Expanding Access to Architectural Education Part III:

Stakeholders Planning Meeting to Improve Community College Transfer

November 17, 2022

Mark Pearson, Professor of Architecture, College of DuPage

Shawhin Roudbari, Assistant Professor of Environmental Design, University of Colorado Boulder

Randy Steiner, Founder and President of the Coalition of Community College Architecture Programs (CCCAP)

Michaele Pride, Professor of Architecture, Associate Dean for Student Equity and Success, University of New Mexico

Stephen Schreiber, Professor and Chair, Department of Architecture, UMass Amherst, President-elect, NAAB

Agenda

01 **Welcome and Introductions (5 min)**

02 **Mark Pearson / Shawhin Roudbari (ACSA) (10 min)**

03 **Randy Steiner (CCCAP) (10 min)**

04 **Michaele Pride / Stephen Schreiber (NAAB) (10 min)**

05 **Working Meeting (45 min)**

06 **Wrap Up (10 min)**

SESSION GOALS:

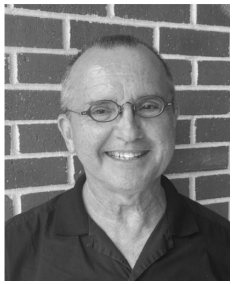
- Share Information (amongst groups doing similar work)
- Encourage Collaboration
- Identify potential future work
    - What can each group do to prepare for a June “Convening”
- Share thoughts on what a June “Convening” might look like / accomplish.

ACSA Education Committee

Summary: Expanding Access to Architectural Education / Community College Pathways

Nicole Bass

American Institute of Architecture Students



Dwayne Bohuslav

San Antonio College

Andrew Chin

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Danielle Dent

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture

Shelby Doyle

Iowa State University

Cathi Ho Schar

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Beth Lundell Garver

Boston Architectural College

Mark Pearson

College of DuPage
Committee Co-Chair

Shawhin Roudbari

University of Colorado Boulder
Committee Co-Chair

Education Committee & Charge

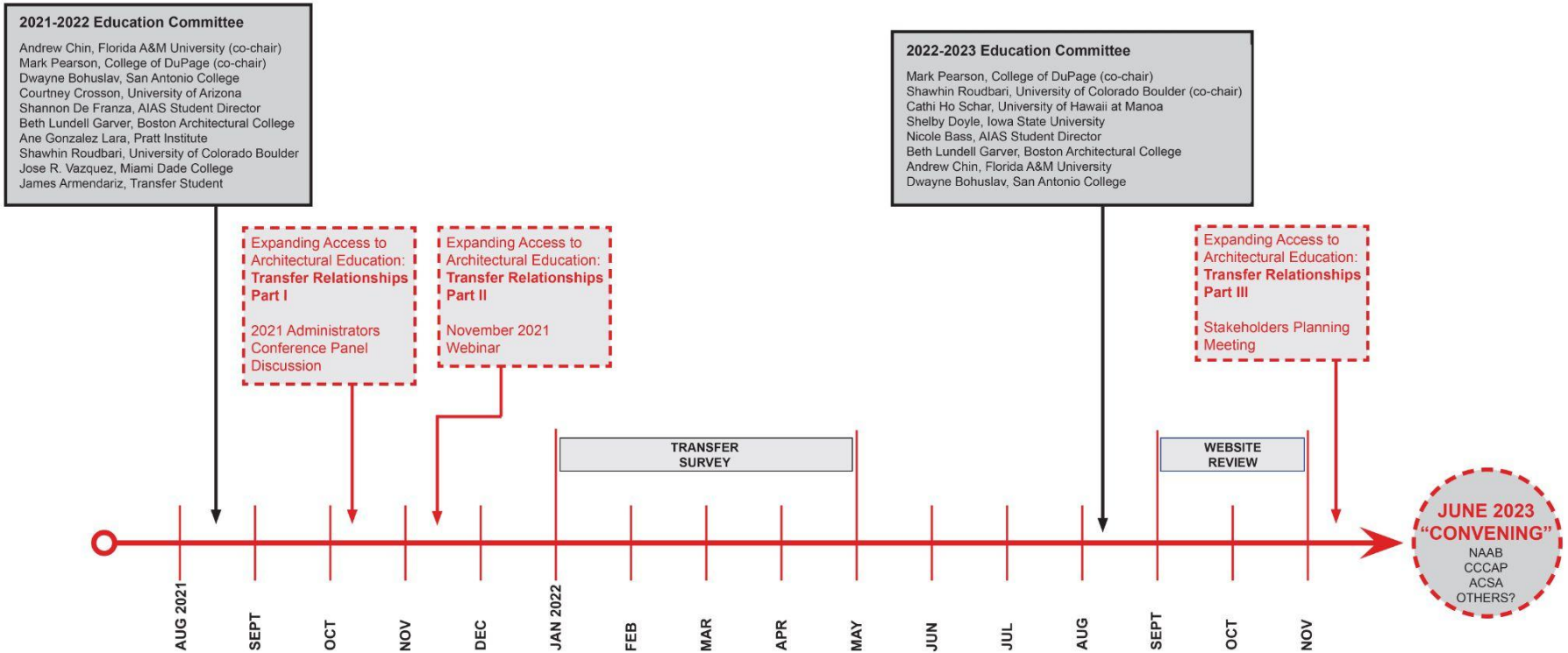
Disseminating Best Practices for Successful Community College Transfer. The Education Committee is charged with continuing its work to strengthen articulation between community colleges and professional and pre-professional architecture programs. Building upon the work of the 2021-2022 "Survey on Expanding Access to Architectural Education" and the identification of "transfer-friendly" practices, the committee will: (1) continue research and develop best practices for and identify barriers to achieving smooth transition to 4- and 5-year programs including, but not limited to appropriate general education and disciplinary coursework, portfolio requirements, and testing; (2) develop FAQs/guidance/maps for articulating pathways into 4- and 5- year programs from community colleges; and (3) formulate a plan for a convening of institutions and organizations (eg ACSA, CCCAP, NAAB) seeking to advance community college transfer to take place no later than fall 2023.

