



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

## Louisiana Chapter

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March 25, 2016

ASLA Medal Nominations  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: ASLA Medal - Kurt Culbertson, FASLA, FAICP

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the Louisiana ASLA Chapter, it is my great pleasure to nominate Kurt Culbertson for the 2016 ASLA Medal. Although Kurt resides in Colorado, and is Chairman of Design Workshop's international practice, we are proud to put his name forth for this honor as his roots and impact run deep in Louisiana. His dedication to the Louisiana State University (LSU) Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture as well as his planning and design of seminal landscapes throughout the state of Louisiana have advanced the profession of landscape architecture far beyond our borders. I know of no practicing professional more aware of the challenges and opportunities facing our profession, more ready to confront them head on, and more willing to convene diverse disciplines and stakeholders to solve them than Kurt.

### **The Foundations**

A native Louisianan, Kurt graduated from LSU in 1976 with a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. After spending several years in Dallas and obtaining his Master's in Real Estate from SMU in 1979, he was ready for a change. Seeing great potential in the American West, Kurt joined Design Workshop's small practice in the resort town of Aspen, Colorado. At that time, the Intermountain West was the great "empty quarter" of America with 25 percent of the nation's land area yet only five percent of the population. It is a region dominated by large public landscapes that live in the mindset of people across the nation. As a result, projects in the West often play out on both a national stage and in an extraordinarily complex local context where traditional economies of mining, agriculture and timber harvesting give way to the new economies of tourism and resort development. Leveraging his design and business knowledge, Kurt quickly established himself and Design Workshop as thought leaders, both through progressive approaches to the built environment, and also through larger contributions to the profession. Today, he presides as CEO and Chairman of Design Workshop, an influential and world-renowned practice with eight offices nationally (plus two overseas) and 105 employees that has emerged and remained at the forefront of the field of landscape architecture.

### **Building a Legacy for Others**

Kurt's mentorship has shaped not only the careers of hundreds of landscape architects, many of whom have started their own successful practices, but the way they approach design, interdisciplinary collaboration, community engagement and evaluation of their work. Under his leadership, Design Workshop developed a quadruple-bottom-line methodology to tackle the most challenging questions inherent in landscape architecture and urban planning. Formalized as Legacy Design, this rigorous process forms the basis of the firm's entire culture and extends through all phases of design. A comprehensive set of metrics ensures that the vision of balancing economics, community, environment, and art can be empirically measured and captured to build upon the collective research and benchmarks of the profession.

A long-time supporter of the LSU Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, Kurt was a driving force in the philanthropic campaign to raise \$4 million to name the school for its founder, Robert "Doc" Reich, including a personal commitment for a lead gift. He has also served as Co-Chair of the fundraising effort to endow the Max Z. Conrad Lecture Series, which held its inaugural lecture in March 2012.

### **Lifelong Pursuit of Learning**

Not only has Kurt educated countless young professionals, but he has also built a culture of continuous learning at Design Workshop, encouraging staff to further their professional development by strengthening core areas of knowledge, engaging in community organizations, and solidifying their knowledge by speaking and writing. He recommends that all staff participate in ASLA and become licensed, motivating his team to reach the next level of achievement through pursuing additional degrees, participating in conferences, and attending lectures. Today, he passionately follows his own advice as a Doctoral Candidate in Landscape Architecture at the Edinburgh College of Art.

A strong proponent of teaching, Culbertson has been a Fulbright Scholar, the 2004 Robert S. Reich Teaching Professor in the College of Art & Design, and the 2008 John G. Williams Professor at the University of Arkansas. To my knowledge, Kurt has spoken at nearly, if not, every landscape architecture program in the United States. In 2004, he established Design Week, a pro-bono effort provided by Design Workshop to create links between education and practice. Since its inception, the program has engaged more than 1,600 students through more than 10 intensive charrettes focused on real-world challenges and involving municipal agencies, private developers, and other stakeholders to expose young landscape architects to the complex process of shaping the built environment. In 2012, Design Week was awarded the National ASLA Medal of Excellence.

Kurt's scholarship on the subject of German-American landscape architects brings the contributions of forgotten landscape architects such as George Kessler to the forefront—inspiring advocates, historians, landscape architects, city planners and historic preservationists.

