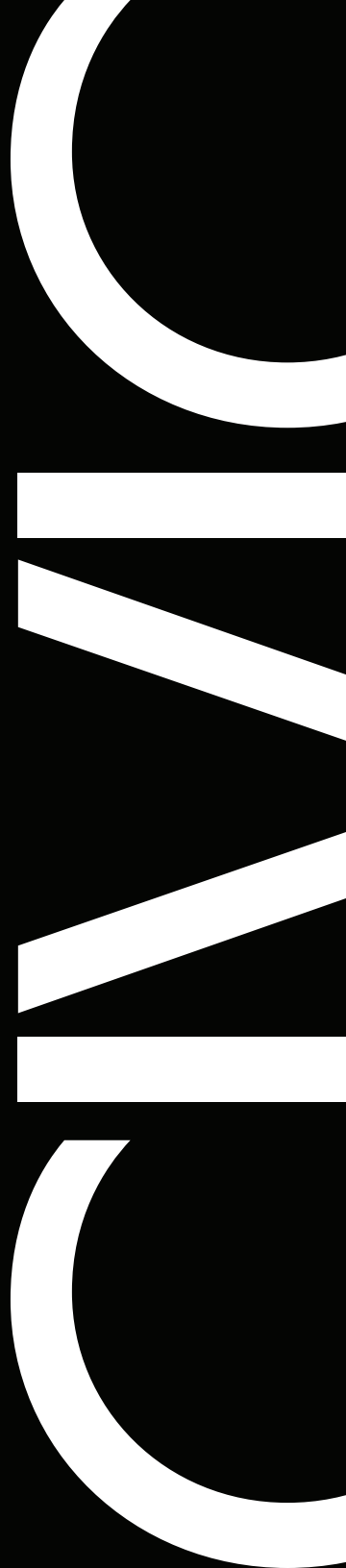




2018 CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



AIA
New York



MISSION

The Civic Leadership Program develops emerging architectural professionals into civic leaders by refining the critical skills design professionals need to better represent the people they serve. We do this by increasing architects' connections to their communities, developing their advocacy capacities around relevant issues, and supporting their pursuit of public service in elected or appointed office.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE



The Civic Leadership Program (CLP) is designed to cultivate a class of emerging architectural professionals into civic leaders through a six-month mentorship and training program. Selected participants develop the ability to engage as designers in the civic process. The CLP provides opportunities to interface with municipal agencies, community development organizations, and local stakeholders in development sessions and public events. The program emphasizes improving communication and public skills, community outreach and relations, and consensus building.

The 2018 program consisted of five development sessions, four team building sessions, and two public events that built a framework for engaging with the public realm. The curriculum for the development sessions was self-driven by the leaders. Topics included relevant issues such as public interest design, land use and public space, community engagement and relations, public development and infrastructure, sustainability and resilience, funding and financial support, political obstacles and opportunities, and new business models. Each development session included a supplemental information seminar led by the advisors.

2018 CIVIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM KICKS OFF



On Saturday, June 9, 2018, the AIANY Civic Leadership Program (CLP) kicked off its second year at the Center for Architecture. Ten selected leaders came together for a full day of programming that began with an introduction to the origin, mission, and objectives of the CLP, framed within a larger social and political context. The kick-off focused on the need for architects to take action by finding opportunities for civic involvement. Throughout the day, the 2018 CLP class discussed themes including transparency, effective communication, courage, connection, and trust. After learning more about CLP, the ten participants convened for a group activity where they shared their individual stories, exchanged ideas, and discussed themes related to civic leadership. From this exercise, there emerged a foundation of trust and collaboration.

Following this activity, Richard Swett, an architect and former Congressman and Ambassador to Denmark, returned for a second year as the kick off's keynote speaker. Swett urged the group to serve as leaders by design and by example, to employ their unique abilities to solve problems and bring communities together. He spoke of the architecture profession's awareness of the complexities of society and our value as civic leaders. Swett noted that "by expanding design from its aesthetic sense to incorporate people, society, and quality of life issues, we shift the paradigm of architecture from the design of buildings to influencing the design process for solving problems in society."



During the afternoon, the group gathered with their newly assigned partners for a panel composed of architects and designers who serve as civic leaders. Ifeoma Ebo, Senior Design Strategist at the Mayor's Office for Criminal Justice, discussed how the design of public infrastructure can address equity and social justice issues in cities. From her work with marginalized communities in South Africa to her current role on the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, Ebo's work experiences demonstrate a critical and unique application of design in the public realm.



Claudia Herasme, Chief Urban Designer at the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP), shared how she came to work at the intersection of design and policy. At DCP she works to improve New York City's public spaces at multiple scales, from waterfront redevelopment to streetscape regulations. Herasme spoke to the power of an inclusive design approach to address aspects of everyday life and highlighted the value of citizens in creating change.

William Merritt Singer, Chief Plan Examiner at the Brooklyn Department of Buildings, shed light on how New York City government operates. Drawing from his experience as a civil servant, Singer focused on leadership skills and tools, urging the class to immerse themselves in their communities. Finally, 2018 AIANY President Guy Geier, FAIA, IIDA, led a discussion about the multiple strategies architects can use to engage in the civic realm. The speakers advised the young leaders to build relationships with their community and city government, and to continually bring who they are to their efforts as civic leaders.

GRANT WRITING FOR ARCHITECTS

As architects and designers, we are always trying to maximize our positive impact through our work. We are charged with upholding the health, safety, welfare of the public at large. However, it is often the case that the design that benefits the greatest number of people comes second to an intractable budget which is held above all else. Alternately, there are many potential clients, projects, and causes that don't have access to financial capital or fit neatly within traditional employee-employer business models. We may want to create a product for easing refugees' plights, help move health initiatives forward, or increase the depth and subject matter of our education systems. For these scenarios, it is important for an architect to have a solid understanding of funding. Although there are many avenues to receive funding, including through the government, crowdsourcing, and venture capital, the first development session of the 2018 Civic Leadership Program delved into grant procurement as a means for architects to serve a greater number of communities and expand the boundaries of our practice.

