

For immediate release:

***BERNIE ALONZO, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP BD+C
APPOINTED TO
SEATTLE DESIGN COMMISSION***

Seattle, WA (MAY 29, 2013) – Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (GGN) is pleased to announce that Bernie Alonzo, Principal, has been appointed to a two year term in the City of Seattle’s Design Commission. Alonzo joins Thomas J. Nelson and Brodie Bain in being appointed to the commission by Mayor Mike McGinn and confirmed by the Seattle City Council.

The Seattle Design Commission advises the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on the design of capital improvement projects, as well as projects on City land, in the City right-of-way, or built with the support of City dollars. The commission consists of ten members that include architects, urban designers, environmental designers, urban planners, landscape architects, engineers, an artist, a member-at-large, and one member from Get Engaged, the YMCA Young Civic Leaders Program. The Seattle Design Commission is one of several citizen-led boards appointed by the Mayor and City Council to review the design of projects.

As a member with expertise in landscape architecture, Alonzo will be providing advice on plans for new public projects such as the State Route 520 Bridge Replacement, the Seattle Waterfront Project, major utility projects, fire stations, parks and streetscapes. His knowledge and experience will play an important role when working with private projects that affect the city’s right-of-way, and on major projects that affect the whole city.

“I am honored to join the Seattle Design Commission,” states Alonzo. “The City of Seattle has a number of large, transformative projects in process. Being a member of the commission is a great opportunity for me to give back to my city, providing insight and perspectives on critical design issues.”

About Bernie Alonzo

With over 17 years of experience managing large consultant teams, Alonzo leads many of GGN’s most technically complex projects. His professional strengths encompass all aspects of sustainable project planning and design, including site selection, programming, the development of initial concepts and deliverables, budgeting and the execution of documentation and construction administration.

Currently, he is working with Sound Transit, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and the University of Washington to integrate new multi-modal transportation into the historic design of the Rainer Vista axis.

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About Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (GGN)

Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (GGN) is an internationally recognized landscape architecture firm with offices in both Seattle, Washington, and Washington, DC. The 2011 recipient of the National Design Award given by the Smithsonian's Cooper Hewitt, National Design Museum, GGN was founded in 1999 by partners Kathryn Gustafson, Jennifer Guthrie, and Shannon Nichol.

GGN's projects are developed by designers with professional backgrounds in landscape, architecture, engineering, graphics, ecology, and other sciences, and express the sculptural qualities of contextual landscapes. GGN offers experience in designing high-use landscapes in complex, urban contexts. These landscapes are widely varied in type and scale, but they share qualities as healthy settings for diverse and ever-changing activities.

GGN's prominent projects include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Campus in Seattle, Lurie Garden of Millennium Park in Chicago, the Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, and the new forthcoming National Museum of African American History and Culture. GGN is also the winner of the 2012 National Mall Design Competition for Union Square.

Kathryn Gustafson is also a partner in the UK design firm, Gustafson Porter.

For more information on Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, please visit www.ggnltd.com

About the Seattle Design Commission

Established in 1968, the Seattle Design Commission advises city officials on the design and environmental aspects of capital improvement projects. The Commission champions design excellence in the public realm, promotes design practices that serve as catalyst for innovative sustainable development, equal opportunity and social inclusion, and ensures that the city's built environment makes Seattle a world-class example of sustainable urban design that strengthens community, public life and economic prosperity.

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