



## FROM THE PRESIDENT + EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With the coronavirus pandemic disrupting education and research at ACSA member schools, we write this introduction at a moment of uncertainty for architectural education. These times call for us to work together and support our common efforts to prepare students to create a better future and to continue to advance the disciplinary knowledge base.

This publication was prepared originally for the 108th ACSA Annual Meeting in San Diego. We share it now with a virtual Annual Meeting planned for June and a videoconference format for the May 20 Annual Business Meeting.

We would like to convey our gratitude for the hard work of more than 600 people serving on ACSA's Board of Directors, volunteer committees, editorial boards, and peer review panels to strengthen architectural education and research. ACSA began the 2019-20 year with a revised three-year strategic plan that extends foundational work by the board four years ago to restructure the organization and reframe our mission, values, and the ways we work.

This ACSA Agenda reports on some of the organization's accomplishments on behalf of our members. It also looks ahead at how we will continue to fulfill our vision of empowering faculty and schools to educate increasingly diverse students, expand disciplinary impacts, and create knowledge for the advancement of architecture.

Architecture is a dynamic discipline with the power to deepen understanding of the world and enable people to effect change in their local communities. We believe that, more than ever, the world needs the knowledge and skills that our graduates acquire during and after their time in our member schools. We at ACSA remain energized by this imperative and will continue to move ahead with scholarly programs and with member services mindful that things will be different and that ACSA must adapt to the evolving needs of the faculty, staff, and students at our member schools.



**Rashida Ng**  
ACSA President



**Michael J. Monti**  
Executive Director

## ENHANCING RESEARCH: EXPANDING IMPACT AND CREATING NETWORKS

At ACSA we design programs to support our members' scholarly activities by providing rigorous venues for publication, presentation, and recognition. We also take advantage of our ability to convene members to collect data and provide resources to help schools advance the scholarly efforts of faculty, students, and staff.

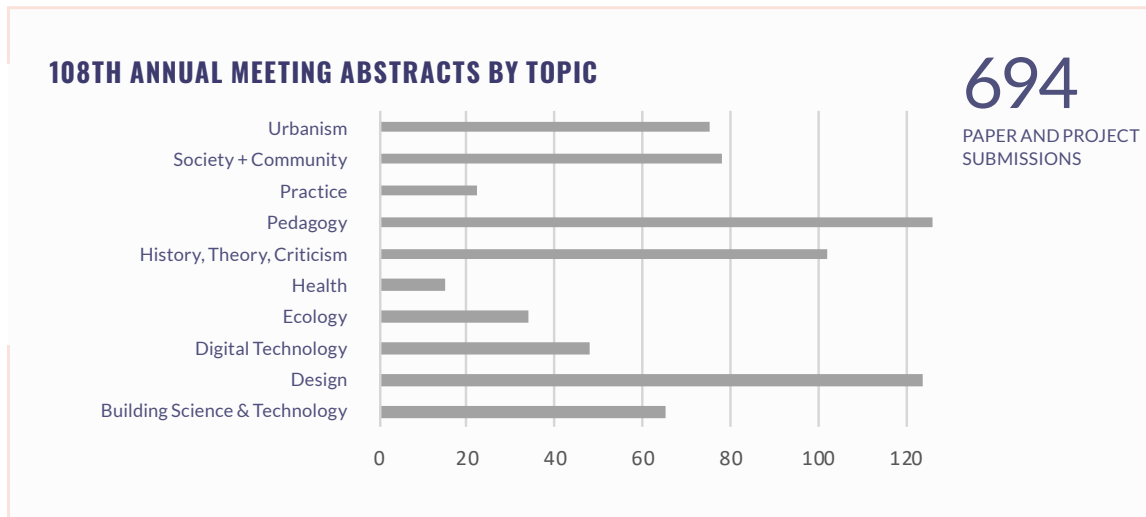
### Reinvented Annual Meeting

We chose Open as the theme of the **108th Annual Meeting** both to reflect our decision to reinvent the conference and to reflect the broad diversity of scholarly endeavor happening within our member schools.

### Key Changes

- Two-phase blind peer review (abstracts and full submissions) under the responsibility of a Reviews Committee
- 10 topic areas frame the content both for matching reviewers to submissions and for creating conference sessions
- Committee-based review of proposals for invited panel sessions, workshops, and other activities

The desired outcomes for these changes are to attract broader participation in the conference, a more valuable peer review process, and improved quality in conference sessions and proceedings. We hope that, as a result of these changes, faculty from across the curriculum will find opportunities to present their ongoing scholarly and creative work and see the Annual Meeting as an increasingly relevant venue in which to engage with peers.