The day began with the 2018 CLP cohort meeting at the Manhattan Borough President's Office to meet with Deputy Borough President Aldrin Bonilla. Bonilla described the hierarchy of local government, the role of the borough presidents within New York City, and how architects can plug in to this system to bring their expertise to existing communities. The group also discussed the importance of diversity within community boards and

the need to push for participation from varied generations, backgrounds, ages, and professions. The second portion of the development session was divided into three main parts: an interactive exercise, a short panel discussion, and a few guest speakers. The interactive exercise, named "Funds Actually, Starring Huge Grants," was created by Quinn Lammie and Ashly Chirayil to initiate their fellow leaders into the terminologies and mechanisms behind grant writing, particularly within the non-profit realm. These lessons were then applied to a panel discussion between Scott Lauer of Open House New York, and Irfan Hasan of the New York Community Trust. They discussed founding and working for and with local non-profits. They shared advice and resources about applying for grants and initiating the first steps in taking a project or program from idea to reality. Afterwards, Sam Brisendine from Every Shelter talked the group through his experiences in transitioning from co-founding a start-up that manufactures emergency floors for refugee shelters, to becoming a non-profit design firm that could address multiple design-based issues within refugee camps. Many of Brisendine's points were reiterated by the final speakers from MASS Design Group. Justin Brown, Design Principal, and Matthew Smith, Director of Operations rounded out the development session with a presentation on who MASS is, their mission, the pros and cons of being a non-profit design firm, and the lessons learned from six years of operation in Africa and the United States.

Though the session took many different forms and presenters came from various backgrounds, many themes were echoed throughout the day: Grant funding is about research, relationships, and mission alignment. It is a slow and methodical process. Being proactive in funding allows for a broader scope as well as more control over the final outcome. Research and quantifiable data are imperative for matrix creation and outcome assessment. Architects can utilize knowledge of grant funding to help clients find additional resources for a project or, more directly,

by operating as a non-profit design firm. It takes many types of team players to tackle the big issues. Architects and designers are needed in broader civic discussions.



THE ROLE OF ARCHITECTS ON NON-PROFIT BOARDS

There is a broad continuum of opportunities for civically-minded architects to advocate for the public interest, ranging from running for public office to pro bono architectural services. The 2018 Civic Leadership Program's second development session focused on public service in the form of joining a non-profit or community board. The session focused on three main topics: the role of community and non-profit boards as an opportunity for civic engagement; the role of the architect and how their skills and expertise may apply to the issues faced by these organizations; and, developing strategies to better act as advisors and advocates to board members on a range of civic topics.

The first part of the session started with round-table skill building discussion with Wayne Benjamin, Assistant Director of the Opportunity Programs Group (OPG) at DSNY and from Manhattan Community

Board 12 in Manhattan; Laura Starr, Principal of Starr Whitehouse and from Community Board 1 in Manhattan; and Oral Selkridge, Deputy Director of Programming at the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and from Community Board 11 in the Bronx. Each community board member discussed their experiences and the impact of their community boards. Benjamin discussed the importance of living in the geographic area where your board is focused. Community board members are required to live, work, or have a significant interest in the community district, so boards are a unique way to understand and shape the local politics of New York City neighborhoods.

The second part of the session continued in the form of a discussion panel with Ariel Fausto, Partner at H3 Hardy Collaborative and the Vice Chair of the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP); Pascale Sablan, Senior

Associate at S9 Architecture and the Historian for the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA); and Robert Nichols, Principal of Nichols Design Associates and the President of World Deaf Architecture (WDA). Each of the panelists shared stories of either founding a non-profit or being recruited to the board of a non-profit organization. Whether it was for an architectural- or non-architectural-related reason, the panelists demonstrated that people can find ways to join and be involved on a board of directors.

Some of their opportunities come from networking, knowing a friend or colleague who is already serving a non-profit, going through a board matching process, or taking initiative and forming their own nonprofit in order to address an issue they saw in their community. "Everytime I go networking, I find this amazing group of people doing amazing things and I ask, 'How can I help?'" Pascale Sablan explained. It should come as no surprise that joining a board of directors comes with its own set of responsibilities. Being involved in a non-profit is a long-term relationship and the panel discussion participants emphasized that proper research and preparation must be done beforehand. Knowing the right questions to ask such as the term length, financial obligations, day-to-day and overall responsibilities, will help with understanding the expectations and your ability to fulfill them.



Ariel Fausto said, "There's time, treasure, or talent. In some way you are contributing to one, two, or all three of those. Where you are and in what point of your career is going to dictate what the capacity is of what you're able to deliver to a board." Whether or not the non-profit is architecture-related, the board of directors face a wide variety of challenges and problems.

The most direct and obvious way that architects can contribute to their non-profit is through joining a facilities committee. Oftentimes boards are in need of an architect's expertise when it relates to making decisions about a renovation or capital project. They are able to offer their insights because they can see certain opportunities that other board members can't. However, non-profit boards also address legal and financial issues that are more suited to other professional expertise.

While the commitment is significant, one benefit that architects who join non-profit boards enjoy, as Fausto explained, "Is the opportunity to broaden your horizon through collaboration with board members from other professions. On a board, architects collaborate with professionals in fields such as law, finance, and the arts as well as public servants on different kinds of challenges that architects address in their day-to-day work. As a result, being on a board is a chance to gain exposure to other people and perspectives." Towards the end of the discussion, Robert

Nichols emphasized the importance of communication. "Communication is a huge issue that architects don't have experience with. They typically don't have Deaf or Hard of Hearing architects in their workplaces or organizations. We need organizations to support us by providing interpreters," Nichols said. "We want to explain to other organizations [that we work with] such as AIA why our issues are important because they don't have anyone on their staff who has experience with communication access or American Sign Language. The number of Deaf architects is growing and we don't want them to face the same communication issues. We want to provide Deaf and Hard of Hearing people with opportunities for marketing and access to resources."

Sablan and Fausto responded with their own approach to advocacy on their nonprofits. Pascale Sablan mentioned, "The issues that challenge different demographics, genders, and races are assumed on the other side in any organization without actual collaboration or conversation. Instead of activating them to do something, we need to identify a person who is qualified to be the representative of our organization and have a symbiotic relationship in understanding what programs and resources are needed."

