

ACSA Candidate for At-Large Director (3-year term)

José Ibarra, University of Colorado, Denver

Candidate Statement

I am eager to support ACSA's mission by engaging with member schools and advocating for strategic initiatives that prioritize climate justice and equity in the built environment. As a Venezuelan designer, researcher, and educator working at the intersection of architecture and environmental uncertainty, I bring a global perspective and a deep commitment to advancing architectural education and practice. I hope to expand membership networks, foster new partnerships, and help externalize architectural research and teaching beyond traditional academic boundaries as an At-Large Director. I am committed to advocating for an ACSA that:



- centers climate justice and architecture's role in mitigating its effects on local communities as a core priority;
- diminishes barriers to architectural education, particularly for underprivileged and disenfranchised students;
- creatively navigates the outcomes of ongoing discussions with the NAAB, while also strengthening our connections with other collateral organizations.

My academic service and leadership demonstrate my commitment to advancing architectural scholarship, with a dedication to equity. I have been involved with ACSA since 2022, when I joined the 2022–2023 Research & Scholarship Committee under Joyce Hwang's leadership. I later chaired the 2023–2024 Research & Scholarship Committee, leading the publication of the 2024 update to the White Paper "[Research and Scholarship for Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment in Schools of Architecture](#)." This comprehensive document updates guidelines for tenure and promotion in architecture schools, stressing the importance of peer-review and public scholarship, and highlighting pressing areas of research such as climate justice. Additionally, the committee launched the [ACSA Academy for Public Scholarship on the Built Environment](#), an initiative that aligns closely with my dedication to expanding architecture's role beyond traditional academic boundaries. Currently, as 2024–2025 co-chair alongside Ian Caine, we are advancing the Academy's work on housing inequities. We are also developing resources to support faculty in identifying funding sources, relationship-building with grantors, grant-writing, and collaboration.

My own academic path has given me a unique perspective on the range of institutional experiences across different types of schools. I earned an A.A. in Architecture from Miami Dade College, a B.Arch from Cornell University, and an M.Arch from Princeton University. This path, combined with my teaching at institutions like CU Denver, Cornell, UVA, and UW-Milwaukee, has provided me with valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing member schools, particularly regarding research, scholarship, and faculty development. At each institution, I have built interdisciplinary partnerships to address pressing issues in the built environment, from speculative research on climate futures to community-based participatory design.

At the core of my work is a commitment to architecture's agency in addressing the climate crisis and promoting social justice. In my ongoing manuscript on architecture's temporal scales and deep-time design strategies ("Architecture, Time, and the Anthropocene: Designing with Geoempathy"), I provide alternative frameworks for addressing long-term environmental and social crises. By centering on critical spatial practices, *Geoempathy* presents architecture as a mediator of process, kinship, and deep time across species, calling for design collaborations between humans, animals, plants, grounds, and atmospheres. Similarly, through projects such as [Table Manners](#), I bring together interdisciplinary approaches to engage communities in critical conversations around resilience, climate futures, and design justice. This work, rooted in participatory and performative design methods, critically engages with planetary-scale challenges while continuously questioning architecture's role in fostering more just and resilient futures. I believe that these approaches to research and teaching align strongly with ACSA's priorities, and position me to help shape strategic initiatives that foreground equity and sustainability in architectural education.

My creative practice, research, teaching, and service are deeply grounded in diversity, equity, and inclusion (see a recent news article about this [here](#)). I have engaged with underprivileged communities, fostering discussions around the critical issues they face. As a queer Latin man, I find it particularly important to spearhead these initiatives and mentor a young generation of underrepresented voices who will go on to change our field in critical ways. One example of this is my recent project with Liz Gálvez, [Latinx Coalition Chats](#), which brings together Latinx scholars and designers working in the United States. This project was awarded a Graham Foundation 2023 Production and Presentation Grant (see announcement [here](#)) and launched through a series of workshops hosted at the Architectural League of New York.

