



Wendy Miller Landscape Architecture PLLC

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February 12, 2024

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

### **Honorary Membership Nomination for Torey Carter-Conneen**

I am pleased to nominate Torey Carter-Conneen for Honorary Membership in ASLA. Torey is an inspiring leader for the Society and has been an enthusiastic ambassador for landscape architecture since taking on the role of CEO in 2020. After a nationwide search for talented leadership, and a unanimous endorsement by the selection committee, ASLA Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, Torey took the helm of ASLA during the early days of the pandemic when the world and our design community was facing uncertainty on all fronts. He brought stability, new energy, and vision to both the management of ASLA and to addressing the issues of importance to the profession. Although the profession of landscape architecture was new to Torey, he immediately understood the importance of our profession in addressing the pressing environmental and social problems our communities face. Without skipping a beat, he stepped up to face the challenges of a cancelled annual conference and deftly ushered in the transition to a successful virtual event. He leveraged the opportunities provided by remote learning to increase membership engagement through access to post conference content and early career support through the implementation of SKILL/ED and Career Discovery. When the world began to open up, Torey navigated the return to in-person gatherings at the state and national level with safe and careful planning.

Seeing the need to steer the Society into a forward-thinking posture, one of Torey's first goals was to undertake a Strategic Planning initiative for ASLA. Through outreach and surveys to ASLA members, Board of Trustees and Chapter leadership, our partners in education and practice, emerging professionals and students, as well as our sister organizations, he guided the process and presented the enthusiastically received 2030 Vision to the attendees of the Nashville Conference. The 2030 Strategic Plan is bringing a new level of excitement and energy for the direction of ASLA and engaging members in their areas of expertise to further our professional knowledge, skills and advocacy.

The ensuing planning effort and the commitment of resources of ASLA's 2030 Vision provides a blueprint to frame our outreach and member services to the focus areas of Community, Connection, Innovation, Scale and Voice. Initiatives and programs that have already occurred under Torey's leadership include:

To acknowledge our corporate members and the services they provide to our work, Peer Groups have been established and are working with the newly formed Chapter Success Institute to expand SKILL/ED training which will reach more members at all practice levels. A testament to the success of these initiatives is membership has grown by 5%, exceeding our goals.

Supporting emerging professionals and diversity, equity and inclusion is a high priority and the Women of Color Licensure Advancement Program and Women in the Profession Task Force including a new faculty research grant program were established early in Torey's tenure. Two cohorts of women selected for the WCLAP are currently preparing for licensure. Participation in the Climate Action Committee Network has doubled, regional climate seminars have expanded, and ASLA is now a participant with IFLA on international efforts as well as achieving COP status and participation. ASLA is shining a light on the important work being done on climate resilient solutions in collaboration with universities and practitioners and will host the IFLA conference in 2027.

Torey has promoted new connections with his ASLA leadership town halls and increased outreach to Chapters including over 35 visits by leadership in 2022 after the pandemic hiatus. Working to meet the needs of students, ASLA instituted automatic student membership with Chapters as well as at the national level, provides free conference attendance, and coordinates climate action outreach and collaboration with Land8 and LABASH both at conferences and on social media. Establishing strong partnerships with our sister organizations and other groups has been a top priority for Torey and new affiliations with Architecture 2030, IFLA, USGBC, IUCN collaboration, embodied carbon alignment group, as well as strengthening relationships with CLARB, LAF, CELA, the Presidents Council, and CEO Roundtable are creating more opportunities to build trust and enrich the ASLA member experience. The ASLA Fund has been renewed as a source of support our work and priorities with focused fund-raising efforts and partnerships with granting organizations such as the City Parks Alliance collaboration (Professional Practice, USTA, USCC, ESA, CAC, SSC, EPA's WaterSense program and a new connection with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

In giving landscape architecture a voice, Torey sees the importance of messaging and the FrameWorks outreach with our partners to provide clear and effective communication about who we are and what we do. These efforts, in addition to the continued promotion of career discovery through Dream BIG, will be vital to keeping our profession in the mainstream of conversations on climate change and built environment solutions. Perhaps the biggest ASLA accomplishment in the promotion of landscape architecture in education has been the official STEM designation in 2023. This long sought after designation is due to Torey's leadership and the hard work of the Government Affairs team to bring this vision to reality.