WHY?

- Enhance equitable access to architectural education.
- Create a more inclusive and accessible profession.
- Value diversity at our institutions.
- Address the cost of architectural education.

Community College transfer can lead the way!

Expanding Access to Architectural Education Part III



ACSA EDUCATION COMMITTEE: COMMUNTY COLLEGE WORK

EDUCATION COMMITTEE POSITION STATEMENT

We believe / advocate for...

- The financial stability of all students
- Community college students deserve fair, transparent, and equitable transfer processes.
- Community college coursework can be equal in value to university coursework
- University schools of architecture should accept community college transfer students and place them in a fair and equitable manner
- Community college students should **NOT** be required to repeat coursework and should be given as much credit for discipline coursework as possible
- Community college students enrich the conversations, cultures, and experiences in university studio culture

SOURCE: 2021-2022 ACSA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

WHAT IS TRANSFER FRIENDLY?

A transfer friendly architecture program…

- Awards credit (and placement) for Community College coursework. This includes both general education coursework as well as discipline specific architecture coursework.
- **Makes a good faith effort to give transfer students the highest advanced placement that they are eligible for based on their transcript, coursework and skill level.**
- Awards advanced studio placement for CC design studio coursework.
- Has a written articulation agreements or clearly defined transfer patterns (pathways) in writing and available to potential transfer students to evaluate.
- Ensures that CC transfer students keep moving forward on their pathway towards and accredited architecture degree and **does NOT require community college transfer students repeat prior coursework**.
- Accepts transfer students into a professional or pre-professional degree track.
- Seeks, fosters and maintains relationship with CC architecture programs and reviews transfer agreements regularly.
- Provides transition support, mentoring, and specialized advising for transfer students.

SOURCE: 2021-2022 ACSA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HOW TO BE TRANSFER FRIENDLY?

RELATIONSHIPS

- Develop relationships with your local community college architecture program and identify where you may have common goals and interests.

PATHWAYS

- Create transparent and equitable transfer pathways and processes.
- Avoid the course alignment trap. Look beyond course-by-course alignments by considering groups or bundles of courses.
- Develop strategies to reduce common transfer barriers such as:
  - Studio Placement
  - Curriculum Gaps
  - Financial Barriers
- Include a portfolio review only if necessary.
- Consider flexibility in course sequencing to accommodate various student experiences.

