



MONICA CHADHA, AIA, LEED AP

Principal | Founder

AFFILIATIONS

Licensed Architect, Illinois

Graham Foundation Board of Trustees

City of Chicago Neighborhood Opportunity Fund Technical Advisor

Architecture Guest Review - University of Michigan, Cornell University, Clemson University, SAIC, CUNY, IIT, Ryerson

RECENT AWARDS + LECTURES

2022 Design Awards Juror - Texas Society of Architects

2022 Chicago's Women's History Month Award Recipient

2021 AIA Ohio Design Lecture Series

2020 Women in Design+ Lecturer (Mumbai)

2019 Goldman Sachs 10ksb Alum

2018-19 Unsustainable Architecture Conference, Havana and Mexico City

2018 Mayor's Institute on City Design

2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial, at University of DePaul & NPHM

2016 City/Cite Conference, Paris

Public Interest Design Inaugural 100 list of leaders

Recognized as an Emerging Leader by the Design Futures Council

Monica Chadha is a LEED-certified, licensed architect with more than 25 years of experience. As the Founder and Principal of Civic Projects, she contributes a background that is equal parts social engagement and quality design. Prior to founding Civic Projects, Monica served as founding director of Impact Detroit and led project teams at two of Chicago's most notable architecture firms: Studio Gang and Ross Barney Architects as well as in the Office of Balkrishna Doshi.

Outside of Civic Projects, Monica is on the Board of Trustees of the Graham Foundation, has been a strategic consultant for Archeworks and founder of a Detroit non-profit. She was an Adjunct Professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology from 2007- 2017, engaging students in social impact design practices.

Monica holds a Master's in Architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a post professional diploma from Archeworks (Chicago) and a Bachelor of Architectural Studies from the University of Waterloo in Canada.

SELECT PROJECTS

Obama Presidential Center Museum

Principal, Chicago Lead for Museum Design Team

Contributing Exhibit and Museum Designer for the museum located within the larger Obama Presidential Center Campus. Civic Projects is a collaborator with Ralph Appelbaum Associates involved with all phases of the project.

Global Citizenship Experience Lab School

Principal

Led an interdisciplinary design team to realize the design and construction of an interior renovations of a non-profit high school with a unique, sustainability-driven curriculum, with an aim to cultivate an environment of curiosity, risk-taking, diversity, and empathy. (In collaboration with Farr Associates and Architecture is Fun)

Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) Spark

Principal, Strategic Planning & Design

Working with MSI's education department to understand and develop strategies focused on S.T.E.A.M. learning beyond the museum's walls. The team is working across neighborhoods through outreach and engagement to develop educational programming that can be shared across communities.

Sunshine Community Center

Principal, Strategic Planning & Design

Working with a client team to develop programming and spaces for a proposed new community center. Our work extends from outreach and engagement to planning, conceptual design and comprehensive drawings for permitting and construction.

Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith Democratic Center

Principal, Strategic Planning & Design

Working on both design concepts and programming for this proposed national center of learning. Programming and spaces are being developed to foster learning and open conversation around equity, individual rights and inclusion. These are being developed through a multi-year, multi-pronged approach with community members, stakeholders and educators.

SELECT PROJECTS CONT.

Steep Theatre

Principal, Strategic Planning & Design

Adaptive reuse and addition to an existing congregation space. This space is being converted to a theater. Our work extends from programming through to permitting and construction.

Chicago Torture Justice Center (CTJC)

Principal, Strategic Planning & Design

Since early strategic planning, the firm has been working with CTJC on developing program and adjacencies for a future facility. Work has included resilience workshops with community members, renovations to existing facilities and site development and analysis for their future facility.

National Public Housing Museum Incubator and Pop Up Retail

Principal, Strategic Planning & Design

After early work with Section 3 CHA residents and stakeholder workshops, the firm is now working with NPHM and stakeholders to design both a place for entrepreneurs to learn and to share and sell their products.

Englewood Innovation Center

Principal

A space for the Greater Englewood CDC's business incubator. Providing public and private work areas to over 135 entrepreneurs, the space opened in 2015 as the first business accelerator on Chicago's South Side.

PAST PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Studio Gang

City Hyde Park
Shoreland

Ross Barney Architects

University of Duluth, Civil Engineering Building
College of DuPage Early Childhood Center
Urbana Champaign Public Library

Blakrishna Doshi + Vastu Shilpa Foundation

Incremental housing in Gujarat, India