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THE INCLUSION & DIVERSITY COMPENDIUM FOR DESIGNERS

NOMA MAGAZINE, FALL 2020

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ON THE COVER

PHOTOGRAPHER: Jenna Lewis MODEL: Imani Day





ear NOMA Family:

I write this message to you with just over 100 days remaining in my two-year term as president. It has truly

been an honor to serve and grow as a leader during such uncertain times, while also seeing our membership double in the process. I cannot thank you enough for either remaining committed to NOMA, re-engaging with us, or joining NOMA for the first time. I firmly believe that there is strength in numbers and that our organization will continue to thrive and flourish with a robust and diverse membership. Again, thank you for being ALL in for NOMA!

In case you are wondering what happens when I leave office on December 31st, I'd like share some insight and confidence in the future of NOMA. My successor, Jason Pugh, is an amazing leader who is committed to advancing the initiatives that we have worked on together over the past two years. We are very much aligned in our philosophy on how NOMA can not only serve our members, but also how we may enhance the potential of our great profession. You will hear more from Jason soon, but suffice it to say that NOMA will be in good hands.

The bigger question that I'd like to address is where we will go from here as a community of architects, designers and built environment professionals who wish to design a better future for everyone. It goes without saying that 2020 has challenged us in ways that we never imagined would be possible. We are encountering inconvenient truths about our society that we must

confront head on. In response to the murder of George Floyd, NOMA's leadership mobilized quickly to finalize a revamped mission statement on May 31, 2020:

NOMA's mission, rooted in a rich legacy of activism, is to empower our local chapters and membership to foster justice and equity in communities of color through outreach, community advocacy, professional development and design excellence.

While these words are important, they are empty without action. This is why we provided some very specific action items for your consideration, calling on everyone to be **B.R.A.V.E.**

Banish racism

Reach out to those who are grieving

Advocate for the disinherited Vote in every American election

Engage each human you meet as you would want to be engaged

While all of the above action items

are important, the one that I must

emphasize for the sake of time is **VOTE IN EVERY AMERICAN ELECTION**. Our nation is more polarized than we have ever been in history. Our democracy depends on informed citizens exercising their right to vote. This November, you must vote and do your research prior to casting your ballot. While we are voting for the presidency, there are also many other important seats that our votes will determine. Please study your ballot in advance and learn about all of the candidates. This is our civic duty and I implore you to take this seriously.

One very important issue that often remains unaddressed is the mass incarceration that takes place in the United States. There is no other country in the world that incarcerates citizens at the rate that our nation does. This burden of over-incarceration is largely shouldered by the Black community, destroying the fabric of so many American families. According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Black males accounted for 34% of the total male prison population. In architecture, Black males account for just over 1% of the full population of licensed architects in the U.S. These are both unacceptable disparities.

NOMA is actively working on the architecture disparity by building bridges with new and existing partners in the profession, including ACSA, AIA, AIAS, NAAB, NCARB and others. On the mass incarceration front, this is where we need to get more involved in vetting our elected leaders, which is why being an informed voter is so important. We must look closely at our judges, district attorneys and sheriffs, who all have the authority to move the needle on sentencing reform and decreasing incarceration rates. I encourage all NOMA chapters to work together to help people register to vote, study the ballots carefully and actually vote on or before November 3, 2020. So, where do we go from here? The polls.

ALL the best,

Thinks Dondell

KIMBERLY DOWDELL 2019-2020 NOMA National President

EDITOR'S PAGE



ow does the human "fight or flight" response work when you're being attacked on multiple flanks by two formidable adversaries? By definition, we experience fight or flight as a physiological reaction that occurs in response to

a perceived harmful event, attack, or threat to our survival. The challenge is that at the moment there are few places to which we can flee, and the only people around to fight are the loved ones we're lucky enough to share space with throughout these times of the dual pandemics—COVID-19 and systemic racism.

Tragically, it appears to have taken the murder of brother George Floyd to reveal to all those who witnessed the graphic event, as captured by the ubiquitous cell phone video, the brutal ways that systemic racism continues to keep a knee on the collective neck of Black people, not only here in America, but around the entire globe. As many try to convert their outrage into constructive action, questions abound as to how and where to direct their energy and resources. Meanwhile, time has seemingly accelerated as many of us work from home, isolated from physical contact with our friends and colleagues. The worst thing that any of us could allow to happen is paralysis or fatigue that would stand in the way of our individual and collective responsibilities to "get into good trouble," so that the death of Floyd and countless other Black people at the hands of law enforcement will not have been in vain.

But out of tragedy comes opportunity. The NOMA Magazine was originally conceived to address the lack of coverage given to our members by the mainstream architectural press, no matter the excellence of our projects and accomplishments. Thankfully, the profession, led by NOMA, the AIA, and the AIA Large Firm Roundtable has changed course and made significant commitments to move onto a righteous path that is just, equitable, diverse and inclusive. Today, we are noticeably present and accounted for in such publications as Architecture Record, the Architects Newspaper, and Architect Magazine. For us, this represents opportunity. There is a heightened interest in building teams that represent a diversity of thought, expertise, and frankly, lived experience. Whether you're a firm owner or an employee, this is the time to seek new opportunities where they are being created, and to refocus on the ones you might have pursued in the past with only limited success. The decision-making lens is expanding, so what was seemingly out of reach before, may be attainable now, if for no other reason, we are being seen and heard differently at this moment in time, and hopefully as evidence of an altered paradigm by mainstream society. Lastly, this is the time when we need to make significant inroads within our own client base. Black clients need to know who we are, what we're about, and what their responsibility is to support and work with us. All things considered, we will turn tragedy into opportunity as we enter this brave, new world.

Mallierry

R. STEVEN LEWIS
FAIA, NOMAC, LEED AP Principal
Urban Design at ZGF Architects

"There is a heightened interest in building teams that represent a diversity of thought, expertise, and frankly, lived experience.

Whether you're a firm owner or an employee, this is the time to seek new opportunities where they are being created, and to refocus on the ones you might have pursued in the past with only limited success."



EVENT SCHEDULE

Note: Schedule is subject to change. For all final events and times, see the Conference on-line website.