ASLA's Federal and State Government Affairs team, always a strength and major benefit to our members, has been successful with bipartisan, ongoing advocacy for legislation and policy on the LWCF, NPCA, OAK, RAWA, 9Urban Waters, Clean Water for All, National Complete Streets Coalition, T4A, Partnership for Active Transportation, Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition, Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition as well as continuing our critical work with the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing and CLARB to protect licensure in all 50 states. The tangible products of these efforts include the direct recognition by Vice President Harris of the role landscape architects play in nature-based solutions, the US Forest Service recognition of landscape architects in Universal Design, ASLA language being included in national legislation, regular communication with key Congressional offices on ASLA legislative priorities, being quoted in seven Congressional legislative press releases, and IAdvocate engagement with policymakers increasing 25%.

Torey has brought innovation to the forefront starting with our remote conferencing capabilities to initiating a technology platform review and new website development to creating content for children with Minecraft and commissioning of a Dream BIG song for outreach to elementary and middle school students. Based on feedback and the Vision 2030 surveys, Torey is looking at our organization for ways to be more responsive and valuable to the membership on all scales. Currently, the Dues Restructuring Task Force is evaluating membership retention and doing a value analysis of our ASLA services. With Torey's able leadership, ASLA will continue to be a professional organization that is responsive to the global issues as well as individual member needs.

It is my distinct pleasure to submit Torey Carter-Conneen to be considered for ASLA Honorary Membership.

Sincerely,



Wendy Miller, FASLA, PLA



THE  
CHAMPION  
of TREES

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February 9, 2024

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

RE: Honorary Membership Support Letter for Torey Carter-Conneen

Dear Board of Trustees:

It is my great pleasure to offer this letter of support for Torey Carter-Conneen, CEO of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), in his nomination for honorary membership in ASLA. Torey's exemplary leadership and dedication to the association has significantly impacted the landscape architecture profession, making him an ideal candidate for this recognition.

In his role as CEO, Torey has consistently surpassed expectations, demonstrating drive and enthusiasm for advancing the goals and mission of ASLA. His ability to provide guidance, support, and advice has empowered both staff and volunteers, fostering a collaborative environment that brings out the best in everyone involved.

Torey has excelled in administering the affairs and operations of ASLA, aligning them with the Board-established mission, vision, values, and culture. His guidance in developing a strategic plan has been instrumental in ensuring the effective implementation of programs that advance the society's objectives and priorities. His strategic planning acumen, coupled with a focus on performance improvement, has been instrumental in advancing ASLA's goals. Torey's role as an effective advocate for ASLA's policies, positions, and priorities has strengthened the society's position within the profession and beyond.

Torey Carter-Conneen's outstanding contributions, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the landscape architecture profession make him a deserving candidate for honorary membership in ASLA. Thank you for considering this nomination, and I look forward to witnessing the continued success of ASLA under Torey's visionary leadership.

Best regards,

Susan L.B. Jacobson, FASLA, PLA  
Head of Site Planning & Design

February 8, 2024



ASLA Board of Trustees  
636 Eye Street NW  
Washington DC 20001

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

It is an honor to recommend Torey Carter-Conneen for Honorary Membership in ASLA. Torey began his leadership role at ASLA at a pivotal time when significant strategic planning efforts were not only necessary, but critical to the success of the Society. Torey embraced the many challenges in his early tenure by organizing staff, leadership, and general members to quickly craft a plan to stabilize membership during the pandemic, shift to a virtual national conference, and ensure ASLA's financial solvency.

