



## CANDIDATES for AT-LARGE DIRECTOR - Position 2 (3-year term)

Jeffrey L. Day, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### Candidate Statement

I started FACT at Nebraska in 2001 to introduce design-build pedagogy to the College of Architecture, but now in 2019, the program has new relevance as a vehicle engaging students with design-research in practice and forming creative ties with community partners and collaborators. If the experiences of the last few years are any indication, it is clear that design and education are at an important crossroads. Not only are design professions rapidly changing but also higher education itself is experiencing disruptions that have compelled us to reflect upon our mission and values. Enhancing diversity and access, integrating design-research with teaching, building productive partnerships between the academy and practice, disseminating knowledge more widely and inclusively, demonstrating relevance, and engaging global design communities are all critically important goals for the future of architectural education. At such a time of rapid change and increased uncertainty, I believe by working together as educators, and as community of students and professionals, we can enhance existing initiatives and develop new ways to address current issues facing design education as well as broader global challenges. I am honored to be nominated to serve ACSA as an At-Large Director, the organization that has enriched my own career path.

As a teacher, practitioner, and champion of the discipline, I have dedicated myself to providing outstanding educational experiences and nurturing students in all academic programs in our multi-disciplinary college to become creative design professionals who will use their talents to better their communities. I committed myself to developing reciprocal relationships between the academy and the profession as a leader in the College, and by example with my own design office. Throughout my academic career I have maintained an active architecture practice. As a practitioner, my work with Min | Day, now Actual Architecture Co., forms the core of my own research and scholarship (see Bio. Statement). I draw upon my professional experience, speculative design work, and substantial pro-bono investments to address critical issues in architectural practice and at all times, to seek ways to engage students with these issues.

As a teacher, I explore the intersection of professional practice and design education through FACT, a program connecting students with clients and projects through elective courses, studios, independent studies, and research assistantships. FACT is a winner of the inaugural 2013 ACSA Design-Build Award and the 2016 ACSA Collaborative Practice Award. One goal of FACT has been to integrate the three missions of the university: teaching, creative activity/research, and engagement. As Architecture Program Director at the University of Nebraska (2012-2017), I sought intersections such as this in the new curriculum for which I championed a faculty initiative to transition from topical, vertical M.Arch studios to "Design Research Studios" in which faculty research and design scholarship, student design experimentation, and community service come together. Framed around faculty agendas and issues of critical importance facing the discipline and the built environment, these studios may extend for two semesters and faculty may teach them in consecutive years allowing design-research knowledge to advance in ways not possible in the standard semester-long studio model familiar to many American schools.

As Program Director I increased enrollment by over 20%, started new 3-year M.Arch track to introduce students from diverse educational backgrounds into the discipline, achieved a perfect NAAB reaccreditation (2015), nurtured junior faculty, and helped create a multi-disciplinary common first year program founded on human-centered design. I argued for a school founded on experimentation and change, allowing faculty and students to coalesce around an evolving set of initiatives and priorities. The challenges facing our built environment and our disciplines are under constant change and successful design schools must be able to adapt. I have been instrumental in developing pedagogy and curricula throughout my career and I continue to this day as chair of the curriculum committee.

I co-chaired a regional ACSA Conference, I have served on numerous ACSA juries (most recently the current Design-Build Award), and in most years, I have served as a peer reviewer for paper sessions ACSA conferences and issues of JAE and TAD. I am quite familiar with many aspects of ACSA. Outside the academy, I serve on the boards of several non-profits and community groups and helped to found Design Alliance Omaha, a non-profit advocating for the broad value of design through various public programs. I also serve on the advisory boards of architectural technology programs of a local high school and a community college, building bridges between the professional school and a diverse range of future architects and maybe more importantly, building audiences for architecture. I have a lot experience forming lasting partnerships with firms and developing community engagement programs.

Much of my experience as a teacher, practitioner, and an advocate for architecture and design resonate with ACSA's Strategic Plan. I believe I have much more to contribute to ACSA as a Director and I appreciate your support of my candidacy. I am excited to serve you as a member of the ACSA Board.





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### Biography

Jeffrey L. Day is Douglass Professor of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Nebraska and founding principal of Actual Architecture Company (AA/Co). Day has taught at the University of Nebraska, College of Architecture for 19 years beginning with a year as the Hyde Chair of Excellence, visiting professor. From 2012 to 2017 he served as Director of the Architecture Program before returning to the faculty to focus on teaching and critical design practice. At UNL Day runs Fabrication And Construction Team (FACT), an interdisciplinary design-build program that works with non-profit clients and communities.

In the College of Architecture, Day teaches design studios, seminars, and workshops that explore the intersection of design conceptualization and construction – the meeting place of theory and professional practice. With FACT, Day engages design intensive projects and creative, non-profit clients in collaborations that span design and construction. More than a design-build studio, FACT is a “do-tank”, a lab in which ideas and new knowledge are developed through action as well as thought. Where academic design studios focus on ideation, conceptualization and some design development, FACT challenges students to focus on the creative opportunities embedded in the development and realization of projects. Such a practice allows production to influence design as much as design directs production. FACT and Actual collaborate frequently on long-term partnerships with external clients.

FACT has worked with AA/Co (previously Min | Day) on projects for the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Art Farm, the Sheldon Museum of Art, Community CROPS, the Salina Art Center, the Sandhills Institute, the Lied Center for Performing Arts, and on several exhibitions. FACT students often form creative partnerships with builders, fabricators, artists, and other makers such as the workforce development program in Nebraska State Prison’s fabrication shop. FACT has won numerous design awards including the inaugural 2013 ACSA Design-Build Award and the 2016 ACSA Collaborative Practice Award. FACT projects have been published widely.

In 2018, after 15 years practicing as a founding principal of Min | Day (San Francisco & Omaha), Day reorganized the Omaha office as Actual Architecture Company, an internationally recognized firm based in Nebraska and operating around the world with expansive vision. Day draws on his background in art, landscape, and architecture to provide informed and highly considered design for a wide range of clients, sites, and projects – from individuals to art institutions, urban to rural settings, and furniture to buildings and master plans. By maximizing the potential of academic and professional practices, Day integrates design-research, speculative design, substantial pro-bono investments in the community, and a commitment to building highly refined yet flexible architecture with diverse clients. With his former business partner E.B. Min, Day runs the furniture line mdMOD.

Day has garnered numerous awards and honors including the Architectural League of New York’s 2016 Emerging Voices, Architectural Record’s 2009 Design Vanguard, the 2007 AIA California Council’s Emerging Talent award, AIA New Practices San Francisco 2009, Residential Architect’s 2010 Rising Star, Architectural Record’s 2003 archrecord2, 60 national, regional, and state AIA design awards, 9 ACSA design awards, 3 IDEC national Creative Scholarship awards, 4 university teaching awards, and more. Jeff Day’s work is widely published and he lectures frequently around the country and internationally impacting professionals as well as students world-wide.