

Pratt

Search for the Dean
Pratt Institute School of Architecture
New York, NY

THE SEARCH

Pratt Institute (Pratt) invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the School of Architecture. Reporting to the provost, the Dean is the chief academic and executive officer within the School and will join a cohort of deans and leaders across Pratt in shaping the future direction of the Institute. The next Dean will work closely with the School's faculty, staff, and students—and with colleagues from across the Institute—to articulate priorities, opportunities, and ambitions; provide intellectual and programmatic engagement; and implement creative, collaborative, and innovative strategies to further strengthen the students' educational experience and the reputation of the School.

Founded in 1887, Pratt is a long-time leader in education for the creative sector, enrolling over 5,000 students across its schools of Design, Art, Architecture, Information, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Continuing & Professional Studies. Pratt is home to one of the nation's top ranked and largest schools of architecture, which enrolls over 1,100 students and 295 full and part-time faculty. The School of Architecture offers 4 undergraduate and 11 graduate degrees through four departments: Undergraduate Architecture, Graduate Architecture and Urban Design, the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, and Construction Management / Facilities Management / Real Estate Practice.

The Dean will build upon longstanding strengths in design excellence, community engagement, and sustainability and recent investments in student engagement, social justice, and cross-disciplinary practice. The Dean will provide leadership and support to enhance teaching and research within the School, collaborate with other units on campus, and further develop a diverse, cohesive, and high-performing community. The next Dean will work within the School of Architecture, the Institute, and the broader community to educate students who graduate ready to deploy exceptional technical and creative skills to address the pressing social and environmental needs of our time. Candidates for this position will ideally hold a terminal degree in one of the disciplines taught within the School and demonstrate a track record of research, creative practice, or significant equivalent professional activity appropriate for appointment as a full professor with tenure. The Dean will bring an inclusive and collaborative leadership style that inspires faculty, students, and staff to develop a shared vision for the future.

A search committee of Pratt faculty members and academic leaders has been formed to conduct the search, assisted by the national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller. All applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed in confidence to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

PRATT INSTITUTE

Founded to provide a hands-on education in the creative industries, Pratt has long held a reputation as a top architecture, art, and design school nationally and internationally. A Pratt education blends theory with practice, preparing graduates to become leaders in their professions. Pratt students also benefit from the vast cultural resources and vibrancy of New York and from engagement with the local Brooklyn community. Pratt's 25-acre main campus and [sculpture park](#) is situated in the Clinton Hill neighborhood of Brooklyn, walking distance from the Brooklyn Navy Yard and three miles from lower Manhattan, and houses all schools except for the School of Information. The School of Architecture's departments of Undergraduate Architecture, Graduate Architecture and Urban Design, and the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment are based in Brooklyn. The Department of Construction Management / Facilities Management / Real Estate Practice is based at the Manhattan campus, which sits on the border of Chelsea and Greenwich Village. Boasting a faculty of accomplished scholars and practitioners, Pratt is a local and global hub of creativity and design excellence.

A member of the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD), Pratt today offers more than 25 undergraduate majors and concentrations and over 20 graduate programs across its schools of Art, Design, Architecture, Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Information. As a socially engaged institution committed to building and sustaining relationships that have an impact across campus and in the broader community, Pratt is involved in a wide range of programs and partnerships to enable this engagement.

The commitment to community engagement and social impact are embedded throughout Pratt and the Institute's approach to research. Notable initiatives and partnerships that are poised for ongoing and increased involvement with the School of Architecture include:

- **The Research Yard:** Poised to begin operations in 2023, Pratt Institute and CUNY City Tech have partnered with the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation to launch the [Research Yard](#), a 20,000-square-foot facility situated two blocks from Pratt's Brooklyn campus. The Research Yard will include fabrication labs, robotics, information visualization, environmental sensing, and digital archaeology, providing opportunities for students, creative researchers, industry, and the local community to develop innovative research initiatives.
- **Pratt Center for Community Development:** Founded in 1963, the [Pratt Center for Community Development](#) works for a more just, equitable, and sustainable city for all New Yorkers. Founded

by School of Architecture faculty, Pratt Center is one of the longest-running community design centers in the US. With collaborators from across the Institute and the City, it provides participatory planning, community organizing, and public policy advocacy to local organizations in order to support their missions and benefit the local community.

