



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

Joshua A. Foster, East Los Angeles College

Candidate Statement

As a native of the Philadelphia area, a seasoned New Yorker, and now a settled Los Angeleno, I have a strong passion for creating community-empowerment driven solutions. As an award winning architectural designer, I spent the early years of my career focusing on the design and construction of affordable and market-rate housing projects in Los Angeles County. This passion was transformed into a powerful mission to impact communities of color through the founding of JAF Creative Solutions (JAFCS)—a community-impact focused strategic partnership and engagement consultancy firm.

While I do not have prior official involvement with ACSA, I am deeply involved with the people that this organization serves and the mission and priorities in which ACSA aims to serve them. I am a vocal advocate for increasing diversity within the professions of the built environment by creating equitable pipelines and practices specifically for historically underrepresented individuals. One of the main ways that I advocate for this work is through my teaching and leadership at East Los Angeles Community College (ELAC) in their architecture department. Intentionally having sought out an institution that has over a 95% minority student demographic, many of which have also been economically disadvantaged, I enthusiastically teach courses at this community college where we are the very first point of contact for these students with the profession of architecture. Using this platform, I am able to leverage the connections and resources that I have made as a professional as well as an architecture student myself both at Columbia University and the University of Southern California to share opportunities for growth with these students at ELAC. In addition to teaching at the community college, I am the faculty advisor for the school's National Organization of Minority Architecture Student chapter and have led a group of students in national design competitions and initiatives.



Another way that this educational advocacy is shown, is through my work over the past half decade as a Camp Planning Advisor and Mentor for the Southern California Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architect's Project Pipeline camp. This camp is the largest of its kind in the United States and consistently reaches hundreds of youth, from middle school through high school, to expose them to the education and profession of architecture. My experience in this successful camp has led to being selected as a curriculum advisor for the upcoming High School summer architecture program in Harlem, New York hosted by Columbia University and Barnard College's Architecture Department.

In addition to my work with students, I currently serve as the National Historian for the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) and on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) California Chapter. I have also previously served on the local chapter board of SoCal NOMA and as the founding Co-Chair of the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee for the AIA Los Angeles Chapter. Through these outlets, I have spoken on numerous panels, led discussions, and have actively worked on advancing the ways that our profession creates equitable learning cultures in the architectural education system and in practice.

Ultimately, as a member of the ACSA Board of Directors as an At-Large Director, I intend to leverage my professional, academic, and teaching experiences in an effort to add to the great work that Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture is currently doing. Focusing on the five core goals stated in the ACSA 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, I am well equipped to hit the ground running to advance these goals. In particular my focus will be on the goals of creating an equitable, sustainable, and resilient discipline and profession in addition to growing ACSA's relevance to faculty and schools around the world by investing resources that create equitable opportunities for disciplinary innovation, pedagogies, and career advancement.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support for my nomination as an At-Large Director for ACSA.



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Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

Joshua A. Foster, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, is a Los Angeles County based, award-winning architectural designer and Community Partnerships Consultant. He is the Founder and CEO of JAF Creative Solutions (JAFCS)—a community-impact focused strategic partnership and engagement consultancy firm—an Adjunct Architecture Professor and NOMAS Faculty Advisor at East Los Angeles College, and the current NOMA National Historian.

Education

University of Southern California

Masters of Architecture - Certificate in Real Estate Development

Black Alumni Association Scholar, Latino Alumni Association Scholar, USC Graduate Architecture Student Association

President, USC NOMAS Founding Co-President

2016 - 2019

Los Angeles, CA

Columbia University

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture - Sustainability Focus

Michael D. Stephens Scholar, Four Year Varsity Football Athlete, Teaching Assistant

2012 - 2016

New York, NY

Relevant Experience

East Los Angeles College

2017, 2021 - present

Monterey Park, CA

Adjunct Faculty

Teaching Intro to Architecture and Intro to CAD courses in addition to serving as the NOMAS Chapter Advisor leading the Student Design Competition team each year. Previously served as the Architecture Department Minority Outreach Coordinator for ELAC in 2017.

National Organization of Minority Architects Chapter

2022 - present

National Board Member - Historian

United States

Appointed by the NOMA National President and President Elect to serve on the national board as the organization Historian.

Long Beach Community Design Center

2021 - present

Founding Board Member

Chosen to be one of the founding Board Members for the newly formed LBCDC Non-Profit organization which provides pro-bono community design services and educational programs.

Long Beach, CA

AIA Los Angeles - Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee

2020 - 2021

Founding Co-Chair

Los Angeles, CA

Appointed to serve as a founding Co-Chair for the JEDI Committee within the American Institute of Architects' Los Angeles Chapter. This committee is organizing discussions, creating events, and leading the charge for actionable solutions to ensure J.E.D.I in our profession.

Southern California National Organization of Minority Architects Chapter

2018 - 2021

Executive Board Member - Historian and Partnerships Liaison

Los Angeles, CA

Elected to serve on the executive board as the student representative for the first term then transitioned to the Historian and Partnership Liaison role on the board. Tasks include website redesign coordination, archiving of past and current chapter events, and general body meeting technical logistics.

Relevant Lectures and Speaking Engagements

Panelist, "J.E.D.I Won't Save You...Action Will", NOMA National Conference - Nashville, 2022

Co-Presenter, "Equity in Project Planning: A Critical Step to Increasing Community Impact", USGBC-LA, 2022 Keynote Speaker, USC High School Architecture Development Program Graduation Ceremony, 2022 Panelist, "How to Talk to Strangers", SoCal NOMA, 2022

Panelist, "Designing for Environmental Social Justice", SoCal NOMA, 2022

Speaker/Facilitator, "The Dependence of Advocacy from Buildings to Community", AIA National Leadership Conference, 2022 Moderator, "Community Engagement: A Look Outward", AIA LA Encompass Conference, 2022

Panelist, "EDI Through Community Engagement", AIA CA Board of Directors Quarterly, 2021 Juror, ACLA/AIA LA 2x8 Student Design Competition, 2021

Moderator, "Designing Healthy Communities: A Discussion on Diversity and Change", AIA LA, 2021 Moderator, "Dismantling Systemic Racism in Pedagogy", AIA LA 2x8, 2021

Presenter, "The Architects' Los Angeles Voters Guide", AIA LA 2020

Moderator, "The Follow Through: Effectuate Change by Education", AIA LA Encompass Conference, 2020 Speaker, USC School of Architecture Graduate Student Commencement Keynote, 2019

Presenter, "Entrepreneurial Community Building Workshop", 2018 NOMA National Conference