

**REBECCA HENNINGS**

WEST QUAD DIRECTOR  
candidacy packet 2025 - 2026



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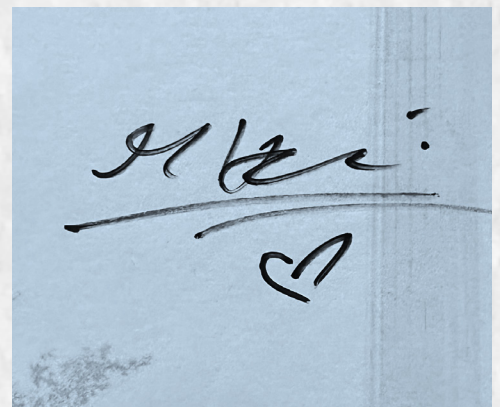
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# Rebecca Hennings, AIAS, Assoc. AIA

rjhennings19@gmail.com | 970.430.8007 | @squeakypumpkin

To:

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

01/01/2025

Re: 2025-2026 West Quad  
Director Candidacy

Dear Past President Brock,

It is with great enthusiasm and a deep love for our organization that I submit my candidacy for West Quad Director for the 2025 - 2026 session.

With a new year, and a new elections cycle, I appreciate the opportunity to reflect on what has led me to this point. I have been with the AIAS chapter at Montana State University long enough to see a full life cycle, and participating in every step of it has had a profoundly transformative effect on my life. In 2021, as a second-year student, I was elected to the board of my chapter, struggling on the heels of Covid. Our internal turmoil continued, and I learned how to navigate the difficult relationships many would relate to in leading a team. As our bonds strengthened, I am truly proud of the work we accomplished and the recognition we received from our peers, our school, and more.

Though we reached heights I never could have dreamed of, we began to face the issues that come from the cyclical nature of a student-run organization. My team and I were nearing graduation, and the future prospects of the chapter seemed unsure. With another tumultuous transition period, we have built a new board that will do great things. As past president, I have had the chance to help our new batch of second-years step up and begin to make the chapter their own, and it has been a fulfilling experience to provide the guidance I lacked four years ago.

Throughout my tenure, I have been a sounding board, an idea generator, a leader, a mediator, a confidant, a friend, and more. As I step into this next chapter of my life, I look forward to keeping AIAS as a prominent component of my life and continuing to share my passion.

With the support of my school, my chapter, and my peers, I have been afforded the ability to continue to grow as a leader, both locally and through membership and co-chairing national committees and a task force. In turn, I hope to pay this forward, and empower students present and future in the role of West Quad Director. Now, more than ever, I am equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to take on leadership at the national level. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this keystone process of the American Institute of Architecture Students, and look forward to serving the organization in whatever capacity I may.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to the AIAS, for being a dependable leader I can rely on, and for being a friend with whom I can celebrate our successes.

Best,



Rebecca Hennings

# Rebecca Hennings, AIAS, Assoc. AIA

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## Education

### Master of Architecture

01/25

Montana State University

**Thesis topics:** urban design,  
blue-green infrastructure,  
social infrastructure,  
hydrosocial cycle

### Bachelor of Arts,

Environmental Design

05/23

Montana State University

## Honors & Awards

### Alpha Rho Chi Medal

12/24

Montana State University

### Chapter Leader of the

Month, September 2024

09/24

AIAS National

### 1st Place, Benjamin

Moore: Future of

Design Challenge

05/24

AIAS National

*Transparencies & Connections*

### Honorable Mention, AIAS

Chapter Honor Award

2022 - 2023

Montana State University

### Cum Laude

05/23

Montana State University

## National Engagement

### Co-Chair, Climate Action & Sustainability Task Force

2024 - 2025

### Student Liaison, AIA Strategic Council Climate Action work group

03/24 - 10/24

### Member, Student Health & Well-Being Task Force

2023 - 2024

### Member, Governance Committee

2022 - 2023

### Candidate, West Quad Director

2023, 2024, 2025

## Local Engagement

### President, Montana State University AIAS

12/21 - 06/23

### Vice President, Montana State University AIAS

07/21 - 11/21, 07/23 - 10/24

### Project Manager, Montana State University FbD

01/24 - 05/24

### Member, Tau Sigma Delta

03/23 - present

### Member, DEIB Committee, MSU College of Arts & Architecture

01/23 - 05/24

### Studio Rep, Student Representative Group, MSU School of Architecture

01/24 - 05/24

### Student Co-Chair, MSU Celebration of Architecture

08/23 - 10/23

## Employment

### Architect-in-Training, Jackola Engineering & Architecture

02/25 -

### Graduate Teaching Assistant, MSU School of Architecture

Design Fundamentals I, 08/24 - 12/24

Architectural Structures II, 01/24 - 05/24

Architectural Structures I, 08/23 - 12/23

### Planning Intern II, City of Greeley, CO

05/24 - 08/24

### Engagement Coordinator, Interboro Partners

10/22 - 05/23

November 13, 2023,

Letter of Recommendation for Rebecca Hennings, AIAS West Quad  
Director Candidate;

AIAS West Quad Director Jury,

I was introduced to Rebecca the fall semester of 2020, when she was enrolled as a student in my second-year design studio at the School of Architecture at Montana State University. Despite the constraints and stressors imposed by the COVID pandemic, Rebecca performed at a remarkable level. The caliber of her work was exemplary under normal circumstances, and I marvel at her abilities and the tenacity required to complete her studio work at such a high level during such a challenging time. This example exemplifies Rebecca's unwavering commitment to her education and passion for learning.

Rebecca exhibited these same traits her involvement with the Montana State University School of Architecture chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). She began her MSU School of Architecture AIAS tenure in 2021 and then was elected to serve as the vice president for the 2021-2022 academic year, paralleling her third year in the program. The individual who was elected to serve as the president did very little to fulfill the obligations of the office, and Rebecca quietly stepped-up to serve as ex facto president while simultaneously serving as vice president. Her willingness to shoulder the responsibilities of both offices for the good of the chapter, while maintaining a positive relationship with the president even though he was not effective in that position, clearly demonstrated Rebecca's ability to gracefully navigate leadership challenges. As the MSU AIAS Faculty Advisor, I had a unique perspective to witness Rebecca's mature and collaborative leadership style as this situation unfolded.

Rebecca was elected to formally serve as president of the chapter for the 2022-2023 academic year. Her primary focus was to breakdown the silos between students in the various years of the curriculum, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all, not just AIAS members. She facilitated outreach events specifically targeting the first and second-year students including "milk/cocoa and cookies" during their studio deadlines, and sponsoring workshops to help introduce lower-level students to various software fundamentals.

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Additionally, Rebecca coordinated a series of workshops to prepare our students for real-world scenarios such as interviewing and salary/benefit negotiation strategies and applying for internships. Also, these workshops, open to the entire student body, included portfolio and resume' writing workshops. She engaged local practitioners and members of the School's Advisory Council to lead these workshops, thus increasing AIAS and the school's contact with the professional community.

For the 2023-2014 academic year, Rebecca again stepped-up and was successful in her bid for MSU's AIAS chapter vice president. In this role, she has created a co-governance model with the current AIAS president, eliminating the often-awkward transition in leadership from year-to-year, maximizing effectiveness of the chapter. Her humility to again serve the chapter, in a lesser role in title only, speaks loudly to her commitment to the chapter and her unwavering desire to see it succeed.

In this role, Rebecca's efforts were key in bringing back the annual Celebration of Architecture event, put on hold since the onset of the pandemic. This event is the largest annual fundraiser for student scholarships, featuring both live and silent auction items. In addition to raising money, Celebration offers students the chance to engage practitioners who sponsor tables for the event. Securing firm sponsors, live and silent auction items, and arranging the logistics was all accomplished in an incredibly short timeline of a mere five weeks!

As the AIAS chair for the Celebration of Architecture event, Rebecca put on full-display leadership and organizational skills, as well as ability to rally the support of AIAS chapter membership to make this year's Celebration an outstanding success! In addition to her "heavy lifts" on behalf of the chapter and school, Rebecca was appointed to serve on the AIAS National Governance Committee last year and the Student Health and Wellbeing Task Force this year, demonstrating her unwavering passion for supporting AIAS at the chapter and national levels.

