



**Search for the Director, College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design.  
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis  
St. Louis, Missouri**

**THE SEARCH**

The Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts (the School) at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU) invites nominations and applications for the position of director of the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design (the College). The Sam Fox School was founded in 2006 to bring together the Colleges of Architecture and Art and the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum as one school of Design and Visual Arts, a vibrant creative community of makers and scholars with a deep commitment to addressing social and environmental challenges. The School enrolls over 750 students, with approximately 70% undergraduate and 30% graduate students, of which approximately 370 are students in the College of Architecture. The College offers degrees in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design, and is a key contributor to the School's 10-year strategic plan, which focuses on digital transformation in art, architecture, and design; leadership in sustainable practices; and strengthening local, national, and global communities. As part of the School's leadership team, the director of the College of Architecture will invest in people, programs, and relationships that will build academic and research excellence in alignment with WashU's larger strategic plan.

Reporting to the dean of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, the director of the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design will collaborate with chairs, faculty, students, and staff to engage in key efforts that advance strategic initiatives and the College's status as a leader in architectural education. The director will build upon the College's longstanding reputation in design excellence, environmental sustainability, and community-engaged practice. Charged with continuing to shape and strengthen the College's distinguished undergraduate and graduate degree programs, the director will sustain and reinforce the existing high-quality teaching and student experiences with a focus on student wellness and success.

The director will provide leadership to elevate pedagogy and research within the College and across the university, as well as recruit and retain exceptional faculty in their fields. The director will bring an inclusive and collaborative leadership style that inspires faculty, students, and staff to build a shared vision for the future, working within the College and the Sam Fox School to educate students who graduate ready to deploy exceptional technical and creative skills to address pressing social and environmental needs. 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.

Washington University and the Sam Fox School have retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this important search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

## WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Washington University is a private research university with deep roots in St. Louis that was founded in 1853. The university offers student-centered educational excellence within a world-class research-intensive environment, which attracts students and faculty from all 50 states, as well as from over 120 countries. WashU has eight academic divisions: Arts & Sciences, School of Continuing & Professional Studies, Brown School (Social Work and Public Health), Olin Business School, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, McKelvey School of Engineering, School of Law, and School of Medicine, and educates approximately 15,000 full-time students, divided almost equally between undergraduate and graduate/professional students. Over 90 fields of study lead to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in a broad spectrum of traditional and interdisciplinary fields.

WashU belongs to a small class of elite universities characterized by a deep commitment to excellence in education as well as in research and scholarship. Over the last two decades, the university has invested significantly in its student enterprise, constructing new residence halls, academic buildings, and a university center, expanding student services, and maintaining its strong commitment to personalized attention and small class size. The university's [need-blind and loan-free policies](#) demonstrate an institution-wide commitment to access and inclusion. The 2023-2024 class is the most diverse class in the 170-year history of WashU; 50% identify as students of color and 21% are Pell Grant eligible.

## THE SAM FOX SCHOOL OF DESIGN & VISUAL ARTS

The [Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts](#) is a vibrant community of makers and scholars committed to addressing social and environmental challenges through design and creative practice. The School includes the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design, the College and Graduate School of Art, and the Mildred Lane Kemper Museum, offering 15 unique degree programs for both graduate and undergraduate students, supplemented by a number of creative research centers, including [Island Press](#) and the [Office for Socially Engaged Practice](#). The School enrolls approximately 530 undergraduate and 225 graduate students across the Colleges of Art and Architecture, and in 2022 awarded a total of \$12 million in student scholarships. The School draws on the expertise of over 70 full-time faculty and over 50 visiting and part-time faculty who expand the School's connections to contemporary global practice.

In 2022 the Sam Fox School launched a 10-year strategic plan, [Shaping the Future](#), which focuses on digital transformation in art, architecture, and design; leadership in sustainable practices; strengthening local, national, and global communities, and building academic and research excellence. The strategic plan identifies goals and activities specific to the Sam Fox School, highlighting a strong commitment to social justice, environmental justice, and community-based work in alignment with the university-wide [Here and Next](#) strategic plan.

