



**2020
BLACK WOMEN IN
ARCHITECTURE
SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH
SOUVENIR JOURNAL &
DIRECTORY**

October 18, 2020



thematic

Presenting Sponsor

MISSION

The Black Women in Architecture Network serves as a resource for the almost 500 licensed Black women architects, those aspiring to be architects, and other women in design, planning and allied professions.

This years event strives to connect women from around the country and abroad in fellowship and meaningful dialogue about the profession and our contribution



SCHOLARSHIP

DVC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Desiree V. Cooper (DVC) Memorial Scholarship Foundation seeks to honor the life and legacy of Desiree V. Cooper by championing the things she was passionate about in her professional career and personal endeavors: providing continual service to her communities and encouraging minorities and women in the advancement of their careers in architecture. To that end, the Foundation awards Scholarships for the architectural registration exam in the following categories: The Black Women in Architecture Award, The Harrisburg Memorial Award, and The DC Memorial Award.





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ORGANIZATION
of **MINORITY**
ARCHITECTS



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PROGRAM

Welcome ~ Alex Taylor

Sponsor Remarks

The Matic
AIA

Defining the Moment ~ R. Denise Everson

Discussion Group Sessions

Break

Gather ingredients for cocktails

Cocktail Demonstration feat. Nikolas Hill

Break

First 500 Presentation ~ Tiara Hughes

Recognition of Recently Licensed Black Women

VMDO Remarks

Closing Remarks & Acknowledge Sponsors ~ Katherine Williams

FEATURED
PRESENTER

TIARA HUGHES



INSPIRATION

Becoming the Founder and Executive Director of FIRST 500 in 2018 is a great example of how I saw a hole in information about a group of architects I relate to – black women who are .3% of all licensed architects and created my own initiative to provide resources about them. In addition to highlighting this group of architects, this initiative raises awareness about their distinction. In doing so, my goal is to infinitely increase the number of African American women licensed architects in the U.S.

FIRST 500 has begun as a lecture series (featured in publications, podcasts and conferences) and network. This initiative will become a publication that accurately documents history and inspires women interested in entering the industry. Furthermore, providing mentorship from the network when they do. FIRST 500 not only creates an encyclopedia of black women architects but is actively increases consciousness. Major industry supporters include NOMA, SOM, Gensler, EntreArchitect and AIA.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/tiara-hughes-noma-realtor%C2%AE-5a8b913a/>



LARGE FIRM ROUND TABLE PARTICIPANTS

Susan Boyle, AIA
Missy DelVecchio, AIA
Peter Exley, FAIA
Kelly M. Farrell, AIA
Jane Frederick, FAIA
Luanne Green, FAIA
Diane Hoskins, FAIA, NCARB
Stephanie McDaniel, AIA
Ellen Mitchell, AIA
Carol Rickard-Brideau, AIA
Wendy S. Rogers, FAIA
Yiselle Santos, AIA
Sheela Maini Søggaard
Tania Van Herle, AIA
Jill Williams, AIA
Monica Willemsen, AIA
Carole Wedge, FAIA, LEED AP

HLW
Robert A.M. Stern
AIA, National President-elect
Callison-RTKL
AIA, National President
Ayers Saint Gross
Gensler
BWBR
Leo A Daly
Little Associates
LPA Design Studios
HKS
BIG
HED
KTGY
SCB
Shepley Bulfinch



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of fruit with spice.

#embracetheseason

threeSPICE Fruit Shrubs
three elements of sweet | sour | spice

composed of:
fruit | sugar | vinegar

currently available:
rosé | autumn pair | black tea
cherry #1 [floral] | cherry #2 [sunny] | cherry #3 [smoky]
summa chi | cackalack

