

Jordan Vazquez

2016 Declaration of Candidacy
AIAS South Quadrant Director
2017 - 2018



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Letter of intent

November 19, 2016

Danielle Mitchell, Assoc. AIA
Past President & Elections Committee Chair
American Institute of Architecture Students



Dear, Ms. Mitchell,

I am writing to inform you and your committee that I am running for the position of South Quadrant Director for the 2017-2018 school year.

The AIAS has defined who I am, as an architecture student, leader, mentor, and citizen. I can recall the first time I attended a general meeting at my local chapter that I realized the immense value of networking that AIAS is known for.

From there on out, I began to invest more of my time to my local chapter in all of the events that they hosted. Thankfully, there were leaders in place in my local chapter who saw my passion early on and encouraged me to take on a leadership role and attend my first ever South Quad conference in New Orleans. I was greatly inspired by the overall atmosphere and the indescribable energy that I felt from the other student leaders and members.

As I took on the role of secretary last year I had learned an immense amount of what it takes to properly communicate in various forms of media as well as other skills. Thankfully I had the constant support of my fellow chapter leaders and a former chapter president by my side to build me up as a leader.

Now as president of my local chapter, I am grateful to find myself having been led, mentored to lead, and then been given the opportunity to take the lead in many areas.

As South Quad director, I will frequently pursue chapters and their leaders with the same passion, energy and encouragement with which I have had these past three years. I will look to listen, build up, and give advice to members and leaders.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my application. I am both honored and ecstatic to be considered for the position of South Quad Director and to serve the AIAS in this manner.

Sincerely,

Jordan Vázquez

Resume

JORDAN VÁZQUEZ, AIAS, B.P.A.C.
L: 1119 Helms rd. Houston, TX. 77088
E: jor.vazquez12@gmail.com
C: 281.975.9974

Education

2012 – 2017

University of Houston, College of Architecture & Design
Bachelors of Architecture

2014 - 2017

University of Houston, Honor's College
Energy & Sustainability Minor

Overall GPA: **3.5 / 4.00**

2012 + 2014

Dean's List Award

Leadership

2016 – Present

AIAS National Governance Committee

2013 – Present

AIAS University of Houston
President
Secretary

2015 - 2016

USGBC University of Houston
Publicist

Extracurricular

Summer 2015 + 2016

UH COAD Welcome Day
Sponsorship + volunteer + graphics planning committee

Summer 2016

UH Summer Wonderworks Discovery Program
Teaching Assistant

Fall 2015

AIAS UH Forum
Sponsorship + Planning Committee chair

Fall 2013

AIAS UH Mentorship Program
Peer Mentor

Experience

2015 - Present

Haltner H.A.I., LLC – 2503 South Blvd. Houston, TX 77098
Architecture Intern

Letter of Support

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design

November 14, 2016

Dear Committee Members:

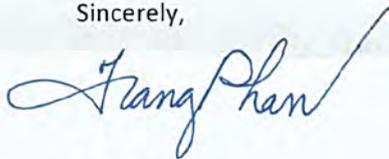
I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation in support of Jordan Vazquez's candidacy for the position of the American Institute of Architecture Students' (AIAS) South Quad Director for the 2017-2018 term.

As Jordan's academic advisor and AIAS advisor, I have the privileged opportunity to observe Jordan's growth as a dedicated and diligent student, as well as an emerging leader. Jordan is engaging and committed to any tasks or goals he resolves to fulfill. He has done a great deal to contribute to the academic and collegiate life of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design as an active member and leader in the American Institute of Architecture Students-Houston Chapter (AIAS). In his current capacity as president of our AIAS chapter, he has worked collaboratively with his fellow officers, as well as our college's faculty and administrators, to develop opportunities for students to engage with the profession and its leaders and leading firms.

