

portfolio

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# Melvalean McLemore

AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

AIA Houston  
2023 Ben Brewer Award

## Moody Nolan Melvalean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

**Associate, Project Manager & Texas Studio Design Leader** [2019-Present]

**Co-Chair, Licensure Committee** [2019-21]

**Committee Leader, HBCU Outreach Team** [2019-Present]

**Committee Leader, EDI Committee** [2019-Present]

**Firm Liaison to NOMA National** [2021-Present]

**Leader for Recruitment & Intern on-boarding** [2022-Present]

- As an Associate at Moody Nolan, Melvalean takes on several leadership roles including designing and managing key projects, shaping office culture and being an integral part of the hiring, business development and marketing teams.
- Melvalean has served as Co-Chair of the Licensure Committee and currently as a leader of the EDI committee and the HBCU Outreach Team.
- Melvalean has a passion for community engaged design, community development and K-12 work.
- Melvalean was the Project Architect who led CA for the Texas Southern University (TSU) Library Learning Center. This project has been described as being instrumental in the rebirth of this historical Black university's campus, and serving as a hopeful and meaningful space for the Third Ward Community in Houston. Completion Year: 2019.





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- Melvalean leads business development, marketing and submitting proposals for new projects at Moody Nolan's Houston Office.
- Melvalean serves a major role in the recruitment and on-boarding of all entry-level employees and serves on the Internship Committee.
- Currently, Melvalean is the Project Manager leading the design of the MLK Academy in San Antonio, a \$49M project which will keep the legacy of MLK Jr. alive in the community with the goal of helping local children achieve their dreams.



MLK Academy



MLK Academy



Railway Heights Market

**Melvalean was the designer and lead architect for Railway Heights Market while at Method Architecture. She managed the renovation of a 38,000 sqft warehouse that created space for local restaurants and artists, ushering in the next generation of adaptive reuse projects in Houston.**

—About Railway Heights Market  
Completion Year: 2019



Railway Heights Market



Railway Heights Market



# AIA Houston WiA Melvanean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

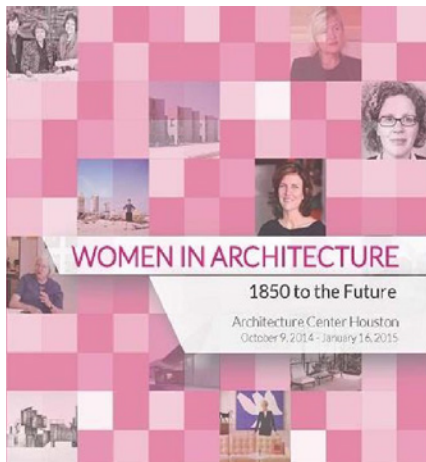
**Co-Founder & Co-Chair** [2015-16]

**Co-Chair Speakers, Panels & Workshop Sub Committee** [2017-18]

**WiA Houston Speed Mentor** [2019]

**Vice Chair, Women of Color Steering Committee** [2019-Present]

- Melvanean was one of four original volunteers that helped create WiA (Women in Architecture) at AIA Houston and helped research and develop the WiA Exhibit, which traveled across the USA and was featured at the AIA National Conference.
- The exhibit led to the promotion of women to leadership positions as well as increased licensure amongst local women.
- AIA Houston WiA has been described as the catalyst for the formation of multiple EDI-focused committees within the AIA throughout Texas, including multiple WiA chapters (AIA Austin, AIA Dallas, AIA San Antonio, AIA West Texas/EI Paso).
- Melvanean's collaborative work and leadership within WiA has paved the way for local equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives while opening the door for the creation of EDI and JE:DI committees across Texas, a number of which she has been directly leading and/or contributing to their development.



**"Melvanean has made what I feel to be an unprecedented amount of contributions to the local architecture community in Houston, TX. In particular, she has been instrumental in the push for diversity and equity initiatives within our local AIA and NOMA chapters."**

—Lindsey Williams, Assoc. AIA  
AIA Houston Board of Directors



**SPEED  
MENTORING**

## AIA Houston WiA Melvanean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

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WiA Houston Speed Mentor [2019]

Vice Chair, Women of Color Steering Committee [2019-Present]

- WiA Houston's Women of Color (WoC) Steering Committee emerged as an effort to amplify the marginalized voices of the minoritized women within WiA. Melvanean serves as the inaugural Vice Chair of the WoC.
- The WoC was charged with curating the annual WiA Equity Series, which has reached broad audiences throughout the region.
- Melvanean created the idea for the first panel discussion and was able to successfully recruit well known local and national architects to participate. Melvanean co-created the virtual workshop for the second event, which expanded the reach and impact of the workshop.

