

## The Office of Rodney Swink

Rodney L. Swink, FASLA, PLA

Honorary Membership Nomination

ASLA

636 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Richard Joseph Jackson, M.D., M.P.H., for Honorary Membership, ASLA

Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

I would like to place before you for your consideration for Honorary Membership, ASLA, Richard Joseph Jackson, M.D., M.P.H. Dr. Jackson, Professor and Chair of Environmental Health Sciences and Professor in the Institute of the Environment & Sustainability, Urban Planning at the UCLA School of Public Health is a champion of improving public health through design. He has been making the link between health and the built environment throughout his career.

Richard Jackson has done extensive work in the impact of the environment on health, particularly relating to children. Dr. Jackson chaired the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health. He did extensive work on pesticides in California, and has also focused on epidemiology, infectious diseases and toxicology. Over the past decade much of his work has focused on how the built environment, including how architecture and urban planning, affect health. He has served on many environmental and health boards, as well as the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects and has written and spoken extensively in the above areas. He co-authored two Island Press Books: *Urban Sprawl and Public Health* in 2004 and *Making Healthy Places* published in August, 2011. He has hosted a 2012 public television special Designing Healthy Communities which links to a separate book by the same name published by J Wiley & Sons in October, 2011.

Currently, Dr. Jackson has been working on policy analyses of environmental impacts on health ranging from toxicology, chemical body burdens, terrorism, sustainability, climate change, urban design and architecture. In addition, he is developing policy analyses in related areas, such as how farm, education, housing, and transportation policies affect health.

While in California he helped establish the California Birth Defects Monitoring Program and state and national laws to reduce risks from pesticides, especially to farm workers and to children. While at CDC he established the national asthma epidemiology and control program, oversaw the childhood lead poisoning prevention program, and instituted the federal effort to “biomonitor” chemical levels in the US population. In the late 1990s he was the CDC leader in establishing the US National Pharmaceutical Stockpile to prepare for terrorism and other disasters—which was activated on September 11, 2001. He has received the Breast Cancer

Honorary Membership Nomination: Dr Richard Jackson  
Page 2

Fund's Hero Award, as well as Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Public Health Law Association, and the New Partners for Smart Growth.

Dick Jackson lectures and speaks on many issues, particularly those related to built environment and health. I would remind you that he was keynote speaker at two of our ASLA annual meetings and received rave reviews from attendees for his message and his passion for design and health. More importantly, he has been taking that message to others who should also recognize that critical connection. He has written for the American Journal of Public Health, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics for the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics, among many others. And as earlier noted, he co-authored two books and hosted "Designing Healthy Communities", a 4-part series for PBS.

Those of you who have heard Dr. Jackson speak know the timeliness and importance of his message advocating improved public health through better community design. To put it most succinctly – he gets it. We have an opportunity to thank him in a very meaningful way for his advocacy. I hope that you will join me in supporting his nomination.

Sincerely;



Rodney L. Swink, FASLA



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[www.wdm-ia.com](http://www.wdm-ia.com)

**Parks and Recreation**

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Honorary Membership Nomination  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

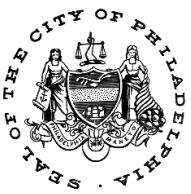
Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

I write this letter to support the nomination of Richard Joseph Jackson, M.D., M.P.H., for Honorary Membership, ASLA. Dr. Jackson has performed a great service to the profession of landscape architecture by documenting and promoting the strong link between public health and good design. His research, publications, speeches, service, and advocacy over the decades of his professional career speak to his commitment to one of the critical issues of our time.

While Landscape Architects and Planners have made the connection between environmental design and health for over a century, Dr. Jackson serves as an independent, objective voice that backs up this assertion with facts, figures, passion, insight, and eloquence. His influence changed the dialogue about design and public health in ways that no other public figure has accomplished. For that we owe him a debt of gratitude that bestowing the recognition of Honorary Membership, ASLA, only begins to repay. I ask that you support his nomination.

Sincerely yours,

Gary D. Scott, FASLA, PLA  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
Past-President, ASLA



## CITY OF PHILADELPHIA Parks & Recreation

Michael DiBerardinis  
Commissioner

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ASLA Board of Trustees  
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator  
636 Eye St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees,

It my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the nomination of Richard Joseph Jackson, M.D., M.P.H. for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. Dr. Jackson serves as Professor and Chair, Environmental Health Sciences and Professor, Institute of the Environment & Sustainability, Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Public Health. He has done extensive work on the impact of the environment on health, particularly relating to children.

Over the past decade Dr. Jackson has focused on how the built environment, including architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning, affect health. He recently served on the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects and has written and spoken extensively. Dr. Jackson has been working on policy analyses of environmental impacts on health ranging from toxicology, chemical body burdens, terrorism, sustainability, climate change and urban design. In addition, he is developing policy analyses in related areas, such as how farm, education, housing, and transportation policies affect health.

Dr. Jackson co-authored two books: *Urban Sprawl and Public Health* (2004) and *Making Healthy Places* (2011) and was the host of the recent PBS series, *Designing Healthy Communities*. He advocates many 'core values' of landscape architecture and believes that 'green settings' have the capacity to alleviate mental fatigue and help restore a person's capacity to pay attention; places that encourage physical activity can both prevent and treat depression; contact with nature can improve health; and the built environment which improves the quality of life for one population often does so for many populations.

Dr. Jackson's work illuminates the connection between how communities are designed and built and the impact on physical, mental, social, environmental, and economic well-being. As such, he is eminently qualified to be an honorary member of ASLA.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Focht, PLA, FALSA  
First Deputy Commissioner, Parks & Facilities

PHILADELPHIA  
**PARKS &**  
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