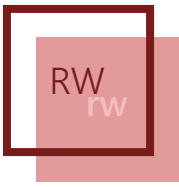




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**Rachel Wiesbrock, AIAS**

2021  
2022



# LETTER OF INTENT

(815) 701-6397  
rwiesbro@hawk.iit.edu

Rachel Wiesbrock

November 21, 2020

Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Past President  
1735 New York Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20006-5292

Dear Past President Curry,

It is with great excitement that I write you to declare my intent to run for the 2021-2022 National Vice President of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS).

This organization and its members have undoubtedly played the largest and most influential role in my life the past 5 years, and I cannot image a life past college where I don't carry the lifelong lessons and friendships that I know I can always fall onto for support and guidance. With the seemingly never-ending stress and unimaginable curveballs that have dominated my college career, the AIAS has been the beacon of love, light, and consistency through all the good, bad, and ugly that I never felt like I had before. The atmosphere of acceptance and unwavering support is a feeling I hope everyone can experience at least once in their lives.

I have held a wide range of positions within iitAIAS and National AIAS- five different chapter roles, four different national committees, and a National Advocate, which makes me well-equipped for the wide range of responsibilities that come with the National Vice President position. All of my exposure and experiences have shaped me into a steadfast, dedicated, and purpose-driven leader who is always ready to help serve others.

To be given the chance to give back even a fraction of what this organization has given me would be an honor I don't think I could accurately put into words how much it would mean. The previous and current Board of Directors have been so warm, welcoming, and fun for everyone to get to know and befriend so I would love to be that for future members to come. And while I am a forever Midwesterner (#Heartlanders), I vow to remain unbiased when it comes to VP-chapter/member relationships. The well-roundedness of the regions, nationally and internationally, has me incredibly excited to deep dive into chapter histories and information.

I am incredibly excited to run in this elections cycle and promise to always do my best by the organization, its members, staff, Board, and affiliates (as well as myself, too). I'll say one final thank you to all current and past members for giving me such a fun ride in AIAS already and the superb examples of what it looks like to successfully carry oneself through design, service, and leadership.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Best,

**Rachel Wiesbrock, AIAS**  
Social Justice Task Force Member | National AIAS  
B.Arch Candidate | College of Architecture  
Class of 2021 | Illinois Institute of Technology

Rachel Wiesbrock

## EDUCATION

2015 – present

**Illinois Institute of Technology***College of Architecture*

Bachelor of Architecture

Expected graduation: May 2021

*Honors*

Dean's List

Peterhans Visual Training Award 2017 Finalist

## EXPERIENCE

Jan '19 – Jan '20

**Architectural Intern***Stantec Architecture*

Edited and revised CD sets for ADA compliance updates to banks all over the west coast. Project manager for a lighting remodel job at Northeastern Illinois University. Experience in higher education, retail, Department of Defense, multi-income housing, and hospitality.

Oct '18 – Apr '19

**Student Representative***IIT College of Architecture Dean Search Committee*

Only representation of the College's student voice during meetings with the committee and official search firm during the process of hiring the next Dean.

Jun '18 – Aug '19

**Events Assistant***Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)*

Helped conference registration data, communicated with presenters, and maintained conference website.

## LEADERSHIP

Sep '20 – present

**Social Justice Task Force***National AIAS*

Aug '20 – present

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee***AIA Chicago*

Jul '19 – Jul '20

**Accessibility Advocate***National American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)*

Educated students about accessibility being much more than codes written in a book. *July '19*: Gave a keynote speech and showed a short film I made to emphasize (lack of) accessibility to hundreds in Washington D.C. *Dec '19*: Led a workshop/design charette about accommodating for different people and perspectives that are underrepresented in architecture.

Sep '19 – May '20

**Equity + Diversity Committee***National AIAS*

Mar '19 – Apr '20

**Chapter President***iitAIAS*

Apr '18 – Mar '19

**Studio Representative/Membership Chair***iitAIAS*

Sep '17 - Jul '18

**Finance Committee Member***National AIAS*

Apr '17 – Mar '18

**Chapter Treasurer***iitAIAS*

## SKILLS

AutoCAD | SketchUp | Adobe Creative Suite | Revit | Hand drafting | Model Making | Photography

November 9, 2020

Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA  
AIAS Elections Chair  
American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Avenue, NW, 20006

Dear Sarah:

It is my pleasure to recommend Rachel Wiesbrock for AIAS National Vice President. Rachel is currently completing the fifth and final year of her Bachelor of Architecture program at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), where I am Dean of the College of Architecture. In addition to being highly regarded, IIT's program is quite large (700+ students, faculty, and staff). Yet Rachel has managed to distinguish herself as a leader, a thinker, and a constant contributor to the well-being and advancement of the College.