- **Interdisciplinary Centers and Initiatives:** The School of Architecture has been instrumental in developing a number of Pratt's interdisciplinary [offerings](#), including the Center for Experimental Structures (CES), Spatial Analysis and Visualization Initiative (SAVI), and the Interdisciplinary Technology Lab (ITL). Pratt is also home to a number of cross-disciplinary initiatives specifically focused on climate change, including the program in [Sustainable Environmental Systems](#) offered by the School of Architecture's Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, the [Pratt Sustainability Coalition](#), [RAMP](#), and the Governor's Island Climate Resiliency Initiative.

LEADERSHIP

Frances Bronet became Pratt Institute's 12th president in January 2018. Before coming to Pratt, Bronet, a distinguished educator and leader at the forefront of interdisciplinary learning, served as senior vice president and provost at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago. Previously, she served as acting provost at the University of Oregon and, before that, as dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts (now the College of Design). Bronet holds architecture and engineering professional degrees from McGill University; she received her graduate degree from Columbia University. She was licensed by the Quebec Ordre des Architectes and has practiced in multiple award-winning offices in New York and Canada, including her own in Montreal.

Donna Heiland became interim provost in July 2021 and was named provost in April 2022. Before serving as interim provost, Heiland joined Pratt as associate provost for academic affairs in 2016 and became vice provost just over a year later. Prior to arriving at Pratt, Heiland was Emerson College's vice president and special assistant to the president, where her work focused particularly on the college's strategic priorities. For nearly a dozen years, she was a faculty member at Vassar College, earning tenure in the English Department. Heiland received a Ph.D. in English from Yale University and a BA from the University of Western Ontario (now Western University).

The Academic Senate is Pratt's faculty/administration governance body, which represents faculty, chairs, and staff who teach at the Institute. The Senate's main responsibilities include academic policy review, curriculum review, funding opportunities, and nominations and elections for various positions and awards. Each department has representation on the Senate in addition to at-large representatives for full-time faculty, part-time faculty, chairs, and staff who teach. All full and part-time faculty are also represented by UFCT Local 1460.

PRATT SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Pratt's School of Architecture is known for its strength at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Throughout its history, faculty and students in the School of Architecture have produced highly lauded work with real-world impact. Across all of its [programs](#), the School's approach is distinguished by its direct engagement with the social, environmental, pedagogical, and professional challenges of our time. The curriculum and pedagogy are designed to educate those who aspire to impact the world with their expertise across a range of sectors and spheres of influence, including through practice as registered and licensed architects, landscape architects, planners, critics, and curators. The School is dedicated to educating students who can critically engage with the forces that impact the design of the built environment, including community context as well as historical, theoretical, technical, and ethical factors. The School offers degrees accredited by both the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The accreditation process for NAAB will take place in Spring of 2025. RIBA accreditation will take place in 2026 as will the initial LAAB accreditation for the new Masters of Landscape Architecture. The MS City and Regional Planning program is accredited by the American Planning Association (APA) and the Urban and Community Planning Masters is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). The MS in Facilities Management is accredited by the International Facility Management Association Foundation (IFMA).

The School of Architecture enrolls approximately 800 undergraduate and 360 graduate students, with international students making up 36% of the undergraduate and 40% of the graduate population. The [undergraduate programs](#) offer five degrees and three minors and certificates. The [graduate programs](#) offer eleven degrees as well as a minor in facilities management. Supporting the student body are 295 faculty and staff. Part-time faculty are an integral part of the School's service profile and leadership, alongside full-time faculty, who provide essential energy and consistency within the School. Approximately 80% of faculty are part-time and are actively engaged in practice and research beyond their teaching roles. In addition to tenure for full-time faculty, Pratt provides a part-time tenure track. The breadth of faculty and their active engagement in a diversity of professional practice is one of the many strengths of the School.