### HIDDEN COSTS PART II: WORKSHOP



MELVALEAN  
MCLEMORE



2020 VICE CHAIRS  
WOC STEERING COMMITTEE

QETURAH  
WILLIAMS



WiA Houston Women of Color  
Steering Committee & Panelists



Hidden Costs Part 1 Event Audience



Hidden Costs Part 1 Panel

#### NCARB 2018 SURVEY STATISTICS

NEARLY

**2/5**

NEW ARCHITECTS  
ARE WOMEN

WOMEN NOW MAKE UP

**50%**

OF CANDIDATES  
BEGINNING THEIR AXP

LESS THAN

**1/5**

NEW ARCHITECTS  
IDENTIFY AS A RACIAL/  
ETHNIC MINORITY

IN 2018

**35%**

OF NEW EXAM CANDIDATES  
IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES  
AS NON-WHITE

#### DIRECTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHITECTS DATABASE

THERE ARE CURRENTLY **478** LICENSED FEMALE AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHITECTS, WHICH IS **0.04%** OF ALL LICENSED ARCHITECTS IN THE US.

SAY IT LOUD  
(WIA) TEXAS  
FEATURED ARCHITECTS

Melvanean was featured in the Say It Loud Exhibit

"Her dedication to our profession, her communities, and inclusiveness for all helps elevate the work of Texas architects and deserves to be commended."

—Donna Kacmar, FAIA

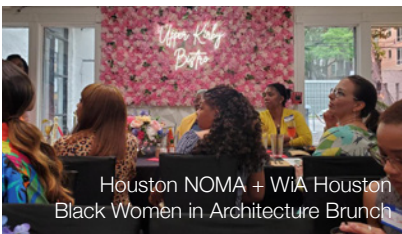
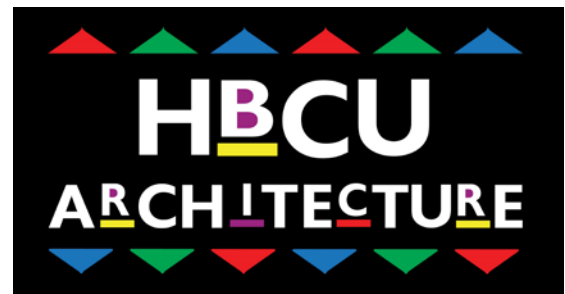
AIA Houston Board of Directors



# Houston NOMA & NOMA National Melvalean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

**Volunteer & Mentor, Houston NOMA Project Pipeline** [2019-Present]  
**Portfolio & Resume Reviewer** [2019-Present]  
**Co-Creator, HBCU Professional Development Program** [2020-Present]  
**Houston NOMA Executive Board, Parliamentarian** [2022-Present]  
**Houston NOMA Ambassador Award** [2022]

- Melvalean is an active leader and Board Member of Houston NOMA (National Organization of Minority Architects).
- She has served as a mentor to students through the Project Pipeline program, which introduces students of color to architecture and design.
- Melvalean co-created the NOMA National HBCU Professional Development Program (PDP) for architecture students at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges & Universities), which facilitates connections between firms and minority students. This is also a collaboration with AIA Large Firms Roundtable.
- Over one-third of HBCU PDP students secured job opportunities at participating firms during the first year of the program.
- Melvalean has continuously helped connect AIA Houston and TxA to NOMA to foster stronger relationships and share resources between the organizations.
- The HBCU PDP has grown into a multifaceted professional development program connected to The NOMA Charitable Equitable Foundation.