### **A Strategic and Stalwart Leader for Landscape Architecture**

Throughout his career, Kurt has emerged as a leader in every activity in which he has engaged. From 2002 to 2012, Kurt served as the Co-Chair of The Cultural Landscape Foundation shaping the organization as it grew and faced the challenges that many non-profits encounter in their formative years. With energy, enthusiasm, generosity, and strategic thinking, he worked with others to steadily develop the Foundation into the forceful and successful national entity that it is today. Through his leadership as former Chair of ASLA CEO Roundtable, and current Chair of the ASLA Council of Fellows, Kurt helps to pave the way for future leaders in the profession.

Kurt is an early proponent of and recognized leader in the field of evidence-based design and the application of landscape performance metrics to projects of all sizes. The Landscape Architecture Foundation annually selects projects for inclusion into their Landscape Performance Series Case Study Investigation, a research-based initiative demonstrating the measurable environmental, social, and economic value of sustainable landscapes. Under Kurt's leadership, Design Workshop has been recognized with 10 Performance Case Studies – more than any other landscape architecture firm. A profuse and influential writer, his work includes published articles on a wide range of topics, including civic engagement, practice-based research, landscape history and sustainable development, as well as five monographs by Design Workshop. In recent years, Kurt has turned his attention to issues of environmental justice, elevating the discourse and championing the creation of ASLA's Environmental Justice Professional Practice Network.

### **Influencing the Design Profession One Project at a Time**

Perhaps the attribute that contributes most to Kurt's worthiness of this honor is the integrity, depth of inquiry, rigorous research and pursuit of design excellence embedded within his own portfolio of landscape architecture projects. He is particularly adept at large-scale complex design problems that require the ability to synthesize a myriad of issues, to engage stakeholders and to resolve complicated political situations. His skill at navigating difficult, but important projects to build broad consensus is clearly recognized by the profession through seven National ASLA Awards and dozens of Regional and State ASLA Awards.

#### **Defining New Models and Metrics for Community Sustainability**

Through his work, Kurt has established a model of "sustainable development planning" defining communities that promote stability between both physical and social systems. At High Desert, rather than implementing a typical development model, Kurt led an in-depth land analysis and planning process that connects the community to the deeper character of the landscape and sensitively incorporated approximately 2,000 homes into the fragile desert environment. As a result, the City of Albuquerque drew upon the community's guidelines as a model for municipal water conservation ordinances and the State of New Mexico instituted similar night-sky protection measures. After nearly 20 years, the plan's notable environmental and social advancements continue to influence decision making in the region.

#### **Establishing Livable Communities through Transportation Alternatives**

Kurt's experience in corridor planning and his commitment to 21st century mobility solutions has encompassed projects including transit-oriented development studies, site specific design for station areas, and complete streets design and implementation. His projects, such as the South Grand Great Street's Initiative (ASLA National Honor Award in Analysis & Planning), have resulted in vibrant districts and neighborhoods that are socially and economically dynamic places that induce civic investment, encourage joint ventures and measurably increase land values.

## Reimagining the Urban Community Fabric

Kurt is a leader in the revitalization of contaminated, abandoned, idled or underutilized industrial brownfields. In projects such as New Orleans' 3.1-mile Lafitte Greenway (ASLA National Award of Excellence in Analysis & Planning) and Denver's 65-acre Riverfront Commons (ULI Global Award of Excellence), transformative results have inspired new uses for the land, positive economic outcomes for both the private and public sectors and environmentally responsible stewardship.

## Balancing Environmental and Economic Success for Regions

Many of Kurt's major contributions to improving the quality of communities lie in the plans and policies he has developed that effectively achieve both economic and environmental goals. His teams have developed plans on a large-scale for regions throughout the world, including a Strategic Plan for Petra in Jordan (APA National The Pierre L'Enfant International Planning Award) and the Flathead County Comprehensive Plan in Montana (ASLA National Honor Award in Analysis & Planning).

