

For immediate release

The Architectural League of New York elects Mario Gooden as its 63rd president

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Photo of Mr. Gooden
available upon request.

To learn more about the annual election
of officers and directors, please visit
archleague.org/about/board-election.

New York, July 1, 2022 – At its 141st Annual Meeting held last night at the Harlem School of the Arts, The Architectural League of New York elected Mario Gooden as its 63rd president. Gooden is a cultural practice architect and director of Mario Gooden Studio: Architecture + Design, as well as Professor of Practice at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University. At Columbia he is also interim director of the Master of Architecture program and co-director of the Global Africa Lab. His practice engages the cultural landscape and the intersectionality of architecture, race, gender, sexuality, and technology. Gooden's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, at venues including the Venice Biennale, the National Building Museum in Washington, and the Museum of Modern Art, where his multi-media installation *The Refusal of Space* was featured in the exhibition *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America*. He is the author of *Dark Space: Architecture Representation Black Identity*, as well as many essays and articles on architecture, art, and cultural production. Current design projects in the office include the Woodson African American Museum of Florida in St. Petersburg.

Gooden succeeds Paul Lewis, principal of LTL Architects, who served as president of the League from 2018-2022. Major initiatives at the League during Lewis's term included the creation of Reimagine, a program that engaged recent architecture school graduates, during the first summer of the Covid-19 pandemic, in a series of workshops and conversations to imagine new futures for architectural education and the profession. Lewis played a catalytic role in the creation of the US chapter of the international movement Architects Declare, on climate change, biodiversity, and justice. The League also published nine reports from the new American Roundtable project, which examines the interaction of the constructed environment with economic, health, and other issues in selected small city and rural areas around the country. The League's annual competitions and lecture series spotlighting significant work have all been transformed over the last several years to expand their audiences and the models of architecture that are presented or premiated.

Also elected at the Annual Meeting were Quilian Riano, as Vice-President for Architecture; Torkwase Dyson and Kris Graves, as Vice-Presidents for Visual Arts; Mabel O. Wilson, as Vice-President for History, Theory, and Criticism; Stella Betts, as Secretary, and members of the 2025 Class of directors of the League: Vishaan Chakrabarti, Frances Halsband, Andy Klemmer, Ersela Kripa, Joseph Mizzi, Thomas Phifer, Brad Samuels, Ken Smith, Calvin Tsao, Sarah Williams. Please see attached for brief biographical information on these League board members, and for a complete list of members of the board of directors.

In addition to the election of officers and directors, the Annual Meeting featured The Henry N. Cobb Annual Meeting Address, a commissioned lecture that considers pressing current issues in architecture and architectural education. The address was given by J. Meejin Yoon, Gale and Ira Drukier Dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning at Cornell University and a principal in the architectural firm Höweler+Yoon. Yoon's address was titled "What's the Matter?"

The meeting began with remarks about and a tour of the recently reimagined Herb Alpert Center of the Harlem School of the Arts, conducted by Celia Imrey, who led the design team that renovated and renewed the facility in 2020.

Board of Directors 2022-2023

Quilian Riano, elected as Vice-President for Architecture, is the Assistant Dean of Pratt Institute's School of Architecture, working across the school's architecture, landscape, planning, and construction departments to develop and manage programmatic and pedagogical projects. He is also founder and lead designer of DSGN AGNC, a design studio exploring new forms of political design, processes and engagements through architecture, urbanism, landscapes and art.

Torkwase Dyson, elected as Vice-President for Visual Art, is a painter working across multiple mediums to explore the continuity between ecology, infrastructure, and architecture.

Kris Graves, elected as Vice-President for Visual Art, is an artist and publisher who, using a mix of conceptual and documentary practices, photographs the subtleties of societal power and its impact on the built environment.

Mabel O. Wilson, elected as Vice-President for History, Theory, and Criticism, is the Nancy and George Rupp Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, a Professor in African American and African Diasporic Studies, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS) at Columbia University.

Stella Betts, elected as Secretary, is a founding partner at LEVENBETTS, a New York City-based architecture practice that focuses on design at a range of scales including urban design, public architecture, houses and housing, commercial workspaces, exhibitions and furniture.

Elected to the Board of Directors

Mary Burnham is a partner at MBB, a New York-City based architectural firm.

Vishaan Chakrabarti is founder and creative director of PAU | Practice for Architecture and Urbanism in New York.

Frances Halsband is founding principal of Kliment Halsband Architects, now a Perkins Eastman studio.

Andrew Klemmer is founder of Paratus Group, a consulting firm specializing in complex cultural projects.

Ersela Kripa is founding partner of the El Paso-based architecture firm AGENCY and Associate Professor and Director at Texas Tech University College of Architecture in El Paso.

Paul Lewis is a founding principal of New York-based LTL Architects and Professor at the Princeton University School of Architecture

Joseph Mizzi is President of Sciame Construction and co-founder and CEO of the 14+ Foundation.

Thomas Phifer is founding partner of Thomas Phifer and Partners, a New York City-based architecture firm.

Brad Samuels is a founding partner of SITU and leads the firm's research division.

Ken Smith is Principal of Ken Smith Workshop, a landscape architecture firm based in New York City.

Calvin Tsao is a founding partner of Tsao & McKown Architects in New York.

Sarah Williams is Associate Professor of Technology and Urban Planning and Director of the Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism at MIT.

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Mario Gooden – President, Mario Gooden Studio and Columbia GSAPP

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