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Q4 Newsletter

Q4  
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## CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT - HIGHLIGHTS THREE ARCHITECTS IN THIS EDITION

### A TELEVISION SHOW LED TO A CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE



Agustin Gomez-Leal, one of the principals of Wallin/Gomez Architects, believes that once the architectural industry reaches a point where they qualify companies based on their actual work and not on their size, more small businesses will prosper.

*"I wouldn't say that we are master architects but based on staff experience we're pretty close," Agustin said. "As a small architectural firm we have to know everything about this industry. We are constantly reinventing ourselves through technology and hiring some of the best and brightest staff. This constant reinvention, every ten years or so, keeps us fresh, nimble and helps instill a sense of comradery with all who works here."*

Since 1990, Wallin/Gomez Architects has been a collaborative design firm that specializes in creating functional, inviting commercial spaces, schools and more based on their client needs. The staff of approximately 16 employees, have completed four PBC annex and renovation projects, most recently the installation of Columbia Explorers Academy modular classrooms.



Wallin/Gomez is currently the architect of record for the Washington High School Renovation which includes interior and exterior renovations.

Always looking to help the next generation of architects, Agustin helped to establish 'Arqitectos,' a professional development group for Latino architects.

*"I really didn't know any architects as a kid. Funny but true story, I was inspired to be an architect by watching Brady Bunch on television," Agustin said. "I didn't have a lot of option as a kid nor was I exposed to a variety of different things when I was growing up. I don't want that same thing to happen to the next generation of architects. I want to help the next generation of architects to get a foothold into the industry and help it grow."*



### ATTENTION TO DETAIL HAS FORMA POSITIONED FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE



Luis Bellosir is a full service architectural firm assisting clients during their projects from the initial design phase to completion of the physical structure.



Luis recently served as the architect of record for PBC's Green Elementary School Pro-A expansion project. The project included renovation of the existing Green Elementary School to accommodate Pro-A expansion, which included, but not limited to, renovations to 13 new classrooms, parent and conference rooms.

Luis is hoping that the success on the Green Pro-A project will benefit future opportunities as additional PBC projects either as a partner or sub-contractor.

*"I believe in providing quality service and paying attention to the client's needs. Each project is different and the approach to each project should be customized without being costly in any stage of the process," Luis said. "We hope to get another opportunity to work on additional PBC projects."*

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### WHOEVER SAID A MUSIC LOVER CAN'T BE A GREAT ARCHITECT



*"My first love is playing music but later I fell in love with architecture and thought it would be a great career choice. My love for music fuels my love for architecture and the two together I feel makes me a better architect."*

The legacy of Bauer Latoza Studio was established by its founders, Bill Latoza and Joanne Bauer. After starting the company with five other partners twenty years ago, Robert Torres has stepped into the shoes of his partners to ensure the company's future. He is currently recognized for his work in architecture, planning, historic preservation and hospitality design. Bauer Latoza Studio is now exclusively for interior and maintenance.



### 6 of the challenges of being a small firm is convincing someone to give us chance."

Torres said. "I don't think a lot of companies realize the amount of work we can do and the resources that we have at our disposal. We can show any client how dedicated and focus we can be in completing large or small projects."

Bauer Latoza Studio has done a variety of projects for the PBC and Torres says he wants to continue the great working relationship between the two organizations. "I recently spoke to my dad that PBC is a different client. They are demanding that you have to be, considering the types of projects PBC is responsible for," Torres said. "You have to be on top of it."

Torres expressed how he would like to maintain the 20 employees and has proposed that he allow the small company to move quickly and stay current on the latest architectural trends, but also noted some of the challenges that come along with being a small firm.



The majority of Bauer Latoza Studio's work has been public facilities which Torres noted that the firm was established by the company's founder almost 30 years ago.

"I agreed with what the company's founders established which is one of the reasons that we've been successful for over 30 years," Torres said. "There's a lot of people in business buildings, large meeting an environment that many people on their own experience, but we, 'hope that our work can contribute to the best of the city."

Currently Bauer Latoza Studio serves as the architect of record for the Green Elementary School in the Pullman community where "the project includes a new annex along with improvements to the existing school and site. Robert will perform all exterior work throughout the region. He has contributed his years of hands-on the past and is excited to see 20 years in the last 20 years and has learned both regional and national."

# Contractor Spotlight: Wallin Gomez Architects, Bauer Latoza Studio & FORMA Architecture



# Engine Company 115 Groundbreaking November 15, 2019

## 1024 West 119<sup>th</sup> Street – West Pullman Community

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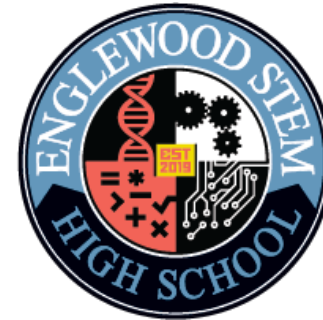
# Taft Freshman Academy wins the 2019 Excellence in Masonry Architectural Award with STL Architects and ALL Masonry





# Englewood STEM High School: Finalist CNDA Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Architectural Excellence in Community Design

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# Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Safety Department OSHA Training for PBC Development Team

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# Happy Holidays from the Public Building Commission of Chicago

