

June, 9th, 2014

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

Dear Cunningham Committee:

I am honored to provide the very highest of recommendations for Professor Emeritus Tom Laging, FAIA, for the AIA Nebraska's 2014 Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal. In my four decades of engagement in education I have never encountered a more committed educator and professional. Tom has had a major impact on thousands of students. Even more exceptional, Tom Laging has devoted all forty six years to the education of future professionals in the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

This nomination is based on Tom's exceptional qualities as an educator and his continued support of the career development of young professionals. In addition, he has provided mentorship for generations of faculty and the development and advancement of architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Always the exceptional teacher even in his several years as the Director of the Architecture Program.

Equally significant, Tom has served as a Charter member of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission focused on the conservation and enrichment of the Nebraska State Capitol and the visual corridors and immediate environment of the Capitol. His expertise has been critical to the protection of the Capitol and to Nebraska through numerous civic design projects throughout our state and the nation. Tom has also developed a national reputation in civic design and planning through numerous AIA RUDAT and civic design projects.

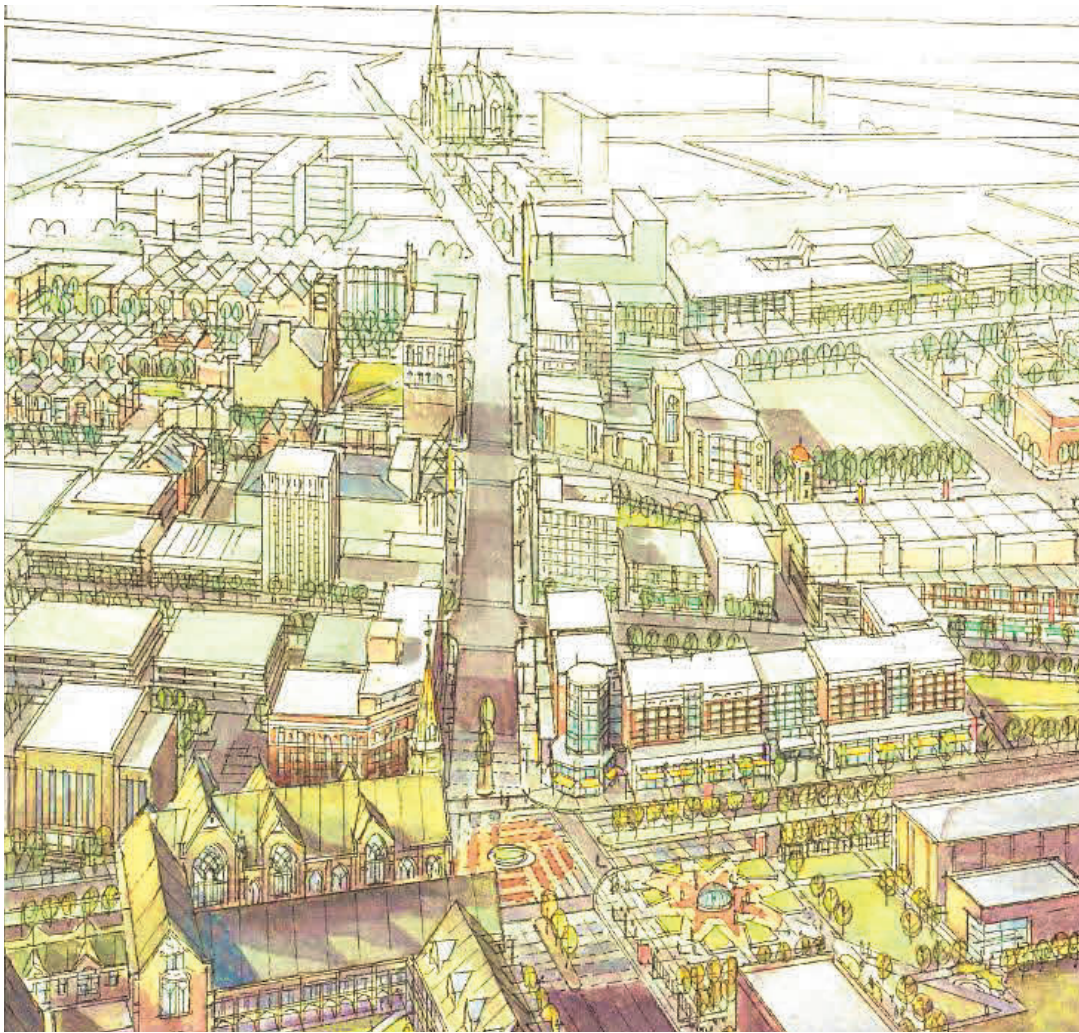
Likewise, of equal significance has been Tom's service to the profession having served for fourteen years on the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects and as the Chairman. He has also served on the NCARB Education Committee which has numerous current proposals to serve young professional in the internship, examination and registration process which will benefit our profession.

Tom has excelled as an exceptional educator in all three areas of education, civic design and service to our profession. Again, I am honored to provide the very highest of recommendations for Professor Emeritus Tom Laging FAIA for the AIA Nebraska's 2014 Cunningham Gold Medal.

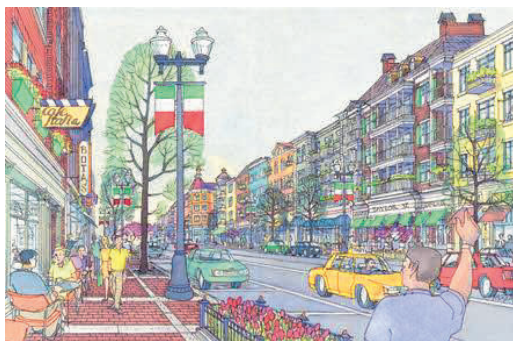
Sincerely;



Wayne Drummond, FAIA
Dean Emeritus and Professor
College of Architecture
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Thomas Laging, FAIA, NCARB
2014 Harry F. Cunningham, FAIA, Gold Medal
AIA Nebraska-Nomination Submission



Biographical Information

Professor Thomas Laging, FAIA

Professor Laging has most recently served as the director of the Architecture Program at the University of Nebraska and as the Killinger Distinguished Professor of Urban Design and Architecture. Professor Laging's teaching specialties include urban design and architectural representation. He has taught or been an invited critic at numerous universities both nationally and internationally—including Tianjin University in China, the Autonomia de Guadalajara and Simon Bolivar University in Caracas.

