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**Re: The Olmsted Medal  
Charles E. Beveridge**

Dear Mr. Miller:

It is my honor to support the nomination of Charles E. Beveridge for the American Society of Landscape Architects' Olmsted Medal. As historical consultant to the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy since 1991, Charles has played a key role in master planning and project development. His superb documentation and interpretation of Frederick Law Olmsted's intent for our park system have laid the foundation for nearly \$18 million in restoration projects to date. Whatever is excellent in our community's preservation of its Olmsted legacy is due in great measure to Charles' wisdom and discerning guidance over the years.

As a practitioner responsible for more than 2,000 acres of Olmsted parkland and 15 miles of Olmsted parkway here in Louisville, I have been especially glad to find in this remarkable historian the quality of receptivity. He has engaged creatively with our efforts to find the intersection between ecological restoration and scenic design in preserving and managing the present-day Olmsted landscape. This seeking the balance is no less than an ideal embodied in Olmsted's own practice, as is Charles' commitment to the democratic common ground and the exalting experience of beauty.

Scores of other community leaders, professional practitioners, advocates, and property owners across the nation share the same high regard for, and reliance on, Charles Beveridge as the keeper of the Olmsted flame. Our bookshelves would be bare without his contributions to the Olmsted literature -- most significantly The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, and Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape. His publications give direct access to original source material, framed by his own astute editorial judgment and deep insights into Olmsted's values and principles. Charles has tirelessly raised the awareness of Frederick Law Olmsted among the populace through a steady stream of inspirational lectures, exhibitions, and media interviews. His authority is unquestioned; his passion for the art of the Olmsted landscape is contagious. But what sets Charles apart and defines his mastery is his unquenchable curiosity and drive to continue discovering Olmsted. This is what keeps the legacy fresh. This is how new generations will be able to appreciate Olmsted anew, through ever-widening ways of comprehending his life and work.

Charles has had a huge impact as both professional historian and volunteer leader, serving to educate, advocate, and advise the nation on behalf of preserving the Olmsted legacy. It is with the greatest admiration and esteem that I wholeheartedly recommend Charles E. Beveridge as a peerless candidate for the Olmsted Medal, an honor that will be universally acclaimed.

Yours truly,

Susan M. Rademacher  
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