



José L.S. Gámez, Ph.D.

### **ARCC Board Member Self-nomination & Statement: At Large Representative**

My interest in this position stems from efforts to advance the quality and value of the architectural education and research that I have been a part of since joining the faculty in the School of Architecture at UNC Charlotte in 2002. I have recently taken on the role of Interim Associate Director for Research and Graduate Programs in the College of Arts + Architecture and a primary role of this position will be to draft a vision and set of policies for the role of research in our multi-disciplinary college. As a college of fine and performing arts (Architecture, Art + Art History, Theater, Dance, and Music), we are working towards the launch of an interdisciplinary MFA and to the development of collaborative research efforts that will span not only our college but also other units on campus. The School of Architecture has a robust set of research initiatives and we hope that this will both aid in the development of a research agenda in the Arts and foster unique partnerships between architecture, the arts and the sciences. Experience working with ARCC and its rich network of researchers and centers will benefit our efforts here in Charlotte; however, my interest in this role do not end there. As a multi-disciplinary college, our unique experiences (there are only 7 other colleges like ours in the country) involving a wide range of creative practices will bring valuable insights to ARCC initiatives in the future particularly with regard to questions of creative practice within the context of a research institution.

My qualifications for this role are many but I will list a few here: I have served as an ACSA board member and as the Interim Director of the School of Architecture, the Associate Director of the School, the Urban Design Program Director, Graduate Programs Director, and the Director of our action-research initiative, the City.Building.Lab. I have over 15 years of administrative and research experience in the School and, in my capacity as Associate Director, I led our School's efforts to establish a research-based Master of Science program to support our faculty's growing research initiatives. I believe that my many years of experience in community-based research will help advance several of ARCC's goals. I say this because, I believe that community-engaged work has afforded me avenues to demonstrate the range of positive impacts that design and research initiatives can have on a broad public realm—thereby helping raise awareness of the role that architecture can play in society at large. However, my work has been more than just advocacy; it has been a vehicle for collaborative and interdisciplinary research. Through this approach, I have worked to make visible research and engagement initiatives not only in the School of Architecture but also across our campus and the larger community of Charlotte. I believe that I can bring this experience to ARCC.

I seek opportunities to both build upon my past experiences and to extend my expertise into areas beyond individual classrooms, labs and universities. I have sought to build collaborative environments in which the work of others may grow as much or more as my own. ARCC has the opportunity to do this on a national and international scale. The idea that the work of individual researchers may grow through collaboration points to an underlying belief that I hold relative to leadership: I do not view leadership as a one-way street. Traffic must flow in at least two directions and often congestion can lead to interesting collisions of ideas. As a member of the ARCC board, I will encourage and facilitate collaborative initiatives in ways that enable faculty to build upon and extend their collective strengths across campuses, programs and schools.