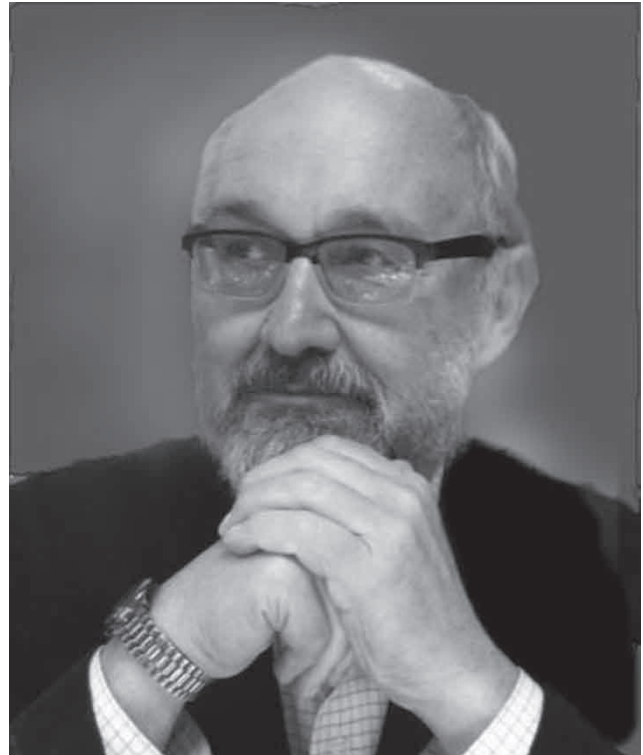
As a highly skilled environmental visualizer Professor Laging has informed his teaching through an urban design consulting practice. He has been involved with mixed-use urban retail projects in Chicago, Washington DC, Minneapolis, and St. Louis and with town center planning efforts in the Phoenix and Anchorage. He is nationally noted

for his leadership on many of The AIA's Urban Design Assistance Teams (RUDAT'S).

Laging has contributed to numerous campus-planning efforts including DePaul University, the University of West Virginia, University of Kansas, Nebraska Wesleyan University, the University of Nebraska Medical Campus in Omaha and most recently the University of New Mexico South Campus research park expansion. He served for ten years on the Regents Design Review Board for the University of Nebraska System.

Laging was the 2013 Chairman of Nebraska State Board of Engineers and Architects where he has served for over twelve years.

He is a charter member of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission and was elevated to a fellow in the AIA for his service to communities. He holds a Masters Degree from The Harvard Graduate School of Design.



Prof. Thomas Laging, FAIA

Biographical Information

Education

Graduate: Master of Architecture, 1966, Harvard Graduate School of Design
Undergraduate: Bachelor of Architecture (5 year professional program) 1963, University of Nebraska

Academic Experience

University of Nebraska, Department of Architecture, Lincoln, Nebraska
Director of Architecture Program 2009- 2012
Full Professor, 1980
Graduate Faculty, 1975,
Graduate Faculty Fellow 1989
Fellow of Center for Great Plains Studies
Distinguished Prof. of Urban Design 2005-7 UNL
Organizer of First Killinger China Program Fall 2008 with Scott Killinger
Visiting Chair in Urban Design Arizona State University, Tempe AZ 1991
London Program Professor, Regent's College, London, England, 1988, 1980, 1974
Exchange Professor, Bolton Street Poly-Technic, Dublin Ireland, 1990
Fulbright Professor in Urban Design, Universidad Simon Bolivar, Caracas, Venezuela, 1982
Exchange Professor, Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico, 1975
Visiting Professor, Isthmus Escuela de Arquitectura, Panama, 2013

Memberships

Member AIA, Lincoln Chapter
National AIA Urban Design Committee
Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture
American Society of Architectural Illustrators

Honors and Awards

Elevation to AIA Fellowship 1998
Downtown Lincoln Association Builder's Award 1997
Faculty Award of Excellence, UNL College of Architecture Alumni Assoc. 1998
James Elmore Visiting Chair in Urban Design Arizona State University, 1991-92
Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1981
Progressive Architecture First Design Award Nebraska Capitol Environs Plan NEA Grant, 1978
Certificate of Recognition UNL Parents Association, 2000
Boolsalis Award for outstanding effort in preservation 1997, Lincoln Preservation Assoc.
Fulbright Award in Urban Design, Universidad Simon Bolivar, Caracas, Venezuela, 1982

Publications

ACSA Regional Univ. of Waterloo 2007 *Visioning a new Campus Urban Design*
co-author with R.L. Schluntz *Visions and Reflections Collected Essays New Rules for Neighborhood Design* Proceeding from ACSA Meetings Education Subcommittee AIA/Regional & Urban Design Committee AIA 1991 *The Capitol and Environs Plan*, co-author with R.L. Schluntz, 1975

Boards and Commissions

Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects, 2000- present Chairman 2005-6
NCARB Education Committee 2007-2009
2008 Region 2-5 NCARB Conference Organizer Omaha NE
Regents Design Review Board Charter member and rotating chairperson. Responsible for acting on behalf of the board on technical and design review of buildings in the University of Nebraska system over \$3,000,000 1990 to 2000
Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission, Charter member and Commissioner 1989 to Present

Registration

Licensed Professional Architect: State of Nebraska, 1969 No. A-908 NCARB #63,396
2007

Interdisciplinary

National Regional / Urban Design Assistance Teams

*Urban Design Initiatives
And Published Studies*

AIA-RUDAT Team, Springfield, IL, 2002 Return visit 2005 RUDAT Team, Temple, TX
1998
Chairman, Bellingham WA 1992 Chairman, RUDAT Team, Lawrence, MA 1990
Waterloo IA 1988, Chairman Farmington, NM 1986, RUDAT Team, Boise ID, 1984
RUDAT Team Newport Beach, 1982
Team Chair, Spectacled Bear Charrette, Phoenix Zoo 1992
Urban Village Model Review, City of Phoenix, 1992.
AIA- SDAT Team, Oxford MS, 2010, Bastrop, TX 2012 St. Helens, OR 2014

Local and Regional Community Design Assistance Programs and Workshops

Santa Fe Arts High School Charrette, Santa Fe NM 2014
University of New Mexico Campus Plan Update, Albuquerque, NM 2008
Rio Rancho Town Center Charrette, City of Rio Rancho, NM 2007
Rio Rancho Campus Charrette UNM West, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
2007
College of Business Charrette, with University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 2006
Team Leader, Charrette organizer UNL / Main Street Charrette, Atkinson, NE 2004
Silver City Main Street Charrette, with University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
2004
Team Leader, Charrette organizer University of Southern Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA
2003
Team Leader, University of Oregon, College of Architecture Springfield downtown
Charrette Springfield, OR, NM 2001
Team Leader, University of Arizona State, College of Architecture
Reinventing Neighborhoods Charrette Wilson Neighborhood, Phoenix, AZ 2000
Team Leader, University of New Mexico, College of Architecture
UNM SoLo Neighborhood Charrette Albuquerque, NM 2000
Team Leader, University of Arizona State, College of Architecture Reinventing
Neighborhoods
Charrette, Phoenix, AZ 1999
Team Leader, University of New Mexico, College of Architecture Building Charrette
Albuquerque, NM 1998
Project Director and Chairman Market Place Study to Assess Pedestrian Quality of P
Street in Downtown Lincoln, 1996
Assisted Omaha AIA Chapter in Organizing and Co-Leading Aksarben Reuse, Omaha,
NE 1996
Co-Director with Gordon Scholz of Community Design Workshop, 1996, Valentine,
NE
Co-Director with Gordon Scholz of Community Design Workshop, 1995, Crete, NE
Co-Director with Gordon Scholz of Community Design Workshop, 1994, Fremont, NE
Co-Director with Gordon Scholz of Community Design Workshop, 1993, Grand Island
NE

Professional Experience

Thomas Laging Architect, Principal, Architecture and Urban Design Consulting Firm
1976 to present

*Consulting and Architectural
Practice In Areas of Specialty*

Barnes and Nobel College Bookstores, 1997-present
Koonse Pfeffer Bettis Anchorage AK Consulting urban designer 2001-2004
Geller Design Consulting designer, Lincoln, NE 1983 - Present
City of Lincoln "P" Streetscape and development plan 1998 - 2000
McGinty Inc. Consulting designer, Boulder, CO. 1997- Present

Antunovich and Assoc. Consulting designer, Chicago, IL 1998- Present
Kiku Obata and Co. Consulting designer, St. Louis, MO 1993-97
St. Louis Development Corp Consulting urban designer, St. Louis, MO 1996
Douglass Group, Consulting urban designer, Houston, TX 1987-8

Urban Design and Planning Studies

Development proposals for Moscow, ID Hockey Arena 2008, West Chicago Community Plan, 2008 Richmond, VA Holladay Development Corp. 2007 Anchorage Ak 2002, Farmington NM Downtown Plan Element 2001, Development proposals for Fairfax VA 1999, MN 1999 Development proposals for Block E Minneapolis, MN 1999; Development proposals for four block section of the Vaux Carrie New Orleans, LA 1998; Development proposals for two block area of Columbus, OH 1998; Development proposals for Girard Trust Site Philadelphia, PA 1998

Antelope valley land use study, Lincoln, NE 1998 and 1999,
Community and Campus Study Nebraska Wesleyan University 2000

Institutional and Commercial Design

Miami Dade County Community College Plan for Freedom Tower Re-use, 2006
Furlong Designs Studio Pottery, Salem, OR 1996

Main ID sign P Street "Market Place" Lincoln, NE 1996-2000, UNL LOGO Design

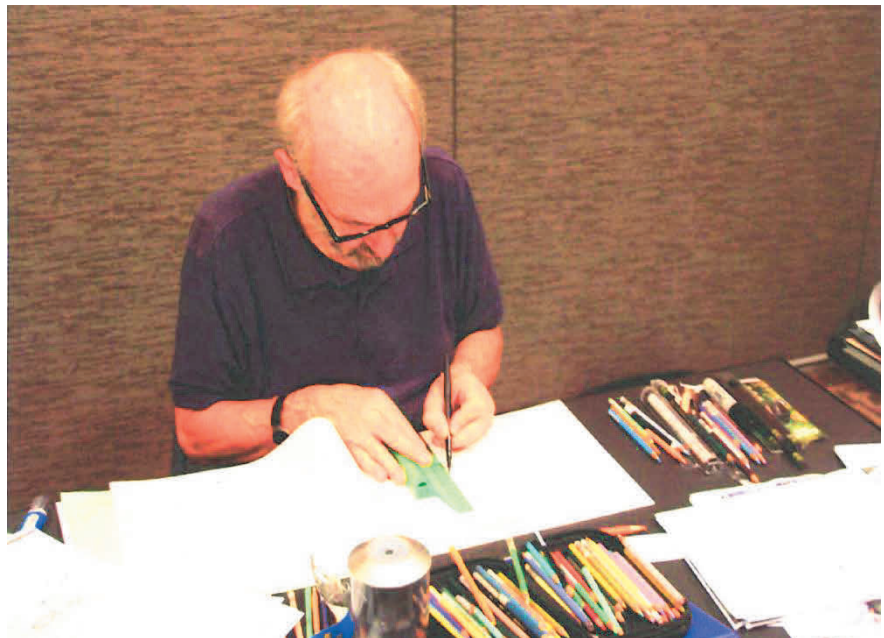
Barnes and Noble College bookstores with McGinty. 1997-present

Residential Design

Breslow house 14,000 Sq ft with Geller Design Scottsdale, AZ 2005

Drawing and Photographic Exhibits

Best of Show Nebraska Society of Architects Art by Architects 2006



Prof. Laging at Bastrop S/DAT 2012

Advancement of Professional Design Education Through Teaching Excellence

1

of Knowing

literacy and graphic proficiency educating and empowering young designers. His prodigious skills in graphic communication and his extensive knowledge of urban design theory and practice have been nationally recognized for their educational, professional, and community development value.

