

# PRESERVATION FORWARD



## 2022 Landmarks Illinois Influencer

### ALICIA PONCE

*AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, FOUNDING PRINCIPAL, APMONARCH*

Alicia Ponce is the founder and principal of APMonarch, a Chicago based female- and Latina- owned architecture firm providing design services, community engagement and sustainability consulting in the Midwest and Latin America. Alicia's work to adaptively reuse existing and historic buildings, making them healthy and sustainable is not only inspirational, but demonstrates how these buildings can contribute to overall carbon reduction. She is ensuring that historic preservation is considered as a major component in fighting climate change. Alicia refers to APMonarch as the pollinator of the built environment, designing healthy environments that look good, feel good and perform great. Her reputation for nature-inspired architecture provides her clients with architecture that is ambitious, thoughtful and healthy. Alicia was the primary sustainability consultant on the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy at the Keller Center that adaptively reused a historic, 1962 Edward Durell Stone-designed building. She led the effort for the project to achieve LEED-NC Platinum status and to be among the first educational buildings nationwide awarded Petal Certification of the Living Building Challenge, a rigorous, international sustainable building certification. The project was recognized with a 2020 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award. Further reinforcing APMonarch's promise to build zero carbon architecture, Alicia was recently commissioned as the architect for Centro Amazing, a civic youth center located in Aguascalientes, Mexico, which is to be constructed from rammed earth. Alicia proudly serves on the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, where she has supported further equity in the landmarking process. She is on the United Way Metro Chicago Executive Board, and is the founder and chair of Arqitina, a national nonprofit organization with a mission to raise the fewer than 1% of licensed Latina architects in the United States. Her book, "Latinas in Architecture: Stories of raising the 1% one Latina at a time," was published in October 2021. Alicia has a biweekly live podcast, Designing Healthy Environments, where she speaks with industry leaders in architecture, governance, policy, science (and more) about the opportunities and strategies to bring carbon down in the built environment.