8- 11:00 PM (3HR)	5:00- 8:00 AM (3HR)	Tours		ALL TOURS/EXPO ON DEMAND	Tours		A	ALL TOURS/EXPO ON DEMAND			ALL TOURS/EXPO ON DEMAND	-			
	AM (1HR)	SESSION # 1	ROOM 1	NYC Health + Hospital Centers for Excellence: Redefining the Critical Path. Presenter. Perkins Eastman (283 -T1) 60min.	F	ROOM 1	Global Grassroots 2.0 - The Internatio efforts for the NEXT GENeration of ARCHitecture. Presenters: Danei Cesa Tosin Oshinowo, Alianna Cordova. (229- 90min.		F	ALL TOURS/EXPO ON DEMAND					
			ROOM 2	Cultural Districts: Revitalizing Cities and Preserving Community Integrity. Presenter: Janey Madamba (260-12) 60min.	# 22	ROOM 2		Transit Oriented Communities - Shaping Ecosystems of Equity, Health, and Affordability. Presenters: Perkins+Will, Geeti (262-T1) 60min.							
11:00 - 12:00 PM (1HR)			ROOM 3	Building Sustainability in Urban Sprawit: History Preservation, and Prevelopment in Formey, Texas. Preserters: Dame Allen and Kathyn Holiddy (44-12) 30min. The Texas Southern University Library Learning Community Engagement Manifested, Presenter. Antoine Bryant (54-T4) 45min.	SESSION	ROOM 3		Urban Evolution By Housing. Presenter: Tya Winn - Semi live + Q/A (256-T3) 60min.				YOGA WITH NOMA			
			ROOM 4	The Jack and Steve Show (100 -) 60min		DESI		STUDENT Black is Not the New Green yet, But it Can Bel. Presenter: Lance Collins (180-T5) 60min. COMPETI		PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL DESIGN					
12:00- 12:30 PM (30min)	9:00- 9:30AM (30min)					TION	opt chat lounge	AWARDS BRUNCH (8am - 10:30 am)							
12:30-1:30 PM (1HR)	9:30-10:30 AM (1HR)	ROOM 1		Urban Infill. Presenter: Kenneth Johnson and Karen Anderson (197-T3) 60min.		ROOM 1	FINALSTS (LIVE)	The Pandemic Reveal: American Housing Policy, and its Lasting Impact on the Black Community. Presenters: Jerrod Delaine, Pratt School of Architecture, Carthage. (184-T3) 60min.							
		SESSION # 2	ROOM 2	The Need for Rural Resilience in America's Black Belt: A Case Study of Princeville, NC. Presenter: NC State College of Design (39-T1-) 60min	9 # N	# 2		The J.E.D.I. Agenda: An Intersectional Approach to Designing a Just and Equitable Future. Presenter: Rosa Sheng. (204-T4) 60min.				ON DEMAND SDC PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS	BLACK WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE BRUNCH (9-11AM PST)		
			ROOM 3	How to start a NOMA Chapter A Tale of Two Cities! Presenter: Gary J Nelson and Phil Dougherty (157-T6) 30min.	SESSION	ROOM4 ROOM3		Changing the Narrative: The Black Architect- Removing Obstacles, Creating Opportunities. Presenters: Rico Quiridongo, Sharon Sutton, Michael Willis. (76-T6) 90min.							
			ROOM 4	Hip Hop Architecture Cypher. Presenter: Sekou Cooke (200 -) 60min.				NOMA + AIA Large Firm Roundtable (101-T6) 60min.							
1:30- 2:00 PM (30min)	10:30- 11:00 AM (30min)			opt chat lounge				opt chat lounge			opt chat lounge				
	11:00-12:00 PM (1HR)	SESSION#3	ROOM 1	SoCalNOMA Presents: The DEI Challenge. Presenter: Lance Collins. LIVE (178 - T1) 60min						ROOM 1					
2:00- 3:00 PM			ROOM 2	Worker-Owned Firms; Cooperative Networks; Unions; Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs). Presenter: Quilian (248-T6) 60min.					Ne 7	ROOM 2					
(1HR)			ROOM 3	Now What Do I Do? Presenter: Lisa Cholmondeley, Gensler (105-T6) 60min. WATER BLOCK Kids: Re- Cultivating Youth					NOISSIGN	ROOM 3	The ABCs of Critical Design: Making your practice more critical. Presenter: Dr. Lesley-Ann Noel. (111-T6) 60min.				
			ROOM 4	Imagining and Reclaiming Black Futures. Presenter: Atianna J. Cordova (171-T5) 30min. Leadership through Spatial Activism. Presenters: Prescot Reavis + Christian Hughes (226 - T1) 45min.						BOOM 4	Play as Public Forum Workshop. Gaming as Urban Design and Planning Community Tool. Presenter: Jeanette Kim (35- 17) 60min.				
3:00- 3:30 PM (30min)	12:00- 12:30 AM (30min)	opt chat lounge EXPO/ GRAD FAIR (2HR) 11am-2p					FAIR (2HR) 11am-2pm			opt chat lounge					
			ROOM 1	Las Adelitas: organizing, development and design for Housing Justice in Portland. Presenter: Salazar Architect - LIVE (037- T3) 75min.				` , , ,		ROOM 1	VICE Flesidelit. Sellii Live F QdA. (281- (AIA-1)				
3:30- 4:30 PM (1HR)	12:30-1:30 PM (1HR)	SESSION # 4	ROOM 2	Decolonizing Identity in Practice. Presenters: Patricia Acevedo, Yiselle Santos Rivera, Zaida Basora Adrian, Venesa Alicea Chuqui (269 -T1) 90min.					SESSION # 8	ROOM 2					
(2111)	(2111)		ROOM 3	Murmuration: A Space for Student Solidarity. Presenters: Michelle Barrett, Chris Daemmrich (050- T4) 60min.				3	ROOM3						
4:30-5:00 PM	1:30- 2:00 PM		ROOM	Rebuilding Community: History as a Framework to Design an Equitable and Culturally Sustained Future. Presenter: Zena Howard (112-T4) 90min						BOOM 4	In Search of African American Space. Presenter: Scott Ruff - (202-T2) 60min.				
(30min)	(30min)		_	opt chat lounge		NOMA NAACP SEED AWARDS: Structures									
5:00- 6:00 PM (1HR)	2:00- 3:00 PM (1HR)	HAPPY HOUR					HAPPY HOUR			for Inclusion (1:30pm-3pm) ON DEMAND SDC PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS					
5,00014 7,00014	3:00PM - 4:30PF		Fire	side Chat 1: Unbuilding Racism	Fireside Chat			?: Leading with Art + Protest		Fire	side Chat 3: Building the Future				
(90min)	(90min)		Panelists: June Grant, Liz Ogbu, Deanna Van Buren. Moderator: Fay Darmawi				Panelists: De Nichols, Fabiana Rodriguez, Darryl Shack. Moderator: Bryon C. Lee				Panelists: Noni Session and others Moderator: Jason Pugh.				
7:30- 8:00 PM (30min) 8:00 - 10:00 PM	4:30- 5:00 PM (30min) 5:00- 7:00 PM	BREAK					BREAK				COCKTAILS WITH NOMA				
8:00 - 10:00 PM (2HR)	5:00- 7:00 PM (2HR)						BRO'S ARTS BALL								
	TOTAL CEU			12 4 seminar tracks an hour 4.5				6 4 seminar tracks an hour 3			9 3 seminar tracks an hour 4.5		27 4.5 12 total CEUS live 15+ additional On-demand		







PROJECT NAME

Government of Jamaica New Houses of Parliament COMPANY NAME

Hines Architecture + Design

WWW HINESAD COM

PROJECT LOCATION

National Heroes Park, Kingston,

COMPLETION YEAR

On the Boards, Estimated 2023

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Hines Architecture + Design (HINESAD)

DESIGN ARCHITECT: Programming, design and construction documentation services

PIC: Daimian S Hines, AIA, NOMA, LEED BD+C

PM: Christopher Bent, Assoc AIA PA: Nico Stearley AIA, LEED BD+C PD: Chris Oliver, AIA BIM MANAGER: Logan Kemp ID DESIGN MANAGER: Juliana Touma, RA DESIGN SUPPORT: Juliet Serem, AIA, NOMA DESIGN SUPPORT: Clayton Fry, AIA

CONSULTANT: Gregory Lake, AIA INTERN: Antonio Perez

INTERN: Kenny Nguyen INTERN: Maggie Au

INTERN: Jhamaria Hewell

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING: Burohappold CIVIL ENGINEERING: Vogt Engineering MEP ENGINEERING: DBR Engineering LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: OJB ACQUISTICS: Bai FOOD SERVICE: FDF SUSTAINABILITY: Syncrho FACADE: MGI SPECIFICATIONS: Lisa Murray & Associates INTERIOR DESIGN: SPADPS

Design Collaborative Ltd (DCL)

LEGAL: Egbuono Law

Architect of Record JAMAICA TEAM PIC: Evan Williams, JIA ARCHITECT: Jason Scott SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR: Abigail Evans

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING: Hue Lyew Chin CIVIL ENGINEERING: Hue Lyew Chin MEP ENGINEERING: Satyn LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT: Maryanne Twymann QUANTITY SURVEYOR: Handel Bowen, Burrowes & Wallace TRAFFIC ENGINEERING: Premier Land & Water ENVIRONMENTAL: Environmental Solutions Ltd. LAND SURVEY: GEO Graphics Ltd. GEOTECH: NHL Engineering

PHOTO CREDITS: Hines Architecture + Design



The building program centers on two debate chambers. The spaces are the House of Representatives and Senate debate chambers. The balance of the program includes other parliamentary support spaces, offices, a museum, a library, visitors accommodations, and other amenities. Critical adjacencies drove the program development to support various user interfaces while simultaneously segregating government and visitor circulation and access protocols.

The project site is quite significant in the collective history of the island nation. The site resonates as a reminder of the island's colonial past. The site is currently underutilized as downtown Kingston experienced a substantial exodus of commerce to New Kingston, which is the new central business district. The design solution is a circular building that is legible at both urban and human scales. In analyzing the oval site, a former colonial-era horse racing track, coupled with the notions of the country's motto "Out of Many, One People," suggested a circular building that would have no perceived front, back, rear, or side profiles. The building form would always present a front while the landscape would define the vehicular and pedestrian site access and circulation pathways.

HINESAD collaborated with OJB Landscape architects whom without hesitation signed on early during the competition stage of the pursuit. Through a series of workshops with local stakeholders and government officials, our team developed an informed site program that captured the imagination of our client. Our vision was a dynamic park that included a series of outdoor rooms that formalize a variety of functions and activities.

Some of these functions included a national memorial shrine area where the country's national heroes are or will be interred, a plant

nursery, a public amphitheater, formal parliament access and demonstration areas, an extensive water wall plaza, and a walking trail loop with defined areas for future art installations. The site, therefore, is divided into three primary zones. The site to the north includes a large flexible community space for activities such as the annual kite festival. The center of the site consists of a civic plaza with community amphitheaters and a featured water wall in addition to the parliament building and parking garages capped by planted roofs. The southern campus contains a formal and historic program. This space includes a renovated shrine area for national heroes including interred prime ministers, governors-general, and historic figures as well as a new heroes pavilion.

The building shape resulted from the analyst site and historical notions. During the competition stage, I felt it was important, as Design Architect, to query team members regarding their childhood memories as well as their aspirations for the island nation. The expression of the building façade is envisioned as a series of precast concrete X-shaped columns. The column shape was derived from a study of geometries contained within the Jamaican flag. We wanted the flag to be experiential as an occupiable space. We also wanted the columns to be a metaphor for the relationship between the island's citizens and their elected representatives as inter-connected pillars that form the foundation of the country's system of parliament. The building plan maintains a clear circulation strategy with a central circulation boulevard and circular loop around two interior gardens which introduce natural light from rooftop skylight glazing systems. Rich woods, stones, planting, and feature walls to incorporate local art define the main circulation routes throughout the building.



ARCHITECTURE OF EMOTION

It is not often that architects have an opportunity to work on a transformational design such as the Jamaican parliament building.

> Prime minister the Honorable Andrew Holness, noted that this project will be the most important in the history of the country. I had the opportunity to study in India where I was able to visit Chandigarh, the country's capital. There I was able to experience the masterwork of Le Corbusier's designs for the buildings that comprised the Indian parliament. This was a magnificent experience and was made even more profound as I was able to build a relationship with one of the country's most notable architects Balkrishna Doshi, a protege of Le Corbusier.

I also had the opportunity to study in Berlin, where I and fellow students toured the then under construction iconic German Chancellory, which spans the Spree River, with the lead Architect Axel Schultes.

I did not imagine that in 2018 I would be conceptualizing a modern vision for my country of birth. This experience was both surreal and a source of great pride. I was extremely emotional during the entire design process. When I was eight years old, my family migrated to America so that my sister and I would have a chance at a better education. After graduating from university and practicing in Chicago, Houston, and Southeast Asia, I returned to Houston where I started a boutique design office. I leveraged relationships across the world to compete with notable competitors as British architect David Adjaye and French architect Hugh Dutton.