As director of a three year departmental teaching grant, Prof. Laging instituted a series of faculty seminars on teaching methods at various developmental levels in the architecture curriculum. Prof. Laging received a **distinguished teaching award** from the University for adopting these newly researched methods into his teaching.

Graphics Education for Urban Design

Noted for his teaching of drawing skills to both beginning and advanced students, Prof. Laging has presented visual communications materials to national conferences and local workshops. His recent consulting work in environmental graphics with the Kiku Obata Co. has been instructive to both students and practicing professionals, particularly for its methodology. His recent "Urban Design Watercolor" series for the City of St. Louis for its waterfront and for Forest Park are highly accomplished.

Specifically; Prof. Laging led a well-received workshop on creative drawing at the AIA Nebraska Fall meeting and at the Western Nebraska Chapter AIA Spring meeting of 1995. He organized several graduate workshops and courses on specialized architectural drawing, such as Drawing Classical Architecture, Drawing and Making Ornament, and Advanced Drawing. He has assisted students with the presentation in architectural workshops at the four Lincoln high schools for over four years. Prof. Laging was distinguished as the key note speaker at the Beginning Student Conference in 1984 and again as a presenter at the 1986 meeting. He developed an innovative drawing workshop for students at the National AIAS Forum in 1981.

Community Design Education

As an eminent Nebraska educator, Prof. Laging has continued to successfully link educational objectives with interdisciplinary community action. In 1987, he established a highly beneficial **annual state-wide program of community design assistance** in the form of a three week summer workshop. Students and community leaders have enthusiastically embraced over ten of these workshops. Co-taught with Planning Professor Gordon Scholz, AIA, AICP, the program involves intense interaction among graduate students from Planning, Horticulture, and Architecture with community members. The program built substantial statewide good will for the University Of Nebraska College Of Architecture and also resulted in significant improvements in many of the communities, such as the rethinking of the Sanders Co. Historical Society Site Plan, and improvements and preservation of the historic Gottberg building in Columbus. Most notably, this high energy program immersed emerging professionals into the middle of the community decision-making process and gave communities new visions of their futures.

Advancement of Professional Education Through Community Service

The most commendable and significant contributions by Thomas Laging, AIA, are based in professional education and demonstrate the vital role a school of architecture can play in enlarging the design perspective of its community and region. Tom's permanent academic appointment at the University of Nebraska has enabled him to perform research and public service to promote, civic, social and AIA objectives. Through his persistent and consistently-sought enterprise, Tom Laging has become a trusted urban design counsel and leader who has protected and enhanced the design vitality of his community.

Environs Plan

The most laudable and enduring of his community service efforts is *the Nebraska State Capitol and Environs Plan*, which earned Laging, his co-director Roger Schluntz, and the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska the prestigious **First Honor Award in Urban Design from *Progressive Architecture***.

The NEA funded student included: educational background on the Capitol an important architectural work by Bertram Goodhue, an outline of the preservation needs of the structure, and the research for the historic residential neighborhoods and significant buildings around the Capitol.

The study led the way to many important city and state decisions about the building and its context. The study established an urban design overlay zone as part of the comprehensive plan permitting down zoning in the view corridors of the building and was the beginning step in the formulation of the Mount Emerald Historic District. The Plan was instrumental in forming a Joint City of Lincoln-State of Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission. Tom Laging, AIA, serves today as an appointed member to this critical entity.

For two decades, Tom has pursued the implementation of this urban design and planning effort with patience, vigilance and commitment to purpose. Specifically he has:

Community Design Education

Served as a charter commissioner helping to forge design guidelines; set policy; establish design review authority for the Commission; and initiate development proposals. He has testified to Legislative committees on the importance of various urban design issues and coordinated and directed further design efforts in the Nebraska Capitol Environs district.

South and East Malls

The Nebraska Capitol and Environs Plan East and South Mall charrette (1983) helped establish a more specific design framework for the residential malls, while The Governor's Mansion Assessment of Need Study (1992) outlined a strategy for improvement of the Mansion and grounds which has not had major improvements since its construction in the 1950's.

Centennial Mall

In 1994, Tom Laging, AIA, directed a design programming proposal for the Commission with graduate student Shelly McAfferty which serves as an expression of the Commission's programmatic desires in its effort to reconstruct the North Mall of the Nebraska State Capitol.

Advancement of Professional Education Through Service to the Profession

Service to Local AIA Chapters

Numerous AIA Chapters have sought Tom Laging's experienced leadership in organizing and carrying out urban design related charrettes. These high profile public conversions help to develop community consciences about important development issues, advance the role the various AIA Chapters play in effecting important community decisions, shape public opinion, and raise the status of the architect as a citizen. Specifically:

In 1996, Tom Laging, AIA, served as an *advisor and team leader* to the Omaha Chapter AIA on the "Aksarben Reuse Charrette." This highly publicized AIA event resulted in the designation of the old race track site as a new campus for the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a business campus for one of Omaha's largest employers.

Professor Laging brought his gifted graphic abilities and accomplished urban design leadership skills to the Gilbert and Mesa UDAT's for the Rio Salado Chapter. These efforts resulted in noteworthy changes in development thinking in a large urban area of eastern Phoenix during a critical period of rapid expansion in the 1980's.

Advancement of Professional Education Through Linkages to Communities

Joint ASU/City of Phoenix Center for Urban Design

The value and significance of Laging's urban design work for Phoenix brought recognition from Dean John Muenier, AIA, RIBA, at Arizona State University and led to Tom's appointment as the **First James Elmore Visiting Chair in Urban Design**. This position enabled Tom to contribute to urban design efforts for the joint ASU/City of Phoenix Center for Urban Design. The most notable result of these activities has been the reevaluation of development controls on East Camelback and on South Central Avenue, and a re-thinking of the "Urban Village Model" by the City of Phoenix. In the aggregate, this work helped forge a strong link between the architecture program at ASU and the city of Phoenix.

