



shaping responsive places

Mark A. Focht, PLA FASLA
Curriculum Vitae

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Professional Experience

Present
September 2016

Founder & Principal

COMMON GROUND – Philadelphia, PA

Common Ground is a consultancy committed to shaping memorable places. The practice works with an array of partners to create high quality spaces, which are maintainable, sustainable and responsive to user needs. Common Ground works at the nexus of design, programming and operations by facilitating planning and building consensus among clients, consultants and constituents.

March 2016
April 2011

First Deputy Commissioner

PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION – Philadelphia, PA

Appointed Philadelphia Parks & Recreation's first deputy commissioner by Mayor Michael A. Nutter following the formation of the department through the merger of the Fairmount Park Commission and Philadelphia Recreation Department. Managed over 300 employees and a +\$32 million annual operating budget. Responsible for operations, maintenance, planning, capital, property management, urban forestry, ecosystem management and security for a 10,300 acre system comprised of 131 parks, 151 recreation centers and playgrounds and 71 outdoor swimming pools.

April 2011
August 2005

Executive Director

FAIRMOUNT PARK COMMISSION – Philadelphia, PA

Appointed the Fairmount Park Commission's executive director by Mayor John F. Street [the equivalent of serving as the city's director of parks]. Led a unionized city operating department with +200 employees and a +\$16 million annual operating budget; while reporting to an independent Commission. Responsible for all aspects (maintenance, programming, personnel, finance, planning, capital, forestry, ecosystem management, marketing, communications and security) of managing 72 parks totaling over 9,200 acres, or 11% of the city.

August 2005

Director, Environment, Stewardship & Education Division

Program Administrator, Natural Lands Restoration Program

December 1997

Natural Lands Restoration Manager

Served in several capacities for the Fairmount Park Commission prior to being appointed executive director.

December 1997
May 1995

Director, Capital Projects

CENTER CITY DISTRICT – Philadelphia, PA

Managed the District's \$26 million Walk!Philadelphia streetscape improvement program; including a team of 9 consultants with contracts totaling \$2.1 million, a \$1.1 million construction management contract and administering four construction contracts totaling over \$15.3 million. At completion in December 1997, the Walk!Philadelphia project resulted in substantial improvements to the pedestrian environment on 71 blocks in Center City.

May 1995
March 1989

Landscape Architect / Land Planner

WALLACE ROBERTS & TODD – Philadelphia, PA

Projects with Wallace Roberts & Todd included detailed landscape architectural design, construction documentation and construction observation services for several streetscape improvement and multimodal public transportation projects. Additional work included large-scale environmental planning projects, master plans for resorts, mixed-use developments, academic institutions and river corridor / trail systems.

March 1989
July 1985

Administrative Director / Land Planner

JOHN RAHINKAMP CONSULTANTS, INC. – Philadelphia, PA

Responsibilities included coordination of all administrative functions of JRC's two landscape architectural groups (12 people) including hiring, salary and bonus reviews, conflict resolution and resource scheduling. Land planning projects included the development of master land use plans and detailed site plans for projects ranging from one to five thousand acres and included environmental, regulatory, physical and market analyses.

Teaching

May 2011
September 1989

Adjunct Professor

DEPT. OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND HORTICULTURE

Temple University, Ambler, PA

Adjunct Professor of the Professional Practice discussion course in the Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture curriculum.

June 1985
September 1983

Teaching Assistant

DEPT. OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND REGIONAL PLANNING

University of Massachusetts and Amherst

Teaching Assistant for four semesters of a sequential graphics course in the undergraduate Environmental Design program.

Education

- 1985 **MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 1983 **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**
The Pennsylvania State University

Professional Registration

- 1989 **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**
Licensed Landscape Architect #LA-001033-E

Honors/Awards

- 2015 **UNIVERSITY FELLOW**
The Pennsylvania State University
- AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**
- 2015 Immediate-Past President
2014 President
2013 President-Elect
2010/2011 Vice-President, Communications
2008 Invested as a Fellow (FASLA)
- 2013 **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**
Dept. of Landscape Architecture – University of MA, Amherst
- 2007 **ARTS & ARCHITECTURE ALUMNI AWARD**
College of Arts and Architecture – The Penn State University

Boards

- FAIRMOUNT PARK CONSERVANCY**
FAIRMOUNT PARK HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST
PARKWAY COUNCIL FOUNDATION
PHILADELPHIA SPORTS CONGRESS
PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM
SCHUYLKILL RIVER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION