

## Racial Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Board

First meeting June 25, 2020

**The University of Waterloo School of Architecture School's Racial Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Board meets monthly to provide guidance and oversight to the school's Racial Equity and Environmental Justice Task Force.**

**Joyce Barlow**, OT Reg (Ont). has over 18 years' experience in disability management and occupational therapy, with expertise in the area of accessibility as it relates to persons with disabilities. She has overseen countless home and workplace renovations for individuals sustaining traumatic injuries following workplace and motor vehicle accidents, and assisted employers in various sectors in successfully implementing ergonomic programs, including manufacturing, financial institutions, government, and was the Global Accessibility Specialist for BlackBerry prior to joining the University of Waterloo in 2016. Since joining the University in their newly created role of Workplace Accessibility Specialist, she has successfully collaborated with departments across the campus and implemented processes to create a more accessible environment and inclusive culture for individuals with disabilities throughout their employment lifecycle or student experience.

**Michelle Fenton** is founding partner of Khora Architecture + Interiors in Vancouver BC and a council member of the Architectural Institute of BC (AIBC). Prior to starting this practice, she was a partner in studio B architects, a principal in Groundswell architects and a practice advisor for the AIBC. At Khora, Michelle helps corporations and universities develop and design creative and healthy places through mindful stakeholder engagement, strategic workplace planning, and a desire to advance our well-being through thoughtful, collaborative design. Throughout her career, she has led the design of projects for a broad range of clients with a focus on private corporations, government offices, and institutional facilities. Her clients benefit from a thoughtful design response to often complex renovations and approval processes. Her firm pursues a collaborative design approach with a team that is engaged all the way through to the project's completion and beyond.

**Omar Ferwati** completed his Master of Architecture at the University of Waterloo in 2020. Omar has worked at architecture practices in Toronto, Vancouver, Tokyo, and New York. He was also a researcher and project leader at Forensic Architecture in London, using spatial analyses for human rights investigations. Omar's current research focuses on how civilians use architecture to survive urban conflict. He is currently writing a chapter based on this work for a book on reconstruction as violence. Omar has been advocating for environmental responsibility at Waterloo's School of Architecture since 2014. In 2019 he founded the Sustainability Collective at the School of Architecture, an open group of students, faculty, and staff dedicated to meaningful and lasting changes in the school, community, and profession in response to the climate crisis. The Collective sees climate action as inseparable from the fight for global justice.

**Jaliya Fonseka** is currently based out of Washington DC, where he is collaborating with a local architect and volunteering with the World Central Kitchen's food relief program. His Master's thesis at the Waterloo School of Architecture explored the meaning of home, place and belonging, and allowed him to reconnect to his birthplace, Sri Lanka. Upon graduating, Jaliya pursued a six-month travel fellowship awarded by the Asia Foundation, which allowed him to study traditional art, craft, architecture, and culture while travelling throughout South Asia. He recently exhibited some of his findings at the Strathmore exhibition on the theme of *Home*. Jaliya serves as an adjunct instructor at the Waterloo School of Architecture and continues to balance teaching and architectural practice. He is moved by the unique human story that underpins and empowers our built world and this challenges him to grow as an architect and as an educator.

**KaaSheGaaBaaWeak | Eladia Smoke** is Anishinaabekwe from Obishikokaang | Lac Seul First Nation, with family roots in Alderville First Nation, Winnipeg, and Toronto. Eladia has worked in architecture since

2002, and founded Smoke Architecture as principal architect in 2014. She is a Master Lecturer at Laurentian's McEwen School of Architecture. Her career includes principal architect with Architecture 49, Thunder Bay, and architect with Prairie Architects, Winnipeg. Eladia has served on the RAIC's Indigenous Task Force since its inception, 2015. Eladia is on the Unceded international team of Indigenous designers and architects; led by Douglas Cardinal, which represented Canada at the 2018 Venice Biennale. Current professional work includes community centre, office, and multi-family residential projects, working with First Nation clients. Past professional projects include the Aboriginal People's Television Network studios, Migiizi Agamik Aboriginal Student Centre at University of Manitoba, and Makoonsag Intergenerational Learning Centre; completed in Winnipeg with Prairie Architects. Eladia served as a committee and council member with Manitoba Association of Architects from 2011-2014.

**Safira Lakhani** is a practicing Intern Architect with Manasc Isaac in Edmonton, Alberta. Pairing research with design, Safira is driven in her work by a passion for spatial justice which stems from her previous design and humanitarian experiences in Ecuador and Afghanistan. Her graduate thesis, *The River is for Washing Carpets* (UW 2017) advocates for the agency of design in fragile states, notably that the intersection of participatory architecture, decentralised infrastructure, and local ecology can create a grounded framework for enduring, systemic peace and sustainable development. Safira's recent work with Manasc Isaac has been in the design of learning environments for First Nations, Indigenous, and Metis communities across Alberta. Safira is also a design consultant with the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat in Central Asia.

**Elsa Lam** is editor of *Canadian Architect* magazine. She holds a doctorate in architectural history and theory from Columbia University, completed under the supervision of Kenneth Frampton and Vittoria di Palma. She studied architectural history at McGill University and architectural design at the University of Waterloo, and has worked on the curatorial team at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal. Elsa has written extensively for architecture and design magazines, as well as collaborating on the editing and writing of several books. She is the co-editor of the recent book *Canadian Modern Architecture, 1967 to the present*, published by Princeton Architectural Press and Canadian Architect.

**Camille Mitchell**, OAA MRAIC is an Architect with Gensler's Toronto office – and is currently involved with the design and implementation of a large financial tower downtown Toronto. Camille was formerly a Project Architect with KPMB Architects where she contributed to the new commercial tower development at the Bay Adelaide Centre (Toronto) and was fully immersed in the design of the New Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois). Camille believes that is extremely important for underrepresented groups to be involved with the design of their built environments. She is a founding member of the independent organizations Building Equality in Architecture Toronto ([www.BEAToronto.com](http://www.BEAToronto.com)) and Black Architects + Interior Designer Association ([www.BAIDA.ca](http://www.BAIDA.ca)). Their programs are dedicated to supporting mentorship, networking and leadership opportunities for women and visible minorities within the architecture profession. Additionally, Camille is member of the Dean's Advisory Council for the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science at Ryerson University.

**Paniz Moayeri** is a 2019 graduate of the M.Arch program from the University of Waterloo School of Architecture, where she also received her Bachelor of Architectural Studies in 2015. Her graduate thesis (entitled *Your Passport Doesn't Work Here: Asylum, Space, and Iranian Queer Heritage*) looks at the connection between space and queer heritage in the Iranian LGBTQ+ refugee community of Toronto. Moayeri has practiced architecture in Canada, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates as a co-op student and an Intern Architect. As one of the three founders of the initiative *Treaty Lands, Global Stories*, Moayeri has advocated for acknowledging Canada's Indigenous heritage, and for looking beyond the Western world in the study of history and architectural precedents in the Waterloo Architecture curriculum since 2016. Paniz is a cisgender woman of colour who describes her sexuality as fluid. She was fifteen when her family immigrated to Toronto from Tehran.

**William Woodworth / Raweno:kwaw** is a member of the Bear Clan of the Lower Mohawks, Six Nations of the Grand River, near Brantford. His Mohawk name, Raweno:kwaw, means “he is the one who dips his words”. He has practiced architecture in Ontario for 35 years and is working on the Master Plan of the Chiefswood National Historic Site along the Grand River at Six Nations. William has been an adjunct professor at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture for the past decade, where he teaches native culture and architecture. He has a degree in architecture from the University of Michigan and doctorate in Traditional Knowledge from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. He is the founder and executive director of the Beacon to the Ancestors Foundation, planning the installation of a sacred indigenous ceremonial site along the waterfront in Toronto.

**Evan Schilling** is the Architecture Librarian at the Waterloo School of Architecture. He holds a Master of Information from the University of Toronto, a professional Bachelor of Architecture from Pratt Institute in New York, and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo. For Evan, librarianship and teaching are not neutral practices, and they are involved in numerous initiatives, committees, and groups, both locally and internationally, focusing on inclusion, equity, and human rights. Evan was one of the first LGBTQ+ Space Makers at the University of Waterloo, and is now a trainer for the [LGBTQ+ Making Spaces programme](#), he is a member of the [Gender and Sexual Diversity Working Group](#) (GSDWG) operating under the Provost's Advisory Committee, and the Library Representative on the [Faculty Association of the University of Waterloo \(FAUW\) Equity committee](#). They are also the Co-ordinator for the Critical Librarianship Special Interest Group for the [Art Libraries Society of North America](#). Evan is a non-binary trans man and uses he/him or they/them interchangeably.