Urban Design Education Community Based Teaching

Tom Laging, AIA, **teaches urban design from a basis in practice**. His experience as a young urban designer with the late Charles Blessing, FAIA, at the Detroit City Plan Commission and his early work in Peru on the first metropolitan plan for Lima as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer taught Tom the critical role of community participation in large scale design activities. These early experiences lead to:

Laging founding the Environmental Action Studio as a beginning teacher. This community-based design studio evolved into a joint University/Omaha Chapter AIA Community Design Center. Tom and his students were instrumental in establishing the physical presence for the CDC in a storefront location in North Omaha. Under Laging's leadership, the center undertook many projects and provided design services that generated funding for several buildings in the Omaha low-income community, the most significant being the **South Omaha Multi-Service Center**.

Advancement of Professional Education Through Service to the Profession

Tom Laging, AIA, has contributed to the advancement of the standards of architectural education and practice through his dedicated and highly successful efforts to nurture students to be concerned for the design of their communities. Actively engaging his peers and his students, in civic involvement, he has advanced the community building imperative of the profession at the national level.

National Urban Design Leadership

Embracing the mission of the AIA/RUDC and RUDAT task force, Tom Laging has made significant impacts as a national R/UDAT Team leader and team member in six communities across the country. His skill in leadership and cutting edge knowledge of urban design issues enabled him to manage and help assemble national teams tailored to the specific issues of the individual communities. Notable developments have taken place in each of the communities where Tom served as Chair. Specifically the Farmington R/UDAT led to the reclamation of its river resource. The Lawrence R/UDAT opened a door to better communications with the Latino community. The Bellingham R/UDAT prevented the siting of a minor building in the foreground of the city's most significant historic landmark.

Urban Design Education

As a member of the AIA-RUDC committee on education, Tom Laging, AIA, has helped to forge important linkages between the AIA and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). Laging contributed to the success of four special paper sessions on urban design at national ACSA conferences. These sessions raised the level of awareness about urban design issues among academics and practicing professionals. The AIA sponsored publication, *Urban Design Visions and Reflections Collected Essays*, is a compilation of the papers delivered at several of these special paper sessions.

Service to NCARB

As a four time design and site planning grader for the western region NCARB, Laging brings the perspective of professional standards for registration to the Nebraska architecture program. He developed a corresponding system of comprehensive graduate exams and on three occasions graded as well as coached architects-in-training for the NCARB exam.

Service to Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects

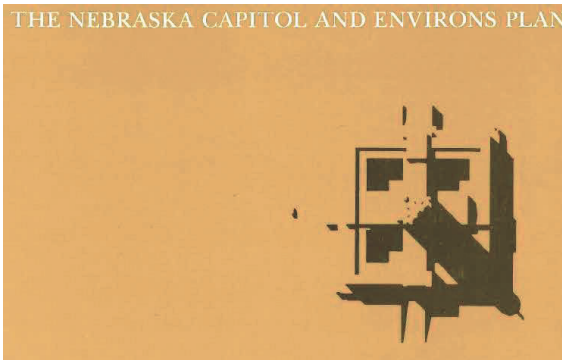
For the past fourteen years, Laging has served on the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects and has served as the chairman. He has served on the NCARB Education Committee which has numerous current proposals to improve the process of education, internship, examination, registration and professional practice.



Centennial Mall design and study, now under construction



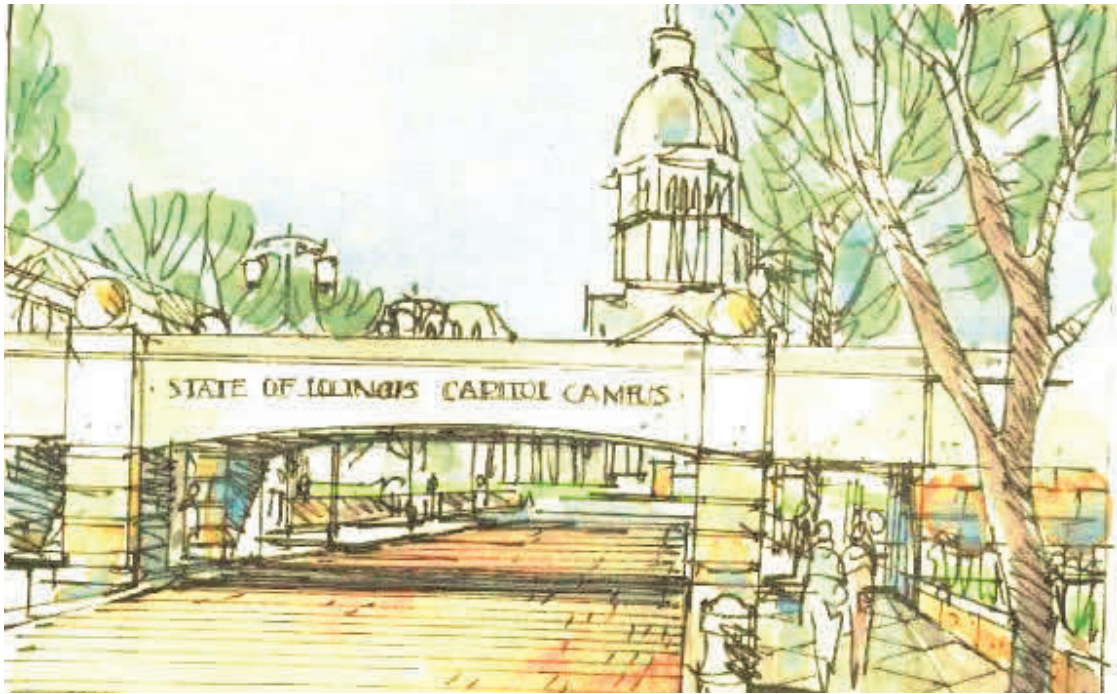
2002 Centennial Mall study "The Laging Plan"



NEA study forming bases for planning around Nebraska Capitol State and Lincoln Historical District