Aside from his involvement in extra-curricular activities, Jordan maintains academic excellence. His current cumulative grade point average is a 3.47. This is no small feat for any student, but it is particularly noteworthy for an architecture student such as Jordan, given his long hours and intense schedules. There is little time for activities outside of the studio, but like so many dedicated students and leaders, Jordan makes the time.

Jordan is a wonderful asset to our student body. He contributes to the quality of our student life and academic standards at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. Furthermore, he is a deserving and worthy candidate for a national position within the AIAS. I hope you will give him your fullest and most thoughtful consideration. Jordan will not disappoint.

Sincerely,



Trang Phan
Assistant Dean
Director of Student Affairs & International Programs

YOU ARE THE PRIDE

4200 Elgin Street, Room 122 • Houston, TX 77204-4000
Office: 713.743.2400 • Fax: 713.743.2358 • www.arch.uh.edu

Candidate Questionnaire

01 Describe your origin story as a student leader. What prompted you to get involved? What advice would you give others who have yet to realize their potential for leadership?

02 In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to student loan debt, studio culture, intern development, leadership, technology, and diversity. **What one issue do you personally find the most important?** How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors?

01 I can recall the first time that I attended a general meeting that my local chapter was having during my freshman year, I was approached by one of the student officers who encouraged me to stop by and hear about who and what AIAS stands for. I am glad that I did attend, because it rejuvenated my interest and passion for the field of architecture. At that moment I knew that I had made the right decision of joining this amazing organization. Before this I was not sure if I wanted to continue studying architecture after my first semester. Soon afterwards I began to invest more of my free time to my local chapter by actively participate in all of the events and volunteer whenever I could.

As I began my third year of architecture, a couple of the local officers including the chapter had frequently approached with various volunteer opportunities. They had noticed my passion and interest in AIAS the year before. They knew that they can depend and trust me to take on more responsibilities as a potential leader. Their motivation had given me the confidence to take on the role of secretary the following year and now to lead my local chapter as president. I never thought that I would be in this position as freshman starting off in architecture. I believe that great leadership is found in passionate individuals that share a common interest. I actively engage younger individuals that are actively involved and energetic and encourage them to take up leadership opportunities when they arise, because it can lead to bigger greater accomplishments.

02 I personally feel that studio culture continues to be a pressing issue among all architecture and design schools, regardless of size, region, or curriculum. This issue is of profound importance to me to advocate for because I personally have seen dramatic change occur in the curriculum of architecture. As well as the increased expectation of workload upon the incoming freshman students. These and other changes has put a lot of pressure upon students to prioritize studio over everything else in their lives. I believe that architecture schools should have a constructive environment that builds students' knowledge and character without sacrificing their health, family time and a well-balanced life. As South Quad Director, I would reach out to all of the region chapters to begin to understand their unique studio culture and key issues. I would then create an outline of all the general issues that are relevant across the south quad region. By doing so I would hope to continue pursuits of assisting schools to adopt a revised studio culture policy that addresses the key issues. During my time as a quad director, I would look to have frequent conversations with chapter leaders and their members about how AIAS can be a beneficial resource to a school's studio culture.

03 The AIAS has over 160 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size from just a few students to hundreds. **How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership?** What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?

04 **Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS** to engage in a new way. Either with other organizations, with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, with the international design community, or any other audience or venue.

03 While currently studying in one of the nation's most diverse cities and universities, I am fortunate to have met, engaged and learned from students from across the nation and abroad with various cultures, languages, ethnicities and backgrounds. Through my engagement with students with different backgrounds, I have learned that having a clear constant communication is crucial to having a well-rounded positive studio culture environment. I would share my personal experience with region chapter leaders and the other quad directors as a valuable insight on how to better connect and engage with their current and potential members. Additionally, I know that the AIAS is pursuing the development of resources to connect architecture students globally. The common goal is to utilize a digital platform that would not only connect students internationally, but used as resource to exchange advice for applying for jobs in other places, grad school connections to certain cities, etc. I look forward to what the future holds for AIAS.

