



# CANDIDATE for NORTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR (3-year term)

Bethany Lundell Garver, AIA, NCARB, Boston Architectural College

## Candidate Statement

*If you want to push design into new areas, you have to work closely across the boundaries of people's trades and professions. If you know the questions to ask, you can pull out the expertise.*

Jeanne Gang

**ARCHITECTURE:** is a site of controversy. Often our discipline faces more questions than definite answers. Here, in the flow of unknowingness, lies the essence of what makes architectural education extraordinary. We are in the business of asking and seeking solutions to thorny questions. Our questions and explorations reveal stresses and discomforts which productively expose participants to the edge of their abilities. ACSA member schools provide safe places for architecture students to fail forward. Reflect. And try again.

**EDUCATION & PRACTICE:** Rapidly changing contexts of architectural education and practice require us to be nimble and quick to respond. Open to change every day, we discover fresh answers to old questions and harness new expertise through alliances that dissolve binaries between "mainstream" and "alternative." As director and core faculty at The Boston Architectural College, I work collaboratively across disciplines spearheading projects that combine theory and practice throughout the college, city, and field of spatial design. I am proud to represent the BAC as we facilitate our mission, proving that there are *many* ways to teach design excellence, just as there are *many* populations that the education may serve.

**BIO:** I am from a small college town on the hem of Alabama's Black Belt region. I am known to walk barefoot on clean sidewalks, ride my bike in warm rain, and obsess over historic structures unabated by their need for fresh paint. As an architect, I have been shaped by the rawness of Gordon Matta-Clark, the slowness of Peter Zumthor, the ordinariness of the Situationists, and the material imagination of Carlos Scarpa. At Auburn's Rural Studio, Sambo Mockbee inspired me to be an artist and design steward with a penchant for making, testing construction techniques, and reveling in life with dirty hands and a glistening brow. While working in New York and San Francisco, Rafael Viñoly pushed me to see beyond perceived limits, think systematically, and embrace thin lines between 'no' and 'yes' in conversations and analysis. Rafael showed me the alluring influence of an inky sketch — a silent storyteller and heart stealer rarely outdone by digital renderings. I am an urbanist and ardent advocate for inclusive public space. Working in neighborhoods and suburbs throughout Greater Boston, I am honored to hear people's hopes and develop plans that pool community assets in an effort to tackle challenges of open space, housing, crime, and climate change. Stitched like a quilt, these and other influences act as threads piecing together elements of who I am as an educator and practitioner.

**ACSA:** My role as ACSA Northeast Director, if elected, will be to coordinate conversations about the future of design, education, and practice. Valuing different perspectives, I will listen to ACSA member schools' priorities, concerns, and questions. Who determines values and metrics for successful design processes over time? Where do we teach methods of remaking physical infrastructure while preserving and enhancing social and environmental infrastructure? In efforts to understand systemic barriers to access and diversity in architectural education and practice, how do we broaden our voice and substantiate the relevance of architectural education and its agency in humanities, science, sustainable urbanism, and technological advancement?

During the last three years architectural education and practice has given rise to several movements. NCARB's Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL) has ignited dialogue between architecture schools, state licensing boards, and regulatory forums necessary for opening early access to registration exams, discussions which I participated in. Architectural Experience Program (AXP) has eliminated the word "intern" building confidence among aspiring architects. Women in Design, Design for Equity, and Hip Hop Architecture are generating knowledge and thought leadership forged through self-reflection and action.

Riding this momentum, ACSA member schools and collateral partnerships have the chance to shape the value, voice, and pedagogy of architectural education in unprecedented ways. In particular, I hope to contribute to the advancement of several strategic objectives:

- Increase partnerships between the academy and practice
- Broaden opportunities for design stewardship among diverse populations and generations
- Expand pedagogical models accessible to a wide range of learners

I believe my experience, skills, and expertise can further the work accomplished by my committed peers and predecessors to elevate architectural research and practice in the eyes of the public and "enhance the quality of life in a global society."





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## Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

Harvard University, Master of Architecture in Urban Design, with distinction	2014
Auburn University, Bachelor of Architecture, <i>magna cum laude</i>	2003
Auburn University, Bachelor of Interior Architecture, <i>magna cum laude</i>	2003

### PRACTICE

Bethany Lundell Garver Architect   BLG+	Somerville, MA	2013 - Present
Rafael Viñoly Architects, On-Site Construction Office	San Francisco, CA	2006 - 2012
Rafael Viñoly Architects	New York, NY	2004 - 2006
David Braly Studio	Montgomery, AL	2003
Thompson, Ventulett, Steinback & Associates	Atlanta, GA	2002

### TEACHING

Boston Architectural College, Education Director & Core Faculty	2014 - Present
Harvard University, Summer Program Instructor & Executive Education	2014
Boston Architectural College, Summer Program Instructor	2013
Visiting Critic, Northeastern University (2016), Harvard University (2015 – 2016), Rhode Island School of Design (2015), Wentworth University (2013, 2015), Syracuse University (2015), Roger Williams University (2015), Academy of Art University, San Francisco (2010), University of California, Berkeley (2010, 2007), Auburn University (2004 – 2014), Parsons School of Design, New York (2004)	–

### SERVICE

Regional NEASC Accreditation Committee, BAC	2016
Provost's Research and Education Committee, BAC	2014 - Present
National Organization of Minority Architects, BAC Faculty co-Advisor	2016 - Present
NCARB Licensing Advisors Summit, BAC	2016
Board Member, Silver Lining Mentoring, Boston	2016 - Present
President, Advisory Board, Auburn University School of Architecture	2008 - 2012
Board Officer, Chair, Root Division Visual Art Education, San Francisco	2010 - 2012
AIASF and Boston Society of Architects	2006 - Present
National Council of Registration Boards Certificate (licensed in CA & MA)	2013 - Present
NAAB Accreditation Visiting Team, Auburn University	2005
Rural Studio, Auburn University	2000

### PUBLICATIONS & EXHIBITIONS

"Assessing Experiential Learning in Design Education: The Practice Department at The Boston Architectural College." In L. M. Abendroth & B. Bell (Eds.), <i>Public Interest Design Education Guidebook: Curricula, Strategies, and SEED Academic Case Studies</i> . New York: Taylor Francis/Routledge. Print.	2017
"Littoral Becomings." [Wood, high-density foam, plastic sculpture]. <i>Flow</i> . Somerville, MA: Nave Gallery.	2016
"Sweet Liminality." [Mixed-media print]. <i>Beyond Convention</i> . Boston Arts Academy: Sandra and Philip Gordon Gallery.	2016
"Social Media as Visualization Tool: Mapping the Urban Landscape," Landscape Research Record No. 4: 2-9. Web.	2015
GSD Platform 6 & GSD Platform 7: A Year of Research through Studio Work, Theses, Lectures, Exhibitions and Events – work included in this edited volume of Harvard University annual book publication.	2013, 2015

### HONORS

First Place, Affordable Housing Development Competition, Federal Home Loan Bank	2014
Award for Highest Cumulative Academic Record (MAUD), Harvard University	2014
Thesis Prize in Interior Architecture, Auburn University	2003
Chapter President, Tau Sigma Delta, Auburn University	2002