



CANDIDATE for SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (4-year term)

José L.S. Gámez, University of North Carolina Charlotte

Candidate Statement

Increasingly, I find myself asking what our students will recall of their time in college 20 years from now. I ask this question recognizing that we face projected declining numbers of traditional college age populations, lingering impacts of pandemics, and intertwined environmental and societal challenges. What do I recall from my past? A professor who focused on people rather than parti. That emphasis on people made architecture relevant for me and it continues to shape my interests in equitable social and physical environments.

ACSA's strategic commitment to racial equity and climate action reminds us that environmental and social justice are linked. ACSA's interests in fostering equitable learning cultures throughout its membership build on this commitment, which highlights architectural education's relevance to current and future students, faculty and staff. I am excited by the opportunity to re-engaging with ACSA's national leadership and to help reinforce the idea that architecture can be a form of civic and cultural leadership.

My personal and professional goals tie directly to ACSA's strategic commitments. As the son of immigrants, I have first-hand experience with the ways that identity can be used to reproduce difference; this continues to shape my interests in creative practices that actively resist marginalization. As a LatinX architectural educator, I have worked to address questions of culture and equity through my teaching, community-engaged research, and service for over two decades. This has involved efforts to: develop course content that intersects with issues relevant to under-represented groups; collaborative practices that build cultural competencies both in the classroom and beyond campus; and, more recently in my current role, to identify ways to decolonize our modes of research and creative inquiry.



This combined interest in equity, collaboration, and inclusive practice threads into my leadership experiences, which include developing choices in educational pathways that empower students to find their passions and to learn in the ways that suit them best. These experiences align well with ACSA's goals and they have led me to co-author several degree paths aimed at diversifying professional educational opportunities: Master of Urban Design (2009), Master of Science in Architecture (2017), and Master of Architecture Advanced Standing (2018). Currently, I am part of a team planning an interdisciplinary Master of Fine Arts in Community Centered Practices (launching in 2024), which focuses on the role of artists as inclusive agents of positive change in the communities we serve. I have also worked with colleagues and regional community colleges to create articulation agreements into undergraduate programs; as a former transfer student, I know the challenges and promise that these agreements hold. And, I am currently collaborating on an interdisciplinary undergraduate curriculum within our college that will create learning experiences for a range of students who seek a more inclusive university "home" without leaving disciplinary interests behind.

Throughout these endeavors, I have served as an advocate for inclusive visions of design education. These activities have allowed me to be integrally involved in establishing and promoting programs and to work collaboratively with colleagues, staff and students in Architecture, Design, Studio Art, Geography, Latin American Studies, Theater, as well as colleagues from other campuses such as Woodbury University, University of Houston, UNLV, University of New Mexico, and Florida A&M. Efforts such as these have helped me integrate teaching, research, and service through spaces of "reciprocal engagement" in which students "prepare for the world, in the world" (Cantor 2010) while sharing skills with communities in need.

The impact of my integrated scholarship can be found in numerous accolades including: Provost's Award for Community Engagement; over 100 student awards; student co-authored conference papers, presentations, and research posters; peer reviewed books, articles, and grants; teaching and advising awards; and an Architecture for Social Justice Award. In my view, this kind of collaborative, inclusive and public facing work requires both humility and respect particularly on the part of representatives of large institutions who seek to enter the worlds of others. Currently, as a member of the Dean's Equity and Inclusion Initiative advisory board, I have the privilege of helping foster equitable networks across over 30 collaborating national programs. My current and past leadership experiences have provided me with numerous opportunities to communicate the value of architectural education in ways that compliment my past work with ACSA.

In each of my roles, I have been built upon collegial, equitable, and proactive working relationships. I have aimed to offer students the educational environment that they seek and deserve, staff an environment that fosters growth and support, and an environment that enables faculty to lead fruitful and balanced careers as scholars and creative practioners. If I am granted the honor to help ACSA build upon its successes, my leadership will reflect my past roles, which have been built upon mutually beneficial collaboration, transparency, and respect.



