

WEST QUAD DIRECTOR CANDIDACY SUBMITTAL  
JODI BALSTER  
2018-2019



November 26, 2017

Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA  
Past President & Elections Committee Chair  
American Institute of Architecture Students

Re: Letter of Intent for West Quad Director

Dear Sarah Wahlgren,

I, Jodi Balster, am pleased to inform you that I will be running for the position of West Quad Director on the National Board of Directors for the upcoming 2018-2019 year. I have full confidence in my abilities that I will be an excellent candidate in the next election. I intend to lead with inspiration, passion, and motivation for another successful year.

Attached I have included all materials for my candidacy along with a letter of support from Woodbury University, Department of Architecture.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi JB." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jodi Balster  
AIAS Chapter President  
Woodbury University, Burbank, CA  
AIAS Representative, AIA San Fernando Valley

# JODI BALSTER

529 High Grove Ave, Goleta, CA  
93117  
Cell: (805) 252-7480  
Email: Jodi.l.balster@gmail.com

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<b>Education</b>	<b>Woodbury University</b> Architecture Major 3.37GPA Fast track program	<b>2016-Present</b>
	<b>Cuesta College</b> Architecture Major AS Architectural Technology AA Liberal Arts: Math and Science AS CSU General Ed. 3.48 GPA	<b>2014-2016</b>
	<b>SBCC</b> Advanced classes in art, calculus and American Sign Language 3.46 GPA	<b>2009-2015</b>
<b>Experience</b>	<b>Express, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, &amp; Glendale, CA</b> Key Holder <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Maintain Organization of clothes and friendly customer service</li><li>- Identify needs and wants of customers</li><li>- Regularly perform practices of cleanliness and efficient methods of sales techniques</li></ul>	<b>2014-Present</b>
	<b>Starbucks Coffee Company, Isla Vista CA</b> Barista Manager Mathew Portell and Nico Conroy <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Maintain high quality of beverages and customer service</li><li>- Identify and develop techniques to boost sales in both seasonal beverage and food promotions</li><li>- Regularly perform practices of Beverage Better Ways and in-store maintenance policies pertaining to QASA standards</li></ul>	<b>2013- 2014</b>
	<b>Santa Barbara Art Museum</b> Intern <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Organized social events to promote awareness of hidden talent</li><li>- Created Public Projects for everyone to take part in</li><li>- Organized entertainment and food for each event.</li></ul>	<b>2012- 2013</b>
	<b>Tutoring</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Assisted peers who need help understanding math</li><li>- Taught peers geometry, algebra, pre-calculus, and calculus</li></ul>	<b>2012- 2014</b>
<b>Competitions</b>	<b>David Goldstien Drafting Competition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Awarded Honorable Mention</li><li>- Volunteer participant twice without award</li></ul>	<b>2011-2014</b>
	<b>VANS Competition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Semi Finalist</li><li>- Displayed artistic skills through shoes and skate boards designs</li><li>- Advertised and communicated to the public for voting process</li><li>- Teamwork skills to create a unique and original design</li></ul>	<b>2012- 2014</b>

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**Volunteer**    **American Institute of Architecture Students & American Institute of Architects**    **2014-Present**

- Chapter president of AIAS
- West quad conference head
- AIAS Representative of AIA San Fernando Valley Emerging Professionals
- AIA Los Angeles Social Media Representative
- West Quad Director Candidate

**San Luis Obispo Animal Service**    **2014- 2016**

- Rescue abandoned and neglected animals recover and find new homes
- Routinely walk and exercise animals
- Assist families to find their ideal pet
- Learn proper animal handling techniques

**Wildlife Care Network**    **2010-2012**

Volunteer

- Managed routine wildlife habitat cleanliness, in charge of maintaining consistently organized and clean cages and eating areas for a large number of animals
- Assisted in animal dietary routine and food preparation
- Learned proper wildlife handling techniques
- Position required extensive knowledge of related wildlife, and required learning a lot about the subject in a small period of time, and be able to provide visitors with correct and interesting information

**Achievements**

Woodbury WISE Award    **2018**  
Woodbury Writing Award    **2017**  
AIA-CC - Lutta Maria Riggs Award    **2014-2017**  
Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors Society    **2014-2016**  
National Honor Society,    **2010-2014**  
National Art Honor Society,    **2010-2014**

**Interests and Activities**

AIAS Chapter President    **2017**  
Event and Fundraising Coordinator of AIAS    **2014-2016**  
Artist for various Chalk Festivals    **2012-Present**  
Orchestra and Band  
Hiking

**Skills**

Certified in Revit; advanced in photoshop and indesign, Illustrator; advanced in mathematics, engineering, and accounting; leadership skills; organizational skills; advertising and promotional work; interpersonal skills and teamwork; semi-Fluent in American Sign Language.



Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA  
Past President & Elections Committee Chair  
American Institute of Architecture Students

16 November 2017

**RE: Jodi Balster – West Quad Director**

Dear Sarah Wahlgren,

On behalf of the Department of Architecture, please accept this letter in full support of Jodi Balster's candidacy for the West Quad Director.

Jodi has been an integral part of AIAS since her arrival to Woodbury. She has markedly increased participation in AIAS at Woodbury and is coordinating the upcoming West Quad conference. She is invested in the AIAS and would be a wonderful West Quad Director.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or additional information.

All the best,  
Marc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'm.' with a flourish.

Marc J Neveu, PhD  
Associate Dean, School of Architecture

Executive Editor  
Journal of Architectural Education



## ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

1. 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?

As a child, I found it hard to engage and interact with other children and adults. I would hide behind my mother's leg when someone would come up and say "Hello, what's your name?" I even would have a difficult time maintaining eye contact in one-on-one conversations. To this day, I still find it very problematic to socially interact with people and maintain eye contact. Although I am undiagnosed, I would claim that I have mild social anxiety that affects my everyday life, including school and work. I have been able to overcome my anxiety many times by pushing myself outside of my comfort zone and focusing on what is most important to me, helping others. Those that know me well may not know about my anxiety but know that I have a big heart to help anyone in need.

I became the President of my chapter because I saw the potential to help students succeed with their academics and career. There are many benefits to becoming a member of AIAS that many are not aware of and I aim to enlighten them of their opportunities. I have chosen to further my reach by running for West Quad Director because I know that my school is not the only chapter that I can reach out to. There are hundreds of students that are able to take advantage of the amazing opportunities within the AIAS community.

I would encourage others like myself that may be too shy to meet new people, too scared what the outcome may be, or too worried that they wouldn't be able to handle the responsibility to find their passion and use it as an advantage to overcome any fear. As long as you remain focus everyone has the potential to be a great leader.

2. 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?

Each of these subjects are all issues that our chapter, students, and school face every day. From our homeless population facing \$40K in loans debts per year to the highly inflated material and technology cost, our number one issue that we consistently struggle with, is our financial debt. I personally face this issue barely being able to make ends meet when it comes to school, rent, and necessary expenses. I come from a low-income family household where my mother and I can barely scrape together enough to send me to school. This is why I work hard to find as many financial opportunities as I can, so my mother doesn't have to.

Luckily, the AIAS community offers many opportunities that make financial assistance accessible to our members. As an elected leader, I would place my efforts into helping fellow students reduce their financial burdens by encouraging them to apply to the scholarship opportunities available to architecture students. I would also push for members to participate in competitions, such as the "Can You Dip It?" and Instagram competitions because these are both wonderful opportunities that can help build your resume and receive easy money.

Scholarships alone have reduced my loan debt down to only 30% of a single year for my entire college experience and these opportunities can help you too. The resources available through AIAS is only a small benefit to being a part of our community that can significantly benefit your future.

## ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

3. 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?

I would connect our geographical and culturally diverse members through maintaining the quad pod communication. I have found that connecting in small and diverse chapters together is not only engaging but also inspiring to produce more events, resources, outreach, and involvement in the community. The quad pods help chapter leaders to learn about one another's efforts to improve student engagement in the architecture field.

In addition to the quad pods I would also encourage for the chapters to participate in creating a care package to send and receive from various chapters. These packages would include items from chapters, such as photos, letters from the members, chapter merchandise, souvenirs and/or resource material. Care packages are a way to help students learn about different cultures and the methods that they use to inspire their peers. These packages aim to create a closer relation between chapters across the world.

4. 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.

Connection between AIAS and the school are important areas where the AIAS chapters can engage and empower peer voices to speak up. At Woodbury University, we find it especially important for student's opinions to be heard about various topics. We have created a close connection with our administrators by gathering the comments and concerns from students and delivering them to the faculty each month. This allows us to improve the campus community in ways that a single voice cannot. Together, the AIAS community create a collective voice for the student population and drives to empower, inspire, and promote excellence in the architecture community.

**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:

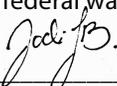
The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. 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 graduates 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).

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: 

Date: 11-26-17



## **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: Jodi Balster

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: Jodi B.

Date: 11-26-17

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



**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): Jodi Lb

Chapter: Woodbury University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: Jodi.l.balster@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (805) 252-7480

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o" Facebook: JodiLb
- o" Twitter: @
- o" Instagram: JodiLb
- o" Other: Snapchat: JodiLb

**VOTE**



*Jackie B.*

**WEST QUAD**