

Montgomery Planning

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Bethesda Downtown Design Advisory Panel, Appointment of Panel Members

MCPB
Item No 8
Date: 11.5.20



Elza Hisel-McCoy, Chief, DownCounty Planning, elza.hisel-mccoy@montgomeryplanning.org, 301.495.2115

Completed: 10.29.20

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the appointment of Professor Brian Kelly as the new panel member representing Academia and the reappointment of Damon Orobona as the representative from the Development Community, for three-year terms ending November 2023.

DISCUSSION

The Bethesda Downtown Design Advisory Panel (DAP) is an integral part of the Bethesda Overlay Zone. The role of the DAP is to provide advice and recommendations that will heighten design excellence and improve the quality of architecture, urban design and landscape architecture in downtown Bethesda.

The DAP is composed of five volunteer members and an ex-officio member representing the Planning Director's Office. The panel currently includes three registered architects, one of whom represents the local community, one registered landscape architect, and a member of the development community.

The original DAP members appointed by the Planning Board in 2017 served staggered initial terms of two, three and four years, thereafter serving three-year terms. According to the Rules of Procedure, panel members interested in remaining on the panel may submit a letter requesting to renew their term to the Planning Board for approval. The Board reappointed two-year-term panel members Qiaoju Yu and George Dove in 2019. The initial three-year panel member terms for Karl DuPuy and Damon Orobona concluded in September 2020. The initial four-year term for Rod Henderer will expire in September 2021.

Sadly, esteemed panel member Professor Emeritus Karl DuPuy passed away unexpectedly in mid-August. During his tenure Karl provided insightful architecture and site design comments with a strong emphasis on their impacts on the urban realm. He demonstrated a persuasive passion for excellent design and always sought the best for Bethesda, often from his former students. His passion and sense of humor will be missed.

For the panel seat representing Academia, Staff sent requests for nominations to Catholic University, Howard University, Morgan State University, the University of the District of Columbia, and the University of Maryland, as well as to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and NAIOP. Staff received two nominations from well-qualified candidates: Brian Kelly of the University of Maryland and Tonya Ohnstad from Catholic University. After interviewing both candidates, Staff is recommending the Planning Board appoint Brian Kelly, Director of the Architecture Program, Associate Dean for Development and Faculty Affairs, and Professor at the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, to represent Academia on the DAP. Brian brings extensive experience in Academia as a critic and lecturer

on urban design and architecture, as well as significant tenure on the University of Maryland's Campus Architecture and Landscape Review Board and in the private sector marrying urban design and architecture.

Additionally, the current panel member representing the Development Community, Damon Orobona, has requested a second term. Damon has experience in both the public sector, including at the Montgomery County Planning Department, and the private real estate development sector as a Partner with Nova Ventures Development and has consistently brought to the panel discussions a unique perspective and insight. Staff recommends his reappointment.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Brian Kelly Letter of Interest and CV
2. Damon Orobona Letter of Intent to Renew DAP Term



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND PRESERVATION
NATIONAL CENTER FOR SMART GROWTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
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Thursday, October 1, 2020

Elza Hisel-McCoy
Chief, DownCounty Planning
Montgomery County Planning Department
2425 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902
elza.hisel-mccoy@montgomeryplanning.org

Dear Mr. Hisel-McCoy

I am writing in response to the call for nominations for the academia seat on the Bethesda Downtown Design Advisory panel, the position to replace my recently deceased colleague Karl F. G. Du Puy, AIA. I am interested in serving in this capacity. I am currently Professor, Associate Dean for Development and Faculty Affairs, as well as Area Chair / Director of the Architecture Program at the University of Maryland, School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation.

I am no stranger to design review. I have served for over a decade on the University of Maryland's Architecture and Landscape Design Review board, which is charged with project review to encourage design excellence and compliance with the University's Facilities Master Plan. Additionally, as a consultant with Ayers Saint Gross Architects in Baltimore, I was lead designer on a number of master planning projects and worked closely with review boards comprised of peers, University trustees and officers. I am a strong believer in design review and the transparency of the design review process.

I have attached a copy of my Curriculum Vitae for your reference and the consideration of the appointments committee. Please let me know if you require anything else.

