

**CHITIKA VASUDEVA  
CANDIDACY PACKET  
NORTHEAST QUADRANT DIRECTOR  
2019-2020**





## CONTENTS

Letter of Intent	02
Resume	03
Letter of School Support	04
Responses to Candidate Questionnaire	06
AIAS Policy on Intern Compensation	08
AIAS Elections Code of Ethics	09
Contact Information	10
Campaign Materials	11



November 15, 2018

Keshika De Saram, AIAS Assoc. AIA  
Past President and Elections Committee Chair  
The American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Letter of Intent to Run for AIAS Northeast Quadrant Director

Dear Past President De Saram,

It is with immense honor and pleasure that I inform you of my intent to run for the position of the 2019-2020 Northeast Quadrant Director of the American Institute of Architecture Students.

I cannot overstate the impact that the AIAS has had — and continues to have — on my education, personal and professional growth, and understanding of the current state of the profession. I am a passionate leader and committed advocate today because of the grassroots-focused approach of this organization. I discovered the power of my voice and the voices of my peers not through more traditional leadership responsibilities, which came later, but through my role as a member of the general body. My earliest involvement in the AIAS often took the form of volunteering at large events, such as the 2016 Northeast Quad conference — FORGE, where I simply helped in any way possible. It was this effort, however, to always think of what *more* needed to be done, that allowed me to make the most of every opportunity the AIAS brought my way, greatly enriching my education and my life as a whole.

My trajectory through the organization has seen me execute a wide range of responsibilities, from overseeing chapter finances, to liaising with professionals, to coordinating advocacy efforts across chapters and the four quadrants. While my specific duties are always my main focus, I have always pushed myself to see the bigger picture beyond each of these roles, and question not just what is, but what could be. At the same time, the mentorship of my role models, advisors, peers and friends both at my home chapter and AIAS chapters across the country, has been the driving force behind any leadership role I have held in this organization, and anything I have contributed to it through those positions.

By no means do I underestimate the degree of influence that past Northeast Quadrant Directors have had on the fate of the organization, and I present myself as a candidate for this position with a great sense of humility and gratitude. I thank the Elections Committee, the Board of Directors, and the AIAS student body for their commitment to this organization and their consideration of my candidacy. I hope that the contents of this packet serve as evidence that I have only the best interests of the AIAS and its dynamic membership at heart. It is my sincere hope that all my peers in the AIAS discover their own unique paths to leadership and that, if elected as the 2019-20 AIAS Northeast Quadrant Director, I can contribute positively to their journeys and inspire them to be their best selves.

Sincerely,

Chitika Vasudeva, AIAS  
AIA-YAF Liaison; AIAS CMU  
Co-Chair; AIAS National Resiliency Task Force



## SKILLS

### Languages

English  
Hindi  
ASL

### Software

Adobe Illustrator  
Adobe InDesign  
Adobe Photoshop  
Rhinoceros 5  
AutoCAD  
Google Sketch-Up  
Grasshopper  
Microsoft Office

### Fabrication

Woodworking  
Digital Fabrication  
CNC Milling

### Representation

3D Modeling  
Analog Modeling  
Diagramming  
Digital Photography  
Digital Rendering  
Hardline Drafting  
Freehand Sketching

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2018 | AIAS Chapter  
Honor Award  
2017 | AGA Can You  
Dip It Showdown

## EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA  
Bachelor of Architecture, May 2020 (expected graduation)

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

### AIA/YAF Liaison | AIAS Carnegie Mellon

July 2018 - Present  
Represent AIAS chapter at AIA and YAF meetings and set up mentorships between students and professionals.

### Co-Chair | AIAS National Resiliency Task Force

August 2018 - Present  
Co-lead an 8-member task force to address issues of resiliency in architectural education and determine ways to promote resiliency at multiple levels.

### Student Representative | AIA Pittsburgh Outreach Committee

July 2018 - Present  
Bring student interests to the table and determine ways to increase student involvement in AIA programming.

### Treasurer and Fundraising Chair | AIAS Carnegie Mellon

July 2017 - June 2018  
Maintained chapter accounts, coordinated regular programming like Coffee o'Clock, and led the chapter's larger fundraising efforts including competitions.

### Member, AIAS National Advocacy Task Force

August 2017 - July 2018  
Worked with 7 other members from across AIAS chapters to discuss issues of transparency, equity, diversity, and resilience in architectural education.

### Co-Editor | inter.punct

May 2018 - Present  
Create content and host interviews for an independent student-run journal that aims to promote discourse at the Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture.