My emotions were fuel during this almost one-year-long international competition. The process included several trips to the island

Commentary by **DAIMIAN S. HINES** AIA, NOMA



which were educational, enlightening, and in some cases, a trigger for memories long forgotten. Never did I think our team would sweep the competition awards nor did I allow myself to dwell on the possibilities. My core focus was on producing the body of work required to compete.

As a small office, I was confident we could compete. I had studied at a top college for architecture, I had worked in large scale competitive design firms, and I had recently built a sixty-person office in Southeast Asia with a long time cohort Daniel West, AIA.

Since winning the commission, I have been asked to speak about the competition process and the design of the Government of Jamaica's new parliament building. I often start a speaking engagement with a preemptive disclaimer noting that I may become

I have since abandoned the disclaimer and embraced the notion that architecture should and can be emotional.

I, therefore, implore our NOMA design community to seek and deliver projects that evoke strong emotion, challenge traditional forms of practice and endeavor to compete whenever an opportunity arises.

UPDATE ON LFRT COMMITMENTS AND PARTNERSHIP WITH NOMA

By TIM DUFAULT FAIA, LEED AP®

AIA LARGE FIRM ROUNDTABLE

n our June 5th open letter to the members of NOMA, the member firms of the AIA Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) committed to work in partnership with NOMA to create meaningful change, equitable work environments, and build systems which will make real our core values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Since the member firms of the LFRT represent the 60 largest architectural firms in the country, we have a unique platform and opportunity to make a difference, and we are committed to doing just that. In the last several months, we have engaged our member firms in activities designed to facilitate that change, including:

Committed \$250,000 over five years to found the NOMA Fellows program. 2020 represents the second year of that commitment and we look forward to continuing to invest in the bright future of our profession;

Committed over \$127,000 in member and general fund contributions to the seven HBCU Schools of Architecture to fund student support programs that provide relief for high need students as they return to campus/classes under difficult economic conditions;

Committed over \$88,000 in member and general fund contributions to NOMA to expand and support the NOMA fellows program for emerging professionals working in internships at architecture firms across the country;

Committed over \$88,000 in member and general fund contributions to the Architects Foundation to fund ARE grants for African American young professionals as they study and take the licensing exam;

Formulated contract language denouncing racism and discriminatory practices that architects face in client, contractor, and vendor interactions;



Hosted forums on justice and equity in design including a webinar led by Bryan Lee Jr., of Collogate Design (view here);

Hosted a forum of Deans of the Colleges and Schools of Architecture around the country in which 110 participants including 32 deans and Beck BIG Clark Nexsen Corgan DLR Group EYP EwingCole Gensler (HGA) HED Huckabee Huitt-Zollars

Jacobs Global Buildings Ayers / Saint / Gross JLG Architects Kirksey Architecture BWBR Architects, Inc. Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, P.C. Callison RTKL Inc KTGY Group, Inc. Cannon Design Leo A Daly Little LPA Cooper Carry Inc. LS3P MG2 Cuningham Group Architecture, Inc. Moody Nolan NBBJ NELSON Ennead Architects LLP Page, Inc. Perkins + Will Flad Architects Perkins Eastman Architects, PC FreemanWhite, Inc. Populous Group, LLC **FXCollaborative** Quinn Evans RAMSA Gould Evans, Inc. RS&H Gresham Smith Shepley Bulfinch Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. Skidmore, Owings & Merrill HDR Architecture, Inc. SmithGroup Solomon Cordwell Buenz Stantec Architecture HLW International LLP tvsdesign (tvs) **HMC** Architects WATG **HNTB** Architecture Woods Bagot HOK Group, Inc. ZGF Architects, LLP Hord Coplan Macht

their students in a dialogue on the virtual practice, how justice and equity are being addressed in their schools, how to increase the number of black architects, and what additional actions we can take together to achieve a JEDI profession;

Supported the founding of the NOMA President's Circle with more than half the member firms committing across all levels of the Circle;

Our HR leaders are working on sharing processes in recruitment, interview, and hiring practices that reduce the impact of implicit bias in the hiring process;

Penned an open letter to producers of digital media content on the lack of representation of people of color, especially black people, in digital entourage and demanding they immediately correct the problem;

Began a program with the seven HBCU Schools of Architecture to bring additional resources and content to support their students through mentorship, shared instruction, seminars, and dedicated internships;

Holding a joint meeting of the LFRT and NOMA leadership in conjunction with NOMA's national virtual conference, October 14-18, 2020.

These activities are only the start. Our Justice and Equity = Diversity and Inclusion (JE=DI) task force continues to meet monthly to develop strategies and tactics we can implement in our firms, develop language we can adopt across the profession on justice and equity, and promote broader and deeper discussions on race, racism, and architecture's role in solving the problems in our profession and in our built environment. In support of this goal, we are developing programs for the senior leadership of our member firms to evaluate the culture of architecture with a focus on building intercultural humility, self-awareness, and opportunities for all.

The LFRT remains committed to ongoing support and partnership with NOMA leaders locally and nationally to achieve our shared vision of a profession that embraces all people of color and creates opportunities for the growth and development of a new diverse generation of firm leaders. As the CEO's of the largest architecture firms in the country, we are committed to making a difference in our own firms, holding each other accountable, leveraging architecture as a tool to break the chains of systemic racism, and continue to build our partnership with NOMA to double the number of licensed black architects by 2030.

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UPGRADE YOUR SOFTWARE: TIPS FOR MASTERING THE VIRTUAL WORKPLACE

By **JOEL AVERY**, NOMA

f there were a singular instance demonstrating the poignance of our current technological climate it would've been this past Saturday when, at the end of our weekly family get together, my eighty-four year old father bowed his head in prayer and thanked God for Eric Yuan and the digital marvel he founded in 2011. The praying is a habit of Dad's but the vocalized gratefulness for Zoom or any technology is a very new thing. Did the crippling, global effects of COVID-19 bring something new out of Silicon Valley; new

enough to change a luddite octogenarian's heart? Or was there really a more profound software shift that took place?

You can still do well at your business without knowing the difference in the answers to that question, but your life, and the life of your teammates will be easier if you know that the real answer is the latter. Mastering the virtual workplace isn't as much of a tech challenge as it is a matter of objective analysis. Here are some key points that hinge on our brains (the ultimate software) and way of thinking more so than digital wizardry.

