

Christopher Hawthorne

Experience

- since 2018 Chief Design Officer, City of Los Angeles
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
- since 2020 Adjunct Professor of the Practice and Director, Third L.A. public affairs series
University of Southern California Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences
Department of English
- 2004-2018 Architecture Critic
Los Angeles Times
- 2014-2019 Professor of the Practice and Director, Third L.A. public affairs series
Occidental College
Urban and Environmental Policy Institute
- 2018 Writer, director, and executive producer
That Far Corner: Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles
Documentary for KCET-TV's *Artbound*
- 2016 Writer and executive producer
Third L.A. with Architecture Critic Christopher Hawthorne
Documentary for KCET-TV's *Artbound*
- 2014 Adjunct Faculty
Southern California Institute of Architecture
- 2004-2005 Teaching Fellow
University of California, Berkeley
Graduate School of Journalism
- 2003-2004 Architecture Critic
Slate magazine
- 2000-2003 Contributing Editor
Metropolis magazine
- 1995-98 Arts Editor and Theater Critic
East Bay Express
- 1993-1994 Editorial Staff
Seattle Weekly

since 1994 Freelance writer and critic on architecture, design, books, and other subjects
Architect; Architectural Record; Architecture; The Atlantic; Condé Nast Traveler; Domus; Harvard Design Magazine; I.D.; Metropolis; New York Times; The New Yorker; Salon; San Francisco Chronicle; Seattle Weekly; Slate; Washington Post

Leadership and Service

since 2017 Board of Directors
Executive Director Search Committee, Strategic Planning Working Group
Armory Center for the Arts

since 2021 Design Commission
City of Pasadena, CA
Elected Vice Chair 2022

since 2021 Steering Committee
Memorial to the Victims of the 1871 Anti-Chinese Massacre
City of Los Angeles

since 2022 Technical Advisory Committee, 2028 Olympic Legacy Street Improvement Plan
City of Los Angeles

2021 COVID-19 Memorial Working Group
City of Los Angeles

2019-2021 Chair
Mayor's Office Civic Memory Working Group
City of Los Angeles

2019 Co-Facilitator
Reenvisioning Justice Peer Review, Master Plan for Borough-Based Jails
NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice with Columbia University's Center for Buildings, Infrastructure, and Public Space

2018-2020 Public Director
American Institute of Architects
Los Angeles Chapter

Education

1998-99 Columbia University
Mid-Career Fellow, National Arts Journalism Program

1993 Yale University
B.A., Political Science, with Honors and Distinction in the Major

Selected Juries and Selection Panels

since 2019	Public Art Selection Committee Los Angeles World Airports
2022	AR Future Projects Awards <i>The Architectural Review</i>
2019	La Brea Tar Pits and Page Museum Master Plan Competition Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County
2019	American Institute of Architects/Tri-States Architectural Excellence Awards
2019	American Institute of Architects/Houston Design Awards
2019	SOM Foundation Structural Engineering Research Fellowship
2017	<i>Architectural Record</i> Women in Architecture Awards
2016	American Institute of Architects/Los Angeles Design Awards
2012	Art Institute of Chicago Schiff Fellowship
2012	American Society of Landscape Architects Professional and Student Awards
2011	Jeff Harnar Award for Contemporary Architecture, University of New Mexico
since 2005	Visiting Critic/Review Juries Harvard University Graduate School of Design; Pratt Institute; Southern California Institute of Architecture; University of Southern California School of Architecture; University of California, Los Angeles Architecture and Urban Design; Woodbury University School of Architecture

Selected Honors and Awards

2018	Emmy Award, Los Angeles Area <i>That Far Corner: Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles</i>
2018	Best Documentary Golden Mike Awards Radio and Television News Association of Southern California <i>That Far Corner: Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles</i>
2018	First Place in Documentary or Special Program, Feature (Over 30 Minutes) National Arts and Entertainment Awards <i>That Far Corner: Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles</i>
2016	Emmy Award, Los Angeles Area <i>Third L.A. with Architecture Critic Christopher Hawthorne</i>

- 2015 Resident in Criticism
American Academy in Rome
- 2012 Bradford Williams Medal
American Society of Landscape Architects
For “The Voids: An Interview with Peter Walker”
Landscape Architecture Magazine, Sept. 2011
- 2006 First Place in Entertainment Reviews/Criticism/Column
Los Angeles Press Club

Books

- 2024 Chapter forthcoming in *Virtual Witnessing: Seeing Caltech Science*
Claudia Bohn-Spector and Peter Sachs Collopy, editors
Getty Foundation/Pacific Standard Time exhibition
- 2021 Editor
*Past Due: Report and Recommendations of the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office Civic
Memory Working Group*
Getty Foundation/Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West
- 2021 Foreword to *Envisioning Landscapes: The Transformative Environments of the
Office of James Burnett*
The Monacelli Press
- 2015 Foreword to *Slow Manifesto: Lebbeus Woods Blog*
Clare Jacobson, editor
Princeton Architectural Press
- 2014 Foreword to *Los Angeles Boulevard: Eight X-Rays of the Body Public*
Doug Suisman
Oro Editions
- 2012 Chapter in *Maynard L. Parker: Modern Photography and the American Dream*
Jennifer A. Watts, editor
Yale University Press
- 2011 Chapter in *Gateway: Visions for an Urban National Park*
Alexander Brash and Jamie Hand, editors
Princeton Architectural Press
- 2010 Chapter in *A Companion to Los Angeles*
William Deverell and Greg Hise, editors
Wiley Blackwell

2010 *The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture*
With Alanna Stang
Princeton Architectural Press (first edition 2005)

2004 Editor, with András Szántó
The New Gatekeepers: Emerging Challenges to Free Expression in the Arts
Columbia University: National Arts Journalism Program

Exhibitions

2006-2007 Consulting Curator
“The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture and Design”
National Building Museum

Film Festivals

2018-2021 *That Far Corner: Frank Lloyd Wright in Los Angeles*
Architecture and Design Film Festival (Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York,
Vancouver, Washington, D.C.); Film and Architecture (Prague); SITESeeing Film
Series (Madison, WI); The Other Art Fair (Los Angeles)

Selected Lectures, Panels, and Talks

“Low Rise, High Stakes: What New State Laws Mean for Housing Policy,
Residential Architecture, and Neighborhood Development in Los Angeles,” Third
L.A. Series, April 28, 2022

“How Should L.A. Remember 1992?,” Third L.A. Series, March 11 and March
18, 2022

“Un-Private Collection” panel on monuments and memorials with Catherine
Opie and Carolina A. Miranda, Broad Museum, Jan. 20, 2022

“Close to the Ground: The Complex History of Outdoor Settlement in the
American West,” Third L.A. Series, Dec. 10, 2021

Keynote, Community Foundation of the Valleys Homelessness and Housing
conference, Los Angeles, Dec. 3, 2021

The Architectural League of New York FF - Distance Edition, with W
Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Dec. 2, 2021

“Connection Before Construction: How Destination Crenshaw Will Change
Community Engagement,” Urban Land Institute panel with Frances Anderton,
Jason Foster, and Drake Dillard, July 28, 2021

“Beyond Land Acknowledgement: New Models of Support and Reparation for Indigenous Communities,” Third L.A. series, May 13, 2021

“Pump to Plug: Preparing for the Transition to Electric Vehicles,” Third L.A. symposium, Dec. 11, 2020

“The Post-Crisis City: Rethinking Sustainable Vertical Urbanism,” Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, Nov. 17, 2020

“Paul R. Williams: Rediscovering an Architectural Icon,” American Institute of Architects, Urban Land Institute, National Organization of Minority Architects, USC School of Architecture, Nov. 12, 2020

“Civic memory and the future of L.A.,” *L.A. Times* Festival of Books, Oct. 29, 2020

“Inside Out, Outside In: What This Unprecedented Year Means for the Future of Public and Private Space,” Third L.A. series, Oct. 16, 2020

“We Are Perhaps the Last,” lecture for the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab “Whither Criticism” series, Sept. 30, 2020

“S, M, L, XL: Housing Symposium,” Woodbury University, March 3, 2020

University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Architecture/Mayor’s Symposium on Urban Design, Feb. 21, 2020

Keynote, Arts Council Tokyo, 2020 Open Forum on urbanism and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Feb. 15, 2020

Keynote, Building Voices Symposium: Housing for All, University of Hawaii School of Architecture, Sept. 30, 2019

City Architects Forum, Seoul Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism, Sept. 7, 2019

