



Letter of Recommendation

July 16, 2020

It is with great honor that I nominate Lowell S. Berg, AIA, for the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal award.

For the last 43 years, I have known Lowell in several capacities starting as fellow students at the University of Nebraska College of Architecture and later as business partners in the firm of The Clark Enersen Partners. We are both at the close of our long careers but remain good friends. Over the past four decades, I have known Lowell to be a consummate professional dedicated to building a better world. Whereas Lowell has been a guiding influence in my own professional growth as an architect, I have also witnessed his influence on generations of other architects as they grew from student interns into highly talented professionals.

Lowell's impact on design stretches throughout Nebraska and nationally. As a designer— whether working in areas of education, commercial, office or residential design—Lowell has championed modernism as an aesthetic statement in order to meet the needs of clients and the people who occupy the spaces created for them. This dedication to modern design has had a positive and valued impact on the communities and people he has touched on every project. As a mentor to young architects, Lowell has impacted the direction of design for many other firms in Nebraska and the region as the young architects he has mentored have gone on with their successful careers. Mentoring is something Lowell championed by virtue of his high standards—critical-but-fair eyes rooted by in-depth knowledge of all aspects of design. Lowell is more than a mentor, though; he inspires achievement beyond one's own self-imposed limitations.

Lowell's impact on the communities he has served goes beyond just his relationships with design professionals. Over Lowell's successful career, he has worked to expand a client's definition of design beyond just meeting the functional needs of the project. It has been Lowell's philosophy that great design occurs from the meaningful intertwining of a project's aesthetic impact on the community while meeting the programmatic needs for its users. The result is thoughtful design that endures.

Finally, Lowell's dedication to serving a community goes beyond his commitment to achieving community-enhancing design. Lowell has dedicated his personal time to public, private, and philanthropic organizations within Nebraska and the nation. By pairing his philosophy of design with his organizational prowess, Lowell has been effective as a leader for our local Rotary Club #14 and Rotary International; First Plymouth Church, for whom he is a member and deacon; and the University of Nebraska College of Architecture—just to mention a few.

At the top of his list of professional commitments is Lowell's dedication to AIA Nebraska. His many years of service on AIA's Governmental Affairs Committee has provided strong leadership instrumental to our profession's interests. His dedication to providing awareness of the positive or negative impacts that proposed changes in state law would have for our profession and the public has protected the public and kept our profession strong.

For his entire career, Lowell has been able to bring leadership through an architectural prism of problem-solving for each organization he has represented, including AIA Nebraska. In closing, Lowell embodies the principles set forth by Harry F. Cunningham, making him a strong candidate to receive the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal award.

Greg Newport, AIA
Retired Principal - The Clark Enersen Partners



Lowell Berg, AIA

Biographical Data

Lowell Berg views an architect's education, expertise, and social awareness as components of a unique "tool-kit", which should be shared with others to assist in problem solving on a wide array of applications. Lowell has conducted his entire professional career as a leader with a broad vision of sharing his professional knowledge and expertise with other architects, other design professionals, and those who are seeking the services of an architect (and those who are not) because he believes in the value of architecture in society, communities, and individual lives.

Lowell began his professional career in 1975 at Clark & Enersen, Hamersky, Schalebitz, Burroughs and Thomsen. He began his tenure at the firm as a designer under the guidance of the firm's founders and Harvard graduates K.B. Clark and Larry Enersen (1995 Cunningham Medal winner). Lowell's talent and leadership abilities allowed him to rise to senior principal and board member and eventually president to succeed his mentor, MIT Graduate and 2010 Cunningham Medal Winner Albert Hamersky in 1989. Lowell's vision and leadership as president of The Clark Enersen Partners from 1989 to 2008, transformed the firm and positioned it for unprecedented growth and excellence in design. Lowell led the effort to re-establish engineering disciplines in the firm in 1993, after a 15-year absence of mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering services. This fulfilled his vision for the firm to provide a holistic approach to design. Lowell also led the effort to open additional offices in Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas. Under Lowell's direction and mentorship, these initiatives also created design leadership opportunities for younger architects within the firm.

Lowell's immediate influence on designers and design excellence at The Clark Enersen Partners was primarily focused on libraries, corporate office buildings, and government buildings. Lowell's design expertise in these building types led to The Clark Enersen Partners' participation in the following projects:

Notable Corporate Office Architecture

- Ameritas Home Office Renovation - Lincoln, NE
- Ameritas Fallbrook Corporate Office - Lincoln, NE
- Lincoln Benefit Life Allstate Corporate Office - Lincoln, NE*
- Assurity Center - Lincoln, NE*
- One Landmark Office Building - Lincoln, NE*
- FCSA Headquarters Complex - Omaha, NE*
- Crete Carrier Corporate Headquarters - Lincoln, NE
- Fiserv Corporate Campus - Lincoln, NE

* Award-Winning/Published Projects

“Great corporate architecture should communicate your story, your history, and your values. It will help you to attract and retain the best employees.

A well-designed workplace environment will enhance productivity and encourage teamwork and interaction. From a design standpoint, this should begin at the main entrance and extend throughout the site and the building.” —Lowell Berg



“My professional relationship with Lowell extends back to 1998 when Allstate Insurance was evaluating architectural firms to lead the development of a new office campus for Lincoln Benefit Life. The Clark Enersen Partners was selected with Lowell personally leading the firm's involvement. His vision, creativity, and experience were instrumental in bringing to life two new buildings totaling 179,000 square feet that were as aesthetic and functional as they were respectful of the site and the environment. In the 22 years that have since passed, my professional relationship with Lowell has continued as we made numerous upgrades to the buildings. We have also compared notes regarding the direction and impact of corporate architecture over the years at various AIA conventions across the country. I have always valued his honest and thoughtful insights.”

Keith A. Knapp, AIA, LEED AP

Director, Architecture and Construction
Allstate Insurance Company - Northbrook, IL



Notable Public Library Architecture

- Lincoln City Libraries, Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library - Lincoln, NE*
- Lincoln City Libraries, Loren Cory Eiseley Branch Library - Lincoln, NE*
- New Cape Girardeau Public Library - Cape Girardeau, MO*
- New Seward Memorial Library - Seward, NE
- Hastings Public Library Renovation - Hastings, NE*
- New Roman L. and Victoria E. Hruska Library - David City, NE
- Falls City Public Library and Art Center - Falls City, NE
- New Ashland Public Library and Community Resource Center - Ashland, NE
- Johnson County Library, Leawood Pioneer Branch Library Addition and Renovation - Leawood, KS

* Award-Winning/Published Projects



“We know how important libraries are to our communities and how much they contribute to society. They are not only places of information and learning, they are also places of social interaction. They bring us together as a community and as families, and they connect us to our past, to our future, and to each other.” —Lowell Berg



“The new downtown Central Library and Branch Library Improvements projects has been a major focus of the Library Board during his (Lowell’s) tenure. Having a person of Lowell’s skill and expertise has greatly strengthened the library’s ability to prepare for this major project. Lowell has contributed significantly through his ability to describe architectural concepts to laypeople, from library staff to elected officials to the public. He has helped keep the focus of the project on the future impact that a new Central Library will have on our city.”

Pat Leach
Director
Lincoln City Libraries

Donna Marvin
President
Library Board of Trustees

Notable Government Building Architecture

- Burdick Federal Courthouse, Historic Courtroom Renovation - Fargo, ND
- Sioux City Federal Courthouse, Donald E. O'Brien District Courtroom Renovation - Sioux City, IA
- Sioux City Federal Courthouse, Magistrate Courtroom Renovation - Sioux City, IA
- Sioux Falls Federal Courthouse Long Range Facility Plan - Sioux Falls, SD
- Davenport Federal Courthouse, Long Range Facility Plan - Davenport, IA
- Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center Expansion and Renovation - Grand Island, NE
- GSA, Des Moines Federal Courthouse Spatial Realignment - Des Moines, IA



“Designing public spaces, particularly the Courts, is one of the highest honors in our profession. We are grateful for opportunities to design spaces that have such a profound effect on our culture and civilization. Ultimately, our society and our time will be judged by what happens in these buildings. We believe that great design inspires people to do great things. The Courts are representative of the strength and dignity of our culture and way of life. This image needs to be reflected in their design.”

—Lowell Berg

“I want to let you (Lowell) know how much I appreciate your involvement in our first- and third-floor courtroom projects. Judge Zoss and I are exceptionally pleased with the architectural design services provided by The Clark Enersen Partners. Both of these projects maintain the same high standards that were so evident in the earlier remodeling of my chambers.”

Honorable Mark Bennett

Chief Judge, Northern District of Iowa
Sioux City, IA



Respectful of the Past

Lowell has worked tirelessly and selflessly throughout his 40-year career to elevate the practice of architecture in Nebraska. Tangible evidence of his respect for the past has been his ongoing efforts to help preserve First Plymouth Church in Lincoln, one of the most significant pieces of architecture in the state of Nebraska. All of his contributions have been on a volunteer basis.