YOUR WORKSPACE OR YOUR LIFE

One of the newest realizations is that people who work from home often work harder and longer hours. This means you need to take greater care of the space you'll be occupying. Use all of your ergonomic skills to optimize desk and chair height particularly to minimize stress on your wrists, arms and back. Standing desks offer the most documented health benefits.

Minimize clutter and distractions as far as possible while providing a range of focal points. Having places for the eyes to rest near, distant, and everything in between, provides good exercise for ocular muscles and can help ease the effects of chronic screen time.

Standing workstation benefits

Resting your eyes

MEETING SKILLS ON FLEEK

Avoid the business productivity killer: bad meetings. The only thing worse than a face to face, terribly designed conference is the same thing but with a screen, bad audio and an extra 20 minutes tacked on to make sure everyone

knows you're the boss and they better still be working hard!

If you are the one leading the meeting do everything within your power to make sure it is not a waste of time. Remember, people are working too long as it is. Meetings need to be more concise and impactful than ever. Agendas, inviting only the needed individuals and setting time limits can vastly improve workplace moral.

After content, using the best *virtual* meeting tips is key. Having a good camera is almost as important as having a good microphone. After that, lighting might be the most important element. Avoid strong back lighting as much as possible. Eye contact with the camera and not staring at your own screen will create a better connection with your colleagues.

Lastly, GoToMeeting, Teams, Zoom, Join.Me all have their dark side. Part of it is really the extra stressful reality of the current world but research has shown "Zoom Fatigue" is a real thing that many of us battle every day. Mindful individuals will make the best use of the technology while using it sparingly.

5 steps to great meetings

25 tips for remote meetings

Zoom Fatigue

Really, it's a real thing

REDUCE RELIANCE ON EMAIL

That's right. Email, the 30 year old technology has been outdated for at least a decade. These days most of us have more than one email address to keep track of and we spend as much as an hour a day simply sorting, reviewing, responding to and searching for that one specific message.

If your office is already part of the Microsoft Office 365 environment then Microsoft Teams is the clear and easy choice for a communications upgrade for your team. Slack, Asana and many other products provide the same critical concept: hierarchical organization for collaboration and centralized critical data. 30 project emails with 4 different recipients sent at various times with multiple copies in the body of the text produces a digitally dead product that can only be resuscitated with either a brilliant memory for what and where things exist in your inbox or via constant searchings. The collaborative tools obviate that by simply putting all of the messaging in a logical location accessible by all.

Be creative, ditch email

No, really, research shows email is evil

All about Microsoft Teams

An overview of multiple collaboration platforms

REDUNDANCY

This is another area that hasn't changed just because the workplace is mostly virtual. All core business processes need to have a "Plan B" especially in the middle of a pandemic. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that anything can and will go wrong. Already having a plan in place for what to do when it does will not only ease stress but it may save your company.

How do you keep you and your team productive when the office internet is out? How about when their home internet is out? Redundancy like that used to be something for large enterprises. These days most metropolitan areas and even the suburbs have multiple ISP's. In the remote economy two hours of downtime could easily equate to the cost of an entire year of duplicate high-speed internet bills. For best protection choose different technologies and providers

for your Internet service.
For example, you can have a
Comcast cable service and a
fiber service from Spectrum. This
will put your critical Internet
service needs into two different
technologies with two different
providers requiring multiple
types of failures to completely
disconnect you.

SAVE AND SAVE YOURSELVES

All of your data everywhere needs to be backed up. It's very possible, now that you've got so many people working from home, there's a chance you've got data outside the office that is not a part of your standard backup routine. There are far too many options for replicating your files for this to be a real problem.

Seriously, at this stage even home users should be backing up their data both locally (to a cheap external hard drive) and remotely to one of the many total cloud backup services like Backblaze or iDrive.

It's important to mention here that OneDrive, Dropbox and similar technologies can help replicate individual files but in their most common configurations they are sharing tools and not backup tools.

Backblaze home (single price "unlimited" cloud backup)

Backblaze business

iDrive home

iDrive business

Local Mac backup via Time Machine

Review of multiple services

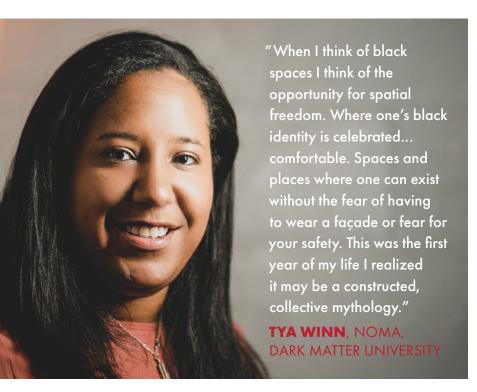
Almost every tech noted here has been around for over a decade. Leveraging the capabilities of the best while limiting the usage of the marginal requires an upgrade to our critical thinking but the benefits will live well beyond the end of the pandemic.



JOEL AVERY is the principal of the design and technology consulting firm CREATIVENESS. He's worked with architecture firms, advancing their understanding and use of technology—keeping clients coast to coast informed, empowered and secured for more than a quarter century. NOMA brought Joel on board officially as Chief Information Officer in 2018.

35 WORDS

BLACK SPACE



"Black space is in part a place of celebrating and sharing how we can thrive in the face of anti-Black racist practices that perpetuate the cultural, economic, and political harm enabled by our built environmental work on our communities."

KOFI BOONE





"Freedom is often haphazardly construed by the misgivings of independence, and both are lost to an instability founded on the inability to find something of value in ourselves. The failure to achieve freedom comes from a personal perspective that you, yourself, can not willingly share equitably. True freedom flourishes with trust, which flows from interdependence—an interdependence with others. We have lost the ability to blissfully trust one another in the places that we've grown accustomed to, the places that we love, and the simple being that comes from this. Interdependence cannot exist until racism is removed, and therefore, freedom, true freedom cannot be obtained until racism is removed. The poorest of people in their darkest hour seek to trust in our society. What COVID-19 has taught us is that even in the most gloriously rich in our culture, seek to trust. Trust is equitable interdependence."

ULYSSES SEAN VANCE



and brown Architects."

SAMANTHA JOSAPHA, RA, NOMA, NCARB



"We must imagine and build spaces of liberation, where black life can thrive, but this will be only be possible if we first abolish the (institutional) spaces where black life does not matter."

