

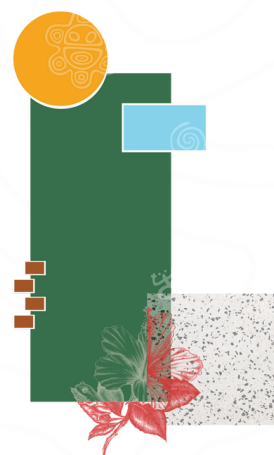


patricia negrón meléndez.★

2026-2027 AIAS Vice President Candidacy Packet
Savannah College of Art and Design
pnegrn21@student.scad.edu | (787)689-2160

content. ★

letter of intent	3
resume	4
letters of school support	5
letter of member support	6
candidate questionnaire	7
aias policy on intern compensation	10
aias elections code of ethics	11
contact information sheet	12



patricia negrón meléndez.★



letter of intent

dear past president luther,

I am writing to declare my intent to run for the 2026 2027 AIAS Vice President position.

I want to be honest in saying that I never thought I would be writing this letter. I have not always been someone who puts herself out there, and for a long time I did not picture myself pursuing a national role in the AIAS. But through my experiences in both AIAS and NOMA, that has changed. I have grown into someone who understands the value of using her voice, even when it feels challenging.

I have not always had an easy experience within the AIAS. Because I come from a strong foundation in NOMA, I often felt like an outsider in AIAS spaces and uncertain of where I fit. I kept those feelings to myself until the 2025 Board Retreat, when I spoke about my experience for the first time. Your response, and the response of the board, was filled with understanding, respect, and genuine openness. That moment showed me the strength of an organization that listens and grows.

You in particular have always made me feel that my opinion not only matters, but deserves to be heard. That encouragement has shaped the way I see myself as a leader. It has also played a meaningful role in why I am choosing to run for this position.

I am running because I want to listen to those around me who believe in me and support me. I am running because I want to create an AIAS where students who may feel the way I once did can see themselves included and valued. I want to help build an environment where diverse perspectives, whether shaped by NOMA, AIAS, or other communities, are seen as essential to the future of the organization.

Thank you for being a leader who listens, who cares, and who helps others find their voice. Your impact has been significant, and I hope to carry that forward in service to the AIAS.

sincerely,

Patricia Negrón Meléndez

References upon request • 787.689.2160 • pnegrn21@student.scad.edu

patricia negrón meléndez.

architecture student - resume

Dorado, Puerto Rico | pnegrn21@student.scad.edu



summary.

Aspiring architect passionate about using design to advance equity and community empowerment. Committed to creating inclusive, culturally rooted, and sustainable spaces that connect people and place.

education.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture

Sep 2022 - May 2026

Savannah College of Arts and Design (SCAD)

- Integrated Path Into Architectural Licensure (IPAL) Student
- Dean's List

professional experience.

BRIC Architecture - Intern

Jun 2024 - Present

- Assist in the design and development of architectural projects, conducting research, preparing drafts, and collaborating with senior architects to gain practical experience in the field.

SCAD Student Ambassador

Sep 2023 - Present

- Provide prospective students with valuable insight into student life and assist the Admission Department with all events.

NOMA Barbara G. Laurie Student Design Competition

2023 and 2024

- Participated for two consecutive years. In the first year, developed the landscaping design in Revit while learning from upperclassmen and strengthening technical and teamwork skills. In the second year, served as Project Manager, coordinating design tasks, schedules, and communication, and presented the team's proposal at the national conference.

leadership and professional involvement.

NOMA National Student Representative

Jan 2025 - Present

- Elected to act as a bridge between students and national leadership, facilitating communication, sharing resources, and advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within the architecture community.

AIAS National NOMA Liaison

Jul 2025 - Present

- Appointed to serve as the connection between AIAS and NOMA, fostering collaboration, communication, and shared opportunities to advance equity and student leadership in architecture.

SCAD NOMAS

- Co-President
- Communications Chair

May 2024 - Present

Sep 2023 - May 2024

SCAD AIAS

- Secretary
- Professional Development Chair
- Sophomore Representative

May 2024 - Present

May 2024 - May 2025

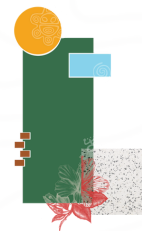
Sep 2023 - May 2024

skills.

