CANDIDATE FOR GULF REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Francis Elliot Lyn, Florida Atlantic University

Candidate Statement
What does it mean to be a part of the ACSA Gulf Region?

A cursory review of the schools in our region reveals great diversity. Of the 19 programs, 14 are public and 5 are private; 6 originated as Land Grant Universities, with 3 of those classified as Historically Black Colleges and Universities; 2 are Spanish; 11 were founded as institutions focusing on agriculture, technology, engineering or industry; 5 are under 70 years old; 6 are classified as “High Research Activity” Institutions and 7 are classified as “Very High Research Activity” Institutions by the Carnegie Foundation. While these numbers are general and don’t speak to the depth and breadth of the programs, they reveal that as a region we have a significant, deep, and complex pool from which we might draw to further our research and pedagogical agendas, and address the challenges that face the discipline in the 21st century. Indeed, this depth of research and variety of points of view can and should inform the evolution of our discipline within our region. If elected as the Gulf Regional Director, I hope to identify ways in which we might better coordinate and share the varied resources within our region to encourage more productive research and academic endeavors.

The recent economic downturn caused significant financial challenges to the academy and has caused programs to reassess how they make economic and academic decisions. Steep reductions in endowments, aggressive funding cuts from state legislatures and new metrics based funding models are causing academic programs to identify new initiatives that can deliver the academic content and build the technological infrastructure necessary for a well rounded education. While the economy has stabilized, and job growth in the profession is increasing, other challenges remain. Climate change, sea level rise, and urban population growth, issues increasingly important to our geographic region, must be carefully considered as we build academic programs for the 21st century. Cultural, social, economic, environmental and technological transformations will require an increasing amount of cross-institutional, cross-disciplinary and community engagement collaboration to address these complex issues.

I have had the opportunity to assume several leadership roles during my 13 years as an Assistant and Associate Professor. My first role at FAU was to coordinate the establishment of our lower division program. More recently I was asked to become our Thesis Phase Coordinator as well as the Director of the MetroLAB Collaborative, the community engagement arm of our school. In these interrelated roles, I have been responsible for coordinating visioning studies for local municipalities and agencies through a series of contracts and grants. By bringing these projects into our graduate level studios, students learn about real world resistances, engagement of issues important to our community, and engagement of stakeholders outside of the discipline (but who have a tremendous amount of impact on our work). Community engagement projects reinforce the significance of schools of architecture to our communities. By tapping in to these resources, and developing projects that have real significance to our built environment, we have the opportunity to gain more support from our collaterals, stakeholders, and municipal governments. This mutually beneficial relationship can help us to further strengthen and develop our academic programs, while helping communities consider opportunities they may not have previously imagined.

I have been active in the ACSA since 2002, when I was first asked to serve as Faculty Councilor at my previous institution(USF). While there, we hosted a successful ACSA Regional Conference (Fall 2003) where I served as Conference Co-Chair. Since then, I have had the pleasure to serve as Faculty Councilor at FAU. In 2013, we had the honor of hosting the Sub-Tropical Cities / ACSA Fall Conference. Again, I had the honor of serving as Co-Chair for this important conference. I have also been nominated and selected to be an ACSA representative for NAAB Accreditation team visits. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to chair sessions and to present papers at ACSA International, National and Regional Conferences. This involvement has been significant to my growth as a teacher and scholar, and I hope to further it as I continue my deeper involvement with the ACSA.

Today, in the second decade of the 21st century, we are in a very different place than we were at the turn of the century. While many debates regarding style, technology, representation, etc. have arguably been settled, the difficult questions regarding the transformation of our climate, economies, politics, social and cultural issues remain. I believe that creating opportunities for collaboration across institutions, disciplines and communities is central to how we can address some of these questions. As the Gulf Regional Director, I hope to draw on my experiences as faculty, leader and councilor to define our points of similarity and difference, in order to develop strategies by which we can work more effectively with one another to positively affect our built environment.
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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION
Master of Architecture, Princeton University School of Architecture, Princeton, New Jersey 1995
Bachelor of Architecture, University of Miami School of Architecture, Coral Gables, Florida 1990

TEACHING and ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE
Director, MetroLAB Collaborative 2011-Present
Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University School of Architecture, Fort Lauderdale, FL 2010-Present
Acting Director, Florida Atlantic University School of Architecture, Fort Lauderdale, FL Ssr. 2011, Ssr. 2013
Assistant Professor, Florida Atlantic University School of Architecture, Fort Lauderdale, FL 2004-2010
Assistant Professor, University of South Florida School of Architecture and Community Design 2002-2004
Adjunct Professor, Florida Atlantic University School of Architecture, Fort Lauderdale, FL 2001
Full Time Faculty, Broward Community College, Fort Lauderdale, FL 2000-2001
Adjunct Professor, Florida International University School of Architecture, Miami, FL 1999-2001
Associated Faculty, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 1995-2000

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
Francis Lyn Design Studio, Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Florida 1997-2006
Hernandez and Lyn, Joint Venture, Miami, FL 1995-2000
Kha Le-Huu and Partners, Orlando, FL 1994-1995

ACADEMIC and PROFESSIONAL HONORS
Service Award ACSA, for recognition of contributions to architectural education and ACSA 2014
Teacher of the Year College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs, FAU 2010
Service Award ACSA, for distinguished service to the Association as Regional Conference Co-Chair 2003
Award of Excellence AIA, Ft. Lauderdale Chapter, un-built project, “Graphisoft Conference Center,” (with A.Temkin & P Magyar) 2002
First Place Hernandez, Jorge and Francis Lyn. Williamsburg Courthouse Competition, Williamsburg, Virginia 1995
Building completed and occupied 2000

SERVICE ACTIVITIES (Abbreviated)
ACSA Faculty Councilor 2004-Present
FAU School of Architecture Thesis Phase Coordinator 2011-Present
ACSA Fall & Sub-Tropical Cities Conference Co-Chair, FAU 2013
ACSA Southeast Regional Conference Co-Chair, USF 2003
ACSA Representative for NAAB Accreditation Team (selected and awaiting placement) 2013
ACSA Session Moderator and Paper Reviewer, various conferences 2004 & 2010
FAU Accreditation Team Room Co-coordinator 2005-2009
Numerous and varied School, College and University Committees 2004-Present
Invited Juror, Various School.

SELECTED RESEARCH or GRANTS & CONTRACTS
National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant – Pembroke Pines Civic Center Arts and Culture Planning and Design Project. Sub-Partner. $50,000 grant awarded to Pembroke Pines, ~$12,000 ear marked for FAU MetroLAB. 2014-2015
City of Fort Lauderdale Walkability Analysis Visioning Study. ~$5000 Contract Awarded to FAU MetroLAB. 2014-2015
City of Hollywood Visioning Study for SR7/US441 Transit Corridor. ~$6200 Contract Awarded to FAU MetroLAB. 2014
City of Fort LauderdaleTransportation Station Visioning Study. ~$4200 Contract Awarded to FAU MetroLAB. 2013
Broward Cultural Division Visioning Study for Public Art Work. ~$3000 Contract Awarded to FAU MetroLAB. 2012


For full CV and bio, please visit http://www.fau.edu/arch/faculty/lyn.php