MABEL O. WILSON

"The train of capitalistic exploitation of black bodies has come to crashing halt. COVID-19 has exposed white America's infatuation with historical erasure. The act of rebellion is generations of triumphant survival and a reckoning that silenced voices have not forgotten their past and predetermined future. Sacred black space is defined by the culture of resilience, because around these parts, this train will result in not 6 feet apart but 6 feet under."

CHRIS LOCKE

MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NOMA MEMBERS

LEED FOR DIVERSITY

By MICHAEL MARSHALL



s a practicing architect for almost thirty
years, who happens to be an African
American, I would like to share my
thoughts on the need for diversity
in our profession, and a few ways to
possibly achieve it. It has been noted
by economists and other international thinkers that

all trends and indicators predict that in the next 50 years 75 percent of the world's population will live in urban settings. There is obviously an advantage here, as we evolve on our planet and as resources become increasingly scarce, sustainable, cultural and racially-diverse environments will be necessary to achieve an equitable balance, bringing people from different backgrounds and ethnicities together in peaceful coexistence as this migration to urban centers occurs. Architects, planners and designers who share the same backgrounds of the various people coming together in urban environments will need to function as mediators to convey the nuances of the different groups that

have been traditionally separated by socioeconomic and other factors. Diversity in the profession of architecture is an imperative.

As it stands now, minorities are woefully underrepresented in the field and practice of architecture. From my perspective I can see that there are steps being taken to correct this imbalance but it will take perhaps a few generations to achieve effective results. I think there are some "affirmative" steps that can now be utilized to correct this present day disparity of representation in the practice of architecture.

There are two areas I see where corrections are needed: 1) inside large corporate architectural practices where there should be more advances in the hiring and promotion of women and minorities at meaningful levels, and 2) in the need for collaboration between woman- and minority-led firms teamed with larger mainstream corporate practices. This must occur not only where there are public-private partnerships,

Just as there is certification of buildings that are LEED CERTIFIED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), I propose an institutional rating system or certifications for architectural firms that will establish what are good standards in achieving diversity and inclusion.



per government policy, but also for local and federal government projects for economic development. This goal of equity should also be the target in the private sector where, unless there is some mandate for inclusion, it is never considered as a positive means to bring in new voices for the design of our communities.

I would like to offer a solution that is more "carrot" than "stick" as a possible remedy to this situation that I have witnessed, personally and professionally.

In my past experience the sharing of services and, in particular, fees for an architectural project, depending on the scale of the project, can result in push back from larger corporate architectural practices to collaborate with woman- and minorityowned small businesses, even when there is a call for inclusion as part of a mandate to achieve diversity. In addition to the sharing of fees and services, there is also the sensitive subject of artistic authorship of the design of a project. The titles of "Design Architect" and "Architect of Record" usually settle this issue, but with true collaborations in the design of projects this can sometimes result in a difficult call. I have found that M.O.U.s at the start of the project is highly recommended for clarity of tasks and responsibilities of the teaming and is now a standard practice of our collaborations.

So here is my pitch for the "carrot".

Just as there is certification of buildings that are "LEED Certified" (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), I propose an institutional rating system or certifications for architectural

firms, monitored by a group outside of the normal professional organizations that architects are associated with that will establish what are good standards in achieving diversity and inclusion. I propose that these agencies, similar to Standard and Poor's or Moody's would function not unlike these rating systems: as recommendations for understanding the diversity and inclusions intent of particular architectural practices.

This rating can be leveraged in a competitive fashion for winning commissions in the private sector or public sector. For the private sector developers of public or private projects, they can achieve certification for being good corporate citizens for bringing together diverse design teams, in return for regulatory approvals, as the LEED ratings are now a bonus and are sometimes mandatory depending on the jurisdiction. I think this can be a certification that will allow private sector firms to brand themselves as making socio-economic inclusion a normal "business as usual" process. Collaborations with small businesses, and woman- and minority-owned architectural practices could then have a business development advantage nationally.

In conclusion I want to see diversity and inclusion "monetized." I want to show that diversity is a great investment now and for our future.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL MARSHALL, AIA, NOMA, NCARB



NOMA FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP INAUGURAL COHORT

30+ STUDENTS AWARDED VIRTUAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS TO SUPPORT PROFESSION'S DIVERSITY EFFORTS

By AMBER LACROIX

he National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) recently announced the placement of 30 architecture students as the inaugural cohort of the NOMA Foundation Fellowship (NFF). The NFF is a two-month virtual research fellowship hosted over the summer at leading architecture firms across

the country. Fellows engage in design research and benefit from firm mentorship. Amidst COVID-19 and record unemployment, NFF provides professional experience to underrepresented students with the goal of keeping them engaged in the profession and providing a pipeline to eventual employment. In all recessions, including the current one, minorities are often the most adversely impacted by job loss.

"During this time of economic uncertainty, we have an imperative to support the next generation of minority architects looking to find their way in the profession and the NOMA Foundation Fellowship program, funded by the American Institute of Architects Large Firm Roundtable (AIA LFRT), is helping us to achieve that," said NOMA President and HOK Principal, Kimberly Dowdell, NOMA, AIA, LEED AP. "Mentorship, experience, and exposure are all key to the success of any architect. NFF formalizes that support structure for minorities and connects NOMAS members to firms expressing an interest in supporting the next generation of architects, recognizing the growing importance of diversity to the field."

NOMA originally launched the NFF as a three-month summer design fellowship; however, COVID-19 forced the redesign of the program to ensure that fellows and firms were availed of meaningful experiences while protecting their health and wellness.

we announced the AIA Large Firm Round Table 2030 Diversity Challenge, which calls **GABRIEL ANDRADE**

University of Virginia **ENNEAD ARCHITECTS**

STORM CAMPO

Woodbury University **CUNINGHAM GROUP**

CARL'DRAIL CANNON

Kent State University ZGF

IN-SAN CHIANG

Illinois Institute of Technology **GRESHAM SMITH**

NGOC LINH DANH

Morgan State University **GOULD EVANS**

TAKUMI DAVIS

Carnegie Mellon University DESMOND ARCHITECTS Davis will also participate in the ZGF INSTITUTE.

JAMEICA DEMERCADO California Baptist University HORD COPLAN MACHT

AARON DEROUX

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

MONIQUE DORROH

Penn State University **FXCOLLABORATIVE**

KERISTEN EDWARDS

Tulane University **ENNEAD ARCHITECTS**

DESIREE GREEN Ball State University GENSLER

NANCY GUERRERO Prairie View A&M

CANNONDESIGN

DAMION HARDY

Mississippi State University WIGHT & CO.