It was evident that advocacy comes in many different forms and can happen internally or externally for non-profits. It is essential to be knowledgeable of the

resources at hand when working with a board of directors so that they can be utilized effectively. Each organization has their own personality, and knowing how to work with that personality can generate some of the most effective outcomes.

The session ended with an interactive activity called "Forms of Collaboration" that simulated the experience of being on a non-profit board of directors. The activity aimed to identify different forms of architectural collaboration which were

then applied to solving several problems and issues that non-profits may typically face. The audience was split into teams where they worked together to determine the best form of collaboration. Afterwards, each team presented their results to the panelists and received feedback and suggestions for improvement. Everyone agreed that multiple forms of architectural collaboration are needed for problem solving and that some types of collaboration are more effective depending on the size of the non-profit organization.



POPULATION IN TRANSITION

At first glance, we might think of solving homelessness as solely an architecture problem: the profession, after all, can design structures that occupants can call homes. However, when investigated more thoroughly, it becomes evident that homelessness is actually a complex issue that compounds various problems including lack of affordability, mental illness, trauma, substance abuse, and societal rejection, to name a few. In this light, providing shelter is merely a band-aid. Architecture alone cannot solve homelessness, but when our skills are applied to the issue, we have the ability to create a path that promotes growth, development, and self discovery.

The third development session, "Population in Transition," was held in University Heights, The Bronx. The aim for the session was for participants to explore how shelters can promote safety, wellness, education, and self-improvement. CLP leaders, advisors, and guest speakers arrived at Landing Road Residence for a session hosted by the directors of the Bowery Residents Committee (BRC). Landing Road, a BRC project completed and occupied by February 2018, is split into two programs: Reaching New Heights (RNH), a 200-bed transitional shelter, and Apartments at Landing Road Residence, a 135-unit, low-income housing project that includes studios and one- and two-bedroom units. The session kicked off with introductions from Roderic Bendel, Program Director of Landing Road, followed by a facility tour led by Andrew Knox of ESKW Architects. The group toured numerous spaces,

discussing affordable materials, human behavior, and resident development. The group learned that ESKW Architectures resolved the issues particular to Landing Road with various design approaches. The single-bed sleeping quarters that house 10 or fewer men is meant to provide privacy and storage for individuals in order to ease hostile encounters and other issues that may arise through dorm-style living. Shared bathrooms are constructed with affordable and sustainable materials. Lighting is thoughtfully placed for maximum indirect light and a minimum number of fixtures. There, residents can use additional tables and benches around the perimeter to access views of the Harlem River and University Heights. In the Landing Road Residence, the group visited a typical two-bedroom unit, which, to their surprise, was quite roomy thanks to a well-designed layout and careful detailing.

Landing Road is very unique when compared with other assisted living buildings/programs. Many shelters, clusters, or safe havens are quickly retrofitted for immediate housing and lack conscious design efforts to respond to the needs of occupants, at times creating dangerous conditions. In contrast, Landing Road was specifically built for safety, privacy, independence, and quality living. Understanding how psychological design strategies can improve a resident's recovery from trauma, this prototype simultaneously responds to immediate needs, while potentially reducing homelessness in the long term.



Following the site tour, the Civic Leaders returned to the conference room for a roundtable discussion with additional guests speakers. Nicole Clare, Senior VP of Housing Development for BRC, described BRC's shelters and clusters, and provided insight into the advancements of Landing Road. Esteban Reichberg, a CLP co-founder and current Urban Design Forum Fellow for the Shelter For All Fellowship, discussed historical references, court cases (including Callahan v. Carey, 1979), and political agreements that affect how the city responds to homelessness. Together, the group covered various topics including the state of NYC shelters, the incentives for architects to get involved in civic-minded work, and how Landing Road can dictate future shelter design.

The development session concluded with a design charrette led by Bendel and Knox. Each team received an existing, unresolved

issue in the shelter. With the aid of a handful of residents, a member from the maintenance staff, and clinical staff, teams gained important insight that helped them approach spatial and security challenges, including lobby security issues, terrace access and safety, and washer and dryer unit location. After 30 minutes, the teams pinned up their work and presented their ideas.

The success of the development session lied in two conclusions. First, architects must step back and realize that it takes more than analytics and design to understand homelessness and housing. Second, architects are skilled at visualizing and understanding the spaces where people live. In order to create an effective shelter, we must incorporate conscious design to create symbiotic relationships between those who facilitate the shelter system and the homeless.

BASE-ICS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable housing is essential to a just, diverse, and community-serving city. New York is currently confronting its own housing affordability crisis, tackling the issue through grassroots efforts, as well as through policy initiatives like the Housing New York 2.0 plan and the Public Design Commission's (PDC) recent release of *Designing New York: Quality Affordable Housing*. As architects and designers, we are problem solvers; as civic leaders we should strive to use our skills to advocate for issues that connect the built environment to society. On October 12, 2018 the AIANY Civic Leadership Program (CLP), delved into affordable housing by visiting with the PDC at New York City Hall, followed by an open forum and workshop with Chhaya, a Jackson Heights-based community development corporation focused on housing advocacy and economic development in the South Asian community.

At the PDC, CLP members met with Justin Garrett Moore, Executive Director, and Rebecca Macklis, Design & Special Projects Manager. We learned from them not only about the commission's work, but also had the opportunity to discuss their unique pathways to civic service. We explored the rewards and challenges of working with and across city agencies in the review process and in the creation of *Designing New York*. Standing on the steps of City Hall before returning to the Center for Architecture, we were reminded of the importance of advocacy and engagement.

To further our understanding, we sought out community-based perspectives as well, welcoming Will Spisak, Director of Programs, Silky Misra, Neighborhood and Housing Preservation Specialist, and Maxwell Cabello, BASE Fellow, all from Chhaya. Chhaya's organizing and advocacy efforts are truly holistic, focusing on the interconnected realms of education, employment, civic participation, community pride, mental health, and well-being. Among their many activities, Chhaya has, for the past decade, actively led advocacy around accessory dwelling units through their BASE (Basement Apartments Safe for Everyone) Campaign. The campaign focuses on opening additional units to the market, while preserving affordability and offering protection to both landlords and tenants. While New York City currently does not have an accessory dwelling unit code, many major cities across the United States have adopted various forms of accessory dwelling unit legislation; recently a pilot program was announced for East New York. With Chaya, CLP members had an open discussion about the struggles and complexities of affordable housing, landlord and tenant rights, and the ways architects can be a resource for organizers, in particular with regard to BASE. Spisak spoke about the long history of housing discrimination and challenges to immigrant communities, while Misra offered her perspectives as a trained architect working within a community development corporation.

