



ASLA
OREGON

February 8, 2024

American Society of Landscape Architects
c/o Honors and Awards
363 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP for Ms. Jan Campbell

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, it is our privilege to nominate Ms. Jan Campbell for Honorary Membership in ASLA. As a respected advocate for people with disabilities and a trusted advisor to landscape architects for over 35 years, Jan has left a lasting impact on the design of public spaces in the Portland metropolitan region and across Oregon. Whether people have conditions of hearing loss, low vision or blindness, or intellectual, developmental, physical or mental health disabilities, Jan, through her careful review of proposed projects, ensures that the design of the built environment does not discriminate against them.

Jan's career includes decades of public service, private consulting, and volunteerism promoting the independence, empowerment, and well-being of people with disabilities. Jan is particularly skilled at evaluating conditions, collaborating, and making recommendations for ways our physical surroundings can be more equitable, safe, and inclusive of all individuals, regardless of ability. Due to her ability to communicate to designers how people with disabilities experience the built environment, she is an honest and indispensable resource for landscape architects.

A Career in Service to the Community

Jan's early aspirations to be a teacher resulted in earning a degree in elementary education from Portland State University. However, her career plans were dashed when she was denied the right to teach because of a physical disability--a condition she has had since childhood: Jan requires the use of a mobility device. Prior to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, many adverse conditions affected Jan's education, employment opportunities, housing, and, most of all, her independence.

Rather than teaching, Jan instead focused her career on civil and human rights, serving for 23 years as the Disability Project Coordinator for the City of Portland, Oregon and Multnomah County. She has also been employed with Oregon Health & Science University and its public health program, the Oregon Office on Disability and Health. Currently, Jan works for the Multnomah County Aging, Disability and Veterans Services and she is the Interim Director of the Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) that advocates for survivors with disabilities that are subject to domestic violence, including sexual assault and other crimes.

Positive Change in the Built Environment

Jan's leadership on numerous local and state-wide commissions, boards, and committees is where the design community can attest to her impact. Her input has resulted in significant improvements to public parks and other environments designed by landscape architects, engineers, and architects and the quality of transit service in the Portland region.

At TriMet, the Portland region's transit agency, Jan chairs the Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT). This 15-member advisory group provides TriMet's Board of Directors and staff with ongoing input on plans, policies and programs related to the use and accessibility of the transit system. Jan was instrumental in the founding of the CAT in 1985; and today the CAT is a valued resource for design input specific to seniors and people with disabilities. As landscape architects have established an increasing role in the design of the Portland region's billions of dollars of investment in light rail and bus rapid transit projects, the CAT has become a familiar, effective, and welcome stop in the design process.

In addition to her work on the CAT, Jan chairs the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee. This committee is influencing the growth of the Portland region's transit network, advising TriMet on the distribution of \$10 to \$15 million biannually to expand community-based services and paratransit services for seniors and people with disabilities.

Jan's design advocacy extends beyond the Portland region. She serves as a steering committee member for the Friends of the Columbia Gorge on two precedent-setting accessible trails projects in a rugged National Scenic Area in the state of Washington where the physical environment, while scenic, is extremely challenging. She also serves as a board member and is a past board president of Disability Rights Oregon (DRO), a non-profit advocacy organization that helps people with disabilities with their disability-related legal issues in Oregon, including issues related to accessible transportation.

Design Advocate. Design Leader.

Jan's evaluations and recommendations of built projects have not only resulted in benefits to the public at large, but informed design teams about practical, aesthetic, and welcoming approaches to barrier-free environments and other accommodations on a wide variety of project types. In countless ways, Jan has become **our** teacher.

In recognition of her outstanding level of advocacy, commitment, focus, passion, and dedication to the issues of accessibility, inclusion and equity, the Oregon Chapter of ASLA appreciates your careful consideration of our nomination of Jan Campbell as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Best regards,



Lauren Schmitt, PLA, ASLA
President



January 30, 2024

ASLA Oregon Chapter
PO Box 5711
Portland, Oregon 97228

Dear American Society of Landscape Architects:

I write this letter of endorsement for Jan Campbell to be recognized as an honorary member of ASLA in recognition of her decades of work in advocacy for people with lived experience in disability, and tireless partnership with landscape architects in service to TriMet to build a better, more inclusive community for all.