DIANA HERNANDEZ Serrano California Baptist University HED

WALTER HUNT

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SAMIJABER

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Ball State University COLLOQATE

CHRISTINA MEYER

North Dakota State University LS3P

NIMAH MOHIUDDIN

Illinois Institute of Technology MASS DESIGN GROUP

BARBARA NASILA

University of California, Berkeley **CUNINGHAM GROUP**

KENNY NGUYEN

University of Houston MOODY NOLAN He will also participate in the remote SHEPLEY BULFINCH Summer Experience Program

OLAOLUWAPO ODUKOYA

Illinois Institute of Technology CALLISONRTKL

HIMESH PATEL

New York Institute of Technology **AYERS SAINT GROSS**

MALACHI PURSLEY

Louisiana State University **ENNEAD ARCHITECTS**

ROSARIO ROJAS

California Baptist University **ROTHSCHILD DOYNO** COLLABORATIVE

SYDNEE SAMPSON

Tuskegee University

She will also participate in the remote ZGF INSTITUTE.

TYLER SAUTER

Illinois Institute of Technology CANNONDESIGN

DEJANAE WRIGHT

Morgan State University KTGY ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING

for us to increase the number of licensed Black architects from 2,300 to 5,000 by 2030, expanding representation from 2 percent to roughly 4 percent Black licensed architects in the U.S.," said Carole Wedge, FAIA LEED AP, President of Shepley Bulfinch and AIA LFRT Chair. "It's more important now, than ever, that we find meaningful mentorship, growth and job opportunities for students and recent graduates so that we may continue to diversify the field of architecture and reflect the race and gender of the communities that we serve. We are inspired to learn about the experiences of the fellows and the professionals who will mentor them will have. We have much to learn from our younger generations for they are the future of our profession and built environment."

The fellowship application process was open to any National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) members in good standing. The virtual program ran for eight weeks from July 6-August

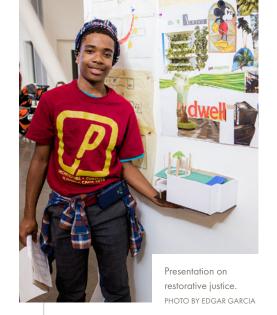
28, 2020. The fellowship funding is paid for in large-part by the AIA-LFRT donations to NOMA. Fellows' work is capped at 100 hours for a \$2,000 stipend; however, host firms offered additional funding to supplement the fellows' work and hours.

In addition to the fellows and firms matched above through the NFF, KTGY Architecture + Planning extended internships to two additional finalists, Zai Cook of Virginia Tech and Ferdinem Bartolon of University of Detroit Mercy. Aaron deRoux, a 2020 M.Arch graduate of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, placed at HED, was also named the 2020 Kenneth E. Casey Fellow. Kenneth E Casey, AIA, NOMA passed August 3, 2019. NOMA honored Casey with the creation of a new fellowship named in memory of his legacy.

Most NOMAS students who accepted the fellowships are seeking full-time employment, post-graduation, from their architecture programs.

"The uncertainty of COVID-19 has caused so much stress in the lives of degreeseeking students. I'm extremely grateful for the NOMA Foundation Fellowship paired with the support of AIA firm members and others. It is an opportunity and privilege that truly keeps me engaged in the profession," said Monique Dorroh, a third-year M.Arch student placed at FXCollaborative, and part of the NOMAS Penn State chapter. "I've spoken to firms who offer professional development to students by providing advice and hosting summer workshops. This is an amazing first step! However, I pray that students are able to find additional ways to become engaged in the profession. As young designers we can change the future, designing more each day with safety, sustainability, and justice in mind. We only need the opportunity to show what we are made of. This is mine."

"The new NOMA Foundation Fellowship program is the first initiative to launch since





SFNOMA PROJECT PIPELINE

By **PRESCOTT REAVIS**

10 YEARS OF DESIGN JUSTICE







ASNASANIQUE FOUNTAIN

2018 Project Pipline Student presents 1/4"

model of 'Youth Restorative Justice Project.

PHOTO BY PRESCOTT REAVIS

2020 marks the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the San Francisco Chapter's Project Pipeline Camp. Initially developed by Deanna Van Buren, Rommel Taylor, and I in 2009, we envisioned a camp where middle school students would have a similar studio experience to college students. The camp was founded on four main pillars 1) Engaging young people on real-world community based projects. 2) Cultivating future visionary minds and civic leaders. 3) Teaching critical thinking and problems solving skills to build communal connections in neighborhoods. 4) To have young people become active participants in shaping their communities. Along with our pillars, we supplemented all our camp design projects over the last decade to have a clear focus on projects that deeply incorporate integrated sustainability and issues which resonate with young people, their needs, knowledge base,

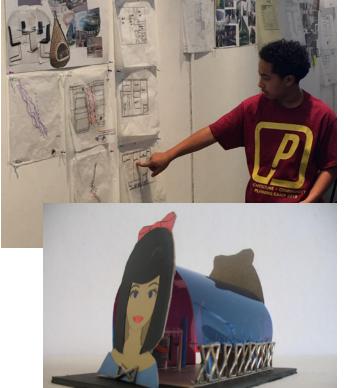
SFNOMA learning parklet. PHOTO BY PRESCOTT REAVIS

and interest. Our first camp held the summer of 2010 on the campus of California College of the Arts in San Francisco, started with two days, moving to a four day camp over two consecutive weekends and, now, a five-day week-long camp. We curated an experience of skill-building and learning how to use design tools inclusive of practicing public speaking throughout. It also consisted of how to approach a design problem, site analysis, community engagement, conceptional design, design development, and concluded with a final public presentation and exhibition. The first several projects our young designers worked on were small scale projects, an urban kiosk located in a community plaza at a subway stop in the mostly Latino neighborhood of the Mission District in San Francisco; a redesign of a public plaza in the Bayview area, one of the last predominately Black neighborhoods in San Francisco, and a pocket park on a long time vacant site along a central corridor in the same area.

PHOTO BELOW BY ASNASANIQUE FOUNTAIN







Urban Kiosk Model. PHOTO BY PRESCOTT REAVIS

Project presentation. PHOTO BY PRESCOTT REAVIS

"Our pipeline students have proven to be able to meet any challenge we create for them....

