



30 May 2023

Marcel Quimby, FAIA
Chair, Honor Awards Committee
Texas Society of Architects
500 Chicon Street
Austin, TX 78702-2754

RE: Katie Hitt, Assoc. AIA for Texas Society of Architects Associate of the Year

Ms. Quimby and Committee,

I am honored to be called upon to write this letter of support for Katie Hitt's nomination for the Texas Society of Architects Associate of the Year award. Over the many years that I have been involved with AIA Dallas, I have watched Katie grow within the organization to become the leader and catalyst for innovation that she is today. Katie has proven herself capable of wearing many hats, all in the service of convening a wide audience in furtherance of making architecture accessible. Most recently, as Managing Director at the Dallas Architecture and Design Exchange (AD/EX), she has overseen the implementation of a number of new programs, and in her previous roles at AIA Dallas, she managed several aspects of the organization from communications and branding, to serving as Editorial Director of *COLUMNS* magazine. Her creativity and ideation work hand-in-hand with her drive to educate everyone in our community, from the youngest of us to the oldest, about the value of architecture and design.

Katie has proven herself an exceptional leader, and a role model to the many aspiring architects in our metroplex. Having only served in her role as Managing Director for three years, Katie has already seen the scholarship program funding at the AD/EX quadruple, largely the result of her establishment of a Scholarship Committee which introduced a level of process and efficacy into the development of funding. Because of Katie's leadership, the scholarships and grants reached a significantly higher number of recipients and continues to grow with each successive year. In addition to seeing larger dollar amounts, the number of applicants has also increased, with an impressive 108 applications in 2023, up from 23 in 2019.

Building on her stated goal of breaking down barriers in order to make architecture accessible, one of Katie's most significant achievements is her founding of the K-12 architecture camp series. Now in its third year, Katie leveraged her relationships with AIA committees, local schools and firms to establish summer day camps for K-12 students to learn about the intricate nature of the profession – from university programs to licensure, as well as complex issues like food deserts and affordable housing. The program has sold out sessions and recently expanded into a spring break camp, thus highlighting the demand from the community. The camps work to build the ever important pipeline and expose students of all ages to the profession.

Katie's achievements are numerous as you will see in her submission exhibits, and her work with the Architecture and Design Exchange has already had great impact on our city. Her contributions during her time with the AIA set the stage for this chapter in her career, and her development as a leader is unique and exemplary. She continues to draw from her experience with the AIA, and it is clear that through her work with *COLUMNS*, her oversight of committees, networks, and task forces she has leveraged her knowledge and network to create programs and initiatives that prove her strength as a leader. I am so grateful for Katie's strength, influence and generation of effective and important ideas. She is truly a model of this award, and I fully endorse her nomination for Texas Society of Architects Associate of the Year, with great appreciation for all that she does.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Aoki", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Aoki, AIA
2023 AIA Dallas President

BIOGRAPHY

KATIE HITT, ASSOCIATE AIA

Katie Hitt, Assoc. AIA is the Managing Director at the Dallas Architecture and Design Exchange (AD EX), home to the AIA Dallas Chapter and the Architecture and Design Foundation. In this role, Katie administers exhibitions, tours, K-12 programming, community outreach, and scholarships. She fosters valuable connections between the design community and North Texas, and has established the AD EX as a learning laboratory and architectural hub. She also acts as an essential bridge between AIA Dallas and the Architecture and Design Foundation as they support each other in their community engagement.

Previously, Katie dedicated ten years to AIA Dallas. In her most recent role as Communications and Government Relations Director, she oversaw the communications, branding, public relations, advocacy, and awards programs of the 2,300-member association. In that time, she managed 24 committees and organized many of the most prominent and revenue-generating events. Katie continues to work with AIA Dallas as Managing Editor of Columns magazine, largely in a volunteer capacity, in a role that combines her two lifelong passions of architecture and journalism.

Katie has served on several state and local boards and task forces, spoken at conferences related to social media, grassroots advocacy, and K-12 outreach, and serves as an ambassador and advocate for the profession through cultivating relationships with media and policy makers. Additionally, Katie is the proud mother of two children, a two-year old daughter and an infant son.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AD EX Managing Director, Architecture and Design Exchange, Dallas | FEBRUARY 2020 – PRESENT

Communications & Government Relations Director, AIA Dallas, Dallas | MARCH 2010 – FEBRUARY 2020

Exhibition Designer (Contract), Dallas Center for Architecture, Dallas | JANUARY 2011 – NOVEMBER 2011

Architectural Drafter, Southwest Homes, College Station | APRIL 2008 – JULY 2008

Architectural Drafter, MM Design, College Station | APRIL 2007 – AUGUST 2007

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University, College Station: Bachelor of Environmental Design, Minor in Art and Architectural History | AUGUST 2009

Study Abroad: Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy | FALL 2007

AWARDS + HONORS

AIA Dallas Associate Member of the Year | 2020

AIA Dallas Presidential Citation for Outstanding Contributions to AD EX Summer Camps | 2020

AIA Dallas Presidential Citation for Exemplary Service to the Chapter | 2014

LEADERSHIP + AFFILIATIONS

Texas Historical Foundation, Member | 2023

AIA Dallas Columns magazine, Managing Editor | 2018 – PRESENT



Association of Architecture Organizations (AAO) Architecture + Design Educators Network, Member + K-12 Camp Task Force | 2020 – PRESENT

Greater Dallas Planning Council, Board Member + Website Development Task Force | 2022

Texas Society of Architects Convention Planning Committee, Tours Task Force | 2020

City of Dallas Development Advisory Board, Member | 2019 – 2021

AIA Dallas Advanced Leadership Program, Participant | CLASS OF 2019

AIA Dallas Columns magazine, Associate Editor | 2015 – 2018

Texas Society of Architects Convention Planning Committee, Exhibitions Champion | 2015

CREST Network Advisory Board, Member | 2012 – 2015

The Purpose City Workshop hosted by New Cities Foundation/ NBBJ, Invited Participant | JUNE 2014

AIA Dallas Emerging Leaders Program, Participant, Class Project Fundraising + PR Champion | CLASS OF 2013

Toastmasters, Sergeant at Arms | 2011 – 2012

Texas Society of Architects Convention Planning Committee, AIA Dallas Lounge Champion | 2011

PRESENTATIONS + SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Workshop Facilitator, Architecture Student ‘Emerge’ Charrette, TxA Conference | UPCOMING, NOVEMBER 2023

Panelist, Architecture + Design Educator Social, AIA Dallas Education Outreach Committee | NOVEMBER 2022

Presenter, AD EX Scholarship + Awards Breakfast | JULY 2022

Presenter, AIA Dallas Holiday Party & Chapter Awards | DECEMBER 2021

Host, AD EXchange Series | MULTIPLE DATES, 2021 – PRESENT

Speaker, Connecting Today’s Designers to Tomorrow’s Leaders, AIA Dallas Chapter Meeting | APRIL 2021

Speaker, Sharing Your Vision: Social Media for Architects, AIA Dallas professional development series | APRIL 2021

Interviewee, Pivoting: About Non-Profits, AD EX/ AIA Dallas | MARCH 2021

Speaker, ROCKITECTURE 2020, AD EX | NOVEMBER 2020

Speaker, Enlaces, AIA Dallas Latinos in Architecture Network | SEPTEMBER 2020

MC, AD EX Impromptu Discussion Series | MULTIPLE DATES, 2020 – 2021

Host, AD EX Lunch Learning Series | MULTIPLE DATES IN 2020

Panelist, Reinventing My Story: A Nontraditional Path, AIA Dallas Architecture on Tap | JUNE 2019

Panelist, Seize the Brag, CallisonRTKL Firm Meeting | MAY 2019

Participant, Architects Day, Texas Society of Architects | FEBRUARY 2019

Panelist, Social Media Demystified, AIA Dallas Small Firms Roundtable | APRIL 2018

Panelist, Earned Media in the Digital Age, AIA National SpeakUp Conference | JULY 2016

Panelist, Impactful Advocacy Programs, AIA National Council of Architectural Component Executives (CACE) Conference | AUGUST 2015

Podcast Guest, Effective Advocacy Outreach, AIA National Governmental Relations Podcast | APRIL 2015

Panelist, Social Media Strategy Session, AIA National Grassroots Conference | MARCH 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Author, Columns magazine, “You Belong Here” | MAY 2023

Author, Columns magazine, “Sketching Kaleidoscope: Viewing Dallas Through a Different Lens” | MAY 2023

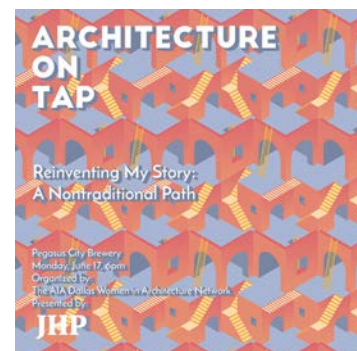
Subject, Candy’s Dirt, “Dallas Architect Blane Ladymon Brings LEGO Exhibit to Architecture And Design Exchange” | JANUARY 2023

Quoted, D Magazine, “The Architecture and Design Exchange Opens Downtown This Weekend” | DECEMBER 2018

Author, Columns magazine, “Gallery: Unbuilt Dallas” | JUNE 2016

Quoted, Dallas Morning News, “American Institute of Architects’ Dallas chapter wants you to leave your car parked next week” | FEBRUARY 2015

Quoted, Dallas Morning News, “Thanks to AIA’s local chapter, take a virtual stroll through Dallas’ “unbuilt” libraries, fire stations, hospitals and hotels” | SEPTEMBER 2012



STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

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Katie Hitt, Assoc. AIA combines her passion, ideation, and vast network to produce programming, partnerships, and outreach that enhance the perception and accessibility of the architecture profession. A career Associate AIA member, she exemplifies the value and versatility of a design education. Through her communications, policy, and education outreach work, she continues to break down barriers and make architecture available to all.

AWARENESS

In her decade at AIA Dallas, Katie provided the strategic vision and guided development of all marketing and public relations campaigns – establishing media relationships, leveraging press opportunities, and negotiating media partnerships valued at over \$250,000 annually. Her early work on social media championed the expertise of architects, and earned her an invitation to speak at the AIA Grassroots Conference and to join a task force to develop best practices for chapters across the country.

As Managing Editor of AIA Dallas' Columns magazine, Katie continues to illustrate the value of architects. Her largely volunteer contributions to the publication include managing contributors, consultants, design, and production while providing guidance on the strategic direction of the publication. She streamlined the magazine's organization by developing a new model for volunteer leadership – restructuring the committee as an editorial board and introducing guest editors for each issue. Columns gives AIA Dallas members a voice, showcases their expertise, connects them to media and potential clients, and positions them for professional advancement.

Through past initiatives with AIA Dallas and current AD EX programming, Katie has developed original opportunities to engage the public, including co-founding No Car Week (the predecessor to the Ditch Your Car DFW), the Summer Intern Scavenger Hunt to introduce local students to Dallas' iconic architecture, and organizing a screening of The Walls Are Rising, a 1967 film discovered in AIA Dallas' storage and co-produced by the chapter and the Greater Dallas Planning Council. Current programming conceived of by Katie includes LEGO micro-builds and family days, the AD EXchange series, co-founding the Design Justice Book Club, Impromptu Discussions, and more. In her tenure, she



has produced over 800 events for AIA Dallas and the AD EX, increasing public awareness about how design impacts our lives and positioning members as experts and community leaders.

INFLUENCE

In concert with AIA Dallas' advocacy plan and an impactful report prepared by 10 past AIA Dallas presidents, Katie led a strategic public relations program to fight the proposed Trinity toll road. A clear, succinct message was crafted, along with communications tactics targeting multiple media outlets to influence public officials, community organizations, and the public. Using effective storytelling, the campaign generated community opposition to the proposal, effectively causing political support to evaporate. Beyond political success, Katie's PR campaign and chapter's Trinity advocacy effort built a coalition of organizations that amplified the voice of the design community and positively impacted public debate on environmental and social issues. These PR strategies were refined and deployed on future efforts including Fair Park management, critical facilities funding, tree ordinance legislation, bond campaigns, Park Land Dedication Ordinance, and Dallas' Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), among others.