The development session concluded with a design charrette developed by CLP and Chhaya. The goal was to simulate the physical conditions and challenges that BASE deals with on a regular basis. Teams of four were given schematic basement and cellar floor plans; each team's unit was to be made legal using a given program and a draft accessory dwelling unit building code that drew on Chhaya's research and adaptations from the NYC Building Code. Through the course of the workshop, teams were tasked with configuring the space in both plan and section, while paying attention to budgets and unexpected setbacks that often pose as obstacles for conversion efforts—from environmental hazards to financial shortfalls.

Following the charrette, teams acknowledged challenges of dealing with obstacles and unknowns. Due to budgets constraints and mitigating factors, some teams were forced to revise their original concepts; others expressed skepticism that the design could be resolved with the

provided budgets. These issues define the design and organizing process, particularly in economically vulnerable communities.

The many layers to affordable housing were only beginning to be revealed throughout the afternoon. Using Chhaya's BASE campaign as an example, it became clear that affordability is an issue that affects entire communities and individuals on both sides of the rental equation. Chhaya continued to remind us that illegal basements have and will continue to exist as long as the affordable housing crisis continues. Both tenants and owners are often part of the most vulnerable groups in our society and creating paths to legalization can afford benefits to both. As designers, it is important to understand both perspectives and to emphasize the collaborative nature the design process. We are not only addressing the complexities of the existing built environment, but also engaging with the social and economic issues of the communities we serve.



EDUCATION INSIDE | OUT



The topic of how learners of all ages engage with the built environment was discussed at the Center for Architecture (CFA) on November 9, 2018. 'EDUCATION - Inside | Out' was organized by the AIANY Civic Leadership Program (CLP) as the last in its series of five Development Sessions. At the session, together with invited expert speakers, the CLP cohort discussed how architecture and education can come together inside and outside of the classroom. An array of formal and informal learning environments and practices were explored.

The roundtable-discussion took place in two main parts. The first part focused on architecture inside the classroom. The group examined education practices that introduce young people to architecture, specifically addressing access, strategies and outcomes. In addition, the group

considered how the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act (H.R. 2353) on July 31, 2018, that legally recognized 'architecture' as a STEM subject, might impact student learning in New York City public schools and CTE programs. To that end, the CLP group had the privilege to host speakers Catherine Teegarden, Director of Education at the Center for Architecture; John Widlund, Executive Director of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the New York City Department of Education; Ibrahim Greenidge, President of The New York Chapter of The National Organization of Minority Architects (NYCOBA | NOMA); and Nadia Lopez, Founder and Principal of the STEAM-focused public school Mott Hall Bridges Academy (MHBA).

Teegarden spoke about how the extensive K-12 programming offered

by the CFA evolved from a small team of volunteers. It began in 1996 when volunteer architects partnered with teachers to develop classroom residencies all about architecture. With an emphasis on hands-on-learning through making, activities included designing and building to scale. Program offerings now include on-site weekend family day workshops, student day workshops and professional workshops for teachers. Widlund next described that CTE programs are designed to provide specialized study and training in a specific industry to foster college and career readiness. Moreover, such programs provide an equitable choice for students and families. With a view to the economy, Widlund drew attention to the critical need for students to complete college which would warrant updates to existing CTE programs. Unfortunately, Widlund did not foresee that H.R.2353 would have much effect for CTE programs in New York City. Greenidge conveyed warmth and persistence as he shared insights from his personal journey. Growing-up he bore witness to the Crown Heights Riots, discovered architecture through play, experienced college as the only black architecture major in his class (fact-check!), and afterwards started his own practice in Brooklyn! Greenidge exemplifies the importance of ongoing community engagement through mentorship inside and outside of the office, especially to address issues around the underrepresentation of black architects. He shared the story of a young

girl who, at an in-school NYCOPA | NOMA Project Pipeline architecture camp, was delighted to discover she could draw. Lopez further inspired the group with her presentation describing the process of exposing her scholars to the fullest range of possibilities whilst providing encouragement and support to enable scholars to believe in themselves and achieve their dreams. 'School culture must be innovative and reflect the learning of skill and exposure to industries where there is an underrepresentation by gender, race and social class.' Lopez stated. She shared the story of how an MHBA scholar decided to pursue a career in architecture after his interest was piqued, encouraged and supported whilst still at school.

These talks concluded with 'Serious Play.' In teams, players were instructed to use collage techniques to reimagine various current New York City Department of Education K-12 curricula. Each team was provided with some simple parameters, paper, glue, markers and scissors and asked to recompose lesson sheets to emphasise existing underlying architectural concepts. 'NYC! NY See! NY Sea' is a fun lesson created to assist scholars in their understanding of the history and technology of the city through its waterways. In this lesson, pertinent issues around ecology, sustainability and resiliency can be examined. 'ARCHsploring' is a lesson created to assist scholars in their understanding of the city's diverse landscapes through use of various modes

of transportation. This lesson encourages first-hand exploration of the built and natural environment from different perspectives. These groups from 'Serious Play' evidenced a few possibilities to include architecture as STEM to support the New York City STEM Education Framework.

In the interim, the group heard from Thomas DeVito, Senior Director of Advocacy at Transportation Alternatives (TransAlt). TransAlt serves to advocate for better public transit, especially cycling and walking routes in New York City. DeVito highlighted the importance of strategic advocacy when championing a cause. DeVito also provided clear insight on best practices to achieve the decision-makers endorsement; from the campaign plan, through to selecting the right decision-maker and making the request. The CLP group learned much about the real power of coalition.

