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Re: Community Service Award: Martin Barry

Martin Barry, is the founder and director of reSITE in Prague and former associate at W Architecture and Landscape Architecture in New York. At W Architecture, he filled multiple roles for projects of various scales for public and private clients around the world. Martin is a prolific speaker on the topic about the role of landscape architecture in planning the city; over the last 4 years, he has given over 25 public, professional and academic lectures. From 2012 to 2014, he was the Green Infrastructure Fellow at the Design Trust for Public Space, working on the Five Borough Farm urban agriculture study and publications. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Loyola College and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Syracuse University.

Outside of his notable and traditional role within a successful landscape architecture firm, his volunteer work has taken on the proportions that many would consider a full-time position in its own right. As an urban design advocate, he founded reSITE in the Czech Republic while he was a Fulbright Scholar teaching landscape architecture and urbanism in Prague in 2011-2012. reSITE is a collaborative platform to exchange ideas about livable, resilient and competitive cities. Martin continues as the director of reSITE as it heads into its 5th year of successful programming, with its impact reaching around the globe. As its founder and director, Martin has dedicated 20-25 hours per week pro-bono to this effort, and has even donated his own personal funds toward the effort.

#### Philosophy of reSITE

Contemporary education and the practice of landscape architecture in the Czech Republic-and Central and Eastern Europe in general-is largely limited to garden and romantic park design with strong roots in the Beaux Arts garden tradition. Landscape architects are rarely integrated into design teams for large urban projects while planners, architects, engineers, and clients typically define a minimal role for them when they are included. Urbanists are more often than not architects who studied "architecture and urbanism," a building-centric pedagogy that focuses on buildings as bobbles and tools for urban development, a very outdated model of urban design and planning. Neither the architect or urbanist is well-equipped to study and/ or respond to the need for landscape and resiliency in the city. reSITE is working on various levels - academic, political, professional and municipal - to bring landscape architecture in the region into the present century. The organization is dedicated to "understanding the intersection of design, policy, culture and economy in a continually urbanizing world. We present findings and projects from internationally respected experts to a broad professional and general audience." Their simply stated goal is "We want to leave the city behind in better shape for the next generation than it is for this one. This is a long-term game, and reSITE is here to stay." The embrace of design encompasses science, politics, economics and culture in such a way that presents these concepts in a compelling and relevant way, with landscape architecture as a backbone for how these 21st century urban ideas can be realized.

Martin Barry and his team at reSITE are using various mechanisms to achieve change at all levels. They organize student and professional workshops, closed door policy meetings and forums, public festivals, professional conferences, landscape and public space competitions and exhibits. Already, the first program for landscape architecture and urban design has been started at Czech Technical University where Martin taught in 2011. And, the existing garden design degree programs are offering more workshops and studios which deal with the urban



landscape. In 2014, the City of Prague Planning and Development Institute, a close partner of reSITE, became the first city in the region to produce a Public Space Manual and green streets regulations, both of which are available for free to the public; this is a rare show of "green" ambition and transparency for the city.

The organization embraces 10 clear & actionable goals:

- Bridge the gap between designers, NGOs, municipal leaders, developers / investors
- · Increase awareness of international standards for urban design and planning
- Encourage collaboration between design disciplines
- Identify hurdles to proper planning in the Czech Republic
- · Advocate for institutional change in Czech planning and development
- Highlight visionary leadership that fosters creative, economically viable solutions
- Be a catalyst for public and private action
- · Engage the public in urban events, increasing sensitivity to urban environments
- Host international design competitions that encourage diverse teams to challenge the status quo in public space design
- Make urban design cool

## reSITE Impact

The reSITE Conference has grown consistently since their inaugural event, starting near 400 attendees and growing to over 700 last year. Thousands more have attended reSITE Festival public events. Beyond the physical conference, their reach has grown via the web, with 3,300 Facebook page likes and an average post reach of 5,800. During the month surrounding the conference, their website has a total of 22,241 page views during 7,163 sessions. Users were comprised of 4,100(57.2%) new visitors and 3,063 (42.8%) returning visitors, from 10 different countries. reSITE has also received tremendous press coverage, unsurprising given its unique model and compelling approach. Almost 20 Czech press and radio outlets covered the event. Internationally, the organization was highlighted in a number of publications, including ArchDaily, World Landscape Architecture and Urban Gateway.

### 4th Annual Conference, 2015

2015 marked the fourth-annual reSITE international festival and conference in Prague. The event - organized with Martin at the helm in collaboration with the Institute for Planning and Development in Prague - sought to connect the themes of a "Shared City", as the subtitle of the event described. Of this theme, Martin Barry said, "the Shared City is somewhat synonymous with the sharing economy in that it shall leverage technology, citizens, data and design to make the connections between people, goods and services more efficient." reSITE, as an international platform, presents the best examples of good practice from abroad and confronts them with our own approaches to urban design. reSITE goes far beyond discussions among specialized experts; the discussions focus on real people and real development. Quality of life in cities, city planning and development are crucial topics for every resident and visitor of a city. The two-day program consisted of presentations, workshops, lectures, and discussion panels that featured inspiring ideas, interesting solutions and unexpected encounters: diverse contributions with a common goal - to achieve a better life in our cities.

