

January 26, 2024

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

Re: Nomination of Carol Coletta for the 2024 LaGasse Medal

To the Executive Committee:

I am thrilled to nominate Carol Coletta, President and CEO of Memphis River Parks Partnership (MRPP), for the 2024 Lagasse Medal for a non-landscape professional. Carol is a revered figure in the world of parks and civic open space and an indefatigable advocate for a vibrant, connected, and equitable public realm. Her vision, character, grit, and generous spirit has lifted dialogue around urban parks and open space to be more civic-minded and participatory, while always foregrounding the power of design in place making. Through her work at the Knight Foundation and the Kresge Foundation, she centered the voices of community members and lifted the work of countless landscape architects, architects, and designers, bringing people together around common goals. Moreover, by mentoring a new generation of “parkies” and scaling pilots for the *Civic Commons* from Detroit to many cities in the United States, to leading the city of Memphis through a transformative embrace of its riverfront, Carol has had a profound, positive impact on people and places across the United States.

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

Carol is not afraid to take on big challenges or set big goals. In her current role at MRPP, Carol is leading the relaunch of the nonprofit to develop, manage, and program six miles of riverfront and five park districts along the Mississippi River. Before this, Carol was with The Kresge Foundation where she was a senior fellow in the foundation’s American Cities Practice. She led a complex collaboration of national and local foundations, local nonprofits, and governments to *Reimagine the Civic Commons* in five American cities. It is the first comprehensive demonstration of how a connected set of civic assets—a civic commons—can yield increased and more widely shared prosperity for cities and neighborhoods.

As Vice President of Community and National Initiatives for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, she managed a portfolio of more than \$60 million annually in grants and a team of 18 in 26 communities to drive success in cities. Carol also led the two-year start-up of *ArtPlace*, a unique public-private collaboration to accelerate creative placemaking in communities across the U.S. and was president and CEO of *CEOs for Cities* for seven years.

Previously, she served as executive director of the Mayors' Institute on City Design, a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and American Architectural Foundation. She also ran a Memphis-based public affairs consulting firm, Coletta & Company, where she served business, foundations, nonprofits, and government on the broadest range of civic issues. In all of these roles, her unwavering dedication to making successful public spaces is evident. She sees parks as a key part of civic life, and this belief is embedded in every aspect of her work.

At MRPP, Carol's belief in the power of landscape architecture has never been clearer. She spearheaded the community engagement, public-private coalition building, and communication around the 31-acre Tom Lee Park, reopened to the Memphis community to great fanfare and emotion in 2023. Thanks to Carol's intentional approach, all Memphians had a voice in the design process, and now feel a sense of belonging in the park. Carol saw its potential: she led the MRPP in its decision to prioritize Tom Lee Park's redesign as the catalyst for a new riverfront. Importantly, Carol centered the story of the figure of Tom Lee himself, an African American man who pulled more than 30 people from the roiling waters of the Mississippi at great risk to his own life in 1925. He is a true Memphis hero, and Carol centered his story in the park in many ways, engaging his descendants in the planning process, and commissioning celebrated artist Theaster Gates to do a piece in the park related to this story.

Carol brought together elected officials, funders, donors, and community members into a coalition of the willing to build Tom Lee Park. Carol's enthusiasm for her work is infectious, and during the Covid pandemic and global challenges, she raised \$61 million for the park's transformation. The newly constructed Tom Lee Park fulfills its promise: it's a destination for everyone, paying homage to the city's history and looking forward to a more equitable future. The park's transformation is her vision come to life. Carol has big ideas for public spaces—and she knows the importance of design and landscape architecture in building them. She is a strong advocate for the public realm, and in turn, and advocate for the field of landscape architecture.