Upon her hiring as AD EX managing director in 2020, Katie pitched the idea of reviving the popular Gala that had been defunct for over a decade. In combining two low revenue-grossing programs, Rockitecture and Celebrate Architecture, the Foundation launched the first annual Impact Dallas Gala in 2021. Since its inception, the Gala has raised over \$300,000 for a new community grant program and AD EX's established programs and operations. With these funds, the Foundation granted \$30,000 towards a community center build-out designed by the AIA Dallas Emerging



“The face of AIA Dallas and the AD EX is Katie's. If she's not coordinating it, she's attending, documenting, welcoming, and wrapping it up! Her programs, exhibits, and partnerships have influenced over 1,000 students across the state, virtually and in-person, for years. She's one of the biggest reasons I devote time to our design community through the AD EX.”

– Oswaldo Rivera-Ortiz, Assoc. AIA,
2022 TxA Associate of the Year

Leaders Program, as well as smaller grants to AD EX Community Cornerstone finalists, including Jubilee Park & Community Center, CitySquare, Dallas ISD, Bonton Farms, Parks for Downtown Dallas, and Texas Trees Foundation.

Through curation of the AD EX gallery space, Katie showcases the work of students and underrepresented professionals, celebrates North Texas' legacy of design, highlights design's impact on our communities, and advocates for preservation, affordable housing, design for climate, and design justice. Beginning in 2021, Katie enhanced community connection by displaying exhibitions in both English and Spanish. Her installation of a permanent LEGO Lab offers a year-round reason to visit and a field trip destination that highlights the connections between architecture, design, and play.

PATHWAYS TO ARCHITECTURE

By promoting architecture and design as accessible, inclusive, and attainable career paths, Katie directly influenced the quadrupling of scholarship funding through the Architecture and Design Foundation. In 2021, she established a scholarship committee to grow the Foundation's capacity for action and impact. That year, the Foundation increased awards by \$39,000 for a total of \$54,000. Through her strategic partnerships and donor outreach, grant opportunities doubled from 2019 to 2023. Additionally in 2023, the Foundation received a record 108 applications, a 369% increase from 2019. Through Katie's involvement, the scholarship program has added at least one new opportunity each year – with another scholarship set to launch for the 2024-2025 application cycle.

In 2020, Katie established the AD EX's Designing My Future K-12 Camp Series and recruited the AIA Dallas Education Outreach Committee's practicing architects and educators to assist with content development and staffing. This series teaches students about Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (A/E/C) career paths and how to champion a more functional, beautiful, and equitable city through design. The curriculum includes guest speakers, firm visits, project tours, scavenger hunts, and design projects. This series broadens students' exposure to architecture and design beyond the classroom and reaches audiences traditionally underrepresented in the profession. By providing students with design tools, vocabulary, skills, and resources, this program empowers a new generation of architects who can think critically and create a more equitable profession.

Katie's dedication to the AIA and impact on professionals, the next generation of architects and designers, and her community is unparalleled. She uses her unique position as member, staff, and leader to create a more equitable, proactive, and self-reflective profession.

“Katie's an amazing person and an even cooler mentor. She is always on top of things and during my internship she helped mold my image of what professionalism is. She's so proactive and always found a way to give me meaningful projects even among all the summer programs she had to organize. I truly look up to her”

– Cindy Abazie,
2022 Richardson ISD Summer Intern &
2023 AD EX Intern



Previous Page: Top Right, Katie speaking to the Friends of the AD EX at the gallery party launch of the program. Middle Left, Katie receives the 2020 AIA Dallas Associate of the Year Award. Middle Right, Katie receives the 2014 AIA Dallas President's Citation Award for Exemplary Service to the Chapter. Bottom, Katie presenting the \$30,000 gift to Camp Summit, a beneficiary of the 2021 Impact Dallas Gala.

Current Page: Top, Katie represents the Architecture and Design Foundation as a finalist in the 2022 DCEO NonProfit Awards. Middle Left, Katie and Robert Wilonsky. Middle Right, Katie installs the 2015 Unbuilt Design Award Exhibition at Life in Deep Ellum. Bottom Right, Katie poses with a Designing My Future K-12 Camper. Bottom Right, Katie presents at an AIA Dallas Architecture on Tap event at Pegasus Brewery.

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT 01

AD EX DESIGNING MY FUTURE K-12 CAMP SERIES

ROLE: FOUNDER

In early 2020, Katie joined the Association of Architecture Organization's Architecture + Design Educators Network and began benchmarking architecture camps across the nation with a goal of establishing a Dallas camp series. Due to the scale of the planned program, she recruited the AIA Dallas Education Outreach Committee (EOC) to assist with curriculum development and staffing. That summer, with the support of Glenn | Partners as the presenting sponsor, the first-ever AD EX K-12 camps were held virtually for elementary, middle, and high school students.

In 2021, the program grew to a virtual spring camp and 3 in-person summer camps. The 2022 series expanded to 3 levels of in-person spring camps and introduced two-day summer camps. The camps continue to grow in 2023, with the introduction of a three-day camp.

Designing My Future serves a diverse population of students, many of whom are underrepresented in the A/E/C fields. Unique

to this program, Designing My Future offers self-qualifying scholarships to allow all students the opportunity to attend. Each camp session focuses on solving a social need through innovative design – from affordable housing to food deserts to access to green spaces. This program develops students' critical-thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills that are essential for future success.

Long term goals for the program include connecting students to mentors as they pursue higher education; application support for scholarships and financial aid opportunities; and diversifying the pathways to architecture and affiliated professions.

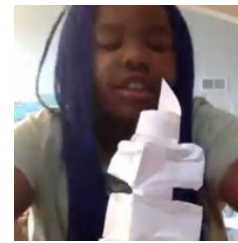
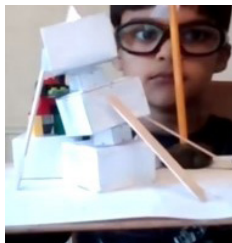
BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR ESTABLISHED | 2020

WORKSHOPS HELD | 17

ATTENDEES TO DATE | 327

AVERAGE CAMPER GRADE | 5th Grade



Top row: Far Left, Katie and volunteers at the spring 2023 elementary camp, where students reimaged a school courtyard. Middle and Right, Paper towers at the first-ever Designing My Future camp in summer of 2020.

Bottom Row: Far Left, Elementary school students attending the first in-person camps in the summer of 2021, shown here with their prizes, gift bags, and collages. Middle Left, Camper presenting their basswood tower at the spring 2023 workshop for 14 – 18 year olds. Middle Right, 2022 summer high school campers exploring downtown between firm visits. Far Right, high school campers show off their design for built amenities in Pacific Plaza Park.