As a candidate for the 2025–2028 At-Large Director position on the ACSA Board of Directors, I aim to contribute my professional, academic, and leadership experiences to advance the mission and vision of ACSA. As we engage in the 2024-2025 strategic planning process, I look forward to helping shape the future priorities of architectural education and research, ensuring that our discipline remains equitable, sustainable, and resilient in the face of complex global challenges. My research and practice directly intersect with these values, and I am excited to contribute my perspectives to foster an inclusive, innovative, and socially responsive community of architectural educators, students, and professionals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae— José Ibarra

EDUCATION

- 2019 **Master of Architecture, Post-Professional Degree. Princeton University.** Princeton, New Jersey.
2016 **Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch), Professional Degree. Cornell University.** Ithaca, New York.
2013 **Associate in Arts in Architecture (AA Architecture).** Miami Dade College. Miami, Florida.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022–Present **Assistant Professor of Architecture. University of Colorado Denver.** Denver, Colorado.
2024 **Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture. Cornell University.** Ithaca, New York.
2020–2022 **Assistant Professor of Architecture (General Faculty). University of Virginia.** Charlottesville, Virginia.
2019–2020 **Urban Edge Fellow. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.** Milwaukee, Wisconsin

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

- 2019–Present Principal and Founder. **Studio José Ibarra.** Denver, Colorado.
2018–Present Co-Founder, w/Andrés Romero and Paola Cuevas. **House Operations.** Denver, Tijuana, Sto. Domingo.

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIP (EXCERPT)

- 2026 Ibarra, José. ***Architecture, Time, and the Anthropocene: Designing with Geoempathy.*** Book. London: Taylor & Francis / Routledge, 2026 (forthcoming).
2024 Ibarra, José. “**Trans-scalar Architectures for Earth: Rain Check,**” in 2024 ACSA 112th Annual Meeting. Article in conference proceedings. Vancouver, Canada: 2024.
2024 Ibarra, José and Liz Gálvez. **Latinx Coalition Chats.** Hosted at the Architectural League of New York. Invited guests: Paola Aguirre Serrano, Xavi L. Aguirre, Sarah Bolivar, Yazmín M. Crespo Claudio, Gabriel Díaz Montemayor, Deborah Garcia, Leen Katrib, César A. López, Ronald Rael. Symposium and workshop. New York City: 2024. <https://www.latinxchats.org/>
2023 Ibarra, José. “**Beyond Repair: Architecture After Urban Crisis,**” in 2023 ACSA/EAAE Teacher’s Conference. Article in conference proceedings. Reykjavik, Iceland: 2023.
2022 O’Donnell, Caroline and José Ibarra, eds. ***Werewolf: The Architecture of Lunacy, Shapeshifting, and Material Metamorphosis.*** Book. San Francisco: Applied Research & Design, 2022.
2022 Ibarra, José. “**Architecture After the End: A Call for Geoempathy,**” in *The Cornell Journal of Architecture* 12, After: 24–36. Article in journal. Barcelona: Actar, 2022.
2019–Present Ibarra, José. **Table Manners.** Venues: UW-Milwaukee, UVA, CU Denver, UW-Madison. Invited guests: Cyrus Peñarroyo, Debbie Chen, Leen Katrib, Rania Ghosn, Jennifer Bonner. Performances, workshops, exhibitions, and other. Varied locations: 2019–2024. <https://www.tablemanners.online/>

RECENT AWARDS AND GRANTS (EXCERPT)

- 2024 **CU Denver Office of Research Services Arts and Humanities Grant.** University of Colorado Denver. “Table Manners.” PI: José Ibarra. 2024–2025.
2024 Ibarra, José and Leyuan Li. **2024 AIA/ACSA Housing Design Education Award for “Denver Low-Rise: New Domestic Forms of Collective Living.”** Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. February 7, 2024.
2023 **CU Denver Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant.** University of Colorado Denver. “Latinx Coalition Chats.” PIs: José Ibarra and Liz Gálvez. 2023–2024.
2023 **Graham Foundation Independent Project Grant.** Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. “Latinx Coalition Chats.” PIs: José Ibarra and Liz Gálvez. 2023–2025.
2023 **AIA Colorado Virginia & Robert Fuller, AIA, Traveling Scholarship. James M. Hunter, AIA, Traveling Scholarship.** America Institute of Architects Colorado. “Andean Ecologies, Cosmologies, and Fictions.” PI: José Ibarra. 2023–2025.
2022 Ibarra, José. **2022 ACSA/AIAS New Faculty Teaching Award (Full-Time Faculty Category).** Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. January 27, 2022.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE (EXCERPT)

- 2024–2025 **Committee Co-chair. Research & Scholarship Committee,** co-chaired with Ian Caine. ACSA. 2024–2025.
2023–2024 **Committee Chair. Research & Scholarship Committee.** ACSA. 2023–2024.
2022–2023 **Committee Member. Research & Scholarship Committee,** chaired by Joyce Hwang. ACSA. 2022–2023.