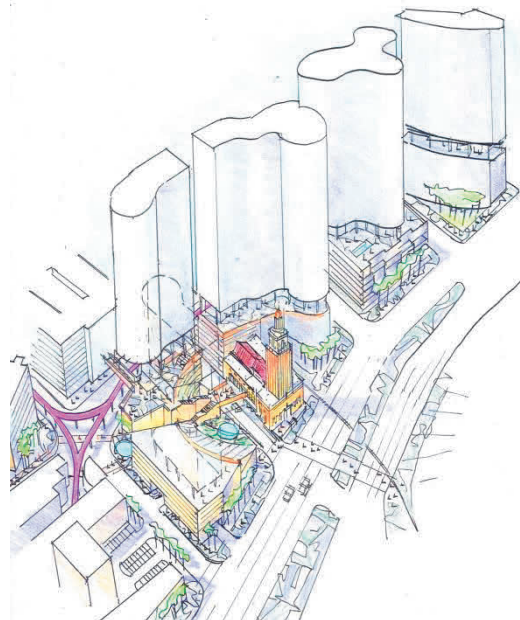
1978, Progressive Architecture



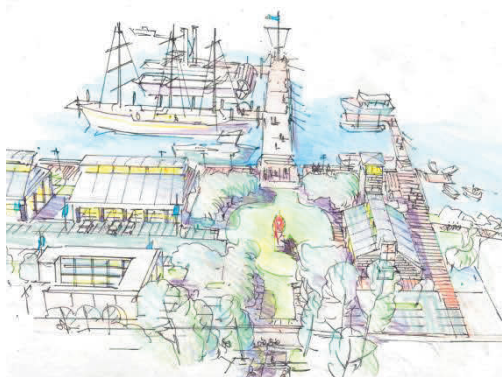
New Waterfront proposal St. Helens, OR S/DAT 2014



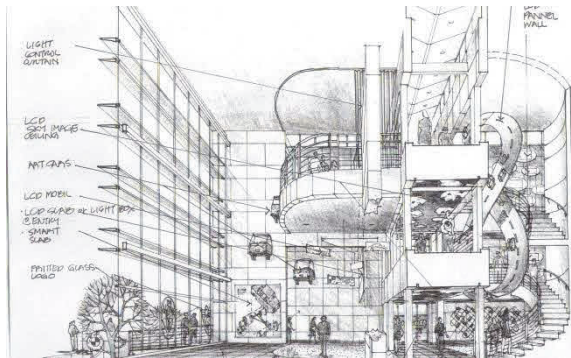
Street-scape of Miami, FL, Freedom Tower



Study for Barnes & Nobel Location in Miami's Freedom Tower



New Waterfront proposal St. Helens, OR S/DAT 2014



Graphics Illustration for BMW complex, SC



Community Q and A St. Helens, OR S/DAT 2014



Laging with newly graduated students and AIA professionals



Community input session at R/UDAT



Killinger Tianjin China Architecture Program, Fall 2008, Prof. Laging,



2014 Harry F. Cunningham, FAIA, Gold Medal Submission

Professor Thomas Laging, FAIA

June 9th, 2014
Tom Laging – Cunningham Gold Medal



To Whom it may concern,

There is no better candidate for the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal than Tom Laging FAIA. Tom's lifelong commitment to architecture and to the community is unparalleled. Not only has Professor Laging had a profound effect on architecture & community design in Nebraska, but he is also one of the influential people in my life.

My name is Benjamin Hovland, and for six years I had the honor of learning under Professor Laging at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Under his direction and mentorship, I received the Harry F. Cunningham Bronze Medal in 2012 for my Master's Thesis, which focused on rural community identity. Tom's extensive knowledge and years of experience in community planning, have guided me through my academic and professional career, of which I have been quite successful. I was also a finalist for the Tau Sigma Delta medal of excellence which is a reflection of the comprehensive academic work of an architectural student. Tom played a major role in my education as I was lucky enough to have him as a professor for three studios and as a mentor for my master's thesis. His passion for architecture motivated me to want to learn about architecture; furthermore, Tom imparted his dedication to community service to me and all students he taught to engage our communities and provide a positive influence on our architectural environment.

Tom Laging is an ideal candidate for looking to the future while respecting the past. He is one of few professors who respect the importance of hand representing architecture. Because of this, he preserves architecture as an art form, capturing every moment of a building or regional plan as an intentional, expressive thought. This respect influenced every student that passed through the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. His holistic approach to design describes a perfect balance of sociological and psychological issues in the build environment.

Tom Laging's service to the architectural community in Nebraska is in need of recognition. I had never in my life been more inspired to excel in architecture as a community leader before I met Tom Laging. His guidance was crucial in my formative years as a student, and has propelled my early successes as a young architect. The same thing could be said about architecture & community planning in the state of Nebraska.

I could write a book on why Tom Laging deserves this honor. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call my personal phone: 605-661-4940 or email me at ben.m.hovland@gmail.com. Thank you for your time and for considering a dear friend and colleague.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Hovland'.

OPN Architects, Inc.
Benjamin Hovland, LEED AP

Daniel J. Thies, AIA

Steven K. Knierim, AIA

Bradd A. Brown, AIA

Terry L. Gebard, AIA

David J. Sorg, AIA

Roger B. Worm, AIA

Richard S. Seely, AIA

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June 3, 2014

AIA Nebraska
Jury Chair
Nebraska AIA 2014 *Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal*

Members of the Selection Committee:

It is an honor for me to write on behalf of **Thomas Laging, FAIA**, recently retired and now distinguished *professor emeritus* of the UN-L College of Architecture, in consideration of the 2014 Nebraska AIA *Cunningham Gold Medal*. Tom's prodigious accomplishments during his incredibly productive career exemplify the stated *criteria* for this prestigious recognition in many key aspects.

I have known Tom in a number of capacities that extend over the better part of five decades of teaching and professional relationships. He was already a highly regarded teacher at the University of Nebraska when I joined the faculty in 1969. I am in awe of his vast capabilities and know well the high regard that the hundreds (thousands?) of his former architecture students have of him. **Through his instruction and mentorship, the enormous and positive influence Prof. Laging has had on the practice of architecture throughout Nebraska is incalculable.**

Outside of the academic classroom, I have worked alongside Tom on numerous urban design activities, including as co-directors of the critically acclaimed "Nebraska Capitol and Environs Study" funded in part by the *National Endowment of the Arts*. The residual impact of that 1970s effort and subsequent legislation and policies promulgated by both the State and the City of Lincoln is very much evident today – helping to insure a lasting dignity to this most distinctive edifice and a testament of the highest ideals of our design professions.

