

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Chase Rynd, Executive Director, National Building Museum

Nominee's Address: 401 F Street, NW

City/State/Zip: Washington, DC 20001

Phone: 202-272-2448

Nominator: Liesel Fenner, RLA, ASLA

Please describe the nominee's achievements of national or international significance or influence and how they have benefited the profession of landscape architecture (no more than two pages, single-spaced, typed).

Mr. Rynd has served as Executive Director of the National Building Museum (NBM) for ten years and has strengthened and broadened the Museum's programming to specifically advance landscape architecture. During his tenure, the diversity of programs has exponentially increased including lectures and exhibitions addressing the multi-pronged areas of practice landscape architects address today.

The NBM now provides CEU units for landscape architects providing requisite professional development programming critical for landscape architects to maintain licensure. These outstanding professional development programs have brought to DC, leading thinkers and practitioners of our time, further advancing landscape architectural practice and promotion of the profession.

NBM serves as an example of creative innovation under Mr. Rynd's leadership. Lectures, exhibits, workshop symposia as well as children's education and outreach, all combined have addressed landscape architecture. Sustainability and green building including smart growth, storm water management, and transportation alternatives are education programs advancing the visibility of landscape architects. Urban design, an integral component of landscape architecture practice is notably a constant of NBM programs as is education about new technologies in design practice.

Mr. Rynd advances the landscape architecture profession beyond the NBM. He is active in building and development projects around the District. He participated in the development of programming for the 14th Street corridor and the Columbia Heights neighborhood. He has also taken a role in the Southwest neighborhood development in concert with the National Capital Planning Commission, both areas, examples of the participation and leadership of landscape architects at the local level. Many NBM exhibitions have traveled and gone on to advance the profession of landscape architecture and role of landscape architects nationally and internationally.

We learn from the past and Mr. Rynd has promoted the importance of landscape architecture history and cultural landscapes through programs addressing historic preservation including the initiation of the profession in the U.S. by Frederick Law Olmsted.

For 2013, I know of no other allied professional more deserving of membership. May the selection committee include Mr. Rynd in this year's selection and continue cross partnering to advance our shared mission and goals. Mr. Rynd's exemplary leadership advances landscape architecture. Let us honor his leadership with Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liesel Fenner".

Liesel Fenner, RLA ASLA



March 7, 2013

American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Selection Panel:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Chase Rynd, for his nomination for honorary fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Chase has had a distinguished career helping raise the profile of excellence in design. He is a nationally recognized leader in the museum and arts communities, as well as architecture, urban planning, landscape design, engineering and sustainable design.

His leadership at the National Building Museum has raised the profile of the institution both nationally and locally. The Museum has become the go-to venue in D.C. for discussions about the many facets of the built environment. Under his guidance, the museum has expanded its offerings to include a wide range of public programs from scholarly discussions for professionals, workshops for educators, to engaging educational programs for students and families. The Museum's popular construction tours and neighborhood walking tours have helped make issues like sustainable, livable neighborhoods everyday topics of conversation in our city.

At the Museum, Chase has overseen the development of a national middle school curriculum called the Green Community Teaching Kit, which provides a comprehensive approach to studying green communities. The engaging curriculum includes an exercise where students create a model green community. For high school students, the Museum now offers in-depth workshops for teens that highlight the many professional opportunities related to the built environment.

In the six plus years that I have served as Chief Librarian for DC Public Library, Chase has been one of my strongest supporters in the community, helping communicate the vital role that architecture and sustainable design play in the health and vitality of communities. Chase and the National Building Museum have served as a critical partner for DC Public Library as we worked to transform the 26-building system, rebuilding or renovating 14 buildings. The Museum organized construction tours of our buildings, which helped raise the profile of the library and the environmentally sustainable aspects of these projects. His strong support and advocacy early on, laid the groundwork for broader community support and ultimately set a high design bar for future projects that the community has now come to expect.

Thank you for your consideration of the well-deserved honor for Chase.

Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian

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March 7, 2013

Honorary Member Selection Panel
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear ASLA Selection Panel,

This letter serves to formally nominate Chase Rynd, Executive Director of the National Building Museum as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. As a nominator may I offer a brief introduction:

Mr. Rynd has long served as an advocate, educator and presenter of landscape architecture programs and exhibitions in his role as Executive Director at the National Building Museum. Moreover, his leadership has served to advance landscape architectural design excellence specifically for the District of Columbia from the platform of a national museum. The Museum's almost ten-year exhibition 'Washington: Symbol and City' educated thousands of viewers both locals and visitors about the planning, design and neighborhood places that define our nation's capital. The ongoing 'Investigating Where we Live' education program has provided an introduction to design to hundreds of DC school children to better understand their neighborhood history and instill pride of place.

I encourage the review panel to favorably consider my nomination of Chase Rynd as an Honorary Member of the ASLA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Bedat'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Claire Bedat
President
ASLA Potomac Chapter