### International Conference Partnership with International Union of Architects

Building on previous years' efforts to engage a more global audience for ACSA's activities, ACSA debuted a new partnership with the International Union of Architects (UIA) through which ACSA managed the peer review process for the **UIA's 27th World Congress of Architects** in Rio de Janeiro. Originally scheduled for July 2020, the conference has been postponed to July 2021. ACSA worked with the Architectural Institute of Brazil to assemble an international panel of reviewers for papers and projects submitted from around the world in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The result for ACSA members is access to a much larger venue than our traditional International Conferences (the UIA Congress attracts upwards of 7,000 participants) and comparable peer review standards.

## What's coming (2020-2021)

ACSA's **Research + Scholarship Committee** continues to develop the series of reports published in the last three years about tenure and promotion policies and about ways to evaluate and measure quality in architectural scholarship. An update to ACSA's "Research and Scholarship for Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointments in Schools of Architecture" report will be available for member review in the summer.

The **AIA/ACSA Intersections Symposium** continues to bring peer-reviewed applied research to AIA's Conference on Architecture (in 2020 the theme is Design for Climate Action). This fall, the Intersections brand extends to ACSA's annual Fall Conference. The **2020 AIA/ACSA Intersections Research Conference: CARBON** invited abstracts from practice and academia about short- and long-term carbon management strategies. The conference is scheduled to take place at Penn State University's Navy Yard campus in Philadelphia October 1–3. ACSA is monitoring the impact of the coronavirus on travel for the fall and will announce any updates to plans for this conference as they become available.

ACSA's two journals represent our most rigorous global peer-reviewed venues for scholarly publication. We are currently in the midst of a search for a new executive editor of the **Journal of Architectural Education** at a time when the JAE is reaching its 75th year of publication. JAE issues on Work (October 2019) and H2O (March 2020) represent the journal's focus on fundamental topics that open into multiple directions within the discipline, while JAE Online adds new reviews of books, exhibits, and other artifacts an average of every two weeks.

TAD—or **Technology | Architecture and Design**—enters its fourth year of publication with a spring 2020 issue, titled *Translation*, that focuses on the means by which a design concept becomes translated into the built environment. TAD's October 2019 issue was the second of a regular series of Open issues designed to collect a range of critical areas of research, development, and application in architectural design and technology. Also new this year is an annual TAD Best Article Award.

## INCREASING ACCESS AND PROMOTING EQUITY FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

In each of the last two strategic planning processes, the ACSA board has made increasing equity and inclusion among students and faculty a high priority. Our board's Education and Leadership Committees have taken up this goal in recent years by surveying programs about barriers to recruitment and retention of students and by organizing conference sessions focused on program successes. Our Study Architecture outreach campaign has also been targeting prospective students from a range of underrepresented demographic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

