



ERIC GARCETTI  
MAYOR

June 27, 2014

Honorable Members of the City Council  
c/o City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Esther Margulies to the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission for the term ending June 30, 2015. Ms. Margulies will fill the vacancy created by Joyce Foster, whom will be removed effective July 31, 2014 or at the time Ms. Foster's successor is confirmed by the City Council.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Margulies is qualified for the work that will devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'E. Garcetti'.

ERIC GARCETTI  
Mayor

EG:dlg

Attachment

## COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

**Name:** Esther Margulies  
**Commission:** West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission  
**End of Term:** 6/30/2015

### Appointee Information

1. **Race/ethnicity:** Caucasian
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 11 - West Los Angeles
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** M.A., Harvard University
7. **Occupation/profession:** Associate Principal, Studio Leader, AECOM Los Angeles
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Replacement
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Name	APC	CD	Ethnicity	Gender	Appt date	Term end
Donovan, Thomas M.	West	11	Caucasian	M	31-Jan-14	30-Jun-17
Foster, Joyce L	West	5	Caucasian	F	02-Sep-08	30-Jun-15
Halper, Joseph	West	11	Caucasian	M	19-Aug-11	30-Jun-18
Teasley Linnick, Erica	West	11	African American	F	09-Jul-08	30-Jun-14
Waltz Morocco, Lisa	West	5	Caucasian	F	17-Dec-13	30-Jun-16

## **Esther Margulies, RLA, ASLA**

### **Relevant Recent Experience**

**OotDL** Office of the Designed Landscape Founder  
In Progress June 2014

**AECOM** Associate Principal, Studio Leader Los Angeles CA 2012 – 2014

**Valleycrest Design Group** Principal Studio Leader, Calabasas Ca. 2009 – 2012

**Mia Lehrer + Associates** Founding Partner, Los Angeles, CA. 1997 – 2009

**University of Southern California School of Architecture** Part Time Lecturer and Graduate Directed Design Research Advisor Los Angeles CA. 2009 - current

### **Education**

Master of Landscape Architecture, Harvard University Graduate School of Design  
Bachelor of Science, Cornell University

### **Professional Licenses**

California #3752, 1992  
Massachusetts #1023, 1990

### **Leadership**

Bard President Adat Shalom Los Angeles  
Board Member, USC Architectural Guild  
Board Member Olive Branches  
Member Cornfields State Advisory Committee  
Co Chair ASLA LA River Design Charette

Esther Margulies has been a practicing landscape architect in Los Angeles for 25 years. She has been responsible for leading firms, practices and projects across the Southern California region including award winning park, campus and residential commissions. Esther and her husband have lived in Venice for 20 years, they have two children in the LAUSD.

Ms. Margulies is well known as leader in sustainable landscape works and as a design leader who is capable of finding the balance between community interests and the private sector. Her successful projects at Playa Vista, Amgen, the San Pedro Waterfront and The Annenberg Community Beach House are excellent examples of conditions where community concerns were recognized and addressed to the benefit of all concerned. She has been a champion of the restored Los Angeles River organizing the first professional design Charette in 1997 with the American Society of Landscape Architects, and contributing to the 2009 LA River Master Plan.

Across the Los Angeles region, Esther has been responsible for project coordination, municipal design review, project permitting and approvals efforts on numerous public and private sector projects involving landscape and streetscape improvements.

Ms. Margulies has been on the faculty of the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California since 2009. She lectures in the Graduate Landscape Architecture department and advises graduate students on their final Directed Design Research Projects.

## **Awards**

Harvard University Penny White Prize  
Vista Hermosa Park – ASLA, LABC, AIA, SCDC  
Baldwin Hills Village – ASLA  
Annenberg Community Beach House ASLA, APW  
Staples Center Open Space – ASLA  
Amgen Campus - ASLA  
Temecula Border Patrol Station – GSA  
Ballona Creek Trail MP – Westside Prize  
Constellation Place – ASLA, LABC  
Miguel Contreras Learning Center – LABC, SCDF  
Mission College East Campus - DBIA

## **Project Experience**

### **South Park Mixed Use, Urban Partners, Los Angeles, CA.**

Served as the principal in charge of all on site landscape design for public and private open spaces for high-rise and mid-rise mixed-use project in downtown Los Angeles. Responsible for interpreting and meeting downtown Urban Design Guidelines and developing community enhancing public open space.