**Carmon Colangelo** joined Washington University in July 2006 as the first dean of the Sam Fox School. In this role, he oversees the School's academic units as well as the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum. Colangelo was installed as the Ralph J. Nagel Dean in November 2016. He also serves as a member of the University Council and as the E. Desmond Lee Professor for Collaboration in the Arts. A widely exhibited artist, Colangelo combines digital and traditional processes to create large, colorful, mixed-media prints that explore various ideas about the human experience and contemporary conditions, from violent weather patterns and climate to the anxieties and instability experienced around the world. His work has

been featured in more than 40 solo shows and 150 group exhibitions across the United States and in Argentina, Canada, England, Italy, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and South Korea. His work has been collected by many of the nation's leading museums, including the National Museum of American Art (Washington, DC), the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, and the Saint Louis Art Museum.

## **COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & URBAN DESIGN**

The College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design enrolls approximately 370 students and has a total of more than 75 full and part-time faculty with 23 tenured and tenure-track faculty and over 50 adjunct and visiting professors. Faculty [publish and exhibit widely](#), and contribute to a rigorous cross-disciplinary research culture. The College offers a BA and BS in Architecture, as well as a series of minors available to students across the University. The Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design degrees include Master of Architecture, Master of Landscape Architecture, Master of Urban Design, Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design, and Master of Science in Architectural Studies as well as dual degrees across the Sam Fox School and [joint degrees](#) with other schools at WashU, including Business Administration, Construction Management, Engineering & Computer Science, Social Work, and Public Health.

The College is committed to increasing the diversity of the school community, cultivating inclusive learning and work environments, and promoting a culture and ethos of equitable success. The Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design programs all engage critically with social justice issues on campus and in the greater St. Louis region, recognizing that the architecture and design fields are positioned to address these challenges and issues in unique and meaningful ways.

The College is located within exceptional Sam Fox School [facilities that](#) span [six buildings](#) on Washington University's [Danforth Campus](#), including one of the nation's finest university art museums. As part of the [East End Transformation of the Danforth Campus](#) the School completed [Anabeth and John Weil Hall](#) and realized a major [expansion to the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum](#). Weil Hall houses the graduate programs in architecture and art at the "front door" of campus with a new formal entry to the University and Museum. Both projects were designed by award-winning architecture firm KieranTimberlake, and Weil Hall earned LEED Platinum certification.

The College provides a combination of theoretical and practical education where architects, landscape architects, and urban designers study alongside artists, curators, and theorists. Cross-disciplinary research is a core value at the University and School level, supported by a [Research & Innovation](#) office that crosses university teams and organizes funding for a range of initiatives. Notable projects include participation in the Solar Decathlon College Team Competition, facilitating partnership with the City of St. Louis as a winner of the American Cities Climate Challenge, and hosting a Midwestern Climate Summit Think Tank series.

### **Undergraduate Architecture**

The [undergraduate architecture](#) program currently enrolls 237 students, offering a rigorous architecture education with the option of a liberal arts-based Bachelor of Arts in Architecture or a more architecture-intensive Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree. The undergraduate architecture curriculum focuses on five key research areas: environment, technology, society, culture, and practice, the first three of which outline the core sequence. The college offers [five undergraduate minors](#), and 60% of WashU

undergraduate architecture students earn a dual degree, second major, or minor in another field. These research focus areas and minors cultivate interdisciplinary expertise, preparing students to be leaders who redefine the role of architecture in the world and address the greatest challenges of our time.

### **Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design**

Graduate programs enroll approximately 130 students. Degrees offered include the NAAB-accredited [Master of Architecture](#), LAAB-accredited [Master of Landscape Architecture](#), a [Master of Science in Architectural Studies](#) and post-professional degrees including [Master of Urban Design](#) and [Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design](#). [Dual degree](#) options are offered across the MArch, MLA, and MUD programs, and several students pursue [joint degrees](#) with Business Administration, Computer Science & Engineering, Construction Management, Social Work, and Public Health.

