

Brooklyn, New York
kayla.montesdeoca@cooper.edu

Kayla Montes de Oca

Kayla is a designer, researcher, and educator from Miami, Florida, based in Brooklyn, New York. Her research examines how policy and design shape communities over time, focusing on how individuals sustain tradition, build legacy, and navigate the power of place.

Master in Design Studies
Harvard University – Cambridge, Massachusetts
The Graduate School of Design

Bachelor in Architecture
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art – New York, New York
The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture

Academic Appointments

The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, The Cooper Union – New York, New York
Adjunct Associate Professor, Fall 2024 – Present
Adjunct Instructor, 2020 – 2022

Course(s):

ARCH 111A: Masked: Ritual, Precedent, Geometry, Taught with B. Aranda, T. Baab & M. Veledar, Fall 2020
ARCH 111B: LES Community Arts Center, Taught with E. O'Donnell, M. Jefferson, & J. Lowder, Spring 2021
ARCH 111B: Exercise in Type, Taught with N. Javidi & J. Lowder, Spring 2022
ARCH 111A: Animate Architectonics, Taught with A. Blacksher, F. Rapp, M. Veledar, Fall 2024
ARCH 131B: Framing Citizenship: Re-Urbanising NYCHA Housing, Taught with J. Palacio, M. Veledar, G. Zuliani Spring 2025

The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, The Cooper Union – New York, New York
Admissions Committee, Faculty Reader, 2024

Young Audiences New York (YANY) – New York, New York
Teaching Artist, 2024 – Present

The Center for Architecture – New York, New York
Design Educator, 2024 – Present

The Chapin School – New York, New York
Architecture Instructor, 2021

Research & Professional Experience

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study – Cambridge, Massachusetts
Research Assistant for Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery, 2022 – 2023

Artists Space – New York, New York
Curatorial Researcher, 2020–2022

Renzo Piano Building Workshop – New York, New York
Model Builder, 2019–2020

Storefront for Art and Architecture – New York, New York
Production and Curatorial Intern, 2018

Exhibitions/Publications/Events

The Cooper Hewitt National Design Competition
New York, New York
2025
Design Mentor

Making Home with HISTORY Lecture with The Cooper Hewitt and The Cooper Union
New York, New York
2025
Moderator

Revisting the Space of Appearance: Implications of the Self
Cambridge, Massachusetts
2024
Organizer/Contributor

bundles!, bundles!, bundles!
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Kenzo Tange Pavillion
2023
Artist/Contributor

Erased From the Narrative
Cambridge, Massachusetts
2023
Organizer/Contributor

Awards

National YoungArts Artist Grant, 2024
Alpha Rho Chi Medal, 2020
George Ledlie Prize, 2020
The Concrete Industry Foundation Scholarship, 2019
The Institute of Design and Construction Scholarship, 2018
National YoungArts Foundation Award, Visual Arts, 2015