Project Pipeline teaches and empowers young people to shape their communities in their vision. SFNOMA Project Pipeline celebrates 10 years of design justice. **SEE PAGE 24**

Breana Palmer working with Pipeline student.

Photography: Edgar Garcia

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Dear 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 to 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 disenfranchised
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,

Kimberly Dowdell
2019–2020 NOMA National President
How 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 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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>SESSION # 2: Case Study of Princeville, NC. Presenters: Kenneth Johnson and Karen Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>SESSION # 3: How to start a NOMA Chapter - Presenter: Phil Dougherty (157-T6) 30min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>SESSION # 4: Atianna J. Cordova (171-T5) 30min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>ROOM 1: Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs). Presenters: Perkins+Will, Geeti Wilkinson - Semi Live + Q&amp;A. (256-T3) 60min.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>ROOM 2: Urban Sprawl: History, Preservation, and Community Engagement. Presenters: Diane Allen, Michelle Barrett, Chris Daemmrich, Tya Quilian (248-T6) 60min.</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>ROOM 4: Cultural Districts: Revitalizing Cities and Preserving Affordability. Presenters: Michelle Barrett, Chris Daemmrich (050-T4) 60min.</td>
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<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>ROOM 3: Building Sustainability in the Critical Path. Presenters: SoCalNOMA Presents: The DEI Challenge. Presenters: Perkins Eastman (263-T1) 60min.</td>
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In 2018, the Government of Jamaica, acting through the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, launched an international competition to design a new parliament building. Since securing its independence in 1963, the country’s parliament has met at a temporary location, Gordon House in Kingston, the capital city. The Government envisioned a state-of-the-art facility that will signify its independence and stable democracy. For all competitors, teams were required to include a registered Jamaican architect and also a minimum of fifty percent Jamaican citizens or those of Jamaican diaspora.

Jamaican-born Gordon Gill of ASGG served as the competition patron in promoting the design process’s transparency. The Urban Development Corporation of Jamaica managed the competition process which was comprised of a distinguished jury of design industry leaders throughout the island and other Caribbean countries. Subsequently, the jury and separately the voting public made final selections and rankings for competitors in this two-stage process. Our team consisted of four individuals: Daimian S. Hines, AIA, NOMA; Christopher Bent, Assoc AIA; and Gregory Lake, AIA, who are all Jamaican born and now residing in Texas. Additionally, the team included Evan Williams, JIA, a practicing architect in Kingston, Jamaica. Some 37 proposals were submitted, and five shortlisted. Among the entrants was British architect David Adjaye.

In March 2019, the Honorable Prime Minister Andrew Holness announced the winning teams. Our team—named after the country’s motto, “Out of Many, One People”—won both the coveted People’s Choice and Design Jury first-place selections. Hines Architecture + Design (design architect) joint-ventured with Design Collaborative Ltd. of Jamaica (architect of record) to deliver the building design as well as a comprehensive campus masterplan. Our team also collaborated with the office of Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill, who was commissioned to deliver a masterplan for a government oval project which is adjacent to our project’s 52-acre site. As our site was the focal point of the larger master plan, the work of the two teams needed to be a confluence of themes. Continues on next page...
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 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.

The building shape resulted from the analyst site and historical notions. During the competition stage, it felt 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 columns 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 boulard 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.
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 seven months, we have engaged our member firms in activities designed to facilitate that change, including:

- 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 Architect 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.
- Formulated a tool to break the chains of systemic racism, 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 adopt the culture of architecture with a focus on building intercultural humility, self-awareness, and opportunities for all.
- 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.
- Held 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 adopt 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 CEOs 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.
UPGRADE YOUR SOFTWARE: TIPS FOR MASTERING THE VIRTUAL WORKPLACE

By JOEL AVERY, NOMA

If 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 meeting, my ninety-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 expression of gratitude was something 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 neural muscles and can help ease the effects of chronic screen time.

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 morale.

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.

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 won’t 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? How about when the office internet is out? How about when their home internet is out? How about when their office internet is out? How about when their home internet is out? How about when their office internet is out? How about when their home internet is out? How about when their office internet is out?

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 reassociated with either a brilliant memory for what and where things exist in your inbox or via constant searching. 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

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 DriveDumper.

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.

 develops a digitally dead product that can only be reassociated with either a brilliant memory for what and where things exist in your inbox or via constant searching. The collaborative tools obviate that by simply putting all of the messaging in a logical location accessible by all.

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.

SOMETHING FOR LARGE ENTERPRISES
Those two most domesticated areas and even the suburbs have multiple ISPs. In the remote economy two hours of downtime could easily equate to the cost of an entire year of duplicate high end teleconferencing. 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.