Torey's leadership has also been visionary. ASLA was at a pivotal time that required a new approach to attracting new members, students, and corporate support. These efforts have made ASLA more accessible, inclusive, and ultimately a stronger voice for the profession. A vibrant membership has been critical to promoting other initiatives like the Climate Action Plan and other sweeping programs that will have a lasting impact.

Torey is an outstanding representative for ASLA. His dedication to forging and reestablishing relationships with special-focus groups, allied organizations, and corporate partners has had resounding results. The spirit of partnership and collaboration allow us to collectively have a louder voice that has earned respect and makes us more able to make a difference in our communities.

I can think of no one more deserving of Honorary Membership than Torey. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,  
Pland Collaborative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Miller".

Gregory A. Miller, FASLA  
Principal Landscape Architect

February 12, 2024

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

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

I have the distinct pleasure of submitting this letter of recommendation for Torey Carter-Conneen in support of his nomination for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

When I was asked to be a part of the CEO Search Committee a little over four years ago, I never imagined how influential and transformative our selected candidate would be. From the first interview, Torey was enthusiastic, optimistic, and an obvious agent for the progress our search committee was hoping for. Interviewing during the start and peak of the COVID pandemic posed some logistical challenges in the process, but it also prompted big conversations about how the organization and the field of Landscape Architecture could respond to and grow with the waves of societal uproar. Despite Torey's professional distance from our industry at the time of his candidacy, his immediate desire and curiosity to know all there was to know about the profession were palpable, and that, partnered with his expertise in finance, advocacy, and policy, made our search committee unanimously vote to recommend his hiring to the Executive Committee.

Now, four years later, writing this letter to support his nomination for Honorary Membership feels like a full-circle moment for me. Since his hiring in the Summer of 2020, Torey has gone above and beyond the job description for Executive Vice President and has shown an unrelenting service to the American Society of Landscape Architects and to the industry at large. With his vision, expertise, and thoughtfulness, he has not only led our organization through the financial challenges brought on by the pandemic and a downward trend in membership buy-in, but Torey has also led the execution of our first Strategic Plan, an inspirational 2030 Vision, as well as a revolutionary Climate Action Plan. In these short four years of him as CEO, Torey has been committed to positioning landscape architects as

thought leaders, representing our membership and our professionals at a local, national, and global scale, including interviews with large media outlets like Fast Company and the Economist, and speaking on our behalf at globally significant forums like COP28.

Although these tangible milestones and achievements are significant, I am most proud of the impact I and fellow members of color and others in minority groups have felt with the progress in inclusion that Torey has led through his last four years in this role. His mere presence as the first Black and queer man in this role has been important for representation in an organization that has historically been unrepresentative of the general population; however, Torey has embraced his role as a dynamic and proud advocate for diversity and inclusion. Organizations and groups like BlackLAN, WxLA, El Merequetengue, and Pride ASLA used to exist in silos outside of ASLA, hosting events and gatherings that were seemingly ignored and erased by the organization's press releases, website, or even at Conferences. However, since his tenure started, these groups and their programming have been embraced, encouraged, and even publicized by the ASLA. Torey understands and has shown with his presence and advocacy that although the existence of these groups is important and they serve as necessary safe spaces for our minority groups, it is also crucial for them to be welcomed and for their voices to be elevated by the larger community that is the ASLA.

All in all, Torey Carter-Conneen is not only deserving of Honorary Membership, I believe he is and will continue to be the leader we needed to take our organization into a more inclusive, forward-looking, and revolutionary direction in these dire times. I could not be more proud to have had the opportunity to recommend his hiring four years ago and now his nomination for this honor.

Best regards,

**Magdalena Aravena, ASLA, PLA**

Founder & Principal Landscape Architect | Studio Siembra

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February 8, 2024

Honorary Membership Nominations  
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636 Eye Street, NW  
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Dear ASLA Honorary Membership Selection Committee:

**SUPPORT OF ASLA HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR TOREY CARTER-CONNEN**

I am writing to you in support of Torey Carter-Conneen's nomination for Honorary ASLA Membership. I have known Torey since he began his role as CEO of ASLA in August of 2020, which was less than a year from when I began my position as CEO of CLARB.

