

# INVEST SOUTH/WEST PRE-QUALIFIED LIST OF DESIGN SERVICES FIRMS

CHICAGO  
ARCHITECTURE  
CENTER





*Jury Co-Chair:* Lynn Osmond  
President & CEO,  
Chicago Architecture Center



*Jury Co-Chair:* Reed Kroloff  
Dean & The Rowe Family College of  
Architecture Endowed Chair,  
IIT College of Architecture



*Juror:* Allison Grace Williams, FAIA  
Principal, AGWms\_Studio



*Juror:* Gerardo Garcia  
Design Review Lead, City of Chicago  
Department of Planning and Development



*Juror:* Bill Williams  
Principal, KMW Communities



*Juror:* Sara Zewde  
Founding Principal, Studio Zewde



*Juror:* Philip Enquist, FAIA  
Consulting Partner, SOM

This summer the City of Chicago invited the Chicago Architecture Center to organize an open Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify Chicago design firms to be considered for upcoming projects connected to Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's INVEST South/West neighborhood improvement initiative. The massive \$750 million reinvestment in the urban fabric of Chicago's South and West Side communities will focus on small- and mid-scale projects along commercial corridors and heavily trafficked intersections. The Pre-Qualified List of Design Services Firms we announce here is part of a broader initiative by the City's Department of Planning and Development to advance design excellence in all new projects across the city, from skyline-defining investments downtown to civic and commercial investments in neighborhoods and residential districts.

The following document is a resource packet for developers who may wish to respond to a series of upcoming Requests for Proposals issued under the INVEST South/West initiative. We provide here an introduction to all the Pre-Qualified design teams and their primary contact information and encourage developers to explore the work of these firms. Some are large, some are small; some are venerable, some are new. For the burgeoning designers, we encourage partnership with established firms to lend wisdom and add capacity to their efforts, and, at the same time, encourage larger firms to see the opportunity to mentor and help elevate fresh design voices. Above all, the teams assembled here share the Planning Department's abiding commitment to high-quality design.

The open-call RFQ yielded nearly 200 responses from across greater Chicago. A jury of respected design and development experts (including San Francisco-based architect and consultant Allison Grace Williams; Chicago developer Bill Williams; Chicago-based urban designer Phil Enquist; New York-based landscape architect Sara Zewde; and Planning Department Design Review Lead Gerardo Garcia) narrowed that list to the 32 you see here today. We are excited to promote this inaugural list and proud that it reflects the diversity of the city at large.

- 56% of selected teams are women-owned firms
- 63% of selected teams include a female lead designer
- 44% of selected teams are minority-owned firms
- 47% of selected teams include a lead designer of color

The depth and breadth of firms responding demonstrates the local design industry's passionate interest in strengthening our hometown, and it is sure to impel the City to refresh this list from time to time to always keep on the lookout for top talent. We hope this resource inspires developers to respond to INVEST South/West opportunities with some of the very best design talent Chicago has to offer.

Thank you,

**LYNN OSMOND**  
President & CEO  
Chicago Architecture Center  
*Jury Co-Chair*

Thank you,

**REED KROLOFF**  
Dean & The Rowe Family College  
of Architecture Endowed Chair  
IIT College of Architecture  
*Jury Co-Chair*

BRININSTOOL  
+ LYNCH

BROOK  
ARCHITECTURE

BUILT FORM

CANOPY +  
WOODHOUSE  
TINUCCI +  
FLOATING  
MUSEUM

CURIOSO +  
INFORM STUDIO

DAAM

## SELECTED LIST OF 32 LOCAL DESIGN SERVICE FIRMS AND TEAMS

DMAC  
ARCHITECTURE

GARRISON +  
BONDER +  
HENDERSON +  
WILLIAMS +  
HKS

INTERACTIVE  
DESIGN  
ARCHITECTS

JGMA +  
BEEHYVE

KOO LLC

KRUECK  
+ SEXTON  
ARCHITECTS

KWONG VON  
GLINOW +  
UB STUDIO +  
ROBERT  
BURNIER

LANDON  
BONE BAKER  
ARCHITECTS +  
CIVIC PROJECTS  
ARCHITECTURE

MIR  
COLLECTIVE +  
MKB ARCHITECTS

NORMAN  
KELLEY

PORT  
URBANISM +  
FUTURE FIRM +  
BORDERLESS  
STUDIO WITH  
DAVID BROWN

PAUL PREISSNER  
ARCHITECTS

VLADIMIR  
RADUTNY  
ARCHITECTS

JOHN RONAN  
ARCHITECTS

ROSS BARNEY  
ARCHITECTS

SITE DESIGN  
GROUP, LTD.

