

BY THE PEOPLE

Public Programs

April 7 – September 30, 2018

Designing a Better America





By the People: Designing a Better America

Public Programs

The scholarly lectures, roundtables, and presentations by architects, urban activists, and artists organized in conjunction with *By the People: Designing a Better America* consider one of the exhibition's central questions: How can design and architecture spearhead what architect Teddy Cruz refers to as "a new civic imagination?" As the public sector increasingly withdraws from its traditional role as grand builder of cities and infrastructure, it is up to communities to take charge of public space that is under increasing pressure from private financial interests. *By the People* documents some of the grassroots initiatives that, in alliance with architects and designers, are committed to collaborative spaces that foster sociability and strengthen community.

The public programs that we are presenting bring these themes home in order to consider Miami's unique environmental, cultural, and socio-historical context, as well as its international networks of trade and cultural influence. They seek to engage audiences on issues critical to a more equitable urban future. These include "placemaking" (the notion that design interventions in public spaces lead to civic participation), racial justice, and environmental challenges. Architects, designers, planners, activists, sociologists, anthropologists, and political leaders from across the Americas will participate in dialogues with their Miami-based peers.

The public programs have been curated by Dr. Ariana Hernandez-Reguant, research assistant professor at Tulane University and an urban anthropologist with extensive experience researching Miami's urban communities and civic practices.

Photos:
Beltline Atlanta Concept
Citizen Design Lab
Open House-cover

• Tuesday, May 29 7pm

Lecture: *Creative Placemaking: How the Arts Are Enlivening Communities, Celebrating Diversity, and Pursuing Placekeeping*, Dr. Ann Markusen (University of Minnesota)

Respondent: Dr. George Yúdice (University of Miami)

• Wednesday, May 30 7pm

Roundtable: *Creative Placemaking: What's in It for Miami?*

Recently, "placemaking" has become a buzzword among policy makers, foundations, and community activists. As public institutions reduce their involvement in the arts, culture, and education, private stakeholders have stepped in to address communities' needs for inclusive public spaces. These spaces, ranging from small children's playgrounds to entire arts districts, are ideally conceived in dialogue among communities, public policy agents, interested businesses and non-profits, and others. This panel will discuss how to activate "creative placemaking" initiatives, and how to balance communities' mobilization (or lack thereof), the top-down approaches of policy-makers, and the profit drives of urban developers.

Panelists: Dr. Ann Markusen (University of Minnesota), Victoria Rogers (Knight Foundation), Roberto Rovira (Florida International University)

Moderator: Dr. Ariana Hernandez-Reguant (Tulane University)

• Saturday, June 9 4pm

Presentation: Sam Van Leer (Urban Paradise Guild)

• Friday, June 15 7pm

Roundtable: *Race and Urban Space: Overcoming Inequality in Miami*

What can architecture and urban planning do to mitigate racial inequality? Do we still believe that residential racial integration is the solution? Miami's lines of racial segregation have barely moved since the Civil Rights movement. On the one hand, incoming immigrants settled in neighborhoods according to preexisting demographics, while residential programs crafted in the aftermath of the 1968 Fair Housing Act to promote integration were increasingly defunded. On the other, new infrastructure projects, along with real estate interests, reconfigured the city's geography in some areas. As a result, black neighborhoods experienced a decline. How can new "placemaking" initiatives, largely spearheaded by communities and the nonprofit sector, contribute to overcoming inequality?

