Dear BAC faculty and staff,

This morning I was honored to welcome each of you and others around the globe to our inaugural BAC Talks!

I am heartened by the response we received for this new series of conversations—a day filled with extraordinary dialogs. As you know, we convened this forum as a space for discussing contemporary issues of consequence. Hence, we chose the theme Design for Post-Pandemic Environments. As the preeminent forum for convening key conversations for 130 years, the BAC is the most important forum for understanding the realities of our world today and shaping a just future through design.

At the BAC, our Mission is to include and serve diverse communities and empower them with access to the privileges of design education. We are here for each other, to speak up for our community, and act in meaningful ways to bring about social justice through our mission as a design institution.

And, today, we bring together a blend of the BAC community, new and old friends from all corners of our Nation and the globe—some as far as Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, India, Italy, Nigeria, and Taiwan.

During the last year, we have gathered our people, our team of teams, and held a series of conversations to shape a vision for the future of the BAC. What has emerged as a result of all of these conversations is a Vision Hexagon:

- We envision delivering on our educational mission of diversity and inclusion to help our students fully actualize their potential without boundaries.

- We envision a College as a global network, a cloud canopy with virtual aerial roots meeting the disenfranchised, the marginalized, the inconvenient and unconventional students wherever they live in the world.

- We envision an articulated network of seamless flows propelling students from K-12 systems, community colleges, and universities into design education.

- We envision an institution becoming an epicenter for cutting edge thought leadership and technological innovation to diversify and drive the design professions forward.

- We envision an empathetic and compassionate world where design becomes an issue of literacy and design thinking becomes a basic skill for all to build a just, thriving and resilient society.

- And we envision a time when the BAC’s educational innovations become models to be emulated across the higher education spectrum.
I have learned during my time here how amazingly the BAC lives in a lot of hearts. More hearts than I could count. Each of you are an integral part of our thousands of prop roots. We are truly Boston’s Architectural College, Boston’s Great Banyan Tree, always striving for excellence, inclusion, and access for all.

The activities of today flow from our Mission and from our Vision Hexagon. Our community recognizes the incredibly important role design can play in the face of uncertainty and shifting paradigms.

Beginning with the first session Crisis as Conversation this morning to Designers to the Rescue at 11.00 PM, we have ten unique sessions addressing different aspects of the post-pandemic world. We have designed and timed these to be accessible to people from all time zones around the globe. The day is going to be keynoted by the Pritzker-prize winning architect Thom Mayne of Morphosis at 7.00 PM EDT.

I hope each of you will engage in vigorous discussions, and takeaway great insights and glimpses of a future we will all be shaping together.

Thank you all and enjoy the day!

Sincerely,
Dr. Mahesh Daas, President

A big shout-out to Eliza Wilson, Kristin Hansen, Rand Lemley and the entire Alumni Council for your hard work and dedication in making BAC Talks such a spectacular and successful event!

Additional News + Resources:

President Mahesh’s Fall 2020 Announcement
If you missed President Mahesh Daas’ video message last week regarding our plans for fall 2020, click here to watch it!
Access to Campus Instructions
If you need access to campus during this time, please email Patti Vaughn and Ellen Yee at least one day in advance. Thanks!

BAC Receives Cummings Foundation Grant
The BAC was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process. The grant will be $300k over 10 years. Click here to read more!

Marketing & Communications Requests
We appreciate you keeping the Marketing & Communications team updated on any news, updates, events, or important information! Please note that Ashley Abon will be away on vacation June 15-23 so please plan accordingly. In addition, we ask that you please be mindful of deadlines and give the MarComm team a minimum of 3-5 days to complete any requests. Thank you!

CEU Weekend
Invite your colleagues and other industry professionals to join us for our first Virtual CEU Weekend on June 13 and June 14! This year’s lineup boasts impressive presenters and timely topics. Licensed architects can earn up to 12 AIA approved HSWs from the 6 workshops scheduled over the course of the 2 days. Current BAC faculty and staff may be eligible to attend for free. Please contact ce@the-bac.edu for more information.

Reopening Massachusetts
Check out this resource from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce outlining the reopening of Massachusetts.
MBTA Passes
The BAC will be suspending the option to purchase MBTA passes through bi-weekly payroll deduction until we are back to business as usual. If you are interested in purchasing a pass at that time, please contact Wendi Sachs directly.

Vacation Policy Focus Groups
We are asking you to participate in an open forum to discuss the details of updated vacation policy. We will be holding open focus groups for 10 employees at one time, on the following dates:

- **June 15, 2020**
  - 11:00am– 12:00pm
  - 3:00pm– 4:00pm
- **June 16, 2020**
  - 2:00pm– 3:00pm
- **June 18, 2020**
  - 10:30am– 11:30am
- **June 19, 2020**
  - 10:30am– 11:30am
  - 2:00pm– 3:00pm

These meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams and are limited to 10 employees in each focus group. Please email Deirdre to let her know what dates and times work best for you and she will send you the teams invite.

BAC BINGO: Everyone loves BINGO!
Join us on Friday, June 12 at 4:00 PM for BINGO! We will be using virtual cards and there will be prizes! Enjoy Shannon and Anna’s dorky BINGO-barker jokes!

Delta Dental Updates
Because provider offices have been closed except for emergencies, many members have not been able to get the preventive care they need.
To help encourage members to receive preventive care, we are launching a new program for our fully insured groups. Every member who gets a preventive cleaning between June 1 and August 31 will receive an electronic toothbrush.

**Enhancing Benefits, Supporting Members**

To further remove barriers to care, we are adjusting time limits on benefits to allow members to get preventive care and other services for most of our fully insured clients who have not already made these changes. We will be changing frequency limits for things like oral exams, teeth cleaning, x-rays and fluoride from every 6 months to twice per year to allow members to catch up with their care.

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**Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People’s Republic of China**

President Trump signed a Presidential Proclamation on May 29 that may affect certain nationals from the People’s Republic of China (PRC) seeking entry to the US in F or J visa status to pursue graduate study or research at U.S. institutions. The proclamation does NOT apply to students seeking to pursue undergraduate study.

It is not yet known exactly who will be affected, or how the State Department intends to implement the proclamation, but the BAC is closely tracking this situation and will post updates to our community as more details become available.

The proclamation, effective June 1, 2020, suspends entry to the US of individuals affiliated with an entity that “implements or supports” the PRC’s “military-civil fusion strategy.”

Currently, the proclamation does NOT apply to individuals inside the U.S. pursuing study in F status.

The proclamation does not apply to U.S. Citizens, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card holders), the spouse of a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident, and other special categories as listed in the proclamation.

BAC is working closely with peer institutions, higher education associations, and other partners on this issue. We understand the distress that these changes in U.S. immigration regulations create as you pursue your degree program at the BAC. We will provide more clarity as definitive information is issued by the relevant government agencies.
The BAC Library has created and updated several topical research guides to assist you!

**Architecture, Race and Culture**
This guide explores the legacy of racism, social movements and civil rights as they manifest in the built environment, at the intersection of housing, transit, density, urban development, decay and discrimination.

**LGBTQ Architecture**
This guide explores LGBTQ issues within the design world. Perfect for Pride month.

**Digitized BAC Thesis Documents**
Due to the current pandemic and the subsequent BAC closure, the BAC library staff have been undergoing digitization efforts in order to make the BAC thesis documents available online. This guide is intended for the BAC community to access the most up-to-date thesis documents that are currently accessible online. Thesis listed here are all commend winners.

**But that’s not all!** We have even more guides that can help with your research. Got a recommendation for a future guide? Let us know! Email library@the-bac.edu or check out http://the-bac.libguides.com/?b=a&d=a

We are excited to present the work of the BAC 2020 degree recipients from undergraduate and graduate programs. Click here to see our Digital Graduation Exhibit!

Stay updated with the BAC’s COVID-19 Webpage
As always, please visit our COVID-19 page for the latest information. If you have questions, please direct them to emergencymanagement@the-bac.edu. You can also follow us on Twitter @TheBACBoston for up-to-date and relevant information.

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