

PRESERVATION FORWARD



2023 LANDMARKS ILLINOIS INFLUENCER

PAOLA AGUIRRE SERRANO

Urban Designer and Founding Partner, BORDERLESS

Paola Aguirre Serrano is an urban designer and partner at BORDERLESS — design and research practice focused on cultivating collaborative design agency through interdisciplinary projects based in Chicago and San Antonio. With emphasis on exchange and communication across disciplines, Borderless explores creative civic design and engagement interventions that address the complexity of urban systems and social equity by looking at intersections between architecture, urban design, infrastructure, landscape, planning and community participatory processes. Paola is an active educator, and has taught at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Sam Fox School of Design at Washington University in St. Louis, and the Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture and Design in Columbus, IN. She has been acknowledged by Next City Vanguard's 40 Under 40 (2016), Impact Design Hub's 40 Under 40 (2017), Newcity Design 50: Who Shapes Chicago (2018, 2020), Emerging Planner Award by the American Planning Association – Illinois Chapter (2018), Field Foundation Civic Leader for Racial Equity (2019), Chicago United for Equity Fellow (2019), AIA Chicago's Distinguished Service Award (2020), The Architecture League of New York Emerging Voices Award (2022), and The Americans for the Arts Pérez Prize in Public Art & Civic Design (2022). Paola has served as Commissioner of Chicago Landmarks and the Cultural Advisory Council of the City of Chicago, and currently serves in the Scholarly Advisory Committee for the National Museum of the American Latino. Paola received a B. of Architecture from the Institute Superior de Arquitectura y Diseño de Chihuahua, and M. of Architecture in Urban Design from the Harvard School of Design.



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