use as:
mocktail | cocktail
glaze | marinade | vinaigrette | gastrique



@three_spice on Instagram
or
www.facebook.com/threeSPICE



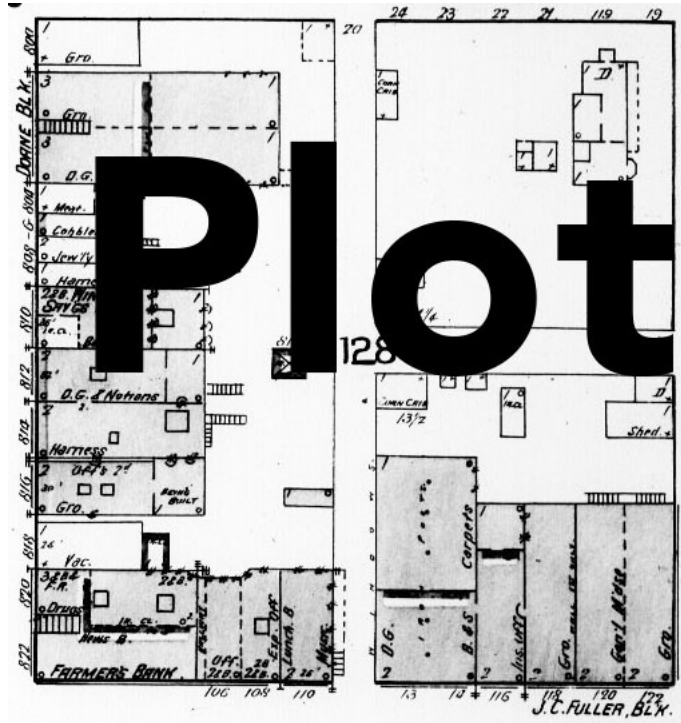
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V M D O



Silver Sponsors

PATRONS

Annette Adams-Beckford

Stephonie Brackett

Melissa Daniel

Jamila Hazel

Kimberly Jackson

Jennifer Matthews

Carole Wedge

**ARCHITECT
INS**

2020 BWA BRUNCH DIRECTORY





Name: _____Annette Adams-Beckford, AIA_____

Company/Firm: __DC Housing Authority_____

Industry: _____Government/Public Housing_____

Location: _____Washington, DC_____

Email: _____aadamsbe@dchousing.org_____

LinkedIn: _____

Website: _____

Memorable Quote:



Name: Synfoni Bailey- Green

Company/Firm: Northeast Collaborative Architects DC/ Northeast Collaborative Architects

Industry: Architecture: Residential, Education, Commercial

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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/synfoni-bailey-green-aia-ncarb-5510308/>

Website: www.ncarchitects-dc.com / www.ncarchitects.com

Memorable Quote:

Be strong, you never know who you are inspiring.-Unknown

May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are and the difference you make.- Unknown



KIMBERLY NICOLE DOWDELL

**PRINCIPAL
HOK**

**PAST PRESIDENT
NOMA 2019-2020**

[linkedin.com/in/kimberlydowdell](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kimberlydowdell)

As architects, our duty is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public...that means everyone. Thus, it is imperative that we champion the issues that face our communities with force, creativity, positivity and light.



Name: Susan Nwankpa Gillespie

Company/Firm: Nwankpa Design

Industry: Architecture

Address: Los Angeles, CA

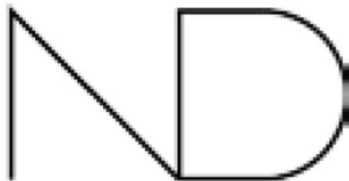
Email: sn@nwankpadesign.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/snwankpa/>

Website: nwankpadesign.com

Memorable Quote:

Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much.
– Helen Keller



NWANKPA DESIGN



Name: Anzilla R. Gilmore, FAIA, NOMAC

Company/Firm: Rice University

Industry: Higher Education Facilities Engineering & Planning

Location: Houston, TX

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/anzilla-gilmore-faia-nomac

Website: <https://facilities.rice.edu/about/leadership>

Memorable Quote:

Always ask for what you want. The worst thing they can say is, no.



JAMILA HAZEL, RA, NCARB
PORTMAN ARCHITECTS
ATLANTA, GA

INDUSTRY: HOPITALITY,
MIXED-USE, OFFICE

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WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/IN/JAMILA-HAZEL-RA-81067828/

“SHOW THEM HOW TO MOVE IN A ROOM FULL OF VULTURES” -JAY-Z





Name: Dawn Hicks

Company/Firm: Venice Community Housing

Industry: Affordable Housing Development

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Email: hicksfdawn@gmail.com

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/dawnfhicks

Website: http://www.designcyphers.com/

Memorable Quote:
"Good, Better, Best, never let it rest,
until your good is your better,
and your better is your best."



