

PRESERVATION FORWARD



2022 Landmarks Illinois Influencer

TIARA HUGHES

*CHICAGO LANDMARKS COMMISSIONER, FIRST 500 FOUNDER,
SOM SENIOR URBAN DESIGNER*

Tiara Hughes is a devoted activist, educator and advocate for underrepresented communities and voices. As a Commissioner on the Chicago Landmarks Committee, Tiara transforms the City's landmarking to realize a more equitable process and to empower communities to decide which places are worth preserving. During her term, the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House and the Muddy Waters House on Chicago's South Side became Chicago landmarks — two designations she applauds and takes pride in. Tiara also serves roles on the National Organization of Minority Architects Board and the Charnley-Persky House Board of Directors for the Society of Architectural Historians. As a Senior Urban Designer and Project Manager at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Tiara is the Founding Co-Chair of the Equity Action Committee and contributes to large and small scale urban planning projects around the globe. As a designer, Tiara is driven by creating work that emphasizes greater socioeconomic equity and cultural awareness. She believes: "Ultimately, our efforts to positively impact communities of color will expand outward and evolve our academic institutions, our firms, our industry and by extension, our communities." In 2021, Tiara received the prestigious AIA Associates Award, given by the American Institute of Architects to Associate members who exemplify the highest qualities of leadership and have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to their component or region's membership. Additionally, Tiara works as a licensed realtor, an adjunct professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and is the Founder and Executive Director of FIRST 500, a global research platform elevating and celebrating the contributions of Black women architects and providing support for pathways to licensure.