Dear BAC Students,

On Wednesday, June 3, I announced the BAC’s plans for fall semester 2020. The decision to continue with remote learning in the fall was made with the safety and well being of our students, faculty, and staff as our top priority.

As we continue through the summer, and the warm weather, we must not forget that we are still in the middle of a pandemic—a public health crisis, which will continue through the fall and into the winter months.

With no vaccine currently available, our best options are mitigating the risks by following the CDC, state, and local guidelines for social distancing. These safety guidelines include avoiding gatherings, wearing masks, testing and contact tracing, and thinking inclusively about the most vulnerable people among us. We also need to consider the risks posed by public transportation as well as limitations imposed by elevators and vertical circulation, caregiving requirements of students or employees, and also preparing for potential spikes and restrictions on physical movements in the fall.

For students enrolled in our online programs: Faculty are hard at work developing rich programming for your fully online intensive. Online intensives, which were first piloted by the BAC last year, were a huge success and we’re excited to show you all we have learned. Otherwise, your programs continue without disruptions as usual. You will now have additional resources available online.

For students enrolled in our onsite programs: The BAC education has two components: course work in the academic setting and practice hours in a work setting. In the fall, ALL primary academic instruction, student services, and lab resources will be delivered online. Students are advised to coordinate with your practice employer about the work-from-home or in-person options made available by each firm. We know that most, if not all the firms, are preferring work-from-home option for their employees.

The BAC will provide curated and optional access to the library or fabrication facilities in a phased manner synchronized with Governor Baker’s reopening plan. Curated access means access by appointment only. You will not be required to use the facilities to accomplish your coursework.

International students: You may continue to take your coursework online—regardless of your physical location!

Finally, if you have unmet financial needs, the most important thing you can do is to contact us immediately so we can explore all options and avenues of obtaining financial aid.

Remember, continuation and completion of your degree programs will place you in a stronger position for success. We encourage you to #StayTheCourse
Thank you for joining BAC Talks!
We hope you were able to attend one of the numerous though provoking and insightful discussions last Wednesday -- including visionary architect and winner of the 2013 AIA Gold Medal, Thom Mayne, who was our keynote speaker. Stay tuned for the recordings soon...!

We are here to help you succeed. So, let us know how we are able to assist you during these challenging times. #WeAreInThisTogether

Stay safe and stay well,
President Mahesh Daas

Additional News + Resources
Chicago Mobile Makers: Maya Bird-Murphy on Firm Culture, Alternative Paths, and Practicing Change Daily

We are thrilled to highlight BAC alumna, Maya Bird-Murphy’s interview in Madame Architect -- keep up the amazing work!

FACULTY PROFILE:

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARCHITECTS TO BE BUSINESS MINDED

BSA Coffee Conversations: Students Meet Emerging Professionals

BSA Coffee Conversations is a unique opportunity for architecture students and new graduates to connect with Emerging Professionals (EP’s) at a time when traditional internships, co-ops, and jobs are on pause due to COVID-19. Apply by June 19.

SIGN UP HERE!

“I wanted to provide students with the confidence required to start a business in the future or claim their rightful position in the firm they decide to stay at without being hindered by self-doubt. I also wanted to help them believe that they have the tools to survive the next recession. I tried to convince them that they, as designers, have skills that will enable them to do things other than designing buildings with the training they’re gaining at the BAC.”

Read how BAC faculty member Isra Banks is teaching BAC students to not just be architects but entrepreneurs in our latest article.
The BAC Library created 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!

But that's not it!
We have even more guides that can help with your research. Got a recommendation for a future guide? Let us know!

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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