

**Dr. Gustavo Alfonso Rincon || (Ph.D., M.Arch., M.F.A., B.Sc., B.A.)**

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Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the open position. I am uniquely qualified given my global experience as a nationally and internationally exhibited research practitioner and scholar, as well as my professional perspective spanning clients and projects across the U.S., Europe, the UAE, and China. I have held many leadership roles that have shaped my career trajectory as an academic, entrepreneur, executive director, industry professional, and advising research design director for the AlloSphere.

As a transdisciplinary academic researcher bridging the fields of Arts, Design, and Media Arts at the intersection of technology and the sciences, the multidimensional nature of my research practice required the creation of a new field New Media Architectures (NMA). While earning a Ph.D. in Media Arts and Technology at UCSB, my research began exploring how conceptual and physical spaces, understood as information, are transformed through digital technologies, immersive virtual environments (IVEs), and interactive systems. While this work required clear lines of communication, mentorship, and leadership to initiate solutions for the betterment of meeting all research goals, this yielded many academic, corporate, and nonprofit collaborations. The resultant years of exhibitions, events, and basic research works leading from first principles into foresight research led to a renewed deeper analysis into emerging cultural tech movements and market investments.

Research investigations over the years have spanned architectural computational design/fabrication and media arts, curatorial practice, curriculum development, facility / instrument design, media exhibition events, and science-directed arts research. As a designer and media arts scholar with the AlloSphere team, I have engaged in numerous initiatives involving corporate and institutional investments in IVEs, interactive intelligent spaces, AR/VR/XR media, urban projection mapping/ LED screens, and Web 3.0/Metaverse development. My international work engages leaders across academia, the design fields, and the technology industry. My years collaborating with the AlloSphere shaped many insights for interdisciplinary research as a unified artistic design engineering practice within an R1 Institutional environment. The research initiatives realized for the Getty Foundation's Pacific Standard Time (PST ART), TED Vancouver 2024, and California 100 future - Arts and Entertainment, UC Berkeley, highlights the value of the Arts and Sciences as a unifying economic driving force for local/global economies.

I continue to lead curricula initiatives at academic and online paraeducational NPOs, co-developing programming for an international audience. At Otis College of Art and Design, I established a technology-driven Interactive Product Design program with the founding chair. Currently, as an instructor at Berkeley City College for the Peralta Community College District, I am reimagining learning paradigms with my colleagues assisting in the launch of a new online AI-focused program reclassification of the MultiMedia Arts through a course Virtual Reality & Digital Spaces Lab that incorporates AI at all levels of co creative learning preparing students for future opportunities. This class functions as a creative studio-based practice model in which I share co-teaching mentorship duties and where we all learn together as a team.

The Teaching and research into contemporary scholarly practices aligned with the international para-educational organizations – ACM SIGGRAPH, DigitalFutures, and Leonardo/ISAST (MIT Press), have formulated ideas into creating more integrative cohesive networks of learning by sharing. The incorporation of practical knowledge within a broader global and historical research framework has shaped a pedagogical approach, which emphasizes mentorship and inquiry at the edges of knowledge curation. At UCSB, I am collaborating with the Media Arts and Technology Program and PaCE to develop an online education initiative establishing a certificate program and drawing from a global online community, in partnership with Dr. JoAnn Kuchera-Morin, Distinguished Professor in the MAT and Music Departments and Director of the AlloSphere Research Facility to reimagine a global virtual classroom aligning with embodied learning. These experiences continue to inform my teaching philosophy, which blends theory and practice, encouraging students to engage critically with emerging technologies, formulate research questions, and develop individualized Arts/Design research practices.

All projects built upon one another, continuing to define a new field of research has influenced my work in the educational nonprofit sector, where I have served as Director and Executive Organizing Member of multiple organizations that blend historic institutional frameworks with future vision intensive directions. Meeting the moment and cultivating vibrant global communities—both online and physical—has generated opportunities for realizing projects and expanding the network worldwide. My early professional experience, preceding an architectural masters degree, included securing funding through business development/contract negotiations, corporate outreach, design competitions, donor relations, grant and project fundraising, and institutional university fundraising campaigns in collaboration with development officers, faculty, and senior administration, supporting both long-term and short-term project realization.

Previously, I served as Director of the Foundation for Art Resources in Los Angeles, where I anchored a team creating exhibitions, events, lectures, and sponsorship initiatives. Later in my career I returned as Co-Director of Digital Futures International, after being a core organizing member. Today, Digital Futures supports global access through our YouTube channel with over 4 million views to lectures, panels, workshops, and tutorials. Currently, I am in the process of launching a new international U.S.–U.K. educational initiative with Panarchic Codex: Design for Living with Wildfire, which focuses on rethinking architecture in the context of accelerating climate change. I remain committed to democratizing education and inspiring interdisciplinary collaboration for those seeking community and shared purpose.

Professionally, I continue an international research practice as a curator, designer, media artist, juror (awards), reviewer (academic papers), and publications as an editorial board member for Design International Series - Franco Angeli, Milan, supporting the community's high standards of scholarly and creative contributions. It has been a privilege to contribute to the Eric and Wendy Schmidt Awards for Excellence in Science Communications, administered by the National Academies, as well as to Leonardo/ISAST (MIT Press) through the Lumens Prize Online Exhibition, global research studies, and journal peer review. A concurrent research practice has evolved into the fields of industrial design and UI/UX, producing multisensory environments that integrate media art, fabrication, and engineering. Invitations as a guest critic and reviewer have followed at doctoral and/or master's programs for SCI-Arc, Tongji University, UCSB, and the University of Innsbruck, and at the undergraduate level for Cal Poly Pomona, FIU, NYIT, Otis College of Art & Design, UCLA, and Virginia Tech.

Since earning a doctorate from UCSB, I have remained committed to advancing research, education, and public engagement. I envision contributing to the continued development of New Media Architectures in all its forms including publishing. I continue to advocate for research within Media Arts and Sciences, alongside communicating its value within the technology industries. This work inspires a sustained exploration that merges entrepreneurship with research practice cultivating diverse opportunities, developing transformative solutions, and leveraging community partnerships expanding team impact. I continue to investigate how information, data, and mediated spaces redefine our understanding of creative potential across all spatial paradigms—real and virtual. I believe deeply in the promise of accessible knowledge creation, discovery, and research as a human right.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome an opportunity to further discuss a combination of approaches to envisioning new research territories leading to a strong academic outcome for all students, institutional growth research potential, and community building along with global networking staying connected to the pulse of what is enacted in the here and now .

Sincerely,



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