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MILLENNIUM PARK'S LURIE GARDEN WINS TOP HONOR

American Society of Landscape Architects Recognize Lurie Garden with Prestigious Design Award

The Lurie Garden, located in Chicago's Millennium Park, has earned the 2008 top design award from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) – besting hundreds of entries from around the world.

The ASLA Award of Excellence in General Design recognizes constructed projects of landscape architecture or urban design. Judges base their decisions on the quality of design and execution; design context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; and design value to the client and to other designers. The Lurie Garden exceeded in all of these criteria.

“We are honored to receive this prestigious award. The Lurie Garden truly pays homage to our City's motto, *Urbs in Horto*—city in a garden,” said Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs. “Visitors can experience and enjoy the Garden's natural beauty in all four seasons throughout the year.”

Designed by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd, Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel, the 2.5-acre garden was inspired by Carl Sandburg's famous description of the “City of Big Shoulders.” Gustafson Guthrie Nichol enclosed the garden on two sides with a 15-foot high “shoulder” hedge. Two diagonal, hardwood walkways create movement through the garden.

“Kathryn Gustafson and her team were selected the winner of an international, invited design competition, underwritten by Richard Driehaus,” said John Bryan, Chairman of Millennium Park Inc. “Because of the generosity of Ann Lurie, the care of this beautiful garden is entirely funded by an endowment.”

Visitors to Chicago can look for distinctive features that set this garden apart. The Garden has two interior “Plates” that are planted with perennials and trees native to Chicago. Called the Dark Plate and Light Plate, they each have their own form but combine to resemble a muscular torso. In addition, The Seam is the boundary between the two plates. It is composed of an *lpe* boardwalk that “floats” over a shallow water feature; perfect for dipping feet into after a long day of walking in the city.

"The landscape architect has created an oasis in the center of the city. It works on so many levels, no wonder people love it. The plant palette is very rich and engaging. This is not our typical botanic garden," said the awards jury which represents some of the world's leading design experts. "It has raised the bar and is far and away the most outstanding example of work submitted to the awards program this year."

"The Lurie Garden is a unique urban environment; it allows people to find a quiet respite in the city while at the same time addressing responsible and sustainable messages about horticulture and gardening to a diverse audience," said Colleen Lockovitch, the Head Horticulturist for the garden. "Several Chicago firms provided important design support for the garden including Terry Guen Design Associates Inc, the local landscape architect; Spectrum Strategies, the project manager and Schuler and Shook, the lighting designers."

About Millennium Park

Located in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Monroe Streets, the 24.5-acre Millennium Park is an unprecedented center for world-class art, music, architecture and landscape design. In addition to the Lurie Garden, the Park's prominent features include the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture. The Lurie Garden endowment is managed by Millennium Park Incorporated.

About ASLA

Founded in 1899, ASLA is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 18,200 members in 48 professional chapters and 68 student chapters. The Society's mission is to lead, to educate, and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environments.

For more information about Millennium Park or the Lurie Garden, please visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312.742.1168.

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Note to Press: Electronic Images Available Upon Request