Rebecca quietly leads by example. She is incredibly hard working, focused, and perhaps most importantly, KIND. These traits and have her on an extraordinarily positive trajectory both academically and professionally and make her an excellent candidate for the AIAS West

Quad Director! I give Rebecca my highest possible endorsement and I can think of no-one more deserving of such an honor.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chere LeClair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chere LeClair, FAIA NCARB LEED AP  
Teaching Professor

November 22, 2023

To whom it may concern,

It is an honor to write in support of Rebecca Hennings as the 2024-2025 West Quad Director.

As current President of AIAS at Montana State University, I have been able to witness Rebecca's work ethic, positive attitude, responsibility, and outstanding leadership skills. I have been on the board with her for three years and have seen her succeed at President and Vice President roles. Rebecca is an excellent leader, always encouraging fellow students to become involved in AIAS and her fellow board leaders to do the best job possible. Her ability to delegate tasks has been beneficial in reducing stress and making sure everyone feels that they are part of a team. Rebecca provides a constant source of positivity, which is especially helpful when solving problems. Her commitment to AIAS and work ethic has helped our chapter create and host many successful events.

Rebecca's efforts have helped our chapter achieve our goals of increasing engagement, supporting more students, connecting to professionals, and creating relationships with faculty. An example of supporting students is her help planning and executing an "Open Office" event, where we rented out drafting tools AIAS owns to first year students. This allowed us to connect with students and decrease the cost of buying tools. We also held the Celebration of Architecture, which is a main fundraising event for our chapter and allows students to connect with faculty members and professionals. Rebecca had a major role in planning the event, and her hardwork and commitment made the event a huge success. Other events such as Lunch and Learns and firm tours were started by her and have been a continuing success that many students look forward to attending.

Rebecca has played a crucial role in reviving Montana State's chapter of AIAS and making it a successful organization. It has been an honor serving with her, as she is always excited and willing to help out when needed. Above all, Rebecca is comfortable being in leadership positions which benefits those around her. Her reliability, work ethic, and positive attitude would make her a great asset to the AIAS National Board of Directors.

For any further questions you can email me at [reesesjostrom.aias@gmail.com](mailto:reesesjostrom.aias@gmail.com).

Kind regards,

Reese Sjostrom  
AIAS Montana State University  
Chapter President 23-24



# QUESTIONNAIRE pg 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?**

The AIAS has been an inviting community where I have been able to build lifetime connections amongst a network of people that ranges from local chapters to the international level. At the beginning of my architectural education, I was content to stay within the circle of my school. However, this quickly changed soon after joining Montana State University's AIAS chapter. Through navigating the complex transition into leadership, meeting fellow students with the same drive and passion as myself through calls, conferences, and committees, and building upon those friendships, I have found my community.

When I think back to those who have had the most prominent impact on my leadership development, many include current or past board members. Without the encouragement and friendship of our past-past-West Quad Director, I would never have entered the world of the National AIAS. I am constantly inspired by my fellow members and the future of the profession that surrounds us in the AIAS. I hope to empower even one student to feel like their voice deserves to be heard at this level, as those have done for me before.

**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?**

The AIAS has an opportunity to expand its connections to other student organizations in adjacent professions within the built environment. This can include landscape architecture, interior design, urban planning, and more. The current alliance of architectural organizations has shown the feasibility and effectiveness of connecting with other organizational entities. There are many chapters already that coordinate with such student chapters at their schools to broaden events and share resources. To see an effort of connection with these organizations at the national level would only strengthen the work already happening at the local level.

Creating connections with other organizations that work in the built environment would support students seeking an alternative or nontraditional career path. By diversifying resources through networking with other professional organizations, we can expand the development of foundational technical skills that our architectural programs already provide. This will aid all students, whether they are pursuing licensure or an alternative path. As a professional student organization, it is important to provide members with the tools to prepare them to pursue a fulfilling career.

# QUESTIONNAIRE pg 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, 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?**

Equity in architecture is an issue that must be considered in all things, as it impacts all other concerns. Otherwise, we risk continuing to be a part of the problem. The world is rapidly changing, and the field of architecture must work to acknowledge the mistakes it's made, and we must subsequently take responsibility for our future. This needs to be addressed in a timely manner, and as students, we have the agency to provoke change within the profession through networking solutions and inspiring the people around us. "NCARB by the Numbers" shows that while there are decided improvements, there is much to be desired in leveling the playing field to allow individuals of all backgrounds to achieve their goals in architecture. The inequities of access pervasive in this profession, with its exclusionary history, will not be changed without the active reframing of those who participate.

