

# SHAPING THE FUTURE

## Sam Fox School Strategic Plan

### Core Investments for Success

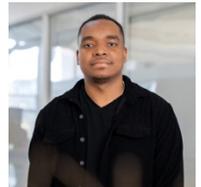
We will make investments in people, programs, and relationships that will build academic and research excellence, educate leaders, support access and equity, and drive opportunities for achievement across the school's academic units and the Kemper Art Museum.

#### Progress 2024-2025

##### New Faculty Add Critical Expertise

Three new full-time faculty members joined the Sam Fox School this fall with expertise in key strategic areas:

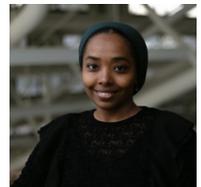
**Assistant Professor Rayshad Dorsey** is the founding partner of Studio Rayshad Dorsey and co-founding director of the design collective Partners of Place. His work explores how architecture can surface collective memory and cultural narratives, positioning spatial design as a lens for responsive and community-centered futures.



**Assistant Professor Luiz Ludwig** brings a focus on industrial design and visual communication to the School. His work looks at the intersection of data, design, and art through interactive data installations, graphic design, and artistic visualizations.



**Visiting Assistant Professor Alaa Suliman Hamid** joins the Master of Landscape Architecture program with a focus on spatial justice. Her work reflects a commitment to addressing ecological and cultural resilience, challenging colonial narratives, reconstructing histories, and advancing activism through design.



##### Professorships Recognize Leadership and Academic Excellence

Endowed professorships are one of the most important tools the school has to attract and retain talented faculty and leaders.

**Aki Ishida** was installed as the Sam and Marilyn Fox Professor in September, recognizing her leadership as the Director of the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design and her exceptional research and scholarship. Ishida has created a broad vision for the college, one built on a solid groundwork of excellent student work, engaged faculty, and a strong sense of community.



**Derek Hoeflerlin** will be installed as the Raymond E. Maritz Professor of Architecture in 2026. The professorship will recognize Hoeflerlin's leadership as chair of the Master of Landscape Architecture program and his important scholarship, which broadly considers

how watersheds and water-based infrastructure affect design decisions, particularly related to climate change and infrastructural transformation.

**Andrew Witt** will be installed in spring 2026 as the Kavita and Krishna Bharat Professor. This new professorship exemplifies the power of endowed faculty roles to ensure current and future expertise. The professorship is defined broadly around emerging technology and will help ensure that the School remains at the cutting edge of applied technology in our fields.

### Research Investments: Sam Fox School Seed Grants

Each year, the Sam Fox School invests nearly \$100,000 from the Ralph J. Nagel Deanship endowment into faculty, student, and staff seed grant funds for research, dissemination, and professional development. Recent seed grants have supported these faculty achievements:

**Associate Professor Pablo Moyano** completed the Avis Spiralis bird blind at the Audubon Center at Riverlands using his Opus Versatiliium method of sustainable, affordable, and beautiful concrete casting.

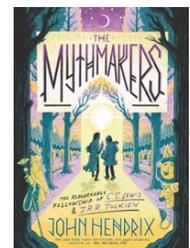
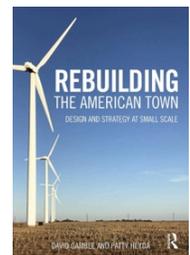


**Assistant Professor Bei Hu** is investigating how wearable technologies enhance emotional expression and foster meaningful social connection.

**Associate Professor Tiffany Calvert** is working with McKelvey School of Engineering to build a generative AI learning model that uses Dutch and Flemish still life paintings to create new images that she incorporates into her own studio work.

### Sam Fox School Invests in Faculty Publications and Dissemination

Under the guidance of Aki Ishida, Director of the College of Architecture, the Sam Fox School has put more emphasis on supporting faculty through publishing and disseminating written work. A workshop in March led to a stronger connection with the WashU Program in Public Scholarship; a resulting article by Associate Professor Pablo Moyano about sustainable approaches to concrete houses was placed in *The Conversation* and numerous national and international publications, with more than 31,000 reads to date. Other recent publications by Sam Fox School faculty include *Rebuilding the American Town: Design and Strategy at a Small Scale* by Professor Patty Heyda; *Thinking Through Soil* by Assistant Professor Seth Denizen and Montserrat Bonvehi Rosich; *The Mythmakers: The Remarkable Fellowship of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien* by Professor John Hendrix; and *Thinking Through Graphic Design History: Challenging the Canon* by Associate Professor Aggie Toppins.



### New WashU Sam Fox School Gallery

The new WashU Sam Fox School Gallery provides students and faculty with two formal gallery spaces for presenting exhibitions and also shows work by widely known contemporary artists. Located less than a mile from campus along the Delmar Loop, the gallery offers 2,950 square feet of exhibition space and is run by professional gallery director Jeff Robinson. This space replaces the Des Lee Gallery on Washington Avenue in downtown St. Louis, longtime home to Sam Fox School student exhibitions.