

# SUSAN YANG

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NORTHEAST QUAD DIRECTOR  
APPLICATION



Leading with Purpose,  
Serving with Heart.

Building connections, inspiring students, and  
strengthening the AIAS community across the region.

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

Past President Jordan,

During my freshman year, I wasn't involved in AIAS—something I continue to regret, as I now know how meaningful this community is. In my sophomore year, a friend encouraged me to join the board of my local chapter as Vice President. Although I didn't yet have a deep understanding of AIAS, I knew I wanted to be more engaged in my community and serve as a resource for others. Since joining, I have truly fallen in love with the organization and its mission.

I later became the Chapter President of the Roger Williams University chapter, and through attending both Forum and Grassroots, I developed a strong passion for continuing my leadership journey. With that in mind, I am officially declaring my intent to run for the 2026–2027 AIAS Northeast Quad Director position.

My time as Vice President and President has taught me invaluable skills in supporting students, advocating for their needs, and helping them advocate for themselves. Seeing national board members in action at conferences inspired me deeply—I realized that I want to be someone who supports not just my immediate community, but students across the region. Through these experiences, I've learned the importance of speaking up and being an advocate, and I hope to amplify the voices of others as Northeast Quad Director, providing strong emotional and academic support.

Witnessing the national board's dedication to advocating for students globally has been truly inspiring. Your collective work is a major reason I am pursuing this role, and I hope for the opportunity to give back to this community, share what makes AIAS so special, and help others fall in love with the organization as I have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Yang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being more prominent and the last name "Yang" following in a similar style.

Susan Yang  
Roger Williams University | Chapter President

# SUSAN YANG

## Undergraduate at Roger Williams University

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🌐 susanyang2004

## Experience

### American Institute of Architecture Students

#### Chapter President

May 2025 - Present

- Head representative and contact of anything regarding AIAS
- Oversees the chapter on an ethical, procedural, and functional standpoint.
- Representative of Roger University Chapter during national conferences (i.e Grassroots, Forum, and QUAD)
- Co-Planner and primary contact of new supplies store at Cummings School of Architecture
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### American Institute of Architecture Students

#### Vice President

October 2024 - May 2025

- Assist president in all presidential duties and oversees the club constitution and policies
- Assume presidential role in absence of president or if unable to fulfill duties
- Plan General Assemblies and create monthly newsletters

## Accomplishments

### Studio Mentor

#### Roger Williams University

- An active Studio Mentor to new incoming Freshmen
- Active planning as Chapter President along side studio mentor coordinator to create a better program from previous years for studio mentors and the incoming freshmen

### School Material Store

- Oversees Roger Williams University's "101 Studio Store" with the treasurer, which is run completely by AIAS through the efforts of the chapter board members.

### Student Involvement Numbers

- Significant increase in student attendance to events and general assemblies from previous years. Students have been more aware of the presence of AIAS and what we do.

## Skills

- Rhino
  - Revit
  - AutoCAD
  - Lumion
  - Adobe Creative Suite
  - Model-Making
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November 20, 2025

American Institute of Architecture Students  
Nominating Committee  
1736 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-5292

RE: Susan Yang, candidate  
Northeast Quadrant Director  
Letter of Support

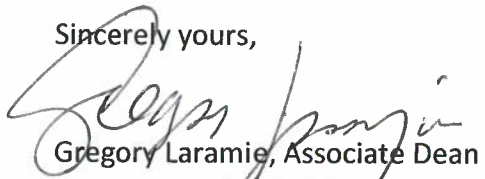
Dear Nominating Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for **Susan Yang's** initiative to become Northeast Quadrant Director. Susan is currently a third-year student in the Bachelor of Science in Architecture / Master of Architecture 4 + 2 program of study.

