

SCI-ARC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DID 2020 *In the Clouds* Embraces Radical Imagination in Design for Youth



Los Angeles, CA (May 18, 2020) – SCI-Arc is proud to announce plans for its upcoming 2020 iteration of [Design Immersion Days](#), this year celebrating its 10th anniversary. This round of the popular summer program, entitled *In the Clouds*, will launch online June 22 through July 10. DID provides an immersive platform for high school students all over the world to come together for three week-long series of courses, project, lectures, virtual field trips, and more which plunge into contemporary design topics, tools, and techniques. The legacy of SCI-Arc’s Design Immersion Days continues this summer as the program explores the creative potential of design and collaborative learning within a fully digital interface. All high school students interested in architecture, design, visual culture, and digital gaming are encouraged to participate. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

Continuing its traditions in concept as well as explorations of scale through cutting-edge design platforms, the curriculum will incorporate new methods for content and project delivery to engender a collaborative and fun social environment. The program will offer a suite of design assignments ranging in scale from a room, to a building, and ultimately to an extensive and shared digital urban landscape. The design exercises will incorporate physical and digital outputs and will be supported by daily tutorials. In addition to the design projects, the students' experiences will be enhanced by virtual field trips to architecturally relevant sites, as well as a series of chats by influential designers in the field. Students will also be guided through the process of collecting and formatting their work in a thoughtful portfolio format.

DID Program Coordinator Mira Henry acknowledges the challenge of how to extend not just the program but also the culture of DID within the context of stay-at-home ordinances due to the coronavirus pandemic. "We're doing it really through a lens of optimism," she says, "because we're pretty excited about being able to address the novel and strange scenario we're in—seeing what kinds of new formats of collaboration and ways in which we can experiment with our technologies, all within the context of play and fun—which is really what DID is about."

SCI-Arc's DID program was also founded on the mission to provide the opportunity for all students to enjoy the expansive creativity of architectural education. "One of the more meaningful aspects of the program where students from many different parts of the city are coming together in this shared platform of design," adds Henry of DID's expressed mission of equity and inclusivity, "because it really makes the program experience for the students and for us really much more rich." Full and partial scholarships are made available for all students with expressed financial need.

An added benefit of hosting DID online this summer will be the opportunity for students from all over the world to take part. With the spirit of unity and inclusion that has always driven the program's outreach, recruitment, and curriculum, DID 2020 will remotely unite US teens with teens from China. "In many ways, the spirit of DID is going to become even more global because we are remote," adds Henry, "particularly because we are moving towards a kind of extensive urban landscape, knitting together these moments globally—it can welcome a global perspective."

Henry and DID instructors including SCI-Arc faculty Angelica Lorenzi and alum Leah Wulfman (Fiction and Entertainment '18) conceptualized this year's theme *In the Clouds* around the idea of not only being in "the cloud," or online, but also referring to having one's head in the clouds, shares Henry, "as a beautiful image of both working in a remote way but also in this broad imaginary—I think that's what we're trying to spark."

Design Immersion Days is generously supported by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, US Bank Foundation, and Goodwin Family Memorial Trust—recognized for its excellence at three levels of government.



Applications for Design Immersion Days 2020 are now open on the SCI-Arc [website](#). To learn more about this year's program, join SCI-Arc's DID Online Information Session on May 27th. Register [here](#).

About SCI-Arc

Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) is dedicated to educating architects who will imagine and shape the future. It is an independent, accredited degree-granting institution offering undergraduate and graduate programs in architecture. Located in a quarter-mile-long former freight depot in the Arts District in downtown Los Angeles, the school is distinguished by its vibrant studio culture and emphasis on process. SCI-Arc's approximately 500 students and 80 faculty members, most of whom are practicing architects, work together to reexamine assumptions, create, explore, and test the limits of architecture. SCI-Arc faculty and leadership have garnered more than 500 national and international design awards and recognitions, including Progressive Architecture awards, American Institute of Architects (AIA) awards, and the prestigious Jencks and Pritzker architecture prizes. In *DesignIntelligence's* 2019 US survey, SCI-Arc ranked #2 in Design Technologies, #3 Most Hired From, and was top ten among the nation's Most Admired Undergraduate Programs in Architecture. SCI-Arc is located at 960 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013. www.sciarc.edu