



# CANDIDATE for MID ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR (3-year term)

José L.S. Gámez, PhD, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

## Candidate Statement

My interest in this position stems from efforts to advance the quality and value of the architectural education that I have been a part of since joining the faculty in the School of Architecture at UNC Charlotte in 2002. I have recently taken on the role of Associate Director of the School and, in that capacity, I am finding that outreach to other regional programs will not only benefit our students but also help to build stronger relationships that will benefit Mid-Atlantic schools generally. Of particular interest to me are questions of resiliency and climate change, diversity and equity initiatives, and the roles of research and practice as they apply to faculty progression towards reappointment and tenure.

My fifteen years of experience in community-based research will help advance several of ACSA's 2016-19 strategic planning goals, including advocacy and impact, member engagement and support, and partnership and convening. Community-engaged work has provided an avenue to demonstrate the range of positive impacts that design initiatives can have on a broad public realm—thereby helping raise awareness of the role that architecture can play in society at large. However, this work has been more than just advocacy; it has been a vehicle for collaborative and interdisciplinary research. Through this approach, I have worked to make design a visible part of larger research and engagement initiatives not only in the School of Architecture but also across our campus and the larger community of Charlotte.

Increasingly, I am interested in our School's abilities to impact positive change through regional partnerships. As an ACSA Regional Director, I will seek opportunities to both build upon individual areas of expertise found in unique institutions while also extending those areas of interest beyond individual classrooms and universities. This may begin with simple efforts to champion successes throughout the Mid-Atlantic and follow with points of overlap that can connect the diverse programs that we all represent. In this way, a collective set of skills can grow through research initiatives, through collaborative engagements, and through regional outreach efforts.

My approach to my own work has often been founded on collaborative initiatives. I have sought to build collaborative environments in which the work of others may grow as much or more as my own. The idea that work may grow through collaboration points to an underlying belief that I hold relative to leadership. I do not view leadership as a one-way street. Traffic must flow in at least two directions and often congestion can lead to interesting collisions of ideas. As an ACSA Regional Director, I will encourage and facilitate collaborative initiatives in ways that enable faculty to build upon and extend their collective strengths across campus, programs and schools.

Through my collaborative efforts at UNC Charlotte, I have helped launch a graduate level Urban Design program (Master of Urban Design), a public engagement and research lab (City.Building.Lab), and a number of interdisciplinary programs, such as our Knight Foundation funded Mobile Arts and Community Experience (MAX), and our global urbanism program (cross listed with Latin American Studies). I have also engaged in a range of scholarly activities loosely characterized by public interest design. My efforts have resulted in recognition through the Provost's Faculty Award for Community Engagement (2015) and as my university's nomination for the 2014 and 2015 Governor James E. Holshouser Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service (system-wide award, one nominee from each campus). These accolades build upon my experience as a Provost Faculty Fellow (2014-15) and as a Research Fellow at both UNC Charlotte's Institute for Social Capital (2008-09) and the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute (2006-07). Some of my previous partnerships have resulted in publications, grants, and awards, such as the Architecture for Social Justice Award (NEA/Adaptive Environments, 2003), Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund (UNC Charlotte, 2007), and inter-campus collaborations that resulted in a Maxine Frankel Award (Woodbury University, 2008). These experiences provide the platform upon which I will build if elected as the ACSA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director.





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## Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture	University of California, Los Angeles	1999
Master of Architecture	University of California, Berkeley	1992
Bachelor of Environmental Design	Texas A&M University <i>CUM LAUDE</i>	1989

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Director	School of Architecture, UNC Charlotte	2016 - Present
Associate Professor	School of Architecture, UNC Charlotte	2002 - Present
Director, City.Building.Lab	School of Architecture, UNC Charlotte	2008 - 2016
Graduate Coordinator	College of Architecture, UNC Charlotte	2004 - 2008
Assistant Professor	School of Architecture, UNLV	1999 - 2002
Visiting Assistant Professor	Dept. of Architecture, Portland State University	1998 - 1999

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Zhongjie Lin and José Gámez. Vertical Urbanism: Re-conceptualizing the Compact City. Forthcoming: Routledge Press, 2017.
- José Gámez and Janni Sorensen. "No More Waiting for Superman: Teaching DIY Urbanism and Reflexive Practice," in the *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability*, Volume 7, Issue 3: 1-18 (2014).
- Janni Sorensen, José Gámez and Melissa Currie. "Windy Ridge: A Neighborhood Built to Fail," in the *Journal of Applied Geography* 51C (July 2014) 8-25.
- José Gámez. "Artist Communique: Interview with Ramón Ramírez" in *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, Volume 38, Number 2: 239-250 (fall 2013).
- José Gámez. "A Pair of Queens: Latina/o Landscapes in LA and the QC" in *Latino Urbanism: The Politics of Planning, Policy and Redevelopment* edited by David R. Diaz (New York: New York University Press, 2012) 111-133.
- José Gámez. "Mapping East Los Angeles: Aesthetics and Cultural Politics in an Other LA" in *Writing Urbanism: A Design Reader*, edited by Douglas S. Kelbaugh and Kit McCullough (London: Routledge, 2008) 87-95.
- José Gámez and Susan Rodgers. "Introduction: An Architecture of Change" in *Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism*, edited by Bryan Bell and Katie Wakeford (New York: Metropolis Books, 2008) 18-24.

### SELECTED ACADEMIC AWARDS

Provost Faculty Fellow	2015-16
Provost's Faculty Award for Community Engagement	2015
Faculty Research Fellow, Institute for Social Capital, UNC Charlotte	2008-2009
Faculty Fellow, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute	2006-07
Architecture for Social Justice Award: Partnerships in Teaching	2003

### SELECTED FUNDED RESEARCH AND PROJECTS GRANTS

Mobile Arts & Community Experience (MAX), Knight Foundation, \$350,000 (Co-PI)	2014-2016
CONNECT Our Future Planning Initiative, Carolina Council of Governments, \$20,000 (Co-PI)	2013
Sustainable Communities Planning Grant, HUD/EPA, \$50,000 (Co-PI)	2012-2014
Windy Ridge Neighborhood Study, Z Smith Reynolds Foundation, \$20,000 (Co-PI)	2010-2011
Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund, UNC Charlotte, \$4,700 (Co-PI)	2007

### SELECTED SERVICE

NAAB Accreditation Team Member: Portland State University Dept. of Architecture	2012
ACSA Architecture as Discipline / Accreditation Review Conference Committee	2007
ACSA Annual National Meeting Reviewer	2014, 2008, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1995