# ARTIFACT

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## Christopher Esteban Torres
Founding Principal and President

Chris is an award-winning landscape architect and urban designer passionate about creating a more equitable, resilient and vibrant Los Angeles.

As a native Angelino he first discovered urbanism as a musician, performing throughout and falling in love with the unique neighborhoods of the city. He founded Agency Artifact (MBE) as a civic design studio, creating ambitious placemaking experiences.  He is currently leading projects such as the Fairplex Specific Plan with over 10,000 units of housing and re-envisioning the Norwalk Civic Center as a mixed-use entertainment destination with affordable housing.

He has over a decade of both local and international experience designing urban parks, public art, large-scale housing projects and regenerative infrastructure. Prior to founding Agency Artifact, he led projects at Rios, Walt Disney Imagineering, SOM and the public art program at LA METRO. Chris was a Design Principal at the Jerde Partnership and served as a Vice President for the organization with over 100 designers working globally.

He believes that urban design should be transparent and community-based.  Chris is an active public speaker, researcher and educator on topics related to public space and the future of cities. He was a visiting researcher of Urban Design at the Queensland University of Technology, lecturer in Landscape Architecture and Urbanism at USC, Vice President of the LA Forum for Architecture and Urban Design, member of Mayor Garcetti's Great Street's design advisory committee and served on the Board of Directors of the Landscape Architecture Foundation. He was appointed to serve as Planning Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles- South LA APC.

Chris holds a BA in Urban Studies from LMU, Master of Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley, and training in Urban Design from the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.