



UIA EDUCATION COMMISSION & UNESCO-UIA VALIDATION COUNCIL FOR ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

COMMISSION REPORT MAY 2020

PURPOSE AND CHARGE OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

EDUCOM + UNESCO-UIA VCAE

- a. **Clarify the structure, mandate and scope** of the Education Commission (EduCom) and the UNESCO-UIA Validation Council (VCAE)
- b. **Identify, establish, mobilize and strengthen collaborations** between EduCom and other UIA Commissions and Work Programmes; between EduCom and international architectural education organizations; and between VCAE and other international validating/accrediting bodies.
- c. **Increase + improve online presence** of UIA EduCom and UNESCO-UIA VCAE

UNESCO-UIA VALIDATION COUNCIL

- a. **Expand the reach and impact of UNESCO-UIA Validation** through pursuing signatory status in the **Canberra Accord**.
- b. **Expand eligibility for UNESCO-UIA Validation**, including programs in nations whose professional organizations are not UIA members
- c. **Streamline and improve** the clarity, efficacy and responsiveness of the Validation System for Architectural Education
- d. **Promote + grow** the UNESCO-UIA Architectural Education Validation System.
- e. **Create regional lenses through which UNESCO UIA Validation objectives and aspirations may be implemented**, with an eye towards expanding its scope and the number of programs it validates

EDUCATION COMMISSION

- a. **Celebrate excellence** in architectural pedagogy across all UIA Regions through multiple modalities (Award, Exhibitions, Publication)
- b. Explore **opportunities for collaboration around the subject of global practices in architectural education and research**. Potential partners include UNESCO-UIA Validated programs, ACSA (Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture), EAAE (European Association of Architectural Education)
- c. Explore the creation of a **platform for international architecture student engagement: UIAS**

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRODUCTS

EDUCOM + UNESCO-UIA VCAE

- a. **Creation of a multi-tier structure of membership** for the Working Group:
 - **Two Co-Directors** [non-voting] appointed by the President
 - **Ten-person Steering Committee** [voting]. Two [2] members representing each of the 5 UIA regions, nominated by member sections and Regional Vice Presidents and appointed by the President
 - **Un-capped number of Members** [non-voting] nominated by member sections and Regional Vice Presidents.
 - **UNESCO Representative** [ex officio, non-voting]



- **Validation System Operator** [ex officio, non-voting]
- b. Commenced collaborations with UIA/SDG and PPC, and with ACSA [Details below]
- c. Establishment of a Rio 2020 Planning Committee to coordinate the contributions of EduCom and VCAE
- d. Worked with UIA Secretariat to update website and social media presence

UNESCO-UIA VALIDATION COUNCIL

- a. To expand reach, impacts and benefits for UNESCO-UIA Validated programs: **Application for provisional signatory status was presented at the August, 2019 Canberra Accord [CA]** meeting in Bloemfontein, South Africa. The application was well-received, and prepares the ground for subsequent steps in the 2-year process,
- b. **Self-study submitted for Canberra Accord [CA] review and vote**, Fall 2020.
- c. To expand access to UNESCO-UIA Validation, exceptional consideration of programmes of non-UIA-member states approved: **De-coupled membership in UIA from eligibility of a study program to apply for UIA-UNESCO Validation**
- d. **17 successful Validation visits since 2017**, [10 in 2017, 2 in 2018 and 5 in 2019]. Currently the UIA validates 11 programmes across 3 UIA regions-Europe, Africa and Asia.
- e. A **successful call for nominations of qualified academic/ educator candidates for the Validation Panel** has resulted in a growing number of qualified members to be included in the 2017-2020 panels.
- f. A **successful call for nominations from the professional practice was issued and generated over 20 candidates for the Validation Panel** and a growing number of qualified members to be included in the 2017-2020 panels.
- g. Establishment and implementation of a **self-assessment process of previous validations to ensure compliance, consistency and efficacy**. This was led by the System Operator.
- h. Establishment and implementation of a standing **Eligibility Review Board** comprised of 1 System Operator representative, 1 VCAE member representative, 1 External reviewer. This committee completes desktop reviews of new programs seeking validation. The eligibility process was introduced in the 2017 Validation Manual.
- i. **Update of Validation Manual** to reflect continuous improvements and an exploration of digital/ virtual assessments in the context of force majeure / global pandemic.
- j. **Translation of Validation Manual to Portuguese** in advance of the Triennial UIA Congress in Rio de Janeiro
- k. Establishment of 5 regional working groups, headed by the Steering Committee members from each region, to draft an interpretation of the UIA Charter's 16 points from a regional lens. The objective is to contextualize and individualize the broad objectives of UIA in a more regionally nuanced manner