The second part focused on how architecture and education can come together beyond the classroom. Considering that, in New York City, pedestrianized streets and urban plazas are increasingly programed to facilitate exhibitions, debates, pop-up stores and yoga and dance classes, the group examined how public spaces can provide continuing education on art, politics, commerce, health and culture. The question of how such spaces can promote a sense of community was also put forward. To understand how public space works and how to improve it into a

safer and more pleasant environment for public education, the civic leaders hosted four experts from the public space realm who championed the cause from policy, operations, programming and design perspectives: Emily Weidenhof, Director of Public Space at the New York City Department of Transportation; Alexandria Sica, Executive Director of Dumbo Business Improvement District (Dumbo BID); Leslie Davol, Co-Founder & Executive Director of The Uni Project and Street Lab; and Julia D Day, Associate at Gehl Architects.

Weidenhof started the discussion by introducing the DoT initiatives turn underutilized spaces on the streets into public space, exemplified by the 10-year-old NYC Plaza Program that has created over 70 new pedestrian-friendly plazas all over the city. Sica showcased her work on operating and improving Dumbo's public spaces to foster a sense of neighborhood, from organizing events and concerts, commissioning public arts, to neighborhood maintenance and keeping the streets clean. Davol shared her experience programming the public spaces with pop-up reading rooms and arts studios using deployable, stage case-inspired installations. She also spoke about working with architects to design and evolve these installations. Finally, Day presented the social and psychological aspects of public space design. Using a survey result on the NYC Plaza Program as an example, she illustrated both qualitatively and quantitatively how human-centered public space design can have immense

social impact such as increased time spent outdoors, feelings of ownership, and perception of safety. Together, the group discussed strategies for programming at different scales; from ensuring public safety to the inclusion of phone chargers in street furniture and pavers selection and maintenance. Weidenhof concluded the discussion by emphasizing the importance of 'quality over quantity' on public space making, and that creating a successful public space requires a careful vetting of its location and a setting of various elements such as traffic, safety and business opportunities for the space to thrive.

This intense and thoughtful day of roundtable discussions provided the group with various ways to think about architecture and education. Architects can do more to improve the quality of education for all. Actively promoting the value of architecture and design to young people through education is a valuable investment to our profession to recruit more talented, passionate and diverse candidates. Actively learning and engaging in other fields beyond the profession of architecture is a way to increase impact to improve the educational experience for all involved inside and outside classrooms.



**Amanda Miller, Jade Ragoschke, Quinn Lammie,
Dyana Berthaud, + Hung Kit Yeun**

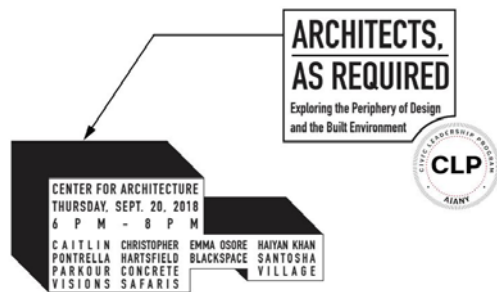
ARCHITECTS, AS REQUIRED

PUBLIC EVENT

On September 20, the 2018 AIANY Civic Leadership Program (CLP) hosted its first public event, "Architects, as Required: Exploring the Periphery of Design." This event explored and examined the role and purview of architects, taking inspiration from four grassroots organizations: BlackSpace, Concrete Safaris, Parkour Visions, and Never Homeless Again & Santosha Village. These organizations democratize the built environment and champion design from a wide range of perspectives beyond the field of architecture.

Emma Osore is the co-founder of BlackSpace, a collective of young, Black, NYC residents, urbanists, and changemakers. The platform seeks to bridge the gaps between policy, people, and place, allowing for greater understanding, access, and cooperation to address inequality and injustice. During roundtable discussions, Osore spoke of her wish to "unlearn" in order to build new knowledge and perspectives on how to develop a more just design for communities.

Christopher Hartsfield is the Outdoor Play Manager at Concrete Safaris. Leading outdoor play activities and job training for youth, his work at Concrete Safaris furthers the organization's mission to emphasize social change through children, as they learn how to alter the physical world and become confident, experienced, effective leaders committed to their health and environment. Hartsfield shared Concrete Safaris' collaboration with Open Architecture New York and emphasized the importance of children as active participants in the community.



Caitlin Pontrella is the Executive Director of Parkour Visions, a non-profit organization committed to sharing the physical, emotional, and social benefits of parkour and natural movement with people all ages through educational programming, design, and community development. Parkour Visions leads public parkour park development in North America, collaborating with landscape architects, municipalities, and construction companies. Pontrella raised awareness of the need for "playgrounds for adults" and challenged the audience to consider design tactics from parkour spaces in their work.



Haiyan Khan is the founder of Never Homeless Again & Santosha Village. Santosha Village is a proposed two-year experiential living program designed to facilitate the journey of the unhoused and struggling, as residents move towards living fulfilling lives through hyper-affordable housing, self-reliance, and integrated wellness. Khan has extensive experience in development and analytics, and he hopes to use these skills to fight homelessness in New Orleans. At the event, he advocated the right to "a quality life for all," and stressed the importance of providing assistance to people under financial distress to gain home ownership.

The program began with brief presentations from each of the speakers, followed by a sequence of small roundtables to encourage more intimate and interactive discussions. Topics such as crowdfunding, emphasizing youth, social change and leadership, experiencing the environment, and encouraging self-resiliency were discussed and examined before the conclusion of the event.

Throughout the course of the evening, the participating architects and design professionals were encouraged to further connect the field of architecture to broader contexts, to innovate through their work, and to deepen their civic engagement through expanding architecture to the periphery of design.

On November 1, the 2018 AIA NY Civic Leadership Program class showcased results from their Civic Engagement Survey at the Center for Architecture. The Civic Engagement Survey was issued earlier this year to gauge civic engagement, equity, and political advocacy practices currently exercised by AIA New York-affiliated principals across New York City. Civic Leaders Ashly Chirayil, Assoc. AIA; Nadia Habib, Assoc. AIA; Michael Haggerty, Assoc. AIA, AICP; Wells Megalli, Assoc. AIA; and Ofunne Oganwu, Assoc. AIA, opened the program with a presentation of the compiled data and what the results could mean.

