

# CHAFFIN/LIGHT ASSOCIATES

February 26, 2007

Board of Trustees  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I enthusiastically endorse the nomination of Joe Porter as a recipient of the American Society of Landscape Architecture Medal. For the past 35 years I have been a developer of recreation, resort and retirement communities on the Southeast Coast, Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest and Southern California. We are a conservation-based development company that attempts to create authentic, natural and livable places of interest in desirable natural environments. I consider it a great privilege and good fortune that my career has been greatly impacted by relationships with three former ASLA Medal honorees, Messrs. McHaig, Stone and Marvin. I have also had the privilege of a long-term client/planner relationship with Joe Porter. He has helped us create natural and livable human settlements in diverse landscapes throughout the country. I have no hesitation in opining that his work is comparable to the aforementioned distinguished planners and certainly worthy of ASLA recognition and acknowledgment.

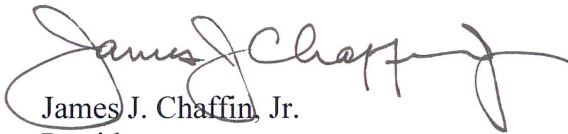
As the Chairman of The Urban Land Institute [ULI], an international research and education institute dedicated to excellence in land use, I had the privilege of visiting with community leaders and public officials throughout our country and around the world. I began to measure the stature of planners, architects and developers not simply by the impressiveness of their physical products, but equally by their commitment to the overall quality of life in their communities. Balancing economic viability, environmental sensitivity and community livability takes leadership and a sense of civic responsibility. I observed it through the efforts of design professionals around the world.

Such a 'citizen/designer' is Joe Porter. He has focused not only on the impact that his projects might have, but also he has provided a design and growth management 'conscience' wherever he has worked. Rather than simply bask in the bounty that unprecedented growth brings to a leading design firm, Mr. Porter has been a tireless community leader advocating responsible growth planning and design fundamentals. He has used his exceptional design and leadership skills to impact quality of life locally, nationally and internationally.

Mr. Porter is old school: he is real, both in his approach to landscape architecture and his approach to life. He is authentic and he wants the places he creates to exhibit and maintain that same sense of authenticity. He is humble about what the site naturally has to offer and works hard at balancing the site needs with the client needs. He never loses sight of how a place might impact the behavior of people who enter the space. He has a passion for human scale, that the site be subordinate to the human sensitivity and that every opportunity is taken to put the human in touch with natural, nurturing elements of the landscape. In other words, he is a master at creating and maintaining a sense of place.

The legacy of Joe Porter is not just the projects he has done, but the people he has mentored. When you observe the work of his protégés around the country and around the world, you come in contact with his real and lasting legacy. Joe's quiet modesty however, means that perhaps many landscape architects are unfamiliar with his work. As a former member of the Board of the Landscape Architecture Foundation I am encouraged that the American Society of Landscape Architects Medal will increase the exposure to Joe Porter's uncommonly meaningful and significant work. If the goal of the Medal is recognition of someone who has 'made a visible difference' and to thereby share 'best practices' with fellow practitioners, this medal can find few more worthy than Joe Porter.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James J. Chaffin, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James J. Chaffin, Jr.  
President



William J. Johnson FASLA

February 26, 2007

ASLA Medal Nominations  
C/o Carolyn Mitchell  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Colleagues,

What a pleasure it is to support Joe Porter's nomination for the ASLA Medal! Since the early nineteen-sixties when I first met Joe at a summer workshop at Michigan State University (he was a fresh young L.A. graduate from Utah and I was a naïve, young L.A. professor at Michigan), Joe and his wife Pip have been an integral part of my professional life. That special friendship built up slowly but persistently through all the years since. I visited him when he first taught at LSU, worked with him when he taught and practiced at Raleigh, N.C., worked with him through the years of his unique Design Workshop partnership in Aspen and still work with him every chance I get. I know him well and I'm afraid he knows me well too! In a nutshell I suppose Joe and I trade teacher-student roles every time we connect and that has been my special delight in our friendship.