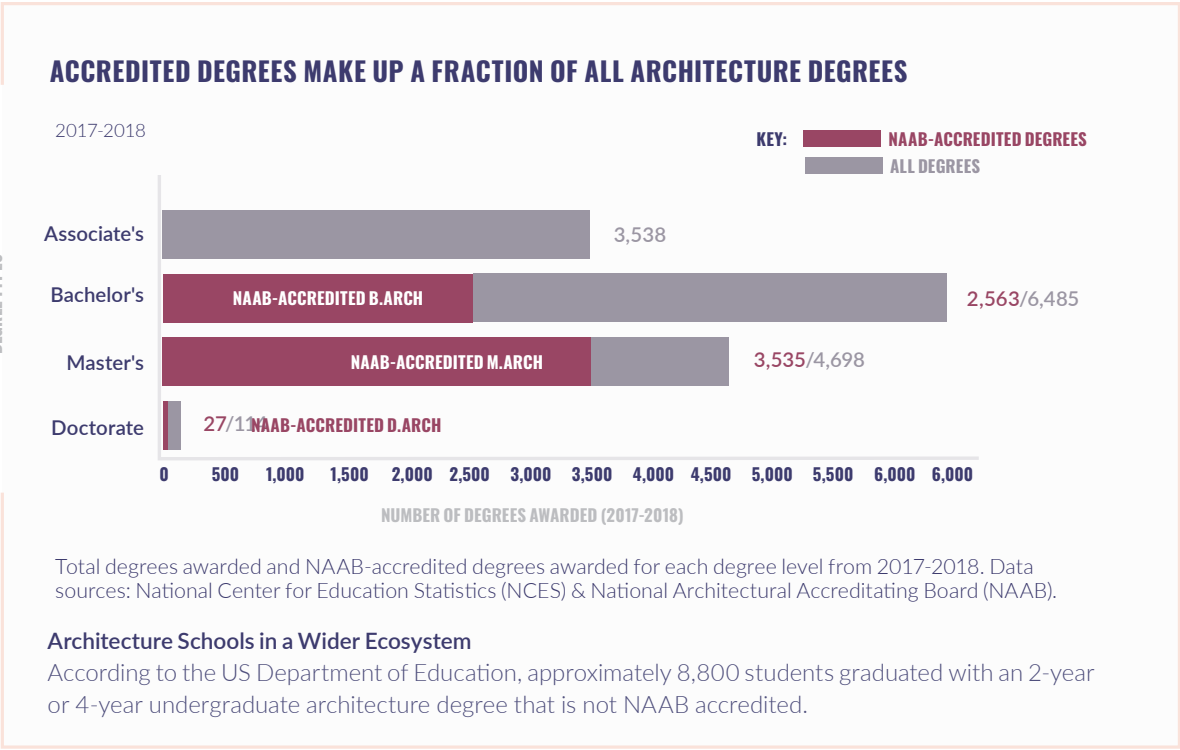
We are finding, however, that strategies to increase the number of students of color and native populations in architectural education have not been effective. For example, despite countless diversity initiatives in the profession over the years the percentage of African-American architecture students has not increased. We believe we need to look beyond conventional approaches to diversifying architecture schools and the profession, and instead engage the problem differently.

ACSA is now working with a consultant to expand our understanding of the literature around increasing equity in higher education and the profession, with the expectation of a sharper lens through which to approach these intractable problems. This includes evaluating structures and practices in architecture schools that, explicitly or implicitly, perpetuate racism, sexism, and other ways of thinking that exclude others from a profession that has been historically white and male.

We are also participating in collateral activities focused on equity and inclusion. A task force convened by the American Institute of Architecture Students is working on learning and teaching cultures in schools, and growing from our five year partnership with AIA San Francisco's Equity in Architecture initiative, ACSA is contributing to initiatives led by professional groups, as well.

### On the Horizon

ACSA's **2020 Administrators Conference**, November 5-7 in Seattle, is shaping up to be a key opportunity to unpack the power and agency of students, faculty, and practitioners. Updates on holding this conference in person or online will be made as they become available. The **109th ACSA Annual Meeting** has also been announced, with a Call for Abstracts and for Special Sessions open until June 3. Envisioning the future profile of architecture students and faculty is part of what our members do well, and we invite your participation.



### ENRICHING PEDAGOGY TO ADVANCE ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

Educating future architects, designers, and change agents is central to every ACSA member school, and ACSA is one of few venues for discussion about architectural pedagogy. The ACSA board is working through our Education Committee and our conferences and other programs to create inclusive conversations about pedagogy that recognize a continuum of education from 2-year degree programs to doctoral programs.

#### Accreditation

A major priority for the organization has been to represent schools' voices about changes to the National Architectural Accrediting Board's (NAAB) Conditions and Procedures for Accreditation. The NAAB Accreditation Review Forum last July capped an 18-month process of research and exploration about professional education in architecture. NAAB transformed the Conditions and Procedures with new Program Criteria and Student Criteria that rely heavily on student assessment and program self-assessment. The change is welcome, in ACSA's view, because it provides programs the space to experiment and evolve curricula in their own dynamic professional and educational contexts. As ACSA looks ahead to next year, we see opportunities for collaboration with NAAB to help schools share and develop their own assessment processes at ACSA conferences and through webinars.

#### Data

In March ACSA published a new **Institutional Data Report**. This PDF document, which debuted last year at the Annual Meeting, investigates current and historical metrics of institutional effectiveness using data about more than 500 architecture degree programs. For 2020 we are expanding our analysis to focus even more on non-accredited 2- and 4-year programs. We also have accepted a proposal from the Canadian Council of University Schools Architecture to support their own data collection initiative.

Another study that can inform curricula and pedagogy is our recently published survey of more than 6,000 practitioners and recently hired graduates about professional practice education. The **NCARB/ACSA Professional Practice Firm Survey** measured practitioners' perceptions of readiness for professional practice, as well as what recent graduates thought about the alignment of their education with firm expectations.