Live polls were conducted on various topics to see how data compared with the experiences of those in the audience. Disparities in the numbers of people who experienced such things as discrimination within the office versus those whose workplaces provide action plans for discrimination were eye opening: approximately 85% of the room raised their hand when asked if they had experienced workplace discrimination; less than half of those people kept their hands raised when asked about office action plans. Though informal, these live polls helped prompt lively discussions between the audience and our guest speakers.



Guest speakers Chris Rice, Senior Urban Planner at WXY; Weston Walker, AIA, LEED AP, Design Principal at Studio Gang; and Priyanka Shah the NY Chapter Steward of the Architecture Lobby were invited to participate in a broader discussion based on the online survey results and informed by the live polls. Moderator Molly Heintz of Oculus Magazine guided speakers through a discussion of current mechanisms for equity, advocacy, and impact within their own organizations. Rice, who also co-founded Black Space, lauded WXY for bringing in an anti-discrimination and public relations consultant before its employees embarked on community relations for an urban planning project. Walker spoke to the importance of Studio Gang's commitment to closing the gender-pay gap within the office and the profession. Shah encouraged all those in architecture and design to advocate for the value of yourself, your position, and the work of the architectural profession, so that designers can be on sure footing when advocating for others outside of the design community.



Throughout the conversations, Heintz provoked everyone to consider the complexities and potentials of the issues raised. From speakers and audience members alike, Heintz sussed out actionable items:

- Consider or encourage local opportunities for civic engagement, such as joining a community board
- Extend pre-design to include longer planning periods
- Embrace interdisciplinary design
- Break projects into actionable phases
- Organize among individuals and firms to increase awareness
- Ensure fair labor practices within design firms
- Incorporate governmental/non-profit programs that are already in place for public programs

Attendees were invited to complete their own engagement checklists, as compiled from the Civic Impact Survey. The Civic Leaders hope that the event laid the grounds for further action, thought, and discussion for those practicing in the field. Please check the CLP webpage at a later date to view the recording of this event and look to the Oculus Winter issue for more on the topic.



CIVIC LEADERS

Dyana Berthaud, Assoc. AIA



“The journey to build communities is bigger than sketches, concepts, and construction. It is about hope, self-discovery, and the determination to resolve problems rooted in something deeper. It is personal and non-architectural.”

Dyana Berthaud was born and raised in New York City as the only American in a Haitian family of six. Growing up in around other immigrant families in the culturally diverse borough of Queens has taught her a lot about adapting, adjusting, and acceptance. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and Superstorm Sandy in 2012, t Berthaud’s last few years in architecture school focused on the themes of compassion and collaboration. Berthaud has held various board positions at the only NYC Student Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), allowing her to gain skills in leadership, public speaking, and diligence. Outside of school and work, Berthaud has taken these new skills and passions to volunteering with groups addressing homelessness and emergency response.

Ashly Chirayil, Assoc. AIA



“As community leaders, we can adapt the practices and principles to suit the unique characteristics of the communities we serve. Leading by example we have an opportunity to shape healthier, more vibrant and more engaged communities, leaving the world better than we found it.”

Ashly Nichole Chirayil is a designer living and working in the greater New York City region. Chirayil sees herself as a civil servant charged with bringing humane and optimistic spatial and experiential equality to members of her community. In her work, she minimizes the appearance of physical barriers and the rigid hierarchy of spaces while emphasizing transitions, particularly those between indoor and outdoor and artifice and nature. Chirayil holds a M.Arch from the University of Texas and a B.A. in Studio Art. She is a contributing member of her community and volunteers regularly with local organizations. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her spouse and dog in Washington Square Park.

Nadia Habib, Assoc. AIA



“We need to focus our growth and stability for our working-class communities, rather than be passive creators of architecture. Architects need to become part of the conversation and be proactive about working with local agencies and organizations to design for the greater good of the community.”

Nadia Habib is an undocumented Bangladeshi American Muslim who grew up in Queens, New York. She earned her M.Arch at the City College of New York and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Stony Brook University. Habib is currently an Associate Architect at EME Group Consulting Engineers, a firm that specializes in sustainability with a focus in civil works. She believes that the field of architecture has the potential to create change for communities such as the one she grew up in. Habib is passionate about working for her community and continues to involve herself with local organizations outside of her job, helping undocumented and documented immigrants. She was formerly the publicist for the Price of Silence, a woman's rights theater group in The Bronx.

Michael Haggerty, Assoc. AIA, AICP



“Advocacy is bringing architecture to communities that have not experienced or engaged design...utilizing architecture to spark discussions about lived realities of key issues like equity, gentrification, or climate change.”

Michael Haggerty, Assoc. AIA, AICP, is a designer and certified urban planner. His work focuses on environmental sustainability and leading the urban development process to improve the public realm. He began his career at the public art organization Creative Time in New York and subsequently practiced as an urban planner, working in cities including New York, Newark, and New Orleans as well as in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. He is currently an Associate at Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners, and has also been a visiting faculty member at Pratt Institute School of Architecture since 2010. Community engagement is at the forefront of Haggerty's teaching and professional activities. His work in participatory design and post-disaster planning has been widely recognized by, among others, the US Agency for International Development, the SEED Award for Public Interest Design, and the AIA New York and San Francisco chapters.

Quinn Lammie, AIA



“An architect’s work could have an impact well beyond aesthetics, comfort, and physical health of those interacting with a built work.

The way a building or collection of buildings directs the flow of people, information, and resources could help improve the social and cultural well-being of its inhabitants as well.”

Quinn Lammie was born in New Orleans but grew up in the Metro Atlanta area. While earning an undergraduate degree at Georgia Tech, he spent his final academic year studying in Paris, gaining greater exposure to various social and cultural issues and discovering a personal passion for socially conscious design. Lammie fostered this passion working with several local and international non-profit organizations while continuing his education at Rice University. Not long after finishing graduate school, Lammie moved to New York City where he currently works at Murphy Burnham and Buttrick Architects. He has worked on projects including renovation efforts for the Park Avenue Synagogue, New York University, and St. Hilda’s and St. Hugh’s School. Lammie currently lives in Jackson Heights with his wife Kate and his dog Mowgli.

Wells Megalli, AIA



“The role of architects in creating change is critical, but to function as an instrument of change, the architect must actively engage the structures of power that shape our communities and understand the layers of systems that support them.”