Joe's great skill is his ability to creatively inter-connect *all* scales of a challenging land development project. I believe it is his natural, built-in inclination and he has shaped that gift into a calculated, disciplined way of thinking about how to make things happen...moving beyond the created dream and into the completion of Place. Joe is a designer in the best tradition of the broad-based land design professionals of the past. But Joe has done more than the norm in making the overlap between the designer and the developer seamless. I have personally been there when Joe's way of working has had a direct impact on the willingness of development investors to move forward with new vigor towards a higher level of quality. How often I have heard such folks say, 'you're right Joe, it just makes good sense'

Joe Porter is one of my heroes... a sensitive, caring person, an artist (he should paint and draw more!), a professional's professional, a tireless seeker of quality and a special friend of our fragile environment. Awarding the ASLA Medal to Joe Porter would be a most fitting gesture in the spirit of celebrating those who have and continue make a difference. I do hope this can be done.

Sincerely,



William J. Johnson FASLA

15539 Washington Avenue NE Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
Tel 206 855 9159  
wjhnsn@aol.com

# Montage

HOLDINGS

February 28, 2007

Board of Trustees c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Nomination of Joe A. Porter

Dear Trustees:

As a result of your dedication to the advancement of better community planning and landscape design, the profession challenges itself to serve populations in a world of delicate complexity. In this effort, it is an honor to recommend Joe A. Porter for the recognition of the ASLA Medal. Each year you take on the responsibility of identifying a stand-out in the profession. The purpose of my letter is to recommend Joe as something other than a stand-out.

Certainly, as others are, Joe is a teacher and has influenced hundreds of people in his role as an involved university professor. In addition to the college environment, Joe has used his teaching skills to build one of the most respected international land planning and landscape architectural firms, Design Workshop.

Joe is not only a talented teacher, however, he is also a passionate student of the art and profession of planning, land use and landscape integration. Joe's extraordinary, student-like curiosity and pursuit of improving what we are given infuses the culture of Design Workshop.

Through the years, it has been Joe's unique study and view of the purpose of the municipal role and city staff, appointed and elected officials, which sets him apart. He is a student of the democratic process and wins over entire communities to better planning and higher standards for the right reasons.

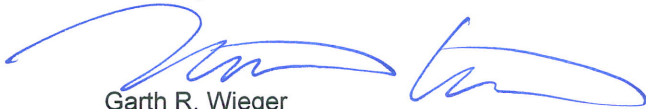
Though Joe is a student of all of these things and has excelled in each, he stands out most as a student of industry. Joe has a desire to affect design change in an economic model which will allow good planning to work and therefore change more lives. Joe's early work with the Rouse Company was an example of how good planning can lead to success in business and for the population. While in my twenties, I met Joe through his firm and services. He became a mentor of mine as a developer. He went on to provide the design services to numerous larger and successful communities. To Joe, communities only work if they are successfully built and continually examined for areas of improvement. Ever the student, Joe has worked with many, diverse forms of industry to influence and learn, including difficult sites in the resort, ski and mining industries, where the balance of nature's detail is so important.

Ever the student of industry, Joe has now become a partner in the creation of a community in a unique setting in Goodyear, Arizona. Joe's dedication and desire to find ways in which to integrate the best of land planning and landscape architecture in the industry, creating sustainable communities of all types throughout the world, is the best endorsement I can imagine for the ASLA Medal.

Joe's study of industry and professional accomplishments confirm his unique qualities. His ability to use it for the advancement of the art and science ASLA represents is further reason to consider Joe for this honor.

As a result of Joe Porter's influence on my life, I will forever be a student in this and other areas of my life. Thank you for taking the time to affect our world and profession for the better.

Sincerely,



Garth R. Wieger

Montage Holdings, LLC  
6720 North Scottsdale Road • Suite 335  
Scottsdale, Arizona • 85253  
(480) 346-9600 • (480) 346-9696 facsimile



CENTURYPACIFIC, L.P.

STEVEN L. WOOD  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

February 28, 2007

ASLA Medal Nominations  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell  
636 Eye Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

We are a Seattle-based real estate development firm involved in large parcel development throughout the United States. Our projects range from oil refineries to ski resorts. We have been blessed to enjoy the services of Joe Porter on many of our projects over the years. We enthusiastically support and applaud his nomination for the ASLA medal.

I first met Joe a decade ago when we were searching for a planner to assist with the redevelopment of a former 1,000 acre oil refinery in Casper, Wyoming. Joe heard about the project and traveled to Seattle from Aspen to inquire about the specifics. We visited that day for many hours. The result was that Joe was hired on the spot and became a close friend and mentor.

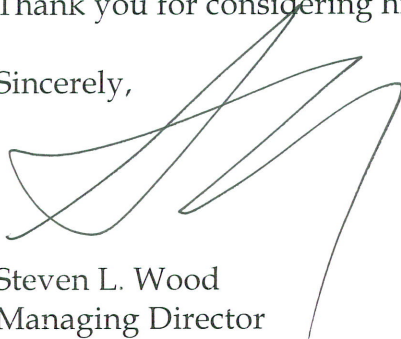
Casper went on to be a nationally recognized brownfield success story where public amenities such as a Robert Trent Jones Jr. golf course, trails, parkways, a kayak course and the like were blended with a state of the art remediation approach. The entire program was the product of a community facilitation and planning effort which Joe Porter spearheaded and provided wise counsel. Joe has played a similar role for us in several communities where great planning and close listening have made projects happen.

The key for Joe Porter is to use his vast skill set and personality to better each situation where his services are provided. He deeply cares about communities, the environment and people. He always seems to find a way to convince people, including me, to do it the right way.

I truly believe Joe Porter exemplifies the very best as a landscape architect, real estate professional, and person.

Thank you for considering his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Steven L. Wood'.

Steven L. Wood  
Managing Director  
SLW/daj



## Community Development by Design



Carolyn Mitchell  
636 Eye Street NW  
Washington DC 20001 3736

February 22 2007

Dear Carolyn:

Re: Joe Porter  
ASLA medal

I heard from Kurt Culbertson that Joe Porter is being nominated for the ASLA medal. I write to add my support.

I have known Joe for over thirty five years beginning with teaching together at N.C. State. I have followed his work at design workshops and for the ASLA since then.

In spite of significant differences in philosophy, approach and style, I have continuously learned from Joe's work. He is clear about his intent and the outcomes. There are few professionals whom I respect more, and most of them have already won the ASLA medal.

Joe's service to ASLA has been long and distinguished. He truly serves as needed not for his gain but for the collective our gain. He is an eloquent spokesman for landscape architecture especially with people who make big decisions! He knows the power of our profession when applied well, and he is convincing. His efforts for the Foundation and chapters are also notable.

<sup>2</sup> Joe's vision and leadership made Design Workshop a unique endeavor and a powerful force shaping the landscape. From its founding Joe had a longterm view, a broad view, an interdisciplinary view, an integrative view. His high standard for 'every aspect of design - environment, economic return, art and community -' has been reflected in the work. Design Workshop has done all these years. Joe shared these principles with Jim Rouse and was able to apply them to the landscape in a distinctive and holistic way - unmatched by others. The work of Design Workshop reflects these values.

This work is not Joe's alone. It is a partnership - teamwork in the best sense of the word. Joe is the team leader - and make no mistake he has been a powerful leader there - who brings out the best in others, gets people to expand narrow views and create in ways they never imagined. This is his genius and now his legacy.

Joe does this with passionate thoughtfulness and good humor. He understands paradox. He knows his place. Knowing his place has ~~been~~<sup>made</sup> him a genuine landscape architect who shapes land and community with grace and wisdom.

Thank you for allowing me these words. Sincerely

Randy Hester