- Leadership
- Time Management
- Problem-Solving
- Public Speaking
- Collaboration
- Software: Basic Revit and Rhino, Advanced Adobe Suites and Microsoft Office

patricia negrón meléndez.★

letter of school support



SCAD

Aaron Wilner, AIA
Chair, Department of Architecture
School of Building Arts
Savannah College of Art and Design
912.525.5887
awilner@scad.edu | www.scad.edu

November 19, 2025

Letter of Support

To the AIAS Board of Directors Elections Committee,

This letter confirms that the SCAD School of Building Arts and the Department of Architecture are fully aware of Patricia Negrón Meléndez's intent to seek the position of National Vice President for the upcoming term on the AIAS Board of Directors.

Patricia has demonstrated an exceptional level of leadership, initiative, and professionalism during her time within the department. Her service as SCAD NOMAS Co President and SCAD AIAS Secretary reflects a proven commitment to student advocacy, organizational leadership, and the advancement of architectural education. Her ability to guide, coordinate, and elevate student engagement has been evident both inside and outside the classroom, and through her continued leadership in the NOMAS design competition.

The department acknowledges the responsibilities and time commitments associated with a national AIAS leadership role. We understand that this position requires consistent engagement, professional communication, and a significant commitment to advancing the mission of AIAS at the national level. We fully support Patricia as she undertakes this opportunity and are confident in her ability to meet the expectations of this role while maintaining her academic progress.

Patricia is an outstanding representative of SCAD Architecture, and we are proud to endorse her candidacy for National Vice President on the AIAS Board of Directors.

Sincerely,
Aaron Wilner, AIA

Aaron Wilner, AIA
Chair, Department of Architecture

patricia negrón meléndez.★

letter of support - aias member



Dear AIAS Elections Committee,

I am writing this letter today to support Patricia Negrón Meléndez's candidacy for the 2026-2027 AIAS Vice President. Patricia and I both attend Savannah College of Art and Design together where we have served on the AIAS board together for the past 2 years. I feel that Patricia is a strong candidate for this role as she is reliable, offers support, inclusive of everybody, and handles herself in a diplomatic way.

Through working together, Patricia is always someone I can rely on for help with different club responsibilities. Communication is important when working together on a board and Patricia's communications skills are something I admire about her. Not only does she complete her roles in the club whether Professional Development Liaison or Secretary, she is upfront about her schedule and always informs the club when she cannot attend an event based on other commitments.

Another attribute of Patricia's that makes her suitable for the role of AIAS Vice President is her approachability. Patricia is easy to talk to when an issue arises in the club setting whether it is on the AIAS board or when working together on Barbara G. Laurie Student Design competition for NOMAS. In the past I have gone to her with issues on the way something is being handled and Patricia has aided me in fixing the issues without causing further problems and in a professional manner.

Overall, Patricia is someone who is organized, supportive, and professional. She speaks up for herself and is also always there for others. All of these attributes make her an excellent candidate for National AIAS Vice President.

Sincerely,

McKenzie Rehrer
SCAD AIAS Vice President



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?

I am running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors because I believe in the potential of student leadership to strengthen architectural education and build meaningful support systems for students across the country. Over the past three years on the SCAD AIAS Board, and now serving as the NOMAS Liaison on the National Board, I have seen both the strengths of our organization and the areas where we can continue to evolve. What motivates me most is the opportunity to help chapters feel more connected, supported, and confident in their leadership.

My foundation with NOMA has also shaped my desire to serve. Working within both organizations has shown me the importance of collaboration, the value of diverse perspectives, and the impact that comes from aligning missions. I want to help strengthen communication, expand access to resources, and ensure that all members feel represented and empowered within the AIAS.

Ultimately, I am running because I care deeply about the future of this organization and the students who rely on it. I want to contribute to building a more transparent, equitable, and welcoming AIAS that can support and uplift the next generation of members.

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?

Although we celebrate the many strengths of the AIAS, I believe it is healthy and necessary to acknowledge where the organization can continue to grow. One area where I see room for improvement is in how intentional we are with our time and the passion of our board members. We have incredibly committed students who care deeply about the mission of the AIAS, yet the structure of a one year term limits how much they can realistically accomplish.

A one year term has benefits, but it also presents challenges. It is difficult to be fully intentional in such a short span of time. Board members are often asked to learn how the organization functions, understand their role, set meaningful goals, and bring initiatives to life all within a single cycle. This can create a gap between passion and capacity, not because of lack of effort, but because the timeline is not aligned with the impact our members want to create.



I also see room for growth in our approach to cross organizational collaboration. Many of the challenges that students face are not unique to a single organization. There are opportunities for deeper partnerships with groups like NOMA, community college networks, and other student centered organizations that serve overlapping communities. A more intentional and consistent framework for collaboration could expand our reach, diversify our perspectives, and strengthen support for students who engage in spaces beyond the AIAS.

In short, the AIAS has no shortage of energy or vision. The opportunity lies in creating structures that allow our passion to be carried out with intention and in building stronger bridges with the communities that share our mission.

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?

The issue I find most important is equity, both in access to opportunity and in the sense of belonging students feel within the architecture community. For many minority students, the challenges begin early. They often do not see themselves reflected in their faculty, in leadership, or in the profession as a whole. This lack of representation can lead students to question whether they belong or whether there is a future for them in this field.

My own experience has shown me how powerful it is to be in spaces where your voice is welcomed, and how transformative it can be when others show you that you do belong. By creating accessible pathways for students to step into leadership spaces, and by strengthening collaboration with organizations that serve communities who are underrepresented, we can show students that this profession is for them.

As a board member, I would continue to advocate for an AIAS that listens to its members, amplifies the experiences of those who are often overlooked, and creates a culture where every student feels they have a place. Equity is not a single initiative. It is a commitment to building a community where all students can see themselves in the profession and know that their presence matters.



4. The AIAS has over 250 active 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?

The strength of the AIAS comes from the cultural and geographic diversity across all of our chapters, including our international chapters that often bring perspectives shaped by entirely different educational and cultural contexts. Yet these chapters can sometimes feel distant or overlooked simply because their experiences are not always reflected in our national conversations.

As a board member, I would use my position to create more intentional moments of cultural learning and sharing. When chapters have spaces to share their traditions, values, design approaches, and student experiences, it encourages members to see each other not just as separate groups, but as contributors to a much larger and richer story of architectural education. These exchanges can take the form of simple chapter to chapter conversations, cultural share sessions, or collaborative events that highlight how different regions learn and practice design.

For our international chapters specifically, I believe we should create more visibility and celebration of their work. Their cultural contexts offer lessons that can broaden our understanding of what it means to study architecture around the world. When we uplift those stories, we help international members feel valued and we help domestic chapters learn from perspectives they may not otherwise encounter.

Meaningful connection grows from curiosity and respect. By centering cultural exchange and elevating the voices of chapters that are often overlooked, we can build an AIAS where every member, no matter where they are located, feels seen, included, and connected to the larger community.

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.

As Vice President, I intend to fulfill my role by being an active listener, an intentional communicator, and a consistent point of support for our members. My communication plan centers on regular check-ins with chapters, open conversations with students, and clear updates that help members understand the work of the Board and how it serves them.

My main goals for my one year term are to make board positions more intentional in both structure and impact, and to support cross organizational collaboration that strengthens the sense of belonging within our membership. Above all, I want students to feel connected, represented, and supported throughout their time in the AIAS.

patricia negrón meléndez.

architecture student

Dorado, Puerto Rico | pnegrn21@student.scad.edu



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: Patricia Negrón Meléndez

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.

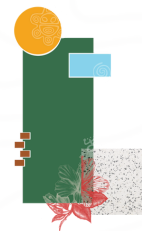
Signature: 

Date: 11/20/2025

patricia negrón meléndez.

architecture student

Dorado, Puerto Rico | pnegrn21@student.scad.edu



THE 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: Patricia Negrón Meléndez

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: 11/20/2025

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

patricia negrón meléndez.★

architecture student

Dorado, Puerto Rico | pnegrn21@student.scad.edu



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): Patricia Negrón Meléndez

Chapter: SCAD AIAS

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Secretary

Email Address: pnegrn21@student.scad.edu

Mobile Phone Number: (787)689-2160

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

Facebook: _____

Twitter: @_____

Instagram: @pnegronmelendez

Other: _____