A TEAM BUILDER

Carol's personal generosity of spirit and love of public space is impossible to resist. She intentionally lifts people up in many roles and leaves a meaningful impact on others. She has mentored and advocated for a cohort of peers who share her approach, advocating for public landscapes and for the common good. She has also hired and boosted many landscape architects and planners in her career, understanding the importance of integrating the practice into city-wide initiatives. Carol is also an active participant in the national conversation about public space in America. In her role at The Kresge Foundation leading *Reimagining the Civic Commons*, she advocated nationally for the value of public spaces in cities. She has also participated in the ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, sharing her expertise with others in the field. Carol has directly hired many landscape architects across the United States as part of the Civic Commons work, and she has directly partnered with firms like Balmori Associates, Groundswell Design Group, Kimley-

Horn, Studio Gang, and SCAPE in Memphis alone. Carol is a celebrity in the world of parks and resource planners! Outside of the field, she is dedicated to sharing her ideas with the public. She produced and hosted the Smart City radio show for six years, where she interviewed over 900 urban and business experts. And at the opening of Tom Lee Park, Carol was in the thick of it all, interacting with visitors and sharing her excitement. Carol is dedicated to her community, and to sharing the importance of landscapes as a key part of healthy, vibrant, and connected cities.

HEART & GRIT

Carol leads with her heart, trusts the power of the commons, and is driven by the humanity of her community and neighbors. Her devotion to creating transformative and inclusive public spaces across the country, as well as back in her hometown with Tom Lee Park, is inspiring. On a personal note, Carol's energy, vitality, wit, and charm are effective and transformational—she inspires everyone around her to work harder, be their best selves, and to work together to make the cities, towns, parks, and plazas where we live, work, and play better for everyone. I grew to know her during our collaboration on Tom Lee Park in Memphis, Tennessee, and it became clear just how innovative and influential her way of working is. Throughout her career, Carol has been an unwavering force for good. For decades, she has advocated for the success of cities, for democratic public landscapes, and for the importance of thoughtful design. It is with great affection and enthusiasm that I nominate Carol Coletta for the 2024 LaGasse Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Orff". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Orff, FASLA

Letters of Endorsement:

1. Alexa Bush, RLA, ASLA, Program Officer, Detroit Program at The Kresge Foundation
2. Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Principal at McAdams
3. Maurice Cox, Former Mayor of Charlottesville, VA, Former City of Chicago Commissioner of Planning and Development
4. Jeanne Gang, FAIA, Int FRIBA, Founding Partner at Studio Gang
5. Tyree C. Daniels, Chairman of Memphis River Parks Partnership; Paul Young, Mayor of the City of Memphis; Teresa Sloyan, Memphis River Parks Partnership Board Member and President of the Hyde Foundation; and J. Ritchie Smith, ASLA, Principal at Ritchie Smith Associates

Alexa Bush, PLA, ASLA
Program Officer, Detroit
The Kresge Foundation
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January 26, 2024

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

To the Executive Committee,

I am writing this letter as an enthusiastic endorsement for Carol Coletta to be awarded the LaGasse Medal. I have had the opportunity to work with Carol in several capacities over the past eight years and have witnessed her commitment as a fierce champion of public landscapes not only in her home community of Memphis, TN, but also to elevate the field in communities across the United States.

Carol has spent the past five years leading the Memphis River Parks Partnership, an organization responsible for stewarding, managing, and operating over 250 acres of public park land along the Mississippi River and downtown Memphis. Having witnessed the transformation of this landscape over that time and Carol's role in visioning, leading, resourcing, and building a team responsible for its development and care has been nothing short of incredible. Carol rebuilt an organization that was composed of mainly former city staff on their way to retirement whose charge was to mow large swaths of lawn with the names "Confederate Park," "Jefferson Davis Park," and "Nathan Bedford Forrest Park" among others into a dynamic organization with a staff committed to a mission of excellence, inclusion, and impeccable community service in a majority Black city. Her recruitment and commitment to the training, support, and development of everyone in the organization, and particularly the front-line workers, or "Rangers" who welcome the public into these spaces, demonstrates her deep understanding of the social dynamics of public space, and the importance of valuing those who care for landscapes in the most direct way. She has engendered an atmosphere of ownership of the public realm by those who steward the space, which has vastly increased the landscape's health, ecological functions, horticultural diversity, and provisions of shade, joy, and welcome to the community at large.