Panelists: Shekeria Brown (South Florida Development Coalition), Neil Hall (Overtown's Urban Collective/Arts Africa), Dr. Willie Logan (Opa-locka Community Development Corporation), Dr. Moses Shumow (Florida International University)

Moderator: Professor Robin Bachin (University of Miami)

• Thursday, July 19 7pm

Exhibition tour and Q&A: Cynthia E. Smith (Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, Curator of *By the People: Designing a Better America*)

• Saturday, August 25 4pm

Presentation: Tony García (Street Plans Collaborative)

• Wednesday, September 12 7pm

Lecture: *Follow the Carbon: Climate Change, Housing Struggles, and the Reinvention of the Built Environment*, Professor Daniel Aldana Cohen (University of Pennsylvania)

• Thursday, September 13 7pm

Roundtable: *Naturing the City: Toward Sustainable Communities and Resilient Infrastructure*

Disasters, such as hurricanes, as well as the doom of climate change and sea level rise have fostered new thinking about urban planning, particularly in cities like Miami, Houston, and New Orleans. There is a growing awareness that rebuilding must be sustainable in the long term in order to protect communities from dislocation and, ultimately, destruction. This panel includes practitioners and thinkers who are at the cutting edge of this booming field in various cities, as well as local Miami leaders. The goal of the roundtable is to exchange experiences and together envision the ideal city in the era of sea level rise and climate instability.

Panelists: Dr. Daniel Aldana Cohen (University of Pennsylvania), Reverend Houston Cypress (Love the Everglades Movement), Joe Meppelink (Metalab Studio), Mayor Philip Stoddard (City of South Miami), Susanne Torriente (City of Miami Beach)

Moderator: Dr. Marilys Nepomechie (Florida International University School of Architecture)

• Friday, September 14 7pm

Presentation: Joe Meppelink (Metalab Studio)

• Tuesday, September 25 7pm

Lecture: *Cities for Whom: Social Inequalities and Urban Planning in Latin America*, Lorena Zárate (Habitat International Coalition)

• Wednesday, September 26 7pm

Roundtable: *The Politics of Public Space in Latin America*

This panel will consider cutting-edge urban initiatives in various Latin American cities, and the two paths they suggest to neighborhood revitalization through urban design. One is the vision of elected officials such as mayors, and the other emerges from grassroots activism. Cities like Medellín, Caracas, and Mexico City have been at the forefront of new initiatives in formerly

underserved communities. A discussion of these projects will serve as a base for future choices Miami could consider.

Panelists: Alejandro Haiek (Lab Pro Fab, Venezuela), Jorge Pérez Jaramillo (Santo Tomás University, Medellín, Colombia), Lorena Zárate (Habitat International Coalition)
Moderator: Dr. Sonia Chao (University of Miami)

• Thursday, September 27 7pm

Presentation: Jorge Pérez Jaramillo (Santo Tomás University, Medellín, Colombia)

• Friday, September 28 7pm

Presentation: Alejandro Haiek (Lab Pro Fab, Venezuela)

All programs take place in the Citizen Design Lab at the Museum of Art and Design at MDC.

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Saturdays 1:00–8:00 pm

Museum admission: \$12 adults;
\$8 seniors and military;
\$5 students (13–17) and college
students (with valid ID);
free for MOAD MDC members,
MDC students, faculty, and
staff, and children 12 and under