04 I see great benefit and potential of growth of the AIAS by engaging the individual schools faculty and administrators. Since faculty and administrators interact with their students on a daily basis, they hold a huge influence on student's life, goals, career path and their character in general. The AIAS should strive to make lasting relationships with all of the chapter schools dean and top faculty members in order to integrate AIAS mission statement of leadership, design, and service. I think that collaborating with individual schools faculty and administrators on an academic level will greatly enhance a student's architecture education.

Intern Compensation



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006
202.808.0075 | aias.org

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS

In July 1993, the AIAS Board of Directors adopted a "Public Policy on Uncompensated Interns." The policy has been subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board and reads as follows:

The AIAS maintains that employers must properly compensate all employees. Compensation must be in compliance with the regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

In 2010, AIAS crafted a public statement on intern compensation in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, which reads as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. Because of current economic transformations, some architects have both solicited and accepted the services and labor of interns without pay. We strongly urge architectural firms and other for-profit employers to respect the law and comply with the ethical standards of our profession, and we strongly encourage interns to refuse to accept employment without pay, and to notify the Department of Labor in cases where employers propose such an arrangement. For more information on labor laws and professional ethics, please see the AIA Code of Ethics and the U.S. Labor Department standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to determine their own hours and degree of involvement. The AIA has established guidelines for service that are provided on a Pro Bono basis. They can be found under the member section of the AIA website.

POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS AFFIRMATION

As a way of confirming that the AIAS is not promoting or being promoted by architects employing unpaid interns, we ask that each participant in an official AIAS function review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation in our event and thank you for your support of our position against unpaid internships. This position is supported as well by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Name: Jordan Vazquez

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature: Jordan Vazquez

Date: 11-08-16

Code of Ethics



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006
202.808.0075 | aias.org

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS

Elections are a critical step by which the American Institute of Architecture Students is governed. Annual elections, as outlined in the Bylaws and the Rules of the Board, ensure that the membership of the organization participates in the selection of the best candidates to serve on the national Board of Directors.

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors represent the membership and ensure the continued success of the organization. Therefore, participants who are involved in the elections process, including candidates, Board members and elections committee members, are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and good judgment.

Confidentiality is required of all participants in the elections process. Participants should not discuss details of the elections process to the general membership before, during or after FORUM. Elections information that is considered public knowledge, and therefore can be shared with the membership, occurs during the General Business Sessions and at the General Assemblies.

Campaigning is strictly prohibited prior to FORUM. Conversation between chapters regarding candidates should not take place. Campaigning will only begin at the first General Assembly of FORUM.

Campaigning during FORUM shall be professional. Candidates and candidate support groups should be respectful in their campaigning efforts. Disrespectful campaigning will be a violation of the Elections Code of Ethics, and will be grounds for immediate review by the Elections Committee.

Campaigning materials should follow the Election Guidelines, and should be distributed in appropriate venues only. Appropriate venues include FORUM General Business Sessions, General Assemblies, and Quad Breakouts.

As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Elections Chair.

ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS AFFIRMATION

To promote the highest level of professionalism during elections, we ask that each participant in the elections process review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation and thank you for your support and dedication to the organization.

Name: Jordan Vazquez

I do hereby affirm that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the AIAS Elections Code of Ethics and the Elections Guidelines.

Signature: Jordan Vazquez

Date: 11-08-16

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

Contact

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Elections Committee to communicate elections-related information. If provided, social media handles will be shared when candidates are posted publicly on AIAS website and social media.

Name (as preferred): Jordan Vazquez

Chapter: University of Houston

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: jor.vazquez12@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: 281.975.9974

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Jordan Vázquez
- o Twitter: @_____
- o Instagram: _____
- o Other: _____

Jordan Vazquez

SOUTH QUAD DIRECTOR 2017 - 2018

AIAS UH

President
2016 - 2017

Secretary
2015 - 2016



AIAS National

Governance Committee
2016 - 2017



AIAS
University
of Houston