- More than 660 participants from government administration (137), architects & professionals (110), non-profit organizations & cultural institutions (83), academics (82), investors and developers (77) and journalists (70)
- Audience members from 23 countries, with speakers from 16 countries
- 3 exhibitions, 2 film screenings, 4 discussion, salons with international guests, 2 bike rides and a video-mapping installation
- Over 80 notable speakers, including:
  - James Corner, James Corner Field Operations, Founder, NYC
  - Jon Gnarr, author, former mayor, Reykjavik
  - Michael Sorkin, Architect, Professor, City College of New York, NYC



- Greg Clark, Urban Land Institute, Senior Fellow, London
- Henk Ovink, Rebuild by Design, Washington D.C., Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, The Netherlands
- Gabu Heindl, Gabu Heindl Architektur, Founder, Owner, Vienna
- Hiroki Matsuura, Maxwan, Partner, Rotterdam
- Adriana Krnacova, City of Prague, Mayor, Prague
- Kristien Ring, Self Made City, Berlin, Curator, Berlin
- Vitek Jezek, Rekola, Project coordinator, Prague
- Adam Gebrian, AG-ENT, Founder, Architecture Critic, Prague
- Szilvia Zsargo, Mindspace, Founding member, Budapest
- Jana Drapalova, City of Brno Novy Liskovec, Mayor, Brno
- Pavla Melkova, Prague Institute of Planning & Development, Director of the Urban Design Section, Prague
- Tessza Udvarhelyi, The City is For All, Co-founder, Budapest
- Gyula Balog, The City is For All, Activist, Budapest
- Petr Navrat, Prague Institute of Planning and Development, Team leader for public participation in planning, ONplan, Founding partner, Prague
- Lukas Feireiss, Studio Lukas Feireiss, Owner, Curator, Aedes, Advisory Board Member, Berlin
- Tanja Lahti, City of Helsinki Urban Facts, Project Manager, Helsinki
- Alfredo Brillembourg, Urban-Think Tank, Founding Partner, Caracas, Zurich
- Martin Barry, Founding director, reSITE, Prague
- Petr Hlavacek, Prague Institute of Planning and Development, Director, Prague
- Barbara Wilks, W Architecture & Landscape Architecture, Founder, New York
- Tomas Hudecek, City of Prague, Former Mayor, Prague
- Andreas Schwab, Vienna Central Station, Deputy Project Manager and Senior Expert, Vienna
- Anna Sienickam, TechSoup Foundation, Director, Warsaw
- Jiri Klokocka, Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, Architect, urbanist, Ghent, TU Liberec, Liberec
- Michael Brown, Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, CEO, Calgary
- Peter Brocka, City of Trnava, Mayor, Trnava

Preceding and in very close connection to the conference, reSITE and the Institute for Planning and Development in Prague (IPR) organized a one-day intensive workshop with experts from the United States, France, Serbia and Germany which was aimed at finding a contemporary and relevant development strategy in the area of the Prague Vaclav Havel airport.

Planning for the 2016 conference, "Cities in Migration" is already underway, to be held in June. The reach, complexity, and quality of these events continue to grow.

While the length of Martin's commitment may not span decades, the depth, intensity and impact of his pro-bono work is truly extraordinary and very much worthy of recognition from ASLA. As the originator and continued force leading reSITE, he has elevated our profession internationally, bringing landscape architecture to the forefront for a wide range of attendees and the high-profile speakers that he features.

Jeannette Compton ASLA-NY

W Architecture and Landscape Architecture, LLC

ASLA Washington DC

**RE: Community Service Award** 

Dear Selection Committee:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Martin Barry for the Community Service Award. Martin has recently left my firm to follow his dream full time, but had been a member of my firm for nine years prior. Back in 2010, with the recession upon us, I encouraged folks to be creative. Martin applied for and won a Fulbright to Prague. As a teacher there, he saw the need for landscape education, including especially civic landscapes. He also saw the need politically for a city wide conversation on their future--a forum for discussion. reSITE was born of this need, and has grown to an annual forum and catalyst on making cities more livable, competitive, and resilient. Landscape is of course a key component of this message.

As a speaker at reSITE in 2013 and 2015, I was excited by the energy at the conference, the diversity of participants, and the frankness of the discussions. Through his unflagging and tenacious work, Martin has created a much loved and revered place for the city of Prague to have an open, multi-disciplinary conversation about its future.

As the success of reSITE grew, so has Martin's responsibilities. In it's fifth year, he has left my firm to manage it full time. All the prior years, he managed to conduct this immense work thanks to: Skype and other long distance communication strategies, his developing staff in Prague, (which he has raised money to support) and his long pro bono hours. reSITE exemplifies how Martin identifies and seizes opportunities, and then works hard,- very hard, to make them happen. His commitment to the people of the city of Prague has led him to places he never imagined. This is what community service is all about. Furthermore, reSITE is showing the people of Eastern Europe how design can help them solve problems.

