USCArchitecture

USC School of Architecture Faculty Values Statement

This statement was created by the 2022-2023 Faculty Council based on faculty input collected at the 2022 annual faculty retreat and subsequent survey of all faculty members.

Pillars of Excellence

The faculty have identified three key pillars of excellence that frame our guiding values

Focus on **People & Communities**
Focus on **Academics & Scholarship**
Focus on **Professions that Shape the Built & Natural Environment**

Guiding Values

The ten guiding values listed here are rooted in the School's three key pillars of excellence

We value our ability to **cultivate student success**

The School of Architecture faculty members have a proven history of educating and graduating students that are well equipped to enter the professions represented by our school's four disciplines, and empowered to pursue intellectual challenges that cultivate their curiosity, critical thinking, and creative problem solving skills. Spanning the subjects of history, theory, design, technology, media and fabrication, our faculty's specializations challenge students to push the boundaries of the familiar, in order to uncover, explore, and invent new strains of thought. This ethos ensures our students transcend their learned technical skills-set and strive for positions within the vanguard of our professions. They are capable, but more importantly they are citizens of their diverse communities, leaders of their global professions, and enlightened stewards of our fragile planet. Building upon this legacy, one of our top priorities is securing additional scholarship funding to support our students. The faculty believe that focused and strategic fundraising efforts involving the faculty and oriented toward scholarships and applied research will solidify our school's ongoing commitment to our students.

USCArchitecture

We value our ability to **recognize and retain excellent faculty**

The School of Architecture faculty members are widely known to be top practicing professionals operating at the forefront of design. The School employs 100+ dedicated faculty committed to teaching students, continually evolving teaching methods and curricula, and engaging the broader design and academic community all while learning from each other. Increased office space, clear path to advancement, mentoring, contract timeliness and continuity, and salary comparable to peer institutions are essential contributors to teaching and practicing at the highest level, especially for our RTPC faculty members. Faculty members also desire to improve intra-faculty communication and collegiality, and to find methods to more prominently acknowledge the contributions to the School made by PT RTPC faculty members.

We value our ability to **build community**

The School of Architecture faculty members believe a strong internal community between faculty, staff, and students breeds institutional success and allows all groups to flourish. A highly organized, well-trained and managed administrative support staff, channels for transparent internal communication and decision making, highly effective PR efforts that focus on unique attributes of faculty, students and alumni are key contributors to ongoing community-building efforts.

We value **all people and perspectives**

The School of Architecture faculty members are dedicated to educating the next generation of leaders in the fields of design, building science, and heritage conservation. We explore and seek to learn from our region's dynamic and diverse cultural and ecological qualities. Our students, faculty, and staff are committed to working on behalf of social and environmental justice. As we expand our student diversity we want to ensure their academic success and understand that they have different lived experiences and academic backgrounds. We welcome diverse faculty and staff who will inspire and support this next generation of academic leaders. As a School, we have been working to advance our curriculum through invited lecturers and events that expand the traditional canon and transcend its limitations.

We value our ability to **teach through making and fabrication**

The School of Architecture faculty members consistently strive to provide students with enhanced experiences to advance them as respected, creative contributors to a world that demands material action. They are thus deeply interested in renovating and expanding our fabrication facilities to bolster increased hands-on teaching, experimentation, and craft. Suitable space, equipment, technology infrastructure, and trained personnel to support contemporary advanced fabrication are all important

contributors to this ability. Augmented research lab facilities would enable effective, meaningful research by both faculty and students.

We value our ability to **advance research and creativity**

The School of Architecture faculty members engage in research across scales and research that is multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary in nature. Faculty consistently demonstrate excellence in research scholarship and creative work along a diverse research spectrum. Further, our core values are reflected in our areas of research. We are also able to successfully integrate research into our teaching endeavors and professional practices. A more robust internal research infrastructure (space, support, and equipment) and additional external funding to support faculty research is needed to facilitate high-level productivity.

We value our **professional focus**

The School of Architecture faculty members are committed to a strong program in design, technology, history, and theory, and are equally interested in the continuation of the connection the School has with professional practice, and engagement between the curricula and commitment to building in the real world. Faculty see the importance of having instructors dedicated to teaching and practice that bring dimension to a student's educational experience to develop a strong awareness of professional practice as part of their academic experience.

We value our ability to **prioritize social and environmental engagement**

The School of Architecture faculty members value social and environmental engagement and would like to emphasize efforts focusing on sustainability, social justice, environmental justice, and cultural equity. Faculty point out the need for more service learning, field learning and community partnerships, and desire more interaction in the pedagogy with "hands on" regionally integrated affiliations in order to enhance the faculty's shared commitment to relevant social and environmental justice issues.

We value our **expansive view on design and our multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary connections**

The School of Architecture faculty members are interested in fostering a more expansive view of design and seek more opportunities for multi-disciplinary studios. Though we provide opportunities for dual-degree programs and global perspectives through study abroad options, faculty would like to see more cross-curricular connectivity and integration of design and history/theory, as well as cross-disciplinary approaches in the studio sequence. This becomes even more important as the canon expands beyond the traditional western european approaches and the field expands beyond disciplinary silos.

USCArchitecture

We value our history and our ability to **excel as an influential program now and in the future**

The School of Architecture at USC is one of the oldest and most admired programs in the western half of the US. We were one of the first schools to embrace modernism and to reject the Beaux Arts traditions of the past, and our focus on research and commitment to urbanism dates back to the early 1950s. Further, the influence of the Case Study Program was nurtured by USC faculty after World War II. The School of Architecture's Architectural Guild program and focus on practice has had a huge impact on the city and the region since the School's inception. Our graduates have gone on to lead the nation and the world in design innovation. It is imperative that we continue to build our scholarship resources to attract the best students and also continue to maintain our relationships with the best practitioners internationally. More funding is needed to reinstate our PhD program and to provide opportunities for funded research (especially full, overhead-paying federal grants). Our relationships with the design community (both alumni and other noteworthy practitioners) must evolve and continue into the future.