

Subject: re: Tenth Anniversary of the Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Forum !
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 11:45:49 Eastern Daylight Time
From: Julio Bermudez
To: (Architecture, Culture & Spirituality Forum) ACS

Dear ACSF members

Ten years ago this month our *Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Forum* was created, beginning an incredible journey. The founding White Paper that grounded the launch of ACSF dated 4/13/2007, stated the imperative need to address the often forgotten or avoided issues surrounding the professional, educational, scholarly, and service work occurring at the intersection between architecture, culture, and spirituality. We thus set out to create a community of educators, practitioners, and scholars, supported by symposia and other venues for knowledge building, discussions, sharing and networking, and opportunities for peer-reviewed publications.

The results speak for themselves: 9 annual symposia, nearly 200 extended abstracts published in symposium proceedings, 34 lectures available online, an eleven-fold growth of an international membership from 48 countries, a long standing website with open source, useful resources, a listserv with monthly information/opportunities announcements, three international journals (2010, 2011, 2016) of ACSF scholarship, and the publication of a book by a peer-reviewed press (*Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality*, Ashgate, 2015), are some of the outcomes. In 2016 ACSF became a tax-exempt, 501(c)3 non-profit guided by a nine-member Board of Directors. We believe ACSF has had a positive influence on the state-of-the-art of many disciplines over the last decade, and are committed to broadening its scope and influence in the years to come. Our board is actively developing future symposia, partnerships, and funding opportunities.

Yet, perhaps most important are the connections, friendships, learning, opportunities, and inspiration each of us has gained over the years by participating in ACSF. In fact, many of us cannot think about the past decade without recognizing the remarkable impact that this, our organization, has had in our personal scholarly production, exchanges, and growth.

Today is time for thanksgiving and celebration. We need to thank all of you members and non-members that have supported, in many ways, the ACSF vision and work. We would not be here without you. And of course we too need to celebrate our tenth birthday. It hasn't always been easy, but it has always been rewarding.

Cheers!

Tom Barrie (Chair) & Julio Bermudez (President)
On behalf of ACSF Executive Board

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"leap and the net will appear"