

Department of Architecture Strategic Plan CCFA – 2018-2025

The following is submitted for discussion. There items are based on input from faculty, staff, students, and alums.

Programs / Curriculum

- No new degrees or concentrations are anticipated.
- Develop and implement a Certificate in City Building which has been discussed since the implementation of the M.Arch degree.
- Investigate the feasibility of other collaborative certificate programs.
- Revise the graduate and undergraduate curriculum to comply with evolving accreditation requirements and national/state architecture practice regulations.
- Expand the summer Study Abroad program either in conjunction with the existing program in Sicily with City + Regional Planning or in addition to that program.

Workforce

- Secure additional faculty support as enrollment increases.
- Convert the existing Instructor position to a tenure-track position to enhance research and service capabilities.
- Implement salary adjustments to become competitive in hiring faculty in the future. Competitive salaries will also be necessary to expand racial/ethnic diversity. *(my note: only 2% of architects nationally identify as African-American – there are no A-A architecture faculty members in most of the eight states bordering Tennessee excluding the HBU schools)*
- Expand racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in faculty and staff positions.
- Add a Business Officer position for Architecture in addition to the existing Administrative Associate position.
- Add a Fabrication Shop manager if a Fabrication Shop is established.

Technology

- Continue to upgrade existing technology especially given the rapid developments in design-related software and the more powerful hardware needed to run the software.
- Upgrade the Lighting Lab to reflect the latest technologies.
- Initiate the phased-in addition of plotters, large format scanners, and so forth to replace older equipment.
- Initiate the addition of new equipment including but not limited to 3-D printers, large format laser cutter, CNC router, and foam router.
- Develop a Fabrication Shop with a manager and appropriate operating hours.

Research / Community Engagement

- Increase the number of GA positions to assist with community engagement projects.
- Ensure an adequate number of full time faculty members to support release time for research and expanded community engagement.
- Ensure the recognition by administration that meaningful community engagement takes considerable more time than a traditional course or design studio.

Other

- Expand and adequately fund the Design+Build Studio.
- Adequately fund and staff the UMDC to be more effective in serving the Mid-South region (and beyond).
- Adequately fund GA positions to be competitive with other architecture schools, especially in attracting high-achieving students and students of color.

- Develop and secure funding for an endowed lecture series.
- Implement a more rigorous undergraduate entrance process to attract more qualified students and improve retention.
- Initiate a phased-in replacement of studio stations, many of which were purchased in the 1970s when the Engineering Technology Building was constructed, as these are reaching the end of their useful lives.
- Develop a career services program dedicated to Architecture students and their needs and staffed by a person with an architecture background with appropriate contacts in the professional community. This person would work with UofM career services staff and relieve faculty and department administrators from having to keep up with this in addition to all the other responsibilities.
- Expand and strengthen alignments and collaboration with common disciplines such as current partner City + Regional Planning and create a School of Architecture, Design, and Planning with a redesigned shared facility.