SKIDMORE,  
OWINGS &  
MERRILL

ADRIAN SMITH  
+ GORDON GILL  
ARCHITECTURE

STUDIO DWELL +  
BROOKS +  
SCARPA

STUDIO GANG

PRESENT  
FUTURE  
ARCHITECTS +  
WILL DUBOSE  
DESIGN

URBANLAB

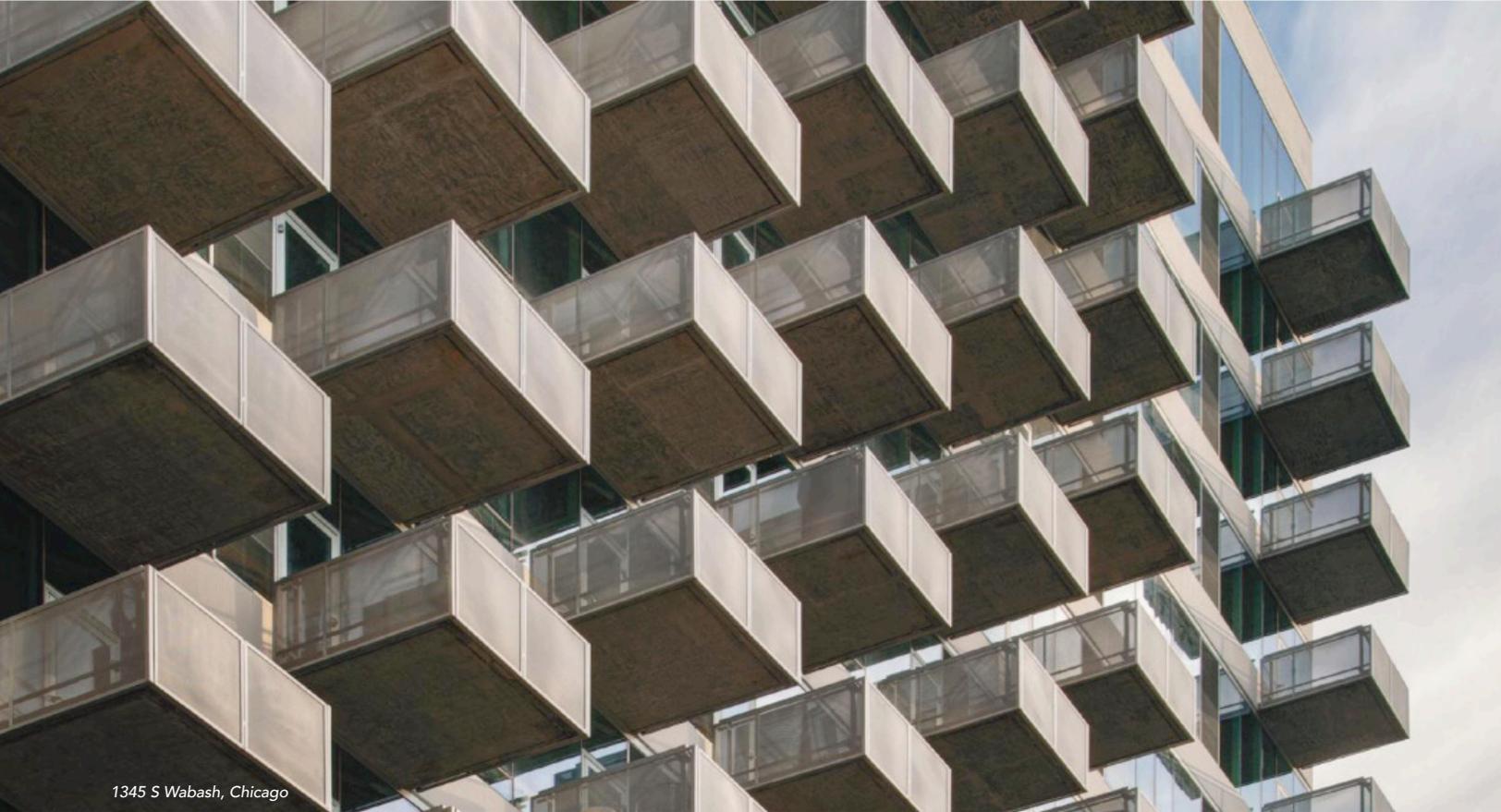
URBANWORKS

VALERIO  
DEWALT TRAIN +  
LATENT DESIGN

VIA CHICAGO  
ARCHITECTS +  
DISEÑADORES +  
COULD BE  
ARCHITECTURE +  
CHICAGO  
MOBILE MAKERS

WHEELER  
KEARNS  
ARCHITECTS

ALL PHOTOGRAPHY HAS BEEN SELECTED FROM THE RFQ SUBMISSION APPLICATIONS. UNDER THE COMPETITION RULES, ALL REPRODUCTION RIGHTS ARE RESERVED FOR PROMOTIONAL OR EDUCATIONAL USE.



1345 S Wabash, Chicago

# BRININSTOOL + LYNCH

Brininstool + Lynch has been providing architectural services in Chicago for over 30 years. With award-winning projects ranging in every scale and scope, we have the ability to address nearly any conceivable project situation. We pride ourselves in finding economical and environmentally responsible solutions to complex construction problems, while not sacrificing quality or service.

Our interest in supporting the INVEST South/West initiative is seated in a deep belief that architecture can and should play a role in enriching communities across the city of Chicago. As a part of a larger mission, architects can ensure that safe, cost-effective, and durable buildings are not just a luxury, but an accessible necessity in underserved communities. Our work with local developers, skilled contractors, and community leaders has given us insights into completing ethical projects of all sizes and scales, even in the most complex situations. Much of our success has benefitted from these long-term relationships with thoughtful professionals at every step of the building process.

It is clear that the next few years will be formative for Chicago’s South and West Sides, as political, social, and cultural shifts refocus efforts on realizing a more equitable future for the city’s residents. We hope in our small part, we can provide the support to those that have been working tirelessly for decades across the city’s underserved communities. We look to their lead and are listening to their needs as the basis for our involvement in this great task.



*Jennifer Park*  
AIA  
Principal  
Brininstool + Lynch



*Pablo Diaz*  
Project Manager  
Brininstool + Lynch



CPS Central Office Relocation, Chicago

# BROOK ARCHITECTURE

Brook Architecture Incorporated is a full-service architecture firm founded on the principle that diverse experiences are valuable and bring great value to a design solution. The firm name is inspired by a Langston Hughes poem, *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, where the speaker, after reflecting upon the many rivers he has traversed, proclaims “my soul has grown deep like the rivers.” Initially my underlying intent in starting the firm was to make opportunities for the disenfranchised to become licensed architects. Along the way, 25 years later, I have observed the profound impact the built environment has on the quality of life for the people with whom I live, work, and play, and I have dedicated my practice to transforming those environments.

One of my proudest achievements has been witnessing minority employees become licensed architects while working for me or seeing them secure their license soon after leaving Brook Architecture. I feel as though I am doing my part to diversify a profession that serves everyone but suffers from the under-representation of minorities. I believe diversity will improve the quality of our built environment.

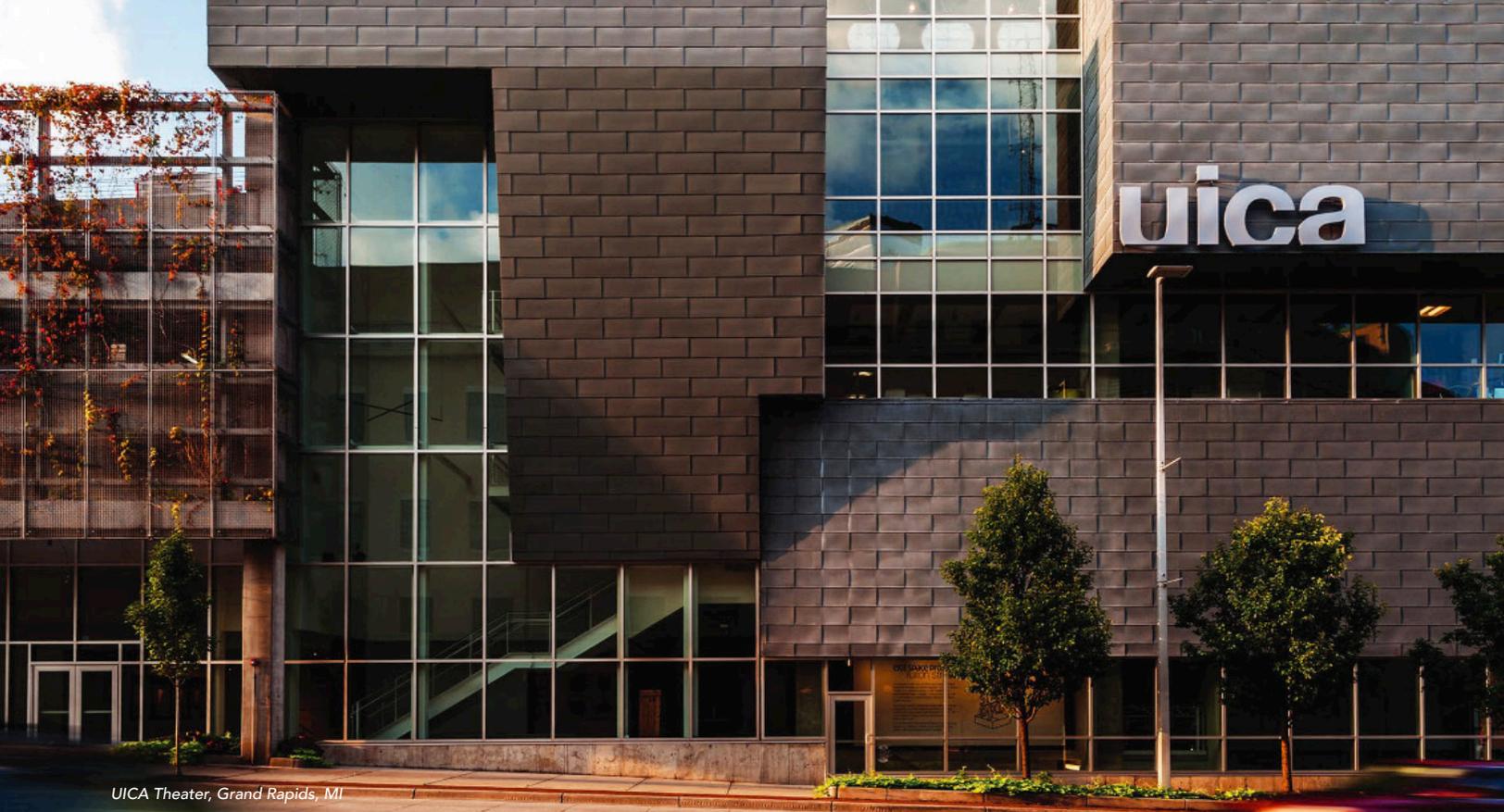
When considering a project, we ask questions and listen; not every project is for us to do. We are selective about the projects we take and we look for projects (and clients) that allow us to utilize our expertise but also offer an opportunity to expand our knowledge base. This balanced approach allows us to carefully push the boundaries of design while confidently building upon past successes.