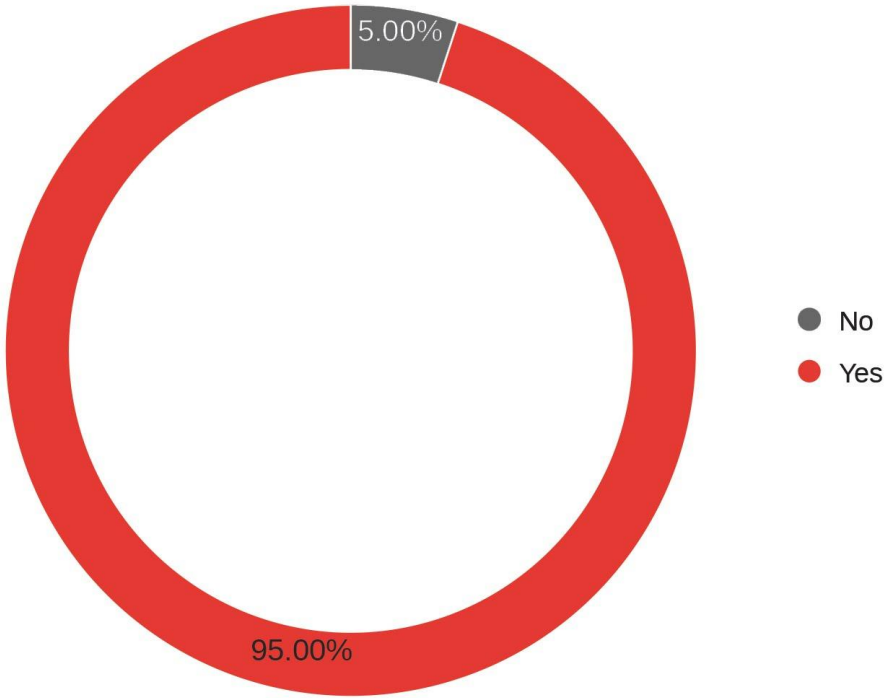
SUPPORT

- Provide advising and support for incoming transfer student to address course sequencing and adjustment (navigation and belonging) to the university.
- Publish transfer agreements and advising contact information for potential transfer students on your websites.
- Document and celebrate your transfer student successes.

SOURCE: 2021-2022 ACSA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

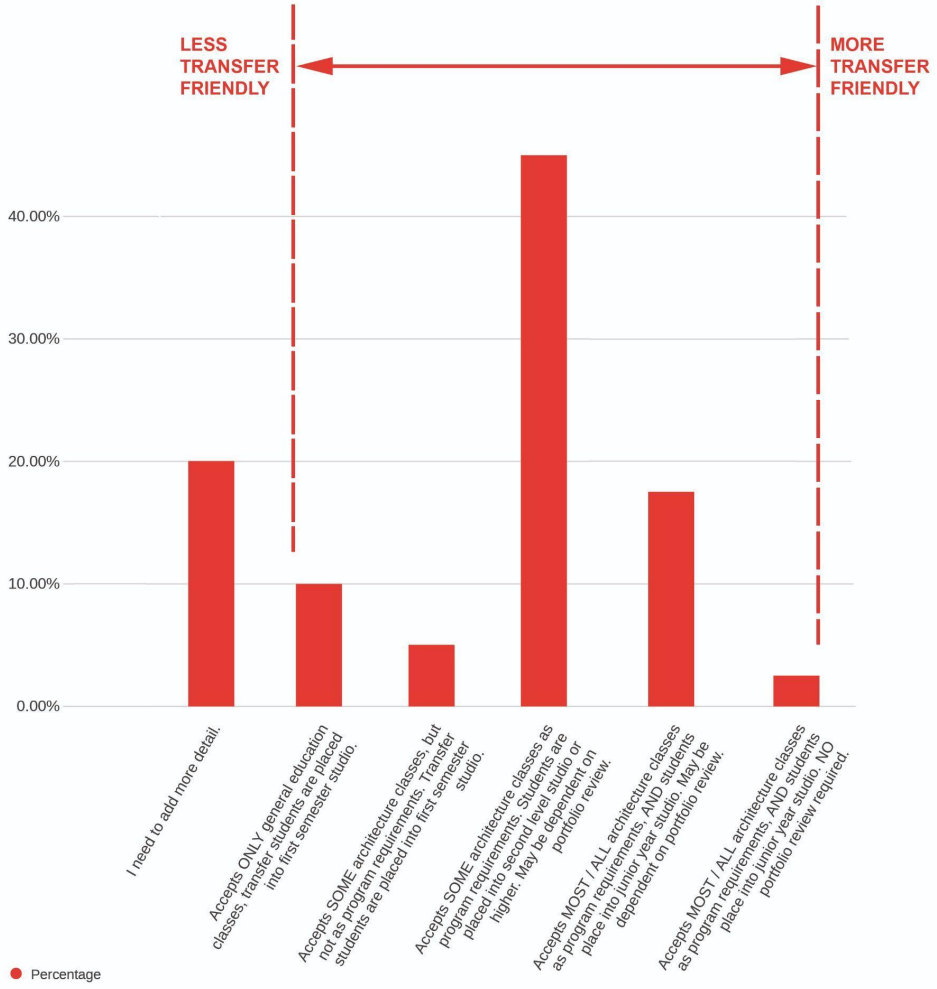
SURVEY RESULTS (43/134 NAAB-accredited programs responded)