### Peer Mentor | Architecture Peer Mentorship Program

September 2016 - May 2018  
Guided freshmen mentees through their first years in the architecture program.

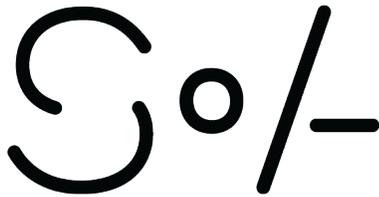
## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Senior Student Reporter | Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture

January 2017 - Present  
Supervise coverage of the School's lecture series and support the implementation of a school-wide publication strategy.

### SoA Slack Event Coordinator | Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture

September 2017 - May 2018  
Organized Slack Q+A sessions with CMU alumni at various firms across the country and offered technical assistance to students new to the platform.



**Carnegie Mellon University**

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15 November 2018

Keshika De Saram,  
Past President and Elections Committee Chair  
The American Institute Of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave. NW  
Washington D.C. 20006

Re: Chitika Vasudeva, NE Quad Director Candidacy

Dear Keshika:

It is with great pride that I nominate and recommend Chitika Vasudeva, Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture AIAS AIA-YAF Liaison as a candidate for the NE Quad Directorship.

Chitika's journey with AIAS began during her first year as a CMU SoA student in 2015 by volunteering to work with the team to host the largest quad conference in AIAS history – Forge Quad – featuring keynote speakers James Ramsey, John Fetterman, and Eve Picker – over a three-day period from 31 March – 2 April 2016 in Pittsburgh.

She was elected to the 2017-18 AIAS CMU Executive Board as Treasurer and Fundraising Chair where she maintained chapter accounts and transactions, coordinated logistics of regular fundraisers like Coffee o'Clock, Pie-a-Board-member and occasional merchandise sales, liaised with fellow board members to determine budgets and fundraising, if any, for their specific events and led the chapter's larger fundraising efforts including competitions and collection of donations/gifts.

This year she was selected to the 2018-19 AIAS CMU Executive Board as Liaison to Pittsburgh chapters of AIA and YAF. In her capacity as AIA Liaison she was nominated to the AIA Pittsburgh Outreach Committee. She was a member of the AIAS National Advocacy Task Force (2017-18) and is currently Co-Chair, AIAS National Resiliency Task Force.

She is an important part of the leadership for our chapter and is a strong advocate for developing leadership skills in our students. Under her leadership, AIAS hosted a silent auction to benefit the victims of the hurricanes that struck Puerto Rico



School Head's Letter re: Chitika Vasudeva  
For NE Quad Director Candidacy  
15 November 2018 • Page 2

Chitika has now decided to further these leadership accomplishments by throwing her hat into the ring for the NE Quad Directorship. She believes that students should embrace their role as advocates and has developed the communication and listening skills to be able to successfully motivate and empower students.

If elected, she plans to put a large emphasis on promoting the core principles of leadership for all students to prepare them for successful careers in the profession.

I cannot think of a worthier candidate for election to NE Quad Director than Chitika Vasudeva, and sincerely believe that if she is selected as a candidate, that she will ultimately be elected.

Yours truly,

Stephen R. Lee, AIA, LEED AP  
Professor & Head



**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?**

I owe my entire AIAS journey to the influence of student leaders at my home chapter. When I initially joined the organization as a freshman, the AIAS chapter at Carnegie Mellon University was gearing up to host FORGE — the 2016 Northeast Quad Conference. As one of the volunteers at the event, I watched my friends and mentors put together what went on to become a historically successful conference, and it was hugely inspiring. Engaging with the sheer volume and diversity of the Northeast Quad introduced me to all the opportunities the AIAS offers to connect, learn and grow, and made me realize the value of my membership early on. As a general body member, I remained committed to being active and contributing in any way that I could, which most often took the form of assisting the Fundraising Committee. It was this commitment that propelled me forward in the organization, as after helping conduct our chapter's most successful fundraiser in many years, I was officially recruited to the Executive Board, and have not looked back since. The last few years have seen me serve in a wide range of roles: supervising internal chapter operations as Treasurer, networking with professionals and community members as the AIA/YAF Liaison, and collaborating with advocates across the AIAS as a member of the 2017-18 Advocacy Task Force, and Co-Chair of the 2018-19 Resiliency Task Force.

As someone who was once unaware of my own potential, I know what it is like to doubt the value of your voice at the table. I urge those who find themselves in such a position to just take the plunge. The best way to discover your limits is to test them to the point where they no longer exist, and pursuing leadership through the AIAS is the best way to do so. I firmly believe that empathy and the ability to empower others are the hallmarks of a good leader. Even in situations where I have not been the person in charge, *per se*, I have done everything in my power to support those around me, and if elected as the 2019-2020 Northeast Quad Director, I know it will be those qualities that will enable me to help each Northeast Sexybeast discover their leadership potential.

