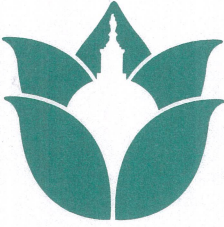


UNITED  
STATES



BOTANIC  
GARDEN

Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Board of Trustees:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (LBJWFC) for the Olmsted Medal. Having worked closely with many staff from the LBJWFC for a number of years, I can write with confidence that this organization is worthy of this prestigious award.

This organization has become a major leader in environmental leadership, enlightened vision, and land stewardship. Their willingness to take a leadership role in the Sustainable Sites Initiative has allowed the effort to make great advances and become an eventual reality. Their highly dedicated and talented staff have consistently demonstrated their commitment to quality environmentally sound design and research. Their current research includes green roofs, green walls, low water turf, and they have an extraordinary service through their website which is the National Plant Index Network.

In support of their clear mission, the LBJWFC has been ahead of their time in taking on the challenges of our landscapes with positive and innovative solutions that offer national outreach. These solutions are creating positive changes in the way we treat our natural environment.

Feel free to contact me if I can offer further information.

Sincerely,

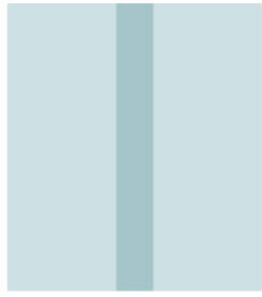
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly H. Shimizu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly H. Shimizu  
Executive Director  
United States Botanic Garden

245 First Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
Tel 202/225-8333  
Fax 202/225-1561



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Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

I am writing to enthusiastically nominate the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center for the 2008 Olmsted Medal. The Wildflower Center is deeply committed to the original vision of environmental stewardship that Mrs. Johnson embodied. Far before the environmental movement surged in the 1970's, Mrs. Johnson recognized the need to protect and preserve natural landscapes and their native plants. Now, native habitat loss is accepted as a primary risk to the health of our communities and the Wildflower Center is a national leader with established programs for conservation, restoration, research and education that safeguard our national heritage.

While collaborating with the Wildflower Center for more than five years working with the Sustainable Sites Initiative on behalf of ASLA I have seen several ways their commitment has had effective results. At a time when change is happening rapidly, the Wildflower Center adapts quickly to provide relevant responses. As one of the partners of the Sustainable Sites Initiative, they work to increase awareness of the value of ecosystems services and seek to accelerate change in the site industry marketplace. They have also partnered to make a carbon calculator available to shed light on the relationship between site disturbance and carbon impacts in a world beginning to grapple with the extent of its greenhouse gas emissions. As our world becomes more urban, their work now includes urban restoration efforts, conservation development strategies, seed banking and extensive research into green roof performance.

I continue to be impressed with the creative problem solving and persistence that characterizes the people at the Wildflower Center who are focused on accomplishing its goals. The Wildflower Center is an institution that takes effective action across many scales - to retain and highlight the ecosystems that sustain us, as well as protect and preserve plants that inspire a sense of place in our globalizing world.

The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower would be an outstanding recipient of the 2008 Olmsted Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deb Guenther". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Guenther, ASLA

Principal