Knight Foundation Public Spaces Forum, Philadelphia, June 20, 2019

Keynote, Living Cities Forum, Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, May 2019

“Turn Off the Sunshine: Shade as an Equity Issue in a Warming Los Angeles,” Third L.A. series, April 17, 2019

Keynote, New Zealand Institute of Architects in:situ Conference, Feb. 14, 2019

National Association of City Transportation Officials, Designing Cities 2018, Dec. 20, 2018

Fall Lecture Series, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Oct. 9, 2018

Brendan Gill Lecture, Yale University School of Architecture, Sept. 27, 2018

Civic Infrastructure Summit, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania, June 15, 2018

Keynote, Los Angeles Design Festival, June 8, 2018

Commencement Address, University of Southern California School of Architecture, May 11, 2018

“Urbanism: How We Make Cities,” *L.A. Times* Festival of Books, April 22, 2018

“Conversations: Liquid Architecture,” American Academy in Rome panel in Los Angeles with Mark Lee, Andrew Norman, and Sharon Johnston, Depart Foundation, May 2, 2017

“City on the Verge,” in conversation with Mayor Eric Garcetti, Third L.A. series, Occidental College, Mar. 22, 2017

Keynote, New Zealand Institute of Architects in:situ Conference, Feb. 9, 2017

In conversation with Rebecca Solnit, ALOUD Los Angeles Public Library series, Nov. 10, 2016

“Frank Gehry in Conversation with Christopher Hawthorne,” *L.A. Times* Ideas Exchange, Aug. 1, 2016

“Homelessness and the Right to the City,” Third L.A. series, April 6, 2016

“Three L.A.s, Three Olympiads,” Third L.A. series, March 30, 2016

“Streetfight: Janette Sadik-Khan in conversation with Christopher Hawthorne,” Hammer Museum, March 16, 2016

“What Do We Want the L.A. River to Be?,” Third L.A. series, April 22, 2015

“The Future of the Single-Family House: New Housing Models for Los Angeles,” Third L.A. series, April 8, 2015

“Debating the New LACMA,” Third L.A. series, March 25, 2015

“Ten Million Aphorists in Search of a City,” post-performance panel with Gabriel Kahane, David Kipen, and Richard Rayner, Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA, Feb. 28, 2015

“Frank’s House,” performance and conversation with Frank Gehry, Ara Guzelimian, and Andrew Norman, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Feb. 5, 2015

“Writing Architecture,” with Florencia Rodriguez, Michael Sorkin, and Oliver Wainwright, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Feb. 3, 2015

Fall Lecture Series, U.C. Berkeley College of Environmental Design, Oct. 20, 2014

“What the Critic Sees: Ada Louise Huxtable and Her Legacy,” lecture at the Getty Center, June 25, 2013

“Urban Ambition: Assessing the Evolution of L.A.,” Getty Research Institute symposium, May 31, 2013

“Criticism Today,” David Dillon Symposium, University of Texas Arlington, April 27, 2012

In conversation with Michael Maltzan, ALOUD Los Angeles Public Library series, July 24, 2009

“The Arts in Los Angeles, 1997–2007,” Getty Center, April 17, 2008

In conversation with Alain de Botton, ALOUD Los Angeles Public Library series, Oct. 12, 2006

Selected Media Appearances, Press Coverage, and Profiles

“Balancing Ambition and Pragmatism, Los Angeles Architects and Leaders Take on Their City’s Homeless Crisis: Christopher Hawthorne, L.A.’s Chief Design Officer, discusses how a culture of design innovation is helping tackle a growing calamity and provide dignity, shelter, and gracious interior spaces to thousands,” Q&A with Sam Lubell, *Metropolis*, May/June 2022

“Los Angeles by Christopher Hawthorne,” Q&A with Sarah Amelar, *Architectural Record*, Sept. 1, 2021

“Los Angeles confronts its shady divide,” Alejandra Borunda, *National Geographic*, July 2021

“Why LA’s Civic Memory Working Group Is So Important,” Inside the Issues with Alex Cohen, *Spectrum News 1*, July 12, 2021

“Critic’s Notebook: Los Angeles Has a Housing Crisis. Can Design Help?,” Michael Kimmelman, *New York Times*, June 22, 2021