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Participants' Biographies

- Robin F. Bachin** is Charlton W. Tebeau Associate Professor of History and Assistant Provost for Civic and Community Engagement at the University of Miami. She focuses on American urban, environmental, and cultural history. She is the author of *Building the South Side: Urban Space and Civic Culture in Chicago, 1890–1919* and “*Big Bosses: A Working Girl’s Memoir of Jazz Age America*.” She earned the 2015 Carnegie Classification in Community Engagement for the University of Miami. Bachin is project director for the Miami Housing Solutions Lab, member of the Aspen Institute Working Group on Inclusive Innovation in America’s Cities, and past president of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History.
- Shekeria Brown** is executive director of South Florida Community Development Coalition (SFCDC). She has a master’s in urban and regional planning from Florida Atlantic University. For about two decades, she has worked in the design, implementation, and assessment of affordable housing, community, and economic development programs throughout South Florida.
- Sonia Chao** is the director of the Center for Urban and Community Design and a research associate professor at the University of Miami. She writes and teaches in the areas of sustainable architecture and urbanism, resilient design, and historic preservation in the subtropics, including Haiti, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. Currently, she is an executive board member at the Florida Climate Institute and a co-Principal Investigator, National Science Foundation, CRISP Type 1/Collaborative Research: A Human-Centered Computational Framework for Urban and Community Design of Resilient Coastal Cities. Chao holds a Master of Science in architecture from Columbia University and bachelor’s in architecture from the University of Miami.
- Daniel Aldana Cohen** is assistant professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he directs the Socio-Spatial Climate Collaborative, or (SC)2. He conducts research on the politics of climate change, social movements, and cities. His writing has appeared in publications including *Nature*, *Public Culture*, *Metropolitics*, *Jacobin*, *Dissent*, the *NACLA Report on the Americas*, and the *UTNE Reader*, and in edited volumes including *Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas* (University of California Press) and *The City Is the Factory: New Solidarities and Spatial Strategies in an Urban Age* (Cornell University Press). He was a participant in President Obama’s task force “Rebuilding by Design,” formed after Hurricane Sandy.

- The Rev. **Houston R. Cypress** is a Miccosukee artist, activist, and ordained minister. He runs Love the Everglades, an organization that develops platforms and initiatives for environmental protection and cultural preservation. He has also emerged as an important voice in advocating for two-spirit and non-binary gender peoples.
- Tony García** is an architect and activist in the field of transit, pedestrian, and bicycle infrastructure. He is the principal of Street Plans Collaborative and has a master’s in architecture from the University of Miami, where he is an adjunct professor. He is past chairman of the Green Mobility Network, the largest bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization in South Florida, and past publisher and managing editor of the transportation blog *TransitMiami.com*. He is co-founder of the Ludlam Trail project, which will result in more than 50 acres of new park space in Miami-Dade County. He is a current recipient of the CINTAS Foundation Fellowship for Architecture and Design.
- Ariana Hernandez-Reguant** is an assistant research professor of Latin American Studies at Tulane University and a doctoral graduate of the University of Chicago’s Department of Anthropology. She has conducted research in Havana, Washington, D.C., the San Diego/Tijuana border region, and Miami on immigration, race relations, citizenship, and political participation, and their connection to space and place. Her dissertation research on Havana’s cultural industries and intellectual property received the SGAE (Spanish Society of Authors and Publishers) annual award. She has published three edited volumes on Cuban culture, and her writings have appeared in books and journals such as *Public Culture* and *Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*. Her latest article, “Amertec Ephemeral,” appeared in *The Miami Rail* and analyzed the dynamics of zoning, architecture, and value in Hialeah, FL.
- Neil Hall** was trained as an architect at the University of Florida. He is an activist for responsible development in historic Overtown through sustainable design, historic preservation, the arts, and technological education. His practice, The Hall Group, specializes in urban development consulting, urban planning, interior design, and architecture. Hall was a founding member of the Association of African-American Architects in South Florida, created to ensure that black architects were receiving equal opportunities. Fifteen new African-American architectural firms were founded as a result, in turn generating an association of women architects and engineers. Hall was subsequently elected the first black president of the Miami chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He has been president of the National Organization of Minority Architects—representing over 6,000 black architects

nationwide—and vice chair of the Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design. At present, he serves as a chairman of Art Africa Miami Arts Fair, an off-Basel large-scale art fair featuring artists from the African diaspora.