AFI SILVER THEATER // SILVER SPRING, MD



BAGBY INNER HARBOR EAST // BALTIMORE, MD

DIANE HOSKINS

FAIA, IIDA, LEED

FIRM: Gensler
ROLE: Co-CEO, Chairperson
LOCATION: Washington, DC

EMAIL: diane_hoskins@gensler.com
LINKEDIN: [linkedin.com/in/dianehoskins](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dianehoskins)
WEBSITE: gensler.com



ARMSTRONG WORLD INDUSTRIES // LANCASTER, PA

"If you begin with a vision and are passionate, then nothing will be impossible to you. Use your energy to **inspire others** because **everyone** wants to be part of **something great.**"

"Make no small plans..."
— Daniel Burnham



Name: Jessica J. Kelly

Company/Firm: National Park Service

Industry: Historic Preservation

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Website: _____

Memorable Quote:

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style. Maya Angelou



NICOLE KUMAR

FIRM: Gensler

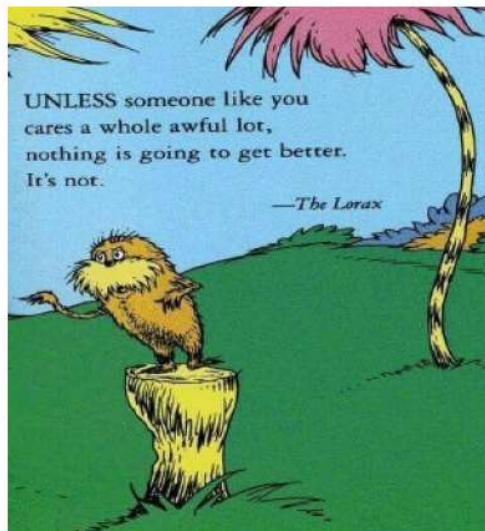
INDUSTRY: Architecture and Design

LOCATION: Raleigh, NC

EMAIL: nicole_kumar@gensler.com

LINKEDIN: linkedin.com/in/nicolekumar/

WEBSITE: gensler.com



“You can’t be what you don’t see.”

- Marian Wright Edelman

As a recruiter I am inspired by these words of Marian Wright Edelman. I am more motivated than ever to achieve the diversity that will greatly benefit this industry.



Bio

Name: Méïssane Kouassi

Graduate Student

School: Columbia University GSAPP

Location: New York, NY

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Website: arch-by-mei.com

Manifesto

I stand for an architecture that is conscious of its environment and which uses all the surrounding resources available to create integrated, sustainable and high-quality living spaces for all.

I believe that the task of architecture is to enhance people's life, regardless of their social background, but most importantly to allow them to identify with their habitat. In a world that is shaped by the built environment and where every design choice has an impact on individuals, it is the responsibility of architects to ensure environmental stability for the welfare of all.



Byronaé Lewis

Architecture Graduate Student
Virginia Tech M.ARCH 2.2

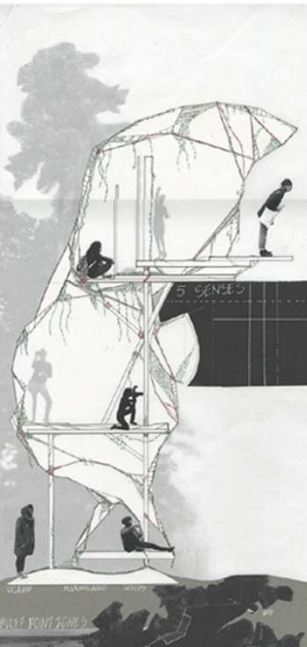
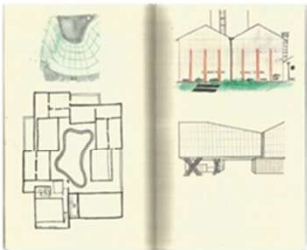
Website: BDMLdesign.com

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Instagram: [BDMLDESIGN](https://www.instagram.com/BDMLDESIGN)

LinkedIn: [byronaelewis](https://www.linkedin.com/in/byronaelewis)

"I would rather spend more time designing a few strong projects that benefit my community versus moving quickly and designing a bunch of mediocre projects"





Architect

Principal and Directory of DEI at
Quinn Evans

Historian for Noir Design Parti

Name: Sandra Little, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP

Company/Firm: Quinn Evans

Industry: Architecture

Location: Detroit, MI

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/saundralittle/

Website: www.quinnevens.com

Project Website: www.noirdesignparti.com

Documenting the work of Black Architects in Michigan

Memorable Quote :

"Imagine Black Culture without Detroit"

-Definitive Style Exclusive (DSE Detroit)



Kariz Matic
CEO, The Matic

Technology Consulting
San Francisco Bay Area, CA
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Innovate and Rise! The Matic creates systems and builds technology designed for growth. From digital transformation to custom software development and marketing integrations, our work has led to 7-figure cost reductions and revenue growth. We're especially skilled in analytics, user experience design as well as project, product and program management. We bring systems of information, process and automation so you can unlock more ways to share your talents and serve your communities.



Name: **NICOLE NIAVA**

Company/Firm: **GENSLER**

Industry: **ARCHITECTURE/ INTERIOR**

Location: **WASHINGTON DC**

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LinkedIn: **NICOLE NIAVA**

Website: **<https://nicoleniava.wixsite.com/portfolio>**

Memorable Quote: **Through architecture and interior design, I live by the idea of positively impacting the world. With my sensitive and human-centered design, I strive to overcome problems through experiential and sustainable solutions to emphasize human wellness within a healthier built environment.**



Name: *Morina Peterson*

Company/Firm: *Waldon Studio Architects*

Industry: *Architecture focused on Health Care, Education and Workshop Projects*

Location: *Washington, DC*

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Memorable Quote: *" Never be limited by other people's limited imagination's" - Dr. Mae Jemison*





Striving to make the world better for others...

Kathryn Bradford Tyler Prigmore

FAIA, NOMAC, LEED BD+C, CDT, SBSE

NSpire Design & Consulting

Practice and Project Management, Ethics, Sustainability

[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-prigmore-9780308](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-prigmore-9780308)



Name: Melanie Ray

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Industry: Architecture

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Memorable Quote: My favorite quote is “You can’t get the dents out of soup can from the outside!”

Photos courtesy of Hord Coplan Macht



Name: Nakita Reed

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Industry: Architecture

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Website: www.NakitaReed.com
www.QuinnEvans.com

Memorable Quote: “We don’t inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children”
– Native Proverb



Name: **Talisha L. Sainvil**

Company/Firm: **40 Six Four Architecture | Design Studio**

Industry: **Architecture**

Location: **Brooklyn, New York**

Email: **talisha@40sixfourarchitects.com**

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/talisha-l-sainvil-architect-aia-noma-ncarb-leed-b0661060/>

Website: **www.40sixfourarchitects.com**

Memorable Quote:

Architecture often represents a spiritual connection between the designer and the designed for. When the Architect has created a space which can evoke a deep down emotion; a place where people can laugh and cry; sing and dance; nurture; they have tapped into the most basic function of the human spirit: to live. Architecture that responds to the rituals of living creates a liaison between form and function. It is a canvas on which life paints itself. It is a language that transcends nationalities. It is many things all in one. Architecture is.





Name: **Sheela Maini Sogaard**

Company/Firm: BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group)

Industry: Architecture and Design

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Email: sheela@big.dk

LinkedIn:

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Website: <https://big.dk/#projects>



Name: Nekia Strong

Company/Firm: Barrett Symone Property Managers
Commercial Development and
Property Management

Location: East Point, Georgia

Email: nstrong@barrettsymone.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/nstrong/

Memorable Quote:

"I don't think architecture is only about shelter..
it should be able to excite you, to calm you, to
make you think." - Zaha Hadid

**Alexandra Taylor, Assoc. AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C
Michael Baker International
Alexandria, VA**

Industry: Transportation and Maintenance Facilities, DOD,
Historic Preservation

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“After the final no there comes a yes, and on that yes the
future world depends.” - Wallace Stevens



Photos courtesy of Michael Baker International.

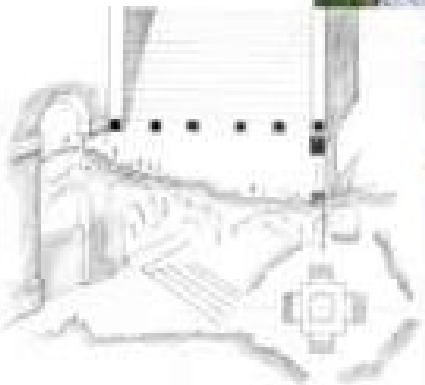


Name: Carol Smith Twyman
Company/Firm: Architect of the Capitol
Industry: Federal

Email: cj73smith@hotmail.com

LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/in/carol-smith-twyman-89944872/

Memorable Quote: “Don’t Forget to Press Pause” Often times our goals and dreams get put aside because a bigger event takes priority [at the time]; like hitting the pause button on a music player we put those dreams on hold promising ourselves that we’ll get back to it. Ask yourself where you are and Don’t Forget to Press Pause and get goals back on track.





