

2025-2026 AIAS Vice President Candidacy Packet

Trevin Nolan Thompson, AIAS

University of Washington

trevint@uw.edu | 209.627.5578



CONTENT

- 03 LETTER OF INTENT
- 04 RESUME
- 05 LETTERS OF SUPPORT
- 07 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
- 10 AIAS POLICY ON INTERN COMPENSATION
- 11 AIAS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS
- 12 CONTACT INFORMATION SHEET

December 6th, 2024

Colt Brock, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President,
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW WASHINGTON D.C. 20006-5292

Dear Past President Colt Brock,

Wow it's that time of the year already! With this now being the third time I'm writing one of these letters to our AIAS leadership, I now understand and cherish the opportunity to reflect that running for the Board of Directors provides.

From being one of the quietest students in my first studio back in the Summer of 2018, I couldn't have imagined pursuing leadership positions in an organization as impactful and revered as the AIAS. I was first introduced to the Institute by a couple of small software workshops hosted by the University of Washington Chapter in the basement of Gould Hall in the Autumn of 2018. Frankly, I was just some kid who didn't know how to use InDesign, so I slipped into the back of the room and took notes while a graduate student went through all of the tools I'd need to know to finish my final for that Autumn Quarter. A couple weeks later, when I got the A- on my final presentation board, I didn't pat myself on the back, I thought of that graduate student who on behalf of one of our chapters had shown me how to succeed.

Then after a transfer across the state to Washington State University, I found an AIAS chapter again, being inspired to join their FBD team to help design a shading shelter for the local Humane Society. Even then I was just some kid trying to build an interesting and useful shelter for some dogs. It wasn't until one of our graduating AIAS WSU officers who pestered me several times to run for president of the chapter that I ever considered pursuing leadership. It was from that one decision that led me to where I am today; it was my time at Grassroots in 2022 and organizing the WSU chapter that made my "why" for student leadership clear.

The study of architecture in itself is a major challenge for most, not to mention the need for support of these aspiring architects and designers as they make the difficult transition to the profession. The AIAS is a wonderfully collaborative, enthusiastic, and optimistic group of students who are all dedicated to each other in overcoming these obstacles. It is in my pursuit of being a contributing member of this community, like that graduate student back in 2018 who helped me, that I have continued my efforts in supporting the students that follow me. It led me to plan a successful Quad Conference, to run for West Quad Director, and now to formally declare my candidacy for 2025-2026 AIAS Vice President.

Colt, I am so thankful to have had you as a leader during my time in the organization. You, certainly even more than that UW graduate student, exemplify what I admire most about the AIAS. Your support while I was freaking out at Bloom in April, your diligence and advocacy during our Board of Directors meetings this year have inspired me to greater service of our community.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevin Thompson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Trevin Thompson, AIAS, Assoc. AIA
AIAS West Quad Director
Bloom: West Quad Conference Chair
trevint@uw.edu

TREVIN N THOMPSON, AIAS, ASSOC. AIA

(209) 627-5578 | trevint@uw.edu

AIAS Vice Presidential Candidate & West Quad Director

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Architectural Intern, MG2, Seattle, WA

June 2024 - September 2024

- Design of, and document preparation of projects for the Costco Wholesale Corporation including warehouses, fuel facilities and the Issaquah Corporate Headquarters

Architectural Intern, American Capitol Group, Bellevue, WA

May 2022 - August 2022

- Design of, and document preparation for all units of a new 493 luxury apartment development in Kirkland, WA

EDUCATION

Master of Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

September 2023 - Expected June 2025

B.S. Architectural Studies, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

May 2023

EXTRACURRICULAR

American Institute of Architecture Students

West Quadrant Director

August 2024 - July 2025

Board Liason, Finance Committee, Student Health Wellbeing Advisory Task Force

October 2024 - July 2025

Chair, Bloom: West Quad Conference

July 2023 - April 2024

Member, National Finance Committee

October 2023 - May 2024

Chapter President, Washington State University

July 2022 - June 2023

Member, National Freedom By Design Advisory Committee

August 2022 - May 2023

Design Lead, Freedom By Design, Washington State University

September 2021 - May 2022

School of Design & Construction, Washington State University

Teaching Assistant, SDC 140

January 2022 - May 2022 & January 2023 - May 2023

Teaching Assistant, ARCH 309

August 2022 - December 2022

Alpha Rho Chi

Treasurer & Vice President, Sostratus

May 2021 - May 2023

AWARDS

2023 WSU Architecture Book Award

May 2023

Rolf M. Burger Memorial Scholarship

July 2022

UW ARCHITECTURE→

November 26, 2024

Colt Brock, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President
The American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave.
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Trevin Thompson, AIAS – 2025-26 AIAS Vice President

Dear Mr. Brock,

I have been asked to submit a letter in support of Trevin Thompson's candidacy for Vice President in the 2024 American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) elections cycle. This letter is to confirm that the Department of Architecture and the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington are delighted to support him in this effort.

Trevin's impact on the culture of our department and college over the past year has been nothing short of extraordinary. As you know, Trevin, together with UW AIAS Co-Chair Faith Fullerton (now at USC) led the chapter's hosting of *BLOOM*, the 2024 AIAS West Quad Conference, which was held here last April. Our faculty, students, and professional community were incredibly impressed by Trevin's enthusiasm, vision, organization, and leadership in realizing an incredibly successful conference. *BLOOM* raised \$10,029.61 from a total revenue of \$48,907.08 (both West Quad records) and welcomed 283 attendees (another West Quad record) from across the country, some traveling from as far as Tampa, Florida. The quality of the programming was also stellar. These accomplishments have established *BLOOM* as the benchmark against which all future quad conferences will be measured, not only in the west, but internationally. As a result, Trevin has been asked to consult on all of the upcoming AIAS conferences, including the Grassroots & Forum.

At the same time, Trevin has been providing chapter support for the 40 other active chapters across the West Quad which has, in part, led to a 45.7% growth in membership in the first quarter alone while chapters in other regions of the U.S. have seen an average 3% decline in membership. Despite his current AIAS responsibilities on a national level, Trevin continues to serve in an advisory role with our AIAS chapter here at UW by providing the new chapter leadership with access to resources while offering valuable insight from his experience here, at Washington State University, and nationally.

This impressive list of accomplishments aligns with my personal experience in working with Trevin. Through his relentless sense of optimism and vision and his commitment to inclusion and collaboration he has demonstrated exemplary leadership for his peers to model and I enthusiastically and unequivocally recommend him as the next AIAS Vice President.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Mohler, FAIA, NCARB
Professor and Chair

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON / COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE 208 GOULD HALL BOX 355720 SEATTLE, WA 98195-5720
WEB→ ARCH.BE.WASHINGTON.EDU T→ 206 543 4180 F→ 206 616 4992 EMAIL→ ARCHDEPT@UW.EDU



AIAS
UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON

November 27, 2024

Colt Brock, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President
The American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave. Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Brock,

I am pleased to recommend Trevin Thompson for the role of 2025-26 AIAS Vice President. Having worked under his leadership during the BLOOM 2024 West Quad Conference, I had the opportunity to observe his approach to leadership, problem-solving, and collaboration, all of which make him a strong candidate for the role of AIAS President.

Trevin possesses a unique blend of leadership and innovation that made the BLOOM conference an inspiring and highly impactful event. His vision for the conference was both ambitious and thoughtful, reflecting his deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of the architecture student community. From curating relevant, engaging content to managing complex logistics, Trevin demonstrated remarkable foresight and adaptability in each stage of planning and execution.

One of Trevin's strengths is his ability to lead with a clear sense of direction. He sets clear expectations for his team and ensures that everyone has the support and resources needed to perform their roles effectively. Trevin approaches challenges head-on, focusing on solutions and maintaining a steady hand even in high-pressure situations.

I believe Trevin's experience, leadership skills, and commitment to the mission of AIAS make him a strong candidate for the role of AIAS Vice President. His ability to navigate challenges and bring a structured approach to leadership would serve the organization well in advancing its goals.

Sincerely,

Olivia Usher
ousher@uw.edu | 425-691-0207
Vice President, UW AIAS 2024-2025
Professional Outreach Coordinator, 2024 WQC BLOOM

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. 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. Why are you running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors? What about the organization and its membership motivates you to seek a leadership position?

As a current member of the Board of Directors, having reflected on this question for a third time, my drive is largely unchanged. The AIAS truly has given me more than I could have ever asked for. Personally, I'm incredibly grateful to be a part of this vibrant community, and to have gained close friendships that persist even across thousands of miles. I frankly am not sure if I would be in graduate school today without the support I received from my AIAS chapters as an undergraduate student. As I stated last year, from becoming the Chapter President at Washington State University, I developed a passion in supporting my peers not only in getting through their degree program, but I felt obligated to push them with encouragement and new opportunities to achieve greater things both in and outside of the academic institution. That persisting drive has led me to join several of our committees over the years, host a successful quad conference, and become the 2024-25 West Quad Director.

The difference, this time around, stems from my experience as a current member of the Board of Directors. Over the past few months, I've been made keenly aware of the work that lies ahead of us to ensure the continued strength to grow and provide value to our membership. Although I'm proud of the progress that the 2024-2025 Board has made, the change that I hope to make for the organization will likely not come to fruition before the end of my term as our West Quad Director. It is in my pursuit to continue my efforts in service to our members that I humbly seek a position on the 2025-2026 Board of Directors.

2. Though it may be hard to believe, the AIAS is not perfect. A critical analysis of any organization is a healthy part of its operation. There may be things that you feel the AIAS could do better, or maybe you see new opportunities or partners to engage. Where do you see room for improvement or new areas for the organization to expand into?

I've felt for a few years now that the greatest asset of the AIAS is the people, its members. The value that is given to our members in exchange for their funds and their efforts has significant room for improvement. As a member of the board this year, and from observing the output of our membership committee over the past few years, I want to recognize the progress and efforts made to improve the value provided back to students on behalf of their membership such as the recent partnership with TerraViva Competitions in which members are eligible for exclusive discounts. In addition to building upon these types of partnerships, I hope to further leverage our relationships with the 5 allied organizations to provide joint programming such as the FBD program or webinars co-hosted with NCARB. Our organization also has plenty of room to seek out partners most relevant to our members as they transition to the professional environment. Navigating the licensure process and finding employment soon after graduation is something that I hope we can work towards taking more joint ownership over. Potentially seeing us further partner in ARE test prep services, or providing additional resources for early career development.

In addition to the value we provide our members, the organizational structure of our leadership has been and is continuing to be re-evaluated. I am in full support of the efforts made by the current and previous Board of Directors to add reasonable additional checks and balances within the organization to ensure the fiscal health of the organization is maintained. I anticipate as a member of the 2025-2026 Board of Directors to reimagine the role of our officers and directors to divvy workloads in a manageable matter and ensure the time of these board members are being best spent in service of our members and students of architecture.

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 & 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 Board of Directors?

Of the above listed issues, I believe they are all incredibly important to address as an organization though one is severely underdiscussed. I feel that the AIAS's capacity for advocacy could be best used to address the rising issue of student loan debt. I likely don't need to preach to our community of students about the severity of the cost of education, particularly in our field with all the additional costs of software, stationary, and physical modeling materials. These extreme costs are only rising at alarming rates, and this barrier to entry then brings about the concern for equity. Will future generations of architects consist of only those who are able to afford it, or those willing to put themselves into tens of thousands of dollars in debt?

As I called back to last year, in 2022, the AIA published a study of its membership documenting that 89 percent of members under the age of 35 took out loans for their education, and after graduation owed an average of \$53,200 in debt. Compared to our friends in other STEM programs, we graduate with greater debt and see lower salaries. As one of those students with tens of thousands in student loan debt, I find this issue to be most pressing to our generation's economic future.

4. The AIAS has over 300 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size, age range, and even purpose. 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?

Some of my most fruitful personal friendships and partnerships, like those in studio, arise from others who come from completely different backgrounds. A specific example might be my friend David here at the UW who, as an international student from Nigeria, has opened me to a whole new world of design and theory never discussed in my undergraduate studies. Here in the West Quad, we are incredibly fortunate to have just as diverse a population as our landscapes, from the temperate rainforests of my home in the Pacific Northwest, to the deserts and mesas of the Southwest. As we are the most geographically divided Quad, I want to push to create spaces for our student bodies to meet in a virtual format to share their backgrounds and the impact it may be having on their coursework. I would love to provide additional incentive to our members for this intercultural and international connection by potentially formatting this as short, low stakes, competitions hosted by our team. We could recognize some of the great designers in our membership and showcase diverse approaches to design problems.

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 details and scope of the 2025-2026 AIAS Vice Presidency being re-evaluated by the 2024-2025 board, at this time I am unable to be absolutely specific in my plans. However I am enthusiastic to express my intent to spend a vast majority of my time as AIAS Vice President to serve as the inward facing officer of our organization, connecting with our members to ensure they are supported in alignment with our Quad and Regional Directors, Chair our Membership committee to head the charge in re-evaluating what it means to be an AIAS member, and hopefully making a few chapter visits!

As a representative of our membership and architecture students at large, I plan to use the platform of the Vice Presidency and Student Director on the ACSA Board of Directors to advocate for students on a regular basis. I plan to focus on the issues most pertinent to architecture students today, those being mental health and well-being, financial barriers to architectural education, and academic preparation for the professional environment. There's plenty of work to do on each of these fronts, and from my experience on several relevant committees and as a student leader at two universities, mitigating issues between students and faculty, I feel confident increasing my scope of advocacy past the University of Washington, and the West Quad.

6. As an organization that is constantly evolving, the AIAS has to often re-evaluate its priorities. What strategic priorities would you like to see the AIAS focus on during your time on the Board?

Although it certainly isn't revolutionary for our Board of Directors, the AIAS absolutely needs to take a very serious focus on our financial health to ensure the longevity of the independence of our voice as a non-profit student run organization. Looking at data over the past few decades our financial health has seen excessive variation in comparison to the general economy of the United States in which we are based. The current board has worked to begin these efforts of long term financial stability and literacy among student leaders, and I hope to expand much further upon them. It is then from this stability that we can turn around and use our resources to better serve members, such as bringing down the cost of attending our wonderful conferences!



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.

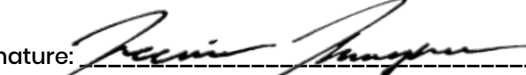
The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduates doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants 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).

Name: Trevin Thompson

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: 11/08/2024



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.

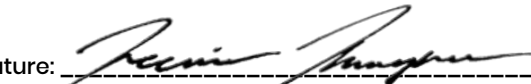
As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Past President.

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: Trevin Thompson

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: 11/08/2024

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): Trevin Thompson

Chapter: University of Washington & Washington State Alum.

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): "Bloom" Conference Chair, President

Email Address: Trevinthompson@gmail.com, trevint@uw.edu

Mobile Phone Number: (209) 627-5578

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: _____
- o Twitter: @_____
- o Instagram: trevinthompson
- o other: LinkedIn: Trevin Thompson, AIAS

