



# Sophia Tarkhan, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP

## ARCHITECT

Sophia has over 20 years of experience in the building industry as an Architect, Owner and Construction Manager. Over the years she has worked on several building types: K-12, Higher Education, Office, Civic, Residential and Government. However, her passion is for education. She currently works in the K-12 Studio at Cooper Carry as Associate Principal. Sophia believes in the design of education facilities that instill pride in the students, staff, parents and administrators. She takes every opportunity to provide design that reinforces the dignity of all end users. Believing that design matters, our learning environments have imbued messages that communicate value and motivate students and staff. It's important to her that we take hold of these messages and use the design opportunities given to curate an experience that empowers learning.

## COOPER CARRY

Associate Principal

### Education

Master of Architecture,  
University of Florida, 2001  
Master of Science, Building  
Construction, University of  
Florida, 2001

Bachelor of Architecture,  
University of Florida, 1991

Registration  
Georgia

### Professional Associations

American Institute of Architects  
(AIA)

Georgia Association for  
Learning Environments  
(GA4LE)

National Organization of  
Minority Architects

## NOMATLANTA 2017 PRESIDENT

The mission of NOMAtlanta aligns with the mission of NOMA national; NOMA Atlanta's mission is to champion diversity within the Atlanta design professions while advocating for greater professional opportunities for its current and future members. This is achieved by promoting design excellence, racial diversity, community engagement and professional development. Our main membership drivers are focused on delivering the mission of NOMA as a value to current and future members.

Tim Keane the City of Atlanta Planning & Community Development Commissioner had set a course for Atlanta to be prepared for the anticipated growth in all aspects, from infrastructure to amenities. The city will need to be prepared to receive the growth and as architects we need to be ready and willing to work with the city to help facilitate that growth.

In 2017, under the leadership of Sophia Tarkhan, NOMAtlanta held a panel to discuss the growth of Atlanta over the next few decades. Sophia's goal for every NOMA Atlanta event planned was undergirded with the objective to get all minority architects ready to capitalize on the planned growth in the city of Atlanta.

Following the panel, NOMAtlanta, under Sophia's leadership, continued to have discussions with the Commissioner. In those discussions it was made clear to Tim Keane that Architects/Designers want to be seriously considered and selected for some of the upcoming work. Their interest is not just as partners but as "Primes" for future projects. There was also a focus on professional development that would keep members on the cutting edge of architectural knowledge and planning drivers for the city.

In addition to engaging the City of Atlanta, networking events were planned to introduce the NOMA Atlanta membership to organizations such as Circle of Trust and REAP with the purpose of growing minority businesses and individual professionals. This reach extended to the student body with panel discussions that set them on a trajectory to be assets to any firm they joined. Sophia's mission was to prepare each individual professional and student member to be an active participant in the planned growth of the City of Atlanta.