



CANDIDATE for AT-LARGE DIRECTOR (3-year term)

Kwesi Daniels, Tuskegee University

Candidate Statement

I am Kwesi Daniels and I am seeking the position of At-Large Director of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). I currently serve as the Department Head of Architecture at Tuskegee University. My higher education career began in 2001, with teaching Upward Bound students at the University of Illinois at Chicago. That experience changed my life and revealed my passion for using education to promote social change. My teaching pedagogy revolves around connecting students to real world social challenges and uncovering solutions that are transformative. Through the classroom we have engaged in restorative justice work with descendants of the Tuskegee Syphilis study, conducted research in rural Alabama to develop improved sanitation for the poor, and engaged in cultural heritage documentation in Montgomery, Selma, and Tuskegee, AL around the civil rights movement. As a PhD student I researched the role universities have and continue to play in changing the urban landscape.

I believe these experiences are vital, more now, than at any other point in the history of our country. We have a decision to make as a nation. Do we truly embrace the diverse culture that has built our country, or do we continue to deny the contributions of large segments of our citizenry? The field of architecture education can do what only teachers can do- we can change the mind-set of the future leaders, designers, and professionals. Every day we imbue our students with ideas of possibility. We teach them how to create spaces that do not exist. And we challenge them to imagine new realities for people to live. In the 1940's through the 1990's we used our power to fortify divisions between the races, through the development of the suburbs, urban ghettos, large tract public housing, the interstate highway system, and prisons. We taught our students how to embed Jim Crow segregation ideas into the infrastructure that defines American society. In 2021, we can do better. We can teach our students how to create the Beloved Community for which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and hundreds of civil rights activist sacrificed their lives. We can acknowledge the faults of the past and reconcile with the needs of the present. We can give our students permission to create spaces that reflect the identity of their brothers and sisters of different races, ethnicities, and genders. We can inspire them to formulate designs that challenge gentrification and push for true integration. This is OUR power.



As your At-Large Director, I will be your social advocate who promotes:

- Education curriculum that imprints the culture of historically marginalized communities, including black, indigenous, people of color, and women into design;
- Education programming that encourages students to utilize design as a tool for social change;
- Research to create a racially, ethnically, and gender inclusive society; and
- Teaching pedagogy that gives voice to the voiceless

Tuskegee University is a Historically Black University that serves a predominantly African-American population of students from all over the United States. We began teaching architecture in 1893 and used our curriculum to build our campus and communities around the country. Because of this history, we intentionally teach our students about the role of African-American architects in shaping American society. Since 2017, when I began as the Department of Architecture, our department has raised more than \$300,000 in grant funding, successfully acquired an 8 year accreditation, and developed three new programs in historic preservation, African-American Architecture, and a Bachelor of Arts program in design. As the At-Large Director of the ACSA I will bring all of this experience to fulfill the ACSA's strategic priorities of increasing access and promoting equity, enriching pedagogy, and enhancing research.



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Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Temple University	PhD, Geography and Urban Studies	December 2020
Columbia University	MS, Sustainability Management	May 2013
University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)	MArch, Digital Media	December 2003
Tuskegee University	BArch	May 2002

HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-Present	Tuskegee University, Department of Architecture Department Head & Assistant Professor	(TU)
2014-2016	Temple University Teaching Assistant Teaching Assistant	(Temple)
2012-Present	NYU Adjunct Assistant Professor	(NYU)
2010-2013	Columbia University Teaching Assistant	(CU)
2004-2009	Tuskegee University, Department of Architecture Assistant Professor	(TU)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Architectural Record Innovation
Conference Panelist: Seeking Equity in Architectural Education
- 2020 UPENN Weitzman School of Design Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites
Panelist: Understanding Civil Rights Heritage
- 2015 3rd Annual Community Development Graduate Research Forum, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, PA
Session Presentation: Expansion vs. Resistance: The Symbols of Studentification's Impact Upon the Neighborhoods Surrounding Temple University
- 2015 Raising the Bar, NY, NY
Session Presentation: The University as a Gentrifier
- 2014 Critical Geography, Philadelphia, PA
Session Chair: Race, Space, & Place
Session Presentation: Structural Symbols of Inequality in Black Communities
- 2014 National Organization of Minority Architects National Conference, Philadelphia, PA
Session Presentation: Preserving Underserved Communities through Sustainability
- 2014 Raising the Bar, NY, NY
Session Presentation: Abandoned Housing, the Unsustainable Solution to Urban Neighborhoods
- 2013 TEDx Columbia SIPA, NY, NY
Session Presentation: The Community as a Classroom

HONORS

- 2020 Outstanding Faculty Performance Award for Teaching
- 2019 Outstanding Faculty Performance Award for Research

GRANT FUNDED COMMUNITY REBUILDING PROJECTS

- 2018-2019 **National Trust for Historic Preservation African-American Cultural Heritage Action Fund**
Title: Co-PI
Project Type: Historic Preservation Building Restoration
Budget: \$150,000.00
- 2018-2019 **Kaplan Fund** (Historic Preservation Capacity Building Project for Alabama Civil Rights Sites)
Title: Principal Investigator
Project Type: Historic Preservation Workshops
Budget: \$50,000.00