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## 2024 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Roderic K Walton  
Organization Moody Nolan  
Location Chicago, Illinois  
Chapter AIA Illinois;

### Category of Nomination

Object 5 (Alternative Career, Service to Society, Volunteer Work) > Service to Society

### Summary Statement

Relentlessly advocating for the marginalized, Roderic Walton evolves the practice of architecture by leading stakeholders to truthfully reckon with history to advance healthcare equity and catalyze next-generation architects

### Education

Miami University (Oxford Ohio), 2001-2003, Master of Architecture  
Miami University (Oxford Ohio), 1993-1997, Bachelor of Environmental Design

### Licensed in:

Ohio

### Employment

Moody Nolan, 2010-Present  
SHP Leading Design, 2006-2010  
SFA Architects, 2003-2006  
John Poe Architects, 1999-2001  
John Cooke Architects, 1997, 1999

October 5, 2023

**Lisa Lamkin, FAIA**

2024 Chair, Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20006-5292

Chair Lamkin and members of the Jury of Fellows,

As I think about our current societal condition, there are few individuals whose impact for good, for change and for improvement of humanity amplifies more than Roderic K. Walton, AIA. He is an **advocate** architect for underrepresented people. His **leadership** is reflective of a design process thinker whose mission is embedded in communicating truth and stories fundamental to equitable design outcomes. His commitment to the **advancement** of the profession has resulted in significant contributions in one of the most unique ways I've ever observed.

I first met and worked with Roderic in 2012 when his firm, Moody Nolan, and mine, CannonDesign, united for a project at the University of Chicago. Even then I was struck by how deeply he cared about those around him. The project that we worked on together elevated Moody Nolan and CannonDesign to "Co-Architect of the Year" for the University of Chicago.

Moody Nolan has been recognized more recently with the AIA Architecture Firm Award in 2021, and Roderic serves as a core and vital component of the firm's internal culture and nation-wide impact. He is the national Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee leader, as well as a national thought leader for advancing community-focused healthcare.

Roderic's ability to engage stakeholders with service oriented solutions, and to bring those solutions into sharp relief with practical effect through practice-based alignment, is evident throughout his decades-long career. He drives process outcomes with and for those who typically may not experience or benefit from such. His omnipresent contributions to society and the AIA are continuous career threads.

**CANNONDESIGN**

225 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 1100

Chicago, IL — 60601

cannondesign.com

Roderic's passion to mentor and teach enhances his role by providing service through allyship. His contributions are not just a series of volunteer activities, rather they are his continuous call to action which expands our profession's reach. Yes, he has an expertise in healthcare design, but more importantly he has a unique ability to uncover social influences and drive change through his professional research, industry visibility, community outreach, professional mentoring and unwavering confidence to put himself with others and out front for others.

What also impresses me about Roderic is the breadth of his reach. He champions the truth in conversations regarding programming discussions yet elevates to a broader audience through his leadership. He has achieved award-winning state recognition as the 2023 recipient of the Alan Madison Award from AIA Illinois. He has an ongoing impact at his alma mater, Miami University, as well as important national contributions through the AIA Academy of Architecture for Health and Healthcare Design Magazine's Editorial Advisory Board. He is a vital and unique leadership voice for society. His impact resonates.

Roderic embodies the definition of "Advocate Architect." His advocacy is innovation which transcends traditional architectural practice. He invests in rising professionals. He invests in other people. He helps society address some of our toughest healthcare access and equity challenges. I ask that the Jury of Fellows recognize Roderic's contributions to society and our profession by elevating him to Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Sincerely,



Charles T. Smith, FAIA  
Principal  
CannonDesign



## SECTION 1 SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

*“Dynamic architectural leaders with the ability to understand community needs, interpret visions, and maintain the authenticity of a neighborhood’s culture to deliver design excellence are rare. These unique characteristics are what Roderic emulates consistently.”*

**Kemena Brooks**  
Director of Development  
The Community Builders



*Relentlessly advocating for the marginalized, Roderic Walton evolves the practice of architecture by leading stakeholders to truthfully reckon with history, advance healthcare equity, and catalyze next-generation architects.*

#### SERVICE HISTORY

- AIA Ohio
- AIA Illinois
- AIA Chicago Healthcare Knowledge Community
- AIA Chicago Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- AIA Academy for Health
- AIA Codes and Standards Committee
- Healthcare Design Magazine Editorial Advisory Board
- National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)
- National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)
- Rochester, New York Schools Modernization Program
- Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)
- The Tobias Project
- Big Brothers Big Sisters (Ohio)

## ADVOCACY

Advocating for marginalized voices and improving healthcare outcomes through allyship, engagement and design.

Roderic's advocacy for marginalized voices began thirty years ago, leading his university's gay, lesbian and transgender alliance as co-president.

A decade after entering the architectural practice, **he relocated from Ohio to Chicago to establish the regional healthcare practice**, focused on building trust between clinicians, architects, and under-served populations.

His **allyship** is demonstrated through advocacy with AIA Chicago's healthcare knowledge community, facilitating conversations about Covid-19 readiness and equity. Using his own work as an example, he taught architects about the positive impact community allyship creates.

His **engagement** with the Healthcare Design editorial advisory board increases awareness regarding the difference between health equity and health equality, and how to advocate for marginalized communities.

His **design** of the University of Chicago Adult Emergency Department Trauma Level 1 project resulted in **improved healthcare access and outcomes** for a south-side Chicago community by reducing ambulance travel times.

## LEADERSHIP

Leading stakeholders toward a common responsibility to reckon with historical inequity, while working to close life expectancy gaps.

**Roderic addresses some of the industry's most difficult challenges**, aligning service with practice to reckon with history, elevating the contributions of marginalized stakeholders through his national speaking engagements and service positions.

In 2003, decades before DEI principles would garner national attention, he researched and authored a comprehensive pedagogical analysis for his Master's thesis, critiquing how U.S. history is taught at secondary learning institutions. This work centered the contributions of marginalized cultures within an historical framework.

As a member of the AIA Chicago DEI committee, he taught stakeholders their **responsibility to reckon with history**, co-authoring an anti-racism pledge and accountability framework, now being beta tested throughout the Chicago region.

As a board member of the AIA Academy of Architecture for Health, he leads a first-of-its-kind nationwide solution to **address the current state** of DEI in the Academy.

His **design** for the Sankofa Village Wellness Center resulted in an **award-winning solution that will close a 16-year life expectancy gap** in Chicago.

## ADVANCEMENT

Advancing communities by creating trust, building equity, and utilizing adaptive reuse.

**Due to his own struggle** to find his culture and identity represented during his architectural education, **Roderic aligns service with practice**, ensuring minority representation for future generations.

He **positioned architects as trusted community advisors** by teaching financial literacy to small minority business owners, enabling them to find upward mobility amid generations of economic suppression.

He **invested in the future** by teaching graduate architecture students how to design for historically disadvantaged communities in Chicago, and subsequently, in their native homelands.

He **advances equity and adaptive reuse in healthcare design** through his work on the Eskenazi Health Center and Friend Family Woodlawn Health and Wellness Headquarters projects.

He is the national leader of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee at **Moody Nolan, the 2021 AIA Firm Award winner**. His commitment to DEI advancement has been acknowledged by AIA Illinois, making him the **2023 recipient of the Alan Madison Award**.



## SECTION 2

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Section 2.1: Significant Work

Section 2.2: Significant Awards, Honors, and Recognition

Section 2.3: Significant Publications

*“Minority representation in the field of architecture does not reflect the broader racial composition of the nation. Disadvantaged communities are often relegated to outside observers in architectural discourse and practice. As healthcare architects and designers, we are in a unique position to influence our colleagues and clients early in the design process. **If we position ourselves as thought leaders and trusted advisors for our clients, our voices can drive change. This is the value that advocate architecture brings to the profession.**”*

**Roderic Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA**

“Where We Hope To Be: A Proposal for Healthcare Architects,”  
presented nationally as a lecture series

Above: Roderic leads neighborhood engagement discussion the AIA Indiana healthcare design symposium.

**ADVOCACY:** Aligning service with practice to improve healthcare access and outcomes.

**SERVICE**

**Healthcare Design Magazine, Editorial Advisory Board, Member and Design Award Juror**

National, 2021–Present

- Roderic centers DEI topics in round table discussions, and in-person problem solving sessions, re-framing diversity within the magazine’s national advisory leadership of over 100 members and a digital plus print circulation of 40,000.
- He establishes equity principles and translates them into practical solutions by facilitating panels as well as teaching place-based design tools for marginalized populations.

**The AIA Academy of Architecture for Health, Codes and Standards Committee, Member**

National, 2018–Present

- Roderic champions revisions to fundamental healthcare guidelines to include more comprehensive language advocating for improved healthcare access and outcomes for communities of color as well as rural communities. His leadership has established an inflection point for regulations that serve as a national performance reference for thousands of architects.
- He is currently leading the first DEI strategic mission review for the Academy, defining a new direction for national healthcare guidelines to reposition programming and design solutions for marginalized communities on a national scale.



Roderic speaks about the importance of candid conversations regarding race and culture at AIA Chicago’s Design Night in 2022.

**AIA Chicago, Healthcare Knowledge Community (HCKC), Co-Chair**

Chicago, Illinois, 2019–2021

- Roderic elevated candid conversations about race, culture, ethnicity, and the implications of Covid-19 on equity-based care in the panels and outreach events sponsored by the HCKC.
- To support healthcare professionals and affiliated groups through education and networking, Roderic established a new direction for the HCKC’s service to its 500 architects and partners. He presented case study examples of his work, directly addressing the social determinants of health and he established a panel series to teach equitable healthcare design through improved healthcare access and outcomes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**SERVICE ALIGNED WITH PRACTICE**



The University of Chicago Medicine Adult Emergency Department & Level 1 Trauma Center (Chicago, Illinois), led by Roderic.

**The University of Chicago Medicine, Adult Emergency Department and Level 1 Trauma Center, Design Team Leader**

Chicago, Illinois, 2018

- For the first Level 1 trauma center serving Southside Chicago in twenty years, Roderic advanced the AIA’s Framework for Design Excellence: Guidelines for Equitable Communities, focusing on the community-scale impact that the project would have through reduced ambulance travel times.
- His advocacy for social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion through his leadership resulted in a resilient design solution with a documented impact on improved access and outcomes for 110,000 annual emergency room visits and 34,000 annual hospital admissions.

**46%** People Identifying as Female compared to the national profession average of 21.7%\*

**42%** Racial and Ethnic Diversity Compared to the national profession average of 22%\*

\* Information Based on AIA 2015 Diversity Survey and Report

Moody Nolan’s diversity statistics. Roderic leads DEI firm-wide discussions to teach staff how to combat bias and microaggressions.

**Moody Nolan, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, National Leader**

National, 2019–Present

- Guiding a DEI committee of 30 members, Roderic is leading Moody Nolan’s first ever firm-wide DEI training initiative.
- He teaches his firm’s 350 employees across the nation how to detect and navigate bias and microaggressions, heightening awareness about ethnicity, identity and advocacy in daily practice.

**LEADERSHIP:** Aligning service with practice to reckon history and close life expectancy gaps.

**SERVICE**

**AIA Chicago, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Member**

Chicago, Illinois, 2021–2023  
Beta Test: 2023-present

- Roderic co-authored an anti-racism pledge and an accountability framework to reckon history along with a set of compliance pathways.
- He changed the strategic direction of the committee, reframing its focus on beta testing the pledge prior to implementation, and strengthening the accountability framework to include more substantive tools and metrics for performance analysis.
- The pledge is currently being beta tested by 12 firms across the Chicagoland region, including Moody Nolan under his leadership.

**The AIA Academy of Architecture for Health, Board Member, Education, Committee Liaison**

Chicago, Illinois, 2023–Present

- Roderic serves the Academy, the healthcare industry’s national authoritative voice, by leading the way to effective future practice for thousands of architects.
- He authored a JEDI framework to enhance the Academy’s response to equity-based challenges. He is leading the first-ever DEI-themed strategic mission and vision task force, defining a new roadmap for the future of the Academy’s national healthcare committees serving thousands of architects.



Roderic mentors emerging professionals.

**National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), Member and AXP Mentor**

National, 2011–Present

- As a result of his commitment to catalyzing the future, Roderic serves as an AXP supervisor and mentor.
- He elevates dozens of emerging staff as stakeholders by challenging them to identify a “passion statement” that will define their career path for decades to come.

**National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) Illinois Chapter, Member**

National, 2018–Present

- Roderic embodies NOMA’s mission to empower architects to foster justice and equity. His engagement in the planning and execution of the 2018 Chicago conference, attended by over 1,000 members and partners from across the nation earned him a volunteer service award.
- Roderic’s NOMA service includes presentations about the intersections of race, culture, identity and healthcare to a national audience.

**SERVICE ALIGNED WITH PRACTICE**

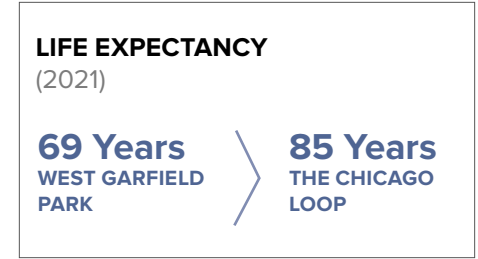


Roderic leads Sankofa engagement event.

**Sankofa Village Wellness Center, Neighborhood Engagement Phase, Principal in Charge**

Chicago, Illinois, 2021–2023

- Roderic’s service advanced the AIA Framework for Design Excellence: Equitable Communities, closing a 16-year life expectancy gap through his leadership.
- He designed and led a suite of neighborhood engagement workshops that centered community scale concerns beyond the project including population health and addressing social determinants of health.



West Garfield, Chicago life expectancy gap.

- Roderic used his experience as a national DEI leader to promote social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion through his practice. The impact of his service has been enhanced engagement and empowerment for the West Garfield neighborhood, and new clinical services for over 12,000 residents annually.



Sankofa Village exterior rendering.

**ADVANCEMENT:** Aligning service with practice to teach stakeholders and catalyze the future of healthcare design.

**SERVICE**



Roderic teaches small business owners in Rochester New York's Business Opportunities Program.



Roderic teaches Miami University Graduate Students as a visiting practitioner.

**Rochester Schools Modernization Program, Business Opportunities Program (BOP) Instructional Series, Instructor**

- Rochester, New York, 2018–2019
- Roderic enhanced the growth potential for minority business owners from Rochester and the surrounding areas, increasing the number of certified minority small business owners in the region.
  - His instructional course advanced over thirty students' financial skill set, placing them in a stronger position to become certified M/W/D/ SBE business owners that could successfully bid on and complete capital projects, resulting in enhanced trust of the advocate architect as an advisor and advanced generational wealth for dozens of families.

**Miami University Department of Architecture and Interior Design, Visiting Practitioner, Chicago Traveling Studio**

- Oxford, Ohio, 2021–2023
- Roderic served Miami University due to his desire to advance his groundbreaking thesis work.
  - He co-authored a course for a dozen graduate architecture students from three continents that challenged their assumptions about the architect's role as an advocate. The students' thesis proposals reflect the influence of Roderic's work, as he encouraged them to identify their culture through their design solutions.
  - Roderic mentored dozens more graduate and undergraduate students at Miami University by presenting his work and teaching them how to solve community-based projects through adaptive reuse.

**SERVICE ALIGNED WITH PRACTICE**



Eskenazi Health Center.



Friend Family Health Center.

**Eskenazi Health Center, Neighborhood Engagement Phase, Design Team Engagement Leader**

- Indianapolis, Indiana, 2021–2023
- Roderic's leadership extended access to care for thousands of residents in a marginalized Indianapolis community.
  - He developed and facilitated themed workshops to define the current state of health in the community, celebrate and valorize community assets, diagnose the current barriers to healthcare access, and position healthcare for more equitable communities.
  - He re-framed and advanced industry recognized tools, such as the Center for Health Design's Evidence Based Framework, to create an innovative framework to elevate stakeholder input and translate it into meaningful design principles.

**Friend Family Woodlawn Health and Wellness Headquarters, Principal in Charge**

- Chicago, Illinois, 2022
- Roderic's advocacy restored the Woodlawn Chicago community back to its legacy as a cultural beacon for the African American community.
  - By positioning adaptive reuse of an existing beauty supply store from the 1970's into a state of the art health and wellness headquarters, the project has dramatically evolved healthcare access for 35,000 patients annually and created hundreds of jobs for the community.
  - Roderic's service centered adaptive reuse in healthcare design for the surrounding community through the advancement of the AIA Framework for Design Excellence: Design for Equitable Communities, by designing space in the facility for education, population health, a healthy eating cafe, and an on-site pharmacy.



## ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND ADVANCEMENT

### SERVICE



Roderic leads GLBA panel with Greg Louganis in 1993 at Miami University.

*Roderic has been an ally and advocate for marginalized communities for thirty years. In 1993 he served as a co-president for Miami University’s Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance.*

#### **Moody Nolan Covid-19 Response Essay Initiative, Leader and Co-Author**

Chicago, Illinois, and Nashville, Tennessee, 2020–2022

- Roderic spearheaded an initiative to assess why the BIPOC community was suffering disproportionately from Covid-19.
- He issued a call to action for architects, advocating for enhanced engagement as agents for change.

#### **The Tobias Project, Board Member**

Columbus, Ohio, 2010–2011

- Named after Carl Tobias, an HIV activist who died of AIDS, Roderic’s leadership advanced the Tobias project’s passion through HIV advocacy, awareness, prevention and treatment.
- Roderic engaged the community through outreach events for enhanced safe sex education seminars, grant writing, and fund raising initiatives.

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, Arts Impact Program Mentor**

Columbus, Ohio, 2010–2011

- Roderic realized early in his career that mentorship at an early age is a powerful tool toward self-awareness and development. Despite this, he also was aware that most of his mentors did not look like him or come from communities with which he identified. Because of his commitment to elevating minority communities, Roderic joined Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Ohio.
- He shared stories of his own challenges as a young student of color. He taught his students to look beyond their current circumstances, and work towards achieving their scholastic goals based on a clear vision of their future.

#### **Miami University Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alliance (GLBA), Co-President**

Oxford, Ohio, 1993–1994

- Shortly after coming out as an openly gay man in 1993, Roderic led the Miami University GLBA as co-president. His engagement laid the groundwork for fostering a safer and more equity advocated for enhanced education, awareness and tolerance.
- He is a co-founder of Moody Nolan’s first ever LGBTQAI+ employee resource group (ERG) with a membership of over a dozen employees from across the nation.

### SERVICE ALIGNED WITH PRACTICE



The Legacy House Chicago promotional graphic.

#### **Moody Nolan Legacy House Chicago, Principal in Charge**

Chicago, Illinois, 2022-Present

- Motivated by a desire to create more visibility around the nation’s homelessness and affordable housing crisis, Roderic leads Chicago’s Legacy House Project. This initiative delivers a home, completely free, to a family in need, bringing elevated design to under-served communities
- Roderic teaches his team how to develop alliances with dozens of strategic partners, generate enthusiasm and excitement about the home, and structure fundraising events to raise capital. The impact of Roderic’s leadership has been to galvanize more than a dozen staff around a common goal to directly address Chicago’s housing disparity through design.

## PRESENTATIONS AND JURIES

### SERVICE



Roderic presents his seminal work “Equity in Black America: Where We Hope to Be” at AIA Cincinnati Vision in 2023.



Roderic establishes allyship at the Healthcare Design Forum with healthcare leaders from across the nation, California, 2022.

**AIA AIA Gold Medal Award, Juror**  
National, 2023

**AIA Architecture Firm Award, Juror**  
National, 2023

**AIA AIA Illinois Firmside Chat, Moody Nolan Architects, Panelist**  
National, 2021

- Roderic spoke about the local healthcare practice that he established at Moody Nolan’s Chicago office and its role in advancing population health for communities of color.

**AIA AIA Cincinnati Vision, “Healthcare in Black America—Where We Hope to Be,” Presenter**

- Cincinnati, Ohio, 2023
- Roderic described the current state of the industry and what the future of healthcare looks

like at this regional speaker series attended by dozens of designers and community members.

**AIA AIA Summer Leadership Summit, Mile Square Health Center Tour Facilitator**  
National, 2016

- Roderic led a discussion about the importance of positioning equity as a fundamental patient right and how to implement effective design and programming tools at this national conference attended by hundreds of architects and partners.

**AIA AIA Academy of Architecture for Health, U40 Candidates, Juror**  
National, 2023

*“I have been consistently impressed by Roderic’s vision of the field, passion for diversity, and attention to detail in the production of architecture. He uniquely combines policy awareness with creativity, producing aesthetically pleasing designs that are functionally relevant to achieving the most pressing of challenges across institutional differences. **Roderic’s understanding has been prevalent across so many engagements with my students, as his consideration of their work is always well thought out and meticulously reflects the breadth of his experience.**”*



**Ulysses Sean Vance, RA, NOMA**

Associate Professor, Architecture and Environmental Design  
Temple University School of Art and Architecture  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



**National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), Utilizing Lean Design to Optimize Workflow and Produce Quantifiable Outcomes, Presenter**

- National, 2018
- Roderic taught attendees how to re-frame equity-based design principles through lean processes at this national conference attended by over 1000 architects and partners.

**Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Expo, Speaker**  
North Carolina, 2023

- Roderic taught attendees how to address decades of redlining and discrimination by positioning minority stakeholders early in the design process at this national conference attended by hundreds of architects and partners.

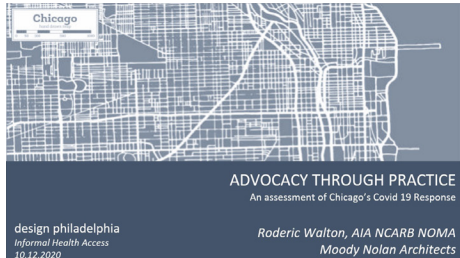
**Temple University, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Guest Juror**

- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2021
- Roderic taught students about the importance of establishing a vision for their career through their design solutions, and advocating for it at this jury review of the work of over a dozen architecture students.

**Healthcare Design Magazine, Healthcare Environment Award, Juror**  
National, 2021, 2022, 2023

## PRESENTATIONS AND JURIES

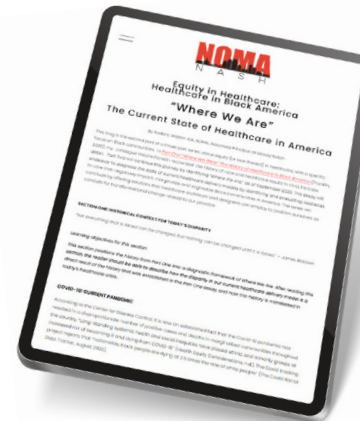
### SERVICE



Roderic leads Advocacy Through Practice discussion with national audience.



Roderic establishes allyship at the Healthcare Design Forum with 40 healthcare leaders from across the nation, California, 2022.



*“As a healthcare architect and researcher of the root cause of health disparity, it is clear that communities of color suffer disproportionately from abject poverty, mental health challenges, and food and transportation challenges. **These disadvantages, in turn, result in less frequent engagements with the healthcare system.**”*

Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA  
“Where We Are: The Current State of Healthcare in America.”

**AIA AIA Chicago EDI Committee, Designing Beyond Boundaries: Addressing the Humanitarian Crisis Through Architecture and Approaching Design Through the Refugee’s Perspective, Planner and Facilitator National, 2022**

- Roderic developed a panel series designed to respond to the Ukraine Crisis, gathering a team of experts to discuss the design communities’ collective responsibility to address housing for displaced refugees of war. Over one hundred architects from across the nation attended.

**AIA AIA Summer Leadership Summit, University of Chicago, Adult Emergency Department and Level 1 Trauma Center Tour, Facilitator National, 2018**

- Roderic facilitated a discussion

about increasing healthcare access and outcomes by shortening ambulance access times in a southside Chicago community at this national healthcare conference.

**ATA AIA Chicago 150 Year Celebration, Healthcare Architecture in Chicago, The Impact of Redlining on Healthcare Design, Panelist Chicago, Illinois, 2019**

- Roderic spoke about the importance of elevating equity in healthcare design as a fundamental patient right, and how design tools can be used to amplify this strategy, at a regional AIA celebration attended by dozens of architects and partners from the Chicagoland region.

**30th Annual Chicago Architecture + Design College Day, “What Does it Take—Getting Started in Architecture and Design,” Panelist**

Chicago, Illinois, 2019

- Roderic led engagement discussions with BIPOC students, elevating healthcare architecture as a viable career path through his visibility and by sharing advocacy work.

**Miami University, School of Architecture, Thesis on the Implications of a Eurocentric Curriculum on Architectural Design, Presenter**

Oxford, Ohio, 2003

- Roderic evaluated the intersection of race, history, pedagogy and representation in this candid critique of healthcare history courses in academic programs.

**Rochester Schools, NY, Modernization Program, Business Opportunities Program, Instructor**

Rochester, New York, 2018–2019

- Roderic enhanced business training for local small business owners, elevating the architect as a trusted community advisor.

**Kent State University, Healthcare Advocacy Through Practice in the COVID-19 Era, Panelist**

Kent, Ohio, 2021

- Roderic led enhanced engagement with dozens of BIPOC students regarding a career in healthcare architecture and the importance of place-based design.

## PRESENTATIONS AND JURIES

### SERVICE

#### **NOMA Living Future 2021, Seeking Justice: Overcoming Disparities in Access to Wellness and Environmental Obstacles, Presenter** National, 2021

- Roderic presented case study examples of how architects can impact the industry through the use of advocacy and practiced focused tools to dozens of attendees from across the nation.



Roderic leads a mock design charrette with local high school students as part of My Block My Hood My City's Mentoring Series.

#### **Healthcare Design, Product Innovation Awards, Juror** National, 2023

#### **Howard University, Career Fair, Facilitator**

Washington, DC, 2021

- Roderic encouraged dozens of students to pursue a career in healthcare architecture and to define a career path that includes equity.

#### **Christopher Kelly Leadership Development Program, "Healthcare In Black America—Where We Hope To Be," Presenter**

National, 2023

- Roderic taught dozens of attendees about the disparate impact of Covid-19 on communities of color and positions a response strategy for the architectural community centered in advocacy.

#### **The Ohio State University, Knowlton School of Architecture Alumni Association, "Health Advocacy Through Practice in the Post COVID-19 Era," Guest Panelist**

Kent State, 2020

- Roderic taught dozens of students about the post-pandemic response strategy that he authored for Moody Nolan's healthcare practice, and how students can advocate for communities of color through their design philosophy.

#### **The Center for Health Design, Post Pandemic Healthcare for Black Communities—Where We Hope to Be, Speaker**

National, 2022

- Roderic shared his vision for the future of healthcare, including the development of health equity zones, using his advocate architecture equity toolkit, with dozens of attendees from across the nation.

*"As a supervisor and principal architect at work, Roderic is extremely motivating, with a genuine sense of guidance and empathy for young professionals and their struggles. It is due to his constant efforts and encouragement that I got a chance to present my research project at a panel discussion facilitated by Roderic about the humanitarian refugee crisis."*



**Tanzim Rachana**

Graduate Architecture Student  
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio  
International Student

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters, Arts Impact Program, Mentor**

Columbus, Ohio, 2010–2011

- Roderic taught students how to look beyond their immediate circumstance and plan a strategy for future success

#### **Healthcare Design, Product Innovation Awards, Juror**

National, 2023

#### **Moody Nolan Professional Development Series Designing After COVID-19, Presenter**

National, 2021

- Roderic positioned health equity as a fundamental patient right and centered equity in healthcare design for dozens of employees at Moody Nolan across 12 office locations.

#### **Temple University, Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Community Based Healthcare, Design in the COVID-19 Era, Lecturer**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2021

- Roderic emphasized the importance of policy revisions in the tools that healthcare architects use to design spaces for healing that maximize impacts and outcomes to over a dozen architectural students.

#### **My Block My Hood My City, Mentoring Series for Moody Nolan, Mentor**

Chicago, Illinois, 2018

- Roderic mentored over a dozen high school students, building the architectural pipeline by exposing them to the field of architecture, many for the first time.

## SIGNIFICANT AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION



Roderic attends the grand opening of the Leed Gold Certified Mile Square Health Center with his mentor and firm CEO Curt Moody, 2014.



Roderic accepts the University of Chicago Vendor of the Year award with his Design Partner, CannonDesign, 2013.

*“I have worked diligently for decades to create a future where DEI principles are a standard part of the architect’s toolkit. I’m both humbled and honored to have been named the **2023 recipient of the AIA Illinois Alan Madison Award**. By promoting diversity within the profession and celebrating the value of shared experiences, this membership service award is an acknowledgment that the experiences that shape us based on how we identify have merit, and should be valorized and publicly celebrated. **I will continue to advocate for those voices who are frequently silenced.**”*

**Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA**

**AIA** **AIA Illinois, Alan Madison Award, Roderic Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA**  
2023

**AIA** **AIA Architecture Firm Award, Moody Nolan**  
2021

**AIA** **AIA Design Excellence Award, The University of Chicago, Harper Court, CannonDesign and Moody Nolan**  
2013

**The University of Chicago, Vendor of the Year for Harper Court, CannonDesign and Moody Nolan**  
2013



**I-NOMA, Volunteer Award, Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA**  
2018

**Crain’s Chicago Business, People on the Move, Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA**  
2018

**University of Illinois Construction Summit, Recognition of Outstanding Service, Moody Nolan**  
2016



**Pritzker Traubert Foundation, Sankofa Wellness Village, Chicago Prize: The Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative**  
2022

- Architect of Record for Sankofa Village Wellness Center: Moody Nolan, Associate Architect: Third Entity



**US Green Building Council, Harper Court Interior Office Build Out, Commercial Interiors, LEED Platinum Certified**  
2013



**US Green Building Council, University of Chicago Medicine, Adult Emergency Department, Commercial Interiors, LEED Certified**  
2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, Arts Impact MS Appreciation Award, Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA**  
2011



**US Green Building Council, University of Illinois Mile Square Health Center, Core and Shell Development, LEED Gold Certified**  
2014

**Lincoln / William Grant Scholarship Foundation, Lifetime Membership Award, Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA**  
2020

- Roderic provides scholarship support to former Lincoln/William Grant students and their descendants.



**US Green Building Certification, Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority, DePaul University, Wintrust Arena, LEED Certified**  
2018

**Building Design + Construction, Building Team Awards, Platinum, Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority, DePaul University, Wintrust Arena, Moody Nolan**  
2018

## SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS BY OR ABOUT RODERIC



Roderic's leadership and accomplishments were published in a nationally distributed podcast: Healthcare Interior Design 2.0.



