



## CANDIDATES for AT-LARGE DIRECTOR - Position 1 (3-year term)

Taryn E. Sabia, University of South Florida

### Candidate Statement

As an At-Large Director I hope to further several key goals of the ACSA Strategic Initiative: Enhance understanding among college and university leaders of the unique characteristics and needs of architectural education; Increase the effectiveness of collateral partnerships; Expand the conversation about the future of design, education, and practice; and Enhance the connection of researchers with funding sources.

More than ever, architects are positioned to guide and lead in developing the solutions necessary to address the biggest challenges facing communities around the globe including climate change, affordable housing, designing for health, and social equity. Preparing architecture students for these roles within their own communities and practice is growing in importance and necessity. The skills and problem-solving abilities gained through education are unique, and now recognized among other STEM fields, architecture programs will have opportunity to expand research funding. Additionally, collaborative efforts with partners such as the American Institute of Architects can expand and strengthen the conversation about the future of education and practice. Engaging other organizations outside the field will help advance the value of architecture, positioning architects to be viewed as experts and a resource by the communities in which they practice.

I have worked in the field of architecture and urban design in the capacities of design practice, policy, non-profit enterprise, and education for fifteen years. I am privileged to be the Director of the Florida Center for Community Design and Research (FCCDR) at the School of Architecture and Community Design (SACD) at the University of South Florida. As a statewide research center, our role is to assist the citizens of Florida in creating more livable and sustainable communities and to support academic research for SACD. As a Research Associate Professor, I shift between the academic studio and the community design center. Our projects and research exemplify the vital nature of multidisciplinary collaboration. We regularly engage architecture and urban design students and faculty. Through FCCDR, faculty and students work collaboratively with other university departments, professional organizations, agencies and municipalities, non-profit organizations, and the public. I am currently leading one of Florida's most comprehensive research and design projects for climate adaptation solutions as it relates to the peril of flood, sea level rise, and storm event for a county with a population greater than that of 10 states. Our largest innovation studio will take place during the 2019 spring semester where twelve graduate architecture students will be paired with twelve graduate students from the disciplines of public health, urban planning, and engineering to tackle the complex challenge of a flooded future. The remarkable challenges that will be presented to the next generation of architects is vast and should be included in academic dialog.

As the current Chair for the American Institute of Architects Regional and Urban Design Committee at the national level, I have worked to create partnerships within the organization as well as broaden collaboration with other professional organizations and industry leaders. I believe that these strategic partnerships help to increase the value of architecture among other disciplines, industries, and government sectors. I hope to further the effectiveness of collateral relationships as an At-large Director for ACSA by leveraging my experience to build understanding across universities, and among professional organizations and foundations.





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### Biography

Taryn Sabia's fifteen-year career in architecture and urban design is anchored by a passion to involve citizens in actively shaping the built environment. Her diverse background in architecture, urban design, education, and community engagement has provided a deep understanding of the importance of context-based design, mobility, and culture of place, and how these elements inform the architecture of an urban framework.

Ms. Sabia is Director of the Florida Center for Community Design and Research (FCCDR) at the University of South Florida's School of Architecture and Community Design. As a Research Associate Professor, she teaches graduate courses and studios on urban design policy, climate change and sustainability, urban form, urban transportation systems, and citizen involvement in urbanism. Her research is committed to the merging of design and civics, with focus on climate change adaptation, transit modes and public space. With extensive experience building partnerships between community members, organizations, and government leaders, Ms. Sabia has served as a Principle Investigator on more than 25 projects, advised 39 mayors, and has overseen nearly \$1.5 million in sponsored research as Director of FCCDR.

Ms. Sabia is a co-founder of the Tampa based non-profit, urban design collaborative, Urban Charrette, Inc. The organization is dedicated to educating community leaders and young professionals about sustainable urban design and empowering citizens to make their neighborhoods and cities better places to live. Her community interests focus on engaging citizens in participatory design experiences through tactile urbanism.

She has worked professionally in the field of architecture on projects focused on mixed-use development, historic preservation, and downtown façade redevelopment programs. Ms. Sabia has planned and facilitated over 100 public charrettes and workshops and has authored several articles about community engagement and urban design including a publication in the National Civic Review. In 2014 and 2017, Ms. Sabia led the East Regional Session Mayor's Institute for City Design program. She has presented numerous times at national and regional conferences and has served as Chair for the American Institute of Architects' Regional and Urban Design Leadership Group leading initiatives for the Active City Conference in 2017 and the Future of Urban Design Education Symposium coming in 2019.

Ms. Sabia earned her Master of Urban and Community Design from the University of South Florida, Master of Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design where she served as a Senate Fellow to the Senior Policy Advisor for the Rhode Island Senate. She holds a Master of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor Degree in Visual Art from Eckerd College.