

30 January 2024

Honorary Membership Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Deborah Weintraub for Honorary ASLA Membership

Dear Honorary Membership Review Committee:

I am deeply pleased to write this letter of nomination for Deborah Weintraub to be an honorary member of the ASLA. I can think of no better candidate. As the highest-ranking architect in the City of Los Angeles, and the first architect and woman to serve as the Chief Deputy Engineer, Deborah has tirelessly championed open space projects and the role of design in shaping the city's infrastructure in the public realm. She has engaged landscape architects in many of the city's most significant infrastructure and open space projects including revitalization and restoration of the Los Angeles River, the 6th Street Viaduct Bridge and P.A.R.C., the Silver Lake Reservoir master plan, the Taylor Yard conversion, and numerous neighborhood parks.

As examples of her initiatives, Deborah's efforts convinced City leaders to view the 6th Street Viaduct Bridge replacement as a landscape design opportunity, not just a typical bridge replacement project, which led to an international design competition to convert this infrastructural need into a public amenity, including a new twelve-acre park. Her advocacy resulted in a highly awarded bridge and park, now under construction, that will link diverse communities and create a much-needed open space destination for adjacent underserved neighborhoods. The Taylor Yard project will repurpose a former rail yard and 42 acres of polluted land into a habitat rich public park adjacent to the LA River, and the 2000-acre Sepulveda Basin in the San Fernando Valley will be converted to a public park and flood control landscape.

In addition to specific projects, Deborah has led the City's initiatives in sustainability policies, including the LEED certifications process for the City of Los Angeles – for many years the largest municipal Green Building program in the country, and the adoption of Envision for civil and landscape architectural projects. She has also been a frequent participant and speaker in local and national forums including the ASLA, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Deborah has engaged in educational programs, and initiated a partnership with Alexander Robinson, ASLA, Professor in the USC School of Architecture + Urbanism, to create a physical hydraulic model of the LA River at Taylor Yard that will be used to test river flows and channel alterations. She is also a frequently invited critic for studio reviews including for the University of California at Los Angeles, University of Southern California,

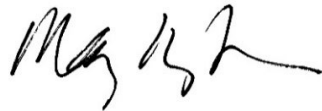
HargreavesJones

30 Broad Street, 41st Floor
New York, New York 10004
T 212 337 9973
hargreaves.com

California Polytechnic at Pomona, Southern California Institute of Architecture, Woodbury University, UC Berkeley School of Architecture, and Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

In summary, Deborah's achievements, actions, and influence have significantly supported the landscape architecture profession, and from her platform in the second largest city in the nation, she has furthered the recognition that landscape architects can be leaders in the transformation of the public realm into a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient landscape. I give her my highest recommendation to be recognized as an honorary member of the ASLA.

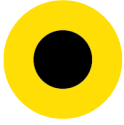
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mary Margaret Jones, FASLA, FAAR, RAAR

President & CEO

mmjones@hargreaves.com, cell: 415 608 4957



OLIN

Honorary Membership Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

SUBJECT: Honorary ASLA Membership Nomination: Deborah Weintraub

22 January 2024

Dear Members of the ASLA Executive Committee:

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Deborah Weintraub as an Honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Deborah's commitment to the improvement of the public realm and public service makes her the ideal candidate for honorary membership in the ASLA. As Chief Architect and Chief Deputy Engineer for the City of Los Angeles and an Architect by training, Deborah spends her days working to improve the open space networks, parks, infrastructure, and community facilities for over four million Angelenos. Her influence resonates daily not just in Los Angeles' parks and facilities but nationwide, as various agencies and government's view LA's leadership as the standard bearer for design excellence.

As Chief Architect and Chief Deputy City Engineer, Deborah represents the client's side on the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan in the City of Los Angeles, and we have had the opportunity to collaborate on various LA River initiatives over the course of many years. At the 2,000-acre Sepulveda Basin we are, together, reimagining the future of the park as a nature-based, resilient park for the San Fernando Valley. The basin is the second largest park in the city, and the largest if excluding parks with extensive mountainous areas. The mainstem of the Los Angeles River flows through the basin and is heavily channelized. The plan proposes to restore the river, creating enhanced habitat and improved recreation. Deborah's vision, fortitude, and commitment are admirable as she navigates the complexity of city, county, state, and federal governments to achieve a more equitable, more just, and more environmentally sustainable civic realm at the basin.