## NEW ACSA WEBSITE

[www.acsa-arch.org](http://www.acsa-arch.org)

In October ACSA launched a redesigned website with better navigation, especially on mobile devices, and more powerful tools to find information, data, and publications.

Our site search is much more robust, and our revamped Proceedings Index uses the same search tool to crawl the full text of conference papers and projects dating back to 1995.

### Did you see?

ACSA's 2020 Architectural Education Awards were published online in January. Check out the site to view the award winners' work. Also, have you looked at your online profile yet? Visit [www.acsa-arch.org](http://www.acsa-arch.org) to log in!

## Conferences

ACSA continues our partnership with the European Association for Architectural Education on a biennial Teachers Conference. Our 2019 event in Antwerp brought a nearly even mix of educators from North America and Europe together to explore the triad of teaching, research, and practice. The **2021 ACSA/EAAE Teachers Conference** comes to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn with the theme of *Curricula for Climate Action: Charting a New Course for Architectural Pedagogy*. The call for abstracts will be forthcoming in the spring, and the conference will take place June 3–6, 2021.

Our **2019 Fall Conference** broke new ground. Hosted by an Affiliate member school, Stanford University, under the theme Less Talk/More Action, the conference actively encouraged experimentation and new ideas for participation at a scholarly conference with an aim to investigate broader, purpose-driven inquiries into architectural education that are responsive to the real-time needs of students, the profession, and society. How we teach and who we involve in teaching and curriculum development were often in focus. The proceedings from this conference is expected later in the spring.

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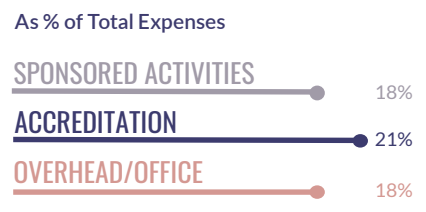
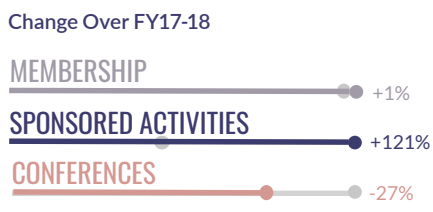
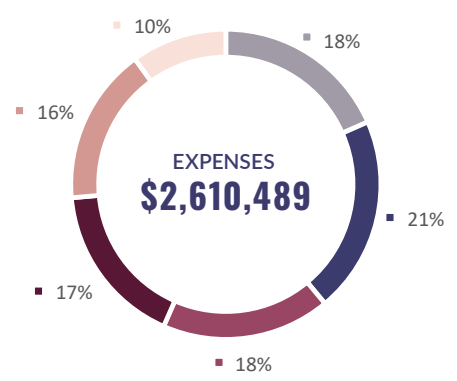
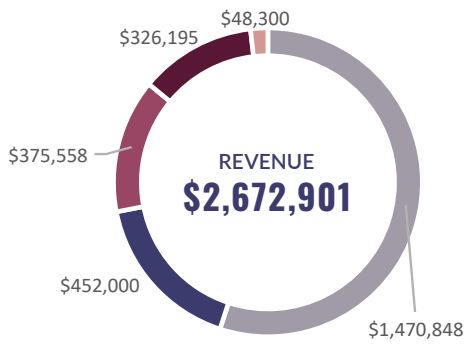
## FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

The secretary/treasurer is charged with reporting annually on the financial state of the association. This report is for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2019. Every year we have an audit of our financial records and management, and again this year the audit was clean with no concerns about internal controls or the financial management of the association.

ACSA posted a \$62,412 net surplus in FY2018-19. Sponsored activities surged with new competitions, but are not expected to sustain those levels in FY20. Costs for accreditation increased because of the Accreditation Review Forum. ACSA's administrative and overhead expenses remain at 18%, which puts ACSA in good standing with other not-for-profit organizations.

The Finance Committee continues to work with the executive director on aligning the organization's financial resources with the association's strategic plan. This includes developing better long-term planning processes that integrate with our programmatic discussions.

—Nichole Wiedemann, ACSA Secretary/Treasurer



ASSETS	AUGUST 31, 2019	AUGUST 31, 2018
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	461,657	
INVESTMENTS	1,968,315	
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	79,570	
CASH - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	30,000	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,539,542</b>	\$2,532,996
LIABILITIES	AUGUST 31, 2019	AUGUST 31, 2018
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	368,215	
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED - BOARD DESIGNATED	2,141,327	
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	30,000	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,171,327</b>	\$1,919,927
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,539,542</b>	\$2,532,996