In an era of mounting climate change crises, racial and social inequities, and emerging variants of COVID-19, landscape architects have been increasingly being called upon to help solve society's critical challenges. The profession has seen its role become even more important in helping communities, particularly historically marginalized and underserved communities, use nature-based solutions to become healthier and more resilient. Jan Campbell recognizes that unique role and has been a trusted advisor to TriMet's landscape architects for over three decades; advancing access and equity for people experiencing disability across the spectrum.

Many people with disabilities rely on public transit for almost all their transportation needs; one recent study indicates that as much as one-third of public transit riders are people who experience disability. Campbell is no different. She doesn't know life without a wheelchair, having relied on one since she was two years old. A native Portlander and lifelong user of public transit, Jan remembers the days before accommodation for people with disabilities was commonplace and a requirement of the American's with Disabilities Act of 1990.

"As I ventured out into the world as a newly minted college graduate looking for independence, I faced barriers everywhere I turned in the environment. Buses and transit stops were not accessible, so I had to rely on others to transport me. When going out by myself in my wheelchair, I had to travel in the street in many places because there were no curb cuts I could use to get from a sidewalk on one side of the street to the other."

Jan has led the charge at TriMet, working with our Engineering and Construction partners to build the bridge of understanding to encourage our team to become more inclusive designers—with and beyond the ADA Standards—to create a more equitable and accessible public realm. Jan has been at the table in planning for TriMet's Division Transit Project, Red Line Extension, Hollywood Hub Transit Oriented Development, and so many other projects over the past 35 years—each with a goal to improve and expand access in the built environment for people with disabilities.

Through Jan's leadership and advocacy, she has helped TriMet:

- Learn how to challenge the dominant worldview of the medical model of disability and switch to a social model view of disability and the built environment.

- Learn how to include people experiencing disability in the design process by learning from experts with disabilities, come to an understanding of the ADA Standards and Universal Design, and discover more resources to improve and adapt projects for the whole community.
- Learn how to include people experiencing disability in community engagement and stakeholder meetings by making events more accessible and by trusting in and learning from lived experiences over assumptions; and by helping design experts learn tools to communicate more effectively with people who have an array of physical, mental, and cognitive disabilities.
- Learn how to include people experiencing disability in access audits of the built environment and consciously make the switch from inaccurate “sensitivity studies” that do not include people who actually experience disability.

It is no small feat to illuminate one’s own lived experience in advocacy of a community and be able to share the challenges of that experience with a group of professionals so profoundly that they adapt their way of working and designing. Jan has done that at TriMet, and we are so fortunate that our team of designers is open to building and designing for the whole community as a result.

Jan has earned this recognition, and our entire community has benefitted from her contributions. I hope you will agree that Jan Campbell’s tireless efforts to engage with landscape architects at TriMet to enhance the lived experience for all in TriMet’s service district is worthy of the role of an honorary member of the ASLA.

Respectfully,



Eileen Collins Turvey
TriMet, Director of Accessible Transportation Programs
Collinse@Trimet.org
2800 NW Nela Street
Portland, OR 97210
503.349.4454

Cc:

Sean Batty, RLA, TriMet Director of Design and Construction
David Aulwes, RLA, TriMet Capitol Planning Manager, Engineering & Construction, Major Projects
Paige Schlupp, RLA, Small Starts Manager, Engineering & Construction



**OFFICE of EQUITY
and HUMAN RIGHTS**
CITY OF PORTLAND

Commissioner in Charge:
Dan Ryan
Bureau Interim Director:
Jeff Selby



January 15, 2024

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

RE: Honorary ASLA Membership Nomination: Jan Campbell

To the Selection Committee,

I write in support of Jan Campbell's nomination for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. There is no other single person who has devoted their entire life to increasing the accessibility for people living with disabilities in Portland than Jan Campbell. She has a history of being a fierce advocate for the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Though Jan has advocated for many different types of accessibility elements, she has been the most devoted to increasing accessibility in the built environment. For decades she has served on the TriMet Committee for Accessible Transportation and The Portland Commission on Disability. She has also volunteered decades with Portland Parks and Recreation not just in reviewing park designs and vetting completed projects, but also in serving as the ADA expert for park events at the waterfront, ensuring that visitors would have access to any number of events.