In addition to rebuilding the team that manages this landscape, Carol inherited the river parks after a multi-year effort to remove the Confederate statues that dominated these public spaces, and had led to generations of Memphians feeling explicitly excluded from their own public realm. She and her team worked thoughtfully and diligently not only to transform the physical character of the parks through design, but the emotional baggage of these landscapes through deliberate partnerships and reprogramming to reactive and remap the parks in the mind of the community. Fourth Bluff Park is an excellent example of this work; once a shade-less expanse looking out over the river that prominently featured cannons and a statue of Jefferson Davis, the space now hosts events as diverse as the Memphis Peace Project, a community-led Diner-en-Blanc, yoga, to raucous viewing parties for the Grizzlies that capture residents from all backgrounds. Her most visible impact might be the visioning, redesign, and construction of Tom Lee Park as a signature space on the riverfront, improving access to the river by redesigning the connection from the adjacent bluffs and across the former Army Corp of Engineers flood control dikes, celebrating the story of Tom Lee through public art and storytelling, and transforming a park that was most often used for a 3-day festival into an all-year park for families, youth, and users of all kinds with phenomenal amenities. Carol led the \$61M fundraising campaign to make the park possible and built the team and partnerships to complete the work in the face of very hostile interests committed to maintaining the status quo. Carol has never shied away from the tough political

leadership necessary to advocate for and create transformative work in the public realm for the greater good, and particularly those who have been historically excluded from our “shared” public landscapes.

But even beyond this transformational work in Memphis, Carol’s impact on public landscapes is far vaster. Prior to leading the River Parks Partnership, Carol worked first at the Knight Foundation and then the Kresge Foundation, conceptualizing a \$40M initiative called Reimagining the Civic Commons. Her belief was that greater investment in and more intentional operation of our public spaces could yield greater equity, civic engagement, environmental sustainability, and economic development. The project began as a pilot in Philadelphia in 2015, and expanded to four additional cities in 2016, bringing \$20M in pooled, national, philanthropic funding to be matched by \$20M at the community level. This work has elevated both the quality and stewardship of public landscapes in now 12 different cities across America, but also invested in a metrics system and measurement tools to track outcomes, a peer-to-peer learning network of public space practitioners, case studies made freely available through its website, and continued investment into and stewardship of public parks, streets, gardens, and landscapes large and small. Carol has been a presenter at the Annual ASLA Conference to share some of these learnings, and is committed to elevating this work for the benefit of communities and of our democracy. Perhaps even more personally, I would not be in my current role as a landscape architect working in philanthropy to develop the Kresge Foundation’s strategy for public space and placemaking in Detroit if it were not for Carol and her visionary leadership, mentorship, and impact in demonstrating to me how this sector can meaningfully improve public landscapes. There are so many steps that go into the advocacy, predevelopment, fundraising, and project definition often before designers are engaged, and Carol charts a path for the many ways people can champion and create the enabling conditions for vibrant, ecologically rich, well-designed, public landscapes.

Carol’s work is exemplary, but even more, I think the recognition through the LaGasse Medal might introduce more landscape architects toward her way of working and body of work that would offer insights to professionals and communities at large. I endorse Carol for this award with no reservations.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide any further information or clarification. I would be happy to provide additional insight into Carol’s qualifications or character for this award.

Sincerely,
Alexa Bush



February 5, 2024

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

Re: Endorsement for Carol Coletta

Dear LaGasse Medal Selection Committee:

It is with honor that I submit this letter of endorsement for Carol Coletta for the LaGasse Medal. My name is Mitchell Silver, former NYC Parks Commissioner, president of the American Planning Association, and president of the American Institute of Certified Planners. I am also an honorary member of ASLA. I am presently a principal with McAdams.

Carol is a visionary leader and trailblazer for parks, the public realm, and the natural environment. Carol is presently president and CEO of the Memphis River Parks Partnership. Before that role, Carol held transformational roles at the Kresge Foundation where she led a \$50 million campaign to Reimagine the Civic Commons in five cities. She led ArtPlace to elevate placemaking in communities across the country and she served as president of CEO for Cities. Carol also served as Executive Director of the Mayor's Institute for City Design.

One of Carol's most recent accomplishments was the transformation of Tom Lee Park in Memphis designed by Studio Gang and SCAPE. The park transformation was completed in September 2023. This 30-acre, six-mile riverfront park sits along the Mississippi River and traverses five park districts which includes some of Memphis' most underserved and neglected communities.