The profession of landscape architecture has evolved to a leadership position in shaping the built environment, especially recently as we lead multidisciplinary teams to develop design solutions to complex environmental, social and economic problems. Notably, Kurt has embraced this role for his entire career, carving the path for others to succeed so formidably in today's practice. I once overheard Kurt say in a moment of reflection that "landscape architecture is not a profession, it's a calling." How fortunate we are that Kurt found his calling early in life and applied to this profession his vision, his concern about the sustainability of the planet and social equity, his strategic approach, and his true passion for convening and connecting people and process to get things done. On behalf of the Louisiana ASLA Chapter and the entire profession, we are honored to submit this nomination so that Kurt's lifetime achievements can be recognized. As anyone who has encountered Kurt Culbertson knows, this is a man of relentless passion, formidable intelligence, and genuine heart whose contributions to the practice and culture of landscape architecture have had a unique and lasting impact on designed spaces for the wellbeing of the public and the planet.

Best regards,



Greg Grandy  
President, Louisiana ASLA Chapter

## EDUCATION

PhD in Landscape Architecture - 2012 to present  
Edinburgh College of Art – Edinburgh, Scotland

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture - 1976  
Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Master of Business Administration in Real Estate - 1979  
Southern Methodist University – Dallas, Texas

## CERTIFICATION

Registered Landscape Architect in 13 States  
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)  
Construction Document Technician (CDT)  
National Charrette Institute Facilitator  
Form-Based Code Institute  
Colorado Real Estate Broker License  
USGBC LEED Accredited Professional v2.1

## ACADEMIC PURSUITS

John G. Williams Distinguished Professor, University of Arkansas

University of Texas at Austin, Adjunct Professor

Louisiana State University, Robert S. Reich Teaching Professor

Design Weeks at Utah State University (2015), Texas A&M University (2013), Clemson University (2011), Florida A&M (2006), Kansas State University (2009), Ball State University (2005), University of Illinois (2005), Penn State (2004)

## HONORARY POSITIONS

Fellow: American Society of Landscape Architects

Fellow: American Institute of Certified Planners

Fellow: Institute for Urban Design

Member: United States Green Building Council

Member: American Institute of Certified Planners

Member: Urban Land Institute, Recreation Council

National Trust for Historic Preservation

World Presidents Organization

International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism

Summer Fellow: Dumbarton Oaks, Center for Studies in Landscape Architecture

Outstanding Senior Landscape Architect, Colorado ASLA

Fulbright Scholar: Institute of Tourism, Vienna University of Economics

## PUBLIC SERVICE

Chair, ASLA Fellow Chapter

Chair, ASLA CEO Roundtable

Co-Chair, The Cultural Landscape Foundation

Juror, ASLA National Planning and Urban Design Awards

Juror, ASLA National Research and Communication Awards

Advisory Board, NCAT Department of Landscape Architecture

Advisory Board, LSU Department of Landscape Architecture

Fundraising, Robert "Doc" Reich School of Landscape Architecture

Director, Colorado American Society of Landscape Architects

Trustee, Colorado Commission of Community Colleges & Occupational Education

Colorado Governor's Transition Team for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chair, Young President's Organization Rocky Mountain Chapter

Colorado Governor's Smart Growth Committee on the Environment

## SELECTED AWARDS

### NATIONAL AWARDS

2014: National ASLA Honor Award in Analysis & Planning – Houston Arboretum & Nature Center Master Plan  
2014: Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission Competition – Memorial Commemorating: 200th Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans  
2013: National ASLA Award of Excellence in Analysis & Planning – Lafitte Greenway Corridor Revitalization Plan  
2011: National ASLA Honor Award for Analysis & Planning – St. Louis South Grand Boulevard  
2011: National APA The Pierre L’Enfant International Planning Award – Strategic Plan for the Petra Region, Jordan  
2010: Form-Based Codes Institute Driehaus Form-Based Code Awards - The Denver Commons Code  
2000: National ASLA Merit Award in Analysis & Planning – Canyon Forest Village Master Plan  
2009: Urban Land Institute Award of Excellence Finalist – Denver Riverfront Commons  
2009: Congress for New Urbanism Charter Award – Denver Riverfront Commons  
2008: National ASLA Firm of the Year  
2000: National ASLA Merit Award in Planning – Canyon Forest Village Master Plan  
1995: National ASLA Honor Award in Analysis & Planning – Flathead County Master Plan  
1991: Canadian & National ASLA Honor Awards – Bow Canmore Visual Impact Assessment