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.
“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. The liberties of freedom and independence are lost to an instability founded on the inability to find something of value in ourselves. The failure to achieve these liberties supposedly comes from a personal perspective that you, yourself, do not willingly share equitably. However, true freedom flourishes from trust both ways, which flows from interdependence with others. We have lost the ability to blissfully trust one another in the places we’ve grown accustomed to, the places we love, and the simple being that comes from this. Liberty cannot exist until we remove racism from every facet of society. Therefore, we cannot obtain the independence of liberty or its freedoms until we end discrimination. The poorest of people, in their darkest hour, seek the trust of others when in need.

COVID-19 showed us that the same is true for the most gloriously rich in our culture, which dire enough will seek the same trust.”

**ULYSSES SEAN VANCE, III**

“An earth centered environmental design investigation that evolves more than it is manifested, where the body and the spirit of that body are of utmost importance and almost always enclosed within an ‘asymmetry symmetry’ aesthetic.”

**JACK TRAVIS**

“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**

“Black space to me is a space of Pride without boundaries set by physical or mental constraints. Within our dual pandemic Black Space has transformed to be a fragile yet critical space where I must protect my peace while continuing to push for a better future for black and brown Architects.”

**SAMANTHA JOSAPHA, RA, NOMA, NCARB**

“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**

“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**

“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**
As 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 background of the various people coming together in 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 MOUs 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 profession. 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 minority-owned 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 the sensitive subject of artistic authorship of the design of a project. 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 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 minority-owned small businesses, even when there is a call for inclusion as part of a mandate to achieve diversity.

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 minority-owned 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 MOUs 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 that will make their private sector firms to brand themselves as “Monetized.” I want to show that diversity is a great business 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

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.
The inaugural fellowship cohort includes the following architecture students and graduates placed at design firms across the U.S.

**Gabriel Andrade**
University of Virginia
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS

**Aarón Deroux**
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
HED

**Walter Hunt**
Kent State University
CANNONDISEGN

**Sami Jaber**
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
NBBJ

**Roberto Medina**
Ball State University
COLLOGATE

**Christina Meyer**
North Dakota State University
LIS3P

**Rosario Rojas**
California Baptist University
ROTHECHILD DOYNO COLLABORATIVE

**Sydney Sampson**
Tuskegee University
EYP

**Tyler Sauter**
Illinois Institute of Technology
CANNONDISEGN

**Dejaane Wright**
Morgan State University
KTYG ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING

**Storm Campo**
Woodbury University
CUNNINGHAM GROUP

**Monique Dorron**
Penn State University
FXCOLLABORATIVE

**Desiree Green**
Ball State University
GENSISER

**Nancy Guerrero**
Prau University A&M
CANNONDISEGN

**Nimah Mohiuddin**
Illinois Institute of Technology
MASS DESIGN GROUP

**Barbara Nasila**
University of California, Berkeley
CUNNINGHAM GROUP

**Kenny Nguyen**
University of Houston
MOODY NOLAN

**JamiCa Demercado**
California Baptist University
HORD COPLEX MACHT

**Jameica Demercado**
Serra California Baptist University
HED

**Kennedy Edwards**
Ball State University
WIGHT & CO.

**Monique Dorroh**
A third-year M.Arch
part of the NOMAS Penn State chapter.

**Kimberly Dowdell**
NOMA President and HOK Principal,
LFRT), is helping us to achieve that,” said
Kimberly Dowdell, NOMA, AIA, LEED AP,
President of
the U.S.,” said Carole Wedge, FAIA LEED
AP, President of Shepley Bulfinch and AIA
LFRT Chair. “It’s more important now, than
even, 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 all.
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 Architects Students (NOMAS)
members in good standing. The virtual pro-
gram 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, Zac Cook of
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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
designers, we can change the future, designing
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 environmentally friendly and sustainable,
and justice in mind. We only need the
opportunity to show what we are made of. This is mine.”

T
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 the uncertainty of 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 uncer-
tainty, 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
to the success of any architect. NFF
formalizes that support structure for mi-
norities 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.

“The new NOMA Foundation Fellowship
program is the first initiative to launch since
we announced the AIA Large Firm Round
Table 2030 Diversity Challenge, which calls
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
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30+ STUDENTS AWARDED VIRTUAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS TO SUPPORT PROFESSION’S DIVERSITY EFFORTS

By AMBER LACROIX

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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 problem-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, 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, conceptual 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.
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 design mentors to our young student designers.

Our project focus has increasingly 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 ¼” 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 trust, and provide career opportunities. 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 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 educate 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

“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.”
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.

BUILDING CULTURAL CHANGE

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.

THE INCLUSION & DIVERSITY COMPENDIUM FOR DESIGNERS

The Inclusion and Diversity Compendium for Designers is intended to equip designers to take action in order to support more inclusive and diverse workplaces and communities.

Many, but not all, of the resources have a design lens. They were compiled by Marissa Louie (UX Design Director at Expedia) and recommended by dozens of diverse designers and design leaders from Designers Guild, Expedia, and other members of the design community.

We welcome you to help build out this document. Feel free to message Marissa Louie on LinkedIn with any suggestions for resources and topics to add.

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