



CANDIDATE for SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (4-year term)

Robert Alexander González, Texas Tech University

Candidate Statement

Architectural education's call to action has never been more urgent than now. As an architect, historian, and member of the Latino/a and LGBTQ+ communities, my work and activism respond directly to ACSA's desire to enhance architecture's knowledge base and commitments to diversity, inclusivity, and equity. I would bring to ACSA my knowledge of working with community colleges, creating alternative pathways for students entering our discipline, engaging community, and extensive board experience. I am currently serving my eighth year as director of the El Paso Program in Architecture at Texas Tech University (TTU), a partnership with El Paso Community College (EPCC). From our outpost, just blocks from the US-Mexico border wall and near Tornillo's tent city for migrant children, I have enacted important changes in our binational community.

A central ambition of my academic career to date has been to fully engage the social context of architecture without compromising my commitment to our disciplinary standards for scholarship, research, and critical practice. My work as a scholar began with co-founding the journal *AULA: Architecture & Urbanism in Las Américas*, which evolved with subsequent *AULA* international symposia I co-chaired, including the recent "Porous Borders Symposium," which focused on the contentious border wall. My research has explored alternative scholarly topics with the support of grants and fellowships, and recognition as a Ford Foundation Fellow. These achievements have provided opportunities to work with allied organizations, including EDRA's award program and the Society of Architectural Historians, for which I served as board member and local chair of the 64th SAH Annual Meeting in New Orleans in 2011. I also work in a regional capacity, currently as an architect consultant for a Public Arts Master Plan in Las Cruces, NM, and as a juror for the Humanitarian Respite Center competition in McAllen, TX, which envisions a new building type that addresses the escalating problems related to immigration on the border.



The TTU El Paso Program is a case study of collaboration that has required creativity, responsibility, and the ability to make an impact, and these are the characteristics I would bring to ACSA. Our program is the only architecture program located on the US-Mexico border, in one of the largest binational metropolitan areas in the world. We serve students—95% of whom are Latino/a—from the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua, some commuting daily from Ciudad Juárez. We are working hard to change the professional landscape, and, by focusing on two underrepresented groups in our profession, women and Latino/as, we are already making a difference. The El Paso Program has tripled in size under my leadership, our female student body has quadrupled, and our number of female faculty has more than doubled. While the unique TTU-EPCC collaboration makes it possible for low-income students to study architecture, we have also established an in-house mentoring program to track and connect our students with architects for internships.

In addition to being experienced in developing partnerships with local government, community entities, and the AIA, I also have extensive non-profit and budgetary planning experience, serving as President of the El Paso Opera for five years and managing and serving as the co-P.I. on the Texas Tech side of a collaborative \$5.9 million Department of Education HSI STEM grant that resulted in a new architecture building on EPCC's campus. Our partnership has been recognized nationally as an innovative curricular model for community college-university partnerships. I further helped leverage this grant to secure a 75-year lease for El Paso's 1906 Daniel H. Burnham train station, tripling our program's space. TTU's expanded downtown presence has facilitated faculty recruitment and enhanced our community role. My contributions to education and leadership role in the renaissance of downtown El Paso have been recognized by U.S. Representatives Beto O'Rourke and Veronica Escobar.

This is a critical time for us to find new ways to connect architectural education to issues that have quantitative and qualitative meaning for communities, cities, and regions, especially as we approach the forthcoming NAAB Accreditation Review Forum. This is the time to reconsider the future of our profession and how this translates to architectural education. How do we direct our multi-faceted discipline toward greater engagement with the world? How do we make this as inclusive an effort as possible? My commitment to equity reflects my own career path, as a representative of the 3% of Hispanic architects and the 3% of Hispanic architecture administrators in the country. I owe these achievements to exceptional opportunities for growth, including over 20 years of engagement with ACSA, as co-chair of the 92nd ACSA Annual Meeting in Miami in 2004, as a former JAE editorial board member and special issue editor, and as a recipient of several ACSA awards. It is now my turn to give back, and I would be honored to fulfill my commitment to the ACSA at a national level.