Undergraduate Architecture

One of the largest architecture programs in the US, [Undergraduate Architecture](#) at Pratt offers a five-year Bachelor of Architecture program that is firmly grounded in the liberal arts and prepares students with the theoretical and technical skills to become licensed architects as well as leaders in the profession. The program is known for its year-long thesis, called Degree Project, undertaken by all students; its many opportunities to engage in experimental, visionary, and practical work within the framework of a B.Arch curriculum; its first-year courses that integrate design and writing; opportunities for specialized design research in electives and 4th-year studios; and its long tradition of teaching globally-focused and

decolonial history and theory courses. The program seeks to build on Pratt's expertise in community collaboration to develop more community-based opportunities for students. The undergraduate program also offers a minor in Morphology through the [Center for Experimental Structures](#) (CES). Students have the option to spend a semester abroad in Rome and they also benefit from a diversity of pedagogical and experiential offerings that take advantage of being situated in New York. Undergraduate Architecture enrolls over 760 students and engages 180 full and part-time faculty. The school is consistently recognized as among the top in the US.

Graduate Architecture and Urban Design

Pratt's [Graduate Architecture and Urban Design](#) department enrolls nearly 300 students and offers four degrees: a Master of Architecture (M.Arch) and Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA), as well as post-professional Master of Science in Architecture (MS.Arch) and Master of Science in Urban Design (MS.UD) degrees. The M.Arch curriculum builds mastery in design, history and theory, technology, and media. The MLA program offers design studios and coursework focusing on ecology, representation and digital practices, terraforming, and landscape history and theory. The MS.Arch and MS.UD are both 3-semester post-professional programs that expand upon students' previous education and professional experience through coursework that builds disciplinary and technical proficiency in advanced design research, thinking, and practice.

Construction Management, Facilities Management, and Real Estate Practice

The [Construction Management, Facilities Management, and Real Estate Practice](#) (CM/FM/REP) department provides students a well-rounded education with practical applications, preparing them to be competitive as they enter the job market. Degrees offered are an AAS in Building and Construction, a BS and BPS in Construction Management, and MS degrees in Facilities Management and Real Estate Practice. The undergraduate offerings in the Construction Management program provide an applied education that includes coursework and internships. A minor in Construction Management is available for B.Arch students. The MS in Facilities Management covers building systems, facility and maintenance operations, occupant services, real estate holdings, project management, and fiscal management. The MS in Real Estate Practice curriculum prepares students with a grounding in real estate, finance, development, investment, and law. The CM/FM/REP programs enroll over 40 undergraduate and 20 graduate students and are based at the Pratt Manhattan campus. Students from the CM/FM/REP programs often find employment within the New York City construction management, facilities management, and real estate industry.

Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment

The [Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment](#) at Pratt is an interdisciplinary, socially engaged, and justice-driven program that offers four MS degrees: Historic Preservation, Sustainable Environmental Systems, Urban and Community Planning, and Urban Placemaking and Management. Enduring ties with

the community development movement predicate the department's strong network of community partners. Enrolling over 100 students, the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment features intimate class sizes and involvement in local partnerships such as the Pratt Center for Community Development and the Spatial Analysis Visualization Initiative, both of which take a community-based participatory approach that is emblematic of the program's ethos.

THE ROLE

Pratt's School of Architecture views spatial design as a tool for addressing the critical issues of our time, and emphasizes creative experimentation, formal systems, and community participation. With work on materials, politics, history, theory, digital representation, form-making, and modeling, students and faculty produce real-world impact. The next Dean will have the opportunity to shape and influence how Pratt educates both visionaries and practitioners who will create the built environments of the future, overseeing a broad offering of inextricably linked disciplines that are all housed within the School of Architecture. Reporting directly to the Provost, the Dean will build upon longstanding strengths in design excellence, community engagement, and sustainability and recent investments in student engagement, social justice orientation, and cross-disciplinary practice. The Dean will advocate for the School of Architecture, lead the strategic vision, and have responsibility for the programmatic, financial, fundraising, and management operations that support the mission and vision of the School of Architecture and its role within the Institute and with its public and private stakeholders.