### REGIONAL & STATE ASLA AWARDS

2014: Colorado ASLA Honor Award in Residential Design – Willoughby Woodland  
2013: Colorado ASLA Honor Award in Residential Design – Tiehack Retreat  
2013: Central States ASLA Honor Award in Analysis & Planning – Wichita Midtown Neighborhood Transportation and Streetscape Plan  
2011: Colorado ASLA Honor Award in Residential Design – Residence at Red Butte  
2011: Colorado ASLA Merit Award in Analysis & Planning, Land Stewardship Award – Amaranth  
2011: Colorado ASLA Honor Award in Planning – Strategic Plan for the Petra Region, Jordan  
2010: Central States ASLA Honor Award in Analysis & Planning – St. Louis South Grand Boulevard  
2009: Colorado ASLA Honor Award in Residential Design – Red Butte Guesthouse  
2009: Minnesota ASLA Honor Award in Analysis & Planning – UMore Park  
2009: Colorado ASLA Merit Award for Planning, Land Stewardship Award – UMore Park  
2004: North Carolina ASLA Honor Award – Inn on Biltmore Estate  
1998: Colorado ASLA in Honor Award in Analysis & Planning – Chalalan Ecolodge at Madidi National Park, Bolivia  
1997: Community Award of Excellence, City of Albuquerque Environmental Planning Commission – High Desert Community  
1996: Colorado Governor’s Office Smart Growth Award – San Luis Valley Trails and Recreation Master Plan

## SELECTED RECENT ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

*Documentation Standards for Landscape Architecture*, Kurt Culbertson, Paul Squadrito, Chuck Ware, et al, Wiley Press, 2014.

“The Fuller Measure,” *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, April 2011.

“Toward A National Research Agenda,” *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, November, 2011.

“Reinventing the Strip,” *Planning*, June, 2010.

“Beyond LEED,” *Urban Land*, June, 2009.

“Sustainability in Strategy,” *Design Intelligence*, February, 2008.

Culbertson, et al, *Political Economies of Landscape Change: Places of Integrative Power*, Springer, 2007.

“Moving to the Mountains” *Proceedings, Power of Place Conference*, Chicago, Illinois, 2004.

“Almost Heaven: Amenity Migration Along the Blue Ridge”, *Amenity Migration*, Wiley Press, 2004.

*Landschaft und Gartenkunst: The Germanic Influence in the Development of American Landscape Architecture*, currently being reviewed for publication by Center for American Places, 2004.



## PUBLICATIONS



## DESIGN WEEK PRO-BONO EFFORT

Over 10 Universities and 1,600 Students



## Professional Practice Networks



### Environmental Justice

Environmental justice addresses issues of: (1) unequal distribution of resources such as clean air and water, healthy food, homes, parks, places to walk and sit in public, etc.; (2) inaccessibility of public goods and resources because of transportation, cost or discrimination; and (3) exclusion from facilities and full participation in decisions about one's community largely because of poverty, language, race, income, recent immigration, or other marginal status. Landscape architects increase or diminish environmental justice by nearly every act of planning and design, either knowingly or unwittingly.

Website: [eej.org/justice](http://eej.org/justice)

**THE CULTURAL  
LANDSCAPE FOUNDATION**  
Co-Chair 2002-2012

**ASLA'S PPN  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**  
Spearheading a New PPN

## DEFINING NEW MODELS & METRICS FOR COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

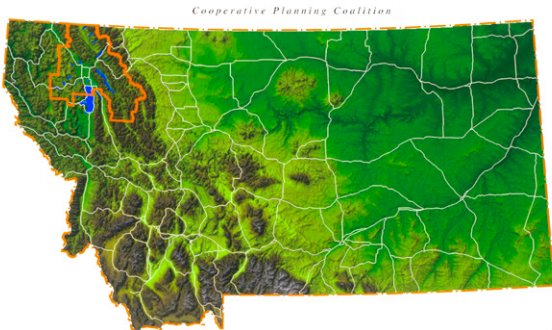


High Desert Community | New Mexico  
Landscape Architecture Foundation Performance Case



Houston Arboretum & Nature Center | Texas  
National ASLA Honor Award in Analysis & Planning

## BALANCING ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC SUCCESS FOR REGIONS



Flathead County Master Plan | Montana  
National ASLA Honor Award in Analysis & Planning



Strategic Master Plan for the Petra Region | Jordan  
The Pierre L'Enfant International APA Planning Award

