



Nicole Bass
Candidacy Packet
Northeast Quad Director 2021 – 2022

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Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave.
Washington D.C. 20006

RE: Letter of Intent to Run for 2021-2022 Northeast Quadrant Director

Dear Past President Curry,

In my time at architecture school, AIAS has been an incredibly welcoming community that gave me myriad opportunities to connect with other architecture students and professionals around the world. These years of memories and experience has inspired me to be more active on a larger scale and push the potential of this great organization. I am deeply honored to write to declare my intent to run for the position of the 2021-2022 American Institute of Architecture Students' Northeast Quadrant Director.

My first experience of AIAS began with the REACH Quad 2018 as a freshman. I was a track leader of my favorite neighborhoods with the chance to express my knowledge and love for my city through an architectural lens. Through the tour and conference, I was able to connect with upperclassmen, students from other universities in the local area and the region, and professionals in my city. This was the first of my many experiences with Quad and Forum conferences and the great connections that I would not have made anywhere else. It is not often that architecture students get time to embrace activities outside of the studio especially during the academic year. For that, I am grateful to AIAS for facilitating events where current students and alumni can engage with one another and support each other with insight on experiences in architecture and give feedback on projects. This aspect is the main reason I choose to grow through with the organization and use its vast platform to push for the needs of architecture students in the States and internationally. Raising awareness to close the pay gap to talking about mental health and other topics of need in the field are where AIAS elected officers and committees can offer tangible and intangible aid to its members.

The Quadrant Directors is a vital connection between local chapters to the national board and committees to communicate initiatives and concerns of chapters. As a member, I can trust and talk with my Quad Director about any concerns and suggestions I have for AIAS, and I am welcomed with open arms to talk and make actionable items to pursue said topics. I appreciate the responsibility and role the Director has to be a direct connection for members to engage on a larger scale that sometimes cannot happen in person, especially in this pandemic. If I were to be elected for the position, I hope to carry out the empowering and safe environment as my previous Northeast Quad Directors have done for me.

Thank you Sarah for your consideration of my candidacy,

Nicole Bass, AIAS, NOMAS
Council of Global Representatives Committee Member
2019 – 2020 City College of New York Vice President

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Northeast Quad Director 2021 - 2022

NICOLE BASS

Brooklyn, NY 11210 | 917-288-6076 | bass.nrb@gmail.com

EDUCATION

B.Arch., Architecture, Spitzer School of Architecture, The City College of New York, New York, NY: 2022

GPA: 3.2

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Computational Design
Site and Construction Technology

Introduction to Urban Studies
Principles of Microeconomics

Principles of Management
Principles of Macroeconomics

QUALITIES

Design software: Adobe Creative Cloud, ArchGIS, Sketchup, Sefaira, SAP 2000, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros 3D, and Grasshopper

Applications: Microsoft Office, Google Documents, Sheets, and Slides

Relevant Skills: problem solving, teamwork, communication, organized, initiative

Key Qualities: imaginative, detail-oriented, dedicated, passionate, studious, dependable, flexible

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Vice President, Future Architects of the Middle East, CCNY

June 2020 – Present

- Grew the club structure, constitutions, and resources templates for each role
- Co-created social and informative events each semester with President
- Developed initiatives such as the Directory of Middle Eastern/West Asian Designers and Middle Eastern Highlights

Teacher Assistant to Samantha Josaphat, City College of New York, Core Studio 1

August 2019 – December 2019

- Assisted Professor in the logistics of critics and pin-ups
- Helped students with development of their projects
- Integrated students in school culture and activities

Vice President, The American Institute of Architects for Students, CCNY

June 2019 – May 2020

- Supported the team in hosting annual events such as firm tours and professional development
- Assisted the President with club paperwork and membership engagement
- Documented events and conferences to share with members

Social Media and Podcast Chair, National Organization of Minority Architects for Students, CCNY September 2017 – Present

- Build and maintain Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube for the chapter
- Coordinated, hosted, produced, and marketed the NOMAS-tea Podcast for the chapter
- Made and marketed social media campaigns to highlight BIPOC professionals and students

Youth Leader, Whitney Museum of American Art, YI Leaders Program, New York, NY

September 2016 – May 2017

- Co-planned and hosted events for teens with peers
- Collaborated with artists inside the museum and at organizations outside the museum to motivate teens to become art museum patrons and to familiarize them with the exhibits and the space of the Education Department
- Corresponded with multiple departments to market and execute events

AFFILIATIONS

Zero Waste Intern, Earth Matters, ZWI Team, New York, NY

August 2018 – December 2018

Education Intern, Whitney Museum of American Art, Education Department, New York, NY

September 2017 – May 2018

Participant, Ted Moudis Associates, ACE Mentor Program of Greater NY, New York, NY

September 2014 – May 2017

Member, The Philippine-American Organization, CCNY, NY

September 2017 – Present

Volunteer, New Museum, New York, NY

2015 – Present

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November 20, 2020

Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave.
Washington D.C. 20006

Re: Letter of support for Ms. Nicole Bass

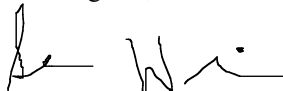
Dear Past President Curry:

I am pleased to write in support of Ms. Nicole Bass' application to run as the 2021-2022 Northeast Quadrant Director for AIAS. Ms. Bass is a fourth-year student in the B.Arch. program at the Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York. I first met Ms. Bass as a student in my required courses in architectural history, and I have come to know her better this year through her service and advocacy as a student club leader. Currently, Ms. Bass is the Vice President for the student club that I mentor: the Future Architects of the Middle East. I should say from the outset that Ms. Bass possesses exemplary leadership qualities and I enthusiastically support her application to run as Northeast Quadrant Director.

