

# NOMA

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS  
SPRING 2016

## 2015 NOMA DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Project Pipeline

Unconscious Bias  
in the Workplace



THE CAL TURNER PLAZA  
FOR STUDENT EDUCATION

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**Student Representative Committee Chair:**  
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(Austin, TX)

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Mid-Atlantic  
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Great Lakes  
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South  
Southwest  
West  
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**NOMA Professional Chapters:**  
Atlanta Chapter  
Baltimore Chapter  
Boston Chapter  
Chicago Chapter  
Dallas Chapter  
Detroit Chapter  
Florida Chapter  
Houston Chapter  
Las Vegas Chapter  
Los Angeles Chapter  
Miami Chapter  
Milwaukee Chapter  
Montgomery Chapter  
New Jersey Chapter  
New York Chapter  
Philadelphia Chapter  
Phoenix Chapter  
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Seattle Chapter  
St. Louis Chapter  
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California College of the Arts  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Cornell University  
Drexel University  
University of Technology  
Hartwick University  
Harvard University  
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Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rutgers State University  
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Michigan State University  
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North Carolina State University  
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NOMA

On the cover: Wendy Miller, Inc.  
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The Cal Turner Center, The Student Educators

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# Creating Socially Just Communities

A Multicultural Student Center grounded in Consensus Imagination

By La Barbara Jones Wigfall, Associate Professor, KSU  
Mitra Chawla, Director, Multicultural Programs and Services, KSU

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand the all threads of the tapestry are equal no matter what their color."

-Maya Angelou

Don Mitchell talks about the fight to public space in his introduction of his book, entitled *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space*. Social justice addresses that virtue which guides us in creating places of human interactions, or institutions, for personal and social development. In turn, social institutions, when justly organized, provide us with access to what is "good" for the person, both individually and in our associations with others. It demands public places where people are treated fairly and equally, irrespective of ethnic origin, gender, possessions, race, religion, etc. Social justice also imposes on each of us a personal responsibility to work with others without prejudice, to design and continually perfect our institutions as tools for community development. (Center for Economic and Social Justice)



While design alone cannot rectify inequities, it can ameliorate them. As architects and educators of future professionals, we should inform our work by the communities we serve. There should be more discussion about the communities affected by proposed designs in the classroom and the office. It is not enough to create objects of beauty while neglecting the social, political, and economic implications of our work.

"Without prioritizing equity in our educational institutions and in practice, we [designers] will continue to fail marginalized people and communities that need better quality buildings, more beautiful spaces, greater access to amenities, and safer, more desirable public spaces."

-Dana McKinney.

## Design desperately needs social justice

The Kansas State University (K-State) Student Center is designed to respond to issues of social justice and the right to public space for educational, academic, study, and staff on the campus through an inclusive design process. As a student of participatory design, I have always been thinking big paradigm. At my graduation, it will be the focus of my career. The K-State Student Center of the future must make building that will serve as a home away from home for multicultural students, welcoming and educating everyone in the community.

Karen

The need for the Center grew out of the university's goal of being socially just community. The idea of a multicultural center for Kansas State University has been a part of the MSO (Multicultural Student Organization) Director's research and discussion at length for approximately seven years. It has been a part of every strategic plan since 2004. The Multicultural Center will create a powerful entrepreneurial hub that brings together islands of the current infrastructure. It will strive to better coordinate the delivery of multicultural programs and orientation assistance for students. For instance, Multicultural Student Organi-

zation (MSO) is currently housed in one room in the Student Union; they desperately need a new home and more space for programming. The MSO are one of the university's largest retaining tools, and they are essential in ensuring and supporting the multicultural community on campus. On the other hand, Project MSO21 addresses how to grow with a need to have an accountable institution in comparison to the MSO. Project MSO21 is a public benefit corporation movement and education programs that can be put in significantly because the MSO is based around multicultural communities. The MSO21 will help to build a framework for the rural and the small town areas, so that the MSO21 will directly increase the enrollment and success of multicultural students in education, engineering, and agriculture.

The MSO21 project members have always pushed beyond their traditional academic experience to include community and university service projects. Since their newest push consists of planning, landscape architecture, interior architecture, architecture, and engineering, and educational assistance may, they are different from other student-led student organiza-

tions in the College. Their interdisciplinary perspective and design of the Cornell Scott King Center of Engagement on campus produced a service learning collaboration with HOK in 2000. Because of their design and ability and inclusive planning efforts, they were asked to initiate a similar charitable project at K-State for the University's Multicultural Student Center. This challenge was inspired by Prof. Sandra Lomax-Preston, Myra Tordson, Jennifer Pfeifer, Dr. Karen Williams, and Darren Williams Director of Multicultural and Diversity University Foundation who were involved in the Center. MSO21 will help to build a network of 4 international students, educational, and four very valuable teams. They also had the event "Inclusive institutions, which is going to happen in 2010, and did programming on the topic of design and appreciation MSO21 brings, potential areas for partnership and reference materials are organized and freely available. Each team was assigned an MSO21 diversity committee member and one of the MSO21 presidential partners Robert King, Myra Tordson, Cheryl McVey Duncan, Debbie Smith, Karen Williams, Dr. Karen Williams, and Karen Williams Associate Vice President University Foundation Chair and Dr. Jeff Anderson. Team selected the site of possible construction on the morning of the day. Students collaborated with other multicultural students and faculty throughout the day. Ultimately, our team gained recognition for their exemplary design responses to the two sites. The students involved in the design process with their own individual ideas, resulting in a range of design ideas "rooted in social justice". The Dean, Tim de Natale, commented

"I am also pleased that the K-State Administration recognized the opportunity of engaging our excellent students in viewing the future of our campus."

Following the challenge, many students responded to model all the university spaces, providing models for accessible selection and contemporary design. A team consisting of members of that panel, followed MSO21 example by writing service agreements, university status letters and networking materials and letters that would reflect the character of the project. An initial budget document was created to be revised at key points in the design process for feasibility. As the students completed the preliminary designs, the President began the building strategy. The process of design and construction of the first Multicultural Student Center, through its various stages, gave the campus community greater confidence in our future of expansion and ideals.

"I am also pleased that the K-State Administration recognized the opportunity of engaging our excellent students in viewing the future of our campus".



THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

# nomad

unleashing the power of diverse design

EXHIBITS  
NEW HAIR  
ART WORKSHOPS  
WEDDING  
DAY OF SERVICE  
EDUCATE 2018  
GYM SCHOOL FAIR  
ART CHARITY FAIR  
DESIGN AWARDS BARBERS  
STUDIOS DESIGN COMPETITION

Architects, Interior Designers, Engineers,  
Educators, Marketing Communicators, Contractors,  
Entrepreneurs, Social Workers, Designers, Developers,  
Planners, Designers, Designers, Designers, Designers,

Interior Designers, Architects, Engineers,  
Educators, Interior Designers, Engineers, Contractors,  
Entrepreneurs, Social Workers, Designers, Developers,  
Planners, Designers, Designers, Designers, Designers,

express yourself

2018

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