**RaMona Westbrook**  
AIA, LEED AP  
President  
Brook Architecture



**Kelly Williams**  
AIA  
Vice President  
Brook Architecture



UICA Theater, Grand Rapids, MI

## BUILT FORM



**Arden Freeman**  
AIA  
Principal  
Built Form



**Robert Bistry**  
AIA, LEED NC+B  
Principal  
Built Form

Built Form is a medium-sized studio based in Chicago with smaller satellite offices in North Carolina and Florida. At our scale, the principles, as well as our staff can form close working relations with our clients and consultants, ensuring a more personal investment into each project. Currently our office make-up is approximately 50% women and 25% minority staff, and as we grow our diversity will continue to reflect the city we live in. We started the firm with the Ministry Center in East Garfield Park and a multi-family project in Milwaukee. Sixteen years later we have the same balance of community-based projects in Chicago and mixed-use projects around the country.

As a licensed firm in Illinois and several other states, we pride ourselves on our technical abilities as well as our design abilities to ensure a successful project. We see the embracing of accessible design, sustainability, and the latest building technologies as the only way forward, so it's part of our office culture to embrace these aspects of architecture.

Every project has different goals to be executed within a different context, so we start with a significant amount of listening and research before determining a specific design methodology. Some projects lend themselves more to a strategy than a methodology. We look to the research to find cultural and historical references that can inform architectural metaphors. We are always aware of the physical context, but many of our projects are developed from the inside-out through sections and plans. The intent is to create spatially meaningful work that allows for creative solutions that fit within the context of their communities.



OSO Apartments, Chicago

# CANOPY + WOODHOUSE TINUCCI + FLOATING MUSEUM



**Jaime Torres  
Carmona**  
AIA, LEED AP  
Principal  
Canopy



**Andy Tinucci**  
AIA, LEED AP  
Principal  
Woodhouse Tinucci



**Avery Young**  
Co-Director  
Floating Museum

The INVEST South/West neighborhood improvement initiative is a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity that can redefine the limits on activity, integration, diversity, and inclusion in the public realm; creating new civic hubs in some of the oldest parts of our city that for too long have been ignored and underserved.

For this project, we have specifically assembled a unique, cross-disciplinary team, focused on providing the local neighbors and regional users a tailored approach and solutions that will address all needs in transformative new forms of public/private projects. From the large-scale resolution of restored public park realms to the precise details required for high-performance community centers, and from the essential need for housing and shelter to the exciting potentials for gathering, we stress design that is site- and program-driven, we promote sustainability as an everyday connection of the community to the environment, and we support the creation of a public space that harmonizes landscape and building.

We are in full support of INVEST South/West's mission and requirements. We are excited by the promise of this initiative, and we look forward to contributing to improving our city through inclusion, collaboration, and meaningful design.



The Wheelhouse Hotel, Chicago

# CURIOSO + INFORM STUDIO

At Curioso + INFORM, we design with community in mind. We know that good design puts people first. So, we listen to the stories echoing around a block or reverberating in a building. We get into the minutia, roll up our sleeves, and leap with gusto into the intensity of each project's unique ecosystem. Far from adhering to a signature aesthetic, we discover design solutions that respect and resonate with each unique circumstance.

We do this because our goal is to create experiences with the power to transform. We aim to work on projects that are as much felt in a community as they are seen. We know that good design has the ability and the potential to impact more than just those who directly engage with it. In fact, we believe it's actually quite like grassroots community building.

Curioso + INFORM have collaborated for the past two years on a 3.76 acre, \$300M mixed-use development in Midtown Detroit comprising student housing, multi-family living, a public plaza, and a hotel. INFORM serves as the Master Architect and Curioso as the Interior Design studio. As a team, we make each other better. Our shared "Project to Purpose" vision means that our commitment to the work is aligned and passionate.



**Nina Grondin**  
Managing Principal  
Curioso



**Daniel Pierce**  
Design Principal  
Curioso



**Michael Guthrie**  
Design Principal  
INFORM Studio



**Gina Van Tine**  
Managing Principal  
INFORM Studio



Rail Yard Warehouse Lofts, Green Bay, WI

# DAAM

DAAM, also known as DAAM Projects, is an award-winning professional design firm founded on the principles of collaboration and cross-disciplinary practice in the areas of Design, Architecture, Art, and Making. Our mission is to advance creative thinking-and-doing in the built environment through a “hands-on” interactive approach to design. From neighborhood plans to building designs to custom joinery and details, the DAAM team is committed to providing our clients, partners, and community with innovative, resilient, and beautiful solutions to meet each project’s set of unique challenges.

DAAM believes that Design, Architecture, Art, and Making are opportunities. They are a real means of creating asset value while providing essential resources to individuals, communities, neighborhoods, and cities. We believe INVEST South/West presents an occasion to elevate Chicago’s South and West Side neighborhoods through these creative means. We are excited to leverage our team’s collective expertise and seize these opportunities to integrate new buildings and placemaking strategies into the historically rich and architecturally dynamic sites along the selected corridors.

We believe our experience in successfully designing public, institutional, and academic buildings and social spaces for private, public, and non-profit clients positions us to actively engage with our city’s South and West Side communities and translate their needs into built form. We are adept at synthesizing difficult site constraints, complex construction logistics, and contemporary project delivery methods into thoughtful pieces of architecture.



*Elyse Agnello*  
AIA, NCARB  
Principal  
DAAM

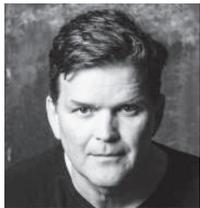


*Alexander Shelly*  
AIA, NCARB  
Principal  
DAAM



Midtown Athletic Club and Hotel, Chicago

## DMAC ARCHITECTURE



*Dwayne MacEwen  
AIA, NCARB  
Principal  
DMAC Architecture*



*Kavitha Marudadu  
AIA, LEED AP,  
NCARB  
Associate Principal  
DMAC Architecture*

DMAC Architecture is a Chicago-based studio with 25 years of experience in architecture, interior design, and product design. Our staff experience spans multiple typologies and scales across commercial, hospitality, retail, and residential. In the last three years alone, we have produced over 1,000,000 square feet of commercial space. With every project, DMAC understands the audience matters; the space matters; the experience matters. We look for the stories that express our client's vision and transcend time. Our designs cater to the human experience with memorable spaces and cohesive details.

As with all of our clients, we understand working with INVEST South/West calls for research, engagement, dialogue, and partnership with all stakeholders. We understand that each neighborhood comes with its own history, challenges, and opportunities. We seek out these stories to remember, learn from, and reimagine an environment that is relevant, sustainable, and engaging.

What sets DMAC apart is our process-driven approach. We are a studio with all hands on deck. There are no departments. Our designs are rooted in their buildability. Everyone in the office spends time working on the job site, building side-by-side with contractors and learning by doing. Unlike most architectural offices, we also have a full workshop within our studio which makes it easy to mock-up and test design ideas. This ability for tactile visualization helps facilitate "what if" explorations, key discussions with clients and collaborators, and ultimately design decisions for the best results.



Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King Memorial, Boston, MA

# GARRISON + BONDER + HENDERSON + WILLIAMS + HKS

As architects, landscape architects, community members, and cultural agents, we design experiences that leave traces across the city. We believe our work should reveal history and memories to anchor our streetscapes and neighborhoods. In this sense, our disciplines work at the intersection of culture, history, and memory. Because design excellence comprises ethically motivated purpose and economic responsibility, we recognize that design for cities is a public and practical art.

We believe in a sustainable approach to our work and projects. Issues of sustainability are woven into our design ideas—from the level of site planning to that of the techniques of architectural systems. Throughout our work, we will connect with the communities, the organizations, and the people who live in the neighborhoods that our designs will serve. Our stakeholders are numerous, and we will be inclusive of all.

We intend to create opportunities for Chicago's citizens through our work. We will take stock of neighborhood legacies and histories to create new experiences and new collective memories. Through design excellence, we hope to ameliorate the present and assist in crafting a better future. Ultimately, we intend for our design to be rooted in community engagement and grounded in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.



**Darrell Garrison**  
PLA, ASLA  
President  
Planning Resources



**Julian Bonder**  
Principal  
Julian Bonder +  
Associates



**Ron Henderson**  
ASLA, AIA  
Founding Principal  
L+A Landscape  
Architecture



**Douglas Williams**  
Ph.D., ASLA, NOMA,  
LEED Ass., ASALH,  
BMRC, EDRA,  
Ikenobo, MANRRS



**Anthony Montalto**  
AIA  
Principal  
HKS

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Engine Company 16, Chicago

# INTERACTIVE DESIGN ARCHITECTS



*Dina Griffin, FAIA  
NOMA, IIDA,  
NCARB  
President  
Interactive Design  
Architects*

Established in 1992, Interactive Design Architects (IDEA) carefully selected its name to reflect the firm's collaborative ideals and, today, our name continues to serve as the guiding principal of our work.

Years of experience has confirmed that success hinges not only on the design or building process, but on thoughtful listening and attention to the demands of a client's culture. IDEA has been fortunate to have been able to collaborate with such a wide range of institutions in creating significant enhancements to neighborhoods and communities throughout the Chicago area and beyond, from the renovation of a rectory building into accessible, multi-unit housing; to our 10-year collaboration with the Renzo Piano Building Workshop as Architect of Record for the Modern Wing at the Art Institute of Chicago; to our current work on the Obama Presidential Center as Associate Architect (with Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects I Partners) in the Jackson Park community. We have completed over 100 significant governmental projects, including libraries, fire stations, and schools in neighborhoods across the city. IDEA provides experience with local governmental and civic bodies as well as effective leadership in coordination of complex consultant teams and stakeholder engagement. IDEA also provides key guidance and leadership on projects with issues relating to local historic preservation concerns.

Dina Griffin, President of IDEA, was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and has a deep love for the city. Each of our Chicago projects demonstrates our conviction that even greater things can be accomplished in every neighborhood.



Acero (UNO) Soccer Academy, Chicago

# JGMA + BEEHYVVE



*Juan Moreno*  
AIA  
President  
JGMA



*Deon P. Lucas*  
Principal Architect  
BEEHYVVE

JGMA profoundly believes that architecture has an innate ability to transform people and place. The focus of our work has been in Chicago's diverse communities where each of the typologies that we work on faces similar challenges of public architecture and its representational character. We proudly work in community areas that are unaccustomed to receiving architecture of quality; places where people feel forgotten; neighborhoods where neighbors feel like they are not cared for.

We believe that every design scenario is unique and that each project be approached with a solution tailored for that community. Through the amplification of culture, empowering of community members, and creating appropriate vibrancy, our design solutions aim to become beacons of the true dynamic nature of places. We intend to reflect and project the values and personalities embodied in those who will ultimately utilize these spaces daily.

When more architects and designers collaborate and add community-centered designs to their repertoire, our communities thrive. That is why JGMA and Beehyvve have declared our commitment to collaboration. Led by Deon Lucas, Beehyvve is an organization of up-and-coming architects of color who are equally committed to creating change and becoming role models to the youth and future architects of Chicago. This collaboration also aligns with our respective core missions of creating a black and brown coalition that unites disparate communities of color into one design-focused partnership who have worked in a multitude of scales and complexities.



Altgeld Family Resource Center, Chicago

## KOO LLC

KOO is a minority woman-owned Architecture, Interior Design, and Urban Planning firm founded by Jackie Koo in 2005. The firm's first constructed project was the 27-story the Wit Hotel at the corner of State and Lake Streets in the Loop, adjacent to the elevated train. This hospitality project popularized the hotel rooftop bar and is a project type for which KOO is well-known.

Over the past 15 years, KOO has grown into an award-winning firm that has garnered notable public-facing commissions such as the Navy Pier Hotel and the UIC Performing Arts Center. In addition to these well-known projects, KOO has had a long-term commitment to providing its services to the public sector, including the Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Public Schools, City Colleges, and Cook County as well as various not-for-profit institutions.

KOO does not work in a particular style, but rather aims to elicit the project's identity based on the owner's vision, user's needs, analysis of the program, and research. Based on this information, the office charettes the problem and experiments with functional and aesthetic solutions. All members of the office are encouraged to participate.

In 2015, we promoted Dan Rappel, KOO's Director of Sustainable Design, to Principal. Jackie and Dan work together to provide substantial Principal level involvement on all projects and redundancy for our clients. KOO combines the flexibility and creativity of a boutique firm with the sophisticated technical, project management, and QA/QC processes of a corporate firm.



*Jackie Koo*  
AIA, NOMA,  
LEED AP  
Principal  
Koo LLC



*Dan Rappel*  
AIA  
Principal  
Koo LLC



CME Center, Chicago

# KRUECK + SEXTON ARCHITECTS

For over forty years, our firm has been fortunate to work with an inspiring array of clients, from homeowners and developers to schools and governments. In our commitment to design excellence, we have pushed the boundaries of architectural design and sought to create a legacy of visually and functionally enduring projects. Along the way we have grown, refined our process, and adapted to meet new challenges and opportunities.

While we rely on gathered knowledge and experience to get our projects built, we believe that what actually makes a good designer is not familiarity but curiosity. Six years ago, when we started work on I Grow Chicago's Peace Campus in West Englewood, we began our collaboration by surrendering our preconceptions, an admittedly painful process of unlearning, but one that allowed us to appreciate the complexities of our task and our City as we never imagined. This ethos of listening and learning pervades our firm's philosophy, and questioning assumptions allows us to discover and realize a project's hidden, transformative potential.

As we seek to expand the impact and equitability of our work throughout Chicago's West and South Sides, we recognize that one of the great prospects of this initiative lies in reciprocal education, and that our value as designers is augmented by what we might share along the way. Taking Mayor Lightfoot's vision and concerns as our own, we offer this engagement a design vision and deep experience managing a wide variety of project types, as well as insights from across our diverse body of work. We are drawn to this initiative's complexity and look forward to taking great pride in delivering inspiring yet practical and maintainable architectural solutions.



**Mark Sexton, FAIA**  
LEED AP  
Co-Managing Partner  
Krueck + Sexton



**Tom Jacobs**  
AIA, LEED BD+C  
Co-Managing Partner  
Krueck + Sexton



**Sara Lundgren**  
AIA, LEED AP  
Partner  
Krueck + Sexton



**Juan Villafañe**  
AIA, LEED AP  
Partner  
Krueck + Sexton



**Mariusz Klemens**  
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Design Architect  
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Greenhouse Green House, Chicago

# KWONG VON GLINOW + UB STUDIO + ROBERT BURNIER

Kwong Von Glinow, UB Studio, and Robert Burnier are very excited to form a design team Joint Venture for the INVEST South/West initiative. We are thrilled about this opportunity.