These young designers attentively integrate sustainability and provide unique and intelligent designs rooted in the communities' thoughts, ideas, and needs while showcasing their individual style."

Five years ago, we added two additional pillars; all our projects would be rooted in design justice and would integrate former pipeline students into leadership positions for developing and implementing the camp. Our shift to a week-long camp allowed students more time for design iterations and deeper integration of cultural, sustainability, and craftsmanship. With a robust pipeline of students who had completed the camp multiple times, we hired our first trio of Teaching Assistants (TA). The TA's were paid to help organize, run, and teach the camp as well as a way to develop future leaders in the profession. Two years ago, we elevated Breana Palmer and Cameron Clarke to be Assistant Camp Directors who have now been with us since 2012 and 2013 respectively, they both have helped to shape the program to have an integrated youth perspective and voice in the entire camp process, including curriculum development, leading teaching sessions, developing projects, providing the latest in teaching themes and methodologies occurring at the university level. They have become integral to making sure we have a successful camp from

integrated justice, equity, and inclusion in

the design problem; four years ago, our students worked with the non-profit Urban Ed Academy, which focuses on delivering new models of the academic programming for black males and provided options for an outdoor learning parklet. Three years ago, the students in groups built upon a community plan to develop a new sustainable neighborhood on a former power plant site, then the students chose one building within their community plan to design out, including building 1/4" scale models. Two years ago, we made a profound shift and had our students design a youth restorative justice center as an alternative to the soon to be closed Juvenile Hall in San Francisco. We charged our young designers to create a safe space to heal, build

This year due to COVID-19, we crafted our first virtual eight-day camp; the design problem was based on the civil unrest throughout the country in response to the killings, excessive violence, and mistreatment of Black citizens by police enforcement. One of our newest TA's Umi Green came up with a Center for Civil Action and Equity located in East Oakland. Umi viewed the center as a space for in-depth discussion on civil and righteousness teachings as well as the untold

history of Black Americans. The center will train people in methods of peacefully protesting, provide a deeper understanding of Oakland and its role in advancing civil rights globally.

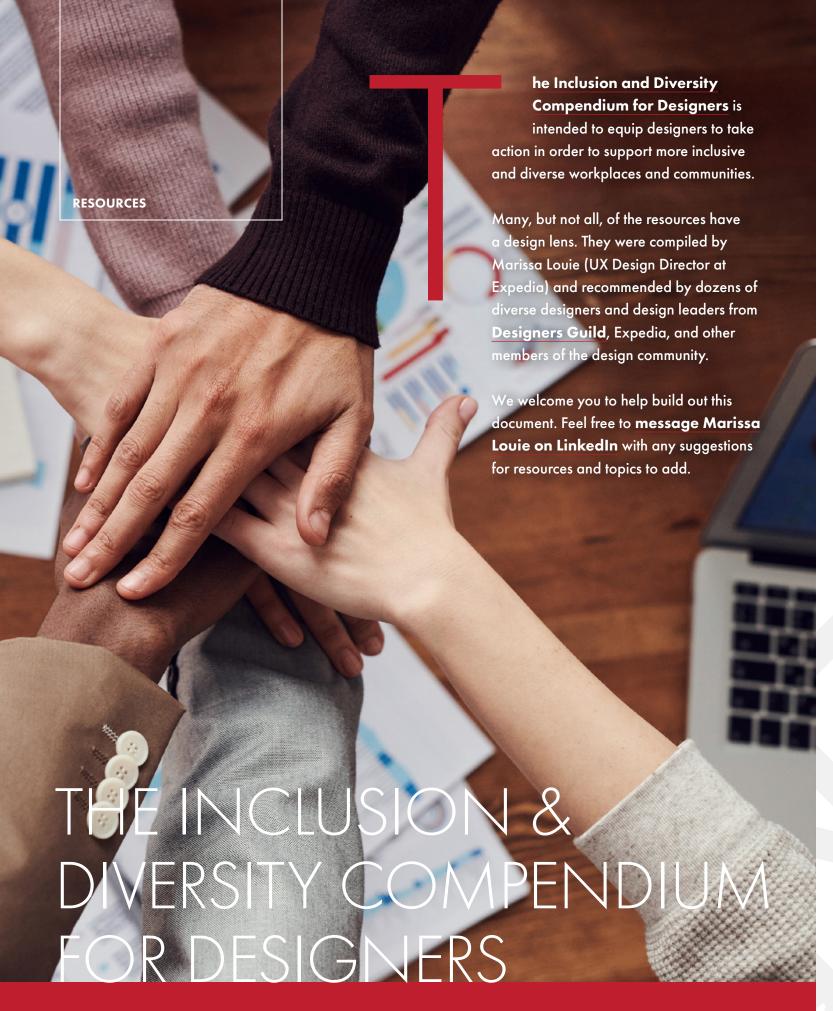
Our pipeline students have proven to be able to meet any challenge we created for them. On all the design projects, they have delivered solutions that were thoughtful in understanding the issues, taking into account the information they learned from visiting the site, and talking with the community. These young designers attentively integrated sustainability and provided unique and intelligent designs that were rooted in the communities' thoughts, ideas, and needs while showcasing their individual style.

We are looking forward to the next decade, to see how our students will help to shape our local communities, profession, and the world, while upholding our mission of being Design Activists who education youth and empower under-resourced communities by creating a cadre of Spatial Activists.

PRESCOTT REAVIS, NOMA, LEED AP, SEED, NCARB, Co-Founder and Director SF Project **Pipeline**

trust, and provide career opportunities. design mentors to our young student designers. Our project focus has increasingly

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Our industry must respond to the racial awakening that is emerging across America in 2020. **The National Organization of Minority Architects** (NOMA) is working to bridge the cultural gaps that exist in the workplace by serving as a resource for firms, companies and institutions that have sought support with enhancing their diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts. To help address the heightened demand for corporate engagement and DEI consulting services, we have created the **NOMA President's Circle** (PC) corporate membership program.

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BUILDING CULTURAL CHANGE / JOIN US

Many thanks to our inaugural cohort of NOMA PC members for committing to build a future that is more diverse, equitable, inclusive and harmonious.

With our nation trending towards the majority of citizens being people of color by 2045, the time to foster cross-cultural understanding and respect is now. NOMA is proud to lead the charge in this important work within our field through a diverse membership roster of talented professionals and students along with a corporate membership community of forward thinking companies and institutions.

We sincerely appreciate our individual and corporate members for being #ALLinforNOMA.

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