

## Christina Bollo

### Statement

*Research* has different interpretations in the various sub-disciplines of architecture: social science, building performance, humanities and design research. **I am pluralistic:** I value these differences and believe that each contributes to our overall understanding of the built environment. I am interested in serving the membership of ARCC because of the organization's commitment to rigorous research that encompasses all forms found in architectural studies. I want to serve an organization and a membership that also values research pluralism.

I am a housing researcher, teaching in the health and wellbeing program area at the University of Illinois. My research ties rigorous, social science research to the goals and needs of professional practice, specifically community development and public interest design. **I am a committed advocate** for equity, diversity and inclusion and would see service on the ARCC board as an extension of that advocacy.

In my current and previous board positions, my primary strength is in guiding people to find common ground between seemingly disparate viewpoints. I can brainstorm with the best of them, but I am most interested in daylighting the connections and tying ideas together, cohesively. I navigate dissension and conflict, and motivate efficient engagement. **I am a good listener and empathetic person;** people tell me I am easy to work with.

My short-term vision for ARCC is to nimbly create opportunities for small research communities to share and critique each other's work in our current situation. While we may return to large conferences someday, right now we should focus on smaller, humane digital connections between researchers. The purpose of a conference is not simply to present our work and enjoy serendipitous connections, but also to find colleagues researching similar topics or using similar methods. Through ARCC, **I can help foster small research communities** both now, when travel is nearly impossible, and in the future, when it is likely to be expensive and out of reach for new researchers. Ongoing communities will help to keep research momentum steady for all.

My long-term vision is first to continue the work the current board is doing to connect to architectural researchers outside of the academy. Partnerships with professional organizations will serve to make architectural research more relevant and professional research more rigorous. Second, **I see opportunities to enhance connections within each member school** through the awards program. The King Medal is often a surprise to the student who receives it. I will promote the establishment of student-centered communities of research to enhance the value of these awards and to support the next generation of researchers.

If I am selected as a Member-at-Large for the ARCC board, I will commit to using my time and energy to developing and nurturing networks of researchers, between member-schools and researchers outside the academy. **I will promote the culture of research** and exchange of knowledge, continuing the strong work of board members who came before me.