Each of the 10 neighborhoods in the INVEST South/West initiative has its own identity and characteristics—its own unique fine grain. The charm of each neighborhood lies in its layered histories and cherished cultural treasures that are built into the grain of daily life within each community. Our team’s approach to projects within these neighborhoods will begin by listening for yet unexpressed opportunities already embedded within the community fabric.

Our primary objective for the potential projects is two-fold: 1) finding an appropriate spatial solution for the community, and 2) acting as a stimulator that encourages cross-neighborhood engagement. Key to delivering a project that meets these objectives to serve the community is understanding and listening to the needs of the constituents and crafting experiences that foster a sustainable vibrant neighborhood. As such, cross-neighborhood engagement is equally important as the individual neighborhood itself as a way to create a “Chicago together.”

We believe our Architect + Artist collaborative joint venture is a considerate and effective team formation for the INVEST South/West initiative. We meet the criteria that we have defined to form a joint venture partnership that will bring design excellence through a diversity of voices: (1) most importantly, a shared value of design; (2) equal and respected voices to contribute to the projects; (3) a cross-disciplinary approach between art and architecture; and (4) specialized expertise and experience to deliver high-quality projects.



**Alison Von Glinow**  
AIA  
Founding Partner  
Kwong Von Glinow



**Lap Chi Kwong**  
Founding Partner  
Kwong Von Glinow



**Chantelle Brewer**  
AIA  
Founding Partner  
UB Studio



**Robert Burnier**  
Visual Artist



Chicago Center for Arts and Technology, Chicago

# LANDON BONE BAKER ARCHITECTS + CIVIC PROJECTS ARCHITECTURE



**Catherine Baker, FAIA**  
Principal  
Landon Bone Baker  
Architects



**Monica Chadha**  
AIA, LEED AP  
Founder  
Civic Projects

Combined with our commitment to quality design and architecture, our collaborative practice creates projects that are deeply embedded in their context and communities. The members of both Landon Bone Baker Architects and Civic Projects Architecture act as team players on the firm level, including associate architects, engineers, and technical consultants. We bring these two teams together to work on development as a whole.

A unique community-based approach distinguishes our team from others. We understand the value of working closely with City officials, neighborhood organizations, CDCs, and developers of affordable and mixed-income housing to create the best possible solutions. We respond to the specific context, program, budget, and community concerns of each project while integrating green and health initiatives through engaged participation. Our goal is to design comfortable, attractive, secure, and livable environments that help keep residents rooted in their communities. Operating under the philosophy that cities must have comprehensive, sophisticated, and progressive urban developments, we continue to develop creative and cost-conscious solutions that reflect the clients' program, site, historical issues, energy usage, and budget constraints.

We understand and deeply believe in each project's potential to catalyze community activity and strengthen local bonds. We bring this mindset to all our projects, no matter what the scale.



The Publishing House Bed and Breakfast, Chicago

# MIR COLLECTIVE + MKB ARCHITECTS

Our interest in this project is both heartfelt and directly derived from the reason we formed Mir Collective in 2017. Working together in productive leadership and collaboration roles at Studio Gang Architects over the course of 15 years has provided us with unique and invaluable experience. It also gave us the opportunity to be part of a range of project types and client relationships accompanied by the chance to define what gives us personal and professional energy in architecture. Mir Collective creates architecture that values innovation and positive public impact in the shaping of spaces and cities. Our design process embraces diverse collaboration, local knowledge, and rigorous research.

Continuing in the tradition of some of our early work toward directly contributing to community-led efforts affecting real and positive change, we emphasize local impact and community engagement in design. We are seeking ways to bring our knowledge and abilities to communities like those at the heart of INVEST South/West.

Along with our partner, MKB Architects, we will bring to this program a rigorous commitment to design excellence, an appreciation for community knowledge and voices, and the eager energy of a new voice in the Chicago design community. To augment our desire to realize world-class design projects, we will apply our years of practical experience in project management, cost management, and technical expertise to benefit our clients and their vision.



**Kara Boyd**  
AIA  
Principal  
MIR Collective



**Jeana Ripple**  
AIA, LEED AP  
Principal  
MIR Collective



**Todd Zima**  
AIA  
Principal  
MIR Collective



**Jack Kelley**  
AIA  
Principal  
MKB Architects



**Geraldine Kelley**  
AIA  
Principal  
MKB Architects



Notre, Chicago

## NORMAN KELLEY

Since beginning our architecture and design practice eight years ago from the living room of our tiny Pilsen neighborhood apartment, we have been committed to expanding Chicago's legacy of innovative architecture and design within the halls of academia as educators, as well as on the streets of our adopted city as architects. During this time, we have appreciated the fact that our city's history of architectural innovation has been lost on many of the South and West Side neighborhoods and their constituents. For example, we understand the questionable importance of Louis Sullivan or John Root to a mother living in Auburn Gresham focused on feeding her children. To that end, we believe that good architecture, when done honestly and with conviction, should belong to all.

Norman Kelley was originally founded to examine architecture's limits between two- and three-dimensions. In doing so, our work varies in scale and medium from site-specific drawings, furniture objects, to habitable interiors. And while we operate at the intersection of architectural practice and education, all of our work is highly contextual, or site sensitive. We are influenced by our surroundings. We amplify our love of Chicago with our deep knowledge of its architectural history. We believe that knowing your immediate surroundings is the best recipe for good architecture. Since our inception, our work has focused its attention on adaptive reuse within old buildings with convoluted histories.

We look forward to the opportunity of collaborating on this unparalleled initiative towards helping improve the quality of life for all Chicagoans, especially those who have been historically marginalized.



*Carrie Norman*  
RA AIA  
Partner  
Norman Kelley



*Thomas Kelley*  
Partner  
Norman Kelley



# PORT URBANISM + FUTURE FIRM + BORDERLESS STUDIO WITH DAVID BROWN

PORT + Future Firm + Borderless Studio is a multidisciplinary Chicago-based collaboration, with expertise in architecture, landscape architecture, and city design. Together with designer David Brown, we represent the capacity of a large practice—paired with deep community relationships, nimble professional approaches, and the delivery of exceptional solutions to complex challenges.

Our collaboration is built on shared values which dovetail with the mission of INVEST South/West. Collectively, we prioritize design excellence—from a park bench, to a new building, to a master plan. Our approach is process-driven, focusing on inclusive collaboration and deep research, that results in unexpected approaches to complex challenges. These values come together around the ongoing effort to build a more vibrant, equitable Chicago.

Our partnership for INVEST South/West—where urban design, architecture, landscape, and community engagement will be inextricably linked—was formed to allow our team to conceptualize and develop the big, early ideas together. Past collaborations on projects across scales, as well as ongoing teaching relationships, provide an experience for joint project delivery.



**Andrew Moddrell**  
AIA  
Partner  
Port Urbanism



**Christopher Marcinkoski**, AIA  
Partner  
Port Urbanism



**Ann Lui**  
AIA  
Principal  
Future Firm



**Craig Reschke**  
AIA  
Principal  
Future Firm



**Paola Aguirre Serrano**  
Principal  
Borderless Studio



**Dennis Milam**  
AIA  
Principal  
Borderless Studio



**David Brown**  
The Available City



Apartment Building Renovation, Chicago

# PAUL PREISSNER ARCHITECTS



*Paul Preissner  
AIA  
President  
Paul Preissner  
Architects*

Paul Preissner Architects is an ideas workshop where imagination and crude experimentation are used to create unique social spaces characterized by weird juxtapositions, plain materials, and an economy of form. We have explored thoughts on the problem of housing and houses, furniture and installations, libraries, community centers, museums, schools, stores, and also some other things over 10+ years in practice. Work from the office is included in the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago, has frequently been exhibited internationally, and is widely published. I participated in both the 2015 and 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial, and am the commissioner and co-curator of the US Pavilion for the 17th International Architecture Exhibition—la Biennale di Venezia, 2021.