Q. Do you accept transfer students from community colleges into your pre-professional (4-year) or professional (5-year) degree program?



SURVEY RESULTS

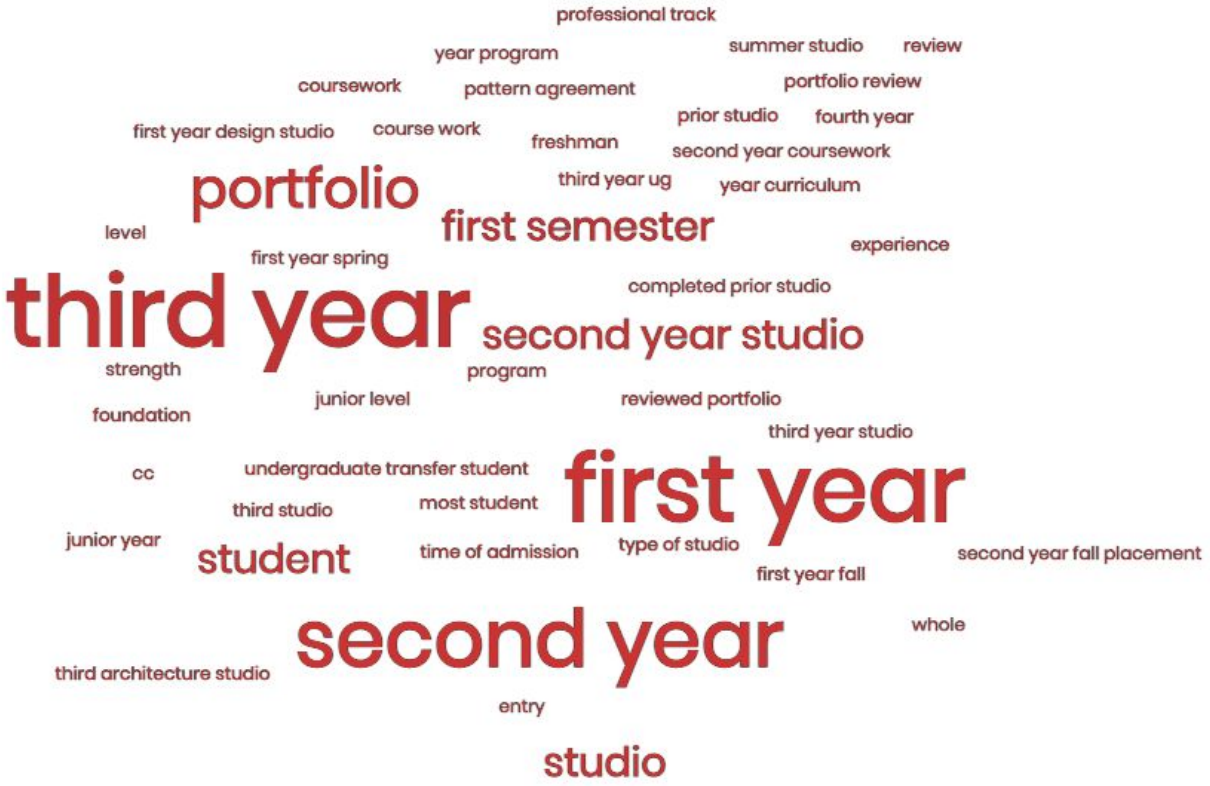
Q. Which of the following BEST describes your typical transfer policy?