- Born and raised in Miami Beach, Dr. **Willie Logan** was the youngest mayor in the United States when he was elected to lead the city of Opa-locka in 1980. He went on to serve in the Florida House of Representatives two years later, as he founded the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, which he continues to lead as CEO. His work to transform impoverished communities through urban design and neighborhood revitalization has received numerous public and private grants and awards.
- Ann Markusen** is professor emerita and director of the Arts Economy Initiative, University of Minnesota, and principal of Markusen Economic Research (annmarkusen.com). Her research includes several major foundation-funded studies: “Artists’ Centers” (2006), “Crossover: How Artists Build Careers across Commercial, Nonprofit and Community Work” (2006), “Native Artists” (2009), “Creative Placemaking” (2010), and “California’s Arts and Cultural Ecology” (2012). Markusen earned a doctorate in economics at Michigan State University, and served as professor at Rutgers, Northwestern, Berkeley, and Colorado universities. She was Fulbright Lecturer, Brazil; UK Fulbright Distinguished Chair, Glasgow School of Art; and Visiting Professor, Korea University, Seoul National University, and Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto.
- Joe Meppelink** is a founding principal of METALAB, a multi-disciplinary design firm in Houston, Texas, that pursues design-forward architectural commissions, public art project management, and product designs that often incorporate resiliency and sustainable technologies. He holds U.S. patents in applied solar technology and LED lighting. Meppelink serves as senior VP of research and development for MobileGRID, manufacturer of the JuiceBOX, an off-grid modular shipping-container building used for disaster relief, emergency response, and remote field operations that was deployed in Houston and Haiti for hurricane response. He is currently preparing a specialized installation for Rice University—the Rice Solar Studios—as a demonstration for post-Hurricane Harvey flood resilient design.
- Marilyn R. Nepomechie** is an award-winning architect, associate dean for strategic initiatives, and professor of architecture in the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts at Florida International University. She is the author of the AIA Guide to MIAMI *Building Paradise: An Architectural Guide to the Magic City* (AIA, 2010), and an editor of the bilingual *Bienal Miami+ Beach 2001–2005: A Retrospective* (Trama, 2007). Her work has

appeared in numerous journals, including *JAE*, *Thresholds*, *Places*, *Perspecta*, *Modulus*, *Aula*, *Punto*, *Metropolis*, *Ottagono*, *Abitare*, *Architecture*, *Architecture Boston*, *Architecture Ireland*, and *Progressive Architecture*. Nepomechie holds a master’s of architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has been inducted into the AIA College of Fellows and the ACSA College of Distinguished Professors.

- Jorge Pérez-Jaramillo** is dean of the Santo Tomás University Faculty of Architecture, and the former chief planner of the city of Medellín (2012–15) and deputy chief planner of the Medellín Metropolitan Area (2004–08). His efforts led to the city’s 2012 recognition as the Most Innovative City by the Urban Land Institute, the *Wall Street Journal* and Citi; Special Mention for the 2014 Lee Kwan Yew World City Prize; participation in the Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities; and other many awards for its innovative initiatives. In 2017, he was Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University King’s College, in the U.K. He is currently writing a book on Medellín’s urban evolution.
- Victoria Rogers** is vice president for the arts at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, where she oversees the institution’s mission to foster informed and engaged communities through making arts and culture accessible to all, including the foundation’s signature program, the Knight Arts Challenge. Previously, she was executive vice president of the New World Symphony and assistant vice president for central development at the University of Miami. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts from Jacksonville University and a Master of Arts in Business Communication from Georgia State University.
- Roberto Rovira** is principal of Studio Roberto Rovira, and associate professor and former chair of Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design at Florida International University. He has been recognized internationally for his work as an educator and professional. *The Architect’s Newspaper* named his design firm one of the five most exciting in Miami and *Fast Company* magazine recently selected his EcoAtlas project as a 2018 World Changing Ideas finalist. He earned an Emerging Voice award from the Architectural League in New York. He has been lead designer on national and international projects, and his work ranges from environmental installations and competitions to art commissions and landscape architectural projects.
- Moses Shumow** earned his doctorate from the University of Miami and is an associate professor of journalism and media at Florida International University. He is co-author of *News, Neoliberalism, and Miami’s Fragmented Urban Space* (Lexington Books, 2016) on Miami’s racial, ethnic, and class informational

divide. He is also the director of *Liberty Square: Power, History, and Race in Miami*, a full-length documentary that focuses on a housing development as a critical commentary on the history of race and power in Miami.