I began the office after having worked for nearly a decade in offices such as Peter Eisenman Architects (working on the Arizona Cardinals NFL Stadium, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, and the City of Culture in Galicia), Woods-Zapata (serving as project architect on the renovation of Soldier Field), and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. The studio was established to explore architecture and its practice alongside my intellectual research into the discipline which I carry out primarily at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where I am an Associate Professor with Tenure.

The office is structured as an open ideas laboratory. While the office is given overall creative direction and from myself, each person involved in a project (including the clients) are encouraged and free to participate within the full scope of the process, resulting in work which is unconventional, if sometimes only slightly. For the office, architecture can be more than bland utility, but also needn't beg for one's attention.



2016 West Rice, Chicago

# VLADIMIR RADUTNY ARCHITECTS



*Vladimir Radutny  
AIA, LEED AP  
Principal  
Vladimir Radutny*



*Fanny Hothan  
Associate  
Vladimir Radutny  
Architects*



*Ryan Sarros  
Project Architect  
Vladimir Radutny  
Architects*

My interest in this initiative stems from having lived the majority of my life in Chicago and my utmost admiration for the city which I call home. On September 18, 1989, my family and I arrived here with four suitcases and \$150 to our names. We had fled the former Soviet Union as refugees alongside hundreds of thousands of families. Like many immigrants to the United States before us and after, we were seeking a better life and greater prospects, knowing that this country was built for those who desired equal opportunities and freedoms.

Thirty-one years later, I find myself reflecting on our environment and I am saddened by the turmoil, anger, and confusion that we sense while living in this country today. A place which should allow one's dreams and hopes to come true if they work hard for it, yet falls short in providing access to those ideals. This reality is deeply rooted in Chicago's urban context, where in some neighborhoods the premise of an optimistic future has been systematically removed and the dream my family had is not equally achievable. Having seen first-hand the dire need for improvement in these areas, my team and I decided that we would like to be part of this vital initiative and to contribute in the rebirth of the South and West Sides of Chicago.

Since its inception in 2008, our Architecture + Design practice has focused on innovative design solutions that challenge the conventional interpretations of space, function, and material use. Our firm has a wide scope of experience, ranging from large-scale commercial and institutional work to intricate residential projects within and outside Chicago. Our qualifications are strengthened by our team's diverse personal and professional experiences. Together, we can use imagination and design excellence to exceed expectations and make a true difference.



Independence Library and Apartments, Chicago

# JOHN RONAN ARCHITECTS



*John Ronan, FAIA  
Founding Principal  
John Ronan  
Architects*

Since its founding in 1999, John Ronan Architects has been dedicated to the pursuit of an authentic architecture rooted in time and place. We reject the vacuous formalism and subjective self-expression which characterizes much of contemporary architecture in favor of an architecture which explores character and atmosphere, and which privileges human experience over arbitrary shape making.

The firm has a studio culture and its working method is research-based and collaborative. We treat the Owner as our collaborator, rather than our "client," and strive to make each project a unique response to its special needs, resulting in a design which reflects and shapes the culture of the organization it serves. We don't repeat ideas from project to project and our work doesn't all look the same.

Our work is known for its conceptual innovation, exploration of materiality, and a rigorous attention to detail, and we have a reputation for our ability to create innovative and sophisticated architecture within strict budget constraints. Our objective is to create a transcendent piece of architecture without sacrificing functionality, and we never ask the Owner to sacrifice their needs to serve the architecture.

The firm portfolio now includes projects across a wide variety of project types and scales, from residential homes to high-rise office buildings, and competes at the highest level. In 2016, the office was named one of seven international finalists for the Obama Presidential Center, and, in 2018, named one of six international finalist firms for the UCD Future Campus project in Dublin. Despite the large scale of these projects, Founding Principal John Ronan controls the size of the firm to no more than twenty people in order to allow his intimate involvement in each project, and to ensure the compelling and memorable design response to each commission, regardless of size or type, that the firm is known for.



Chicago Riverwalk, Chicago

# ROSS BARNEY ARCHITECTS

Ross Barney Architects is an architecture, urban design, and landscape architecture studio. Established in 1981 by Carol Ross Barney, the studio enjoys a reputation of creating innovative, environmentally responsible, user-focused architecture and civic spaces. From community to campus buildings for premier academic and research institutions, to high profile urban parks and ground-breaking transit stations that connect vibrant neighborhoods, Ross Barney Architects has produced distinctive structures that have become community icons.

By operating on the principle that the design process must examine the broadest range of options to create excellence, the studio has adopted an extraordinarily collaborative and holistic approach, engaging the client, user, and community. This goes beyond aesthetics to allow a building or project to grow out of its place, history, and function.

The studio's ideas and projects have been recognized by organizations from around the world. Most recently, Fast Company named Ross Barney Architects one of the World's Most Innovative companies. With over 200 national and international awards, the studio's work has been exhibited in Chicago, New York, Washington D.C., and San Francisco. Beyond achievements and accolades, the studio's biggest asset has been an ability to deliver on the aspirations of a diverse set of clients who serve the public good.



*Carol Ross Barney  
FAIA, Hon. ASLA  
Design Principal  
Ross Barney  
Architects*



*Eric Martin  
AIA  
Principal-in-Charge  
Ross Barney  
Architects*



Dorchester Art and Housing Collaborative, Chicago

# SITE DESIGN GROUP, LTD.

Founded in 1990, site design group, ltd. (*site*) is a nationally award-winning landscape architecture, urban design, and architecture firm based in Chicago, Illinois. A corporation licensed in the State of Illinois, the firm is led by four principals, Ernest Wong, Robert Sit, Bradley McCauley, and Hana Ishikawa. As landscape architects, urban designers, planners, arborists, architects, and creative thinkers, we are a staff of 30 diverse and innovative professionals. We are enlivened by our surroundings and strive to produce creative spaces that inspire, restore, and bring communities together.

*site* is often engaged to collaborate and coordinate efforts with architects, engineers, and other design professionals. Effective communication with the design team and client ensures successful coordination of projects from concept through construction.

As designers, creative thinkers, and engaged citizens, we understand the value of exterior environments that create a sense of place. Successful placemaking leads to the long-term care and use of these spaces by the public. At *site*, this is our goal in all we do: to create spaces that are valued and sustained by the communities they reside within in order to maintain long-term relevance and use.

Using functional systems coupled with “out of the box” strategies, we work diligently with our clients to create spaces that excite and engage users, improve the pedestrian experience, strengthen community ties, conserve and enhance the site’s unique natural features, and push the boundaries of innovation and resiliency.



**Ernest Wong**  
PLA, FASLA, APA  
Principal in Charge  
*site*



**Hana Ishikawa**  
AIA, ASLA Affiliate  
Design Principal  
*site*



Taylor Street Apartments and Little Italy Branch Library, Chicago

# SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL



**Adam Semel**  
AIA, NCARB  
Managing Partner  
SOM

**Tiara Hughes**  
NOMA  
Project Manager  
SOM

Since our founding here 84 years ago, SOM has collaborated successfully with the City of Chicago to advance its international commercial and cultural stature and to continuously improve the quality of life of all Chicagoans. We are passionately committed to understanding and responding to the specific needs of each neighborhood in Chicago, and we are thrilled by the prospect of collaborating with a community of stakeholders on projects on the South and West Sides of our home city.