Deborah has dedicated decades to public service, which is often a thankless position. In her role she oversees and ensures successful and thoughtful public engagement as part of projects, coordinates with regional Tribal leaders, liaises with elected officials and non-profits, and manages a complex team of planners, architects, and engineers. Her track record of complex and intricate projects is exemplified in projects such as the award-winning, internationally acclaimed 6th Street Bridge in LA and the Los Angeles LA River Revitalization Master Plan. She oversees the LEED certifications for the City of LA as well as the City's Public Buildings and Open Spaces Design and Construction Program.

Through her work providing executive and design leadership for facilities for the unhoused she is helping with the homelessness crisis across 15 City Council Districts in LA. Her leadership extends to countless parks projects including projects at Spring Street, Echo Park, Silver Lake, Taylor Yard, and North Atwater Park, just to name a few. Her list of achievements on behalf of public open space is staggering.



As a fellow female leader, I am incredibly impressed by Deborah's achievements as a leader in the often male-dominated professions of architecture and engineering. She is the first female and first architect to ever serve as Chief Deputy City Engineer, a testament to her incredible leadership. And, while she has received several national and local awards recognizing her leadership, she is never too busy to join a student review or help an academic department. I teach at the University of Southern California in the Department of Landscape Architecture where Deborah is incredibly supportive of the students and faculty. One of my former Master of Landscape Architecture students later realized during a major city meeting how incredibly important Deborah is and remarked, "Oh my goodness! I emailed her so many questions about my project when I was a student, and she answered all of them. I had no idea she was the Chief Deputy Engineer – she was so patient and kind to me." This sort of testimony demonstrates what I think is the most impressive quality of Deborah: her kindness, thoughtfulness, and commitment to the landscape of the city is unparalleled.

As a leader in the field of Landscape Architecture and member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, I cannot think of another individual currently that is more qualified than Deborah to receive the Honorary ASLA membership. I hope that you will enthusiastically endorse her selection. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or for more information at JHenson@theolinstudio.com or 215.440.0030 ext. 819.

Sincerely,

Jessica M. Henson, RLA, ASLA, AICP
Partner, OLIN

Associate Adjunct Professor, University of Southern California, Department of Landscape Architecture

MICHAEL MALTZAN ARCHITECTURE

February 5, 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

It is my great pleasure to write in complete support of honorary membership in the ASLA for Deborah Weintraub. As the Chief Deputy City Engineer for the Bureau of Engineering, Deborah is the highest-ranking architect in the City of Los Angeles. The projects she oversees include a mind-boggling diversity of scale and use from streets, storm and wastewater infrastructure, fire, police, recreational and cultural facilities, zoos, general offices, infrastructure, and landscape focused projects that define our civic and public life.

As a recognized leader in sustainable design, Deborah was instrumental in the adoption of both LEED for City buildings, and Envision for civil projects. As well, Deborah is overseeing the implementation of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, who's impact is being felt physically throughout the river basin, and is changing the way we see the river, from something largely ignored and misunderstood, to a resource deeply important to both our history and future.

I have had the distinct pleasure of collaborating with Deborah on the 6th Street Viaduct and Park for the last 10 years. It's a project that has as its central ambition the redefining of the role of infrastructure, from something that divides a city to something instead that unites and weaves community together. Her understanding of the importance of landscape as central to that equation has been visionary.

During our work together I came to see Deborah less as the Chief Architect making a bridge, and more as a bridge herself, who through her work connects complex histories, cultures, physical resources, social needs, and civic ambitions into a form that represents the best of us, as a more equitable, accessible, connected and beautiful city... Representing the "best of us" ... especially through design. I can't think of a better way to describe Deborah and the impact of her work.

We are lucky as a city to have Deborah Weintraub, I am lucky to have her as a colleague and a friend, and I am especially excited to see her receive this well deserved recognition for her work putting landscape architecture and design at the forefront of positive evolution in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Maltzan, FAIA



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c/o Honors and Awards
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February 2, 2024

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Director
Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mark Stanley

Dear Nomination Committee:

It is my honor to nominate Deborah Weintraub, Chief Architect and Chief Deputy City Engineer, for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Over the past 23 years of service to the City of Los Angeles Deborah has consistently demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the environment and public open space.