“Katie, I wanted to thank you and AD EX for the architecture camp – it was thoughtfully organized and well executed. During these times, there are not many chances where kids can have social interactions as well as fun learning opportunities. I thought this camp hit the spot and provided great joy to our kids during the summer midterms. We appreciate the good work you are doing for our community. It's wise to get younger kids interested in design. That way, the seeds have been planted when they are young, and it gives them time to be nurtured if they feel compelled towards architecture.”

– Loc Nguyen, AIA
AIA Dallas member and parent of two campers

EXHIBIT 02

ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Architecture and Design Foundation was originally founded in 1984 as a scholarship-granting organization. While the Foundation has grown and evolved, scholarships remain a key part of its mission, supporting the next generation of architects by providing tuition support, travel funds, and research funds for high school students, college students, and emerging and underrepresented professionals.

When Katie began her role as Managing Director, she saw an opportunity for rapid growth in the scholarship program. She streamlined the scholarship administration process and brought in additional opportunities from allied organizations and firms whose goals of increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the profession aligned with the Foundation's. In 2021, she established a Scholarship Committee to guide program growth, development, and outreach.

Utilizing connections with the AIA Dallas Education Outreach Committee, she expanded marketing efforts to high schools across the state and universities across the country. Beginning in 2022, she shifted the application period up by three months to promote these opportunities alongside the annual AIA Dallas / AD EX Architecture + Design College Fair, reaching 250 attendees and 29 colleges and universities. The results of these efforts include:

- **\$153,500 awarded** from 2020 to 2024
- Annual **scholarship funds available have quadrupled** from those offered in 2019
- **18 opportunities will be offered in 2024 - 2025** application cycle, up from 8 in 2019
- **369% increase in applications under Katie's leadership.** 108 applications were received in 2023, up from 23 in 2019

“In our profession, the measure of one's success becomes evident upon the impact that we have on our community. Katie's leadership has directly resulted in the exponential growth of our ADF Scholarship program in its outreach and giving amount. Katie is an exceptional and creative professional that has become a catalyst for growth and engagement at the ADF and our Dallas community. Her impact on our community can be summed up in one word: Legacy.”

– Clemente Jaquez, AIA,

Architecture and Design Foundation 2021 – 2022 Scholarship Committee Chair and 2023 President-Elect; Modus Architecture, Partner

Eligibility for each award opportunity varies, with some open to specific high schools, school districts, or regions, with others open statewide or nationally. The 2020 – 2024 recipients have attended:

- California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo
- Louisiana Tech University
- Oklahoma State University
- Prairie View A&M University
- Purdue University
- Texas A&M University, College Station
- Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi
- University of Colorado, Denver
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Oregon
- University of Texas at Arlington
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Texas at San Antonio

Top: Katie presents a scholarship certificate to Daisy Ramirez, a student at CityLab High School. Portraits: 43 scholarship and fellowship recipients from 2020 – 2023.

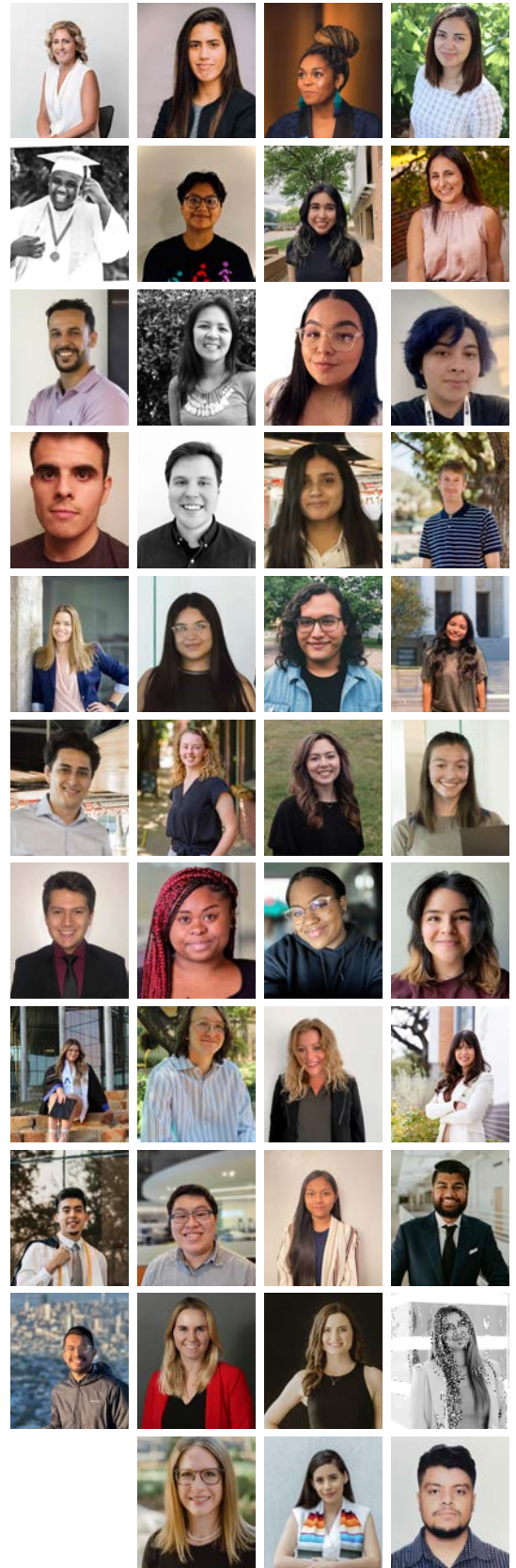


EXHIBIT 03

K-12 OUTREACH + MENTORSHIP

Build Your City! | Architecture + Design College Fair | Field Trips | Internship Programs

While AD EX's educational initiatives had existed for over a decade, Katie determined that expanding K-12 outreach specifically would create significant community impact. The Foundation's 2021 strategic plan supported her analysis and Katie began developing innovative K-12 opportunities, refining current programs, and securing partnerships for maximum impact.

Each year, the AIA Dallas Education Outreach Committee and AD EX welcome students to the annual Architecture + Design College Fair to visit with colleges and universities that offer design programs. Under Katie's leadership, the long-running fair grew to 32 universities and sold out at 300 students, parents, and teachers. The Fair is now connected to the Foundation's scholarship program and has expanded to include portfolio reviews and financial aid workshops.