Design excellence is in our DNA, and we will bring the highest level of expertise to the projects procured through the INVEST South/West Initiative. While perhaps better known for the architecture of 35 towers that shape Chicago’s world-renowned skyline, we have recently designed several projects and led studies and master plans on the South and West Sides of the city. SOM has been the City’s strategic planning partner for generations, and the go-to for pro bono counseling on projects such as Amazon HQ2 and international relations to support Chicago as a global city.

In sum, we work at every scale to make Chicago better for the people who live here, including our Chicago staff, who volunteer to rapid-rehab the homes of westside and southside seniors, advocate for sustainable Building Code revisions, lead the Chicago Central Area Committee’s equity-focused neighborhood thinking, and mentor disadvantaged minority high school kids in design and construction career opportunities. Since the 1933 Century of Progress World’s Fair, we have worked with every Chicago mayor to realize this great city’s potential, and we are dedicated to fulfilling Mayor Lightfoot’s vision for the INVEST South/West Initiative to the best of our ability.



Pullman National Monument, Chicago

# ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL ARCHITECTURE

Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture (AS+GG) celebrates the values, vision, and leadership of Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and her Administration's commitment to making real change in Chicago. AS+GG is a Chicago-based, internationally recognized, award-winning architecture firm founded in 2006 by partners Adrian Smith, Gordon Gill, and Robert Forest with 80 employees based in Chicago. AS+GG is committed to Chicago and it is our home.

AS+GG is dedicated to the design of high-performance, energy-efficient, and sustainable architecture on an international scale. We approach each project, regardless of size, with an understanding that architecture has a unique power to influence civic life. We strive to create designs that aid society, advance modern technology, sustain the environment, and inspire those around us to improve our world. Our firm is dedicated to the creation of new paradigms for sustainable development.

AS+GG services include architecture, urban design, sustainability, interior design, and project management. We utilize a holistic, integrated design approach that emphasizes symbiotic relationships with the natural environment—a philosophy we term "Global Environmental Contextualism." This approach represents a fundamental change in the design process, in which "Form Follows Performance." It is predicated on the understanding that everything within the built and natural environment is connected, and that a building's design should stem from an understanding of its role within that context—locally, regionally, and globally.



**Adrian Smith, FAIA  
RIBA**  
Partner  
Adrian Smith  
+ Gordon Gill  
Architecture



**Gordon Gill, FAIA  
OAA**  
Partner  
Adrian Smith  
+ Gordon Gill  
Architecture



**Robert Forest, FAIA  
RIBA, OAA, LEED AP**  
Management Partner  
Adrian Smith  
+ Gordon Gill  
Architecture



CAM Museum, Raleigh NC

# STUDIO DWELL + BROOKS + SCARPA



*Mark Peters*  
AIA  
Principal  
Studio Dwell  
Architects



*Lawrence Scarpa, FAIA*  
Principal  
Brooks + Scarpa

This is a partnership of Chicago-based Studio Dwell and Brooks + Scarpa. The reason for our collaboration is simple. We have a history of working together, [we] like each other, and have had previous success with joint venture projects in nearby Evanston and Detroit. By working together as a team, we are collectively better in all aspects of design, budget control, project management, service to our clients, and project delivery. Principal, project leader, and Chicago native, Mark Peters, AIA has been practicing architecture in Chicago for 28 years, having founded Studio Dwell in 2004. While Studio Dwell has received numerous awards and accolades for their work, it has largely been in the area of single and multi-family residential and mixed-use projects. Partnering with Brooks + Scarpa rounds out the experience and design excellence that is required for the INVEST South/West initiative.

While Brooks + Scarpa and Studio Dwell share similar multi-family residential and mixed-use project experience, Brooks + Scarpa has deep experience and a proven track record with historic renovation, adaptive re-use, commercial, retail, and cultural projects in under-funded neighborhoods stretching back almost three decades. Together we have a long history of design excellence within under-served communities.

Last year, Studio Dwell and Brooks + Scarpa completed a project together in nearby Evanston. We are currently working together on another mixed-use project in downtown Detroit. Both firms have a long history of working with other architecture firms in creative collaborations nationally and worldwide.



Chicago River Boathouses, Chicago

# STUDIO GANG

Studio Gang creates places that connect people to each other, to their communities, and to the environment. Founded in 1997 and led by Jeanne Gang, Studio Gang is an architecture and urban design practice headquartered in Chicago with offices in New York, San Francisco, and Paris.

Working as a collective of more than 120 architects, designers, and planners, we create innovative projects that bring about measurable positive change for their users, communities, and natural ecology—a mission we refer to as “actionable idealism.”

We collaborate closely with our clients, engineers, and outside specialists from a wide range of fields. These collaborations help us synthesize big, creative ideas and ground them in solution-oriented problem solving. Guided by this approach, our studio has produced some of today’s most compelling work; named one of Fast Company’s Most Innovative Companies in 2020, 2019, and 2018, Studio Gang has been internationally honored, published, and exhibited.

Even as we have organically expanded our practice across the country and beyond, working in Chicago continues to hold a special significance and to shape our understanding of what architecture can—and must necessarily—achieve for the communities it serves. We hope that, through our participation in INVEST South/West projects, we may have the opportunity to realize transformational projects that will serve as crucial community assets and stimulate further development.



*Jeanne Gang, FAIA  
Int. FRIBA, LEED AP  
Founding Principal,  
Partner  
Studio Gang*



*Juliane Wolf  
RA  
Design Principal,  
Partner  
Studio Gang*



By The Hand Club For Kids / Moving Everest Charter School, Chicago

## PRESENT FUTURE ARCHITECTS WILL DUBOSE DESIGN

Our team sees the INVEST South/West initiative as a truly exciting opportunity for our great city. By creating a compelling dialogue about the role of design and architecture within the diverse and culturally rich neighborhoods of Chicago, thoughtful development is possible by putting these communities first. Understanding the importance of this unprecedented community improvement initiative, Present Future Architects will be partnering with Will DuBose Design. Mr. DuBose grew up in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood, attended Whitney Young High School, received his architectural degree from the University of Michigan, and is leading a successful architectural practice in New York City. However, with deep ties to Chicago, Mr. DuBose has been looking for opportunities to return home.



*Joe Buehler  
AIA, LEED AP  
Principal  
Present Future  
Architects*



*Will DuBose  
Design Principal  
Will DuBose Design*

Together, our focus is to inspire the communities of our city through transformative architecture and design. We profoundly believe that architecture has an innate ability to transform people and place. Our focus of work has been in Chicago's diverse communities where we look to challenge paradigms and project types in which the exploration of design has been forgotten. We proudly work in community areas that are unaccustomed to receiving architecture of quality; places where people feel forgotten; neighborhoods where neighbors feel like they are not cared for.

Our team of designers always tests and researches ideas for the sake of making innovative, appropriate, and unique solutions for the betterment of people's lives. We pride ourselves on employing high design principles to empower and instill all communities with a democratic sense of dignity and pride.



Morgan Live + Work, Chicago

# URBANLAB

Founded in 2000 by Martin Felsen and Sarah Dunn, UrbanLab is an architecture and urban design firm headquartered in Chicago. UrbanLab's projects span scales, from large, urban designs to small, residential projects and exhibitions. Our primary interest is in forward-looking projects that speculate on a more resilient and resourceful tomorrow. UrbanLab has proven experience assembling and managing multi-faceted groups of specialists and stakeholders to bring highly complex projects to a successful conclusion.

