

CANDIDATE for AT-LARGE DIRECTOR

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Statement

As an architect and educator, I welcome the opportunity to work with the ARCC Board of Directors as a Member At-Large to advance my understanding of inclusive and collaborative research that dismantles the exclusive nature of university education. If the pandemic of COVID-19 is indeed a portal (A. Roy, 2020), then architectural researchers must pave the way forward towards responsible and collaborative design initiatives that make inclusive built environments. Since “land grant” universities in the USA are complicit in colonizing indigenous territories to advance capitalist industrialization that is detrimental to the planetary environment, then how can our research support building environments that sustain new ways of living in harmony with nature? As a service-learning faculty, my urban design studios have allowed me to “de-learn” what I was taught in universities and make room to learn from communities of color who are thriving by growing and sharing crop while maintaining neighborhood food sovereignty. Black urban farmers are reassembling urbanism through accessible marketplaces as anchors for neighborhood resilience. How may we as scholars of the built environment engage communities in research to dismantle the process through which land becomes property and building on it requires fossil fuels? I truly hope that ARCC will take seriously our scholarly obligation to engage in Participatory Action Research and dismantle the exclusive nature of university research and education.