



City of Charleston

Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

Mayor

August 5, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

I am very pleased to submit this letter on behalf of Jeff Speck being made an Honorary Member of ASLA.

Jeff Speck is one of the most influential design leaders in our country. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Jeff when he was the Director of Design with the National Endowment for the Arts. In that capacity and many other duties he oversaw the most wonderful activities of the Mayors Institute for City Design. It was such a privilege to be able to watch Jeff interact with and guide mayors from cities large and small in the direction of solving perplexing urban design problems. His intellect, natural design intuition, wit and creative spark were a joy to watch in action. Of course, Jeff's work in the private sector has enriched communities throughout America.

Jeff Speck is most deserving of being made an Honorary Member of the ASLA.

Most sincerely yours,

Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Mayor, City Charleston

JPR,jr/rd



P.O. Box 652, Charleston, South Carolina 29402
843-577-6970 Fax 843-720-3827

Carolyn Mitchell
Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Jeff Speck

I first met Jeff at one of the Your Town workshops that he oversaw, where his enthusiasm and support for landscape ideas and organizing principles was genuine and palpable.

Jeff is an important planner. He recently and very successfully ran the Your Town and the Mayor's Design Institutes for the National Endowment for the Arts. Earlier, he was for many years, the right hand of Andreas Duawy and Elizabeth Platter Zyberg new urbanist design practice, writing their first book with them. He has a very strong feel for landscape issues—site character, natural grades, alternative stormwater management and the quality of the vegetation. Jeff is now working hard to bring this sensitivity to new urbanists and other planners as is committed to integrating the two approaches.

His commitment is manifested in several ways, in his commitment to involving landscape architects in the many Your Town and Mayors' Design Institutes that he was in charge of funding and organizing. More recently Jeff has been involved in creating multi-disciplinary teams for the town planning projects he now coordinates in his post-NEA life as a city planning consultant.

-In one recent project for a 3-square-mile new town in Alabama, Jeff convinced the developer/client to create a "forced marriage" between a prominent New Urbanist planning firm and Andropogon Associates for the design of the site. It was our first experience teamed up with a new urban town planner, and we certainly learned a lot. Jeff assures me that the other firm learned even more. The resulting plan saved our client millions of dollars in infrastructure costs by structuring the plan around the natural patterns of that agricultural landscape. Jeff not only brought a landscape architect to the table but insisted that the architect respond to the landscape patterns, including the subtle drainage patterns of a seemingly flat property and the site's majestic hedgerows.



I recommend Jeff Speck wholeheartedly for honorary membership in our society. He is a wonderful man and a consummate professional. He will be a great feather in our cap and such an award will empower him to work even harder to include the landscape and landscape architects in planning discussions.

Sincerely Yours,

Carol Franklin

CAROL FRANKLIN, RLA, FASLA
Principal
email Franklincl@andropogon.com
andropogon associates ltd.
10 Shurs lane, Philadelphia, PA 19127
tel 215 487 0700 (ext 420)
fax 215 483 7520
web <http://andropogon.com>

andropogon
landscape architecture, ecological planning & design



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Washington, DC 20506-0001
202/682-5414
www.arts.gov

Dana Gioia

Chairman

June 25, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

It is a pleasure to send this letter of support for Jeff B. Speck, former Director of Design at the National Endowment for the Arts from August 2003 to May 2007.

We greatly enjoyed and valued Jeff Speck's tenure at the Arts Endowment during the past four years. He was a superb director by any standard.

In addition to convening knowledgeable panels of experts to review applications for grants in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and city planning, Jeff spearheaded three important leadership initiatives for the Endowment—the Mayor's Institute on City Design, Your Town: The Citizens Institute for Rural Design, and the Governors' Institute on Regional Design.

The Mayor's Institute on City Design is a program that brings mayors and design professionals together in order to assist mayors with urban design challenges, to promote design excellence, and enhance the livability of communities throughout the country. Jeff brought rigor and enthusiasm to one of the Endowment's most important vehicles for affecting the quality of life of citizens throughout the nation. During his tenure, Jeff convened two special sessions for Gulf Coast mayors to provide design expertise to communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. He provided an enormously helpful public service at a critical time for Louisiana and Mississippi mayors.

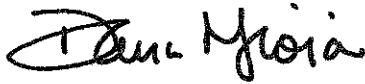
Jeff also reshaped and reinvigorated Your Town: The Citizens Institute for Rural Design, a program that brings design funding and expertise to rural communities rarely served by the Arts Endowment. Examination of topics such as agricultural preservation, rural housing options, and economic revitalization has assisted small communities in

capitalizing on the historic charm of their towns while enhancing cultural tourism and attracting business.

During his tenure, Jeff conceptualized, developed, and implemented a new program, the Governors' Institute on Regional Design, which is now bringing Smart Growth expertise to governors nationwide. We expect that his vision for reversing the consequences of suburban sprawl will be of great benefit to governors as they work to improve the quality of life of their citizens.

The National Endowment for the Arts was indeed fortunate to have Jeff Speck leading the agency's efforts to bring innovative design ideas and expertise to communities throughout the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Gioia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dana Gioia
Chairman