### **Metro East Side Access Phase II, LA Metro, East Los Angeles, CA**

Served as the principal in charge on project to improve walking and biking connections and station area enhancements for the four easternmost stations on the LA Gold Line light rail. Intensive work with the community in large community meetings, community advisory committee and stakeholder meetings.

### **Beach Boulevard Improvements, City of Buena Park, Buena Park, CA**

Served as the principal in charge for landscape and streetscape project to create improved pedestrian environments, and to re-position an aging entertainment and hospitality corridor.

### **City of Santa Monica, Annenberg Community Beach House, Santa Monica, CA**

Served as the principal-in-charge and was responsible for managing design and public approvals for this high profile historic preservation and aquatic facility. Developed sustainability strategies and led the construction administration phase for landscape, hardscape, site lighting and water features. The Beach House design included extensive public outreach during the design process and required the consent of neighboring land owners who had deep concerns over the introduction of traffic and visitors to what was a private property. Featured in Vanity Fair magazine and other publications the Beach House became an instant success providing the experience of the Gold Coast to the public.

### **Los Angeles World Airports, Tom Bradley Terminal, Los Angeles, CA**

Served as principal in charge and designer of landscape improvements for the international departures and arrivals terminal.

### **Los Angeles World Airports Landscape Guidelines, Los Angeles, CA**

Served as the principal-in-charge, designer and agency liaison for the development of landscape and irrigation guidelines for LAX. This project was performed for CDM and was intended as a vehicle to address property wide landscape design guidelines for various land uses including the north side development on Westchester Parkway, landscape areas in the terminal area, cargo facilities and general streetscape that would create a consistent and cohesive vocabulary with sound sustainable practices.

### **MRCA, Vista Hermosa Park, Los Angeles, CA**

Principal-in-Charge on nine-acre urban nature park in downtown Los Angeles. Park design included trails, restrooms, synthetic turf sports field, interpretive signage, and children's discovery areas.

The park was developed on land owned by the Los Angeles Unified School District and was required to comply with California Division of State Architect requirements typically applied to school campuses. The finished park has been cited by the Mayor of Los Angeles and others as a model of sustainable park development. Storm water is filtered through bio swales, green roofs, synthetic turf base and permeable concrete paving. Native plants provide habitat and reduced irrigation water use. Perhaps the most successful qualities of the park include provision of much needed open space for a very dense urban population with few other opportunities to interact with nature, and the trails which provide a fitness resource for all ages and abilities in the community.

**Amgen, Bio Tech Campus, Thousand Oaks, CA**  
Principal-in-Charge and construction administration lead for 150 acre bio tech campus landscape redevelopment program including streetscapes, plazas, water features and gardens. Led project permitting and approvals including oak tree preservation requirements. Worked collaboratively with the client and a multi disciplinary design team to create a people focused, sustainable campus to attract and retain the best and bright human capital.

**City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, Prop O Projects, Los Angeles, CA**  
Served as the principal-in-charge, designer and agency liaison for the development of landscape improvements in stormwater quality improvement projects on park sites. Projects included the development of bio swales, constructed wetlands and mechanical water filtration integrated with traditional active and passive recreation on sites including The Venice Dog Park, Mar Vista Park, South Los Angeles Wetland Park and Westside Park.

**Related Company, Santa Monica Village, Santa Monica, CA**  
Served as the principal-in-charge and was responsible for managing design, City Council and

Commission approvals; and developing sustainability strategies for 3.5 acre mixed use housing, retail and open space project. Landscape design included street improvements, plazas, water features, art components, gardens, pocket park, over structure landscape and roof gardens. Worked closely with nationally recognized developer to create a seamless and cohesive multi block project on highly valuable real estate that integrates market and low income housing, linked to citywide open space and transit systems.

**Los Angeles Community College District, Campus Master Plans Los Angeles, CA**

Served as the principal in charge, and project manager for landscape architecture portion of campus master plans at Harbor College and Los Angeles Trade Tech campuses. Master Plan concepts for each campus included the development of campus open space systems based on the local campus context, historic campus uses and the program for future campus development. Design standards included guidelines for planting, irrigation, site lighting and site furnishings.

**Los Angeles Community College District, Mission College Campus Master Plan Update, Sylmar, CA**

Served as the principal in charge and project manager for Campus Master Plan update and expansion. Project included site analysis and concept development for main campus and future campus expansion area. The Master Plan included studies of the campus perimeter, open space typologies, view sheds, soils and drainage analysis.