**"Today I secured an internship position with Ennead. I was very excited to tell you because I wanted to express how important that event was for me, someone who has zero prior experience before the career fair. Not many people have the compassion to make sure students are secure after graduation, but you took the responsibility to directly help us."**

—FAMU student in the HBCU PDP  
 (over one-third of students secured job opportunities)

# Texas Society of Architects Melvanean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

**EDI Task Force Inaugural Co-Chair** [2017-18]

**EDI Committee Co-Chair** [2020-21]

**Community Engaged Design Committee Member** [2019-Present]

**Nominations Committee Ex-Officio Member** [2021]

**Public Outreach Task Force Member** [2022-Present]

**TxA Award for Early Career Professional Achievement** [2022]

- Melvanean has been an integral part of leading TxA's EDI initiatives since the founding of the EDI Task Force in 2017 and its eventual elevation to a standing Committee in 2020.
- Melvanean Co-Chaired the Committee/Task Force for four of its first five years, leading a group of architects from across the state to champion EDI initiatives and building a strong foundation for future progress.
- She has led various initiatives, including adopting an EDI statement, analyzing the diversity of the Board and Honor Award Winners in an effort to create more equitable processes, collaborating on the BLM statement and identifying action items for TxA to commit to becoming more inclusive and equitable.
- Melvanean has given multiple presentations to and led discussions with the Board, other Committees, and during TxA Grassroots to encourage other chapters and groups to implement EDI goals in their work.
- Melvanean also serves on the Community Engaged Design Committee and facilitates cross collaboration with the EDI Committee.

## Black Lives Matter. So Do Our Actions.

ADVOCACY BLOG NEWS

Texas Society of Architects

June 11, 2020

We are committed.  
We pledge to do the work.  
We are listening.



TxA EDI Committee meeting

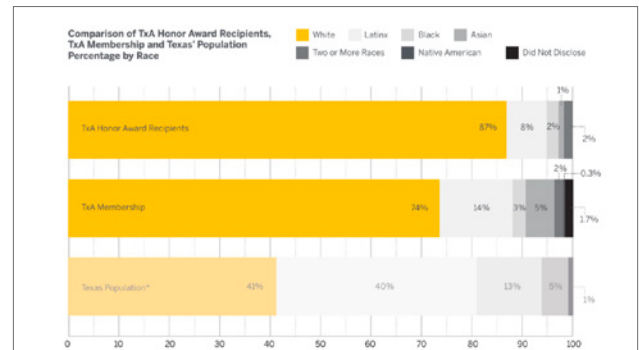


TxA EDI Committee meeting

## Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Report

### TxA Board Actions

- 1 Educate state and local leadership via implicit bias and diversity workshops.
- 2 Evaluate and reform nomination processes and governance policies to increase diversity.
- 3 Challenge and identify standards of merit by eliminating implicit bias.
- 4 Create partnerships with NOMA and support Project Pipeline.
- 5 Improve collaboration with Texas university architecture programs. Develop curriculum, mentorship opportunities, stronger relations with AIAS & NOMAS.



TxA Honor Awards diversity statistics from blog

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Melvanean McLemore-Catina,**  
AIA, NOMA



TxA EDI Task Force visioning [2017]



# Texas Society of Architects Melvaleen McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

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**EDI Committee Co-Chair** [2020-21]

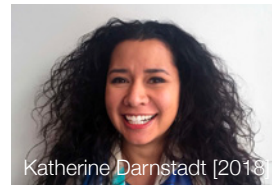
**Community Engaged Design Committee Member** [2019-Present]

**Nominations Committee Ex-Officio Member** [2021]

**Public Outreach Task Force Member** [2022-Present]

**TxA Award for Early Career Professional Achievement** [2022]

- The EDI Committee is one of the most active committees within TxA and through Melvaleen's leadership has helped positively shape programming, including Conference Keynote Speakers (pictured at right).
- The EDI Committee has shared recommendations to the TxA Convention and Convention Futures Committees for speakers that are national leaders of social justice and equitable architecture.
- Melvaleen has also spoken at, organized, and moderated multiple sessions and events at TxA Conferences every year since 2017.
- Her sessions provide interactive discussions about EDI, engage members in important topics and have also recruited volunteers to serve on the EDI Committee.
- Through her Ex-Officio membership on the Nominations Committee in 2021 she advocated for a more inclusive and diverse Board and more inclusive nominating processes. Thanks largely to Melvaleen's efforts, TxA appointed its first ever Black Female Vice President in 2022.