Our office works across scales and silos of knowledge. At the largest scales, UrbanLab has worked with mayors, elected officials, and City departments to realize long-range planning and sustainability goals. For example, with the former Mayor of the City of Chicago, we collaborated on several city-wide resiliency plans to "green the streets" to save water and energy, and bring healthy food and jobs to struggling communities. Pieces of these long-range plans are being realized today in Chicago as "complete streets." UrbanLab's built work includes public spaces, mixed-use commercial and residential buildings, cultural complexes, restaurants, art galleries, housing, houses, a bridge, recreational landscapes, and large resilient infrastructural plans.

We bring invention and collaboration to each design project. We view challenges as opportunities to create memorable buildings and places that are both beautiful and surprising. We routinely assemble talented multidisciplinary teams with the highest levels of expertise and experience to realize architecture and urban design projects. Our design process is characterized by deep inquiry and collaborative exchange; design work is informed by intensive research and an experimental approach. We strive to design innovative, environmentally responsible solutions, and create spaces that establish healthy connections between people and their environments.



Martin Felsen, FAIA  
Principal  
UrbanLab



Sarah Dunn  
NCARB  
Principal  
UrbanLab



Galewood Elementary School, Chicago

# URBANWORKS

UrbanWorks is an internationally recognized Chicago architectural firm committed to producing the highest quality designs that meet complex social and environmental concerns for civic, community-based, private, and commercial sector clients. UrbanWorks approaches projects with a keen aesthetic eye and functional expertise; effectively balancing complex user programs with tight budgets, aggressive construction schedules, accessibility, and sustainability concerns to create successful projects that meet contemporary community needs.

The firm's designs span all scales, with recent projects reflecting larger and more complex programs that reflect new institutional requirements and concerns in the 21st century. Collaboration is critical to any architectural endeavor, and UrbanWorks has an outstanding track record developing and leading successful design efforts with engineers, architects, and clients.

We believe that good design should be available to all, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic level, and that the city is the primary locus for this project. We believe that architecture is directly connected to people: people define the space; people set the proportion; and architecture becomes enduring when it provides a vibrant canvas for our hopes and dreams. Ultimately, architecture is a cultural production that reflects each of the forces behind its creation, and UrbanWorks believes that it is our responsibility to capture the best of these impulses.



**Patricia Saldaña Natke, FAIA, ALA, NCARB**  
Design Principal  
UrbanWorks



**Robert Natke**  
AIA, NCARB,  
LEED AP BD+C  
Principal  
UrbanWorks



**Maria Pellot**  
AIA, AICP,  
LEED AP BD+C  
Associate Principal  
UrbanWorks



# VALERIO DEWALT TRAIN + LATENT DESIGN

Valerio Dewalt Train and Latent Design have formed a dynamic partnership delivering design excellence, innovation, and community-based participatory design. Both firms were birthed right here in Chicago and are passionate about our city's future.

We are committed to diversity and inclusion through our design process and team and have been inspired by the Chicago Department of Planning and Development's Mentor-Protege Program. We recognize the importance of nurturing emerging firms and have partnered with Latent Design, an architecture, urbanism, and interiors firm leveraging civic innovation and social impact to design more equitable spaces to live, work, and play. Latent Design and Valerio Dewalt Train believe that good design begins with research and dedication to the collaborative process. We question everything to reach an understanding between the city, client, and community.

We have a surplus of passion for building and an intrinsic curiosity for discovery. Our commitment to good design is focused on innovation, affordability, sustainability, and equity. This has been recognized by our peers in the form of dozens of awards, including national AIA honor awards and by a robust list of repeat clients, including Google, University of Chicago, Mayo Clinic, and Heartland Alliance.

Valerio Dewalt Train and Latent Design have the experience to challenge existing systems. We see our continued relationship as a collaboration of design excellence and dedicated civic engagement.



*Joe Valerio, FAIA  
Founding Principal  
Valerio Dewalt Train*



*Katherine Damstadt  
AIA, LEED AP  
Founding Principal  
Latent Design, M/WBE*



Square Roots Urban Farming Accelerator, Michigan

# VIA CHICAGO ARCHITECTS + DISEÑADORES + COULD BE ARCHITECTURE + CHICAGO MOBILE MAKERS

The collaborative of Via Chicago and Could Be Architecture offers an exciting, right-sized alternative to Chicago’s “big guys” and legacy firms. Together with our programming and outreach partner Chicago Mobile Makers—a nonprofit organization that empowers Chicago youth to become advocates in their own communities—we’re the right crew at the right time.

Our authentically local, hands-on team presents a radically approachable conduit for bridging the gap between Chicago’s talented architects and the communities who would benefit most from their design efforts. In an era of social upheaval and professional reckoning, we bring a genuine M/WBE design firm straight to the head of the table—one led by a young Colombian immigrant with the design skills and public-private experience to captain such an effort, rather than just “ticking the box” as the minority partner for a larger, corporate firm. Our firms may be small in size, but we offer an impressive track record of navigating the technical obstacles that are inevitable with public-private development. Simply put, we get things done. Safe streets, meaningful jobs, local food—the core needs of a community must be addressed before any high-minded proposals can even be considered.

We are excited, cautiously, by the renewed attention [City of Chicago] is giving to these South and West Side corridors, and wholeheartedly agree with the tremendous potential of these streets to become renewed economic hubs for our generation and beyond. Please give our community-focused, right-size team serious consideration when you decide who should earn the City’s “stamp of approval” for working with our long-overlooked South and West Side communities.



**Cristina Gallo**  
AIA  
President  
Via Chicago Architects  
+ Diseñadores



**Marty Sandberg**  
AIA  
Principal  
Via Chicago Architects  
+ Diseñadores



**Joseph Altshuler**  
LEED AP  
Principal  
Could Be Architecture



**Zack Morrison**  
Principal  
Could Be Architecture



**Maya Bird-Murphy**  
Founder  
Chicago Mobile  
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Inspiration Kitchens, Chicago

# WHEELER KEARNS ARCHITECTS



**Dan Wheeler, FAIA**  
Principal  
Wheeler Kearns



**Joy Meek**  
AIA, LEED AP  
Principal  
Wheeler Kearns



**Chris-Annmarie Spencer**  
AIA, NOMA  
Principal  
Wheeler Kearns



**Larry Kearns, FAIA**  
LEED AP  
Principal  
Wheeler Kearns



**Jon Heinert**  
AIA  
Principal  
Wheeler Kearns



**Mark Weber**  
AIA  
Principal  
Wheeler Kearns

Wheeler Kearns is a collective practice of architects. We work with people who seek to enrich their lives in a space that embodies their purpose, energy, and vision. At Wheeler Kearns, each team member equally shares the roles of designer, technician, and manager. Through our weekly studio pin-ups and internal review, we make sure all of the best ideas from all staff members are being contributed to every project. This ensures we produce the highest quality work for our clients and support their unique missions.

When a space we design resonates with your deepest intentions, it has a lasting and powerful impact. We devote all our energies to understanding our client's core purpose and the transformation they seek. We want to see the challenge through their eyes. Doing this guides us to what we call the 'emotional center' of a project: the heart around which an entire project revolves. We return to that central idea as we craft concepts, help our clients make decisions, and refine our responses. Every design decision evolves from that 'emotional center.' The result is a space that responds uniquely to your mission, even as you balance aspiration with budget.

As a practice that focuses on an empathy-filled process more than a specific project type, style, or scale, our portfolio is diverse and richly varied. Our work is consistently recognized for excellence: we have received 28 Design Excellence Awards from AIA Chicago. Notably, we have twice been named by a national jury as AIA Chicago's Firm of the Year. This award honors sustained, outstanding achievement and excellence in a body of work produced by a firm over time.

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