Roderic's post-vaccine advocacy with University of Chicago Medicine was published in Architect Magazine.

*“Roderic brings rich insight in overall expertise and perspectives on justice, equity diversity, and inclusion. He is a trusted advisor to his clients and is a national thought leader on the topics of architectural design education, shaping equitable communities, and addressing health disparities. His long-standing service to the industry has been remarkable.”*



**Esperanza Harper, M. Arch, EDAC, SSGB**  
Healthcare Planning Specialist  
Assoc. Principal, LS3P  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**“Where We Are: The current state of Healthcare in America,” by Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, NOMAnash.com**  
2021

- Roderic discussed the relationship between racism, redlining and the importance of equity in healthcare outcomes in this NOMA publication with hundreds of readers.

**“Where We Hope to Be: A proposal for Healthcare Architects,” by Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, NOMAnash.com**  
2021

- Roderic charted a course for the future of the industry including a call to action for architects as advocates in this NOMA publication with hundreds of readers.

**“Episode 46: Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA,” Healthcare Interior Design 2.0**  
2021

- Roderic discussed his experience as a person of color as well as the importance of advocacy in healthcare design in this national podcast.

**“Celebrating Black Voices in Architecture,” Black Spectacles**  
2022

- Roderic discussed the impact of “prove it again” bias on the industry and his advocacy to combat it.

**“Maximize Productivity with Six Sigma,” Professional Services Management Journal**  
2021

- Roderic discussed the importance of continuous improvement by incorporating six sigma principles throughout the design process.

**“Mirror Effect: Diversity in Healthcare Design,” Healthcare Design Magazine**  
2021

- Roderic discussed the lack of role models as he strove to find his voice as a graduate student of color and in his exploration of history to position himself in the profession this digital plus print magazine with a national circulation of 40,000 readers.

**AIA “What’s Next: Post Vaccine Architecture: Post Vaccine Healthcare Design,” ArchitectMagazine.com**  
2021

- Roderic discussed the disparities in healthcare access and outcomes that were exposed during the Covid-19 pandemic and the advocate architect’s responsibility to respond in this nationally published magazine, the journal of the AIA, accessed by thousands of architects.

**“The Implications of a Eurocentric Curriculum on Architectural Design,” by Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, March Thesis, Miami University**  
2003

- Roderic discussed the need to reckon history, and reveal and celebrate the contributions of minority populations to U.S. architectural history and canon.
- Since submitting his thesis, he has continued to advocate for change at Miami University, serving as a visiting practitioner and teaching advocate architecture to dozens of students.

**ATA “What’s it like for architects who identify as LGBTQAI+?,” AIA.org**  
2020

- Roderic discussed what it’s like to be an openly gay, black architect in the profession and the importance of being visible in this AIA national publication, accessed by thousands of architects.

## SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS ABOUT RODERIC'S WORK



Friend Family Health Center.



Mile Square Health Center.

*“Roderic’s leadership in the Center’s educational series has shed light on the topics of diversity, equity and inclusion that adds value to hundreds of attendees from across the US and around the World. I’ve learned a great deal from our years working together, and I look forward to participating with Roderic in future endeavors to drive these important conversations forward.”*



**Jennifer Cotter Wilcox**  
Director of Education  
The Center for Health Design  
Washington, DC

**“Mile Square Health Centers offers comprehensive care for Underserved Communities,”** *Gazette Chicago*  
2021

**“Architecting on Clubhouse: Architects as Healers: Buildings as Medicine,”** *Architectingpodcast.com*  
2023

**“Friend Health opens newly constructed Woodlawn Health Center,”** *The Crusader Newspaper Group*  
2022

**“No Wrong Door: Centering Community and Wellness in West Garfield Park,”** *Chicago Architect*  
2023

**“Eskenazi Health announces new east side facility,”** *13 WTHR News*  
2022

**“University of Chicago Trauma Center linked to shorter ambulance trips to emergency room,”** *Chicago Sun Times*  
2020

**“Sankofa Wellness Village on West Side wins \$10Million Chicago Prize,”** *Book Club Chicago*  
2023

**“Harper Court - Bringing the fun back to Hyde Park,”** *Farrside.com*  
2014

**“Mayor Emanuel Joins Chicago Sky to announce Team’s move to Wintrust Arena - UChicago Medicine to serve as Team’s official medical provider and sponsor,”** *Chicago.gov*  
2018

**“What’s Good In Garfield Park? Episode 2.3,”** *Garfield Park Rite to Wellness*  
2023

**“Honoring the legacy of Stephanie Tubbs Jones: Health center in her name continues to expand access to all,”** *WKYC.com*  
2021

**“The State of the Healthcare Design Industry: Perspectives on Health Equity and Wellness,”** *Healthdesign.org*  
2023

**“Chicago Health Center Prescribes Sustainability,”** *Metal Construction News, Contributor*  
2018



## SECTION 3 EXHIBITS

Above: Roderic leads graduate architecture thesis review discussion with one of his students at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)



# EXHIBIT LIST

## ADVOCACY



### SERVICE

- 1. Service Through Allyship:**  
The AIA Chicago Healthcare Knowledge Community
- 2. Service Through Engagement:**  
Healthcare Design Editorial Advisory Board

### SERVICE ALIGNED WITH PRACTICE

- 3. Improving Healthcare Access and Outcomes Through Design Excellence:**  
The University of Chicago Medicine Emergency Department and Level 1 Trauma Center

## LEADERSHIP



### SERVICE

- 4. Common Responsibility to Reckon History:**  
AIA Chicago Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- 5. Addressing the Current Industry State:**  
AIA Academy of Architecture for Health Advisory Board

### SERVICE ALIGNED WITH PRACTICE

- 6. Closing Life Expectancy Gaps Through Design Excellence:**  
Sankofa Village Wellness Center

## ADVANCEMENT



### SERVICE

- 7. Positioning Architects as Trusted Community Advisors:**  
Rochester Schools Modernization Program
- 8. Catalyzing The Future Through Teaching:**  
Miami University Traveling Studio

### SERVICE ALIGNED WITH PRACTICE

- 9. Centering Equity in Healthcare Design for Equitable Communities:**  
Eskenazi Health Center
- 10. Centering Adaptive Reuse in Healthcare Design for Equitable Communities:**  
Friend Family Woodlawn Health and Wellness Headquarters

ADVOCACY

EXHIBIT 1

Service Through Allyship: The AIA Chicago Healthcare Knowledge Community (HCKC)

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois  
**Role:** Co-Chair  
**Firm of Record:** N/A  
**Dates of Service:** 2019–2021

CHALLENGE

Roderic identified that engagements to support healthcare design professionals and affiliated groups through educational and equity focused events were occurring in isolation at the HCKC, an AIA Knowledge community. Concurrently, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic created an unprecedented need for preventative healthcare information from trusted sources. An organizational philosophy between expert groups was required to share information broadly at an unprecedented time of need.

OUTCOME

Roderic centered allyship, coordinating efforts to forge healthcare partnerships. He strengthened alliances with healthcare resources including the Association of Medical Facility Professionals, Healthcare Interior Design 2.0, and Sip of Hope, a community-based coffee shop focused on mental health and suicide prevention. To directly address the Covid-19 pandemic through information awareness, Roderic led an initiative to assemble a panel of industry experts to teach pandemic era risk assessment and equity programming.

IMPACT

The AIA strategic plan for 2021–2025 identifies optimizing the role of the architect as change agent as a priority. **Acting as a change agent, Roderic’s service to the HCKC’s membership advances this AIA goal.** He redefined the committee’s organizational philosophy by centering alliances and equity with healthcare organizations. At the AIA Chicago 150 Year anniversary design showcase, he taught architects the positive impact on design when allyship with strategic partners with specialized expertise is elevated, using his own design work as an example. **Roderic’s leadership elevated the HCKC’s service to its 500 members and partners.** During the Covid-19 pandemic, the initiatives that he led were attended by a global audience of over 450 participants. The AIA Chicago healthcare design showcase was attended by dozens of architects from across the Chicagoland region. **His engagement with healthcare resources through podcasts, tours at national conferences, and speaking engagements forged alliances and educated AIA members both locally and nationally.**



Roderic teaches architects about the importance of allyship by using his own design work as an example at AIA Chicago’s Healthcare Knowledge Community Design Showcase.

*“Roderic’s passion for the profession and health equity pushed our group to provide enriching and unique opportunities to our colleagues and community through interactive programs. His impact on the HCKC has brought forth more awareness among our members and allied partners locally and at a national level.”*



**Marybeth Dietz, AIA, ACHA**  
 AIA Academy of Architecture for Health,  
 Components Council Chair  
 Smithgroup, Chicago, Illinois



Roderic leads a tour of Sip of Hope in Chicago at the Summer Leadership Summit, a nationally attended healthcare conference

**Declaration of Responsibility**

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: development, programming, and execution of the events as described.

**Marybeth Dietz, AIA, ACHA**  
 AIA Academy of Architecture for Health,  
 Components Council Chair  
 Smithgroup, Chicago, Illinois

## ADVOCACY

## EXHIBIT 2

## Service Through Engagement: Healthcare Design Editorial Advisory Board

**Location:** National

**Nominee's Role:** Editorial Advisory Board Member

**Firm of Record:** N/A

**Dates of Service:** 2021–Present

### CHALLENGE

The Healthcare Design Editorial Advisory Board is comprised of over one hundred healthcare architects throughout the U.S. and Canada who are thought leaders in the field. Roderic serves as an editorial advisory board member due to his commitment to diverse representation within the architectural profession. **He influences the Advisory Board forum by teaching other leaders that the healthcare design community requires specialized resources to combat bias and develop impactful healthcare solutions for marginalized populations.** The AIA's publication entitled *"The elephant in the (well designed) room: an investigation into bias in the architectural Profession,"* confirms that industry bias continues to marginalize disadvantaged communities in the profession.