## DEFINING SUCCESS THROUGH PERFORMANCE-BASED DESIGN



Willoughby Woodland | Colorado  
Landscape Architecture Foundation Performance Case Study



St. Louis South Grand Streets Initiative | Missouri  
National ASLA Honor Award in Analysis & Planning

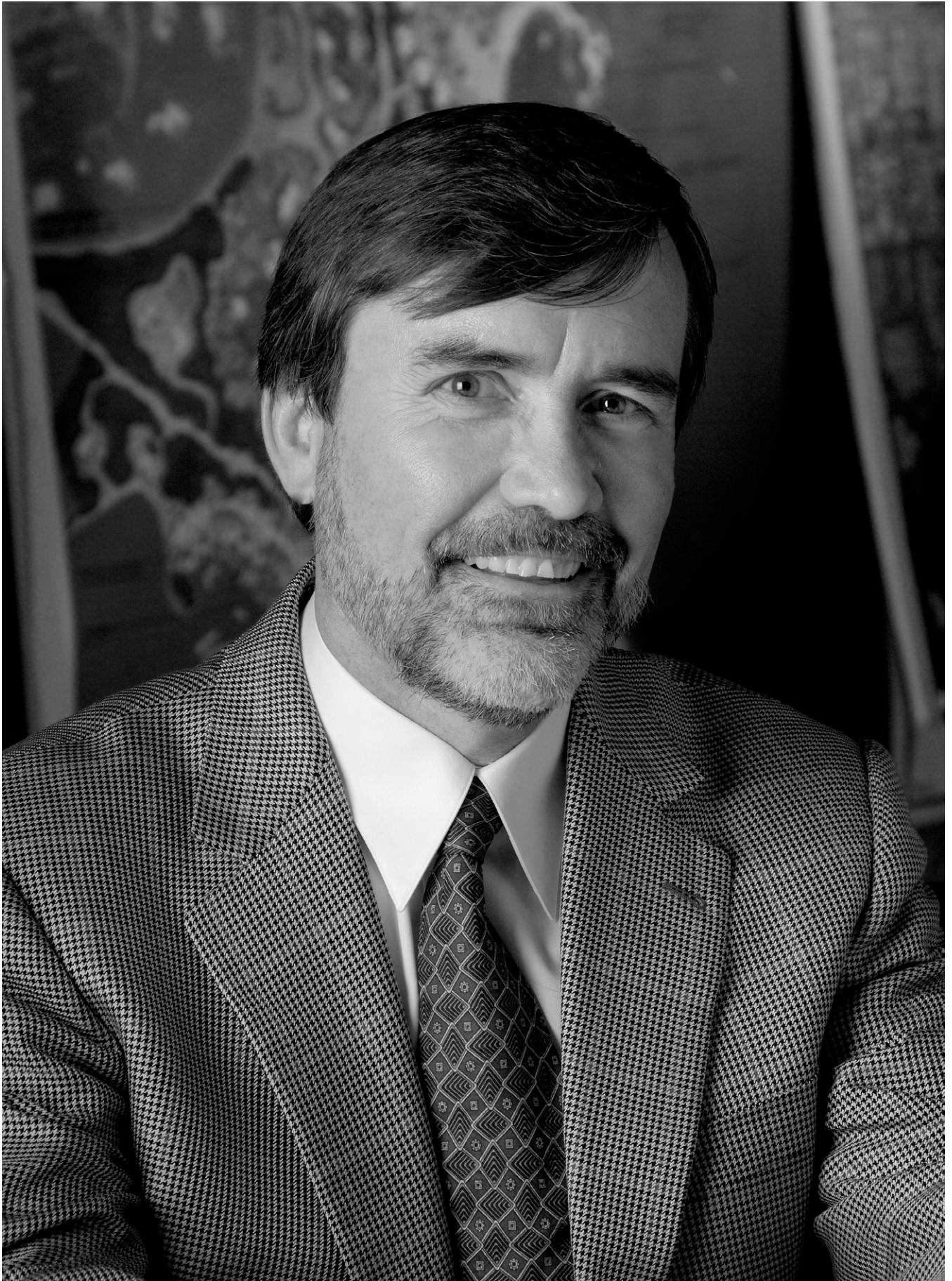
## REIMAGINING THE URBAN COMMUNITY FABRIC