Ms. Bass' activist spirit characterizes her extracurricular activities as well as her design work. As part of her ongoing efforts with Future Architects of the Middle East, Ms. Bass fosters public programming about social and racial equity. Notably, she played a key role in the Future Architects of the Middle East's Black Lives Matter Gala of July 2020. This virtual event helped create a conversation about systemic racism in relation to architectural and urban design. At this important event, the student group hosted breakout rooms on a variety of topical subjects that fostered meaningful discussion among students and faculty. Beyond her activities with the club, Ms. Bass routinely seeks to bring students to wider conversations at the school-level. She has developed two surveys to help gauge student response to the school's climate in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic racism, and she has shared these important surveys with the school's administration. As a budding designer, Ms. Bass is fundamentally concerned with improving the lives of marginalized communities through architecture. I have had the pleasure of serving on reviews for the studio she is in this semester. In her research-driven studio project, she is developing a tool-kit of spatial tactics to provide resources to the communities of Harlem. Throughout these contributions, Ms. Bass consistently develops targeted solutions: a fundamental skill of leadership.

Ms. Bass would bring her activism, perseverance, and solution-minded expertise to the position of Northeast Quadrant Director. Moreover, she would relentlessly advocate for AIAS, just as she does for her fellow students. As I stated at the outset, I give Ms. Bass my full support. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this applicant.

Kind regards,



Sean Weiss, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Architectural History
Area Coordinator of Architectural History + Deputy Chair
Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture
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Hajar Alrifai

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November 16th, 2020

To:

Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Past President

American Institute of Architecture Students

1735 New York Ave.

Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Curry,

It is my great pleasure to recommend Nicole Bass for the AIAS North East Quad Director position.

I am an undergraduate architecture student at the City College of New York and current club chair of Future Architects of the Middle East (FAME), for which Nicole serves as Vice President.

Over the past three years, Nicole has worked tirelessly to facilitate student engagement in AIAS, NOMAS, and FAME. Nicole's passion and dedication were the reason I joined AIAS. She has consistently been an advocate for her classmates, organizing several initiatives to engage students with the administration. In just three months as Vice President of FAME, Nicole has grown the social media presence, expanded our network, collaborated with AIAS Middle East, and worked to establish a national directory of Middle Eastern Architects, to name a few accomplishments.

While Nicole's professional achievements are impressive, her level of empathy for others is truly remarkable. Despite her busy schedule as an architecture student and club leader, she took the time to organize mental health surveys of her classmates, which she passed on to our administration, in the hopes of bettering the school environment. To put it simply, Nicole cares. She cares about her community deeply and consistently puts in the work to uplift minority voices.

As a leader and as a friend, Nicole is a powerhouse in every sense of the word. I know that she would excel as AIAS North East Quad Director, just as she has surpassed expectations in her previous roles. I cannot think of a more deserving candidate.

Sincerely,

Hajar Alrifai

Chair, Future Architects of the Middle East

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Election Candidate Questionnaire

Question 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?

My schools always had extracurricular activities to participate in from student government to poetry club, and I joined to connect with my classmates and teachers outside of just class. These clubs were a great way to see how the people involved were multifaceted. The presidents of the clubs at the time created an environment where **I was welcomed and encouraged to be myself and share my interests with my peers**. Through the years, I wanted to take part in more of a leadership role to help facilitate and maintain the spaces that connected and showed how versatile other students and teachers were. Since then, I have participated in organizations that shared my passions, and I looked forward to passing it forward by taking a higher role in it. To my fellow peers at my school and other colleges, I would encourage you to find an organization that aligns with your interests and actively works towards furthering your passions. Find out what inspires you to work with that place and how it makes you feel as a participating member. As you have time and energy to increase your involvement, **pay it forward** by taking more leadership roles, and continue to share that environment with new members.

Question 2: Describe your leadership style. Explain how previous experiences working with teams have helped you discover your leadership style.