The Dean will join a dynamic and supportive group of fellow deans and campus leaders who are committed to the Institute's strategic vision. The School's learning objectives, which stress the relationship between intellectual development and creative activity, establish a unique context for professional education in an art and design institute. The Dean will advance the School's priorities and goals, in alignment with the five pillars of the Institute's over-arching Strategic Plan, which are: academic excellence; student success; diversity, equity, and inclusion; global education, and civic engagement. In 2020 the School of Architecture created a targeted Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategic plan which includes initiatives to decolonize the curriculum, diversify student and faculty recruitment, and expand community partnerships. The DEI strategy has been a key priority across the School of Architecture and is an ongoing effort that engages input and leadership from students, faculty, and staff. The Dean will champion these ongoing initiatives and partner with students, faculty, and staff to identify and address opportunities for improvement.

The Dean oversees a budget of approximately \$17 million. Direct reports to the Dean of Architecture are the department chairs of Undergraduate Architecture; Graduate Architecture and Urban Design; The Graduate Center for Planning and Environment; and Construction Management, Facilities Management, and Real Estate Practice, as well as the Director of Production & Technology which manages the woodshop

and production facilities. The Dean's leadership team includes the Assistant Dean, the Director of Finance and Administration, and the Assistant to the Dean. The Dean interacts regularly with the Office of Institutional Advancement, the School of Architecture Advisory Council, student advisors, and alumni.

The Dean will be an intellectually vibrant, inclusive, and collaborative leader who brings faculty, students, and staff together in a shared vision for the future. In alignment with Pratt's commitment to excellence in design and social impact, the next Dean will work within the School of Architecture, the Institute, and the broader community to deliver a design education that deploys exceptional technical and creative skills to address the pressing social and environmental needs of our time.

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

The next Dean will join a diverse and dynamic community positioned to further broaden and deepen its impact. As the School of Architecture looks to the future, the next Dean will address the following interrelated opportunities and challenges as key priorities:

Provide a clear academic vision for the future of the School of Architecture

The School of Architecture is a place of innovation, where academic leadership means thinking critically and creatively about what we teach and how we address the built, natural, and social environment. While upholding the School's reputation for technical and design excellence, the new Dean will have the opportunity to continue the evolution and expansion of the curriculum in response to contemporary priorities in higher education including an emphasis on decolonization, sustainability, and social impact. In concert with the faculty and in close partnership with academic leadership, the Dean will support the ongoing development and delivery of curriculum and programs across all levels and encourage activities that strengthen connections across departments and disciplines, integrating theory with practice and studio-based learning with experience gained through internships.

Model collaborative, communicative, and transparent leadership

Working jointly with the faculty, staff, and students, the Dean will establish a culture of collaboration and accountability. An effective listener, the Dean will be skilled at disseminating information across a complex organization, having candid conversations, creating space for the open exchange of ideas, and leading the community in engaging one another authentically across issues of both difference and commonality. Understanding that difficult decisions sometimes need to be made, the Dean will provide accountability and clear, proactive communication. The Dean will contribute strategic and programmatic leadership for diversity and inclusion at Pratt and in the School of Architecture in a manner that demonstrates a commitment to an equitable and just environment where the voices and identities of all students, faculty, and staff are valued and celebrated.

Serve as a visible champion for the role of architecture, planning, and design within Pratt and beyond

The Dean will be a visible leader in the design community, locally, nationally, and internationally, advocating for the School of Architecture's involvement in partnerships within and beyond the Institute. The Dean will be charged with continuing the development of sustainable partnerships that leverage and continue to develop the intellectual capital and resources of the School. The rich cultural environment of New York creates extraordinary opportunities for design education, research, practice, and creative collaboration. The Dean will expand campus awareness of and engagement with the full range of offerings and expertise housed in the School of Architecture and connect with alumni, donors, creative sector leaders, policymakers, and other external audiences to promote the school's successes and ambitions.

Enhance opportunities for teaching, research, and practice

The new Dean will demonstrate support and recognition for all disciplines taught in the School; appreciate and foster research, creative activity, and teaching; increase curricular flexibility and accessibility throughout all programs; and foster innovation. The Dean will inspire and empower program chairs and directors to innovate and sustain excellence in their disciplines and leverage the Institute's resources to enhance research pedagogy and curriculum. The Dean will have the capacity to bring together in a vibrant whole the diverse range of research and pedagogical interests represented in the School, and to provide the professional development and mentorship appropriate for faculty and staff to grow and advance within roles and areas of expertise.