- Cynthia E. Smith** is the curator of *By the People: Designing a Better America*. An industrial designer by training, she holds a master’s degree from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. She serves as Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum’s curator of socially responsible design, integrating her design expertise with her advocacy on human rights and social justice issues. She was co-organizer of the Social Impact Design Summit, white paper, and public forum with the National Endowment for the Arts; curator of *Design with the Other 90%: CITIES* at the United Nations headquarters (2011); and co-curator of the *Design Triennial: Why Design Now?* (2010), among other groundbreaking exhibitions. Named a “20/20 New Pioneer” by *Icon* design magazine, she is a member of the World Economic Forum Expert Network and serves on numerous international design juries, including the Resilient by Design Bay Area Challenge.
- Philip Stoddard** is a professor of biology at Florida International University. A big proponent of renewable energy, he was first elected to office in 2010 and is currently serving his fifth term as Mayor of South Miami. In 2015 Mayor Stoddard was appointed by the White House to the Governance Coordinating Committee of the National Ocean Council, where he developed national policy for sea level rise, and since 2018 he serves in the CLEO Institute Expert Advisory Council. In 2016 *Politico Magazine* included him in the Politico-50 “guide to the thinkers, doers and visionaries transforming American politics in 2016.” He has also been named “Green Municipal Official” by the Florida Green Building Coalition (2016), and “Best Politician of 2017” by the *Miami New Times*.
- Susanne Torriente** is chief resilience officer and assistant city manager for the city of Miami Beach. She is a seasoned public administrator with more than 27 years of service in Miami-Dade County and several signature cities in the region. Her portfolio includes planning, building, code compliance, and environment and sustainability. The city of Miami Beach is a leader and pioneer in adaptation efforts in South Florida. As CRO she is leading the effort to develop an action-oriented, citywide resiliency strategy and a broader Greater Miami & the Beaches 100 Resilient Cities Strategy supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. She is a founding member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact staff steering committee; this body of work has afforded her the opportunity to share the South Florida climate resilience story around the world.

- Sam Van Leer** grew up in Key Biscayne, the son of a marine scientist. He is the president and founder of Urban Paradise Guild (UPG), a Florida nonprofit dedicated to fighting climate change through projects that restore Miami’s natural habitat, urban agriculture for low-income families, and engaging the public and local leaders to find new ways to protect the environment. Through the UPG, he is leading habitat restoration, agriculture, and education efforts at various parks and urban areas around the county, including ACE Preserve, Amelia Earhart Park, and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens.

- George Yúdice** is professor of modern languages and literatures, and Latin American studies at the University of Miami. He is the author, with Toby Miller, of *Cultural Policy* (Sage, 2002); *The Expediency of Culture: Uses of Culture in the Global Era* (Duke University Press, 2003); *Nuevas Tecnologías, Música y Experiencia* (Gedisa, 2007); and *Culturas Emergentes en el Mundo Hispano de Estados Unidos* (Fundación Alternativas, 2009). He has published more than 150 articles on cultural policy, music and audiovisual industries, new media, literary criticism, and rethinking aesthetics in the age of social media. He serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Cultural Policy*.

- Lorena Zárate** is president of Habitat International Coalition. A historian by training, she has co-edited and authored several books and articles on urban sustainability issues. In 2013, she was awarded the John Bousfield Distinguished Visitorship from the Geography and Urban Planning Program at the University of Toronto. Since 2014, she has been co-coordinator of an international project to promote a global platform for the Right to the City.

By the People: Designing a Better America was organized by the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian American Design Museum, and curated by Cynthia E. Smith. *The Citizen Design Lab* is an extension of *By the People: Designing a Better America*, and its activities are inspired by the GRAY AREA project and developed in partnership with ISA-Interface Studio Architects. The presentation of this exhibition at the Museum of Art and Design, Miami Dade College, is made possible by the generous support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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