The Art of Architecture juried middle and high school art competition encourages students to study visual aspects of architecture and express their observations creatively. The 2023 competition received entries from a record number of participating schools, largely due to Katie's network of educators and AD EX's presence at the DISD STEM Expo. Since 2022, competition winners are recognized at the AD EX Scholarship & Awards Breakfast, which increases students' awareness of future opportunities with AD EX, and displayed in an annual exhibition at the AD EX.

Field trips to AD EX have increased under Katie's leadership through new and expanded partnerships, her promotion of current exhibitions, and development of interactive programming. Starting in 2022, the CityLab High School freshman orientation includes a visit to the AD EX, informing students of the AD EX resources available to them.

During the pandemic, Katie developed an online resource of at-home projects and oversaw the creation of original activities. New initiatives also include family days related to exhibition programming, LEGO build days, and more.

Over Katie's tenure at the AD EX, over 2,300 attendees have participated in K-12 programming.

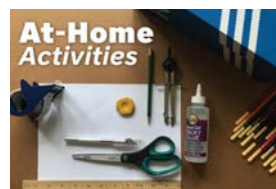
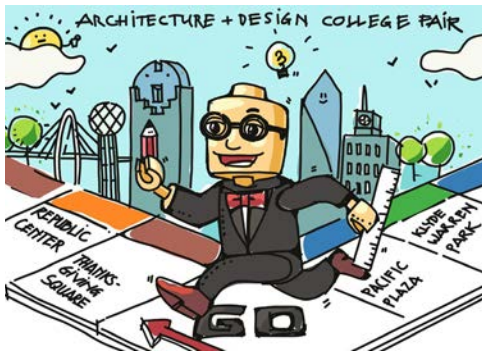
MENTORSHIP

Additionally, Katie serves as a mentor and resource to students interested in pursuing a design career. She's helped countless students navigate the path to higher education and licensure by identifying financial aid opportunities, internships, shadowing opportunities, and more. She's spoken to thousands of students through career days and field trips, organized a summer intern scavenger hunt, and more.

Through the Dallas and Richardson Mayors' Summer Internship Programs, Katie has mentored six aspiring designers and continues to be a resource to these students after their internship. She provides real-world experiences and industry connections through their work assignments, which include attending committee meetings, assisting with exhibitions, leading field trip programs, visiting architectural and design firms, special projects, and more.

Katie also serves as a resource to architecture and design educators looking to connect with professionals. She frequently provides best practices for architecture and design studios, class project and partnership ideas, and advice on preparing students for a career in architecture.

Katie assists architects and designers interested in supporting the next generation by connecting them to volunteer opportunities through AD EX, schools, and other organizations.



Top Row: Far Left, the Architecture + Design College Fair promotional graphic based off of the game Monopoly. Middle, the 2022 A+D College Fair at the AD EX. Right, AD EX coordinator, Preston Fitzgerald, Katie, and AD EX intern Cindy Abazie at Build Your City!

Bottom Row: Far Left and Middle, Build Your City! at Klyde Warren Park. Top Right, a drawing of Katie by a Build Your City! participant. Bottom Right, At Home Activities were designed for K-12 students to engage with architecture and design during COVID.

EXHIBIT 04

BUILDING AWARENESS THROUGH AD EX EXHIBITIONS

Prior to her AD EX Managing Director position, Katie assisted in exhibition curation at both the AD EX and its predecessor, the Dallas Center for Architecture. She was the contract exhibition designer for two shows in 2011 – *Architecture of the Football Stadium* and *The Texas Centennial Exposition and Architecture of Fair Park* – and curated several AIA Dallas exhibitions over the years including annual Design Awards and KRob exhibitions, and *A Decade of Giving Back: 10 Years of the Emerging Leaders Program*.

A month into her new role, COVID struck, and the gallery was closed to the public, challenging her to rethink the use of the gallery. During this time, she oversaw the shift to window exhibitions, video walkthroughs, and virtual presentations to reach beyond the physical space.

After a series of window art installations, she launched the first Building Toys & Toy Buildings: LEGO Edition featuring the private collection of Blane Ladymon, AIA as a window exhibition. The annual exhibition has become a fan favorite, growing in scale each year with limited-edition micro-build kits, family programming, field trips, media stories, and more. Over its 6-week run in 2023, it drew over 500 visitors to the gallery space. Additionally, she converted an under-utilized room of the AD EX to a permanent LEGO Lab drawing year-round visitors to make their own creations.

2021 - 2023 Exhibitions include:

- *ACCESSIBLE DESIGN AWARENESS*, staffed and curated by designer Amanda Collen
- *SKETCHING KALEIDOSCOPE: VIEWING DALLAS THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS*, in partnership with AIA Dallas and the DFW NOMA
- *VISION/IMAGINATION*, in partnership with AIA Dallas
- *ENLACES 2021*, in partnership with AIA Dallas Latinos in Architecture Network
- *TRINITY COMMUNITIES PROJECT*, in partnership with CityLab High School and UTA CAPPa
- *SAY IT LOUD(ER): DALLAS*, in partnership with Beyond the Built Environment, AIA San Antonio, AIA Dallas Women in Architecture Network, and DFW NOMA
- *SNEAKY DENSITY*, in partnership with UTA CAPPa and bcWORKSHOP
- *CITYLAB HIGH SCHOOL 5TH ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVE*, curated by Peter Goldstein, AIA
- *EVOLVING A PERSONAL STYLE: THE ARCHITECTURE OF CHARLES STEVENS DILBECK*, encore run of a show curated by Philip Henderson, FAIA, Willis Winters, FAIA, and Carolyn Brown
- *A STOP WORTH WAITING FOR: DESIGNING A BETTER DART BUS SHELTER*, in partnership with UTA CAPPa, DART, and AIA Dallas
- *AD EX ART OF ARCHITECTURE: MIDDLE + HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION*
- *PERSPECTIVAS 2023*, courtesy of UTA CAPPa and AIA Fort Worth
- *SUSTAINABLE IS ATTAINABLE*, in partnership with AIA Dallas COTE and the City of Dallas CECAP
- *LOST + FOUND*, in partnership with AIA Dallas Columns, Preservation Dallas, and Texas Historical Foundation



Top Row, CityLab High Schools students show off their work at the 5th Anniversary Retrospective exhibition at the AD EX. Second Row, visitors enjoy the Lego Lab at the AD EX, a now permanent space in the gallery. Third Row, Accessible Design Awareness was the first exhibition after the AD EX reopened in June 2021, curated and staffed by Amanda Collen, it showcased stories and examples of accessible architecture strategies. Bottom Row, UTA CAPPa display their work on urban density in Dallas, proposing ideas for providing affordable housing and other strategies to address the “missing middle.”