"Lowell Berg headed up the renovation of this historic building which created updated social halls, replacing of massive historic decorative windows, roofing, HVAC systems, and a host of other elements of this architectural gem. His vision and mastery have ensured that this historic building will be enjoyed by future generations. Lowell Berg is the type of professional that combines sheer competence, passion, vision, and civic engagement in a way that has made Nebraska a better place to live."

Dr. James Keck

Senior Minister of First Plymouth Church
Lincoln, Nebraska



Profound Effect and Influence on the Direction of Architecture in Nebraska

Lowell believes the true focus of the architectural industry belongs on the health, safety, and welfare of the public, including the underappreciated place of regulations and their safeguarding. His advocacy for the future of the profession can be found in his careerlong involvement in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) at both the state and national level. Lowell led efforts to defeat legislation that would have placed a tax on fees for professional services and has continually championed legislation that maintained the integrity of the profession.

Following is an overview of Lowell Berg's contributions to the profession of architecture.



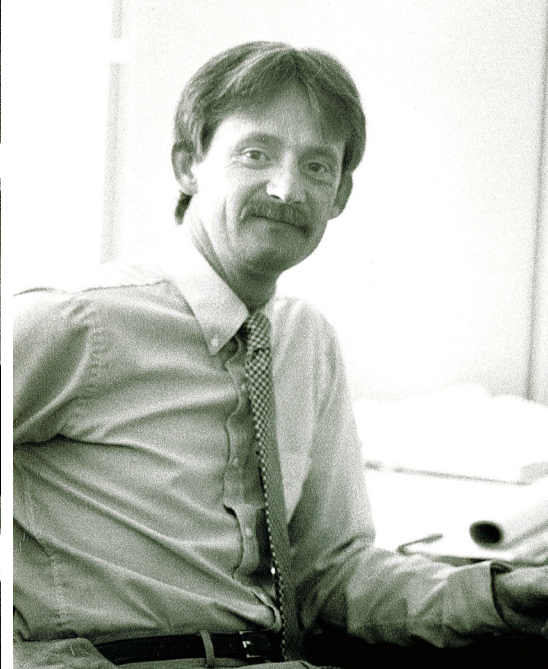
AIA Involvement

AIA National

- Representative, State Government Network (1993-94, 1999-2001, 2013-19)
- Visit Coordinator, National Committee on Design Site Visit to Nebraska (2001)

AIA Nebraska

- Chapter President (1991-92)
- Chair, Government Affairs Committee (1993-94, 1999-2001, 2013-19)
- Chair, State Annual Conference (2014)
- Past Member, Continuing Education Committee
- Lincoln Chapter - Featured Residence, Architect's Home Tour (2010)



Contributions to the Future

There is no greater measure for ensuring the continuation of the profession than one's commitment to mentorship. This is perhaps Lowell's most significant contribution to the future of the architectural profession.

"Lowell's influence goes well beyond the projects he has led; the cities, clients, and communities he has served; and the work he has championed through the AIA. I believe the role that has afforded him the most influence and the most joy is that of mentor. Throughout his career, Lowell has guided, encouraged, challenged, and celebrated the successes of countless careers of architects and design professionals who have had the privilege of working for him and with him.

"I will be forever grateful for Lowell's wisdom and the example of integrity, character, and service he has provided to me and so many of my colleagues, many of whom are now serving in their own mentoring roles while leading firms, practices, and within the AIA across the country. Lowell has always had the unique ability to inspire those who work with him to strive for their very best, no matter the task, and the expectation to enjoy the creative process, the intellectual collaboration, and the camaraderie along the way."

Edward J. Vidlak, AIA

Richard Upjohn Fellow
Vice President, HDR
Omaha, Nebraska

Community Involvement

Lowell has also long held the belief that architecture is among the most public of all professions and that it is an inherent responsibility of those who choose to become architects to support society through public service. Be it faith based, not for profit, political, educational, humanitarian or philanthropic, Lowell's public service has been diverse, far reaching, and enduring.

Arts

- Past Board President, Lincoln Community Playhouse
- Past Board President and Founding Member, Lincoln Community Playhouse Foundation
- Past Board Member, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra
- Past Member, Lincoln Community Foundation Gold Star Family Memorial Committee

Civic

- Current Member and Board President, Lincoln City Libraries
- Current Member and Past President, Lincoln Rotary Club #14
- Current Member and Past Board President, Fox Hollow Neighborhood Association
- Current Member, American Library Association
- Past Contributing Member, Public Library Association's Facilities for Results Book Series
- Past Board Member and Chair, Nebraska Education Finance Authority
- Past Member, Lincoln City Parks Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Past Member, Lincoln Mayor's Infrastructure Finance Work Committee
- Past Member, Lincoln Sertoma Club
- Past Lay Member, Nebraska Judicial Nominating Commission for Workers' Compensation Court
- Executive Series Graduate, Leadership Lincoln