“California is finally confronting its history of slavery. Here’s how,” Sarah Barringer Gordon and Kevin Waite, *Washington Post*, May 24, 2021

“L.A.’s Modest Solution to the ‘Missing Middle’ Housing Problem,” Kriston Capps, *Bloomberg CityLab*, May 18, 2021

“An architectural competition imagines density — done in an L.A. way,” Carolina A. Miranda, *Los Angeles Times*, May 17, 2021

“L.A.’s history is often whitewashed, romanticized and censored. A new push to tell the truth,” Julia Wick, *Los Angeles Times*, May 2, 2021

“Los Angeles wants future monuments and memorials to more accurately reflect its history,” Alex Wigglesworth, *Los Angeles Times*, April 18, 2021

“As More EVs Hit the Road, California Gas Stations May Soon Disappear,” Nic Cha Kim, *Spectrum News 1*, Feb. 08, 2021

“Q&A: Christopher Hawthorne on Low-Rise: Housing Ideas for Los Angeles,” Martin C. Pedersen, *Common Edge*, Dec. 10, 2020

“L.A. issues challenge to design more affordable, small-scale, middle-class housing,” KCRW, Nov. 19, 2020

“Los Angeles Declares Winner for New Streetlight Design Competition,” Mandalit del Barco, *Morning Edition*, National Public Radio, Sept. 4, 2020

“Architects join the COVID-19 fight,” Deborah Vankin, *Los Angeles Times*, April 7, 2020

“How the humble streetlight can make Los Angeles a better city,” David Ulin, *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 13, 2019

“Turn Off the Sunshine: Why Shade Is a Mark of Privilege in Los Angeles,” Tim Arango, *New York Times*, Dec. 1, 2019

“The Future of the Streetlight Might Be in the Past,” Laura Bliss, *Bloomberg CityLab*, Nov. 20, 2019

“Architecture and the silver screen: *Monocle* on Design,” podcast with Josh Fehnert, *Monocle* magazine, March 26, 2019

“‘Paradise at the end of the world’: An oral history of the Sea Ranch,” Kelsey Keith, *Curbed*, Feb. 21, 2019

“Civic Memory and the Urban Imaginary,” interview with Charles Waldheim for the Harvard Graduate School of Design/Office for Urbanization podcast series *Future of the American City*, Feb. 19, 2019

“Scratching the Surface” podcast with Jarrett Fuller, Oct. 17, 2018

“Why LA’s public design matters: An interview with Christopher Hawthorne, the city’s first chief design officer,” Alissa Walker, *Curbed L.A.*, March 17, 2018

“Meet L.A.’s New Design Czar,” Jennifer Medina, *New York Times*, March 13, 2018

“New Documentary Shows a Fascinating Side of Frank Lloyd Wright As Never Seen Before,” Katherine McGrath, *Architectural Digest*, March 6, 2018

“Frank Lloyd Wright’s Los Angeles Houses Reconsidered,” Eric Wills, *Architect* magazine, March 6, 2018

“Architect John Portman, Famous For Modern Skyscrapers, Dies At 93,” interview with Robert Siegel, *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio, Jan. 2, 2018

“Third Way L.A.: At the *Los Angeles Times*, Christopher Hawthorne is leaving bigger footprints on his beat than is generally expected of architecture critics,” Tom Carson, *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, October 2017

“The Boom Interview: Christopher Hawthorne,” *Boom California*, Spring 2016

“Deconstructing Christopher Hawthorne: A conversation with the *Los Angeles Times*’s architecture critic,” Spencer Bailey, *Surface* magazine, Nov. 1, 2014

“Will L.A. Have A Future Like 'Her' Or 'Elysium'?,” *Here and Now*, WBUR/National Public Radio, March 18, 2014

“Notebook on Cities and Culture” podcast with Colin Marshall, August 19, 2012

“Notes on Architectural Criticism,” interview with *PIN-UP* magazine, Fall/Winter 2011-2012

“World’s Tallest Building Rises Amid Dubai’s Flop,” interview with Mary Louise Kelly, *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio, Jan. 2, 2010

“Vegas Gambles on \$8.5 Billion Luxury Project,” *Morning Edition*, National Public Radio, Dec. 16, 2009

“Designing a War Memorial for Iraq,” *Day to Day*, National Public Radio, March 26, 2007