



May 2, 2022

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

**RE: Nomination of Amber Hawkes as Alternate Rep to the Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) for CD4**

Honorable City Council Members,

As Chair of the City of Los Angeles' Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC), I'm pleased to accept the nomination of Amber Hawkes as alternate representative to CFAC for Councilmember Nithya Raman in Council District 4.

CFAC was formed in 1993 and is tasked with advocating for the protection and expansion of a healthy and robust tree canopy for the City of Los Angeles and its environs. As members appointed by each Council District and the Mayor's office, our role is to advise City Council and city departments on tree-related policies and help develop programs which protect and expand the city's urban forest for the health and well-being of all Angelenos. We are dedicated to habitat/ecosystem/biodiversity protection and more sustainable land use.

Amber Hawkes co-leads [Here LA](#), an interdisciplinary urban design and planning practice and works on a diverse portfolio of projects from large-scale open space planning, to multi-modal streetscape, Green Streets, and Complete Streets design. Amber has worked on vision and master planning projects for cities and clients throughout the US, with a focus on creative problem solving. She holds a Master of Arts in Urban Planning, Urban Design & Physical Planning, and we are looking forward to having Amber bring her vast skill set and experience to our urban forestry policy and program work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Shelley".

Shelley Billik

Chair, Community Forest Advisory Committee



## AMBER HAWKES

Principal, Urban Designer, Urban Planner, Lecturer

Amber Hawkes co-leads Here LA, an interdisciplinary urban design and planning practice. Amber works on a diverse portfolio of projects - from large-scale open space concept planning, to the design and temporary installation of “tactical” improvements and multi-modal streetscape, Green Streets, and Complete Streets design. Amber has worked on vision and master planning projects for cities and clients throughout the US, with a focus on creative problem solving and community engagement through arts-based community interactions, walk and bike audits, consensus-building, and design charrettes. For almost a decade, Amber was an instructor in the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Graduate School of Urban Planning. She has spoken at conferences, forums, and universities, and written about urban design-related topics.

### Current Positions

Here LA, Co-Director, Founder (2015-Present)

### Previous Positions Held (selected)

Melendrez Landscape Architecture, Planning, & Urban Design: Leadership Team, Associate Principal, Associate, Senior Project Manager, Planning & Urban Design. (2011 - February 2016)

UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Urban Planning Masters Program: Lecturer, Core Course, Visual Communication. (2010 - 2019)

Torti Gallas and Partners: Urban Designer & Project Manager. (2007 - 2011)

### Selected Project List

#### Urban Design & Streetscape Design

##### Glendale Pedestrian Plan, City of Glendale

###### Role: Urban Design Project Manager

Developed streetscape concepts for key pedestrian corridors, including complete streets and slow streets overhauls. Also oversaw a creative outreach campaign that included a community-generated mural that when completed roamed around the City, inhabiting vacant storefronts and blank walls, to teach people about the Pedestrian Plan and safe streets, and beautify the city. 2016-2017

##### Downey Pedestrian Master Plan, City of Downey

###### Role: Urban Designer, Wayfinding Designer, Creative Outreach Oversight

Oversaw a creative and interactive art installation that helped our planning team define where people most want to be able to walk to and from, in order to build a pedestrian-priority network, with colorful yarn strung from wall to wall indicating origins and destinations. We also identified urban design recommendations for three locations in the city to enhance the public realm for pedestrians.

2019 - 2020

##### First/Last Mile Streetscape Design (Various Locations), LA Metro

###### Project Role: Urban Design Project Manager

Analyzed and then conceptual designed the 1/2 mile areas around various transit stations along the Purple, Blue, Red, and Expo lines, from an urban design and neighborhood connectivity perspective. Improvements include new trees, planting, slow streets improvements, and pedestrian amenities.

2015-Present

## Relevant Projects (cont.)

### **Willoughby Greenway Streetscape Design, City of West Hollywood**

#### **Role: Urban Design Project Manager**

Currently overseeing this streetscape design for the Willoughby Corridor through West Hollywood, which will transform the street from a vehicular cut-through to a green, welcoming, and safe Neighborhood Greenway. 2019-Present

### **Brea Connecting the Core, City of Brea**

#### **Project Role: Urban Design Project Manager**

Drew up visions for a reinvigorated downtown as part of the city's Connecting the Core Active Transportation Plan. We helped led a multi-day design charrette to identify and prioritize Complete Street street design projects. Our team also designed and fabricated a re-usable and mobile pop up for community outreach activities. 2019

### **North Hollywood to Pasadena BRT Urban Design Integration Guide, LA Metro**

#### **Role: Urban Design Project Manager**

Crafted an approach to integration of the bus rapid transit into the urban fabric of the city via this Urban Design Integration Guide. The Guide showcased desired access improvements, including streetscape elements like trees, pedestrian amenities, and cycling infrastructure. 2018-2019

### **Space 134 Conceptual Design\*, City of Glendale**

#### **Role: Urban Design Project Manager**

Led the vision design and planning for this 25+ acre park that would sit atop the 134 Freeway as it passes through the heart of Downtown Glendale. The design was overseen and managed while at a previous firm; our team now continues to work on the third phase of the project. A active green loop winds its way through the park and along a rehabilitated Verdugo Wash. 2014-Present

### **Broadway Dress Rehearsal, Pilot Project\*, City of Los Angeles**

#### **Role: Urban Design Project Manager**

After completing the Broadway Streetscape Master Plan with the CRA/LA and Bringing Back Broadway, Hawkes led the design of a streetscape 'dress-rehearsal' to test out the ideas presented in the Master Plan for a main stretch of Broadway in Downtown LA. We designed sidewalk extensions delineated from the roadway with planters, bollards, and special paving - with a custom pattern inspired by the Deco theater character of the street. 2013-2014

### **Lower Point Vicente Preserve Design\***

#### **Role: Project Manager**

Oversaw the conceptual design for a 6-Acre nature preserve atop the bluffs of Rancho Palos Verdes. Visions for the rehabilitated site included trail planning and rationalization of site circulation. 2013-2014

*\*Completed at previous firm*

## Education

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA): Master of Arts - Urban Planning, Urban Design, and Physical Planning, Awarded the Departmental Fellowship. Conflict Mediation Study.

Vassar College: Bachelor of Arts - Urban Studies, Poughkeepsie, NY.  
Cum Laude & Departmental Honors.

## Professional Affiliations

Member, American Planning Association (APA)

Allied Affiliate Member, American Institute of Architects (AIA)