

MICHAEL
VAN
VALKENBURGH
ASSOCIATES
INC

February 12, 2024
ASLA Design Medal Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Nomination of Raymond Jungles for the 2023 ASLA Design Medal

To the ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Raymond Jungles, FASLA, my long-time colleague and collaborator, for the 2023 ASLA Design Medal. Raymond has produced daring compositions, in part due to a profound appreciation of plants, for over forty years. Raymond's landscapes are a powerful and refreshing reminder of the horticultural and ecological roots of our profession, bringing dignity and joy to the act of designing with the natural world.

I have deeply admired Raymond's landscapes for a very long time. His gardens are striking, but first and foremost they are comforting to visitors—a mirror of Raymond himself, a modest person who exudes serenity. The same combination of tranquility and boldness is evident in the landscapes he admires, especially those designed by Roberto Burle Marx, a formative influence on Raymond's work. While both designers favor vivid colors and textures, they never appear to be employed to draw attention to themselves—and both designers consistently focus on creating places for visitors to simply enjoy.

In his twenties Raymond spent time traveling with Burle Marx, and his influence is clear. One of my favorite examples is Raymond's recurring use of inventive pavement patterns in contrasting graphic bands of white and dark gray. This imparts a basic structure within the landscape, making clear with its rhythm that it is the result of human intervention. Yet as his abundant plantings spill into this simple geometry, the result is a dancing glimpse of order just in the moment of its surrender to wildness.

Raymond knows plants—thousands, without a doubt—while also understanding the design possibilities of each as a living thing with unique cultivation needs. This knowledge distinguishes him among us as landscape architects. But what makes Raymond's work great is his skill in using plants as a design medium.

Raymond's landscapes feel inevitable. And his signature is harmony, achieved by making gardens that join nature and human artistry. His landscapes evolve from many approaches to planting design. One is the carefully composed plant tableau. I imagine Raymond taking special joy in how

tableaus alter the rhythm of moving through his gardens—how their appearance, seemingly by chance but thoroughly intentional, creates intensely charged relationships within a larger assemblage of plants. These often small and dramatic scenes are integral counterpoints to an encompassing, soft continuity that he creates to comfort—so often lush thickets with reaching, twisting tendrils of green that enfold. Sometimes he composes these by following the French bouquet strategy—using so many different species that they merge into one and none dominate. Raymond's gardens push the limits of complexity. He is a genius at knowing how many different plants and materials to use, defining spaces that are open and serene, and where the absence of plants creates a dialogue with the groves, thickets, and plant tapestries that may be nearby. His increasing use of native plants in compositions inserts tangible connections to site and yields an appealing coarseness in his work. The rigor of Raymond's designs shows us that the traditional dichotomy of “formal” (geometric and clearly human-made) and “informal” (full of irregularity, like nature) is inadequate for describing contemporary landscape. I would never call Raymond's approach to planting “formal,” but he is certainly a master of form.

Raymond's work demonstrates a clear inspiration by the natural world, but to say that he simulates nature would miss the point. Nature is not inherently generous. Raymond is. He composes landscapes with broad, confident gestures that come out of abundance. This results in public and urban spaces that are engulfing, consistently holding you within a wonderworld of plants. But the abundance of Raymond's work always comes back to the same purpose: to make people's lives a bit better, a bit richer. The ASLA Design Medal would be the perfect way to honor Raymond's four decades of important, unique, and inspiring work.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Van Valkenburgh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Michael Van Valkenburgh, FASLA
Partner and Creative Director, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

CHARLES ROSE ARCHITECTS INC

www.charlesrosearchitects.com

February 12, 2024

ASLA Design Medal Nominations
Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: ASLA Design Medal Nomination for Raymond Jungles, FASLA

Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

Possessed of expansive creativity and prodigious knowledge of plant species, Raymond Jungles has made a significant and lasting impact through his landscape designs. His contributions to the profession include an influential body of work and an integrated approach to design in response to natural systems. It is with great pleasure that I write in support of this most deserving candidate for the ASLA Design Medal.

Jungles has described himself as a romantic modernist, suggesting that his designs are a free expression of creativity rather than compositions that follow formal rules and traditions. His approach is not based on *a priori* geometries or design tropes. Instead, Raymond's design process begins with a rich understanding of site. His work embraces natural systems and ecology, conservation, and the creation of habitat. The work is an artful synthesis: based in ecology and true to place. Moreover, his work is instructive to the next generation of landscape architects in its embrace of spatial intelligence and an unfolding, episodic movement through space.

Jungles often cites the work of his mentor Roberto Burle Marx as the antecedent to his design sensibilities, and one can see this influence in some of the earlier gardens in the use of tiled murals, paving patterns, and plant selections. However, Raymond's work stands alone and offers a strikingly different spatial and visual experience. Burle Marx's work originated in the generation of the plan in the modernist tradition and paired a strong graphic plan with tropical plantings materials. In a Jungles landscape one moves along suspenseful paths through a series of naturalistic spaces that surprise and delight. These spaces are defined by dense plantings, which offer enclosure and visual joy in their textures and patterns. Raymond's direct experience of the site generates results that have a vibrant spontaneity. Each garden and park provide a fresh journey and an exciting set of landscape experiences.

Raymond's gardens and landscapes are both serene and visually exciting. They are bits of Eden that nurture and protect while conveying a sense of timelessness. His command of both tropical

and subtropical palettes is masterful, and as his practice grows, it is fascinating to see how his design approach and unique talents are applied to the landscapes of temperate and alpine locations.

The relationship of architecture and landscape is at the core of my practice, and over the years I have worked with some of America's best landscape architects including Dan Kiley, Michael Van Valkenburgh, and Reed Hildebrand. I have also collaborated on cultural landscape projects with Beth Meyer at the University of Virginia. And fortunately, I have also had the pleasure of collaborating professionally with Raymond and experienced his creative thinking firsthand. His insight and understanding of the site are unparalleled in my experience. He is a compelling teacher who has broadened my understanding of the potential of the landscape. His work is a lesson in movement, spatial invention, and stewardship. His landscapes are low-maintenance, durable, and practical in their accommodation of program.

Raymond is an important American landscape architect, and I thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Charles Rose, FAIA
Charles Rose Architects, Inc.

February 12, 2024

ASLA Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Endorsement Letter for Raymond Jungles / ASLA National Design Medal

Dear ASLA Trustees and Executive Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of endorsement for Raymond Jungles to be the recipient of the ASLA National Design Medal in 2023. It would be a well-deserved recognition of Jungles' contributions to the field of landscape architecture and his commitment to the preservation of natural ecosystems. His residential gardens and public spaces celebrate and integrate into the surrounding landscape context while showcasing the textural, expressive potential of planting to define space.

Jungles is a trailblazer who connects his designs to greater ecological context. His practice has redefined the landscape design approach in Florida and the broader region, embracing the biodiversity of the region and showcasing exuberant endemic tropical species. He uses diverse, expressive planting to create and amplify landscape experiences. An evolution of Roberto Burle-Marx, Jungles integrates planting with a painterly hand to create movement and structure in his gardens. It follows that his love of natural systems and plant communities has reinforced his dedication to restoring and amplifying pre-existing ecologies in his practice. Raymond Jungles has spent his career as a steward of systems-based thinking, pushing the field towards a more sustainable path that is deeply connected to natural ecosystems and habitat formation.

As such, I fully support the nomination of Raymond Jungles for the 2023 National Design Medal to formally acknowledge his significant achievement as a practitioner with a resolute ecological agenda.

Sincerely,



James A. Lord, FASLA

February 12, 2024

ASLA Design Medal Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To the ASLA Design Medal Committee:

I left Golden Rock Nevis in the winter of 2008 with knowledge that I needed help with our subtropical gardens. I knew nothing. After falling in a pothole back in New York City, I had lots of time with a swollen ankle to study garden books. Raymond Jungles was my choice for an American landscape architect.

His Hammock Garden in Coral Gables, with a coral rock shelf for the client's pet pig, won me. He was interested and met me at Golden Rock the next week. I knew after a walk around our property that we had a similar sense: that nature should almost win.

He and I love color. Off to Miami and the nurseries nearby. I chose plants with Raymond's guidance: cycads, bromeliads, old man palms, burglar palms—my choice, I love the spikes. Over time, 23 containers arrived from Miami to Golden Rock. Raymond, a master, designed our garden oasis.

Brice and I love our gardens as they have matured over the past 15 years. And Raymond's beautiful gardens have impacted Nevis in a very positive way. The public is welcome. They are magical.

Now we're going to make a small park by the Hudson River in Athens NY.
Raymond and Brice will decide the rock placement and trees. When I watched
Raymond on a freezing cold winter day, running around the site, I knew we would
again have a delightful garden. He is a masterful designer. I love him as a person
and a landscape architect—15 years of great fun and collaboration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Marden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Helen Marden

Shelby White
One Sutton Place South
New York, New York 10022

February 12, 2024

ASLA Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

I am pleased to nominate Raymond Jungles for the 2023 ASLA Design Medal. Although Raymond has designed many outstanding projects, I want to focus on the work he has done to transform a tract of land replete with invasive plants, garbage dumps, and general degradation into the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve (founded in 2006) located on the island of Eleuthera in The Bahamas.

When my husband, Leon Levy, died in 2003, I contacted Eric Carey, Director of the Bahamas National Trust, and told him that in honor of my husband, I wanted to create a place on the island that would showcase the native flora, as well as the bush medicines which were gradually being bulldozed by local developers. To help achieve this vision, Eric Carey called upon the renowned Botanist, Dr. Ethan Freid. After much searching we found a property that had wonderful mangroves and excellent elevation with views of the ocean and an abundance of native coppices. Dr. Fried began cataloging and identifying the plants.

Early on at the suggestion of Elizabeth Moynihan, Co-Trustee of the Leon Levy Foundation, we met with Raymond Jungles, whose work she knew from friends in Key West. As we looked at photos of Raymond's gardens, we knew that he would be ideal for this special project.

We loved the way he followed the natural landscape while incorporating water features and adding a modern aesthetic, as well as the influence of his mentor, Roberto Burle Marx.

Thus began an amazing collaboration. Raymond understood the concept - he walked the property, noting a huge garbage dump filled with an old car, abandoned refrigerators, and other debris. Undeterred, he immediately began sketching - taking advantage of the natural coral outcropping, he envisioned a waterfall and pond that would be a focal point of the Preserve. He created a boardwalk through the mangroves, which is also wheelchair accessible. There was an abandoned cistern, which he transformed into a freshwater feature, which ultimately became one of the Preserve's major attractions when dozens of turtles arrived to call it home.

Raymond also understood how important it was to incorporate the administrative and operational space requirements of public garden, such as a visitors center, office space, a gift shop, restrooms, and an education pavilion where local students could learn about their heritage. In all of these areas, he was able to seamlessly marry the structures with their natural surroundings

using local Bahamian stone. He also provided tranquil shaded areas where visitors could sit and watch the rare birds that were both native and migrant. Raymond suggested we work with the architect Marvin Arrington, who was already familiar with the Bahamas. Raymond would work by taking a photograph of an area, then sketching over it to show his vision. Miraculously, the finished area was always true to the design.

The project was designed in three phases, and we were able to open the Preserve to visitors two years after we had begun work.

Today, the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve is the number one tourist attraction on the island of Eleuthera and is visited by thousands of tourists every year, as well as school groups from all over the island. The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve is also the first National Park on the island.

Without Raymond Jungles' conceptual designs, creative thinking, and enthusiasm, as well as his ongoing support and that of his company, the dream I had would never have been realized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S White', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Shelby White

Feb 12, 2024

Re: Raymond Jungles FASLA Nomination for 2023 ASLA Design Medal

To the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

Let this letter serve as my full and enthusiastic endorsement for the nomination of Raymond Jungles for the ASLA Design Medal this year. I have known Raymond long enough to testify to his character and to the example he has set for the profession over the many years of his distinguished career, as well as to the mentoring influence he has had on those fortunate enough to have worked with him during that time. I also have first-hand knowledge of the impression he has made on his clients at the Ford Foundation and others like them whose regard for landscape architecture has been heightened, which I believe to be critical to the continuous respect and growth of our profession. It is individuals like Raymond that have been instrumental in driving that ascent we are experiencing today.

Above all, Raymond is an extraordinary landscape architect and plantsman whose design sensibilities are in the highest tier of our profession and have been on display to us all throughout the years with his enviable collection of awards and citations. Raymond is highly deserving of this prestigious ASLA award and is more than qualified to meet the standards they have set forth. The profession would be enriched to have Raymond Jungles amongst us as a model of excellence for the next generation's inspiration. I urge you to reward him with the 2023 Design Medal

Sincerely,

Tom Balsley, FASLA

2015 ASLA Design Medal Recipient



Raymond Jungles, FASLA
Founding Principal, Raymond Jungles, Inc. (RJI)