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT + FRIENDS OF THE AD EX

The AD EX seeks to become an exchange hub for public discourse by creating new opportunities for partnerships and conversations. In large part through Katie's partner cultivation and strategic collaboration, the AD EX worked with 32 organizations and firms on programming in 2022, up from 15 programming partners in 2019. Katie utilizes an extensive network to stay up to date on the work of other neighborhood, education, cultural, design, and placemaking organizations to identify areas where collaboration could amplify the work of all groups and bring in new audiences. As an example, Katie established a partnership with Fair Park First and architect Norman Alston, FAIA to host the monthly AD EX Fair Park Tram Tour. She also revived a former partnership with the Nasher Sculpture Center and Peter Goldstein, AIA on the Destination Dallas high school workshop, where AD EX hosted and planned half of the program as well as a parent reception. Additionally, Katie has championed using AD EX's public gallery to share the work of other community groups.

In 2020, Katie began benchmarking membership programs of comparable design and cultural organizations. After creating a business plan, the Friends of AD EX program launched in the Fall of that year. The program is intended for those who enjoy exploring the city, learning more about architecture and design, and engaging in important urban design topics. Benefits include discounted and free events, exhibition previews and member-appreciation events, recognition, an exclusive monthly newsletter, and more. Around 15% of Friends are students and the majority of Friends are non-architects, expanding the audience of the AD EX and its programming.

2020 – 2023 AD EX Partner Organizations

- AIA Dallas
- AIA Northeast Texas
- AIA National
- bcWORKSHOP
- Beyond the Built Environment/ Say It Loud
- Big D Reads
- CallisonRTKL
- City of Dallas
- CityLab High School
- Communities Foundation of Texas
- D Magazine
- Dallas Architecture Forum
- Dallas Area Rapid Transit
- Dallas Business Journal
- Dallas Center for Photography
- Dallas City Hall
- Dallas College – El Centro
- Dallas Historical Society
- Dallas Independent School District
- DFW NOMA
- DFW Urban Sketchers
- Downtown Dallas Inc.
- DSGN
- Fair Park First
- Hip Hop Architecture Camp
- HKS
- Kimbell Art Museum
- Klyde Warren Park
- Nasher Sculpture Center
- Office of James Burnett
- OMNIPLAN
- PaperCity Dallas
- Preservation Dallas
- Preservation Houston
- Reunion Tower
- Stantec
- Sunset Art Studios
- Texas A&M's Construction Academies for High School Students
- Texas Christian University Press
- Texas Historical Foundation
- The Cultural Landscape Foundation
- University of Texas at Arlington College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs
- UTA AIAS
- Wesley Rankin Community Center



Top Row: Far Left, a book-signing of *Dallas, A Texas Star* was held with author, Carolyn Brown, and contributors, including David Preziosi, FAICP, and Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson. Middle, Friends of the AD EX program was initiated by Katie in 2020 to develop a community of architecture and design enthusiasts who support the mission of the AD EX. Far Right, AD EX partnered with the Nasher Sculpture Center to host a talk with Mark Lamster and James Burnett of OJB.

Bottom Row: Left, a group photo during a walking/tram tour of Fair Park. Right, Destination Dallas campers pose for a group photo outside of the AD EX.



EXHIBIT 06

DESIGN JUSTICE

Following explorations of equity, justice, power, and protest in Columns, Katie has championed themes of design justice in the public programming and exhibitions of the AD EX. Initiatives frequently explore topics such as redlining, landmarks and points of interest in historically marginalized communities, affordable housing, homelessness, universal design, and more.

Recent initiatives championed and/or conceived by Katie include:

Held in June of 2020, the **Design Justice Lecture** was a virtual panel conversation and collaboration of AD EX, AIA Dallas, the Dallas Architecture Forum, and UTA CAPPA following the release of Columns' Justice issue.

Place Setting Book Club, hosted in the second half of 2020, explored the roots of injustice, and imagined new models of working, living, and being together. This virtual series was a collaboration between AD EX, bcWORKSHOP, Downtown Dallas Inc., and Sunset Art Studios.

Sketching Kaleidoscope, a 2021 partnership of AD EX with AIA Dallas and DFW NOMA, explored diverse historical narratives that are revealed through the buildings we pass by every day. Free sketching meetups were held at four locations that were connected to people or events that shaped the physical development of Dallas in underserved and minority communities.

Design Justice Book Club, a quarterly 2022 partnership with bcWORKSHOP and DFW NOMA, reviews books that highlight how architects, designers, and planners can foster universal inclusion and fairness in the built environment within the places and communities we impact, both locally and globally.

Housing Summit: Yes, In My Backyard, a full-day conference hosted virtually by AD EX and AIA Dallas in 2021 to explore the affordable housing crisis through the lenses of community, policy, and financing. Building on the legacy of the chapter's past mobility and urban summits, the goal of the event was to equip architects and community leaders with the tools to encourage and promote safe, attractive, accessible, and affordable housing for all.