As Associate Dean of the Cummings School of Architecture, and as Advisor to the AIAS/RWU chapter, I have come to know Susan as a hardworking and thoughtful student. I have witnessed her active participation in the AIAS, first as chapter member involved with organizing the annual Beaux Arts Ball, then as Vice President, and now currently serving as President, plus being a mentor to first-year students. She has attended Forum and Grassroots, and is an invaluable member of our community. Susan has the support of the students, is well-organized and motivated to succeed.

All of these attributes will also serve to make her a successful director, should the membership decide in her favor. Our school is fully aware of the commitments and responsibilities she will carry in that position and all the implications it may have on her academic commitments. This letter of support is submitted with great enthusiasm and without any reservation.

Sincerely yours,



Gregory Laramie, Associate Dean  
Cummings School of Architecture  
Roger Williams University

Christina Muraca  
AIAS Active Member  
Nomination: Susan Yang

I am a third year student pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Architecture at Roger Williams University. While I have only known Susan since the end of our sophomore year, she has made a huge impact on my life inside and outside the AIAS community. From attending board meetings to getting dinner after studio together, I would not want anyone else to be the president of our club.

Under Susan's leadership, general assembly meeting attendance has increased heavily and we have even had the opportunity to open a store in our building so there is easier access to materials for all grades. There have been several events such as our annual ice cream social which was very popular and our haunted house which also drew a good crowd.

Susan has always understood what it means to be a leader and knows how to uplift her peers. From being vice president last year to president this year, she can handle situations with ease. In board meetings she is very organized and thorough which is something not only the other board members but our advisors think of as considerate. I was not considering running for a board position until I was approached by her and another current board member. After deliberation I did and having the opportunity to become as close as we are has truly meant the world to me. I am even considering running for president next year, although no one could fill her shoes.

Throughout all the years, Susan is also active with the freshman. Whether it is cutting scale figures or a quick InDesign tutorial, she is always there. She has a plan of action she has seen through thus far and is putting us in a position to continue being one of the top clubs on campus.

Susan is not only my president, she is one of my friends. She does everything with compassion and truly wants to see others put their best foot forward. She puts her all into her work and is an example everyone should follow. She is consistent and when she asked me to write this, I felt honored. Throughout her leadership in our chapter and her thoughtfulness she puts into her work, I fully and enthusiastically endorse her as Northeast QUAD Director.



Christina Muraca  
Roger Williams University  
B.S. Architecture 2027  
AIAS Mentor Coordinator  
Admissions Ambassador



**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?**

*Attending my first Forum and later my first Grassroots confirmed for me that I wanted to remain actively involved in the AIAS community—whether through continued engagement in my local chapter or by serving in a national leadership role. I have always been drawn to opportunities where I can support others, and my local chapter allowed me to fulfill that passion. However, seeing the national board connect with and uplift chapters across the country made me realize that I wanted to contribute on a broader scale.*

*AIAS fosters a sense of community within a field that can often feel challenging and isolating. I want to be part of the work that strengthens this network, ensuring students nationwide—and globally—feel supported, encouraged, and empowered. I aspire to be someone students can turn to with their concerns, whether related to architecture or personal challenges.*

*I am running for AIAS Northeast QUAD Director because I want to support our chapters with the same dedication and care that my current QUAD Director has shown me. Without AIAS, and without the experiences I gained at Forum and Grassroots, I cannot imagine where I would be today. These opportunities have shaped my commitment to serving architecture students and expanded my perspective through the resources and connections I have gained.*

*I hope to use my knowledge, experience, and passion to assist not only those directly around me but also anyone in our community who seeks guidance or support. AIAS has profoundly impacted both my life and my personal growth. If given the opportunity, I want to share that impact with others and help students amplify their voices—just as AIAS has helped me amplify mine.*

**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?**

*One of the most significant concerns architecture students face is whether they want to pursue licensure. The process can be long, challenging, and costly, and I believe we can better support students by offering informational sessions, workshops, and other accessible resources that clearly outline the licensure journey and provide guidance for those considering it.*