TAYLOUR M. UPTON

Industry: Architecture
Location: currently looking for a position in Atlanta, GA
Email: taylour10@gmail.com
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/taylour-upton
Website: issuu.com/taylour_upton

Publication (in progress):

The Un-site: by Black Women, for Black Women

"The development of self-defined Black women, ready to explore and pursue our power and interests within our communities, is a vital component in the war for Black liberation." -Audre Lorde

"If institutional is the site for the production and reproduction of subject, is there an un-site for the un-subject? A non-space of the buried subjectivity of Black women?" -James Bliss



Name: Ashlen V Williams

Company/Firm: KOO LLC

Industry: Architecture

Location: Chicago, IL

Email: williams.ashlen@gmail.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/ashlenwilliams

Memorable Quote: As a nation, we are facing obstacles that seem insurmountable, and the path to equity and racial and climate justice will be arduous. I believe it is within our capacity to achieve these ends, and as architects, are uniquely equipped to facilitate, support, and even lead in the movement.



Name: Janiece Williams

Company/Firm: HansonLA - Director of Operations

Industry: Architecture

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Email: jwilliams@hansonla.com

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/janiece-williams-94678324/

Website: http://www.hansonla.com/

Memorable Quote:

"I'm Rooting for Everybody Black" - Issa Rae
It's always been this straightforward for me!



OUR VISION

To Move the Discourse of Architecture Forward by Continuously Searching for Better.

JILL D. WILLIAMS AIA
PRINCIPAL | CHAIRMAN

Location: Oakland, CA
Email: jwilliams@ktgy.com

Firm: KTGy Architecture + Planning
Industry: Architecture
Website: ktgy.com



Chicago | Denver | Irvine | Los Angeles | Oakland | Tysons





Katherine Williams

Fifth Generation Holdings

Real estate development

ArchStories

Editing, Publishing, Writing

katherinerw.com

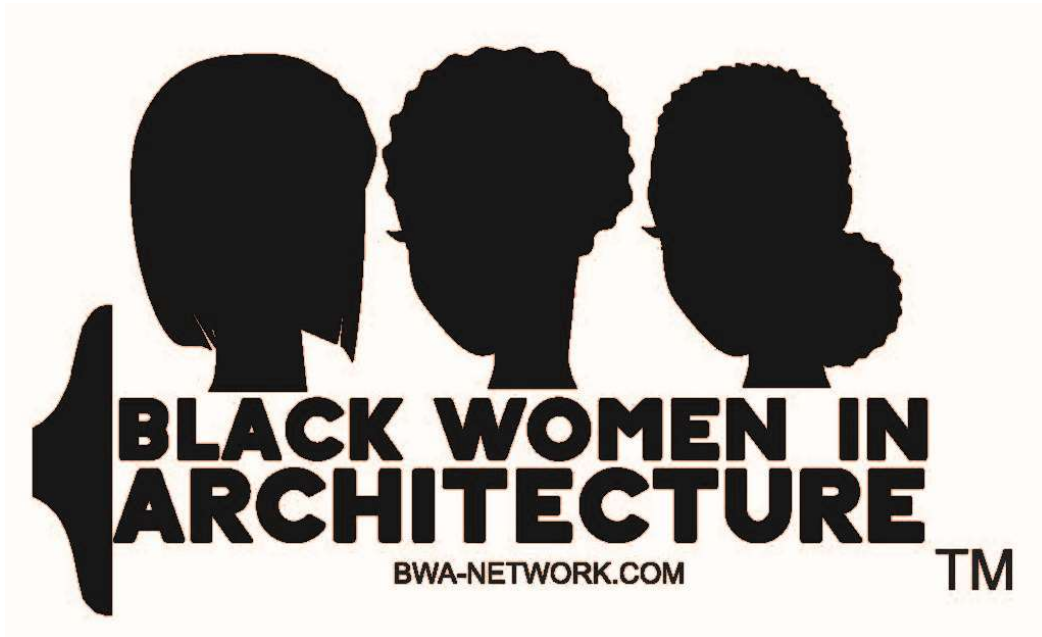
"buildings are important. building community is more important."



BWA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Katherine Williams, Chair
R. Denise Everson
Melanie Ray
Carol Smith Twyman
Alexandra Taylor





Thank-you to all the participants that
made this years event a success

JOIN US NEXT YEAR