### **Accreditation**

The College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design offers two [NAAB-accredited degree](#) programs: Master of Architecture 3 (professional degree for students with little to no academic background in architecture, 105 graduate credit hours) and Master of Architecture 2 (professional degree for students with an academic background in architecture, 75 credits required). The next accreditation visit for all NAAB programs will be in 2026. The college offers two LAAB accredited programs: Master of Landscape Architecture 3 (professional degree for students with little to no academic background in landscape architecture, 90 graduate credit hours) and Master of Landscape Architecture 2 (professional degree for students with an academic background in Landscape Architecture 60 credit hours). The program received a 6-year accreditation term in 2019 from the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board; the next LAAB accreditation visit is scheduled for 2025.

### **ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR**

Across the undergraduate and graduate programs, the College emphasizes creativity, technical excellence, and engagement with critical social and environmental issues. The director will have the opportunity to define an educational vision that shapes the practitioners who will create the built environments of the future.

Reporting to the dean of the Sam Fox School, the director serves as the College's academic leader and administrative officer. The director works closely with the academic chairs and the faculty to develop and implement academic degree programs, strategic initiatives, and relevant curricula and to promote a high level of creative activity, faculty research, and service. The director also works with the Sam Fox School administration to create and oversee college-specific operational budgets. The director is responsible for creating an engaging College culture and instilling a positive learning environment. They also provide a clear and open process for communication and decision-making and conduct regular faculty and staff meetings as needed.

The director conducts annual written faculty evaluations, makes merit recommendations to the dean, and oversees contracts, teaching assignments, faculty workloads, and faculty development. Responsibilities include conducting approved faculty searches for tenure and tenure-track positions in the College and hiring adjunct and visiting faculty as well as staff, with the approval of the Sam Fox School Dean. The director works proactively and closely with School staff on graduate and undergraduate student recruitment and retention, responds to student needs, and promotes student leadership and academic integrity. College directors are also responsible for working as effective collaborators across campus to

advance the College and School. The director represents the college and its programs at various student, faculty, and alumni functions on and off campus, as well as through online communications, presentations, and social media. They also participate in alumni and development activities and work closely on these efforts with the dean and National Council. The director has the overarching responsibility for professional accreditation and represents the College at the appropriate professional meetings.

Direct reports to the director include the Chairs of Undergraduate Architecture, Graduate Architecture, Urban Design, and Landscape Architecture as well as the Program Manager, Program Coordinator, and Assistant to the Director. The director oversees a budget of approximately \$13 million and takes a collaborative approach to budget management in partnership with the finance team, the other directors within the school, and the dean. College directors are appointed for five years and evaluated in their fifth year for reappointment.

### **KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

The Director of the College of Architecture and the Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design will welcome the following opportunities and challenges:

#### ***Continue to shape and strengthen the vision for the future of architecture and design education at Washington University***

The Sam Fox School is a place where leadership means thinking critically and creatively about key questions both in and across the disciplines within the College, as well as across the School, University, and broader society. The next director will be an effective champion for the unique value that the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design contributes to both the academy as well as its ability to have positive environmental and social impact. In partnership with the faculty, staff, and students, the director 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 hands-on experience.

#### ***Sustain enrollment and grow scholarship opportunities for students across all programs***

The director will be strategic in managing enrollment growth, driving undergraduate and graduate recruitment, and ensuring that resources are allocated to support enrollment growth and student retention and success. Working collaboratively with recruitment and admissions, financial aid, and the chairs, the director will identify new opportunities for enrollment growth for all degree programs. This will include defining targets for growth in alignment with the enrollment goals of the University, developing relationships with employers to create internship opportunities and build career pipelines, and promoting best practices in teaching and learning.