Katherine Darnstadt [2018]



Liz Ogbu [2019 Keynote]



Deanna Van Buren [2020]



Bryan C. Lee [2021 Keynote]



TxA Conference EDI Session [2019]



TxA Conf. [2019]



TxA Conference [2020]



TxA Conference [2021]



TxA Conference EDI Session Speakers [2019]



TxA Honor Award Winner [2022]

**“Melvaleen has contributed greatly to the advancement of our profession and for creating a more equitable future. She best exemplifies what is noble about architecture and sets the standard for others to follow.”**

—Connie G. Rivera, AIA  
2020 TxA President



# AIA Houston Melvalean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

**Board of Directors** [2019-Present]

**Member of JE:DI Collective & Board Liaison** [2020-Present]

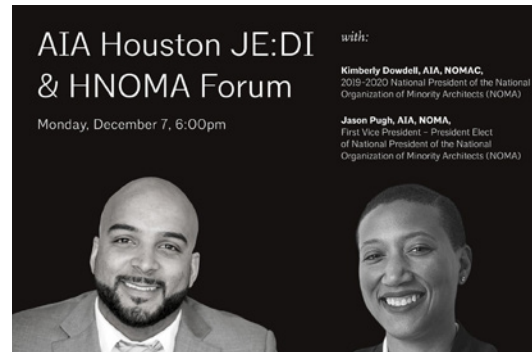
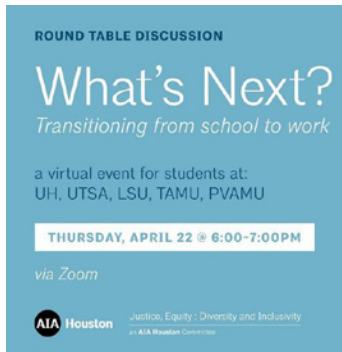
**Executive Board Secretary** [2021]

**Executive Board Treasurer** [2022-Present]

**Gala Committee** [2022-Present]

**President-Elect** [2023]

- Following the murder of George Floyd in the summer of 2020, Melvalean initiated a call for the AIA Houston chapter to release a Black Lives Matter solidarity statement through her WiA WoC Steering Committee.
- As a member of the the AIA Houston Board, Melvalean presented her perspective on why we can not afford silence and complacency when members of our community are suffering.
- Her leadership and contributions led to the release of a BLM statement through the Board, which included specific commitments for achieving equity goals, and the formation of the chapter's JE:DI Collective.
- Melvalean is a discussion leader and organizer for JE:DI Collective events.



The Celebrate Architecture Gala is one of the largest AEC events dedicated to celebrating the built environment of our city and those who shape it.



**"If minor discomfort is your biggest stake in this conversation, trust me you have the easy end of the deal. And I assure you those directly impacted would trade you in an instant for such a privilege."**

—Melvalean McLemore, AIA  
at AIA Houston Board Meeting

## Community & Professional Leadership Melvalean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

**Speaker & Session Organizer, TxA Conference** [2017-Present]  
**Speaker, AIA National Grassroots** [2018], **Elevate AEC** [2022]  
**Organizer & Moderator, AIA Austin Conference Keynote Panel** [2020]  
**DEI Task Force Chair, UH College of Architecture Alumni Board** [2020-Present]  
**AIA Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) JEDI Task Force** [2021]  
**NCARB Licensure Advisory Forum Member** [2021-Present]  
**NCARB Committee Summit Volunteer** [2021-Present]

- Melvalean's community leadership includes volunteering with NCARB on the Licensure Advisory Forum and attending the NCARB Committee Summit where she advocates for making the licensure process more equitable.
- On behalf of the TxA EDI Committee, Melvalean presented EDI work being led in Texas to NCARB leadership and AIA California's Board of Directors.
- Melvalean has organized, presented and moderated multiple educational sessions at local, state and national conferences, with a focus on sharing actionable approaches to achieving EDI goals within the profession.
- As a member of the University of Houston's College of Architecture and Design Alumni Board, she is the Chair of the DEI Task Force, which is working with students and staff to make equitable changes, empowering student leaders and creating a material fund for students in need.
- Melvalean serves on the AIA LFRTJEDI Task Force, which developed a JEDI Advocacy Guide to provide a development pathway for firms looking to advance diversity in design, our professions, and our organizations.