2964 Aviation Avenue
Miami, FL 33133

Email: raymondj19@mac.com
Phone: 305.858.6777



1111 Lincoln Road Mall
Miami Beach, Florida



1111 Lincoln Road Mall
Miami Beach, Florida



Sky Garden
Miami Beach, Florida



Sky Garden
Miami Beach, Florida



Sky Garden
Miami Beach, Florida



Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve
Eleuthera, Bahamas



Golden Rock Inn
Nevis, West Indies



Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice
New York, New York



Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice
New York, New York



The Modernist Garden
Bronx, New York



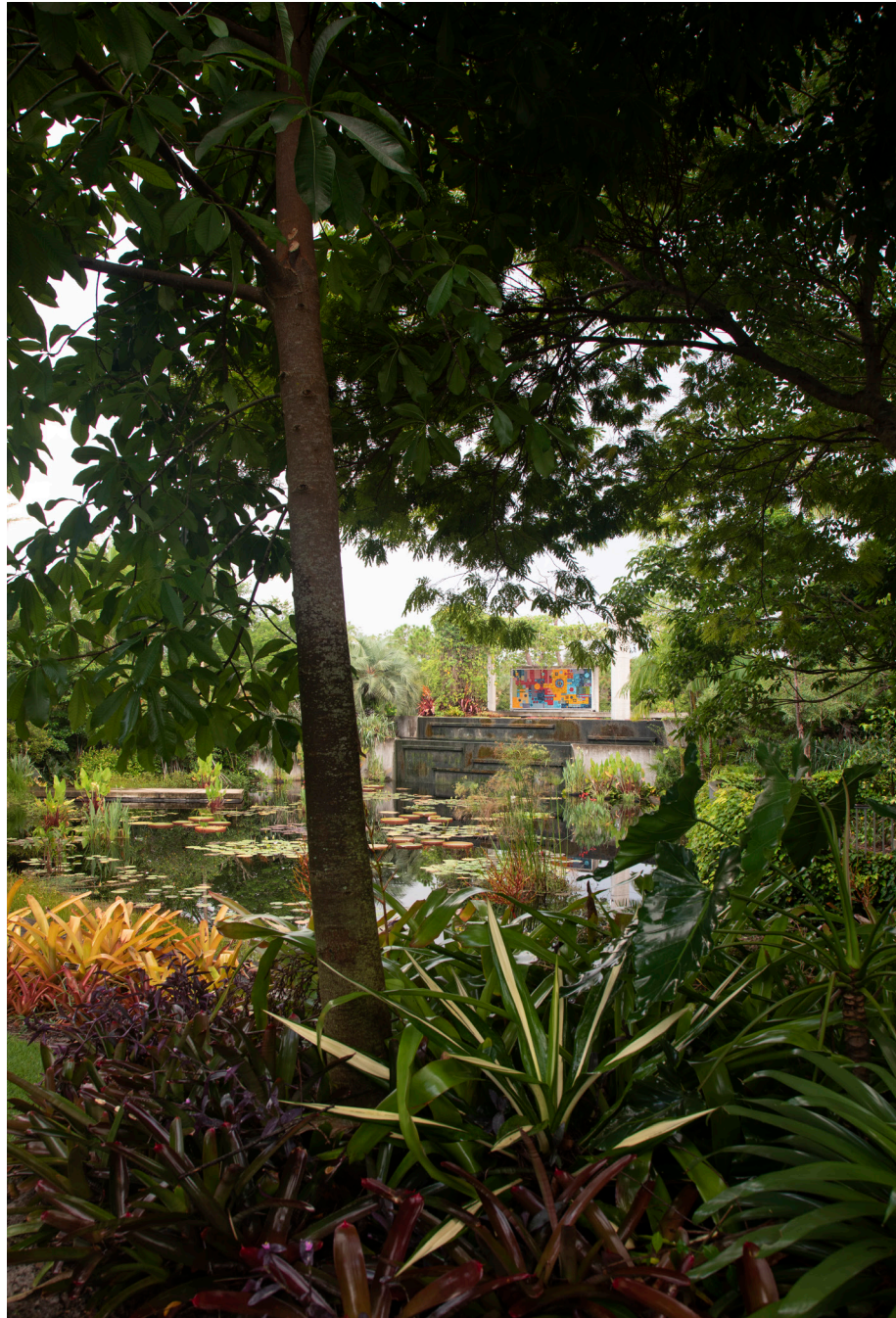
The Modernist Garden
Bronx, New York



The Modernist Garden
Bronx, New York



Brazilian Garden at Naples Botanical Garden
Naples, Florida



Brazilian Garden at Naples Botanical Garden
Naples, Florida



Grove Studio Garden
Coconut Grove, FL