Faith

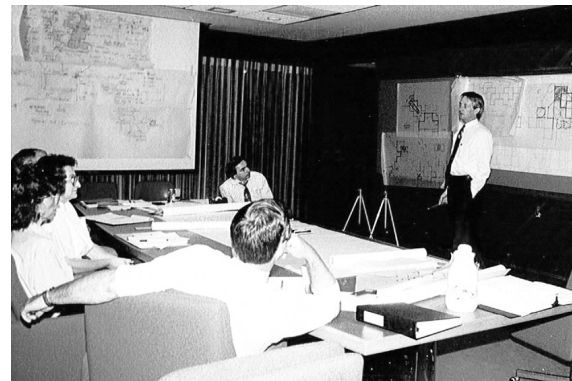
- First Plymouth Congregational Church:
 - Past Congregation Moderator
 - Past Chair, Board of Trustees
 - Current Chair, Facilities Committee
 - Past Member, Building Joy First Capital Campaign Committee
 - Past Member, First Plymouth Foundation Board
 - Past Member, Youth Minister Search Committee
- Trinity United Methodist Church:
 - Member, Childcare Center Playground Construction Committee

Health and Human Services

- Past Member, Lincoln Food Bank Alternative Facility Committee

Youth

- Past Member, Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska
- Past Member, Homestead Girl Scout Council Capital Campaign for Camp Catron Committee



Known for Quality Work by Those Within the Profession

By virtue of the depth and breadth of Lowell's service with The Clark Enersen Partners and his involvement in the AIA and AIA Nebraska, he has touched and influenced the careers of many architects not only throughout Nebraska but throughout the country. The testimonials provided throughout this Harry F. Cunningham Medal Nomination are tangible evidence of their respect for him and the impact that he has had not only on their careers but personal lives as well.

Known for Quality of Work by Those Outside the Profession

Through Lowell's leadership on projects for public and private organizations, and through his civic involvement, he gained respect and established himself as a trusted design professional amongst many community and civic leaders. As an example, he was asked to serve as owner representative by Nelnet to help them improve their facilities throughout Lincoln. He was selected by First Plymouth Church to lead their Facilities Committee to preserve and restore the historic and architecturally significant church Lincoln. Lowell was also appointed to the Lincoln City Libraries Board, where he has been instrumental in laying the foundation for a new downtown library.

"In additions to his design talents, Mr. Berg is a civic leader in our community. He is a wonderful exemplar of an architect with decades-long positive impact on our community."

Thomas E. Henning, CLU, ChFC, CFA

Chairman, President & CEO, Assurity Life Insurance Company
Lincoln, NE

Evidenced Ability to Excel in Specific Areas of Expertise

As outlined in the biographical data, Lowell established himself as a recognized design thought leader in judicial architecture, public libraries, and corporate office architecture. Most importantly, Lowell recognized the importance of leading a team of design professionals and clients in a collaborative process to achieve design excellence. Evidence of his ability to do is illustrated by the following design achievements of the firm.

2018 AIA/ALA Library Building Award

Hastings Public Library Renovation

2013 Brick Industry Association – Commercial Best in Class

2012 AIA Nebraska Award for Detail

2005 AIA Nebraska – Honor Award, New Construction

Farm Credit Services of America Corporate Headquarters
(Multiple Phases)

2010 First Large LEED Gold Certified Building in Lincoln

Assurity Center Corporate Campus

2009 Library Journal Architectural Portfolio

Cape Girardeau Public Library

2004 Downtown Lincoln Association –

Honor Award, New Construction;

2004 Preservation Association of Lincoln –

New Construction in an Historic Environment

One Landmark Centre Office Building

**2003 American Society of Interior Designers –
Honor Award, Public Facilities**

Walt and Eiseley Branch Libraries

**2003 American Society of Interior Designers,
Nebraska/Iowa Chapters – Honor Award, Public Facilities
Published in Library Journal**

Peru State College, Library Renovation

**2000 National Concrete Masonry Association –
Honor Award, New Construction;**

1999 AIA Nebraska - Masonry in Architecture;

Lincoln Benefit Life (Allstate) Campus

1992 Nebraska AIA Honor Award – New Construction

O Street Skywalk

Miscellaneous Material



August 1, 2019

RE: American Institute of Architects (AIA) Nebraska Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal

Respected members of AIA Nebraska:

Lowell Berg began collaborating with our team at Farm Credit Services of America over 20 years ago. The relationship quickly became one of a trusted advisor, partner and friend as he pushed us to explore new concepts in our application of architectural design.

