



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

April 7, 2023

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Christopher Torres to the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Torres will fill the vacancy created by Stevie Stern, whom I removed effective May 22, 2023 or at the time Mr. Torres' successor is confirmed by the City Council.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Torres is qualified for the work that will devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Christopher Torres
Commission: South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission
End of Term: 6/30/2026

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Latinx
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council district and neighborhood of residence:** 8 - South LA
4. **Are you a registered voter?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Master of Landscape Architecture, University of California, Berkeley
7. **Occupation/profession:** Founder and Principal, Now: Agency Artifact
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume/bio
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioners	APC	CD	Ethnicity	Gender	Term End
Bates, Eric	South LA	10	African American	M	6/30/2027
Vasquez, Steven	South LA	10	Latinx	M	6/30/2023
Orozco, Jaqueline	South LA	15	Latinx	F	6/30/2025
Pruitt, Stacey	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2024
Stern, Stevie	South LA	10	Caucasian	F	6/30/2026

CHRISTOPHER ESTEBAN TORRES, RLA

FOUNDING PRINCIPAL



Chris is the founder of Agency Artifact, a civic design studio working internationally. He is an award winning landscape architect and urban designer creating public spaces that merge extraordinary experiences, everyday culture and resilient systems. He has over a decade of domestic and international experience creating parks, master plans, large scale housing, mixed-use retail and infrastructure projects. He is an active public speaker on topics related to public space, urban ecology and the future of cities.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020- Now: Agency Artifact: Founder and Principal

- Oversee strategic growth and design direction, firm-wide, focused on high impact public space projects through the United States.
- Currently designing the large scale housing projects, master plans, ecological infrastructure, urban parks and cultural institutions.

2019-2020: The Jerde Partnership: Principal and Vice President

- Oversees all operations, business development, design and strategic direction of the Landscape Architecture studio of Jerde.
- Leadership of design culture within the Jerde Partnership at large for over 100 designers with offices in LA, Mexico City, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore.

2015-2019: Superjacent: Founding Principal

- Led business development, marketing and strategic partnerships with both public and private institutions and clients.
- Secured over 100 projects and studies of open spaces along the West Coast, Hawaii and Vancouver in mixed use residential, public plazas and parks, campus design and master planning.

2012-2015: Rios Clementi Hale Studios: Associate

- Lead designer on multiple large scale urban design and public landscape projects.
- Led internal research efforts within the office, focused on resiliency.
- Initiated and curated public salons and lectures for the studio.

2012: Walt Disney Imagineering: Landscape Designer

- Designer on Shanghai Disney Tomorrowland.
- Developed sustainable and resilient strategies for stormwater reuse/ wetlands.
- Liaison between show designers, architectural consultants and core Disney Team.

2011: Queensland University of Technology: Urban Design Fellow

- Created Queensland Submission for Venice Biennial w/ Professor Kathi Holt.
- Curator and project manager for TAMI Dance at the 2011 Brisbane Festival.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Cont.)

2011: Skidmore Owings & Merrill: Urban Design Intern

- Designer on large scale domestic urban design projects.
- Developed a research program focused on sea level rise and resilient design.

2008: METRO/ Getty: Public Art Program

- Internship program focused on public art administration.
- Worked on large-scale projects through artist search, installation and conservation.
- Facilitated community board selection for the EXPO light-rail line in Los Angeles.

MAJOR BUILT WORKS

Brava!, Mass Moca, North Adams, MA

Shanghai Disney Tomorrowland, Shanghai, China

9000 Wilshire, Beverly Hills, CA

Prizma Housing, Los Angeles, CA

Isla Intersections, Los Angeles, CA

Putuo Eco Harbour, Zhoushan, China

Grand Park, Los Angeles, CA

Greek Theater, Los Angeles, CA

Shriners Hospital, Pasadena, CA

Columbia Square, Los Angeles, CA

LICENSES AND AFFILIATIONS

Licensed Landscape Architect- CA # 6666

Landscape Architecture Foundation- Board of Directors

LA Forum for Arch. And Urban Design- Vice President

Urban Land Institute

LA Field Office- Co-Founder

Ground Up Journal- Founder

Queensland Urban Design Alliance

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND TEACHING

Design Studio Lecturer: USC Graduate School

Graduate Student Instructor: UC Berkeley

Visiting Design Critic: UCLA, USC, Columbia University, Cal Poly Pomona, Otis College of Art, Art Center, Woodbury University, UC Berkeley, Queensland University of Technology, University of Queensland, University of Melbourne, Pratt University, and the San Francisco Art Institute.

EDUCATION

2009 Loyola Marymount University: BA in Urban Studies

2008 Columbia University GSAPP: NY/P program in Urban Design

2012 UC Berkeley: Master of Landscape Architecture





KAREN BASS
MAYOR

April 7, 2023

Dear Mr. Torres:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission for the term ending June 30, 2026, subject to the confirmation of the City Council. In order to complete the process as quickly as possible, there are several steps that must be taken, many of which require visiting City Hall. If you require parking during these procedures, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org, to make arrangements for you.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and Undated Separation Letters **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensuring the most efficient, open, and accountable City government possible. Further, Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions Team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

Should this apply to your Commission, you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws, and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission at 200 North Spring Street, City Hall, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

Mr. Christopher Torres
April 7, 2023
Page 2

As part of the City Council confirmation process, a meeting will be offered to Marqueece Harris-Dawson, your Councilmember, and the Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, to answer any questions they may have.

You will be hearing from a City Council committee clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified by the committee clerk when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council for confirmation. Once you are confirmed, you will be required to take the oath of office in the City Clerk's Office in Room 395 of City Hall.

Commissioners must be residents of the City of Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, have any changes in your telephone numbers, or in the future plan to resign (resignation must be put in writing), please contact my office immediately.

Congratulations and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Mr. Christopher Torres
April 7, 2023

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

_____ Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

_____ Email the completed forms, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to: Commissions Team, Office of the Mayor, City Hall – Room 303, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters

II. Within 21 days:

_____ File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. *If you are required to file, you will receive these forms via email from that office.*

- **Statement of Economic Interest (“Form 700”)**
IMPORTANT: The City Council will not consider your nomination until your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.
- **CEC Form 60**

III. The Mayor’s Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.

_____ Your City Councilmember and Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination, Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson