



NEW YORK CHAPTER
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

THE CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE
536 LaGuardia Place, New York, NY 10012

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March 11, 2005

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

Re. NY ASLA 2005 LaGasse Medal (Non-Landscape Architect Category):
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers

Dear Patrick:

On behalf of the New York Chapter, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to nominate Betsy Barlow Rogers for the 2005 LaGasse Medal in the Non-Landscape Architect Category.

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers is senior fellow of Garden History and Landscape Studies at Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture. A native of San Antonio Texas, Ms. Rogers earned a B.A. degree from Wellesley College and a master's degree in City Planning from Yale University where her principal focus was upon open space planning and environmental conservation. A resident of New York City since 1964, she is the first person to hold the title Central Park Administrator, a new Parks Department position created by Mayor Edward I. Koch in 1979. She is also the first president of the Central Park Conservancy, which she founded in 1980 to bring citizen support to the restoration and renewed management of Central Park.

Rogers's work as a trustee of the Parks Council and as the author of The Forests and Wetlands of New York City (Little, Brown and Company, 1971) and Frederick Law Olmsted's New York (Whitney Museum/Praeger, 1972) deepened her appreciation of urban parks and of Central Park's status as a successful democratic social experiment, a master work of American landscape architecture, the progenitor of the parks movement in America in the second half of the nineteenth century, and an incomparable recreation resource today. As Central Park administrator and president of the Central Park Conservancy, she directed the landscape preservation planning process and authored the document Rebuilding Central Park: A Management and Restoration Plan (The MIT Press, 1987) that served as the basis of a fundraising effort that added \$150 million of private support to city funding for the goals her landscape preservation team had set forth. The synthesis of many parkwide studies undertaken between 1982 and 1985, Rebuilding Central Park details the various analyses, surveys, and resultant recommendations that continue to serve as the basis for a systematic program of fundraising, capital construction, and management innovation in Central Park.

In 1996, Rogers stepped down from her dual role as administrator and president of the Central Park Conservancy to form Cityscape Institute, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting citizens and public officials in the improvement of public places. At the same time, she researched and wrote Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History (Abrams, 2001), which has rapidly become the leading survey text for the study of landscape history. In April 2001, Rogers initiated a new program in Garden History and Landscape Studies at the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture in New York City. Cityscape's collaboration with the Central Park Conservancy on public space projects at the perimeter of the Park and advising other neighborhoods in the restoration and management of their parks, as well as the incorporation of Central Park in the BGC curriculum as a model for teaching landscape history and preservation, reflect Rogers's commitment to extending the influence of her pioneering work in Central Park to other public spaces and landscapes.

Rogers is the recipient of several awards both for her work as a writer and as a landscape preservationist. These include the John Burroughs Medal for The Forests and Wetlands of New York City, which was also nominated for a National Book Award; the Wellesley College Distinguished Alumna Award; an honorary doctorate in Fine Arts from Miami University; and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' 2001 Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts.

In conclusion, we hope that you and the Board of Trustees find our nomination of Elizabeth Barlow Rogers worthy enough to be considered for the LaGasse Medal.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.F. Kumicki', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

Alexander F. Kumicki, BLA, MUD, ASLA
President-Elect, NY Chapter ASLA