**"[Melvalean] is an excellent and inspiring architect, activist, and human. She truly pours into those around her and is committed to her success and theirs."**

—Lindsey Williams,  
 Assoc. AIA  
 AIA Houston  
 Board of Directors





## Community Service Melvalean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

Sub-Committee, Third Ward Emancipation Economic Development Council [2015-21]

Volunteer Architect, Complete Communities Houston [2020]

Thought Leader, AIA Strategic Council Cabinet for Donna Kacmar [2017-18]

Member, Rice Design Alliance [2013-18]

Volunteer, ACE Mentorship [2011-13]

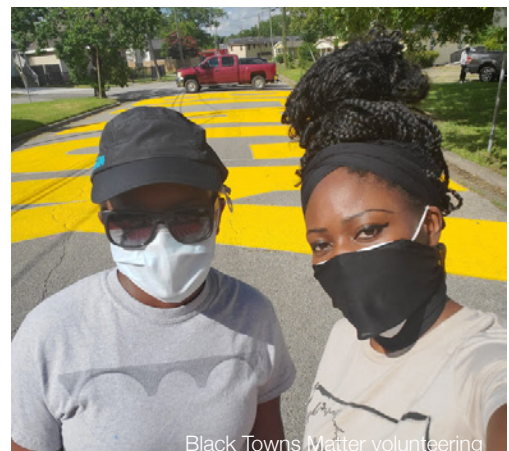
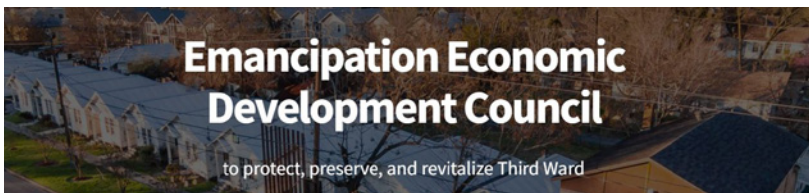
Volunteer, Project Row House [2009-Present]

Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity [2009-16]

Creator & Instructor, MECA Architecture 101 Program [2009]

Member, Architecture for Humanity [2009-15]

- Melvalean has been described as a volunteer activist for her passion and dedication in serving her community.
- She has championed the idea of promoting equity through all organizations and platforms she engages with and leads.
- During her professional career she has consistently committed herself to giving back to her community, both as a thought leader and with hands-on volunteering.
- She also finds immense value in mentoring students and the next generation of architects.



**"In the first stage of her career, Melvalean has already become a trailblazer, a role model, and a powerful voice for change."**

—Laura Vargas, AIA  
UH CoA Alumni Board President



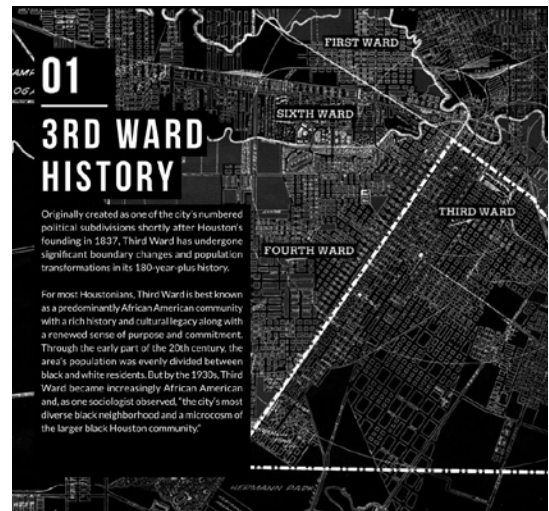
# Houston Complete Communities Melvalean McLemore AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

Volunteer Architect, Third Space Project [2020-Present]

Design Competition Winner, Complete Communities Houston [2020]

Complete Communities University Leadership Training [2022-Present]

- After working on a research and master planning project called the Black Print for one of Moody Nolan's clients, Melvalean was inspired to participate in the City of Houston's Complete Communities' design charrette to reimagine various communities throughout the city.
- Melvalean led a design team that submitted her urban design and architectural vision for a project entitled Third Space.
- Melvalean was selected to attend the Complete Communities University to cultivate positive relationships between community leaders and the City of Houston and promote residents in civic activities to vitalize neighborhoods.



Melvalean led a visionary project that re-imagines a healthy, thriving and self-sustaining 3rd Ward Community by creating live/work “Mom & Pop Shops” for entrepreneurs, local restaurant spaces and an art gallery with a residency hall—enabling the 3rd Ward to thrive and circulate their wealth within the community.

—About Third Space's winning project for Houston Complete Communities