(44%) Accepts **SOME** architecture classes as program requirements. Students are placed into second level studio or higher. May be dependent on portfolio review.

SURVEY RESULTS

Q. Where in your studio sequence are transfer students typically placed at your institution?



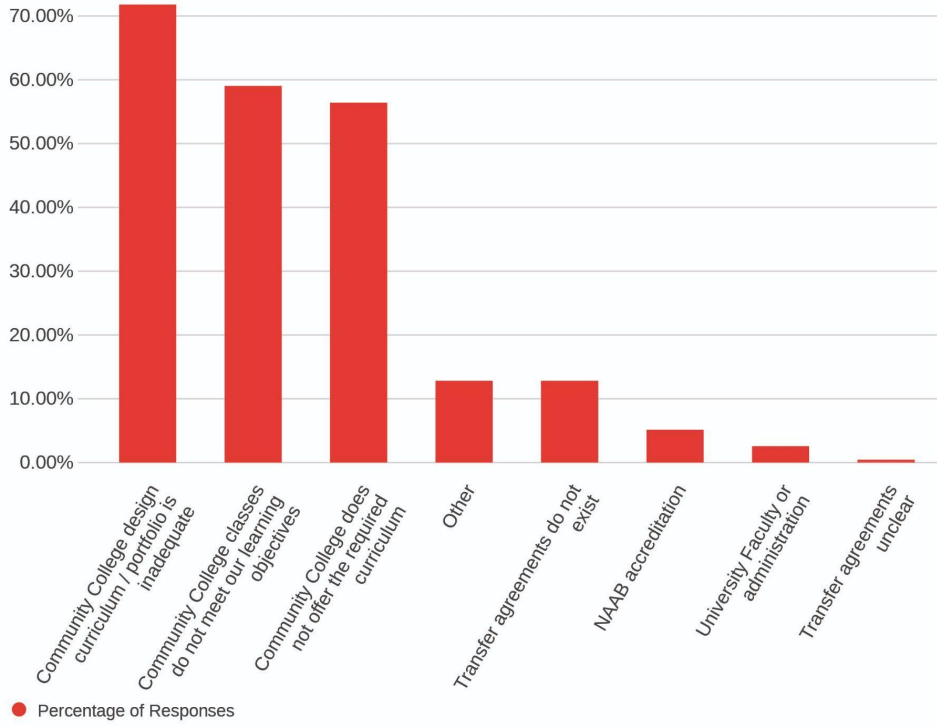
SURVEY RESULTS

Q. When studio credit is not given, what are the barriers for placement among community college students?

71% Community College design curriculum / portfolio is inadequate

59% Community College classes do not meet our learning objectives

57% Community College does not offer the required curriculum



SURVEY RESULTS

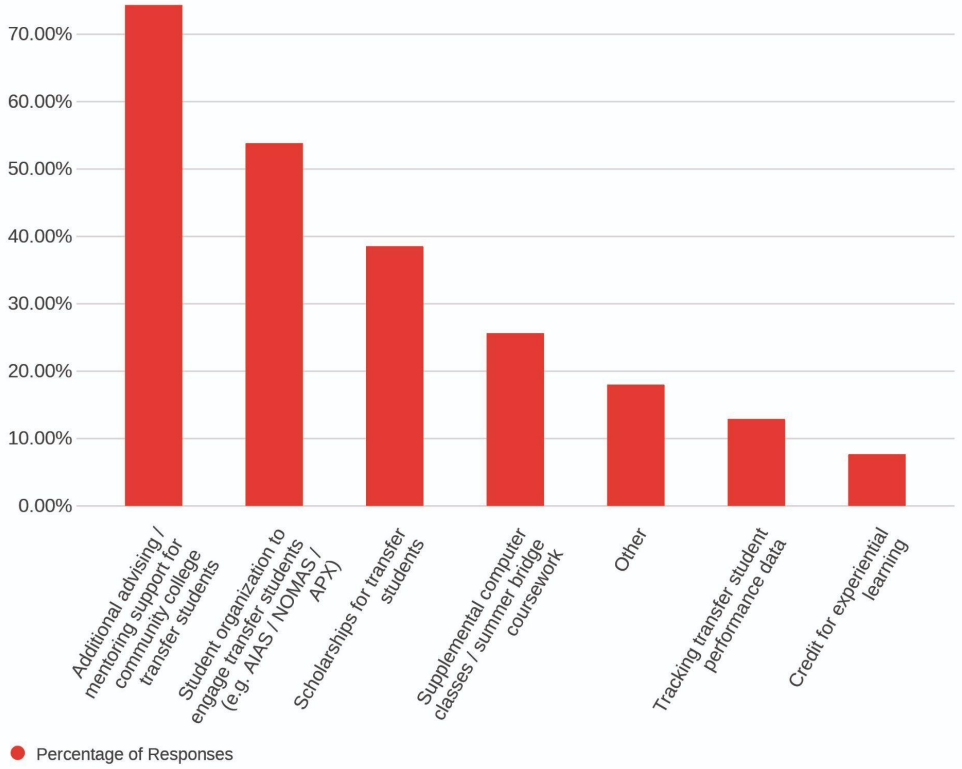
Q. In what ways do you support transfer students?

72% Additional advising

53% Student Organizations (NOMAS, AIAS, APX)

39% Scholarships for Transfer Students

25% Supplemental computer classes / summer bridge coursework



WEBSITE REVIEW (All 177 ACSA member schools websites reviewed)

Does the website include any transfer information? **80% YES**

Is the transfer information discipline (Architecture) specific? **41% YES**

Does the website include/reference articulation agreements, transfer patterns or transfer course sequences? **21% YES**

Does the website include any information about anticipated level of transfer placement or studio placement expectations? **11% YES**

Does the website provide direct contact information for CC transfer students? **27% YES**

Does the website list specific CC partner schools? **18% YES**

WEBSITE REVIEW (All 177 ACSA member schools websites reviewed)

Websites identified as “best practices” for transfer information. **10%**

How easy to find is the information on the website? **21% Ranked Easy**

How helpful is the information on the website? **18% Ranked Helpful**