So often, when we honor people for their achievements, we focus on aesthetics and innovation and we often forget that inclusion is, perhaps, the most noble of achievements.

When you are considering who to honor this year, I hope that you consider Jan Campbell and the lasting impact she has made for those of us living with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Nickole Cheron

ADA Title II and Disability Equity Manager

The City of Portland ensures meaningful access to City programs, services, and activities to comply with Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II laws and reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids and services. To request these services, contact 311 (503-823-4000), for Relay Service & TTY: 711

January 30, 2024

American Society of Landscape Architects
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP for Ms. Jan Campbell

Dear Honors and Awards Coordinator and Committee:

I am writing this letter to support the nomination of Jan Campbell to become an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Jan has a long and specialized career as an advisor for people with disabilities within the Portland metro region and throughout the State of Oregon. The value of her professional contributions to transportation, parks, open spaces and our citizens—and the work of landscape architects—is significant. She has also been a tireless volunteer and advocate for civil rights since the 1980s.

Jan has worked at the city in an advocacy and review capacity for a number of Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R), Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), and TriMet public transit projects. As a landscape architect and urban designer in private practice in Portland for over 40 years, I have had the pleasure to work with Jan on many projects throughout the decades. Jan's important role as a trusted advisor has shaped our firm's work and the practices of other landscape architects in our region.

Jan has used a mobility device since she was a child; she understands social and physical environments through the lens of many people with a wide range of disabilities, from mobility to sight or hearing impairments, among others. She heightens our understanding of how important it is to provide equal access for all individuals regardless of ability, and to move well beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act. Through Jan's openness and candor, we always learned something new and valuable. While serving on committees, I have witnessed Jan's skills at listening and tactfully drawing out the participation and input of others.

My professional experiences with Jan are through collaborations on projects of the built environment. Urban sites and the public realm have been a particular focus of our firm, Mayer/Reed. However, using a recent example, we are now collaborating with Jan on addressing the challenges of rural and mountainous recreation sites that many persons with disabilities simply cannot access or enjoy.

Jan is serving on a Steering Committee for our clients, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge (Friends). Friends is an organization that advocates for protection of natural and scenic resources in the spectacular Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The non-profit acquires private parcels of land and, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), is committed to creating accessible trailheads and trails on two of its sites, Cape Horn and Catherine Creek. Both sites have remarkable scenic resources, wildlife, native vegetation, vast wildflower meadows and river views. While stunning in natural character, the sites pose many accessibility challenges, from remoteness, topographic conditions, and rock outcrops to overall concerns for wayfinding, personal safety and sense of well-being.

The Friends' aspiration for the trail projects is to give all users, regardless of their age, cultural background or level of ability, opportunities for rich, sensory, safe experiences on their own or with friends, family, social groups, and caregivers. Jan's input was critical when discussing how to build

confidence for people with special needs and/or elder adults to utilize the trail amenities and facilities. She helped to guide the committee and design team and through such issues as, "What are the barriers beyond physical access, USFS standards or the letter of the ADA?" and, "How can the projects overcome the potentials to disappoint people who arrive, only to realize it's not what they expect or need?"

Together, the project team examined everything, from parking, terrain, maps, and wayfinding to fully accessible restrooms including support facilities for caregivers, rain and sun shelters, windcreens, appropriate furnishings, attractive places to eat, a range of viewpoints, and the details of the trails themselves. We hope these projects, when completed, will become models for the USFS and Washington and Oregon State Parks when they design new facilities and update existing ones. The Friends and Mayer/Reed are deeply grateful for Jan's involvement and brilliant leadership.

In closing, please consider Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects for Jan Campbell. She has dedicated her life to the betterment of her community and region; and the profession of landscape architecture has truly benefitted from her technical knowledge, honesty and commitment.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Mayer-Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Mayer-Reed, FASLA
Principal
Landscape Architect and Urban Designer

Email: carol@mayerreed.com

ASLA Honorary Membership Nominee: Ms. Jan Campbell

320 S. Montgomery, Apt. #416

Portland, Oregon 97201

Email: janc988@aol.com

Cell phone: 503-504-1254