The director will also employ strategies for increasing financial aid and scholarships to support students through the entirety of their academic experience. In partnership with School leadership, the director will build upon existing fundraising activities; identify and cultivate new strategic fundraising opportunities; and deliver a compelling message for support of academic programs and scholarships.

***Increase and meet the need for diversity in all aspects of the College***

The director will contribute strategic and programmatic leadership for diversity and inclusion at WashU, the Sam Fox School, and across the College 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. The director will ensure that the College continues to attract a diverse student body and provides a welcoming and inclusive environment for students to thrive, both inside and outside of the classroom. The director will also lead College efforts in continuing to attract, hire, and retain diverse faculty and staff and that faculty remain deeply engaged in driving cross-disciplinary practices. The director will be an effective listener who is 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. Working jointly with the faculty, staff, and students, the director will establish a culture of collaboration and accountability.

***Build on a trajectory of increased faculty investments, with a strong emphasis on research, practice, scholarship, and academic excellence***

The director will be an advocate for the importance of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design in an R1 research university. By providing both vision and strategic direction, the director will ensure that the College is a critical contributor to this goal. The director will champion and support faculty in seeking externally funded research, both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, teaching, and creative practice. They will facilitate alliances and collaborations within the College, School, University, and community so that the College's faculty and departments are increasingly core partners in cross-departmental research and publications. The director will inspire and empower program chairs and directors to innovate and sustain excellence in their disciplines and leverage resources to enhance research activity across the faculty. The director will have the capacity to bring together in a vibrant whole the varied range of research and pedagogical interests represented in the College, and to provide the professional development and mentorship appropriate for faculty and staff to grow and advance within their roles and expertise.

***Establish the College of Architecture as a critical partner in key WashU strategic initiatives, particularly in the areas of sustainable cities, digital innovation, and community-engaged practice***

The director will seek out opportunities that exemplify the College's role as a core contributor to WashU's reputation for cross-disciplinary engagement, research excellence, and social impact. The director will be expected to serve both as a steadfast spokesperson and advocate for the College and Sam Fox School as well as a collaborative and engaged university citizen and community member. As a visible leader within the university and an advocate for the College's involvement in interdisciplinary research, the director will have the opportunity to articulate the unique value that the College contributes and to expand its reach within local, national, and international practice and discourse. The director will also have an external presence in the community of St. Louis, where the School engages in a range of programs, partnering with schools, community groups, nonprofits, and city leadership. The director will continue to build and develop alumni relations, including with the national council convened by the Dean of the Sam Fox School, as well as connect with leaders in design practice, local organizations and community members, and other external audiences to strengthen ties between the College and key stakeholders.



## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

- Understanding of and enthusiasm for the variety of disciplines in the College; experience facilitating interdisciplinary work that transcends boundaries;
- Capacity to lead the College in building effective working relationships with internal and external stakeholders and building partnerships with the local community;
- The ability to inspire and lead faculty in elevating scholarship and practice; experience supporting and making visible the research accomplishments of a diverse faculty body;
- A record of effective budget management for a complex organization;
- Capacity for cultivating and stewarding donors and key stakeholders for institutional support;
- Demonstrated administrative ability to delegate, prioritize, and make transparent and collaborative decisions to advance strategic goals;
- An informed grasp of key issues affecting faculty recruitment, retention, promotion, and scholarly productivity;
- A demonstrated commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in a community of faculty, staff, and students; a record of success in recruiting and supporting a diverse faculty and student body;
- The ability to be an effective spokesperson and strong advocate for the College across the University as well as externally;
- Track record of leading with creativity and a strategic mindset, as well as clarity of communication and generosity of spirit; and
- Demonstrated scholarly or professional accomplishment commensurate with an appointment as a tenured full professor in the College;
- A terminal degree in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, or Urban Design is preferred.

## 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 should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/washington-university-st-louis-school-design-visual-arts>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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*Washington University is dedicated to building a diverse community of individuals who are committed to contributing to an inclusive environment – fostering respect for all and welcoming individuals from diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives. Individuals with a commitment to these values are encouraged to apply.*