**Los Angeles Community College District, Mission College Campus Gateway, Sylmar, CA**

Served as the principal in charge and project manager for Campus Gateway project including the design of a new campus vehicular entry, plaza and connections to existing campus circulation systems. As the first phase of a series of new projects on campus this phase was designed to accommodate

future stormwater management, circulation and open space needs.

**Los Angeles Community College District, Pierce College Technology Building, Woodland Hills, CA**

Served as the principal in charge and project manager for programming and landscape design of campus technology building and associated courtyards and campus connections.

**Los Angeles Community College District, Pierce College Horticulture Campus, Woodland Hills, CA**

Served as the principal in charge and project manager for programming and master planning of campus horticulture area including the layout and programming of classroom buildings, green houses, display gardens and nursery areas.

**Los Angeles Community College District, Mission College Campus Family and Consumer Services Building, Sylmar, CA**

Served as the principal in charge and project manager for Campus Dining, culinary arts and retail building. Project design included green roof gardens for the culinary arts program; outdoor dining for the café and storm water garden that functioned as part of the campus storm water infrastructure system.

**University of California Riverside, Barn Area Study, Riverside CA**

Served as the principal in charge, designer and project manager for a master plan level study to rehabilitate the historic Barn Area Complex to serve as a campus dining, entertainment and Alumni center. Site proposals included the development of a new campus gateway, transit station, pedestrian and service pathways, an outdoor dining and performance space and gardens associated with a renovated cottage serving as a café.

**JPL Campus Renovation Master Plan, Pasadena, CA**

Served as the principal in charge and project manager for a master plan study to develop a more pedestrian focused campus. From the master plan a

sub project developed to design a main campus promenade or circulation spine from the public entry to the core of the campus. Design included developing a planting palette appropriate to the campus location on the edge of the urban wild land and wild fire protection, development of paving, lighting and site furnishings standards.

**LAUSD, BHUSD, Santa Ana Unified SD, Southern California**

Served as the principal-in-charge, designer and agency liaison for the design of school campus design and recreation area renovations for elementary, middle and high school campuses in multiple districts. Projects included the design of natural turf fields, synthetic turf fields, natural and synthetic tracks, play equipment, outdoor dining areas, gathering spaces, learning gardens, outdoor classrooms and streetscapes.

**Los Angeles Community College District, Los Angeles, CA**

Served as the principal-in-charge, designer and construction administrator for campus planning and site projects on multiple campuses. On previously generic campuses created resource efficient landscapes based on regional conditions at a human scale to enrich campus life.

**CityView, Pomona Arts Colony, Pomona, CA**

Principal in charge for the development of landscape architecture services on a mixed use density and public realm study for the revitalization of three blocks of the Arts District in downtown Pomona. Project studies included the conceptual design of plazas, courtyards and streetscapes for transit adjacent housing and mixed use parcels.

**Soboroff Partners, Whole Foods in the Park, Thousand Malibu, CA**

Principal-in-Charge on mixed use retail development in an ecologically sensitive area of the Southern California coast. Managed the development of the conceptual design and City approvals for a

pedestrian scaled retail project with extensive water quality, native planting and wildfire requirements. Located in the Civic Center of Malibu where a tradition of pedestrian scaled lifestyle retail has developed this project capitalized on the availability of open space to create a park like setting and provide extensive native planting and a universally accessible play area as amenities.



ERIC GARCETTI  
MAYOR

June 27, 2014

Ms. Esther Margulies

Dear Ms. Margulies:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission for the term ending June 30, 2015. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require visiting City Hall. If you require parking during these procedures, please call Cary Gross in my Office at (213) 978-0621 to make arrangements for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign and return the enclosed Remuneration Form, Undated Separation Forms, Background Check Release and Information Sheet **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensuring the most efficient, open and accountable City government possible. Further, Mayor's Office policy requires you to be fingerprinted as part of the background check that is done on all potential Commissioners. To do so, please bring this letter to the Background Unit of Employment Services Division, Personnel Department Building, 700 East Temple Street, Room 235, Los Angeles, California 90012. The division phone number is (213) 473-9343. Fingerprints must be taken **within three working days** from the **receipt** of this letter.

Under separate cover you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission, 200 North Spring Street, City Hall, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Shannon Prior at the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960.