Lafitte Greenway & Revitalization Corridor | Louisiana  
National ASLA Award of Excellence in Analysis & Planning



Riverfront Park | Colorado  
ULI Global Award of Excellence, CNU Plan of the Year



**KURT CULBERTSON, FASLA, FAICP**



March 22, 2016

ASLA Medal Nominations  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

It is my honor to enthusiastically recommend Kurt Culbertson for a 2016 ASLA Medal for lifetime achievement and continued significant contribution to the profession of landscape architecture. I have known Mr. Culbertson for more than 20 years and have been consistently impressed by his leadership skills and commitment to landscape architecture and planning. I have worked in landscape architecture since 1972 and landscape architecture education since 1977 and have known most of the contemporary leaders in the profession. Mr. Culbertson compares most favorably to others who have received this high honor.

Mr. Culbertson leads the firm Design Workshop, an interdisciplinary planning practice with offices in eight locations in the United States and two overseas. The firm is especially regarded for its innovations in many areas of practice, including land-use and comprehensive planning, urban design, resort planning, parks and open space, residential gardens, and new community design and planning. Design Workshop has adopted and significantly refined Ian McHarg's "design with nature" method with computer technology and advanced suitability analysis methods.

In addition to his practice, Mr. Culbertson maintains a strong interest in research and teaching. He has been invited to lecture and serve as a guest critic at several universities and taught a studio for us at The University of Texas at Austin, where he proved to be an excellent and inspiring teacher. In fact, he and Design Workshop helped us launch our new Master of Landscape Architecture degree in the early 2000s. Through his teaching, lectures, and studio reviews, Mr. Culbertson has established himself as an important role model for students within the landscape architecture and planning professions.

Mr. Culbertson has advanced the environmental planning legacy of the founders of Design Workshop and is a long-time leader in sustainable development. Communities from around the world have benefitted socially, economically, and aesthetically from his projects. For instance, a Design Workshop project was among the first to receive certification in the pilot stage of the new SITES rating system and has three projects currently going through the SITES V2 process. As an active writer, Mr. Culbertson has contributed many articles to *Landscape Architecture*

Kurt Culbertson  
March 22, 2016  
Page 2

*Magazine*, *Urban Land*, and *Planning* and has published several chapters in books. His body of written work has vastly contributed to our knowledge of best practices in the landscape architecture profession and beyond.

Kurt Culbertson is an enthusiastic, outgoing individual. He is worthy of this esteemed honor and I cannot think of a better individual to recognize for their lifetime contributions to landscape architecture than Kurt Culbertson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick R. Steiner". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "F" and "R" that cross each other, followed by "Steiner" in a cursive script.

Frederick R. Steiner, FASLA  
Dean  
Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture  
FS: rm





LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

1129 20TH STREET NW | SUITE 202 | WASHINGTON DC 20036 | 202 331 7070 | WWW.LAFFOUNDATION.ORG

March 23, 2016

ASLA Medal Nominations  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

I am honored and delighted to write this letter of support for Kurt Culbertson, FASLA for the 2016 ASLA Medal. Kurt's innovative leadership with practice-based research and justice issues has made a much needed and vital contribution to the profession, both on his own and in partnership with Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) and other organizations.

I have known Kurt since I joined LAF in May 2009 and appreciated his generous support as we were developing LAF's new long-term strategic research initiative, the *Landscape Performance Series*. DesignWorkshop had developed its own proprietary DW Legacy Design practice model which used similar principles and practices of performance planning, measurement, evaluation to create value for clients and design more sustainable solutions. Kurt recognized the opportunity to integrate this research approach into practice at a larger scale through LAF and shared information, experience, and DW's talent to ensure success.

Kurt applies equal passion in advancing social and environmental justice issues in the profession as well. Like in research, Kurt, unsolicited, approached LAF to discuss the issues and work together to identify strategies through LAF's scholarships programs and *Olmsted Scholars Program*. He has been instrumental in leading a conversation about justice issues at ASLA sessions and starting a petition which successfully established a professional practice network. These initiatives are already transforming the profession in a very short period of time.

Kurt's legacy of leadership in research and justice issues is quite unique, inspiring and extraordinary. I appreciate your kind consideration of his nomination for the ASLA Medal and recognition of the profound relevance of these issues to advance the profession and achieve its full potential.

