



CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT: 2ND BALLOT

Patricia Belton Oliver, FAIA, University of Houston

Candidate Statement

I am an optimist. I think most educators are by necessity optimists, perennially charged with straddling the moving border between the known and the unknown, challenged by the complexities of contemporary global and environmental issues, the realities of accelerated urbanization, and the increasing incidents of natural and man-made disasters. As educators, we are asked to constantly reconsider the relationship between tradition and innovation, knowledge and invention. We in the academy strive to represent the highest ideals of our profession, and we are asked to do this with diminishing resources and fierce competition for funding. Academic citizenship is hard earned. Still, the academy is a place of promise.

ACSA member schools share a profound commitment to a better future. That collective voice is a very powerful one and I believe we need to use that voice to initiate change. Our task is not just to engage in discourse, but to channel that discourse to action. The upcoming Accreditation Review Conference is one of those opportunities for action. Having served on the NAAB for the last three years, I feel uniquely qualified to assert ACSA's interests in accreditation discussions with the collateral organizations.

Challenges faced by ACSA member schools reach across the collateral boundaries. The expanded role of research, the need for broader collaboration, deeper public engagement, the necessity of a sustainable future, and the struggle for social equity are issues impacting the profession as well as the academy. As educators and as professionals, we need to be more efficient, more integrated and more innovative. The structures and procedures that we have long relied on have become impediments to the high speed, highly fluid, interdisciplinary way that learning and the discovery of new knowledge now occurs.

As Chair of the Education Committee of the AIA in 2009, I led an effort to define what we referred to as the "Culture of Practice." The premise was that we have reached the point in our history when a life long continuum of learning can replace the traditional phased advancement from student to professional. A key piece of that continuum is the rapid development of distance learning. Higher education has been confronted with edX, Coursera, Udacity and myriad other on-line educational offerings. A life long continuum of learning depends, in part, on this new reality. It will be important to ACSA to understand the risks and benefits of distance learning, no longer the province of "education as commerce" institutions.

I have been involved in education nearly my entire professional career. I have served in leadership positions in both private and public institutions and have developed curricula and programs at the department, college and university level. I have maintained an active professional life parallel to my academic life. I worked for Studio Works (Craig Hodgetts and Robert Mangurian) and Frank Gehry before crossing over to a large firm to see how the other side lived. I started a practice with two women partners (we think we were the first all-women partner firm in Los Angeles) in the early 80s, and maintained a practice until moving to Houston in 2010. I have remained active in professional organizations, chairing the 2009 AIA National Convention in San Francisco.

I have sought to represent the goals of the academy and the profession in every position I have attained. Not new to ACSA, I served as Treasurer from 1990 to 1993, and chaired the Annual Meeting in 1992. My diverse educational and professional experiences give me confidence that I can articulate and advance the future agenda of architectural education through the ACSA Presidency.



2013 ACSA Board Election Timeline - Vice President/President-elect 2nd Ballot
February 14, 2013 Ballots mailed to all Full-member Schools
March 6, 2013 Deadline for receipt of ballots in ACSA office
March 22, 2013 Winners announced at ACSA Annual Business Meeting in San Francisco, CA

The Faculty Councilor from each ACSA full-member school is the voting representative.
For candidate statements and curricula vitae, please visit acsa-arch.org.

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ACSA is an organization in constant flux. As its member schools continually evolve their curricula and reinvent their programs, perspectives of what is critical or urgent also evolves. New leadership and new directors are entrusted to reflect on these emergent issues and formulate a collective voice. It would seem an advantage to that voice to add the experience of someone who has served for three years on the NAAB and two years on the AIA Education committee (one year as chair of that committee). That experience has afforded me the opportunity to understand multiple organization viewpoints, and to bring that knowledge to service in any collateral forum. As educators, we are keenly aware of the responsibility of delivering an architectural education in a rapidly changing world. As administrators, we struggle with the mandates and economies of our institutions and with the pressures and uniqueness of our regions, while we try to strengthen the voice of our programs and the message we wish our graduates to take with them into that world. As architects we race to stay apace with changes to our profession and to the processes that help us realize our work.

The upcoming Accreditation Review Conference is one imminent opportunity for ACSA to present a strong collective voice in a collateral forum. This is what makes the Vice President position matter. There are many issues that impact us as educators and architects and finding ways to address them in our curricula is only part of the effort. Internship and licensure is still a bumpy road for our graduates. The emergence of research within interdisciplinary, integrative, hybridized programs across diverse disciplines challenge prescriptive methods of evaluation applied to them. The social, cultural, historical, economic, and political layers that generate today's modern condition place a different kind of strain on our curricula. Global or trans-national influences color our problem formation and impact the way practice is managed as well as the design solutions that result.

ACSA is the place where these issues can be discussed, debated, considered, shared in a more vigorous way. It is an exciting time to be an educator. The acceleration of change does not allow any of us to become complacent. I would welcome the opportunity and the challenge to represent you.



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Curriculum Vitae

EMPLOYMENT

Dean, Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture University of Houston, Houston, Texas	2010-Present
Senior Vice President, Educational Planning and Architecture Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California	2001-2009
Department Chair, Department of Environmental Design Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California	1992-2001
Associate Dean, College of Environmental Design, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California Acting Dean	1987-1992 1988
Principal, Patricia Belton Oliver, AIA, Los Angeles, California Architecture, Interior Design, Programming, Space Planning, Exhibition Design	1986-2001
Coordinator of Graduate Programs/Associate Professor Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	1982-1987
Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture College of Environmental Design, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	1981-82
Principal, Oliver Kurze Georges, Los Angeles, California	1980-1986
Designer, Charles Kober Associates, Los Angeles, California	1979-1981
Designer, Frank O. Gehry Associates, Santa Monica, California	1977-1979

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND SERVICE

American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter, Board of Directors Secretary, National Architectural Accrediting Board Advisory Board, Urban Land Institute, Houston Master Planning Committee, Menil Foundation	2010-Present
Chair, 2009 AIA National Convention, San Francisco Chair, 2009 AIA National Committee on Education Elevated to College of Fellows, AIA	2009
Board of Directors, Forum Mazatlán for Sustainable Design, An International Fellowship Board of Directors, Inter-American Center for the Arts and Architecture	2007 1995-2000

EDUCATION

School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of California, Los Angeles, California Degree: Master of Architecture I Honors: Dean's Award - Best Overall Student Dean's Award - Excellence in Thesis Mabel Wilson Richards Award for Women in the Professions	1973-1977
University of California, Los Angeles, California Degree: Bachelor of Arts, Independent Studies, with Honors	1972-1974