**2. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to health and wellness, equity, student loan debt, studio culture, practice experience, leadership, and technology. 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?**

Undoubtedly, advocacy for students on all of these issues is essential. However, through multiple interactions with a range of leaders across the AIAS, I have come to place great value on student leadership. Being a leader is about finding a gap and filling it. At every step of my own leadership journey, my goal has simply been to do everything I could within my role and push the scope of my role as far as I could. For example, as Treasurer, while I maintained chapter accounts and helped plan event budgets, I also focused on fundraising — through opportunities offered by the AIAS National Office, as well as crowdfunding and special events. Since then, Treasurer and Fundraiser have been reframed as two separate roles at AIAS CMU, because the Executive Board was able to identify that gap in our work and fill it through leadership. The leaders of the Northeast can do that too — whether they are members of the general body, an executive board, or a national committee. I am committed to keep pushing the boundaries of what students and our actions can influence, and to me, leadership is central to that effort.

Through advocating for student leadership, I have also experienced the value of tapping on shoulders. My AIAS career would have been virtually non-existent without mentors who gave me the encouragement I needed to launch myself as a student leader. I see an opportunity to pay it forward through the Northeast Quad Director position. If elected, my effort would be to act as a role model for the realized and unrealized leaders of the Northeast Quad by sharing experiences that echo their own and placing my faith in their abilities, so as to empower not only every chapter, but every constituent member, to achieve anything and everything they can dream of.



**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 am extremely fortunate in that my own identity is an amalgamation of many different cultures. Growing up in a country different from my home, I was influenced by people from many walks of life and a range of linguistic, economic and religious backgrounds. My time as an international student at a school where students represent a range of interests and perspectives has only added to that sensitivity, and I consider this a personal strength. I understand that different people want, need and value different things, and there is a place for all of that diversity not only in my own worldview, but also in the responsibilities of the Northeast Quad Director towards individual chapters and towards the AIAS National Board of Directors. I believe that I would be an asset in coordinating communications and navigating cultural diversity— between chapters, within the Board of Directors, and across international membership.

One of the many reasons I enjoy being a part of the Northeast Quad is the range of opportunities offered by its immense diversity — of programs, chapters, cultures and values — and its regional accessibility. With an aim to build upon the excellent work of preceding Quad Directors, I would invest in growing and strengthening city-wide initiatives, as they have proved to be extremely effective in promoting chapter growth and forging lasting relationships between chapters. Moreover, helping chapters build platforms through which to frequently engage with each other outside of major national conferences could go a long way in helping them realize their leadership potential, while making sense of their roles in the larger national and international network. Each chapter is unique and has much to offer the others, and the chapter mentor-mentee initiative has demonstrated the immense potential for chapters to learn from each other. As Northeast Quad Director, rather than rely solely on my own experiences to advise chapters, my effort would be to facilitate those meaningful relationships that would help them for many years to come.

**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.**

As the AIAS CMU Student Liaison to the Pittsburgh chapters of the AIA and the Young Architect's Forum, I have had the privilege of connecting aspiring students with mentors in their field(s) of interest, and while a number of successful interactions have emerged this way, a constant challenge has been establishing more permanent relationships between the organizations, beyond individuals. Broadening the scope of this issue to a national scale, a directed effort at building lasting relationships between various chapters of the AIAS and our collateral organizations would boost mentorship among the organizations, create opportunities for financial and logistical organization, and further our collective mission to promote architectural education, leadership, service and professional development.

Moreover, a position on the AIAS National Board of Directors would enable me to bring individual chapters closer to the organizations represented on the Board. I am certain that these are conversations and connections waiting to happen and that there is a huge potential for student leaders to directly and fruitfully affiliate with local chapters of collateral organizations.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS  
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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: Chitika Vasudeva

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employee 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: November 16, 2018



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## **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 Past President.

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 Past President.

### **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: Chitika Vasudeva

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: 

Date: November 16, 2018

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



**THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS**  
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006  
202.808.0075 | [aias.org](http://aias.org)

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS**  
**CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM**

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Past President 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): Chitika Vasudeva

Chapter: Carnegie Mellon University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): AIA-YAF Liaison

Email Address: cvasudeva@cmu.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 412.799.4222

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: chitikav
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: chitika.v
- Other:



CUTOUT  
GLASSES



FLYER | 5.5"x7.0"