Sincerely,

Barbara Deutsch  
Executive Director

March 20, 2016

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

Re: Support Letter for Kurt Culbertson, FASLA  
ASLA Medal

Dear Trustees:

It is my pleasure to offer a letter of support for Kurt Culbertson, FASLA who is being nominated for the ASLA Medal. I have known Kurt since 1970 when we were freshman in landscape architecture at Louisiana State University. Over the years, we have taken different paths in the profession but our paths have merged many times.

Kurt successfully directs an award winning international planning and design firm. He has a number of professional affiliations, and extensive teaching experience. Kurt has amass a number of honors and awards. He has always engaged and continues to engage in public and professional service. Kurt has written a number of professional articles, and under his leadership, Design Workshop, Inc., has published a several of books.

Kurt Culbertson is always thinking and doing. One of his associates commented that he seems always to be the smartest person in the room. He is a go-getter. The best word that describe Kurt is "**activist**". We in the design and planning profession are lucky to have a person such as Kurt. For example, in the early eighties Kurt fought for cheaper professional liability insurance. He quietly advocated for minority participation in landscape architecture and environmental justice. He looks out for the underdog and takes on difficult issues. Kurt assisted North Carolina A&T State University's Landscape Architecture Program in its development and direction in many ways during my 25 year tenure.

Kurt pushed for lifelong learning in his office for all of his associates. Currently he is pursuing a PhD in landscape architecture at the University of Edinburgh.

Kurt Culbertson accumulated a body of work that makes him the perfect candidate for the ASLA Medal.

Best Regards,



Perry Howard, FASLA  
MAKING STUFF STUDIOS  
300 S. AYCOCK ST.  
GREENSBORO, NC 27403  
(336) 202-7071

March 25, 2016

ASLA Medal Nomination  
C/O Carolyn Mitchell  
363 Eye Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

RE: ASLA Medal, Kurt Culbertson, FASLA, FAICP

Dear Executive Committee Members and Board of Trustees,

I take great pleasure in supporting Kurt Culbertson's nomination for the 2016 ASLA Medal.

For 38 years, I have watched Kurt push himself, Design Workshop and the profession of landscape architecture toward excellence. He has done this through his body of work, his inquisitive nature and communication skills and by building respect for the profession through broad collaboration with communities and allied professions. I believe his contributions will have a lasting impact on the profession of landscape architecture, the welfare of the public and the environment and are worthy of the ASLA Medal.

Design Workshop opened in 1969 and by 1978 had evolved to the point that we needed serious business intervention. I had taught at LSU and called Dr. Robert Reich, head of the Landscape Architecture Department, looking for a landscape architect with a sense of business. He recommended Kurt.

Kurt had already earned a MBA but was more passionate about landscape architecture than business. When he later became president of Design Workshop, he was concerned that managing the firm would not provide the same sense of accomplishment as working on projects. Once he became president, there was no turning back, and he has accomplished both with remarkable success.

Kurt works at a variety of scales in multiple practice areas. He instinctively investigates, challenges, tests and collaborates as well as writes and lectures about the lessons of his work, while always thinking outside of the box. His contributions go beyond creating excellent projects; they build on the body of knowledge and best practices in his areas of work. The following outlines his major areas of practice and snapshots of works in each area. All of these works have received ASLA awards, and most have been published in professional journals.

- **Regional and natural resource planning in the Intermountain West:** Flathead County Master Plan, Montana; San Luis Valley Trails and Recreation Plan, San Luis Valley, Colorado.
- **Tourism planning and resort design:** Canyon Forest Village at the Grand Canyon; The Inn at Biltmore Estate in Ashville NC; and elements of most ski communities and resorts in the Western US.
- **New communities and redevelopment of existing communities:** High Desert Community Master Plan and the High Desert Sustainable Community Standards, Albuquerque, NM; UMore Park new community, Rosemount, Minnesota; and Gates Rubber Plant Redevelopment Plan, a brownfield development in Denver, Colorado.
- **Urban Design of transportation and green infrastructure corridors:** South Grand Boulevard, part of "Great Streets Initiative," St. Louis, Missouri; Lafitte Greenway and Revitalization Corridor, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- **Parks and gardens:** Crown Residence, Aspen, Colorado; Red Butte Ranch Guesthouse, Pitkin County, Colorado; Lafayette Central Park, Lafayette, Louisiana
- **International:** Petra Strategic Master Plan, Wadi Musa, Jordan; Chalalan Eco Lodge: Madid National Park, Brazil.