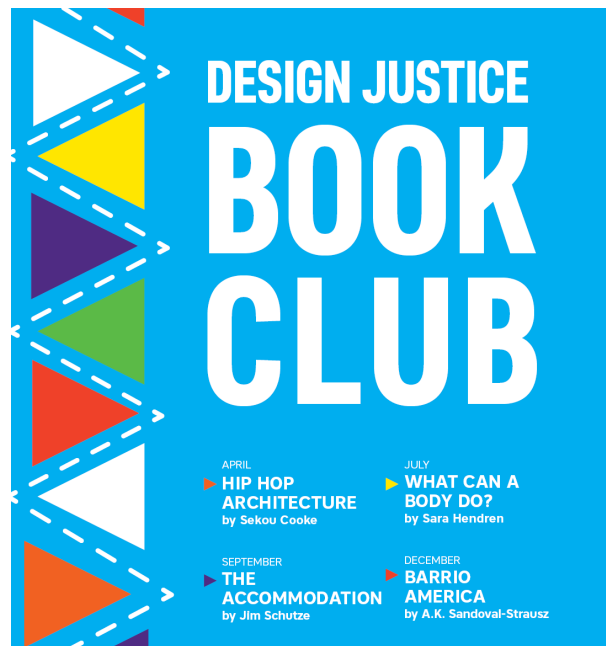


EXHIBIT 07

ADVOCACY + COMMUNICATIONS: FIGHT AGAINST THE PROPOSED TRINITY TOLL ROAD

In 1998, a bond to transform the 20-mile Trinity River Corridor floodplain adjacent to downtown Dallas into a scenic urban park passed, but by 2014 engineering plans depicted a high-volume toll road among the promised scenic trails and parks. In response, AIA Dallas began a multi-year assessment that led to decisive advocacy in opposition to the proposal. As communications and government relations director, Katie crafted and delivered the chapter's award-winning public relations strategy that included:

A clear messaging strategy. The chapter's message was consistent and clear. The position statement was released to the press and on social media, followed by frequently asked questions and detailed reasons for supporting its position, resulting in two rounds of media coverage.

Social media outreach. Katie curated an active social media presence, a new website communication platform, a blog, and other tools – to amplify the chapter's voice to the community and spread the word about summits, town halls, and other ways to give feedback on the proposal.

Positioning the membership. Using the chapter's position statement and a comprehensive white paper prepared by 10 past AIA Dallas presidents as background, mobilized the membership to provide public comment to elected officials, encouraging personal letters to the editor, op-ed pieces, and pitching media to speak with chapter members and leaders.

Katie's press and social media efforts:

- garnered **75-80 press mentions in 18 months** on mobility related issues
- received thousands of social media mentions and **1,200+ social media shares of position statement**
- led to **AIA Dallas trending on Twitter in North Texas**

In addition to effectively defeating the proposed toll road, the AIA Dallas campaign:

- Received the Institute's 2016 AIA Grassroots Award for Local Advocacy
- Led Katie to an appearance on AIA National's government relations podcast and presentations to the Institute's SpeakUp Conference and Council of Architectural Component Executives (CACE) Conference
- Increased AIA Dallas' profile with city officials, who began asking the chapter for input on other design and urban issues
- Generated positive member response for being on front lines
- Increased exposure for architects' voices and expertise

Top, a rendering of the proposed Trinity Toll Road, a parkway designed to go inside the Trinity River levee system, and in many's view impeded access to the river and proposed park system in that area.

Middle Left, AIA Dallas president, Bob Bullis, FAIA, is interviewed by CBS 11's Jack Fink on AIA Dallas' position on the Trinity Toll Road proposal. Middle Right, Katie and other AIA Dallas representatives accept the 2016 AIA Grassroots Award from AIA leadership for Local Advocacy for their advocacy on the Trinity Toll Road issue.

Bottom, local coverage of the Trinity Toll Road issue and AIA Dallas' stance appeared in the major publications in the Dallas area and in national media outlets.



“Katie’s leadership of the PR and social media strategy was critical to the success of the campaign, as the Chapter’s two-prong approach relied heavily on broadcasting the chapter’s impactful position of ‘parks over toll roads.’ The Chapter’s voice was amplified through her communications leadership and secured AIA Dallas as the go-to for this, and all future community advocacy campaigns in Dallas and throughout North Texas. As a result of this incredible effort, the Dallas City Council formally abandoned the toll road, replacing it with a focus on the park – a major win for the citizens of Dallas.”

– Bob Bullis, FAIA, 2015 AIA Dallas President
HKS, Studio Practice Manager and Principal

EXHIBIT 08

COLUMNS MAGAZINE

ROLE: MANAGING EDITOR

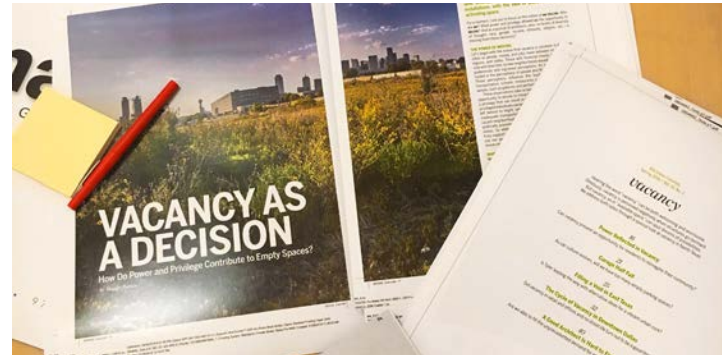
Taking on additional responsibilities beyond her staff role, Katie served as Associate Editor of AIA Dallas' Columns magazine for 3 years before moving into the Managing Editor role for the last 5 years. Beyond meetings, this work is completed largely on her own time, with her managing all processes, consultants, editing, design, production, and distribution of the publication. Her innovative ideas have led to the introduction of guest editors as well as the archiving of all past Columns and Bulletin publications going back to the 1950s (launching late 2023). Since her involvement in the magazine began, there has been increased readership, distribution, revenue generation, and external media coverage, as well as creative and streamlined design and higher profile authors. The publication has won 6 local, regional, and international awards, including the 2017 TxA Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Architecture through the Media in Honor of John G. Flowers Hon. AIA. It is consistently rated highly by members in terms of value, has content generated entirely by volunteers, and is one of the few remaining AIA chapter print publications in the nation.

“Katie, I have a newly formed sense of ‘awe’ as to the work, the scope and skill of what you do to produce such a fine publication as Columns, and then turn around and do it again and again. The magazine is such a refinement and rich publication compared to that of the past. You should take pride in such accomplishments.”

– Joe McCall, FAIA, Oglesby Greene Architecture, Principal

“Thanks so much for sending me those copies of Columns. I loved them. Congratulations to all involved in this effort. As a publishing type myself, with a few magazines under my belt, I was impressed with the quality and the depth of content you manage to produce.”

