



To: USGBC

Re: 2014 LEED Fellow Nominator Letter of Recommendation for Joyce Lee, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C

In 2002, I had the great fortune of meeting Joyce Lee at Greenbuild in Austin, when LEED was still an odd acronym, USGBC was an intimate group, and LEED APs were rare. We were both public architects for large cities and we were both engaged with LEED, USGBC, and AIA COTE. Our bond grew over the years, with Joyce always inspirational, brilliant, and a consummate professional. She pioneered major initiatives, led projects, published "green" guides, and had a profound impact on the industry. Because of her exceptional contributions over the years, I am honored to nominate Joyce Lee for LEED Fellow.

Before USGBC local chapters, Joyce was already contributing to green education and mentorship by starting the AIA NYC COTE in 1999 and becoming COTE National Chair in 2002. In 2006, the AIA NY gave COTE the Public Outreach Award and recognized Joyce's leadership. As Chief Architect at the NYC OMB, Joyce led by example and became an ambassador for green buildings, able to inspire policy makers and elected officials to launch LEED pilot projects which provided impetus for groundbreaking legislations.

With Joyce's guidance, NYC's *High Performance Building Guidelines* was published in 1999 to educate practitioners on the city's green standards. Because of Joyce's efforts, NYSERDA became a critical partner with NYC and the AIA in promoting green buildings. After the NYC Green Building Law in 2005, Joyce launched a citywide green building training institute to **educate over 1,000 professionals in the City's 20 agencies**. Later, Joyce's *Active Design Guidelines* compiled best practices from the design and health industries. **Russell Unger** LEED AP, of the Urban Green ED, said, "*Active Design Guidelines celebrate green buildings and healthy places and will help advance design practice for healthy buildings locally and beyond.*"

Through advisors including **Bill Browning**, then at the Rocky Mountain Institute, Joyce built support for the Battery Park City's "Green Guidelines" which led to market rate green buildings and mainstreaming of green technologies. She also streamlined City approval of Code variances for the Authority which normally required an extended review. Joyce led design teams and facilitated the LEED process on City projects including the Queens Botanical Gardens. Joyce initiated and led the effort for approval of "Physical Activity" and "Community Food Production and Access" as LEED Innovation Credits, and then as **USGBC Pilot Credits**. Joyce also included "active design" in yearly "OpenHouseNewYork" building tours. Joyce initiated LEED projects before NYC's 2005 LEED mandate, and as Director of NYC's Active Design Program, Joyce also participated in student design competitions for active buildings,

Throughout her career, Joyce has advocated green building and as a result NYC now has a permanent Mayor's Office of Sustainability, numerous LEED projects and LEED APs in government agencies, and a successful USGBC chapter. She encouraged staff to attend Greenbuild and chapter events; championed the NYC Green Building Law of 2005; steered best green practices into neighboring communities; and supported green infrastructure like blue and green roofs, black and gray water reuse, green streets, and wetlands. Joyce chose key projects to showcase the Innovation Credit for Physical Activity, developed collateral training materials for design firms, and participated in topical panels with USGBC. **Deborah Taylor**, former Chief Sustainability Officer of the NYC Department of Buildings, said: "*Joyce held a unique position at the NYC OMB, where as Chief Architect, she evaluated the financial, social, aesthetic and environmental impact of proposed City construction projects, using her role to leverage the inclusion of sustainability measures. At OMB and at DDC, her ardent commitment to building green before it was widely accepted strongly impacted a great number of NYC projects.*"



Now in Michigan, Joyce was co-chair of the Green Apple Service Day statewide and is focusing on urban agriculture and energy education in Michigan school districts. **George Heartwell**, Mayor of Grand Rapids, wrote: *"Several remarkable individuals from the West Michigan community have joined together to begin a collaborative effort focused upon improving the health of our citizens through impactful work in the built environment. We are fortunate to have the talents of a new Grand Rapids resident, Joyce Lee, FAIA, LEED."* Also, **Cheri Holman**, chairwoman of USGBC West Michigan, shared this: *"Joyce's leadership has helped the USGBC West Michigan chapter reach an expanded audience including art schools and health professionals."* At the national level, **Chris Pyke**, VP at USGBC, said, *"Joyce Lee has been a vital member of the USGBC community for more than a decade, and the USGBC Research Program has enjoyed and valued her wisdom, collaboration, and friendship."*

Dedicated public sector employees like Joyce have been instrumental in LEED's market transformation over the years, **laying "tracks"** for the private sector. As **Mark Palmer**, LEED Fellow from San Francisco said: *"Joyce has a contagious enthusiasm for green building. She had the foresight to see sustainability as important for the City of New York, and early on helped lay the groundwork for full scale green buildings implementation."* As an Asian-American green building professional, Joyce has introduced sustainability to other cultures and been an exemplary role model and shining example of diversity within the USGBC community. As a direct result of her professional expertise, passion, and continuous exceptional engagement on behalf of USGBC and LEED, green building has benefitted greatly, and Joyce S. Lee clearly warrants the distinction of LEED Fellow 2014.

Sincerely,

John Albrecht, LEED Fellow, AIA