Kurt's current activities demonstrate his capacity to influence areas in which he practices. Issues of sustainability, urbanization, and social and economic inequity have added complexity to the practice of landscape architecture. Design Workshop partners have decided to respond to these challenges by increasing the firm's emphasis on comprehensiveness and to more rigorously apply the values of environment, art, community and economics in the company's work. This has turned out to be a difficult management challenge. It has required empowering employees to learn and to champion new values; to expand collaboration; to test and to patiently integrate new ideals into projects and most importantly to measure success. This is a firm-wide collaboration, but Kurt has charted the course and is a moving force behind the change.

Results of the efforts of working toward greater comprehensiveness are finding their way into the profession's discourse. For example: "The Measured Response" (Landscape Architecture magazine, March, 2012) reported on Design Workshop's progress in applying Kurt's long-term work in applying the use of metrics to measure success; the ASLA recently approved the Professional Practice Network for Environmental Justice, organized by Kurt and Randy Hester; and Design Workshop's staff submitted eleven different programs relating to metrics and the deeper integration of the values of environment, art, community and economics for presentation at the 2015 ASLA National Meeting. All were accepted.

Kurt's energy is endless. He is possessed by ideas and probably has more communication and correspondence with landscape architects and allied professionals than any single person in the profession.

Malcolm Gladwell characterized people who influence change in Tipping Point as "connectors" who know large numbers of people in a community, have a habit of making introductions, and are essentially the social equivalent of a computer network hub. "Mavens" are "information specialists" who accumulate knowledge and know how to share it with others.

Kurt is a connector and a landscape architecture Maven. He is a writer, teacher, researcher, historian, manager and motivator with a stated purpose to leave the world better than he found it. His writings range from books about the life and work of landscape architect George Kessler and the influence of German Landscape architects on the American Landscape to articles relating to his own areas of work and methods of practice.

Kurt, the educator, created "Design Week," a program in which he and a team from Design Workshop lead students in architecture, landscape architecture, planning and business through an intense weeklong workshop to collaborate in designing solutions for a local community issue. The week includes exercises in team building, class lectures, a public lecture by Kurt, team presentations to the client and a jury-selected winner. In recent years Kurt has taken Design Week to Kansas State, Florida A&M, Ball State, University of Illinois, Texas A&M and Utah State.

Kurt has done exemplary work and has spent a career of tirelessly pushing all of us to move beyond our comfort zones to expand our thinking and the capacity of the profession. I encourage you to recognize Kurt's contribution by awarding him the 2016 ASLA Medal,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe A. Porter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe A. Porter, FASLA  
Founding Partner, Design Workshop, Inc.

**Anne Whiston Spirn**  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
Department of Architecture  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, 10-485  
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307  
spirn@mit.edu  
www.annewhistonspirn.com

March 23, 2016

ASLA Medal Nomination  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Colleagues

I am writing in support of Kurt Culbertson's nomination for the ASLA Medal. He is an exceptional candidate. His leadership and contributions to the profession are many and diverse, from his award-winning practice to his profound service to the profession, which he has sustained over the course of his entire career.

I have known Kurt by reputation for many years, but only got to know him a few years ago when he asked for my help in promoting minority inclusion in landscape architecture and raising consciousness around environmental justice issues. It was due to his commitment and leadership that ASLA's Environmental Justice Professional Practice Network was established recently. He drew together a core group and organized the panel on "Social Justice: The New Green Infrastructure" for the 2014 ASLA Conference, which drew a large crowd and generated animated discussion. He and members of his office followed up with further and persistent organizing. Since then, he has led and will lead panels on the topic at the 2015 and 2016 ASLA national meetings. From my experience working with Kurt on this issue, I have no doubt that he brings similar commitment, passion, determination, and effective leadership to all his work.

For his many accomplishments and for his deep commitment to advancing the profession, Kurt Culbertson has my strongest support for ASLA Medalist.

Sincerely,



Anne Whiston Spirn  
Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning