

Honorary Membership Nomination  
c/o Terry Poltrack  
ASLA  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

**Honorary Membership  
Nomination Narrative**

Nominee: James A. Garland

Nominee's Address: Fluidity Design Consultants, 3780 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 230

City/State/Zip: Los Angeles CA 90010

Phone: WK: [213-739-9291](tel:213-739-9291) CELL: [323-899-6140](tel:323-899-6140)

Nominator: Dennis C McGlade, FASLA

I have known Jim Garland for well over 10 years, and have collaborated with him over most of those on various projects. I know him to be smart, ethical, conscientious, and very creative.

James (Jim) Garland founded Fluidity Design Consultants in 2002 after twenty years of practice in water design, architecture and urbanism.

Jim began working in water at Wet Design as a consultant in 1986 while maintaining private practice, then switching to full time in 1994 to ultimately become Wet's Director of Design. Jim's major projects included: Canal City Hakata (Fukuoka, Japan), Al Faisaliah (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia), Lisbon Expo '98 (Lisbon, Portugal) Millennium Park (Singapore), the Rose Garden Arena (Portland, Oregon), the Burj Al Arab (Dubai, UAE) and Water Tower Place (Chicago, USA). During this period, Jim also designed water features in Kuala Lumpur, Chicago, Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Berlin, Miami Beach and Houston.

Fluidity was established to create a new generation of water features conceived, crafted, and engineered for a more sustainable century with a fresh, invigorating aesthetic. Jim's work in such projects as the Hearst Building (New York City, USA), Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York City, USA), VivoCity (Singapore), Dubai Festival City (Dubai, UAE), Sheikh Khalifa Medical Center (Abu Dhabi, UAE), Myriad Gardens (Oklahoma, USA), Grand Park (Los Angeles, USA), Long Mu Bay (Hainan Island, China), Lusail Parks (Doha, Qatar), Santa Monica City Hall (Santa Monica, USA), Daesung D3 City (Seoul, South Korea), Z-15 Tower (Beijing, China) and 250 West 55th Street (New York City, USA) are all examples of Fluidity's advanced design initiative.

Jim holds a Master's degree in Architecture from UCLA, with a focus in architectural design and urban design. His undergraduate degree, also in architecture, was obtained from the University of Louisiana. Jim interned at Urban Innovations Group under Charles W. Moore, FAIA, an internationally celebrated architect who was known, among many things, for his enthusiastic and skillful use of water in architecture.

Jim is licensed in the United States, in California, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Oklahoma and Maryland. He has lectured at Harvard University, London's Architectural Association and the American Academy in Rome. In 1998, two of his sketchbooks were selected for exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute's National Design Museum.

Concurrently with directing Fluidity's design efforts, Jim is writing two books about fountains, one covering a 2,000 year history of best examples, and the other focusing on Fluidity's projects, with speculations on the future of water design.

In conclusion I feel Jim is an excellent candidate for membership in the Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Please find attached to this email Jim's curriculum vitae, photo and additional letters of support for Jim's nomination to FASLA.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis C McGlade".

Dennis C McGlade, FASLA  
ASLA # 736656



## JAMES GARLAND AIA, NCARB, President

James Garland founded Fluidity Design Consultants in 2002 after twenty years of practice in water design, architecture and urbanism. He holds a Master's degree in Architecture from UCLA, where he also studied urban design. James interned at Urban Innovations Group under Charles W. Moore, FAIA, the internationally celebrated architect who was known, among many things, for his use of water. After seven years as a periodic consultant with Wet Design, James accepted a full time position in 1994, where he became the director of the design department. Jim's major projects at Wet included: Lisbon Expo, Al Faisaliah, Rose Garden Arena, the Burj Al Arab, Canal City Hakata, and Water Tower Place.

James is licensed in the states of California, Florida, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Illinois, and Maryland. .He has lectured at Harvard University, London's Architectural Association and the American Academy in Rome. In 1998, two of his sketchbooks were exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute's National Design Museum. He is writing a comprehensive book on water design and history.

### MAJOR PROJECTS

Hearst Tower—New York City, USA

Metropolitan Museum of Art—New York City, USA

TDIC Headquarters—Abu Dhabi, UAE

Daesung D3 City—Seoul, South Korea

Camana Bay—Grand Cayman Island, BWI

Vivo City—Harbour Front Walk, Singapore

Roppongi Hills—Tokyo, Japan

Signature Place—St. Petersburg, USA

Myriad Gardens—Oklahoma City, USA

Sheik Khalifa Medical City—Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dubai Festival City—Dubai, UAE

Lusail Bridges—Doha, Qatar

Long Mu Bay Resort—Hainan Island, China

American Disabled Veteran's Memorial—

Washington DC, USA

Grand Park—Los Angeles, USA

Tongva Park —Los Angeles, USA

Klyde Warren Park—Dallas, USA

Sundance Square—Fort Worth, USA

Z-15 Tower—Beijing, China

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Design Principal. Initiates all conceptual designs and presents work to clients and associated design team.

*Fluidity Design Consultants Los Angeles*

## **EDUCATION**

Masters of Architecture—University of California, Los Angeles (1990)  
Bachelors of Architecture—University of Louisiana (1982)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Registered Member NCARB (2010 - Present)  
Registered Member The American Institute of Architects (1986 - Present)  
Registered Architect— California, Florida, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Illinois, and Maryland

YEARS WITH FIRM / YEARS IN PROFESSION: 13 (founder) / 33

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

2002 - Present	Fluidity Design Consultants	President and Design Principal
2000 - 2002	The Jerde Partnership	Associate Vice President
1990 - 1999	Wet Design	Design Director
1986 - 1988	Urban Innovations Group	Architect, Coordinator

*Fluidity Design Consultants Los Angeles*

**SWA Los Angeles**

January 29, 2018

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Letter of Recommendation for Honorary ASLA Membership for Jim Garland, AIA NCARB, Founder and President of Fluidity Design

To the Attention of the Honorary Membership Nomination Committee

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Gerdo P Aquino  
Ying-Yu Hung  
Kinder Baumgardner  
David Berkson  
René Bihani  
Scott Cooper  
Jeffrey Craft  
Marco Esposito  
Tom Fox  
David R Gal  
Cinda Gilliland  
Richard K Law  
Hui-Li Lee  
James Lee  
Margaret Leonard  
Chih-Wei Lin  
John Loomis  
Ye Luo  
Charles S McDaniel  
Ross Nadeau  
Sean O'Malley  
Timothy Peterson  
Lawrence Reed  
R Joseph Runco  
Kevin Shanley  
Elizabeth Shreeve  
David P Thompson  
James Vick  
John L Wong  
Xiao Zheng

Over the past decade, Jim Garland of Fluidity Design Consultants has been an invaluable partner to SWA's landscape and urban design projects in both domestic and international settings. Trained as an architect, Jim possesses both the necessary design sensibilities and the practical know-how to create memorable water feature designs. At every design meeting, Jim brings equal amounts of pragmatism and forward-thinking creativity, resulting in sustainability features that boost the final design's performance and utility to the client. In recent years Jim and his team at Fluidity has focused on sustainable systems including water recycling measures that have added ecological approaches to dramatic water effects. On top of his uncanny ability to deliver durable and creative water features, Jim has been a true partner in the sense that his team has been able to communicate seamlessly with diverse project partners and clients, as well as our own design staff. We believe that Jim Garland, AIA NCARB, is a worthy candidate for an Honorary ASLA membership after his many years of contributions to the field of landscape architecture.

Having Jim and Fluidity on our team has meant that we share a seamless understanding of being resource sensitive, and creating a designed experience that amplifies the natural features and beauty of the site. I have collaborated personally with Jim on the Mills Avenue Promenade in El Paso, as well as the Beverly Hills Hotel Bungalows in Los Angeles. Mills Avenue, a public water feature that requires ample attention to sustainability and public safety; vs Beverly Hills Hotel, a deliberately lush and luxurious hospitality landscape, are two contrasting projects at face value. Through our SWA Dallas office we have collaborated on several international projects where clients' appetite for a bold water feature design tends to be more vigorous. In each instance Jim led the Fluidity team to create water features that heighten the experience of the space, in complete synchronicity with our design aesthetic.

When I have the pleasure of collaborating with Jim, I look forward to his cutting-edge technological innovations, as well as his appreciation for the essential tenets of great design: to resonate with visitors and users on a fundamental level.

With this letter, we present a resounding support of Jim Garland's nomination to the ASLA Honorary Membership.

Best Regards,



Gerdo Aquino, FASLA  
CEO / Principal, SWA

**swa**

# KEN SMITH WORKSHOP

450 WEST 31ST STREET, FIFTH FLOOR, NEW YORK NY 10001\_212.791.3595\_www.kensmithworkshop.com

January 29, 2018

Dear Honorary ASLA Membership Committee,

It is my pleasure to support Jim Garland for honorary ASLA membership. I have worked with Jim on a number of projects over the past decade. Jim is a true artist. He is a master of water design and brings a level of excellence and sophistication to the conception of contemporary water features. His command of geometry and water mechanics allows him to create interesting and complex water feature forms often with an apparent minimalism and economy of means.

He is also a good collaborator who works well with project designers and teams. As a contributor to projects of landscape architecture, especially projects in the public realm, Jim has elevated the artistry and expectation of what water features can be and what they should be in contemporary landscape design.

Sincerely,



Ken Smith  
FASLA

MICHAEL VERGASON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, LTD.



January 26, 2018

1102 King St., 2nd floor

Honorary Membership Nomination  
ASLA  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736  
RE: Jim Garland

Alexandria, VA 22314  
703.836.5557  
Fax 703.836.5505  
[www.vergason.net](http://www.vergason.net)

To ASLA Executive Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm again, that I write to endorse Jim Garland for honorary ASLA membership. As a national leader in water feature design and engineering, Jim's close collaboration with landscape architects over his career has transformed dozens of projects into dynamic and delightful landscapes. Across the globe, the quality and character of public places have been elevated by his thoughtful ingenuity, his enthusiasm, and his ability to craft graceful solutions to complex challenges.

I have known Jim professionally for over a decade. We first brought Fluidity Design Consultants on to our design team for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial (AVDLM) in Washington, DC. Immediately, it was evident that Jim has a creative mind, a passion for his craft, and an articulate demeanor. His poetic understanding of the ways in which water shapes our experience of place was matched with an unparalleled technical knowledge of its mechanics. His vision, and the precision to which he executed it, brought newfound clarity to the role of water within the design of the memorial. Most critically, Jim proved to be an insightful and energetic collaborator, enabling a fresh start, reinvigorating the project team, and enlightening all disciplines to the subtle ways water could reify the design intent.

In addition to his exceptional abilities as a collaborator, Jim is a driven design thinker, pushing the limits of his own learning and capacity with each project he encounters. In our collaboration at Sundance Square Central Plaza in Fort Worth, he was tasked with an exceptionally complex design—a challenge that he met with grace, precision, and technical drive. Jim is not afraid to take risks or face challenges, and he is never satisfied with a solution that does not expand his limits or understanding of his craft. Thus, it is no surprise that he is recognized as a leader in his field and a pioneering collaborator in the design of contemporary plazas, memorials, parks, and public spaces.

From conception through execution, every collaborative effort with Jim inspires and enlightens. He makes the work of our profession better. Thank you for your consideration of him for this esteemed honor. Please contact me at [mvergason@vergason.net](mailto:mvergason@vergason.net) or 703.836.5557 if you need any further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Vergason". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Michael" on the top line and "Vergason" on the bottom line.

Michael Vergason, FASLA, FAAR

January 26, 2018

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

**Re: Letter of Support for James Garland as an Honorary ASLA Member**

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my great pleasure to write on behalf of James Garland, AIA, in support of his nomination as a 2018 Honorary ASLA Member.

I have had the opportunity to know and work with James for many years in our professional collaborations in the design and implementation of several significant public realm, landscape architectural and water feature projects around the country, most notably Tongva Park in Santa Monica, California; Navy Pier in Chicago, Illinois; Shelby Farms Park in Memphis, Tennessee; Public Square in Cleveland, Ohio; and, most recently the Presidio Tunnel Tops Project in San Francisco, California. Throughout each collaboration, James' creative ingenuity, his intense professionalism and his genuine commitment to work that is resonant with each place and for each community have not only been especially welcome, but have also contributed significantly to the success of the work.

James is, first and foremost, an exceptional designer. James' designs for water features are not only beautifully conceived and impressively inventive, but they successfully enrich the quality and richness of experience in each place. James designs for people: for their pleasure, delight, enjoyment and wonder. His water features are also for people of all ages and all backgrounds: whether designing for theatrical and artful effect or for interactive and playful experiences, James' water features are invitations to everyone to experience pleasure and delight in urban places. Often, James' water features become the most loved, most visited features of the parks, landscape and spaces we create!

James is an exemplary professional. With each project, James has been an exceptional leader, communicator and collaborator. Beginning with his creation of thoughtful and original design narratives for each project, to his clear articulation of the details, mechanics and constructability of water elements, to his responsiveness to clients – James' contributions are always a significant force in building confidence, excitement and focus necessary to move each project forward. Together, Field Operations and Fluidity have completed several projects that have been enriching and transformative for their communities – Santa Monica, Cleveland, Chicago, Memphis and more - and this achievement is due in large part to James' leadership.

James is, finally, a wonderful colleague. I cannot say enough about how much of a pleasure it is to work with James. He is thoughtful, respectful, responsive, adaptive and open. He is a true collaborator, and seeks to create work that is holistic and integrated with the whole, but also deeply resonant with the team, the client, the place and the community. To have succeeded with this aspiration on many projects is a testament to his thoughtful and collaborative style.

James' combination of innate creativity, consistent clarity, intense professionalism and his genuine care has been especially welcome in our collaborations – and necessary for their success. His contributions to Santa Monica's Tonga Park, Cleveland's Public Square, Chicago's Navy Pier, and Memphis' Shelby Farms Park have increased the appeal, the impact and the benefits these places provide to their communities.

James is a rich mix of colleague, ally, collaborator and innovator - and a recognizable talent and contributor to our efforts as Landscape Architects. I trust that the scope of James's influence and contributions to the field of Landscape Architecture will grow with the chance for his work to become more visibly showcased. He is a unique colleague, one who must continue to be supported - and I am proud to offer my highest recommendation for James in his nomination as a 2017 Honorary ASLA Member.

My Very Best Regards,



Richard Kennedy  
Senior Principal, James Corner Field Operations



Honorary Membership Nomination  
ASLA

636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To the Selection Committee:

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Jim Garland Honorary ASLA Nomination

In 2010 our firm embarked upon a 40 year master plan for Longwood Gardens, a former du Pont estate outside Philadelphia, PA. The 1000-acre public garden is a unique property for many reasons, but most notably for the incredible innovation and artfulness with which Pierre S du Pont designed his private gardens around a sequence of pools, riffles, performing fountains, grottos, Italian water gardens, jets and cascades. Mr. du Pont was a polymath and a renaissance man. An MIT trained engineer and titan of industry, he was simultaneously enchanted by the great fountain gardens of Europe and the splendor and timeless power of water in the landscape—a marriage of mediums that reaches the level of fine art.

Pierre du Pont's profile is not a far reach from Jim Garland's, my friend and collaborator. When we began conceiving of a 40-year master plan for the Longwood property, Jim instantly saw the water features as an experiential, systemic whole rather than a series of a la carte objects. His ability to connect centuries of water feature precedent forward into relevance for a 21<sup>st</sup> century cultural institution inspired the client and set the tone for our entire team. His unbounded creativity around the narrative of water, but also the physics and performative aspects of it took our landscape master plan to a new level that will make Longwood Gardens the preeminent water feature collection in the Western Hemisphere. His generosity with ideas and ability to cross boundaries into architecture, furnishings, storytelling and brand lifted every member of the team. Finally, Jim's technical innovation around the physics of water, but also ecological approaches and new ideas around living waters is certainly prescient about the future of water feature design. Our collaboration will culminate this spring with the opening of the Main Fountain Garden at Longwood—a \$90 million dollar reimaging of du Pont's crown jewel and a spectacular, visceral showpiece of water (and fire) design set in the garden.

Jim's firm, Fluidity Design Consultants, could be described as fountain designers. But I believe this gives Jim and his incredible team short shrift. Jim is the only water feature designer working today who has the gift of explaining and designing the timeless power and importance of water as an artform that is foundational to and inseparable from landscape architecture.

Although we have been lucky to work together on the extraordinary high profile concepts at Longwood, West 8 and Fluidity do in fact work on every water feature we have delivered together, whether a misting pergola in arid Mesa, Arizona or a durable, playful, children's play fountain on Governors Island Park in New York City. Jim's adaptability and breadth of knowledge runs the gamut across regions, audiences, and users.

It would be a great validation of everything that Jim has done for the field of landscape architecture, and for each of us individually, to see his nomination to Honorary ASLA this fall, in his hometown of Los Angeles. I do hope that ASLA will honor this wonderful collaborator, artist and designer in 2017.

With warm regards,

Claire Agre  
Principal in charge  
West 8 urban design and landscape architecture