In my own professional career I have had the opportunity to organize and direct approximately twenty urban design and planning *charrettes* – in Arizona, Florida, as well as New Mexico – for various public agencies and major universities. With each project, I have endeavored to enlist Tom's services and with that depended heavily on his design leadership. **His soaring design talent and representational skills are, without question, extraordinary and, I would assert, as have others, truly "world class."** (This past weekend, in fact, we completed another very successful *Visioning and Design Workshop*, this for the *New Mexico School for the Arts* in Santa Fe. Tom, as always, was simply brilliant.)

As a valued colleague and long-time friend, I can attest to the many excellent qualities that underpin his professional activities and his personal life, inspirational to all and a tribute to our noble profession. We honor ourselves with this deserved recognition of Thomas Laging as the 2014 recipient of the AIA Nebraska *Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal*.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Schluntz, FAIA
Professor and *Dean Emeritus*

Scott W. Killinger, AIA

6007 Cricket Road Flourtown, PA 19031-1202
C. 610.247.3502 H. 215-233-1205 swkillinger@gmail.com

June 5, 2014

AIA Nebraska
Selection Committee, 2014 Cunningham Gold Medal

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. Thomas Laging for the 2014 Cunningham Gold Medal.

Others can speak more eloquently than I about his significant contributions to the character and quality of life in Lincoln and many other U.S. cities through the AIA's R/UDAT program.

I want to focus on Tom's pioneering efforts to engage UNL architecture students in collaborative studies with architecture students in China. I have worked in China for many years, and saw an opportunity for UNL students to expand their educational experience by learning to understand and work in a culture very different from our own, and how to function within it. Thus began the Killinger China Study Program.

Tom as the first professor to take a group on UNL architecture students to China for a semester long design studio designed to engage the students in each other's culture and thought processes. He so engaged the students in collaborative problem solving, architecture, and urban design that, not only did they understand how to work together, they developed a maturity and confidence in themselves that often takes years to achieve. They learned to trust their instincts. That is exactly the point of the program and he set the standard. The program continues today after six years.

Tom was also the initial beneficiary of the Killinger Professorship in Urban Design. I strongly recommend he be acknowledged for his many achievements at UNL with the 2014 Cunningham Medal.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott W. Killinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Scott W. Killinger, AIA
University of Nebraska, BArch, 1961
Co-founder Kuang Xing International Planning and Design,
Beijing, China, PPC



ARCHITECTURE
MASTER PLANNING
LANDSCAPE
SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH
INTERIORS

HONG KONG
SHANGHAI
DUBAI
EDINBURGH

2014 June 05

Re: The Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal Nomination

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thomas Laging and Potential.

As a design student at UNL College of Architecture from 1969 – 1974, I had the privilege of having Professor Laging as my 5th year design studio instructor.

My life progression personally and professionally bears the marks of certain individuals whom along the road are influences to seeing yourself, your world and your work in a dimension until then never revealed.

Individuals responsible for such marks is not long, but impressive. The list includes those capable of shaping and influencing from a level beyond the immediate...inspirational and insightful, resulting in life lessons to make you a better more rounded person. Thomas Findley, my brother and inspirational guru; Roger Schluntz my common sense guru and 4th year design studio instructor; Neil Astle a brilliant man and architect; Jack Savage my first professional partner and mentor; Gerald McCue professor at UC Berkeley presented a window into a much larger context; and Tom Laging who introduced me 'potential'.

As a young student of architecture in the 1970's at UNL, we were privileged to have many young and talented professors available. All of whom were influential, but Tom was one of two who broadened perspectives, and thus changed my life and those I eventually collaborated with.

By the end of the 4th year, my 4.0 average in Design Studio courses had essentially kept me in the university. I wish I could say I was a good student in all classes, but at the end of the day, even w/ a 4.0 in Design, my course average was but 3.2. The math is not complicated.

Having achieved A's in all prior design studios, I had come to expect no less in year 5. Through a year of diverse and reality based projects directed by Professor Laging, the challenge was quite different. At the end of the day, I received a lesson in humility, and my first 'B' in a design studio.

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Professor Laging presented his case. It was not just about design, or quality of design. It was not just about a solution or presentation. It was about the individual. Simply put Professor Laging saw more in myself than I did. He graded me as I deserved when comparing my achievement with what he believed I was capable of. Not a comparison of me to others, but of me to myself.

This is evidence of a professional instructor who was more than instructor. Not about leaving impressions of his skill sets and extraordinary talent, but about making inroads into ones capabilities and delivering the message which allowed the formation of a foundation for life.

Perhaps a simple and obvious lesson... but more importantly, with out my lucky draw of Professor Laging for 5th year design...who might I be today.

Without reservation, award the 2014 Cunningham Medal to Professor Laging. Another message worth delivering.

Thank you,

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Findley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" and "F".

Scott Findley
Design Partner

Joseph Lengeling
Architect

14 East 33rd Street
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6 June 2014

Selection Committee
The Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal
AIA Nebraska

Regarding: Thomas S. Laging, FAIA

The Laging family name runs deep in the history of education and contributions to the arts in Nebraska. Tom Laging's father, Duard, was an esteemed professor and longtime chairman of Department of Art at the University. Barbara Mills Laging, his mother, was a professor of interior design at UNL and will be honored with a show of her sculpture at the Sheldon Art Gallery. Meanwhile, Marcia Laging Cummings, Tom's sister, developed as a painter and is now a noted bead designer.

As the architect of the family, Tom went on to distinguish himself and further the legacy of this remarkable family.

