

SCASLA

March 11, 2005

Mr. Rodney Swink, FASLA, Committee Chair
c/o Ms. Carolyn Mitchell
Honors and Awards Coordinator
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

SOUTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER

AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS

RE: ASLA LaGasse Medal for a Landscape Architect

Dear Rodney,

It is both an honor and a privilege as Trustee for the South Carolina Chapter of the ASLA for me to nominate Steven D. Livingston, ASLA for the LaGasse Medal for a Landscape Architect. Steve is Director of the Department of Parks for the City of Charleston, South Carolina and as such is responsible for and has made notable contribution to the management and conservancy of natural resources and public lands for the past twenty-six years.

Steve graduated with a BLA from the University of Georgia in 1975 and after a few years in public and private practice, came to the city of Charleston in 1978 where he initially serves as Landscape Architect for the Department of Public Service. His responsibilities in that role included the planning, design and implementation of park, playground and streetscape projects from conceptual sketches and cost estimates through contract drawings and specifications, to the management of design and construction contracts and final inspections.

He was also responsible for project coordination with consultants retained by the City to perform design services. In addition, he was responsible for directing the Construction Division and coordinating efforts between subcontractors and in-house construction capabilities. His responsibilities also included providing site planning and landscape architectural design services for the construction of public facilities within the city.

In 1983, he became Director of the Department of Parks, where he is responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of all city gardens, parks, playgrounds, other public open spaces, and buildings. He is also responsible for the management and coordination of the Grounds Maintenance, Urban Forestry, Facilities Maintenance, Electrical, Construction, Horticulture and Capitol Projects Divisions. He is responsible for directing a staff of over 150 people, including four other landscape architects and manages 1,200 acres.



SCASLA

In addition, Steve is Chairman of the City's Design Review Committee. This committee is responsible for the review and approval of all design of city public spaces and facilities. Steve is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Public Works Association, and the National Parks and Recreation Association.

Steve works with great dedication and with great conviction, but also with great humility. He has not sought out nor has he received much recognition for the great work that he does. This was illustrated to me best the day local Landscape Architects met for a ceremony at the Charleston Waterfront Park. The park, designed by Sasaki Associates and Edward Pinckney Associates, was one for which Steve had worked tirelessly for many, many months. It is one of the best public open spaces in the country and it had recently received a Centennial Medallion from the ASLA. The City and the South Carolina Chapter of ASLA met in the park to celebrate the accomplishment. When we all gathered for a group picture, Steve stood off to one side, reluctant to join in and be a part of the spectacle. Only with friendly prodding from his colleagues, and the Mayor, did he agree to join in for the photograph. This typifies his approach to his career. His approach is one of quiet strength, a presence and a force, not in the limelight, but there when you need him, providing critical leadership and support.

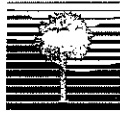
The parks and open space system in the City of Charleston and the City's approach to preservation and revitalization are an example to the entire country. It is something from which an entire country can also take great pride. This extends to other great facilities where Steve had primary responsibility, like the Charleston Aquarium and the Family Circle Tennis Complex on Daniel Island.

In a role unique for a Landscape Architect, Steve managed the design and construction of the South Carolina Aquarium, located in downtown Charleston. During this process, routine soil borings to determine the capability of the soil to support the structure revealed significant contamination. Steve brought in the EPA and DHEC and other experts and found that City had a potential Superfund site. His challenge was to determine how to build a building that was two-thirds in the water on a contaminated site without that contamination being released into either the river or into the water table. This turned out to be a rigorous legal and technical process that delayed construction of the aquarium for several years. The results, however, were well worth the wait and the struggles.

On the tennis complex project, Steve worked closely with the Design Team to assume high quality results in an accelerated schedule. The fact that this world-class facility was finished in time for the first tournament is a testimony to his leadership and dedication.

SOUTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER

AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS



SCASLA

SOUTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER

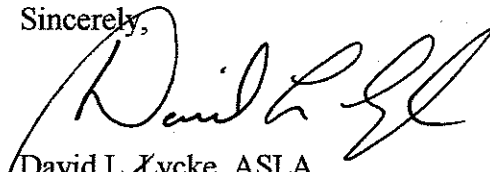
AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS

The City of Charleston is one of five cities recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a city that is "successfully designing active living into the daily lives of their residents" and Steve Livingston is integral to the efforts the city is making in that regard. I am certain that the work this humble man has done over the last 26-years has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Charleston and beyond. I have had the honor of working with Steve and his staff on several park projects including The West Ashley Greenway, an 8 mile green space linking dozens of neighborhoods on the west side of the City. I can also walk through dozens of other beautiful parks throughout the City and see the emphasis on excellent design and management. These are parks that are visited by thousands of tourists each year, but I know that the parks, although enjoyed by visitors, were built first and foremost for the residents of this great City.

However, Steve's work is not complete and he will not be resting on his laurels. There is still much to do and as Steve himself said, in reference to the completion of a new piece of the City of Charleston's riverfront walkway, "There's still more pieces to the total puzzle, and the more pieces we put together, the stronger it gets". I have total confidence that he will continue to build that puzzle, making Charleston as even more wonderful city.

Because of his significant and consistent contribution to the management and conservancy of natural resources, parks, open space and public lands for the past twenty-six years and because of the national importance of the city of Charleston, I believe Steven D. Livingston, ASLA is very deserving of the honor of receiving the LaGasse Medal and I wholeheartedly put forth this nomination on behalf of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,



David L. Lycke, ASLA
Trustee, South Carolina Chapter