Website Examples:

https://www.cca.edu/admissions/transfer/

https://newschoolarch.edu/admissions/admissions-process/transfer-student-admissions/

WEBSITE REVIEW / Committee Reflections

- **Transfer information was difficult to find overall**: "I would be frustrated if I was a transfer student"
- Google searches often yield the best info.
- Architecture schools websites are often designed for other purposes (visual impact or project portfolios)
- Information and format ranged widely from school to school.
- CC transfer ino often organized in context with other types of transfer.
- **Specificity matters**: Best sites included specific course sequences, alignments and partner programs.
- Some sites seemed to encourage transfer vs. other sites that discouraged by listing reasons that they could not accept studio credit.
- **Most did not indicate potential placement until after acceptance**, often due to portfolio review requirements.
- Even for architecture websites, most info was non-architectural (gen-ed) related.
- Most discipline specific info regarded portfolio requirements.

NEXT STEPS

Committee Charge: "formulate a plan for a convening of institutions and organizations (eg ACSA, CCCAP, NAAB) seeking to advance community college transfer"

June 2023 Convening:

+ ACSA has budgeted funding to facilitate and host this meeting.
+ Planning to hold this event at a central location, preferably at or near a community college architecture program.
+ We will collaborate with NAAB and CCCAP (and others?) to plan this meeting.

This June 2023 convening should produce a tangible outcome / not just further discussion.

THOUGHTS? FEEDBACK? SUGGESTIONS?

Reach out to us!

Mark Pearson: pearson@cod.edu
Shawhin Roudbari: shawhin@colorado.edu