– Robert Ivy, FAIA, American Institute of Architects, Former Executive Vice President & CEO



READERSHIP

PRINT CIRCULATION | **4,000 copies per issue**

WHO | **AIA Dallas, AIA Fort Worth, and AIA Northeast Texas members, allied professionals, civic & business leaders, educators, arts & culture organizations, and the press.**

DIGITAL CIRCULATION | **Viewable on the AIA Dallas website and on Issuu, Columns increases its reach by another 50% and is frequently referenced and quoted by press.**



Top Right, a Columns magazine proof prepared for printing the Vacancy issue.

Middle Left, a group photo of the 2016 Columns team retreat. Middle Right, the last page of the Belonging Columns issue featuring Desinging My Future K-12 camper responses to the question, “What is a place or space where you feel belonging?” and calls for members and readers to join the Columns volunteer team.

Bottom, the 24 covers of Columns Magazine issued under Katie Hitt as Associate and Managing Editor of the magazine.



EXHIBIT 09

COMMUNITY + EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM CLASS PROJECT

Outside of being an ever-present AIA Dallas and AD EX ambassador, Katie works to utilize her background and skillset to serve her professional and education communities as well as give back to those in need.

From 2019 to 2021, Katie served on the **City of Dallas Development Advisory Board**, a task force of architecture professionals and the development community working with city staff to offer solutions to Dallas' notoriously broken permitting system.

In 2022, Katie served on the board of the **Greater Dallas Planning Council**, where she was active in the branding and website development task force. During her tenure, she worked to share nonprofit best practices for the non-staffed organization as well as provide guidance on the establishment of a scholarship fund. Additionally, the group is currently undergoing strategic planning at her recommendation, working with the consultant who facilitated AIA Dallas and the Foundation's most recent plan.

After plugging into the **Association of Architecture Organizations' Architecture + Design Educators Network**, Katie joined a task force sharing plans and policies for hosting virtual architecture camps. This group's expertise was invaluable in Katie's founding of the Designing My Future Series, and Katie has remained involved in the network, and is currently engaged in a task force of organizations who plan architectural college fairs.

In June of 2014, Katie participated in the invitation-only charrette, **The Purpose City Workshop** hosted by New Cities Foundation/ NBBJ. Inspired by the principles of a design hackathon, The Purpose City Workshop convened 50 leaders in urban design, management, business, and academia in a vibrant, day-long forum to explore how we bring meaning and purpose to cities as the numbers of urban citizens swell, as cities densify, and as the digital and physical increasingly merge.



Emerging Leaders Class Project: Promise House Street Outreach Shelter

As a member of the AIA Dallas Emerging Leaders Class of 2013, Katie worked with Promise House on a finish-out of a youth shelter for their Street Outreach Program. The class' contribution to Promise House was the fundraising, design, permitting, and construction of a space at their Oak Cliff facility that serves between 8 – 12 teens transitioning from the streets into a stable environment. Katie served as fundraising and public relations champion for the project.

Promise House had an existing Street Outreach program, but due to a lack of space, they were turning away teens in need every week. The goal was to provide additional beds and communal space for teens who would otherwise be turned away.

Through hard work, dedication, and help from some great partners in the industry, the class was able to make it happen! Interior construction officially began in September 2014 – stud walls were installed, concrete flooring was leveled, and, little by little, tasks were checked off the to-do list. In January 2015, Promise House opened their new Street Outreach Shelter, which now houses 10 new beds for young people between the ages of 18-22.



EXHIBIT 10

AIA DALLAS + AD EX COMMITTEES, NETWORKS, TASK FORCES, + EVENTS

ROLE: STAFF FACILITATOR

Over 13 years, Katie has managed 27 AIA and AD EX committees, networks, and task forces, overseeing their activities, development, finances, mission alignment, sponsorship, strategic direction, volunteer growth, and more.

- Architecture Matters
- AD EX Docents
- Associates Network
- Branding Task Force (AD EX)
- Columns Committee
- Columns Advisory Board
- Communities by Design
- Community Honors
- Committee on the Environment (COTE)
- Design Awards Committee
- Education Outreach
- Emerging Leaders Program
- Exhibitions Task Force
- Fellows Network
- Historic Resources
- K-12 Camp Task Force
- KRob Committee
- Latinos in Architecture Network
- Nominating Committee
- Public Policy Committee
- Retrospect Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Small Firms Roundtable
- Toastmasters Committee
- Tour of Homes Committee
- Website Task Force (AIA)
- Website Task Force (AD EX)

Additionally, she has been responsible for many of the largest, most prominent, and highest grossing events – many of which have sold out, grown in audiences, soared past budgeted revenue, increased non-dues revenue, built new partnerships, strengthened sponsor relations, garnered media coverage, and brought in new and diverse audiences.

- AD Exchanges*
- AD EX Walking Tours
- AIA+ 2030 Series
- Appetite for Architecture
- Architecture + Design College Fair
- Architecture on Tap
- Art of Architecture
- Awards + Honors Breakfast
- Build Your City!
- Celebrate Architecture
- Chapter Meetings
- Coffee & Conversation
- CROSSROADS
- Design Awards (including relaunch of Unbuilt)
- Design Justice Book Club*
- Designing My Future K-12 Camps*
- ENLACES
- Family Days*
- Firm Talk
- Firmily Feud
- From an Architect's Bookshelf
- Gallery Talks: Sip, See, Speak*
- Holiday Party
- Housing Summit
- KRob Memorial Delineation Competition
- Mayoral Candidate Forum
- Mobility Summit
- North Texas Sustainable Showcase
- No Car Week*
- Retrospect
- Sketch to Success
- Tour of Homes (hit all-time highest revenue in 2019 under Katie's leadership)
- Urban Summit
- And many more...

*indicates Founder

Top Row: Advanced Leadership Program Class of 2019 at their graduation.

Second Row: Left, With Al Hernandez, AIA and Shirley Che at the 2022 AIA Dallas Holiday Party, where Katie coordinated the chapter awards. Right, Members and friends at DCFA ROCKITEKTURE 2016, where Katie coordinated the silent auction.



Third Row: Left, Katie and the AIA Dallas team recruiting allied members and sponsors at the Blue Book Expo. Right, K2021 Built Design Awards.

Fourth Row: Left, Katie with 2014 AIA Dallas president Lisa Lamkin, FAIA, executive director Jan Blackmon, FAIA at CELEBRATE ARCHITECTURE 2014. Top, 2021 Built Design Awards. Bottom, Katie and staff with CELEBRATE ARCHITECTURE 2016 presenting sponsor Marc Blackson.