It is with no reservations that I recommend Martin Barry for the Community Service Award for his service to landscape architecture and the Prague community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wilks, FASLA, FAIA Principal 374 Fulton Street 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Floors Brooklyn, NY 11201

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It is my pleasure to write a nomination in support of Martin Barry's work for reSITE.

I have known Martin and his work as a landscape architect for many years. Many people know that Martin is the inspirator and organizer of the annual reSITE festival in Prague since 2011. Under his leadership the festival evolved into one of Europe's most important stages for debating urban trends related to the design profession.

I had the pleasure to attend the reSITE festival 2014 in Prague as a guest speaker. The festival hosts an inspiring group of important global thinkers, architects, designers, urban planners and developers who exchange their visions on future developments in public space, mobility and waterfronts in order to work towards the creation of liveable cities. reSITE is ingenious in creating a platform where new collaborations are forged, disciples are crossed, local meets global, new worlds are explored and fresh perspectives discussed. reSITE has become a high profile congress and influencer in both the design industry and real estate development.

Under the inspiring guidance, relentless energy and ambition of Martin Barry reSITE has grown to such a successful festival that it can count on a vast growing public in Europe. Martin's tireless pro bono work for the reSITE festival makes him the perfect recipient for the Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

Prof. Adriaan Geuze Director West8 urban design& landscape architecture

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# To the ASLA Board of Trustees;

New York Office 666 Broadway Ninth Floor New York, NY 10012 t: 212.677.7171 f: 212.353.2053 tpl.org

I am writing to support the nomination of Martin Barry for the ASLA Community Service Award. Martin has worked tirelessly to bring the art and science of landscape architecture to Prague, to the Czech Republic, and to Eastern Europe, through his creation of reSITE.

reSITE is a non-profit organization that Martin founded based on his time as a Fulbright Fellow in Prague, where in meeting residents who wanted to do something to help bring concepts of landscape urbanism and city planning to a city resplendent in medieval and renaissance architecture and plazas, but with little thought to how to be a city that provided resilient, sustainable, and beautiful open space. As with much of eastern Europe, there was little thought given to public space planning by communist leaders in the decades after World War II, and with new democracies meeting the economic forces of the free market, public space is often a victim of after-thought amid rampant commercial development.

In creating reSITE, Martin brought practitioners from around the world to Prague to speak in intensive, well-attended conferences, tour, work with officials and residents, and inspire citizens to want more and expect more from their leaders. I was one of those practitioners, and I was genuinely inspired by Martin's work and the huge enthusiasm generated by it among the people of Prague.

Now mayoral candidates and other leaders are calling for changes in how the city is planned and how public spaces are created and designed. Prague residents young and old are now want and demand more for their city, thanks to Martin's extraordinary commitment and diplomacy, and his work on behalf of landscape architecture and city planning.

Sincerely,

John Baren

Adrian Benepe Senior Vice President Director of City Park Development



141 Convent Avenue Room 2M24 New York, New York 10031

> Telephone 212.650.6869 212.650.7118 FAX 212.650.6566

# MICHAEL SORKIN, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR DIRECTOR, MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN PROGRAM

# BERNARD & ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write in support of Martin Barry's nomination for an award from the ASLA for his work in founding, organizing, husbanding, and growing the marvelous reSITE. I've known about reSITE (and Martin) for several years and had the great honor of speaking at the event last Spring. It was surely one of the most stimulating, well-organized, and engaging conferences I've attended! As someone who is no stranger to shoe-string operations, I have scarcely seen an effort that can compare to this in terms of dedication, seriousness of purpose, and success. These conferences have become major events in Prague and their ripples of influence have reached the corners of the world. Their combination of relevance, liveliness, seriousness and outreach are unique. And, I know from independent contacts in the Czech Republic what this interchange and support means to that community.

Landscape architecture, urbanism, and the future of the planetary environment have no better, wiser, or more committed ambassador than Martin Barry.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Sorkin Distinguished Professor Principal, Michael Sorkin Studio President, Terreform



**CRUX** *lab* Coastal Resilience and Urban eXcellence

TO: ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees

My impression of the reSITE program is that it is perhaps the most valuable new gathering globally for the design of cities. It is purposeful: Martin Barry has brought a new perspective to central Europe, one that empowers people to change their cities for the better. The value of this empowerment cannot be understated for a populace coming out from a history of communist rule.

I have seen first hand how Martin, through the boldness, quality and engagement of the reSITE program has changed people's lives and their outlooks. He has inspired them to change, and given them access to people who have likewise changed their cities, as speakers at reSITE. Finally, Martin is an inspiration to other landscape architects who seek a leading role in their societies. He conceived reSITE, he organized reSITE, he funded reSITE, he made reSITE a reality.

Martin Barry deserves recognition for this awesome feat, and kudos for the artistry with which he did it. But more than anything, he deserves recognition so that other young landscape architects will know that it is possible to take the future in their own hands, and shape it.

Sincerely,

Alexandros Washburn Industry Professor of Design Director, CRUXlab awashbur@stevens.edu