EDUCATION COMMISSION

- a. Launch of a new international award for **Excellence/ Innovation in Architectural Education** hosted by the UIA Education Commission. Focus on pedagogy that incorporates the UN SGDs. A renowned international jury of academics will review entries.
 - **Awards** [1 for each of the 5 UIA Regions] to be conferred at Rio 2021
 - **Exhibition** of winners and selected finalists



- **Publication** of winners and selected finalists
- b. **Pecha Kucha Public program** for the Rio Conference focused on architectural education and practice in response to the UN SDGs.
- c. Establishment of a **partnership agreement with Tatweer Misr**, a leading middle-eastern development company committed to promoting academic and professional excellence in architectural education.
- d. Connection with the AIAS (American Institute of Architectural Students) in coordination with UIA secretariat and leadership to **explore an international organization of architectural students, under the auspices of UIA- tentatively the UIAS.**
- e. Facilitated **partnership between UIA Leadership and the ACSA** (Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture)
 - Manage the academic peer review process for the UIA Rio Congress. **The successful call for papers and projects resulted in 900 entries submitted to blind peer review.**
 - Contribute to UIA COVID-19 Hub Academic Resources
- f. Created an **exhibition of student work from UNESCO-UIA Validated programs** for the Baku Forum + Extraordinary General Assembly
- g. **UIA EDUCOM participation in co-hosting international academic conferences:**
 - Cairo, Egypt: Conference on African Mega-Cities at the American University in Cairo [2019]
 - Miami, USA: ARCC | EAAE International Conference on Architecture and Research at Florida International University, [2021-2022]

VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The UIA Education Commission and UNESCO-UIA Validation Council are a dual-pronged think-tank aimed at providing support to its member sections and to the students, faculty and academic programs with whom they work. The Commission helps advise on pedagogical trends, academic standards and innovative teaching practices. It celebrates the best of those practices through a program of awards, exhibitions and publications, and supports the creation of a networked international community of architectural educators and students. Through the Validation Council and its Validation System, it is committed to upholding standards of academic excellence that foreground competence in professional practice, easing access to academic mentorship and assessment, and facilitating academic credential portability.

ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

Architects and architectural educators and administrators from around the world have contributed to each of the efforts detailed in the record of goals and accomplishments enumerated above. Through the creation and dissemination of a broad range of academic programs and assessment processes, we have worked to raise the profile of the Education Commission and Validation Council, reaching out to architects,



architectural educators and students who had never before been involved with UIA, and involving them in our work.

Most recently, in response to the global pandemic, the UIA Education Commission and Validation Council have reached out proactively to their validated schools, to extend support and facilitate communication through the challenges faced across all regions. The Validation Council, in coordination with its System Operator, the RIBA, is in the process of developing protocols and contingencies that will allow for continued and uninterrupted validation of its programmes and schools, and proceeding as seamlessly and fairly as possible with upcoming and ongoing validations.

WORLD CONGRESS PLAN

- a. Conferral of Awards:**
 - Inaugural cycle of the UNESCO-UIA Excellence / Innovation in Architectural Education Awards: Focus | UN SDGs
- b. Congress Exhibitions:**
 - VCAE: Exhibition showcasing UIA Validated Schools
 - EDUCOM: Exhibition showcasing the winners and finalists of the Innovation in Architectural Education Award
- b. Plenary Session:**
 - Innovation in Architectural Education and Practice: Focus | SDGs
- c. Panel discussions:**
 - EDUCOM: Presentation of white papers: regional 16 point interpretations, collaborations with other organizations, academic integrity in architectural education
 - VCAE: **UNESCO-UIA Validation process:** A presentation to interested stakeholders, with particular focus on South America and Brazil as a potential market, including presentation / announcement of Portuguese translation of the Validation Manual
 - VCAE: Invite Administrators of Validated Programs to discuss their experiences and field questions
 - VCAE: Invite members of the Canberra Accord to
- d. Collaborate with ACSA/ Co-Host an International Academic Administrators' Conference**
 - Panel Discussions:**
 - Student and graduate portability: pathways to licensure, degree portability and branch campuses.
 - Invite academic administrators to discuss structures in place at their institutions
 - Invite Student Leaders to discuss a potential UIAS