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Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy – Architectural History, University of California, Berkeley	2002
Master of Science in Architectural Studies – History, Theory & Criticism, MIT	1993
Bachelor of Architecture – The University of Texas at Austin	1990

ACADEMIC + Administrative Appointments

Professor and Director Texas Tech University El Paso Program	2016-present
Project Manager / Principal Investigator DOE HSI STEM Grant, (w/ El Paso Community College) \$5.9 million	2011-2017
Associate Professor and Director Texas Tech University El Paso Program	2011-2015
Visiting Professor and Cejas Scholar Florida International University	2010-2011
Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies Tulane University	2002-2010
Senior Lecturer California College of Arts & Crafts	2000
Assistant to the Editor (Donlyn Lyndon) Places: A Forum of Environmental Design	1997-1999
Founding Editor (with Rafael Longoria) AULA: Architecture & Urbanism in Las Américas	1998
Lecturer University of California, Berkeley	1997-1998
Adjunct Professor Woodbury University	1996-1998
Visiting Assistant Professor Arizona State University	1995-1996
Lecturer The University of Texas, San Antonio	1994-1995

SELECTED HONORS + AWARDS

Texas Tech President's Academic Achievement Award Nominee	2018
Texas Tech University Hemphill Wells New Professor Excellence in Teaching Award	2014
ACSA Creative Achievement Award for the journal AULA (with Rafael Longoria)	2007
ACSA Faculty Design Award for "An AIDS Memorial" (with Paul Kariouk)	1998
"Unbuilt Architecture" National Award Boston Society of Architects for "An AIDS Memorial" (with Paul Kariouk)	1996

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Editor of eight AULA issues (with Rafael Longoria): **AULA 1: Culture and Public Space; AULA 2: Culture and Infrastructure; AULA 3: Miami Tropical** (w/ guest ed. Gregory Castillo); **AULA 4: Import/Export** (w/ guest ed. Monica Ponce de León); **AULA 5: Mexico City Dialogues; AULA 6: The NEW Mexico** (w/ guest ed. Geraldine Forbes); **AULA 7: Concrete Architecture in Latin America; AULA 8: Porous Borders, forthcoming** (w/ guest ed. Kristine Stiphany), 1999-2018

Designing Pan-America: U.S. Architectural Visions for the Western Hemisphere (The University of Texas Press) reviewed in *Hispanic American Historical Review* (2014), *Hispanic Research Journal* (2013), *Texas Architect* (2013), *Western American Literature* (2013), *Transplantes* (2012), *Revista Hispánica Moderna* (2012), *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (2012), *Planning Perspectives* (2012), *Choice Reviews* (2011), 2011

"**Beyond the Midway: Pan-American Modernity in the 1930s**," in *Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs in the 1930s* (Yale University Press and National Building Museum, 2010), 2010

"**Miami's Interama: Visions for an Experimental Pan-American City**," in *Miami Modern Metropolis: Mid-Century Architecture & Urbanism in the Tropics* (Balcony Press, 2009), 2009

"**The Fair City of Interama: Flash in the Pan or Unbuilt Utopia?**" *Journal of Architectural Education*, 62:1, 2008

"**Unresolved Expressions of Anti-Trujilloism in Santo Domingo**," in *Ordinary Places/Extraordinary Events: Citizenship, Democracy, and Urban Space in Latin America* (Routledge, 2015) 2008, 2015

"**El Faro de Colón: América Latina y el concurso internacional**," *Revista ARQ*, Santiago, Chile, 2007

"**Installations by Architects: Ephemeral Environments, Lasting Contributions**," (with Sarah Bonnemaison and Ronit Eisenbach) Theme Issue, *Journal of Architectural Education*, 2005

"**Ensalada Tijuana? Welcome to Globalization's Gritty Landscape**," in *Cruelty and Utopia: Cities and Landscapes of Latin America* (Stout Architectural Books, 2005), 2005

"**Learning from Los Angeles**," in *Urban Latino Cultures: La Vida Latina en L.A.* (Sage Publications, 1999), 1999

"**Awards for Place Design and Place Research**," (with Samina Quraeshi) EDRA Theme Issue, *Places* 12:1, 1998

SELECTED EXTERNAL FUNDING

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Fine Arts Grant	2010
Canadian Centre for Architecture Library and Collection Fellowship , Montreal, CA	2007
Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship	2005-2006