I met Rachel as part of the hiring process that brought me to IIT last fall. She was friendly and professional, and it was immediately apparent through her questions that a sharp mind was at work. That became even clearer once we began to meet regularly. Rachel listens carefully and thinks quickly, making her a great partner on developing ideas and projects. She is not afraid to state an opinion but is always careful to ensure that everyone is heard—and understood. Call it empathy if you'd like, but the end result is a working environment that is at once analytically critical and socially supportive.

This mature leadership style is refreshing in anyone, particularly in someone as young as Rachel, as it portends continued growth that will inure to the benefit of many rather than one. At IIT, it has meant that Rachel has been a steady presence in AIAS, rising through both the local and national ranks in a series of management positions. She has been a particularly effective advocate on issues of diversity, inclusion and accessibility. These subjects have particular, personal meaning for her, but in typical Rachel fashion, she makes them a natural part of everyone's agenda; somehow in her care, they matter more to all of us.

Sarah, for those of us here at IIT, it is clear that Rachel Wiesbrock is a natural leader. You will see some of that yourself with this year's FORUM, on which she has been working for more than a year—a time of unprecedented upheaval through which she has continued to work undaunted. FORUM is a large, complicated event created for a diverse national audience. Rachel has delivered, again. Just as she will if elected AIAS National Vice President. I recommend her to you and your colleagues with great professional and personal pride—and with no reservations. If I can do anything else to support her candidacy, please let me know. In the meantime, I wish you and yours the very best in these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Reed Kroloff, Dean  
The Rowe Family College of Architecture Endowed Chair



**American Institute of Architecture Students**

3360 S. State St, Chicago, IL 60616  
aias@iit.edu

Dear Sarah Curry, AIAS, ASSOC. AIA, Past President,

This letter serves as my formal recommendation of Rachel Wiesbrock to be considered as a candidate for National Vice President position of the American Institute of Architecture Students' 2021-2022 Board of Directors.

Rachel has become my friend, mentor, and leader over the past three years. Despite working in the intimidatingly diverse environment at Illinois Institute of Technology, Rachel has proven to be an understanding, selfless comrade who never fails to provide support whenever needed.

Rachel has connected with people from different backgrounds, perspectives, and methods of communication. She builds these connections in the most natural and meaningful way possible. Personally, I encountered a great deal of stress during my Presidential campaign at IIT's AIAS chapter, however Rachel managed to give both myself and my competitors balanced insight of incredible value. By opening up to others about her journey and how she developed her passion for AIAS, she established how she turned her biggest life struggles into golden motives of power, resiliency, hope, will and success. By being an active listener and storyteller, she has become a glue that binds people together, which is a vital characteristic in a vice president. She values the community, human bond and well-being more than anything, which makes her a great support for many international students in IIT. No obstacle has been able to hold her from maintaining meaningful connections to friends and worldwide AIAS members, which she has demonstrated while resiliently overcoming her own struggles. She has become our primary source for academic, social, and personal guidance. Rachel's ability to develop strong personal relationships is a valuable attribute that is instrumental in growing AIAS at a global scale.

In order to prevent chaos spurred by a protocol error made during elections, Rachel took the initiative in opening discussion intended to eliminate misunderstanding regarding chapter opportunities and to prevent the loss of a student leader. As a result of this discussion, the student leader remained in AIAS and clarity was achieved within the chapter.

As an international student, I have learned the importance of having people of integrity and honesty around, especially as I aim to flourish in new environments. Rachel is an abiding influence who advocates for the growth of AIAS at both national and international levels. Her leadership ethic never fails to foster inclusivity and promote self development, mental healthcare, and well-being which are essentials for human life.

With all things considered, I am confident that Rachel will be a great candidate for Vice Presidency. I hope this letter finds you well and thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

*Nese Gulay Altintas*

**Nese Gulay Altintas**

iitAIAS 2020-2021 President

AIAS 2020-2021 Council of Global Representatives Co-chair

City&U Founder & Team Leader

IIT CoA BArch'23

**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?**

Near the end of my first year at IIT, I was approached by my AIAS studio rep to see if I would be interested in attending 2016 Midwest Quad Conference happening in Detroit and it is very safe to say that my decision to tag along has been the best decision I've ever made. The ability to network with and befriend others around the world who share a common interest in design and leadership is something I do not take for granted and have cherished every second. Growing up, I never felt like I connected with anyone personally or meaningfully because of all my differences to "the normal kids." But when I met all the fun, diverse, and open-minded people in Detroit, I knew the AIAS was special. I stayed involved because the feeling of comfort and belongingness is something I hope everyone can feel. My leadership interests stem from the desire to provide everyone with self-confidence and comfort to truly embrace their strengths while also providing a safe space to work on setbacks.

If someone else has a different agenda though, that doesn't make them any better or worse because leadership can be defined and showcased in an infinite amount of ways and it excites me to just think about how I can help the members feel comfortable in their own ways.

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

My leadership style is by no means fool-proof but I have had many experiences throughout that have taught me how to see the life lessons during unforeseen setbacks. My term as Chapter President at IIT last year was nowhere near "perfect," but through the trials and tribulations I gained incredibly valuable direction of how to be a successful leader, and the word perfect doesn't come up once. I exemplify empathy and approachability in order to make the atmosphere around my leadership positions fun and valuable instead of just another job with a to-do list. This does not mean I take my roles lightly but to me, being an emotionless robot sounds like a major snoozefest. So I try to remain as transparent as possible to maintain valued teamwork and high morale for everyone to get the most of their time and efforts.

**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?**

Equity is a hot, relatively new-to-the-media buzzword that you've probably heard and/or read about almost daily during this strange and heavily charged year. When I heard it for the first couple times, I honestly thought it was synonymous with equality, but gosh was I wrong.

Rachel Wiesbrock

The distinction between the two and being able to understand when and where to use which one is incredibly important for everyone to have the same rights and access in life. Last year, when I was one of the inaugural ladies who helped kickoff the National Advocacy Program, I really hit hard on how equity and equality fit into the topic of accessibility in architecture but it can easily be translated into AIAS, school, chapter, individual member examples.

Every one of our journeys to get to this point right now has been vastly different from any others, but we all ended up in the AIAS anyway. One of my greatest loves for the AIAS is the uniqueness each person brings to the organization and it would be my honor to help provide the resources and support to help you all get to where you want to go from here, no matter what it takes.

There are and will always be countless topics for advocacy that the AIAS can highlight and emphasize for its students and I will make sure that the students' most relevant and cared about ones will be talked about. One positive to come out of the current state of the world is that people are prioritizing the conversations that were always pushed aside (i.e. gender roles, racial identities, education standards, etc.) and now they hold more action and attention than ever before. I can't be everywhere at once or personally relate to every injustice happening, especially lately, but I promise to devote my role, privileges, efforts, and support to help elevate those who are personally underserved whenever appropriate.

**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?**

Throughout my years of national involvement, I have seen how valuable the international connections and the national chapter fabric that this organization has, are. Now more than ever, connectivity is the way of life and having the institutional knowledge of how to communicate domestically and internationally with ease is something I am endlessly thankful for.

I would love to use the position of Vice President as a way to reach a larger audience to meet and be a resource of guidance and support. Between conferences, professional events, and everything in between, I would like to create social/laid-back video calls that are similar to the town halls but would be random topics like what's everyone's favorite book, show, recipe, music playlist, etc., which could be very cool to compare by region of the country/world. This is just one idea to try and create a new foundation of the "fun social part of AIAS" that most are missing a lot lately due to no in-person events or interactions.

Rachel Wiesbrock

**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.

With the many responsibilities of Vice President and the relatively short span of just one year, I do not want to over promise a bunch of new implementations then underdeliver. I can promise, though, that I will provide as much transparency and dedication as I can to properly and exceptionally serve the staff, Board of Directors, and members. Obviously since these are my two favorite and most used apps, I will keep up with Slack and Instagram so anyone can count on my attention for any help or questions that could come up on the daily. I also would like to post regularly scheduled (weekly/monthly?) opportunities on both platforms to “keep up with the kids” and see what they want or want more of. The membership is the foundation of this all so I want to make sure they know that the Board and staff are there for them and that their input is heard.

The AIAS is a great resource in and of itself because a lot of us are in similar boats more times than we think so do not be afraid to use each other for individualized specialties, input, and knowledge. I know I wouldn't be where I am without the friendships and connections I've made in this organization!

**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?**

I hope it naturally shows that I love many things about the AIAS, but have come to really cherish the international and diverse presence that runs throughout the members. States-bound or not, there is something very special about the melting pot of cultures, expertises, experiences, any and everything. I think it could be fun to really emphasize this facet by hosting a monthly (bi-monthly) web series that highlights a special region within the organization and it could feature local architects, artists, culinary artists, what have you. This could foster open-mindedness and exposure to different lifestyles, cultures, techniques and I think those are vital characteristics that can set you apart (ahead) in the design field. Skills sets and connections are everything so why not broaden internationally, especially now that it's so normal and doable.





## 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: Rachel Wiesbrock

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: *RWiesbrock*

Date: 11/05/2020



## 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: Rachel Wiesbrock

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: *RWiesbrock*

Date: 11/05/2020

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): Rachel Wiesbrock-----

Chapter: Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)-----

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Past President-----

Email Address: rwiesbro@hawk.iit.edu-----

Mobile Phone Number: (815) 701-6397-----

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Rachel Wiesbrock-----
- o Twitter: @-----
- o Instagram: @wiesbro\_5-----
- o Other: https://www.linkedin.com/in/rachel-wiesbrock/-----