Lowell coached and counseled our Association and challenged our thought processes in order to create Prairie Style prototype offices for our 13 Nebraska retail offices, 35 offices out of state and a customized approach to our corporate headquarters.

Lowell consistently worked to ensure that we have always had the type of customer experience that we desire and has always exemplified integrity to ensure that what we asked for is what we ultimately received.

I can't think of anyone in the architectural community that is more deserving of this award than Lowell Berg.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharlyn Konfrst", is written over a light gray background.

Sharlyn Konfrst
Vice-President Corporate Services
Farm Credit Services of America

STUDIO JOSEPH

12 August 2019

To the Members of the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal Selection Committee:

500 Park Avenue 16E
New York, New York 10022
T 212.935.3392
www.studiojoseph.com

It is my distinct pleasure to write on behalf of my colleague Lowell Berg, AIA. I have known Lowell for over 20 years stemming from our participation in the American Institute of Architects, National Committee on Design. The leadership of that group includes a very high level of nationally respected professionals. It also requires the respect of colleagues with similar stature. Also, not all architects are willing to selflessly dedicate time and resources to furthering the education of others. Lowell not only led with distinction but generously offered himself to help others. In particular, when I was elected chairman in 2001, I reached out to Lowell to help organize an extended conference in Lincoln and Omaha for our group. He not only was able to reach out to key players in the community and arrange for "behind the scenes" visits to significant architectural buildings. He talked to issues and local architectural history in a way that emphasized civic pride and the importance of design as a symbol of community, or as your guidelines state, he showed us "evidence of a profound effect on the profession of architecture in Nebraska." That conference was only weeks after 9/11, and the spirit of democracy was at a peak. Lowell spoke beautifully to the over arching message that architecture can unite us.

More recently, I had the honor of working with Lowell and his firm in the pursuit of a project in the local Lincoln area. In one case, we looked hard at an area of downtown Lincoln that features numerous historic warehouse buildings. Although we were not ultimately successful in our bid for the project, Lowell talked meaningfully to the importance of vernacular infrastructure and its meaning in the development of Lincoln. He showed that modern architecture can at once respect the authenticity of the past and employ a vocabulary and the methods of our modern times. Lowell is masterful in his use of this complex stylistic agenda in his work.

Over the years, I have followed Lowell's work and remain impressed by the consistent nature of this architectural vocabulary and persistence of excellence, sustainability, and livability for his clients.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you would like further discussion or if I have inadvertently been unclear as to my strong support for Lowell Berg's candidacy for this recognition.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Evans Joseph, FAIA, LEED AP
President and Founder



August 9, 2019

AIA Nebraska
Cunningham Medal Committee
335 North 8th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Cunningham Committee Members

It is a privilege to offer this letter of support for the nomination of Lowell Berg for the AIA Harry F Cunningham Gold Medal. Throughout Lowell's career he has been a constant voice and champion for design excellence. This is evident by the numerous awards and the rich legacy of recognized community projects across Nebraska and the region during his leadership at The Clark Enersen Partners.

Lowell has spent his career often quietly but always effectively leading by example, serving on numerous community boards, and in leadership roles for AIA Lincoln and AIA Nebraska. He continues to serve as our liaison to local, state, and federal lawmakers as the Nebraska AIA Government Affairs Chairperson. Lowell has spent nearly his entire career tirelessly advocating for architects and the greater design community.

Lowell's influence go well beyond the projects he has led, the cities, clients, and communities he has served, and the work he has championed through the AIA. I believe the role that has afforded him the most influence and the most joy is that of mentor. Throughout his career, Lowell has guided, encouraged, challenged, and celebrated the successes of countless careers of architects and design professionals who have had the privilege of working for him and with him.

I will be forever grateful for Lowell's wisdom and the example of integrity, character, and service he has provided to me and so many of my colleagues, many of whom are now serving in their own mentoring roles while leading firms, practices, and within the AIA across the country. Lowell has always had the unique ability to inspire those who work with him to strive for their very best, no matter the task, and the expectation to enjoy the creative process, the intellectual collaboration, and the camaraderie along the way.

Whether a champion for design, a relentless advocate for our profession, or a beloved mentor, Lowell Berg AIA exemplifies the highest aspirations and ideals represented by the Cunningham Medal. It is indeed an honor to offer my sincere support for his nomination.

Very truly yours,
HDR Architecture Inc

Edward J Vidlak, AIA
Richard Upjohn Fellow
Vice President