*At the same time, it is equally important to support students who may choose not to pursue licensure. Many students complete an undergraduate architecture degree only to realize that becoming a licensed architect is not the path they wish to follow. AIAS has a responsibility to support students regardless of the direction they choose. While many schools emphasize the licensure track, they often provide far less clarity about alternative career options within or adjacent to architecture.*

*I believe AIAS can play a vital role in filling this gap. By inviting professionals who have built successful careers without pursuing licensure to share their experiences, or by offering additional resources that highlight these alternative pathways, we can provide students with a more comprehensive understanding of the opportunities available to them—just as NCARB supports those pursuing licensure.*

**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?**

*Health and wellness is an issue I consider one of the most important within the architecture community. The academic and professional path in architecture is demanding, yet the toll it takes on students is often overlooked. Many experience burnout within their first two years and may even lose the passion that originally brought them into the field. As someone who has personally navigated burnout and strongly advocates for mental health, I believe AIAS has the capacity to expand its support for students facing these challenges.*

*To address this issue, I would focus on providing students with practical resources and strategies that can help reduce stress and promote balance. For example, offering informational sessions on organization and time-management can help students structure their workload more effectively, potentially lowering stress levels. I believe that consistent organization is a powerful tool for success, as it allows students to plan ahead and alleviate unnecessary pressure.*

*Additionally, AIAS could expand its mental health resources by sharing self-care strategies, stress-reduction techniques, and opportunities for students to openly discuss their experiences. Creating spaces where students can connect, share struggles, and recognize that others face similar challenges can be incredibly impactful in fostering a healthier and more supportive studio culture.*

**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?**

*I believe AIAS currently has a strong system for connecting chapters, particularly within each quad. Forum and Grassroots have been invaluable in helping chapters engage with one another, providing opportunities for students from across the country and around the world to meet and share experiences. I believe we can continue to expand the impact of these events by supporting chapters in their outreach efforts and helping introduce AIAS to students who may not yet be familiar with the organization.*

*To support chapter growth and strengthen inter-chapter connections, I would continue promoting Hub hangouts for Chapter Leaders and encourage participation from chapters seeking to expand their networks. Additionally, I would prioritize assisting chapters interested in hosting or attending conferences by connecting them with the resources, guidance, and contacts they need to succeed.*

*If given the opportunity to serve as Northeast Quad Director, I would use the connections and resources available to me to support chapters that may not have the same access. It would be my responsibility to ensure that these benefits extend beyond my own experience and help elevate the chapters throughout our quad.*

**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 intend to fulfill the role of Northeast Quad Director by sharing my connections and resources with chapters throughout the quad while also offering meaningful emotional support to students. I am committed to advocating for mental health within the architecture community, as it remains an area where many students struggle but is too often dismissed as “part of the experience.” I want to help students develop the confidence to advocate for themselves in a rigorous major where their challenges are sometimes overlooked by peers and faculty. My goal is to amplify student voices and collaborate with fellow board members to foster an environment where students are truly seen, and their well-being is taken seriously.*

*I hope to support students on both a personal and broad scale—being present for individual conversations, helping them navigate difficulties, and also ensuring they have access to consistent, reliable resources beyond my own support. I want to empower students to speak up for their needs and serve as someone they can rely on during difficult moments.*

*Ultimately, I aspire to be a Northeast Quad Director who listens attentively, responds thoughtfully, and encourages students to become the best versions of themselves through self-advocacy. Speaking up for oneself can be challenging, and I want to create a community where students feel comfortable expressing their concerns and confident that they will be heard.*



## 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:

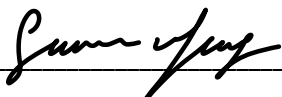
The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. 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: SUSAN YANG

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: 11/22/25

## 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: SUSAN YANG

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: 11/22/25

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

## 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): SUSAN YANG

Chapter: ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Email Address: SYANG667@G.RWU.EDU / SYANG1604@GMAIL.COM

Mobile Phone Number: 774-312-3633

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- ☐ Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Twitter: @\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Instagram: SUSAN.YANG.16
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_