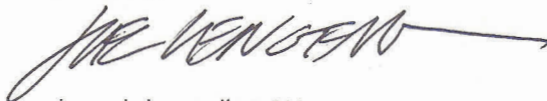
Following graduation from the University of Nebraska he was accepted at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University and took a position at the well-regarded Department of Urban Design in Detroit, Michigan under the leadership of the legendary Charles Blessing. From there he returned to Lincoln to initiate a career in teaching architecture.

Equipped with exceptional skills, a degree from Harvard, and a stint in urban design Tom could have gone anywhere. Returning to his roots in Nebraska represents a real tribute to his family and what became a lifelong commitment to architecture in Nebraska as an educator and practitioner.

To say I was a student of Tom Laging's is a misnomer. Spending time with him one understands that you can always be a student. I recall, as upperclassmen we were known for sneaking into his first year lectures to glean what we may have missed before. And, for my entire career I have been trying to draw like Tom . . . and paint those gorgeous watercolors.

So, it is without hesitation that I wholeheartedly endorse Thomas Laging, FAIA, to receive the meritorious Cunningham Gold Medal.

Sincerely,



Joseph Lengeling AIA

DOUGLASS

June 5, 2014

Selection Committee
2014 Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal
AIA Nebraska

Dear Colleagues:

I offer these few words in support of Thomas Laging for the Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal.

I know Tom well and in many dimensions. I have know him as an inspiring teacher during my 30 plus years on the College of Architecture Professional Advisory Council, as a valued collaborator in architectural practice and also, I must confess, as a classmate and friend.

I am confident you are fully aware of Tom's many professional and academic accomplishments and recognitions, so let me mention just one contribution of Tom's that may be less well heralded. As our profession has become more fragmented and engulfed in waves of technology, the tradition of artful practice can get lost. Countering this is Tom's advocacy and personification of the art in architecture. It is an interesting paradox – that Tom has been able to be both a state of the art leader in education and also a defender of the traditional architectural arts of visual communication – and has demonstrated the value of both as complementary tools in his teaching and practice.

Tom has helped our students enter the professional world equipped to understand and extend our artistic heritage even as they master the next generation of technology – and become tomorrow's leaders in artful practice. This is no small matter – the future status and distinction of our profession may depend on it. So I hope Tom's nomination will receive your favorable consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Douglass". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert Douglass DrDes, FAIA Emeritus
Nebraska '63

Selection Committee, Cunningham Medal
Nebraska Chapter, American Institute of Architects
335 N. 8th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

10 June 2014

I am writing to support the nomination of Professor Thomas Laging, FAIA, for selection as the AIA awardee of the Cunningham Medal for Architectural Excellence.

Tom Laging has distinguished himself and made major contributions to the state and national profession of architecture for more than 40 years. His contributions, beyond the thousands of students he has influenced into paths of design, graphic design, architecture, urban design, and community development, have influenced the physical qualities of Lincoln, Nebraska, and national and international communities.

Specifically, Tom has contributed in many significant ways to:

- The history and the good reputation of the UNL College of Architecture;
- Preservation and recognition, and revitalization of the Nebraska State Capitol and its Environs;
- The national AIA RU/DAT teams of urban design improvements to numerous communities across the US;
- Lincoln's urban qualities, through years of service on the Lincoln Urban Design Committee;
- Numerous schools of architecture across the US, through his work with the National Architectural Accrediting Board; and
- The context of professionalism throughout Nebraska, through his service to the Architect's and Engineer's Board of Registration, and

also, through his personal executions of excellent design, architecture, and urban design projects.

The addition of Tom Laging to the list of distinguished professionals bearing the Cunningham Medal will be a further credit to the quality of Nebraska professionals in architecture.

Thank you for your consideration,

W. Cecil Steward, FAIA, DPACSA
President/CEO,
Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION
State Capitol 7th Floor
Robert C. Ripley
Capitol Administrator

June 2, 2014

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

Re: Nomination of Professor Thomas S. Laging, FAIA
2014 Cunningham Gold Medal

Committee Members:

It is my honor to support Thomas S. Laging, FAIA, Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as nominee for the 2014 Cunningham Gold Medal. As a member of the architectural community in Nebraska for the past 43 years, 33 of which have been serving in the preservation and enhancement of our landmark State Capitol and its environs, I will concentrate on this area of Tom's considerable influence.

My experience with Professor Laging started with his co-authoring the 1975 *Nebraska Capitol and Environs Plan*, an award-winning document which, in my opinion, launched current public awareness and support for the preservation and enhancement of the Capitol and, especially, for what we know today as the Capitol Environs District.

From efforts lead by Tom, and a community based group of his professional colleagues and former UNL graduates in the profession, the *The Capitol Environs, East and South Mall Proposal* was developed in 1984 via a charrette process in Tom's campus studio. Among the many recommendations in this proposal, the creation of a permanent public body was called for to perpetually oversee preservation and enhancement of the urban setting for the Capitol within Lincoln. This lead to the passage of City and State legislation enabling the creation of the current, joint city and state, Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission in 1987.

Professor Laging was then appointed as a founding member of the original Capitol Environs Commission in 1988 and has continued to serve and help guide this important public body up to the current day. During his tenure on the Commission, his 1975 publication and 1984 East and South Mall Proposal were adopted as

2014 Cunningham Gold Medal Nomination for
Thomas S. Laging, FAIA, Professor Emeritus, UNL
June 2, 2014
Page 2

reference documents for the body. Subsequently, he helped develop the current Capitol Environs Design Standards enacted into law in 1994. He helped guide the creation of a plan to redevelop Centennial Mall in 1996 and then to personally modify and update this plan in 2001 when initial efforts to implement redevelopment had stalled. As most Nebraskans know, Centennial Mall is currently under redevelopment as a result of on-going Environs Commission efforts to keep the needs of the Capitol Environs in front of our state and local leaders. Professor Laging served as design consultant to the firm which created the design being implemented .

Although Tom Laging's numerous professional achievements are far more extensive than those enumerated in this letter, I believe his four decades of public service to benefit and enable the preservation and enhancement of our landmark Capitol and particularly its Environs within the City, more than warrant his selection as recipient of the 2014 Cunningham Gold Medal.

Should the Committee have further questions regarding my full support for Tom Laging's nomination, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Ripley AIA
Capitol Administrator

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