### OUTCOME

**Roderic's leadership addresses the industry bias that the AIA has identified.** He serves as a facilitator and participant in panels, publications and in-person discussions at the advisory board forum, advocating for heightened awareness about the difference between health equity and health equality. **He co-authors and presents design strategies for marginalized healthcare consumers.** He teaches that thoughtful design can help healthcare architects address

*"Roderic was one of the first people who came to mind for my article "Mirror Effect" in Healthcare Design Magazine focused on diversity, equity and inclusion in the healthcare design industry... He's led the charge in spurring conversation around the importance of healthcare designers being active players in addressing health equity in our communities."*



**Jennifer Kovacs Silvis**  
Content Director / Editor in Chief,  
Emerald / Healthcare Design Magazine  
Cleveland, Ohio



Roderic speaks about the nation's life expectancy gaps and how to address them through design solutions at the Healthcare Design forum, attended by the Editorial Advisory Board.

historical barriers such as redlining, segregation, and the resultant life expectancy gaps. He demonstrates how to employ *bias interrupters* where measurable goals are defined and adjustments to biased behavior are made to effect substantive change.

### IMPACT

Roderic's leadership illuminates the importance of advocacy through design. **His preventative health strategies prioritize and elevate health equity as a fundamental**

**human right. His leadership through engagement for social justice policies and place-based care have informed the design philosophy of one of the industry's leading healthcare advisory organizations.** More than one hundred thought leaders from the U.S. and Canada learn how to shape spaces for members of marginalized demographics with heightened sensitivity, historical context and empathy due to Roderic's service.

### Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: development, programming, and execution of the events as described.

#### Jennifer Kovacs Silvis

Content Director / Editor in Chief,  
Emerald / Healthcare Design Magazine  
Cleveland, Ohio

## ADVOCACY

### EXHIBIT 3

## Improving Healthcare Access and Outcomes Through Design Excellence: The University of Chicago Medicine Emergency Department and Level 1 Trauma Center

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Role:** Design Team Leader for Phase 2 Level Trauma 1 Center

**Architect of Record:** Moody Nolan

**Medical Planner Phase 1 Adult Emergency Dept.:** Gresla Architects

**Medical Planner Phase 2 Level 1 Trauma:** Moody Nolan

**Completion Date:** 2018



***“The average time for an emergency patient in zip code 60649, which is primarily South Shore, saw mean transportation times drop from almost 17½ minutes the year before the trauma center opened to 8½ minutes during the year after.”***

**The Chicago Sun Times, “University of Chicago Trauma Center linked to shorter ambulance trips to the emergency room,” by Brett Chase, November 25, 2020**

**EXHIBIT 3: CONTINUED**



Roderic leads 3P trystorming trauma Level 1 resuscitation design events at The University of Chicago Medicine.



Adult ED and Trauma Center centralized clinical work stations.



Adult ED and Trauma Center Imaging suite.



Roderic used the feedback from the in-place mock up reviews to refine design solutions and enhance outcomes for patients and families.

**SOUTH SIDE CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT**

Total Population:  
**224,000**

Demographics:  
**74% African  
American**

Residents Living  
in Poverty:  
**40–60%**  
compared to  
22% in other parts of  
Chicago

Life Expectancy:  
**62 Years**  
compared to  
80 years of age in  
the Chicago Loop

**CHALLENGE**

Due to redlining and segregation in Chicago, a predominately African American patient demographic had been without a Level 1 trauma center for several decades. Patients with high-level-acuity and severe injuries requiring trauma Level 1 care had to bypass their local hospital and travel to a distant emergency room that could stabilize them for surgery. Some patients were dying along the way.

**OUTCOME**

Roderic led the design team, creating a local Level 1 trauma solution for the community and restoring access to high acuity trauma care for the first time in decades. As documented by JAMA surgery and reported in the Chicago Sun Times: "An analysis of more than 27,300 ambulance trips in the year before and the year after the Level 1 trauma center's opening showed travel for patients from predominantly Black zip codes cut by more than half in some cases.

The average time for an emergency patient in zip code 60649, which is primarily South Shore, for instance, saw mean transportation times drop from almost 17½ minutes the year before the trauma center opened to 8½ minutes during the year after." Emergency room bypass is no longer necessary, resulting in saved lives.

**IMPACT**

Roderic's leadership advances the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence: Guidelines for Equitable Communities. He created a state-of-the-art Level 1 Trauma center that addresses a community scale issue beyond the scope of the project: reversing decades of disinvestment and dramatically improving healthcare access and outcomes. He developed solutions that advocate for social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and community empowerment, translating the community's expectations for care into design solutions with proven outcomes.

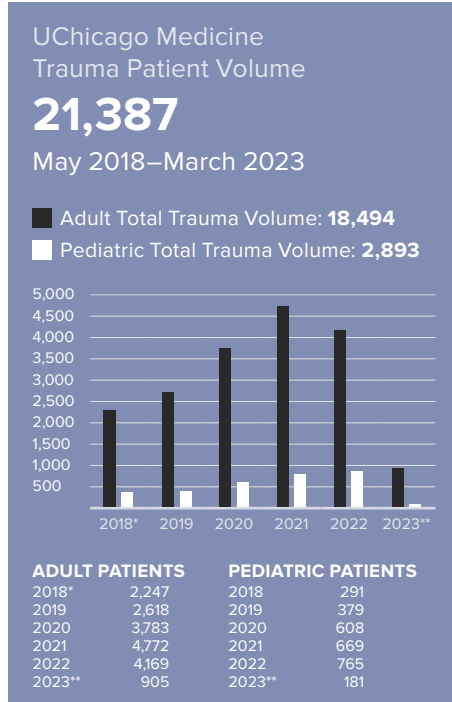
### EXHIBIT 3: CONTINUED IMPACT

Roderic advanced **community resilience, mobility and access** by optimizing workflows and producing quantifiable outcomes for Chicago’s South Side Community, re-framing established tools to focus on design for communities of color. He led 3P trystorming Level 1 trauma resuscitation design kaizens focused on lean design principles: eliminating waste in systems and processes, elevating the 3P’s of healthcare design (production, preparation and process) and enhancing the quality of care.

**Roderic’s leadership advanced care for a marginalized community and dramatically increased trauma patient access, doubling annual patient trauma volumes.** He champions design excellence by elevating the core principles of this project at national healthcare conferences including the Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Exposition, attended by hundreds of healthcare architects and partners. He has taught designers from across the nation how to embrace community resilience and achieve positive access and outcomes.



Roderic leads community design strategy discussions about this project at the Healthcare Facilities Symposium & Expo in Charlotte, N.C.

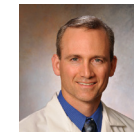


Trauma Patient Volumes increased dramatically after the ED and Trauma Level One Center Opened. Source: The Forefront: UChicago Medicine. Summer-Fall 2023 Edition.

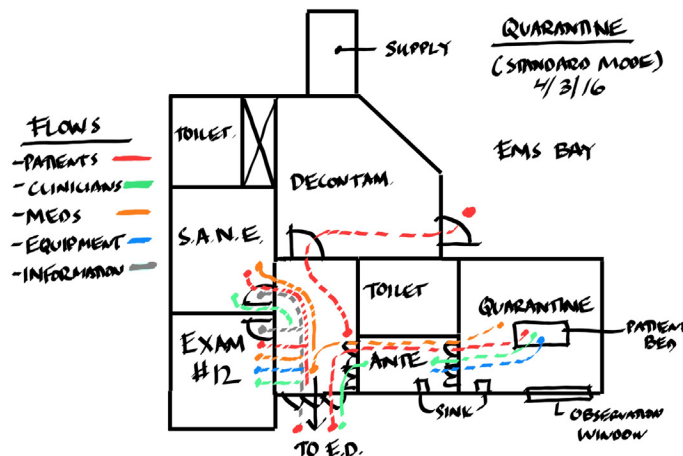


Roderic leads 3P trystorming events for the Level 1 Trauma resuscitation design.

*“In 2018 UCM opened a brand new emergency department and trauma center. Several key components allowed UCM to complete the project with such success that the team continues to provide world class patient care and have no requests for structural changes... over five years after opening and having managed care through the COVID-19 pandemic. **Roderic’s leadership was instrumental to the success of the project.**”*



**Dr. Thomas Spiegel**  
Vice President and Health System Chief Quality Officer, University of Chicago Medicine  
Chicago, Illinois



Roderic’s sketch for the design solution focused on the clinical flow of the quarantine process for the Level 1 Trauma Center.

#### Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: project under direction of the nominee.

**Dr. Thomas Spiegel**  
Vice President and Health System Chief Quality Officer, University of Chicago Medicine

**LEADERSHIP**

**EXHIBIT 4**

**Common Responsibility to Reckon History:  
AIA Chicago Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Role:** Anti Racism Pledge & Accountability Framework Co-Author

**Firm of Record:** N/A

**Dates of Service:** 2021–2023

**CHALLENGE**

As an advocate architect, Roderic teaches stakeholders that decades of bias and institutionalized racism have resulted in an incomplete architectural historical framework. During graduate school, he authored a comprehensive architectural chronology of the contributions of slaves as craftspeople and designers, and their influence on architecture. He teaches that reckoning this “forgotten history” and telling the truth about it, is a foundational component of anti-racism.

**OUTCOME**

The AIA’s work entitled “*Justice in the Built Environment*” encourages architects to answer the fundamental question “Why Does Justice Matter?” It further requires architects to be aware of the impact of injustice throughout U.S. History. **Roderic’s commitment to telling the truth about history advances these AIA values.**

He joined AIA Chicago EDI committee to elevate justice and equity principles. He co-authored an anti-racism pledge and accountability framework that provides architects throughout Chicago with tools to utilize to enhance their accountability concerning race, ethnicity and cultural inclusion, measure it, and become truth tellers.

**IMPACT**

Roderic directly addresses racial bias and discrimination in the industry through the anti-racism pledge and firm assessment tools. He actively dismantles the negative effects of institutionalized racism, bias and microaggressions by interrupting them with prescriptive tools for architects. The pledge measures components such as pay equity, diversity training, mentor and internship programs, and leadership opportunities for people of color and other traditionally marginalized groups.



Roderic leads a discussion about anti-racism and equity at AIA Chicago’s DesignNight event, 2022.

**Roderic’s leadership of the anti-racism pledge and firm assessment tools answer the question “Why Does Justice Matter?” He holds architects accountable for our collective response to bias and racism. He teaches architects how to reckon with our collective history and he builds practical solutions to measure progress.** More than a dozen Chicago firms are participating in the pledge beta test, including Moody Nolan under Roderic’s leadership.

*“As part of the EDI Committee, [Roderic’s] work led to the first-of-its kind anti-racism pledge for local firms, which outlines specific steps firms can take. **This project is currently being beta tested among more than a dozen local firms.**”*



**Jen Masengarb,**  
**Assoc. AIA**  
Executive Director  
AIA Chicago



Roderic co-authored the anti-racism firm pledge and the accountability framework.

**Declaration of Responsibility**

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: development, programming, and execution of the events as described.

**Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA** (she/her/hers)  
Executive Director  
AIA Chicago

## LEADERSHIP

### EXHIBIT 5

## Addressing the Current Industry State: AIA Academy of Architecture for Health

**Location:** National

**Role:** Board Member and Education Committee Liaison

**Firm of Record:** N/A

**Dates of Service:** 2023–Present

### CHALLENGE

This AIA knowledge community with a national membership of over 9,000 healthcare architects wanted to amplify its commitment to creating actionable steps towards enhanced diversity. Roderic’s strategic leadership outlined a process that aligns with the AIA’s core mission and vision surrounding the impact of diversity, equity and inclusion on the profession. This includes an acknowledgment of the role of healthcare design professionals as change agents to elevate stakeholders by promoting education, access and networking opportunities for all voices within the industry.

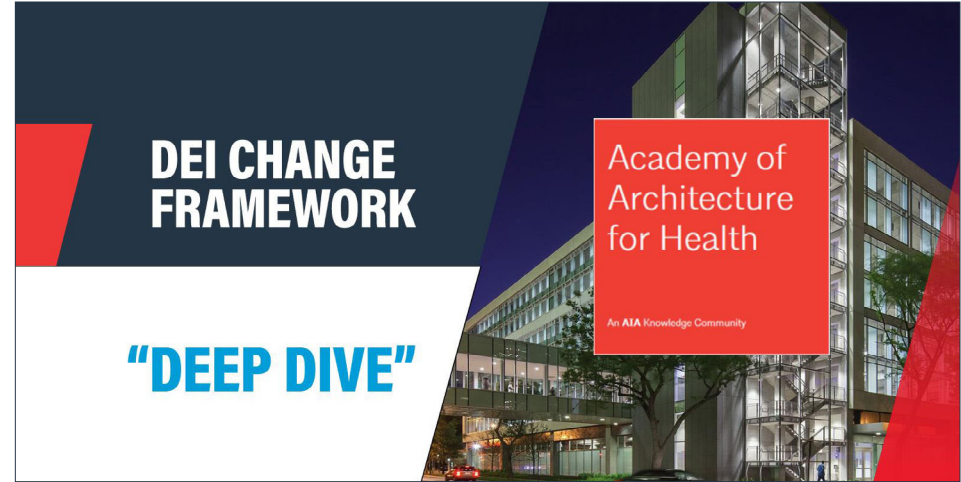
### OUTCOME

**Roderic authored a comprehensive Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion framework proposal for the Academy.** His industry recognized leadership and passion to share his knowledge regarding DEI initiatives within the Academy has been central to helping them collectively set actionable goals for their members. **He established a DEI Change Framework “Deep Dive” to navigate sensitive subject**

**matter, address the industry’s current state, and engage in substantive and transformational ways.**

### IMPACT

The AIA’s publication “Equity in the Built Environment” promotes a study of workforce and surrounding systems that impact how architects of color move to and through the profession. **Roderic’s work advances these equity-based AIA values.** He has developed insightful tools to outline and analyze the healthcare architect’s entire career path, inserting DEI principles along the way. **Roderic has directly impacted dozens of Academy members from across the nation including the Board, committee chairs, core committee members, and design partners.** The organizational mission and vision workshops that Roderic leads have been instrumental in framing the lens for the Academy for the next chapter of its evolution. **Roderic teaches these solutions to architects at national conferences such as the AIA Academy for Health Summer Leadership Series, attended by hundreds of architects and partners.**



*“Roderic energized our core leadership of committee chairs and board members to embrace our role in setting actionable goals across our organization. He highlighted the impact that personal experiences can have on our individual professional career paths. **This was absolutely powerful to see and feel the emotions of individual experiences and understand that these experiences have shaped the trajectory of careers.”***



**Kenneth Webb, AIA, ACHA LEED AP BD+C**  
AIA Academy for Health Board President  
Regional Practice Director, Health HKS  
Washington, DC



Roderic authored a comprehensive JEDI research framework for the Academy.

### Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: development, programming, and execution of the events as described.

**Kenneth Webb, AIA, ACHA LEED AP BD+C**  
AIA Academy for Health Board President  
Regional Practice Director, Health HKS, Washington, DC



## LEADERSHIP

### EXHIBIT 6

## Closing Life Expectancy Gaps Through Design Excellence: Sankofa Village Wellness Center

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Role:** Principal in Charge/Medical Planner

**Firm of Record:** Moody Nolan

**Associate Architect:** Third Entity

**Dates of Service:** 2021–2023 (Neighborhood Engagement, Planning, Programming, and Design)

**Completion Date:** Construction Completion: Q1 2025

# Sankofa.

An ancient, Ghanaian Akan concept meaning “to move forward, we must first go back and recover the valuable things we’ve lost”.



*“We expect that this nearly \$50 million investment in the community will improve health and well-being for more than 17,000 residents.”*

Pritzker Trauber Foundation,  
ptfound.org, 2023

Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative Corridor Development plan for 2025 and Beyond, with Sankofa Village Wellness Center, the anchor project, on the Left.

EXHIBIT 6: CONTINUED



Sankofa Village Wellness Center



Roderic leads neighborhood engagement workshops.

**CHALLENGE**

West Garfield Park has a sixteen year life expectancy gap, one of the highest in Chicago. This community suffers disproportionately from food insecurity, lack of access to preventative healthcare, and decades of community and developer disinvestment. Existing health systems lack comprehensive, integrated wellness services to meet the community's clinical, financial and cultural needs in a single location that is affordable and accessible. An anchor project to stimulate future investment, address the social

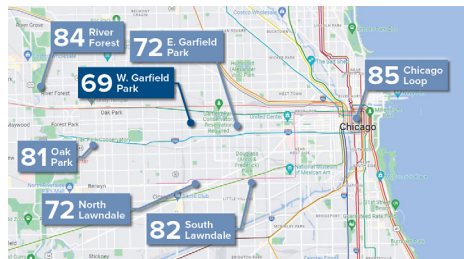
determinants of health, and create wealth-building opportunities was required to address these factors. An advocate architect with a sensitivity to these circumstances and a skill set to address them was needed to lead the design effort.

**OUTCOME**

As the principal in charge for the design team, and the lead medical planner, Roderic's leadership of the neighborhood engagement and planning stages of the project, spanning the course of 24 months, was forward-thinking, deliberate and impactful.

**He fully engaged members of the community, ranging from new to forty-year legacy groups, with a series of listening sessions followed by visual listening exercises. His design strategy takes bias and a history of segregation into account throughout the full spectrum of care.**

**He leveraged his advocacy expertise to acknowledge and dismantle the effects of decades of racial bias**



Life expectancy gaps in minority communities compared to other areas of Chicago.

**WEST GARFIELD PARK  
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT**

Total Population:  
**17,590**

Demographics:  
**96% African  
American**

Residents Living  
in Poverty:  
**47%**  
compared to  
22% in other parts  
of Chicago

Life Expectancy:  
**69 Years**  
compared to  
85 years of age in  
the Chicago Loop

**and discrimination and assessed community themes such as Black culture wellness and the spirit of Sankofa to inform the design process. He solicited critical feedback from community members and valorized their voices throughout the entire design process.**

**IMPACT**

**Roderic's design solutions embody the AIA's design excellence framework for equitable communities.** The \$50 million Sankofa Village project's vision to close life expectancy gaps in West Garfield resulted in it being awarded the Pritzker Traubert Foundation's \$10 Million Chicago Prize. The Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative is the award recipient, and Moody Nolan is the architect of record for the anchor project, the Sankofa Village Wellness Center.

**Roderic's leadership was central to the success of the engagement and planning processes. His service**

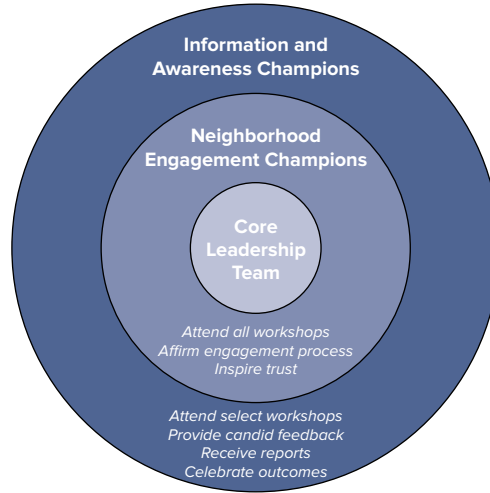
**directly addresses life expectancy gaps for one of the most vulnerable populations in Chicago. He has interrupted decades of developer disinvestment, centering preventative healthcare for thousands of community residents annually, and resulting in hundreds of new job opportunities.** Roderic presents this project as a case study example of how to successfully address some of our industry's most difficult equity challenges at AIA sponsored events across the nation, such as AIA Cincinnati Vision Panel series.



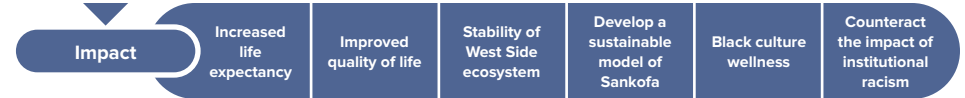
Roderic teaches architects how to address national life expectancy gaps using this project as example: AIA Cincinnati Vision panel series

**EXHIBIT 6: CONTINUED**

Roderic's leadership during the planning stages **aligns with the AIA Framework for Design Excellence: Design for Equitable Communities.**



Roderic leads neighborhood engagement workshops.



Roderic structures engagement processes using industry-proven methodology such as the Mobilization for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) framework.

**COMMUNITY-SCALE ISSUES BEYOND THE PROJECT**

Roderic addressed the social determinants of health including closing historic gaps in life expectancy by improving individual and community health, acting as change agent and advocate architect.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

Roderic's design approach advances the AIA's Justice in The Built Environment Framework, including moral, ethical, societal and professional responsibility to advocate for marginalized communities.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT**

Roderic optimized the community engagement process to elevate the voices of the community to create a design solution that empowers them to design the clinical setting.

**COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

Roderic's design approach reframed the definition of resilience by improving community pride and sense of belonging, facilitating a resurgence from decades of discrimination, creating healing spaces and enhancing financial wellness.

**MOBILITY AND ACCESS**

Roderic's solution for the wellness center promotes upward mobility and access to vital resources. The design includes a fitness center, gymnasium, childcare, a running track, a medical clinic with twenty exam rooms and dentistry. Social spaces include a healthy eating cafe, a credit union and multi-purpose educational space, all within a transit oriented development zone.



Elevation of the Wellness Center.

*“Dynamic architectural leaders with the ability to understand community needs, interpret visions, and maintain the authenticity of a neighborhood’s culture to deliver design excellence are rare. **These unique characteristics are what Roderic emulates consistently. His thoughtful design continues to make a lasting impact on the overall health and wellness of neighborhoods across the nation especially those that have long been forgotten.**”*



**Kemena Brooks**  
Director of Development  
The Community Builders  
Chicago, Illinois



Axonometric View of the Wellness Center.

**Declaration of Responsibility**  
I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: project under direction of the nominee.

**Kemena Brooks**  
Director of Development  
The Community Builders  
Chicago, Illinois

## ADVANCEMENT

### EXHIBIT 7

## Positioning Architects as Trusted Community Advisors: Rochester Schools Modernization Program

**Location:** Rochester, New York

**Role:** Visiting Instructor

**Firm of Record:** Moody Nolan

**Dates of Service:** 2018–2019

#### CHALLENGE

Financial disinvestment preceded by decades of policy-enforced segregation had left small, disadvantaged, minority and women-owned businesses throughout the City of Rochester, New York, and the surrounding region without the tools that they needed to financially manage and grow their business based on proven, industry standard financial management skills.

#### OUTCOME

The AIA’s publication “Justice in the Built Environment” explores the concept Financial Justice, defining it as “acknowledging and reversing historical disparity, and creating opportunities for building generational wealth.” **Roderic’s design philosophy advances this AIA framework.** He traveled to New York due to his commitment to justice and advocacy to teach financial management skills to a class of small business owners from the Rochester community.

#### IMPACT

**Roderic taught his students the importance of maintaining financial records for tax purposes, marketing pursuits, and to effectively manage and project their profits or losses.** They learned how to establish and maintain an operating budget, create billing revenue spreadsheets, and to apply multipliers to their client invoices to increase their financial position while remaining competitive within their market sector. **Roderic advanced the profession by positioning architects as trusted community advisors that reverse historical disparity.**

In total, almost thirty students throughout the Rochester region can now successfully bid on and complete capital projects both within the Rochester Schools system and beyond due to Roderic’s influence. They can also further grow and expand their business to create employment opportunities within their communities, resulting in generational wealth building for dozens of families.



Roderic teaches a bookkeeping course to small business owners in Rochester, New York.

*“Roderic’s service and leadership impacted the students by giving them tools to adequately and easily understand the relationship between their revenue and expenses in relation to their growth goals. **I stay connected with the students, and they report that learning those financial basics has made it much easier for them to gauge their profitability and likely made the difference between their business going under or staying afloat during the pandemic.**”*



**Kimberly Mitchell**  
Consultant, Rochester Joint Schools  
Construction Board  
Rochester, New York



The 2019 course graduates, one of two graduating classes, taught by Roderic

#### Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: development, programming, and execution of the events as described.

**Kimberly Mitchell**  
Consultant, Rochester Joint Schools  
Construction Board  
Rochester, New York

**ADVANCEMENT**

**EXHIBIT 8**

**Catalyzing the Future Through Teaching:  
Miami University Traveling Studio**

**Location:** Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

**Nominee's Role:** Visiting Practitioner and Student Mentor

**Firm of Record:** N/A

**Dates of Service:** 2021–2023



Above: Roderic leads a walking history tour of historic Woodlawn, Chicago with the Miami University Traveling Studio

## EXHIBIT 8: CONTINUED



Roderic engages with Miami University Students and Staff



Roderic leads Miami University thesis review

**CHALLENGE**

In 2003 Roderic authored a master's thesis entitled "The Implications of a Eurocentric Curriculum on Architectural Design." He posited that the finding of various minority authors and historians demonstrate that America's architectural heritage is not simply the result of the "genius" of Anglo culture. Rather, they reveal that our country's architectural heritage is the product of an amalgamation of multiple traditions and aesthetics, including significant contributions from non-dominant cultures. Despite these findings, the study of minority contributions remains conspicuously absent from the curricula at many architectural schools across the country.

**To catalyze the future of the industry, Roderic teaches architectural students to study history, advocate for accurate portrayals of cultural contributions to society, and to translate this philosophy into their design work.**

**OUTCOME**

**Roderic co-authored a syllabus for graduate architecture traveling studio course at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.** He challenged the students' preconceived assumptions about the architect's role as an advocate, mentoring them and teaching them how to solve large scale community and equity-based problems through design.

Roderic led a walking history tour of Chicago's south side, exposing the students directly to stakeholders who live and work in the community. **He also invited a team of community-based developers responsible for capital advancement in the neighborhood to teach their methodology for social change.**

Roderic's students learned how to study the history of the resident stakeholders and use this knowledge to inform their designs, using Roderic's thesis as a guide for how to do so.

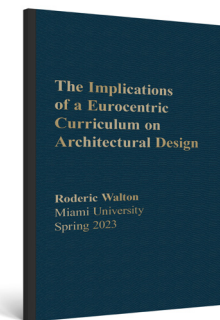
**IMPACT**

The AIA's Equity in Architectural Education supplement concludes that "Office and school cultures feed and reinforce each other, and long-standing traditions, viewpoints, and biases in academia are strong." **Roderic's leadership directly addresses this AIA conclusion, elevating an understanding of one's culture to achieve equity.**

**Roderic uses his own story of growth and development, his thesis work and adaptive reuse projects such as the Friend Family Woodlawn Clinic to mentor his students through his example, teaching them how to become advocate architects.** For a dozen students spanning three continents, many of whom have only been exposed to familiar canon or popular stereotypes of what an architect looks like, **Roderic's critique of the profession has catalyzed their future trajectory.** They have found the courage to explore their own culture through their design solutions.

***"The study of minority contributions to America's architectural heritage remains conspicuously absent from most curricula at architectural schools across the country. How have these contributions been silenced by popular architectural discourse at academic institutions throughout the U.S.?"***

**Roderic K. Walton, AIA, NCARB, NOMA**  
Master's Thesis  
Miami University  
2003



**EXHIBIT 8: CONTINUED**

“Roderic discussed his thesis, ‘The Implications of a Eurocentric Curriculum on Architectural Design’ with me and this was a pivotal moment, as it provided me with two major things: the first being the perspective that I was not alone in my dissatisfaction in some aspects of the architecture school that I was currently in. The second, this thesis provided me with a groundwork for a thesis/project/proposal I was writing myself on the decolonization of the architecture curriculum. **Roderic and his work provided me with ample ‘ammunition’ to take on the task of putting together a thesis project. It inspired me to make the extra effort to make a push for a difference in my architecture department.**”

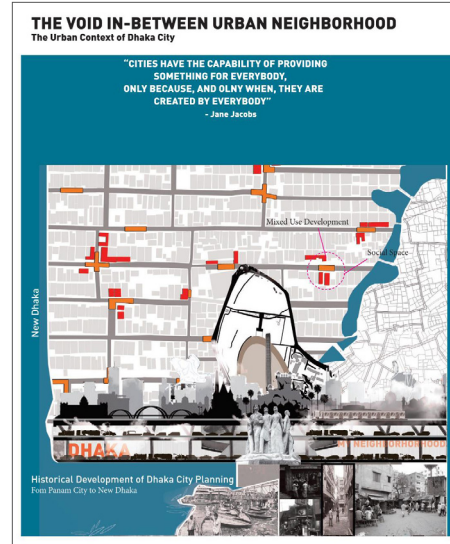


**Fiyinfoluwa A. Akomolafe**  
Undergraduate Architecture Student  
Miami University  
International Student from Nigeria

“I was amazed to learn about [Roderic’s] bold approach to criticizing the institutionalized racism prevailing in Architectural study. After reading [his thesis], I had a clear view of discrimination which also hindered the development of the South Side of Chicago. **That knowledge helped me in the traveling studio and inspired me to work in my neighborhood in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**”



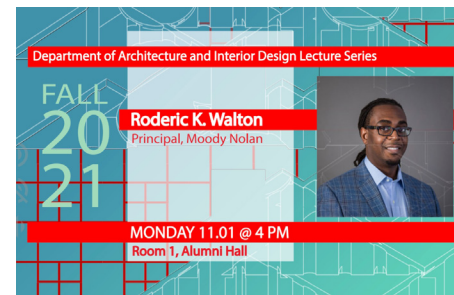
**Pankaj Nath Joy**  
Graduate Architecture Student  
Miami University  
International Student from Bangladesh



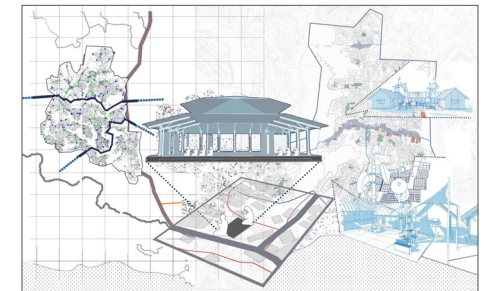
Roderic’s students, Tanzim Rachana and Pankaj Nath Joy, learned how to express their own culture through their work as a result of his traveling studio course. These exhibits are samples from their Master’s thesis research projects.



Map indicating the home countries of the students Roderic taught and mentored at Miami University.



Roderic presents his work to dozens of students at Miami University as lecture series



**Declaration of Responsibility**  
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: development, programming, and execution of the events as described.  
**Mary Rogero, RA, CHPC, CPHB**  
Chair, Department of Architecture and Interior Design  
Miami University, Oxford, OH

## ADVANCEMENT

### EXHIBIT 9

## Centering Equity in Healthcare Design for Equitable Communities: Eskenazi Health Center

**Location:** Indianapolis, Indiana

**Nominee's Role:** Moody Nolan Project Manager and Design Team Neighborhood Engagement Leader

**Firm of Record:** ArcDesign

**Associate Architect:** Moody Nolan

**Dates of Service:** 2021–2023 (Neighborhood Engagement Phase)

**Completion Date:** Construction Completion targeted for Q1 2024





## EXHIBIT 9: CONTINUED

### CHALLENGE

The community engagement strategy for a new ambulatory care center in an underserved section of Indianapolis required the development of an equity plan to establish evidence-based tools for effectively advancing resident stakeholders. A process that is neighborhood-centered, economically impactful, and that positions innovative care, research, education, and patient service as priorities was required. The AIA Strategic Plan for 2021–2025 includes advancing racial, and ethnic diversity as a goal. **Roderic’s leadership advances this strategy, and his service elevates the importance of equity in healthcare design.**

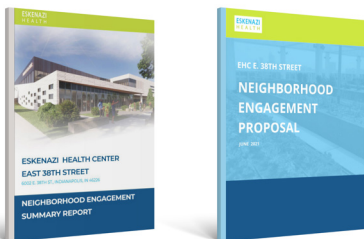
### OUTCOME

Roderic’s creative process resulted in one of the most innovative care centers for the vulnerable patients on east side of Indianapolis. He authored and teaches an advocate architecture equity toolkit that re-frames the relationship between architects and community stakeholders. Guided by design drivers aligned with

**social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion**, the toolkit furthers community connections by **addressing community scale issues beyond the project**. This toolkit enables design teams to incorporate **community engagement and empowerment, resilience, mobility and access**, and wellness into their design solutions. The project is currently in the final construction stage and will open in February 2024.

### IMPACT

Roderic presents this project, along with his equity toolkit, as a case study example of design for equitable communities at regional and national conferences attended by dozens of architects and partners such as the AIA Indiana healthcare design symposium. The new health facility serves Indianapolis’ neighborhoods of color through an equity-based care model and collaboration with community organizations. It will provide 73 new exam rooms for the community and support over 50,000 new healthcare encounters annually.



Roderic teaches the advocate architecture equity toolkit at the AIA Indiana healthcare design symposium.



## ADVOCATE ARCHITECTURE EQUITY TOOLKIT

### Advocacy Action Items

Study and acknowledge the history of housing segregation	Advocate for recurring youth mentorship programs
Advocate for social justice & diversity at your organization	Solve community scale issues in environment of care decisions

### Practice Action Items

Encourage clients to empower and engage community leaders	Actively participate in mobility & access initiatives in your neighborhood
Center preventative healthcare as a fundamental human right	Combine design rigor with empowerment to reframe resilience

Equity based community engagement and tools developed by Roderic include a neighborhood engagement proposal and summary used to collect and publish data about the project.

*“Roderic spearheaded our community engagement effort to engage with members of the immediate neighborhoods and organizations throughout the planning and design stages. Through orchestrating community workshops, and managing hospital leadership meetings, Roderic developed a custom process that resulted in a building design that is highly accessible, connecting patients to public transportation, walking trails and community plazas where farmer’s markets, local events and recreational activities will occur.”*



**Daniel C. Kloc, AIA NCARB**  
Director of Facility Planning & Management  
Eskenazi Health  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: development, programming, and execution of the events as described.

**Daniel C. Kloc, AIA NCARB**  
Director of Facility Planning & Management  
Eskenazi Health  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## ADVANCEMENT

### EXHIBIT 10

#### Centering Adaptive Reuse in Healthcare Design for Equitable Communities: Friend Family Woodlawn Health and Wellness Center

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Nominee's Role:** Principal in Charge and Medical Planner

**Architect of Record:** Moody Nolan

**Completion Date:** 2022



EXHIBIT 10: CONTINUED



**CHALLENGE**

Roderic identified that positioning an adaptive reuse design philosophy in communities of color disproportionately impacted by decades of institutionalized discrimination requires the architect to approach the project with a unique vision of what is possible in the future, while simultaneously acknowledging the healthcare implications of decades of marginalization on the social determinants of health.

**Acting as an advocate architect, he led the design of a new flagship headquarters for Friend Family, a Chicago-based community health center, by leveraging his advocate architecture equity toolkit.** He developed programming and design strategies that elevated the history of the community, and partnered with neighborhood stakeholders to position patient-centered population health strategies. **Roderic centered preventative healthcare as a fundamental patient right, advocating for adaptive reuse design principles that were advanced by reframing**

**healthcare access for communities of color, dismantling bias, and elevating empathy and compassion during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

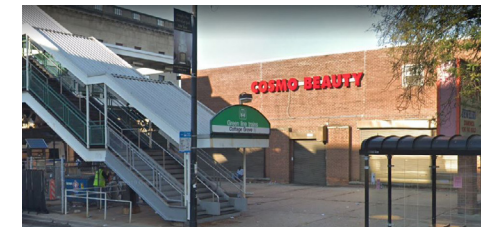
**OUTCOME**

**Roderic steered an adaptive reuse design solution that renovated and expanded an existing building into a state-of-the-art medical headquarters at a strategic location.** This innovative approach has amplified healthcare service offerings for the community by centering adaptive reuse in healthcare design.

**Roderic’s design solution advances the AIA Framework for Design Excellence: Design for Equitable Communities.** He addresses significant **community scale issues** beyond the project by advancing community health design philosophy that prioritizes spaces for preventative healthcare education, healthy eating, and inter-generational health. By doing so he serves as a bias interrupter, counteracting decades of institutional discrimination.



Before Adaptive Reuse.



**IMPACT**

Since opening, the center has dramatically evolved healthcare access for 35,000 patients annually and created hundreds of jobs for community residents. **Community engagement, empowerment and resilience are exemplified through Roderic’s design process, which aggregates programmatic components to solve decades-long disparity. Roderic teaches adaptive reuse strategies in healthcare design to architects at national healthcare panel discussions** attended by dozens of healthcare designers and partners, such as the AIA Chicago/AMFP panel series.

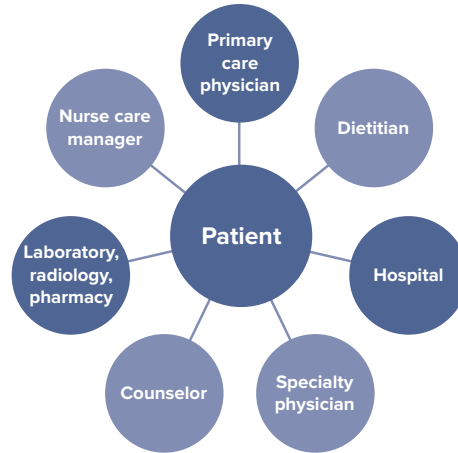


Roderic teaches adaptive reuse strategies at an AIA Chicago/AMFP virtual panel initiative, attended nationally by dozens of healthcare designers and partners.

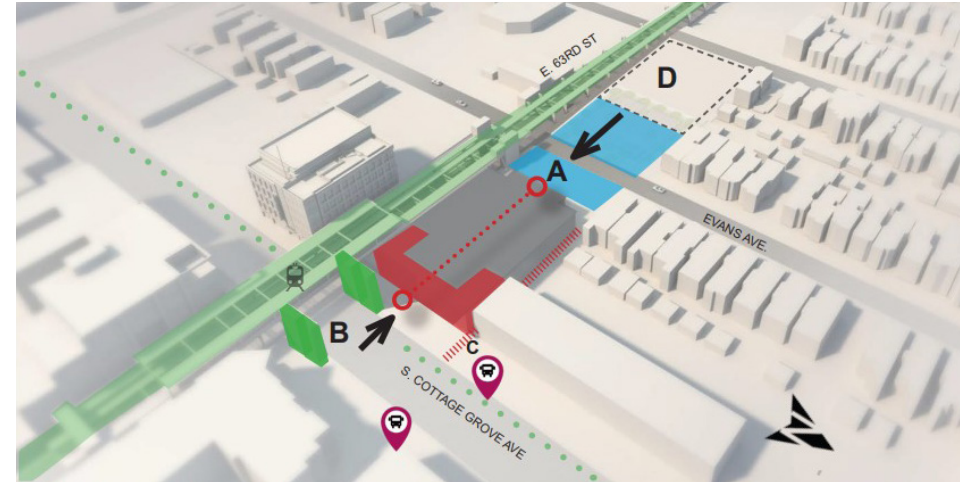
**EXHIBIT 10: CONTINUED**

**INTERNATIONAL IMPACT**

As the case study project for the Miami University Chicago graduate architecture traveling studio course taught by Roderic, this advocacy themed approach centers adaptive use in healthcare design. Roderic’s students, many of whom are international, used the knowledge gained from this project to explore adaptive reuse solutions in their own design work. **This includes implementing an adaptive reuse framework to address community-scale challenges in their native homeland such as housing stability, sustainability, equal rights, and refugee resettlement.**



Roderic’s design solutions evolved established patient focused care models to maximize quantifiable outcomes.

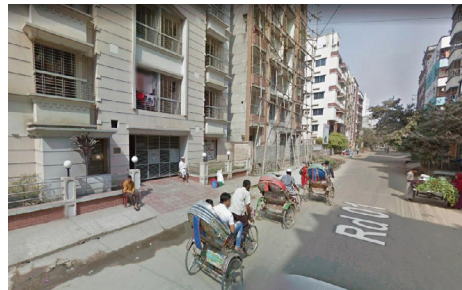


**Legend**  
 A. New Patient Access Point  
 B. Existing Patient Access Point  
 C. Service access  
 D. Future Expansion

*“The innovative medical planning and design solutions developed by Roderic have made it possible for us to elevate the standard of care that we provide. As our flagship headquarters, this new facility has been welcomed by our patients, their families, and our providers. It has also enabled us to expand the range of services that we provide. We are currently planning phase two of the project, and we look forward to working with Roderic again.”*



**VERNEDA BACHUS, DHA, MBA**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Friend Health  
 Chicago, Illinois



Residential Neighborhood  
 (before adaptive reuse)



Residential Neighborhood  
 (after adaptive reuse)

Inspired by Roderic’s Friend Family Woodlawn Headquarters example, graduate architecture student Pankaj Nath Joy explores adaptive reuse to reimagine a residential neighborhood in his home city of Dhaka, Bangladesh, in these before and after renderings from his graduate thesis project.

**Declaration of Responsibility**  
 I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included: project under direction of the nominee.  
**Verneda Bachus, DHA, MBA**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Friend Health  
 Chicago, Illinois



## SECTION 4 REFERENCES

Above: Roderic leads equity vs equality discussion at healthcare design forum in California.

# REFERENCES



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LEED GA

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