

Michael Chang  
1208 10<sup>th</sup> street  
Floresville, TX 78114  
chang.michaelj@outlook.com

11.16.2016

Danielle Mitchell  
American Institute of Architectural Students  
1735 New Your Ave.  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Danielle Mitchell:

My name is Michael J Chang and I intend to run as AIAS South Quad director on the national board of directors. I have made the decision to run due to my interest and commitment in advocating the student voice of the architectural profession.

I believe that I would be a good fit, because of my time and experience. I have attended Forum since SCAD 2012 and have been to every Forum barring Nashville (year of my internship). I served as AIAS chapter president at San Antonio College in 2013. Our chapter raised membership and membership value throughout the term – ending with our largest member presence at Forum Chicago that same year (doubling the previous year).

A year after transferring, I am currently serving as AIAS chapter vice-president at The University of Houston. We are setting the foundation with several practices learned from our recent venture to grassroots. I am also serving as an AIAS national membership committee member – currently researching digital platforms and strategies for community college and high school involvement. In addition, I am the programing director of Forum Texas in Austin 2018-2019 – responsible for submitting the list of suggested speakers for both keynote and educational sessions in the collective program of the event. Finally, I am an AIAS NAAB Representative – seeking to participate in furthering architectural education.

I believe that AIAS is an integral part of architectural education and student voice. It is an avenue that truly makes an impact on people's lives. Therefore, I would love to continue my service as an AIAS South Quad director.

Given my time and experience in my involvement with AIAS, I am confident that I am an excellent fit for the national board of directors. I have dedicated five years of my life to this organization in hopes of furthering the AIAS mission: advancing leadership, design, and service among architecture students. If you have any questions, please contact me using the information at the top of this letter.

Respectfully Yours,

Michael J Chang

**Michael Chang**  
1208 10th street  
Floresville, TX 78114  
702.556.6064  
chang.michaelj@outlook.com

## OBJECTIVE

South Quad Director position on the American Institute of Architecture Students national board of directors

## EDUCATION

- University of Houston – Junior (3.0gpa)
- San Antonio College – Associate of Arts in Architecture (3.87gpa)

## EXPERIENCE

### American Institute of Architecture Students

#### Vice-President

- Developed sponsor relationships which provided consistent funding throughout the year
- Directed workshops that boosted member participation by more than sixty percent
- Established brand and team mentality which increased chapter moral

Houston, TX  
Mar.2016|Current

#### President

- Coordinated with AIA thereby generating new competitions and installations at AIA Beaux Ball
- Collaborated with peers to set milestones and directive that clearly defined chapter goals
- Oversaw officer responsibilities and growth opportunities resulting in a progressive environment
- Organized Canstruction competition winning "Best use of Labels" against thirteen architectural offices

San Antonio, TX  
Mar.2013|May.2014

### Michael G Imber Architects

#### Intern

- Produced floor plans and sections that furthered company vision
- Appointed in full responsibility of new commercial 3D printer streamlining design conceptualization
- Generated over twenty marketing items aiding in a 8% increase in reach according to Wordpress
- Created digital/physical models for clients establishing new billable IP in office deliverables package

San Antonio, TX  
Aug.2013|Aug.2015  
210.824.7703

### Rice to Go - Restaurant

#### Manager

- Managed payroll, budget, staffing, training, food quality and presentation
- Set goals and checkpoints for business growth establishing two new restaurant branches
- Delegated services for customer satisfaction meriting 4.4 stars on Facebook

Floresville, TX  
Sept.2009|Dec.2012  
830.393.0292

## SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

- Multiple previous leadership positions
- Architectural freelance experience with Rising Barn and Stella Maris
- Organized meetings and webinars in a leadership position
- Fluent in Chinese

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- AIAS | Chapter President/Chapter Vice-President/Freedom By Design
- AIAS | Membership Committee/Programing Director Forum Texas in Austin/ NAAB Representative
- Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society | Member

2012 | Current  
2016 | Current  
2012 | 2014

## AWARDS & VOLUNTEER

- San Antonio College Student Services | Student Leadership Award - AIAS Chapter President
- San Antonio College Student Services | Student Leadership Award - AIAS Member
- San Antonio | Food bank
- San Antonio | Habitat for Humanity

2013 | 2014  
2012 | 2013  
2011 | 2014  
2011 | 2014

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design

November 14, 2016

Dear Committee Members:

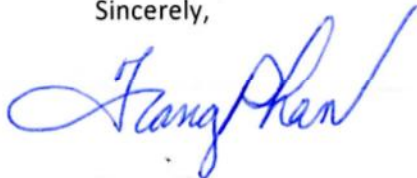
I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation in support of Michael Chang's candidacy for the position of the American Institute of Architecture Students' (AIAS) South Quad Director for the 2017-2018 term.

