

Robert T. Lewis, former Mayor of Pittsburg, California

August 3, 2019

To David Meckel, FAIA, Chair, 2019 AIA Fellowship Nominating Committee, San Francisco, CA

Re: Fani Danadjieva Hansen, AIA, Nomination category, Service to Society

Dear Mr. Meckel,

My name is Robert T. Lewis. It was my honor to serve from 1989 to 2002 as a member of the City Council of Pittsburg, California, including two one-year terms as mayor. Pittsburg is a diverse community of over 60,000 residents, representing a variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. The city has a rich history as a center for coal mining, commercial fishing, a heavy industry steel mill, a major army camp and embarkation center during both World War II and the Korean War.

One of the most significant projects we undertook during my tenure on the City Council was the construction of an entirely new civic center in the late 1990s. This project had an estimated cost of over \$25 million and was the largest and most complicated endeavor ever undertaken by the City. We hired Hansen Associates Architects and Planners as architects and designers for this project. Fani Hansen was the principal partner responsible to capture the essence of what we wanted our new civic center to represent for the community. She immersed herself in our culture, background and identity as a city, and soon came to know us very well.

This was a long process, involving numerous workshops and public forums, in order to get input from every segment of our diverse community. The concept she came up with incorporated both the historical architectural designs and the multi-cultural background of the city. The final result was universally acknowledged as being reflective of our unique identity as a city.

But this was far from the end of the story. When the city encountered several problems with the construction management firm we had hired, when the project was underway, we decided to bring Hansen Associates in to oversee the actual construction phase of the civic center. We could not have made a better decision. With her intimate knowledge of the design details of the project, Fani Hansen was able to avoid costly construction delays and change orders. The end result was that the project came in on time and on budget, with only a 5% contingency cost, an amount almost unheard of in a project of this scope and magnitude. This was directly attributable to Fani Hansen's hands-on approach and watchful eye as Architect, all during the design and construction process.

Fani's elevation to Fellowship of the American Institute of Architects acknowledges the Fellowship reputation to serving the Public interests and promotes the significant role of the Architect to our society.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert T. Lewis