



CANDIDATE FOR GULF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Scott L. Ruff, Tulane University

Candidate Statement

Architectural education is a dynamic and organic system and the ACSA is best positioned to navigate the changing field of architecture with a collective understanding of both the past and the future. One key role that the ACSA should expand involves encouraging a more inclusive group of students to consider studying architecture. It would be logical to think that as urban environments become more multi-cultural and our economy becomes global, applicants to schools of architecture would reflect such changes. As the tools used in the production of architectural designs have changed one would anticipate that the classic criteria for the selection of students into architecture schools might also expand. These two things have not happened in our schools and the field of architecture is suffering. Enrollment and diversity issues should be crucial concerns for the ACSA board. Although the economy has begun to recover the number of students seeking an architectural education is still not at a desirable level for the projected number of professionals required. Schools are still producing students whose skill sets and knowledge base are not on pace with the building industry. The contemporary industry requires graduates with advanced technical preparation, analytical skills and interdisciplinary processes in order to meet the increasing demand for sustainable, high performance design solutions. Schools of architecture must maintain the essential aspects of the discipline but also be open to new approaches. This is not a new struggle for our institutions; the evolution of curricula and pedagogy has always been an important issue for architectural education. To engage the current crisis of enrollment and the cultivation of diverse architecture students requires at least two things: that architecture students become more transdisciplinary and that more people, specialists in other fields develop an appreciation and respect for design. Our schools of architecture must actively engage in recruiting culturally, intellectually, and economically diverse students in order to inspire more people to see the value of design education. One way to achieve this might be through the development of networks and relationships with high schools, community colleges and community organizations; allowing a larger grouping of people to observe and participate in the act of design.



As a faculty member at the Tulane University School of Architecture I have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with professional organizations, university organizations and community groups such as the National Organization of Minority Architects Louisiana, the American Institute of Architects New Orleans, the Tulane Hillel and the Guardians Institute to connect architecture students to a broad range of constituents who appreciate the value of good design. Through such partnerships architecture/ design thinking reaches a broad audience. One of the most gratifying experiences of my professional life has been working with high schools through programs such Project Pipeline a NOMA Louisiana/ Tulane/ Louisiana State University set of partnerships which effectively positions architecture students, faculty and architecture professionals in direct interaction with one another and the diverse communities of both New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

As a candidate for the Gulf Regional Director, I hope to facilitate conversations which assist schools throughout the region to formulate strategies to build strong networks to promote architecture to a greater number of people, not only to design students but also across each school's larger university and public community.

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Curriculum Vitae

ACADEMIA

Tulane University, Associate Professor	2009-PRESENT
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	2000-2009
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	1997-2000
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO, ADJUNCT LECTURER	1996-1997
CORNELL UNIVERSITY, LECTURER	1994-1995
CORNELL UNIVERSITY TEACHING ASSISTANT	1992-1993

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

RUFF WORKS STUDIO PRINCIPAL/DESIGNER/ RESEARCHER,	2003-PRESENT
FOIT-ALBERT ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN	1995-1997

EDUCATION

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ART AND PLANNING	
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE II, THEORY AND CRITICISM	1995
BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE, ALPHA RHO CHI MEDAL	1992

SERVICE (SELECTED)

PROJECT PIPELINE NOMA LOUISIANA, CURRICULUM COORDINATOR	2012
POSSE MENTOR (TULANE, LOS ANGELES 6)	2014
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS LOUISIANA, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR AND CURRICULUM COORDINATOR	2013-PRESENT
NEW ORLEANS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS PERCENT FOR ART COMMITTEE (CHAIR)	2010-2014
DIVERSITY TASKFORCE, TULANE UNIVERSITY	2013
SUKKAH PROJECT (ORGANIZER)	2009-PRESENT
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE ('12 / '13 CHAIR)	2012 - 2014
GRADUATE RECRUITMENT	2012
FACULTY ADVISOR TO STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS	2011-PRESENT
• MULTICULTURAL ARCHITECTS AND ARTISTS COLLECTIVE (MAAC)	
• AMERICAN INSTITUTE ARCHITECTS / STUDENTS (AIA/S)	
• ALPHA RHO CHI (APX)	
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE ('13 / '14 CHAIR)	2013-PRESENT
RESOURCE COMMITTEE	2012-2014
NEW FACULTY COMMITTEE	2011
	2009-2010

PUBLICATIONS / CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS / CITED WORK (SELECTED)

'MAPPING THE AFRICAN' – AMERICAN URBAN ENCLAVE", ACSA NAT. CONF.	2013
'SPATIAL (W)RAPPING' – GLOBAL VISUAL CULTURES: AN ANTHOLOGY, ED. BY ZOYA KOCCUR, BLACKWELL PUBLISHING,	2011
'SIGNIFYIN': AFRICAN -AMERICAN LANGUAGE TO LANDSCAPE' – IN THRESHOLDS 36: DIFFERENCE, MIT PRESS	2009
'INSTALLATIONS BY ARCHITECTS' BY RONIT EISENBACH AND DR. SARAH BONNEMAISON	2009
PRINCETON ARCH PRESS, DRESSER TRUNK PROJECT, WORK CITED.	
'THE ARCHITECT'S WORK II , DAVID ADJAYE', INTERVIEW	2005
'WHITE PAPERS BLACK MARKS' (BOOK REVIEW) – IN JAE, MIT PRESS	2002

AWARDS / GRANTS

TULANE HILLEL, LEADING FORWARD AWARD	2014
TULANE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, MALCOLM W. HEARD AWARD EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING	2014
AIA DIVERSITY RECOGNITION AWARD FOR PROJECT PIPELINE	2012-2013
ACSA DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR PROJECT PIPELINE	2012-2013
SEED AWARD OF HONORABLE MENTION IN PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN	2013
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GROUP (IRG) FELLOWSHIP \$1,000.00	2008-2009
GRAHAM FOUNDATION GRANT: "THE DRESSER TRUNK PROJECT"	
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, WILLIAM WILLIAMS	2007-2009
FACULTY WORKS GRANT, TULANE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, \$3,000.00	2008
E-NITATIVE FACULTY, EWING MARION KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION GRANT, \$20,000	2007 - 2008
HARLEM SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT, \$50,000.	2005 - 2006
NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, ARTIST GRANT, \$5,000.00	2004
FACULTY WORKS GRANT, \$3000.00	2004
EIDLITZ TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP, CORNELL AAP, \$10,000.00	1999

For full CV and bio, please visit <http://architecture.tulane.edu/people/scott-ruff>