As president and CEO of the Memphis River Parks Partnership, Carol led the effort to transform a neglected and unwelcoming park. Carol led the effort to ensure an inclusive placemaking approach to design with equity and excellence; to undertake gradual placemaking; to create a welcoming and safe place for all; to enhance the natural riverfront environment; and, to make sure the park is resilient and sustainable.

For Carol's distinguished career and lifelong commitment to improving and healing the natural environment, I am honored and privileged to endorse Carol for this recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mitchell J. Silver'.

Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Hon. ASLA

Maurice D. Cox
860 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL, 60611
Coxm59@gmail.com
434.228.1148
February 4, 2024

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

To the Executive Committee,

It is my pleasure to offer my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Carol Coletta, a trailblazer in the realm of design and public landscape advocacy for the 2024 LaGasse Medal in Landscape Architecture.

As a former Mayor of Charlottesville, Virginia, Design Director for the National Endowment for the Arts and Director of Planning and Development for both the cities of Detroit and Chicago, I believe I can offer a unique testimony to the impact that Carol has had in shaping the American built and natural landscape. Carol is an urban visionary who has been a leading voice in shaping public opinion about American cities for over four decades. I have had the privilege of following Carol's career for at least 20 years. I consider her a dear friend, a fellow design advocate and an invaluable mentor to me and to a generation of design leaders who continue to shape urban public space. Carol is one of the most astute observers of what makes cities successful, and she has used those skills "like a superpower" in her many leadership roles to guide and shape the public discourse on cities and public landscapes.

All design disciplines need translators and advocates who can articulate to a wider audience the power of design to shape and change lives for the better. Carol has served in that role as perhaps one of the nation's most effective translators and advocates for public landscapes. Her vision and managerial leadership of 250-acres of Memphis riverfront public lands as well as her five-year campaign to realize an award winning, world-class riverfront park honoring a local African American hero, Tom Lee is only one of her latest achievements amongst many, many others. Let me share just a few of Carol's leadership roles and the impact they have had in shaping the American discourse on cities and public space-making.

I was first introduced to Carol in 2003 when she was the Executive Director of the NEA's Mayors Institute on City Design, one of the most effective leadership venues ever created to work directly with our nation's mayors on the built and natural environment of cities. Those years taught Carol how to speak to civic leaders and inspire them to use their positions to advance democratic space-making practices to transform riverfronts, public landscapes, and urban redevelopments. Carol went on to become the President of CEOs for Cities, a national network of urban leaders who focused on groundbreaking research on cities, urban-change policies, and strategies and cutting-edge national convenings all to advance the next generation of great American cities. I know Carol to be first and foremost an extraordinary communicator. She is someone who has developed an easily accessible language to speak to the broadest cross section of the American public about everyday design issues. This comes in part from her days as a producer and host of Smart City, a long running popular national public radio program covering urban issues. This is where Carol refined the art of design plain speak that allows her to reach people who otherwise would be shutout of the public conversation about public space and cities.

Those are just a few of the career experiences I believe equipped Carol with the necessary tools to take on leadership positions in the cultural arts non-profit and foundation worlds and to create impactful national programs capable of changing the course of American public spaces for the better. Her role as the Knight Foundation's Vice-President for Community and National Initiatives paired with her fundamental understanding of design allowed Knight, Kresge and other

foundations to partner with local governments to make strategic investments in failing downtowns, barren riverfronts, and disinvested neighborhoods in dozens of American cities. The most vivid example of Carol's ability to design trendsetting initiatives was realized during her tenure at the Knight Foundation where she conceived of and implemented the \$40 million-dollar national initiative, Reimagining the Civic Commons. The name itself, Civic Commons, is an example of Carol's unique ability to create a publicly accessible brand allowing designers and ordinary citizens across multiple cities to speak a common language about the design of public spaces like parks and plazas and public assets like libraries and schools. I was fortunate to be the Director of Planning and Development for Detroit working with the planning department's chief landscape architect Alexa Bush when our city was selected as one of the original five Knight Foundation cities to receive a 5-million-dollar award dispersed over three years. Our interpretation of Reimagined the Civic Commons was a community-driven initiative to transform a disinvested, low-income quarter-square mile area known as the Fitzgerald neighborhood. The ASLA award-winning strategy designed by the Australian landscape architect, Elizabeth Mossop of SMM created of a multi-acre park from vacant lots, a pedestrian-oriented main street and a network of pedestrian greenways and flowering meadows and renovated homes. Reimagining the Civic Commons, which began as a place-based pilot has now grown into national movement and learning network of 12 cities all using public landscapes and landscape stewardship as the cornerstone of their reinvestment strategy.

Most recently, Carol exhibited an incredible act of courage in leaving her national roles as funder and commissioner of great public spaces to become a local role as president and CEO of the Memphis River Parks Partnership. In this new role Carol would attempt to do for her hometown what she has done for dozens of American cities—that is transform public space into a world-class destination. As a national thought-leader and a seasoned professional Carol was prepared to weather the controversy that often accompanies ambitious public space transformation. What proved to be the greatest adaptive challenge to confront Carol as a public citizen was not the creation a park, but instead was leading a public discussion and historic reckoning in Memphis about race, space, and the removal of confederate statues from riverfront parks that made black Memphians, in a black majority city feel unwelcome. Carol, a longtime advocate for the social economic mixing of incomes, re-envisioned the entire public process of park-making as an opportunity for community healing and an opportunity the build new community ties.

Carol saw the potential to strengthen Memphis's relationship to its riverfront by connecting downtown to adjacent low-income neighborhoods through a well-designed riverfront park that allowed Memphians who might otherwise never meet to interact with each other. In doing so, with great attention to design excellence and innovative programming, one of the most democratic mixing grounds in Tennessee has been created for many generations to enjoy. It is worth noting that Carol led the sixty-one-million-dollar capital campaign to construct Tom Lee Park and was responsible for commissioning Studio Gang, one of Chicago's most prominent architecture firms in partnership with landscape architecture firm SCAPE to design the new riverfront park. Not by chance, both firms are led by extraordinary women professionals. This is but one example of many of the power of an individual to marshal the resources of her community to bring about lasting change.

Over the course of her extraordinary career Carol has given voice to civic leaders, strategies and tools to design professionals and conviction to ordinary citizens that they can change their communities for the better by reimagining their civic commons and shared assets. Carol Coletta is not just an urban visionary. Carol is an American original who has shaped our discourse about public landscapes, social gathering, and their roles in strengthening our democracy. I am honored to support her nomination for the 2024 LaGasse Medal and can think of no one more worthy of recognition by the American Society of Landscape Architects than Carol Coletta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "C".

Maurice Cox
Former City of Chicago Commissioner of Planning and Development (2019-2023)

Studio Gang

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

2024.02.09

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

Through her visionary leadership and tireless advocacy and action, Carol Coletta is transforming urban public lands across America for the benefit of their diverse communities and natural environments. I could not be happier to support her nomination for the LaGasse Medal—not only because she is highly deserving of this personal honor, but also because I believe her example can inspire even more people to join her in changing our cities for the better.

I've had the pleasure of knowing and collaborating with Carol for nearly ten years. We began working together while she was leading national civic placemaking initiatives, first at The Knight Foundation and then The Kresge Foundation. Many people work in this space, but Carol stands out for her ability to connect research and practice—specifically, for creating ways that data-driven insights from top researchers can be absorbed by local governments and become realized projects that improve the public realm. Carol, in other words, is the rare leader who can turn big-picture vision into real-world action. She is an expert at wrangling the messy but necessary process of building the systems and coalitions it takes to accomplish meaningful change. She is also exemplary in how she has involved architects and landscape architects in this work, championing the role that design can play in translating civic aspirations into physical form.

Carol's Reimagining the Civic Commons initiative is a true game changer in this regard. Established in 2016, this collaboration of national foundations and local partners is dedicated to fostering civic engagement, equity, environmental sustainability, and economic development through strategic investments in public places such as parks, trails, plazas, and libraries. Carol brought on my team at the initiative's start for a project in the pilot city of Philadelphia. Since then, public lands in twelve Civic Commons cities across the U.S. have been given new life through its knowledge-sharing network and multimillion-dollar investments in parks and other civic spaces that have improved social connectivity, increased ecosystem health and resiliency, and boosted the local economy.