From the moment that Torey and I first met, he has been a positive and energetic force representing Landscape Architects and ASLA. Torey has also been a strong partner to CLARB in supporting and defending licensure for Landscape Architects across the United States. Torey's commitment to promoting licensure has been reflected in his personal actions as well as in ASLA's strategic plan, which Torey led the development of early on in his tenure at ASLA.

Torey embodies the spirit of the Landscape Architecture profession through his upbeat, collaborative, inclusive, and solutions-oriented approach. Torey's leadership has been integral in numerous achievements, including:

- *Passage of the CLARB Uniform Standard for Licensure*  
Torey's and ASLA's collaboration in the development and promotion of the Uniform Standard were integral in the adoption of the standard as many of CLARB's members looked to ASLA and their local Chapters for guidance.
- *Establishment of the Women of Color Licensure Advancement Program*  
Realizing the dramatic underrepresentation of women of color in the licensed profession, Torey worked with me to establish a program and funding mechanism, through the ASAL Fund, to assist historically excluded people in their licensure journey.

Since the program was launched more than \$150,000 has been raised and 20 women of color have been provided with a two-year, personalized experience that includes up to \$3,500 to cover the cost of sections of the Landscape Architectural Registration Exam (LARE), along with exam preparation courses, resources, and mentorship from a licensed landscape architect.

- *Designation as Landscape Architecture as a STEM Discipline*

In July 2023, it was announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security designated landscape architecture a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) degree program. It was through Torey's leadership that the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) was successful in advocating for the designation. Torey worked with numerous partners, including CLARB, to build the case for STEM, much of which included the rigor of the L.A.R.E. and requirements of licensure. This designation will bolster the profession, and, in my opinion, make for a stronger case when landscape architecture faces deregulatory challenges across the United States.

- *Reframing Landscape Architecture*

Torey was key in shepherding a multi-organizational project (between ASLA, CLARB, CELA, LAAB, and LAF) to "reframe" the way we talk about landscape architecture to help the public and policymakers recognize its importance to people and the environment. This "reframing" project culminated after multiple years of social research and provided strategies to overcome the core misunderstandings people have about landscape architecture, build better understanding of what the profession entails, and help people see the importance of supporting the profession and placing landscape architects at the center of projects that involve outdoor spaces. Since the release of the report, our organizations have been able to offer training for our stakeholders to incorporate into their own work in communicating the impact of landscape architecture.

- *Licensure Summit*

CLARB and ASLA currently hold virtual licensure summits to bring together ASLA Chapter leaders and members of State licensing boards to better coordinate our efforts and align priorities for defending licensure for Landscape Architects. Torey has spoken at several of these summits since he has been CEO of ASLA, which has given credibility to our efforts and signified the unity that CLARB and ASLA are unified on the importance of



licensure. Furthermore, Torey has worked closely with me to develop a sustainable model for the first in-person Licensure Summit in six years, which will take place in Buffalo New York in September 2024. Without Torey's leadership and collaboration, it is unlikely that we would have the opportunity to bring together over 100 leaders in Landscape Architecture for this event.

I am honored to be able to write this letter in support of Torey who I am fortunate to have as a professional colleague and grateful to be able to call a friend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Miller', written in a cursive style.

Matt Miller  
Chief Executive Officer  
Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB)

11 February 2024

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

RE: ASLA Honorary Membership – Letter of Nomination for Torey Carter-Conneen

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am thrilled to write this endorsement of Torey Carter-Conneen, ASLA CEO, in full support for him to be considered for ASLA Honorary Membership. I have witnessed firsthand Torey's national and international influence, achievements, and notable service to the profession of landscape architecture. I feel this honor, especially as we celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as the American Society of Landscape Architects, is timely and well-deserved.

When ASLA went through the search process for our new CEO, I was serving on the ExCom in the role of President-Elect and was also asked to serve on the CEO Search Committee. From the initial candidate screenings through the various level of interviews, I witnessed the care, preparation and passion with which Torey pursued the ASLA CEO role. He rapidly got up to speed on our profession, the role that ASLA played as our professional association, and the relevant issues of the day that we needed to address as an organization. By the end of the process, it was clear to both the CEO Search Committee and the ExCom that Torey was the leader we had been looking for and Torey began his tenure with ASLA in the fall of 2020, a few months before I began my term as ASLA President.

This was a challenging time for ASLA as an organization and for our country as a whole, with issues of racial injustice and a once in a century pandemic dominating the public discourse. Torey stepped into this role with grace and openness. He has made excellent connections with both our membership and allied organizations, underscoring the leadership of ASLA in the future of our planet, while establishing a new ethos and trust unique to his leadership.

In his first year at ASLA, Torey led ASLA in rolling out a Racial Equity Plan of Action, and galvanized the organization around developing a 2030 Vision, updating the Mission Statement for ASLA and for the ASLA Fund and developing a detailed three year

Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was highly participatory, developed with extensive input from the ExCom, BOT, Chapters, and a wide range of members and other stakeholders. The plan was approved by the BOT in the fall of 2021 and rolled out publicly at the Annual Conference on Landscape Architecture in 2021, and with periodic updates, will guide and frame our activities going forward.

In 2022, Torey's second full year as CEO, he led ASLA's work in developing and rolling out the ASLA Climate Action Plan and the companion Climate Action Field Guide. These documents, with regularly scheduled updates, are intended to guide ASLA's climate action activities through the year 2040.

Since then, Torey has continued to focus on growing and strengthening the organization and increasing the relevance of ASLA in the world. His vision, with the support of our incredible internal ASLA Team, has positioned us as serious contributors at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP), the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), and other national and international climate action and biodiversity forums. He is constantly fostering new relationships with large foundations and allied organizations for future funding opportunities and to advance the profession through initiatives such as Dream Big with Design. And last year, under Torey's leadership Landscape Architecture finally received the Department of Homeland Security's Designation as a STEM discipline.

Torey is a strong advocate for the profession. He has taken great pride in making a myriad of new connections for ASLA and spreading the word about the critical role landscape architects play in the built environment. He is a regular contributing author of articles in Fast Company, talking about the amazing work landscape architects are doing. For someone who is not a landscape architect, Torey truly has pride in the work landscape architects do to make the world a better place.

We often speak about the love for the profession of landscape architecture that we see exhibited in our members and the internal team at ASLA. This level of buy-in is reflected in the pride and enthusiasm of our internal team, prompting our members to lift them up for honorary membership, including esteemed internal team members Roxanne Blackwell, Esq., Honorary ASLA, Daniel Martin, Honorary ASLA, Michael O'Brien, Honorary ASLA, Kristopher Pritchard, Honorary ASLA, Carolyn Mitchell, Honorary ASLA and Jared Green, Honorary ASLA. Their service, identified as going above-and-beyond, reflects their love for our profession; I have seen this same level of eminence in our CEO, Torey Carter-Conneen.

Torey's exceptional leadership has positioned us, both at ASLA and as a profession, for success and for climbing to greater heights, better recognition for the profession, and earning seats at more national and international 'tables,' where landscape architects can share our skills and expertise to lead in design, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity. The positive impact through his leadership role has been immeasurable.

In Torey's transformative leadership to date, we have observed his national and international influence, achievements, and notable service to the profession of landscape architecture, and I look forward to what heights he will bring ASLA to in the future.

It is an honor to put forward my full support for this high recognition. Thank you for your consideration of the nomination of Torey Carter-Conneen for ASLA Honorary Membership

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Mroz', written in a cursive style.

Tom Mroz, PLA, FASLA  
ASLA Past President

Contact Information for  
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