Wells Megalli is an architect with an arts and technology background and a commitment to place-based projects. After graduating from Yale with a BA in Architectural History & Theory, Wells worked as a founding employee of EarthWeb, Inc., an early digital content company. Employed in the emerging digital media industry as an early conceptualizer of navigational structures for some of the first online experiences, Wells oversaw the design of all online content and virtual environments. She received her M.Arch from the Tulane School of Architecture where she worked with Tulane’s Small Center for Collaborative Design, a community-engaged design center and think tank. Her thesis was titled “This Site Has Been Liberated.” In 2016 Wells joined Deborah Berke Partners, working on The Women’s Building, a project that will transform a women’s prison into a hub for activists. She is currently part of the architecture team designing two new residential colleges for Princeton University. Wells has recently completed her last ARE and expects to be licensed in NY any day now!

Amanda Miller, AIA



"We can effect change through being advocates, and we need to address diversity and equity starting from the people within the profession, to the process of design, to the institutional system within and under which we work."

Amanda L. Miller is a practicing architect committed to the capacity of design and planning to promote and encourage social equity and justice. Her experience from commercial interiors to her current work on building exterior rehabilitation. While at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD), she worked with staff and fellow students to open conversations around student needs and diversity. In 2017, she co-organized the school's second Black in Design conference. Through her professional endeavors she hopes to continue to create opportunities for design agency and advocacy. Miller earned her Master in Design Studies from Harvard GSD and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Architecture.

Ofunne Oganwu, Assoc. AIA



"An architect who is also a civic leader can facilitate discussion and debate between community stakeholders and key decision makers to help dissolve conflicts and create solutions."

Born in Ibadan, Nigeria, Ofunne Mary-Ann Oganwu moved to the United Kingdom at the age of three and grew up in Hackney, East London. Oganwu has explored the world and studied widely, led by her interest in architecture, the arts, and culture. She completed a five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree at The Cooper Union where she was awarded a merit-based full scholarship for tuition and was selected as an Irma Giustino Weiss Cultural Enrichment Fellow. Projects she has worked on include the refurbishment of buildings for music and cultural events as well as public and private institutional and residential buildings for Columbia University, the Glenwood Houses in Brooklyn, and Morris High School in the Bronx. Oganwu is actively seeking licensure in New York State and continues to craft a practice that encompasses mentorship and education.

Jade Ragoschke, Assoc. AIA



“Designing for disability is either an afterthought or strictly adhering to the American Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines which can create accessible places but not comfortable experiences. Designers spend too much time trying to meet these standards instead of understanding how people with disabilities experience the world.”

Jade is a Taiwanese unilaterally Deaf architect at EME Consulting Engineers where she specializes in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) design for New York City Public Schools. She hopes that by understanding the limitations of ADA guidelines, architects can find new solutions to create an inclusive environment through multi-sensory design paradigms. She firmly believes that focusing in the public realm of architecture will provide the most valuable improvements to the quality of space for people with disabilities. Jade graduated with a Bachelors of Architecture degree from New York Institute of Technology. She participates on the board of directors for “World Deaf Architecture”, a non profit aimed to provide networking opportunities, professional development, and education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing architects. Jade has had a long term interest in civic architecture stemming from her involvement in Parkour. Jade has been involved with multiple Parkour communities since 2008 when she first started training. After becoming a certified Parkour trainer in 2013, Jade began advocating for playgrounds dedicated to teenagers and adults. She believes that people of all ages should have a designated space to express creative movement and play.

Hung Kit Yuen, AIA



“With adequate understanding of how finance, policy and construction works, architects can become the leaders to mediate, build consensus and align incentives among developers, city agencies and local communities, and to produce and steer a design project for the public good.”

Hung Kit Yuen is an Associate at Perkins Eastman. He has over six years of design and construction experience on large-scale master planning; transit-oriented development; and mixed-used, and civic, and institutional projects. Yuen enjoys immersing himself into different cultures and cities; he was born in Hong Kong and has lived and worked in more than eight cities in Asia, Europe, and America. His diverse experiences provide him with a unique perspective in pursuit of more open and equitable design that aligns public and private interests of community stakeholders. Yuen received his architectural education from the University of Hong Kong and the University of Pennsylvania.

ADVISORS

Christina Hernandez, Assoc. AIA



Cristina Hernandez is an architectural designer at SLCE Architects, where she works on housing. While studying Environmental Planning at Binghamton University, Hernandez worked on the Energy and Climate Action Plan for the City of Binghamton, developing recommendations for local policy and government action, a moment she points to as a catalyst to her interest in community building. Upon returning to New York City, she entered the M.Arch program at the CCNY Spitzer School of Architecture. While there, she worked as a research assistant for "Prototyping Architecture: The Solar Roofpod," where she researched New York City's infrastructure and the potential for net-zero-energy building in underutilized spaces.

Hernandez sees design as a form of communication, change, and service, with the physical design of homes, neighborhoods, and communities shaping every aspect of our lives. Before coming to SLCE, Hernandez biked across the country with Bike & Build to raise money and awareness for affordable housing efforts nationwide.

Daniel Horn, Assoc. AIA



Daniel Horn, Assoc. AIA, is an architectural designer and creative problem solver currently focusing on community recovery post-Superstorm Sandy. While living in Lindenhurst in October 2012, Dan was personally affected by Sandy. This experience fostered his commitment to building resilience through advocacy in at-risk coastal communities throughout New York City and Long Island. After Sandy, Dan co-organized a grassroots group called Operation Resilient Long Island (ORLI), with the goal of bringing new resilient ideas to local towns affected by the storm. The group launched "3C: Comprehensive Coastal Communities," a global design competition that resulted in more than 60 entries from 20 countries.

During the day Dan works for Perez Architecture in Brooklyn working on NYC Build it Back multi-family housing recovery, and during his nights and weekends he works as co-founder and designer at ORLI+, a rebranded version of ORLI, which has become a resilient design and community engagement consultancy based in New York City. Dan is also a SEED (Social, Economic, Environmental, Design) certified professional and believes that public interest design and resilience should be paramount in all aspects of architectural practice.