As Michael's academic advisor and AIAS advisor, I have the privileged opportunity to observe Michael's growth as a dedicated and diligent student, as well as an emerging leader. Michael is engaging and committed to any tasks or goals he resolves to fulfill. He has done a great deal to contribute to the academic and collegiate life of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design as an active member and leader in the American Institute of Architecture Students-Houston Chapter (AIAS). In his current capacity as vice-president of our AIAS chapter, he has worked collaboratively with his fellow officers, as well as our college's faculty and administrators, to develop opportunities for students to engage with the profession and its leaders and leading firms.

Aside from his involvement in extra-curricular activities, Michael maintains academic excellence. This is no small feat for any student, but it is particularly noteworthy for an architecture student such as Michael, given his long hours and intense schedule. There is little time for activities outside of the studio, but like so many dedicated students and leaders, Michael makes the time.

Michael is a wonderful asset to our student body. He contributes to the quality of our student life and academic standards at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. Furthermore, he is a deserving and worthy candidate for a national position within the AIAS. I hope you will give him your fullest and most thoughtful consideration. Michael will not disappoint.

Sincerely,



Trang Phan  
Assistant Dean  
Director of Student Affairs & International Programs

**YOU ARE THE PRIDE**

## ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Election Questionnaire is for all Officer and Quadrant Director candidates. Please limit your responses to two pages total, and submit responses as a .PDF file, compiled with all other election materials, to the Elections Chair, Danielle Mitchell, at [DanielleMitchell@aias.org](mailto:DanielleMitchell@aias.org).

1. **Describe your origin story as a student leader.** What prompted you to get involved? What advice would you give others who have yet to realize their potential for leadership?

2. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to student loan debt, studio culture, intern development, leadership, technology, and diversity. **What one issue do you personally find the most important?** How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors?

3. The AIAS has over 160 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size from just a few students to hundreds. **How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership?** What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?

4. **Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS** to engage in a new way. Either with other organizations, with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, with the international design community, or any other audience or venue.

1. Describe your origin story as a student leader. What prompted you to get involved? What advice would you give others who have yet to realize their potential for leadership?

My origin story isn't anything unique or special, but it is a testimony to this organization and its influence on peoples' lives.

My first forum in Savannah, Georgia Forum 2012 blew me away. It inspired and propelled me into a place that was unconformable yet undeniably exciting. The passionate people, engaging conference, inspiring keynotes all converged into a single moment of realization: "I want to do more."

The one nugget of advice I would give is to ask themselves: "Who do I want to be in the future? Does that future involve leadership qualities?" I don't believe that everyone wants to be a leader and that is OK. Live a life that you love. However, if your goals are in line with leadership. Then, just do it. Why not now? Seek to succeed in everything pertaining to your dreams.

2. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to student loan debt, studio culture, intern development, leadership, technology, and diversity. What one issue do you personally find the most important? How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors?

Although these issues are imperative to the development of architectural education, studio culture was the founding principle of AIAS as well as the issue that most directly influences all students. There are many schools across the nation with barriers between students, faculty and administration. AIAS was established as the student voice, yet schools are still resisting the student/faculty opinion in their education.

There isn't a simple solution. There are different scenarios for every school. However, if these institutions are ignoring the student body. Let the voice become loud enough to not be ignored. This starts with connectivity between students, faculty and chapters.

As an elected leader, I would borrow from my experience as a membership committee member to engage students while simultaneously prepare student leaders to address faculty and administration.

3. The AIAS has over 160 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size from just a few students to hundreds. How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership? What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?

During my time within the membership committee, the team focused on researching different possibilities for high school and community college engagement. This typology emphasizes key issues plaguing all students: time and cost.

Technology has brought connectivity to instantaneous levels around the world while also remaining affordable to students. Let's further capitalize on this resource to bring about growth while also connecting culturally diverse members across the world. A virtual "brain trust" of design.

4. Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS to engage in a new way. Either with other organizations, with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, with the international design community, or any other audience or venue.

There are untapped opportunities in being a design cooperative - embracing multiple fields of design.

AIAS is an organization rooted in architecture. However, architecture involves many different forms of design and designers. As a student organization, AIAS has opportunities in sharing with other fields not readily accessible to architectural professionals and current institutions. Let's bring about an inclusion of different ideas and study; thus, establishing values of education outside of studio. These channels will also generate architectural influence in other trades. AIAS therefore, displays pose and relativity to future professionals of the world.

## **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.

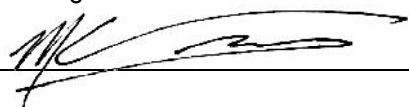
The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to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

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|04|2016



## 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, Board members and elections committee 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 Elections Committee.

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 Elections Chair.

### 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: Michael J Chang

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: 11/04/2016

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 Elections Committee 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): Michael J Chang

Chapter: AIAS at the University of Houston

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): AIAS Chapter Vice President

Email Address: chang.michaelj@outlook.com

Mobile Phone Number: 702.556.6064

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/michael.chang.77964201
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/michaeljchang/
- Other:





# AIAS ELECTIONS

2016

SOUTH QUAD DIRECTOR - MICHAEL J. CHANG



*DO WHAT YOU LOVE*