

Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Forum

Strategic Plan | 2017-2022



Mission

The **Mission** of ACSF is to provide an international forum for scholarship, research, education, practice, design, and advocacy regarding the cultural and spiritual significance of the built environment.

Since its founding in 2007, ACSF has supported a multidisciplinary, multi-faith, and international community of scholars, educators, and practitioners, hosted scholarly conferences and symposia, and produced and disseminated peer-reviewed publications in its subject areas.

Vision

The *Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Forum* (ACSF) believes that the design and experience of the built environment can assist the spiritual development of humanity in service of addressing the world's most pressing issues. Over the next five years ACSF will holistically develop and implement new and expanded opportunities for impacting and influencing academic, professional, cultural, and religious contexts. Strategic partnerships will be formed with related organizations, institutions, and grant making foundations, and a broad constituency will be engaged including a diversity of disciplines, the academy, students, and professionals.

ACSF aspires to create a research clearing house and think tank centered on the intersection of critical contemporary issues, spirituality, and the built environment. Specifically, ACSF research and design projects will focus on the capacity of the built environment to bridge cultural and religious differences, raise human consciousness, access lost knowledge, educate people, address environmental and cultural sustainability, advance social justice, and improve health and well being. To do so, teams will be created to clarify critical areas of research, assemble pertinent literature, and identify potential participants and funding sources. Grants from major grant making organizations will fund (a) ACSF research projects led by teams of experts; (b) competitive grant awarding programs for scholars; (c) design competitions; or (d) other scholarly venues. Outcomes will be disseminated through ACSF publications, professional and academic venues, social media, and popular media outlets.

The ACSF Board of Directors will cultivate and apply spiritually imbued governance, vision, and action to build an engaged, proactive, and action oriented body. It will apply the highest standards of fiscal and ethical practices, establish annual budgets to meet needs and maintain a reserve, and create requirements and protocols for maintaining non-profit/tax-exempt status and adhering to all state and federal laws. The Board of Directors will assess and update the Strategic Plan annually.

Strategic Plan

The following themes define the action items for the next five years

1. Defining and Nurturing the Organization

Manifesto

Create an ACSF Manifesto that clarifies and distinguishes the organization's mission, describes its position in the contemporary world, and outlines its responses to the most pressing issues

Board of Directors

Create a plan for cultivating and appointing future board members

Fundraising

Formulate a fundraising strategy to support program, communication, scholarly, grant making, and administrative activities

Form strategic partnerships with related organizations, institutions, and grant making foundations

Membership

Create a plan for growing a diverse, engaged membership including a diversity of disciplines, the academy, students, and professionals

2. Responding to Pressing Contemporary Issues

Research Priorities

Pursue through a variety of means and venues the following research priorities:

- *Health and Wellbeing* | The interrelationship of spiritually affective and restorative natural and built environments and physical, cognitive, and emotional health and wellbeing
- *Cultural and Environmental Sustainability* | Spiritual and reverential responses to global climate change and its environmental, cultural, political, and economic impacts
- *Place and Cultural Identity* | The phenomena of sacred architecture, urbanism, and built environments as cultural artifacts and affective, communicative, and revelatory places
- *Social Justice and Equity* | The incorporation of spiritual perspectives and approaches to serve the politically disenfranchised, economically disadvantaged, and culturally marginalized

Research Strategy

Create a plan for identifying appropriate grant making organizations, cultivating contacts and relationships, successfully applying for and securing funding, administering grants, and dissemination of outcomes

3. Expanding Influence

Symposia

Align symposia themes with research priorities

Expand participation and diversity of symposia including professionals and students

Explore alternate venue, formats, etc. for ACSF programs

Create symposia guidelines including peer-review standards, calendar benchmarks, outreach, and costs

Publication

Develop new opportunities for publication and dissemination activities

Education

Create new educational programs in support of advocacy and outreach

Advocacy

Advocate mission, research agendas, and programs to relevant organizations

Awards

Create an awards program to recognize excellence and lifetime achievements

Communications

Expand the content of the website

Create social media platforms and establish a plan for their moderation and maintenance

Create an image library

Practitioners

Expand participation of practitioners in ACSF meetings and membership

4. Member Services

Continuing Education

Provide Continuing Education Credits for professional architects, landscape architects, and planners at ACSF symposia

Listserv

Maintain bi-monthly e-mails to membership regarding research, education, and practice opportunities

Scholarships

Create a student scholarship program for conference attendance

Mentoring

Create means and methods of mentoring early career academics and professionals

Seed Grants

Create a plan for funding and awarding seed research grants