During my time as Vice President for AIAS and FAME, a school club at CCNY, there were a lot of opportunities to improve my leadership style and skills. School and outside organizations allowed me to see a range of leadership styles. From my experience and what I learned from others, two main ways I like to work with teams and members is to **have as much transparency, communication, and possible group decision** when needed to move forward with events, initiatives, and goals. With membership, I have done some **needs assessments** to talk directly with members about topics they would like help on and ways the organization can direct their energy and actions to support those topics. For the teams, I like to start with **co-creating board role agreements** that specify **expectations** and how to hold **accountability** on both ends as a Vice President to another board member. These two methods allow for open dialogue throughout the year and a direct way to meet with members that I would not typically meet during school. With this clear mutual understanding of each position, **I co-write with the President monthly to-do lists** for each role with the main goal, suggested steps, and deadlines. This method makes it easy and fair to delegate and get feedback from the board if deadlines need to move or if tasks need to be broken down to include more support. I hope I can carry out similar principles and actions if I get elected for Northeast Quad Director.

Question 3: 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, learning and teaching 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?

The initiatives AIAS has taken to give voice to architecture student's concerns and take steps to resolve them has been increasing over the years. The main gesture that I believe overlaps with a lot of issues is the **equity of each topic**. There needs to be **concrete and consistent ways of moving forward** that level the playing field for women and minority groups **in the academia that carry out in the professional field**. If I were an elected leader, I would assess how many times AIAS incorporates women and minorities in our events, initiatives, and partnerships. After that, I would advocate for reaching out and including groups that typically have not been involved. These new partnerships would participate in AIAS future conferences, initiatives, and networking events. In addition to advocating, I would try my best to work **hands-on with the committees to find, reach out, and collaborate** with these communities. It is important to me that if I am elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors, I should **suggest ways to grow collectively and follow through with my suggestions to ensure that initiatives do not fall through the cracks**.

Question 4: The AIAS has over 250 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?

The Quad Directors and Ambassadors are in a unique position to understand all chapters in the region as well as encourage members to meet students outside their Quad. A great way to better connect members is having **region-wide consistent hangouts** with different themes decided by the members, chapter presidents, and myself. These themes can be focusing on the member's experiences in academia or profession like **surviving midterms and finals to incorporating one's identity into their projects**. Another way to engage with the geographical and cultural diversity is to co-create initiatives with chapters about their environment or heritage like **Studio Tour** on Instagram live or a cultural themed **cooking night**. To support chapter leaders in engaging with members, I would be **co-creating or advising on marketing strategies** to boost their membership and connection. I would encourage and connect chapter leaders to nearby chapters and other regions to talk amongst each other about tactics they use too. Another resource I would create for chapters is some sort of **needs assessment for current members and potential new members**. This would be a way to understand what members need and potential methods that AIAS can help on a local, regional, and national level.

Question 5: Describe how you intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of your chosen position on the Board. Elaborate on your intended communication/action plan and the primary goals you have for your one-year term.

The Northeast Quad Director position requires a great deal of **transparency, communication, and collaboration** with chapter presidents and boards as well as the national board and committees. One of my main goals is to **increase communication** through Hub Hangouts, **creating graphics and formatting content** from AIAS to help chapter presidents and their boards share the history of the organization and events of the semester. I would continue organizing the Hub Hangouts as inclusive as possible to the students' schedule and to keep chapters throughout the region in communication with one another. During these Hub Hangouts, I would inquire more on **chapters' status with membership engagement** within their college and on a regional scale to see how I can help connect them on a larger scale. Also, I would encourage board members like the Vice Presidents and Social Media Chairs to join the call to directly hear and share events and tasks AIAS is taking on for that month. Concurrently, I would encourage chapters **to join other chapter's events** to get to know members and support each other's goals. I would work with certain national committees on how to best work to produce content for chapter presidents and members so that they can directly understand and participate in AIAS events. In addition to my goals and plans, I would inquire with chapter presidents early on the year on what they need support in and prioritize their needs as some goals I will work on during the year.

Question 6: We all love the AIAS for different reasons, but it takes a critical and constructive analysis of the institutions we appreciate most to continue to evolve them into entities that can support each new generation of membership. What facet of the AIAS would you most enjoy innovating or improving to help the organization remain relevant to architecture and design students around the world? What are your ideas for that kind of growth?

AIAS has a vast range and amount of resources for our members. The resources come through tangible and intangible ways like enhancing their education, facilitating connections with academics, professionals, and students around the world, and financial and award opportunities that set members up for success. As Northeast Quad Director, I would push for **engaging and informing membership** about all these resources. I would like to work with the membership committee and chapter presidents to strategize what are the best ways to communicate information. Some great resources that I think require more marketing content are ARE scholarships, In-Studio competitions, CRIT Journal, Freedom By Design projects, and events with international students and other organizations like NCARB and ACSA. Additionally, I would like to work with chapter presidents on figuring out which **benefits best fit their chapter members** and **create marketing content** to explain the benefit, and having mentorship or peer advice on how to follow through on the benefits.

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: Nicole Bass

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: 11/13/2020



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 and Board 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: Nicole Bass

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: 11/13/2020

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 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): Nicole Bass

Chapter: City College of New York (CUNY)

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Past Vice President '19 - '20

Email Address: nbass000@citymail.cuny.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 9172886076

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Nicole Bam
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: @nikiey1 @nicoleinspitzer
- o Other: _____