

Tonight we celebrate Dr. Abigail Van Slyck as a Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians, for her strong contributions as an educator, a researcher, and a leader. Following graduation from UC Berkeley, she taught at the University of Arizona for ten years before moving to Connecticut College, where she served as Dayton Professor, Director of the Architectural Studies program, and eventually as Dean of the Faculty.

As an architectural historian, *Abby is best known for two books: *Free to All: Carnegie Libraries and American Culture* and *A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth*. The latter garnered SAH's Alice Davis Hitchcock Award and the Vernacular Architecture Forum's Abbott Lowell Cummings Award.*

What makes Abby's work as an architectural historian so stellar is her attention to what she calls "architecture's social choreography" and its potential "to enrich and even challenge historical interpretation developed on the basis of written sources alone," a point she articulated a compelling piece in *Platform* in 2020.

Abby has made enormous contributions to SAH. She has twice served as board member, been second and first vice president, and was a transformative president from 2012 to 2014. As SAH President, she devised a fundraising campaign that allowed the Society to hire a full-time development director; she established a Professional Development Committee to serve members beyond the academy; and she appointed a Digital Humanities Taskforce to sustain SAH's three online publishing projects. Most recently, she has served as Chair of the Advisory Committee of the SAH Data Project, an ambitious project assessing the state of the field in U.S. institutions of higher education, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

All who know Abby appreciate her friendly, positive, outgoing ways, and above all her infectious laugh. Everything in which she participates is better for her involvement.

Annamarie Adams, McGill University