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STUDIOGANG.COM

Our latest collaboration with Carol, located in her hometown of Memphis, emerged from this school of thought on designing public lands for multifaceted benefits. Opened this past fall and designed in partnership with SCAPE, the new Tom Lee Park transforms a turf-covered dike along the Mississippi into a 31-acre, biodiverse public park that is adjacent to Memphis' downtown as well as the lowest-income zip code in Tennessee. Carol was so passionate about this project and its potential to elevate equity and environment in Memphis that she left Kresge to return home and see it through. To do so, she completely revamped her current organization, the nonprofit Memphis River Parks Partnership, to become an exceptional steward of urban natural landscapes; fundraised \$61M; involved the local community in the design process in multiple ways; and fearlessly navigated the inevitable slings and arrows of a high-profile project. The park's record-breaking popularity among people of all races, incomes, and neighborhoods is the ultimate testament to her vision, know-how, and tenacity.

Carol has dedicated her career to creating beautiful and resilient urban public lands where everyone belongs. Cultivating a healthy democratic society through landscape, she could not be a better fit for the LaGasse Medal.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Gang, FAIA, Int FRIBA
Founding Partner, Studio Gang

Tyree C. Daniels, Chairman
40 South Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
tyreedaniels@bellsouth.net

February 9, 2024

The American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

Dear Awards Committee,

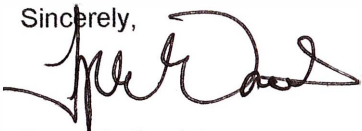
I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Carol Coletta for the prestigious LaGasse Medal awarded annually by the American Society of Landscape Architects. As a highly accomplished leader and visionary in the fields of urban planning, community development, and placemaking, Carol Coletta's contributions have had a profound and lasting impact on the built environment and the communities which she has served.

Throughout her distinguished career, Carol has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to creating vibrant, sustainable, and equitable landscapes that enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Her innovative approaches to urban design and her advocacy for inclusive, participatory planning processes have earned her widespread acclaim and admiration from colleagues and peers across the globe. One of Carol's most notable achievements is her transformative work as the President and CEO of the Memphis River Parks Partnership. Under her leadership, the organization has spearheaded ambitious revitalization efforts along the Mississippi River, reimagining neglected waterfronts as dynamic public spaces that celebrate the city's cultural heritage and natural beauty. Through collaborative partnerships with local stakeholders, Carol has successfully leveraged the power of landscape architecture to catalyze economic development, foster social cohesion, and promote environmental stewardship in Memphis and beyond. The remarkable transformation of the once moonscape of Tom Lee Park to its \$61 million led by Coletta and has become a community beacon.

In addition to her exemplary professional accomplishments, Carol is also a tireless advocate for advancing the field of landscape architecture through education, research, and advocacy. As a frequent speaker and thought leader, she has inspired countless individuals to pursue careers in design and planning, while her writings and public engagements have sparked meaningful conversations about the role of landscapes in shaping the future of our cities and communities while driving the greater thought leaderships on the topics of equity and conversational mixing. Carol's unwavering dedication to creating more livable, sustainable, and resilient landscapes exemplifies the core values of the LaGasse Medal, making her an exceptionally deserving candidate for this prestigious honor. Her visionary leadership, creative vision, and commitment to excellence have left an indelible mark on the profession of landscape architecture, and I am confident that she will continue to inspire future generations of designers and planners for years to come.

In conclusion, it is with great enthusiasm and admiration that I wholeheartedly endorse Carol Coletta for the LaGasse Medal. Her outstanding contributions to the field of landscape architecture are truly deserving of this esteemed recognition, and I urge the selection committee to consider her candidacy with the highest regard. Thank you for your attention to this recommendation. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tyree C. Daniels
Chairman
Memphis River Parks Partnership



Paul Young
Mayor
City of Memphis, Tennessee



Teresa Sloyan
MRPP Board Member & President
of the Hyde Foundation



J. Ritchie Smith, ASLA
Principal
Ritchie Smith Associates



Carol Coletta

Memphis River Parks Partnership
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Memphis, TN 38103
ccoletta@memphisriverparks.org
901-310-1543



Carol Coletta is the President and CEO of the nonprofit Memphis River Parks Partnership, with the goal of working with and for the people of Memphis to trigger the transformative power of the Mississippi River.



WE'RE
ALL
NEIGHBORS
HERE



TOM LEE PARK OPENING



TOM LEE PARK