I first came to know Deborah in 2006 when I joined the City of Los Angeles' Department of City Planning. In my new role I had the pleasure of working directly with Deborah and her team at the Bureau of Engineering on the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP). That experience allowed me to experience firsthand Deborah's leadership in championing a multi-disciplinary dialogue that coalesced community groups, political leadership, and environmental stewards around a groundbreaking plan for the Los Angeles River. Since the adoption of the LARRMP in 2007 Deborah has continued to develop plans and projects to implement the LARRMP's goals to improve the Los Angeles River watershed, restore ecological habitat, and increase equitable open space access along the river.

The Los Angeles community is a complex one and there are numerous constituencies, many who often have conflicting perspectives and many of the projects described in the LARRMP have not been without controversy. Despite these challenges Deborah has continued to remain steadfast in her commitment to bring quality open space and ecological benefits to the Los Angeles region. Two projects come to mind: the Taylor Yard's River Park and the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan. Both projects are intended to restore areas adjacent to the Los Angeles River that had experienced substantial environmental degradation since the river was channelized in the early part of the 20th Century. These are large, complex projects that will take years to implement and require navigating complicated funding structures, political hurdles, community concerns, and environmental remediation. I am confident that under Deborah's continued leadership these projects will come to fruition. These projects are just a sample of the kinds of projects that Deborah has shepherded during her long tenure at the city. This unwavering support for the environment and open space is the reason I am firm in my endorsement of Deborah Weintraub for Honorary Membership in ASLA.

Sincerely,

Claire Bowin

Claire Bowin, ASLA, RLA
Deputy Executive Officer
Watershed Conservation Authority

January 26, 2024

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636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE
NOMINATION OF DEBORAH WEINTRAUB TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.**

Dear Nomination Committee:

Friends of the LA River is very pleased to support the nomination of Deborah Weintraub, the Chief Deputy City Engineer with the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Engineering, to the American Society Of Landscape Architects. Deborah Weintraub has been a true friend to the LA River, considering the health and vitality of the LA River in all related projects and advocating for the equitable involvement of adjacent river communities.

Deborah's passion for engineering in combination with her love for the environment fostered a successful working relationship with the founder of FoLar, Lewis McAdams. "I was lucky enough to help champion the restoration and transformation of the river with Lewis on a number of urban design charrettes starting in 1989 with the City North Los Angeles/Design Action Planning Team (LA/DAPT), including the Cornfields. Then the Boyle Heights and Taylor Yard LA/DAPTs in the early 90s. He was always a role model and inspired me to found a pedestrian advocacy organization, Los Angeles Walks. Over the years, as walking and river advocates, we often crossed paths on other projects and programs."

For nearly 40 years, Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) has worked to restore community connection and natural ecology as the single largest unifying force on the LA River, educating, empowering, and mobilizing over 50,000 Angelenos to restore habitat and fight for the policies that will reclaim our collective right to a healthy, thriving, and equitably accessible Los Angeles River. Our past accomplishments and our future goals could not be reached without the support of people like Deborah Weintraub.

Sincerely,



Candice Dickens-Russell
President & CEO, Friends of the LA River

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metro SBE-DBE

February 5, 2024

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re: Honorary ASLA Membership Nomination of Deborah Weintraub

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing in support of Deborah Weintraub as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. I first met Deborah at the Los Angeles Women in Architecture Powerful Conference in 2016. As a landscape architect starting my practice, she was most supportive and encouraging, offering her wisdom and perspective on the design profession. We found the opportunity to work together on a pro-bono concept vision plan for a segment of the Los Angeles River in 2017. This experience proved very fruitful in both a professional and personal level. It opened a dialogue across various disciplines and professionals about the critical role landscape and infrastructure shapes the City. Through these engagements working with Deborah and her team, it re-ignited my belief and passion to engage the public realm and make an impact in our City.

Since her role as Chief Architect and Chief Deputy Engineer in 2014, landscape architecture has become part of the forefront of design. In the last 10 years, there has more emphasis in the City on an equitable quality of life through open space and the preservation of wildlife and habitat with projects along the the Los Angeles River and urban core through public parks and plazas - projects such as the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Masterplan and renovation of Gilbert Lindsay Plaza/Park. I truly believe this has happened because of Deborah - her will, integrity, passion and conviction in making Los Angeles the city it should be.

She is truly an inspiring advocate and mentor for my generation.

Sincerely,



Tina Chee
Design Principal
RA RLA LEED AP AIA ASLA