Sincerely,

Brian Kelly, AIA, Professor
Associate Dean for Development and Faculty Affairs
Area Chair / Director, Architecture Program

Past National Architectural Accrediting Board, Board of Directors (2013-2016)
Past Northeast Regional Director, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (2008-2011)

Pronouns: He, Him, His



[2020 Best Master of Architecture Programs, University of Maryland #8](#)

Maryland Architecture: International Leadership in Sustainable Design

- [Beacon Crossing](#), 2018 HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition
- [reACT](#), 2017 US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2nd Place in International Competition
- [Creativity Sustaining Community](#), 2015-16 ACSA/AIA Committee on the Environment Top Ten for Students Award
- [The Crossing](#), 2015 ULI Hines Competition First Place in International Competition
- [Regenerative Urban Ecology](#), 2014-15 ACSA/AIA Committee on the Environment Top Ten for Students Award
- [Chords](#), 2014 ULI Hines Competition First Place in International Competition
- [WaterShed](#), 2011 US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 1st Place in International Competition
- [LeafHouse](#), 2007 US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2nd Place in International Competition

Brian Kelly, AIA

Courses Taught:

ARCH 402UG Architectural Studio III
ARCH 797 Thesis Proseminar
ARCH 798 Thesis in Architecture
ARCH 799 Masters Thesis Research
ARCH 400UG Architectural Studio I

Educational Credentials:

B Arch, University of Notre Dame, Magna cum laude, 1981
M Arch, Cornell University, 1987.

Teaching Experience:

Assistant Professor, Syracuse University, 1985 - 1986
Assistant Professor, Arizona State University, 1986 - 1987
Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, 1987 - 1993
Associate Professor, University of Maryland, 1993 - present

Professional Experience:

Intern Architect, Skidmore Owings and Merrill, Chicago, 1981 - 1983
Peterson-Littenberg Architects, New York, 1987
Ayers/Saint/Gross, Architects and Planners, Baltimore, 1997 - 2008

Licenses/Registration:

District of Columbia

Selected Publications and Recent Research:

Recent Publications

"Architectural Theory and the Façade in the Work of Thomas L. Schumacher," *OpArch Column, Journal of Architectural Education*, March 2010

Recent Scholarly Paper Presentations

"Groundhog Day: The Iterative and Reiterative in Beginning Design Education," ACSA National Meeting, 2007, National Conference on the Beginning Design Student, 2007.

"A Case Study: Discerning the Thesis within Thesis," with Amy Gardner, AIA, ACSA Southeast Regional Conference, 2003

Recent Professional Work:

Design Guidelines, Harvard Allston Initiative, Harvard University, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2008
Campus Plan History, Wake Forest University, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2007 - 2008
Performing Arts Terrace, University of Notre Dame, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2007
Irish Green, University of Notre Dame, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2006 - 2007
Engineering Site Selection Study, University of Notre Dame, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2006
West Campus Master Plan, Arizona State University, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2004
Campus Planning, University of Chicago, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2003 -2004
Campus Entrance (gateway), University of Notre Dame, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2002
Campus Plan, University of Notre Dame, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 2001- 2002
Campus Plan Assessment, University of Virginia, Ayers/Saint/Gross, 1996

Professional Service:

Northeast Regional Director, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (Service on ACSA Board of Directors, elected by ACSA member schools in the ACSA Northeast Region). Term 2008 - 2011
American Institute of Architects-Potomac Valley, Education Director, Board of Directors. Term 2005 - 2008

Professional Memberships:

The American Institute of Architects

September 15, 2020

Montgomery County Planning Board
2425 Reddie Drive
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

Re: Appointment to the Bethesda Design Advisory Panel (DAP)

Dear Chairman Anderson and Members of the Board,

I have been pleased to serve as the development industry representative for the Bethesda Design Advisory Panel during its inaugural term. The Panel's first term has coincided with an exciting time for new economic development in downtown Bethesda, and I believe that the addition of the Panel has been effective in supporting design excellence in Bethesda's built environment.

The upcoming term will bring differing challenges to the County, as the public and private sectors navigate the unprecedented economic challenges that are resulting from the ongoing health pandemic, while still working together to achieve design excellence that can last well beyond us. I hope that my varied experiences as an urban planner at MNCPPC and APA, a land use attorney in private practice, and now as a development executive with Nova, can continue to support the Panel's recommendations on the many challenging issues that the Board will undoubtedly encounter in the coming years.

My initial appointment for a 3-year term is now coming to an end. Planning Staff has asked if I would be interested in a reappointment for a second term. I would be honored to continue to serve if the Board deems my participation a worthy addition to the Panel's esteemed members. I look forward to the possibility of further supporting the County's urban planning goals.

Sincerely,



Damon Orobona