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Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of California Los Angeles, PhD in Architecture *Distinguished Alumnus*

University of California Berkeley, Master of Architecture

Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Environmental Design *CUM LAUDE*

2020-Present	Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Programs, College of Arts+Architecture
2019-2020	Interim Director, School of Architecture, UNC Charlotte
2018 (Fall)	Visiting Studio Instructor: Graduate Core Studio_Urban_Design, Florida A&M University
2016-2019	Associate Director, School of Architecture, UNC Charlotte
2008-2016	Director, CityBuilding.Lab, UNC Charlotte
2004-2008	Graduate Program Coordinator, School of Architecture, UNC Charlotte
2006-Present	Latin American Studies Faculty Member, UNC Charlotte
2002 (Spring)	Interim Chair of Latin American Studies, University of Nevada Las Vegas
1999-2002	Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Nevada Las Vegas
1998-1999	Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture, Portland State University

Selected Honors

2022	Advisory Member, Dean's Equity and Inclusion Initiative
2021	Design Excellence Award, AIA Western Mountain Region (w/assemblageSTUDIO, Las Vegas)
2017-19	At-Large National Board Member, ACSA
2017	Provost's Award, Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising, College of Arts + Architecture
2015-16	Provost Faculty Fellow & Provost's Faculty Award for Community Engagement
2013	Honorable Mention, Environmental Protection Agency, EPA P3
2008-09	Faculty Research Fellow, Institute for Social Capital, UNC Charlotte
2007	First Place: HUD / Casas del Quinto Sol Affordable Housing Competition
2006	Hispanic Scholarship Fund Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee
2003	College of Architecture Teaching Award, UNC Charlotte
2003	Architecture for Social Justice Award, Adaptive Environments/National Endowment for the Arts

Selected External Grant Activity

2022-23	Office of International Programs International Partnerships Grant	\$30,000
2022	Hollings Center for International Dialog	\$10,000
2020-22	Jeffrey Cook Charitable Trust	\$50,000
2017-18	Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund	\$5,000
2015-17	University City Partners Sponsored Research Studios	\$75,000
2014-16	Northwood Ravin Sponsored Research Studios	\$111,000
2014-16	Knight Foundation	\$350,000
2012-14	HUD/EPA Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant	\$50,000

Selected Publications & ACSA Activities

- B. West, K. Carlson-Reddig, and J. Gámez. *Margin and Text: Expanding Narratives in Architecture* (Forthcoming-Princeton Architectural Press, 2023).
- T. Bengle, J. Sorensen, J. Gámez, and L. Morrell. "A Model of Action Research for Building Neighborhood Decision-making Capacity," Collaborations: A Journal of Community-based Research and Practice 4: 1, 4 (2021) 1-11.
- A. Cabral, H. Freeman, R. Sachs, T. Schmidt, and J. Gámez. "DIY in Pandemic Times: Design Leadership during COVID-19," TAD: Technology/Architecture + Design 4:2 (2020) 140-143.
- J. Gámez, Z. Lin and J. Nesbit. *Rio de Janeiro: Urban Expansion and Environment* (Routledge, 2019).
- Z. Lin and J. Gámez. *Vertical Urbanism: Re-conceptualizing the Compact City* (Routledge, 2018).
- J. Gámez and S. Rodgers. "An Architecture of Change" in *Introduction to Architecture: Global Disciplinary Knowledge* (Cognella, 2019) 151-152.
- J. Gámez and Janni Sorensen. "No More Waiting for Superman: Teaching DIY Urbanism and Reflexive Practice," Journal of Urbanism 7: 3 (2014). 1-18.
- >Panel Moderator: "(Re)constructing Pedagogies," ACSA 110 Virtual Conference (May 18, 2022).
- >Invited Presenter: NC NOMA Architecture (L)earned Series held (April 22, 2021; online).
- >Panelist: ACSA Special Focus Session – The Last Frontier: Decolonizing Content and Promoting a Culture of Inclusion in Design Studio and More (March 18, 2021; online).