Build and sustain a diverse faculty, staff, and student body

Diversity of discipline, practice, and culture is core to the Pratt experience. The Dean will ensure that the School of Architecture continues to attract a diverse student body and provides a welcoming and inclusive environment for students to thrive, both academically and through opportunities for students to take on leadership opportunities in the School. The Dean will also work to ensure that the institution continues to attract, hire, and retain diverse faculty and staff of the highest quality and that faculty remain deeply engaged in driving the cross-disciplinary practices that enrich the Pratt education. This includes the collaboration of faculty to support and advance the school through the Institute's shared governance structures such as the Faculty Governing Group in the School of Architecture, and the Academic Senate.

Maintain and enhance financial strength

Pratt empowers its deans to pursue sources of revenue for their schools through program creation, research, and fundraising. There is opportunity for the Dean to partner with the Institutional Advancement Office, and with an advisory council, to increase the School's resources through philanthropy. Building upon existing funding successes, the Dean will identify and cultivate new strategic opportunities and deliver a compelling message for support of academic programs, research, and expansion and upgrades to the buildings that house the School of Architecture.

QUALIFICATIONS

Pratt seeks a dynamic, accomplished, and collaborative individual to serve as the next Dean of the School of Architecture. While no one person may possess all of the qualities listed below, the search committee expects that candidates will demonstrate many of the following personal qualities and professional experiences to inspire and lead the School of Architecture:

- Record of accomplishment in areas central to the School's reputation and identity and ability to bring that experience to bear in creating, sustaining, and advancing a shared vision for the school;
- Demonstrated ability to shape strategy and lead through collaboration, consultation, and productive dialogue; Skill in working with leadership, faculty, staff, and students to cultivate a culture of transparency, trust, and collaborative, solutions-focused problem solving; ability to implement and assess success as part of a practice focused on continuous improvement;
- A record of promoting inclusion and diversity, with the necessary experience to effectively lead the implementation of the DEI strategic plan, including making strong contributions to enhancing faculty and student diversity;
- Experience in faculty and staff recruitment and development and supporting the unique needs of a diverse community of practicing professionals and scholars; experience working in a union environment preferred;
- Experience developing initiatives that promote cross and interdepartmental collaboration; ability to build collaborations involving public and private sector organizations, systems of higher education, and leaders and organizations in the community, region, state, nation, and world;
- Ability to be an effective spokesperson and advocate for the School; an excellent communicator;
- Demonstrated support for traditional and emerging technologies and the development of cutting-edge curricula;
- Demonstrated experience in community-engaged learning and a commitment to engaging the public with the design fields;
- Proven commitment to ensuring the quality of academic programs, through ongoing development of curriculum and program outcomes assessment; Knowledge of accreditation standards and processes relevant to the School of Architecture;
- Demonstrated fundraising experience and success; Financial acumen and a record of fiduciary transparency and accountability;
- Dedication to the mission and vision of Pratt Institute and the School of Architecture; a tireless advocate for excellence in research, teaching, and public service;
- Academic or professional qualifications within one or more of the School of Architecture disciplines, a professional degree or Ph.D., and an outstanding record of academic and/or professional achievement.

The salary range for this position is \$265,000 – \$295,000 commensurate with experience.

Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters will be handled in confidence and should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: www.imsearch.com/8825. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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Pratt Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer and recognizes and values the benefits of a diverse workforce. At Pratt Institute, diversity is represented by a mosaic of individuals from a variety of races, ethnicities, religions, gender expressions, sexualities, geographic backgrounds, cultures, ages, abilities, and socioeconomic groups. As a leading college of art and design devoted to a creative learning community, Pratt recognizes the strength that stems from a diversity of perspectives, values, ideas, backgrounds, styles, approaches, experiences, and beliefs. Pratt is situated on Lenapehoking, the traditional and unceded homeland of the Lenape people. Learn more about Pratt's [Living Land Acknowledgment](#).