Michaela Metcalfe, AIA, CCM, LEED AP



Michaela Metcalfe is an architect dedicated to mindfully shaping public space. Her professional and academic explorations have included multi-scalar architectural and urban territories that strive to advance design in the public realm. For over sixteen years she has led collaborative design processes that have resulted in award-winning public projects. Currently she advocates for quality and viability in the design of public buildings and spaces in New York City, while serving as the Director of Design and Construction Excellence at the Department of Design and Construction.

Michaela earned a Bachelor of Design from the University of Florida School of Architecture and a Master of Architecture from the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

Jenna Wandishin, Assoc. AIA



Jenna Wandishin is a project manager at Matiz Architecture & Design, designing for a range of higher education clients, non-profit organizations, and single-family residences. While earning her Bachelor's at Temple University, she created volunteer opportunities for architecture students to utilize their design-thinking in neighboring Philadelphia communities. She also led design/build efforts of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) architectural interventions in several North Philadelphia vacant lots. Jenna previously created cross-disciplinary programming for students in Temple's business, liberal arts, art, and architecture schools in an effort to emphasize the value of inclusivity and diversity during design challenges.

Jenna is currently working towards licensure and aims to practice in the public realm. She believes that architecture is a pursuit of civic service, which has fueled her passion for inclusive planning and public interest design. Her experience as a member of the inaugural Civic Leadership Program class of 2017 informs her approach to practice and design.

PART-TIME ADVISORS

Shilpa Patel, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP



Shilpa Patel earned a B.Arch from the University of Houston and a M.Arch II from UCLA. She has over 13 years of architectural experience working on multi-scale domestic and international projects. As a Studio Lead at The Fractal Group, she focuses on project management, design process, and feasibility for numerous projects. Through her work, she aims to address public relationships in urban design while maintaining a high degree of technical detail.

In 2015, Patel moved to New York City from Texas to pursue her Master in Real Estate Development at NYU. She hopes to balance her education in real estate and architecture to promote positive community and economic growth in conjunction with intelligent and innovative building design. Patel strives to understand and impact communities through positive leadership and volunteering, whether mentoring young girls or teaching yoga in underprivileged neighborhoods.

Ayodele Yusuf, Assoc. AIA



Ayo Yusuf is an Associate at Perkins Eastman with 12 years' experience playing key leadership and technical roles, in a wide variety of large-scale projects, spanning waterfront redevelopment, transit oriented development, institutional & medical, and planning resilient communities. Under the New York Rising Program Ayo, as a project manager, managed a multidisciplinary team in completing six Community Rebuilding and Reconstruction Plans encompassing over 23 communities in Brooklyn, Nassau County, Queens, and Staten Island, garnering awards and funding for their community's rebuilding efforts. Through a Traveling Scholarship, national and international speaking engagements, and strategic partnerships with the 100 Resilient Cities (Rockefeller Foundation), he continues to help develop the firm's resilience expertise and practice.

As a Waterfront Committee Member of the NY Chapter of the APA, Ayo has significantly contributed to the committee's mission, working closely with the City of New York in promoting waterfront policies and practices that improve access to all portions of New York Harbor, including the Hudson River Estuary, Harlem and East Rivers, as well as Jamaica Bay. He served on the Advisory Board reviewing New York City Department of City Planning's Urban Waterfront Adaption Strategies post hurricane sandy - inputting on methodologies to address specific vulnerabilities, resiliency approaches, and frameworks for evaluating all of these. He earned a M.Arch in Urban Design (MAUD) from Harvard and a B.Arch from the University of Arkansas.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Richard Swett, former Congressman
Ifeoma Ebo, Mayor's Office for Criminal Justice
Claudia Herasme, NYC Department of City Planning
William Merritt Singer, Brooklyn Department of Buildings
Guy Geier, fxcollaborative + AIANY
Aldrin Bonilla, Manhattan Borough President Office
Scott Lauer, Open House New York
Irfan Hasan, New York Community Trust
Sam Brisendine, Every Shelter
Justin Brown, MASS Design Group
Matthew Smith, MASS Design Group
Wayne Benjamin, Opportunity Programs Group of DSNY
Laura Starr, Starr Whitehouse
Oral Selkridge, Department of Design and Construction
Ariel Fausto, H3 Hardy Collaborative + Center for Urban Pedagogy
Pascale Sablan, S9 Architecture + NOMA
Robert Nichols, Nicols Design Associates + World Deaf Architecture
Roderic Bendel, Landing Road
Andrew Knox, ESKW Architects
Nicole Clare, BRC Housing Development
Justin Garrett Moore, Public Design Commission
Rebecca Macklis, Public Design Commission
Will Spisak, Chhaya
Silky Misra, Chhaya
Maxwell Cabello, Chhaya
Emma Osore, BlackSpace
Christopher Hartsfield, Concrete Safaris
Caitlin Pontrella, Parkour Visions
Haiyan Khan, Never Homeless Again + Santosha Village
Molly Heintz, Oculus magazine
Chris Rice, WXY
Wes Walker, Studio Gang
Priyanka Shah, The Architecture Lobby
Ibrahim Greenidge, Bolt Architecture + nycoba NOMA
Nadia Lopez, Mott Hall Bridges Academy
Catherine Teegarden, Center for Architecture
John Widlund, Department of Education
Thomas DeVito, Transportation Alternatives
Leslie Davol, Uni Project & Street Lab
Julia D Day, Gehl Architects
Alexandria Sica, Dumbo Business Improvement District
Emily Weidenhof, Department of Transportation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AIANY + CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE

Kavitha Mathew, Director of Leadership + Engagement
Suzanne Mecs, Managing Director
Ben Prosky, Executive Director
Board of Directors
CLP Strategic Task Force

AGENCIES + ORGANIZATIONS

The American Institute of Architects College of Fellows
Manhattan Borough President's Office
Landing Road Residence
Public Design Commission
Department of Education
Transportation Alternatives

FOUNDING ADVISORS

Alex Alaimo, AIA
Brynnemarie Lanciotti, AIA
Makenzie Leukart, Assoc. AIA
Esteban Reichberg, Assoc. AIA
Ross David Weiner, Assoc. AIA