The AIAS has the ability to undertake both grassroots efforts through its local chapters as well as larger, more concerted efforts through its national presence. Individual chapters have pioneered unique ways of addressing inequity in their schools and beyond. As West Quad Director, it would be my goal to empower chapter leaders to share these strategies and help bolster each other. In the capacity of an officer of the national board, I would champion these issues and solutions to expand the outreach of the AIAS.

I am also aware of the limitations of my own perspective, and the privileges that I have been afforded as I have pursued architecture. By elevating and placing importance on all voices, we can benefit and learn from a wider range of lived experiences in order to create impactful change. I believe that the Quad Director is a position uniquely suited to advocate for equity. As I seek this position, I am sensitive to the responsibilities that come with being the voice for many, and the consideration and care that must be dedicated. To be an advocate for every student in the West Quad would be my highest priority.

**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?**

One of the great strengths of the AIAS is how widespread its network is. This organization links together people who otherwise may not have had the chance to build a relationship. This comes with its own challenges as well. It can be difficult to bridge the gaps between chapters, and the time between conferences. Additionally, not every student has the means to attend national events in person. It is important to ensure that all students feel the full benefit of their membership, and the national backing that they have. To do so, outreach to members must be a priority. One way that I would fill these holes is to utilize the social media tools available to the fullest extent. Sharing the work of



# QUESTIONNAIRE pg 3

chapters, as well as interactive polls and check-ins, can create smaller, more casual points of interaction between students and the national leadership.

In line with this, I believe that resources that help communicate and connect students with the benefits of their membership would benefit those aiming to grow their chapter. Many members will not seek leadership roles or have the opportunity to attend a conference. Every student has a different reason for joining the AIAS, and providing them with the ability to easily access the resources that will aid the fulfillment of their goals will maintain and strengthen their affiliation with the organization.

**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.**

I am fully prepared to take on the responsibilities that come with this position. To serve on the national board is to guide not only the student members, but the organization at large. I have developed a robust understanding of the operational functions and needs through my term on the Governance Committee. My experience as Co-Chair of the Climate Action & Sustainability Task Force has prepared me for the delegated responsibilities that come with a director position, such as liaising with committees. Combining this experience with the skills honed during my years of leadership on the Montana State University executive board, I am well-equipped to attend to the nuances of this unique organization.

I believe that strengthening the connection between individual chapters and the national organization is critical. The Quad Director is the ideal person to foster this relationship. I intend to increase the visibility of the function of committees with the general membership by highlighting them in Quad Pod Calls. In these calls, I would structure the meetings to allow for rapport to continue to be developed on a personal level. Utilizing the West Quad social media accounts would additionally be a way to maintain a level of connection. The heart of the AIAS is the students that make up its membership. Creating a safe place to share our successes, work through our troubles, and deepen our camaraderie is of the utmost importance.

**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?**

The AIAS has made significant progress over the years. From transitions to align with the desires and needs of its members to weathering the Covid pandemic with strength, the very nature of the AIAS is to change. To provide the necessary flexibility and adaptability for a diverse and constantly evolving student population, a strong financial foundation is essential. A primary role of any board of directors is to secure the success and sustainability of their organization, with fiduciary health being a crucial cornerstone. The current board has already put in excellent work towards this goal, but I believe that it must remain a priority for the incoming board. The financial status of local chapters is also incredibly important to consider when thinking of the big picture. Continuing to provide resources to increase their prospects and support the incredible work they are doing in their home field is critical.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS  
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006  
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: Rebecca Hennings

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: 12/26/2024





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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 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: Rebecca Hennings

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: 12/26/2024

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



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## 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): Rebecca Hennings

Chapter: Montana State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Past President

Email Address: rjhennings19@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (970) 430-8007

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

o Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

o Twitter: @\_\_\_\_\_

o Instagram: @squeakypumpkin

o Other: www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-hennings-aias-8abb09209/