

ELIZABETH SEIDEL

61ST AIAS NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

CANDIDACY PACKET



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LETTER OF INTENT

Candidate 2017-2018 Vice President

November 20, 2016

Danielle Mitchel, Assoc. AIA,
Past President AIAS
Chair of the Elections Committee
1735 New York Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20006-5292

Past President Misses Danielle Mitchell, Assoc. AIA;
Chair of the Elections Committee,

I am writing this letter to share with you my interest in running for the AIAS Board of Directors. Having played an increasingly more involved roll in my local AIAS chapter from joining in 2010 to being the West Quad Director this year, I am confident in taking the next step to expand my leadership skills and involvement with our great organization. I have gained invaluable leadership skills through serving on my local board, on the National Board and at CWG Architects in Helena, Montana. While working at CWG Architects I grasped how important it is to listen. I learned how to keep my ears open, ask questions, chase what I want to know, and stay organized. Most importantly I learned to make it my business to create a positive work environment. Learning how to dig deep for solutions to my challenges, truly facing them head on, built my character in a way that has made me willing to step into roles that I have not yet grown into.

While sitting on the National Board of Directors 2016-2017 I have had the opportunity to be deeply engaged with our membership and share in their successes, challenging them to surpass their blue sky goals, and the chance to support them when they feel like they have reached the end of their abilities and patience. While working with the other directors I have come to understand how diverse our membership is nationally, let alone internationally, and how differently each region needs to be approached. My communication, professionalism, problem solving, adaptability, self-confidence, leadership and management skills have grown through this experience. However, the most rewarding part about serving as a quadrant director is unequivocally providing a platform to encourage, support, and inspire.

During my short tenure as liaison for the Advocacy Task Force I have gained an understanding of what equity and diversity mean to our generation and what expectations we have of our futures. It warms my heart to see members brand us as the 'progressive generation' and their willingness to commit the time it takes to tactfully express our views to past and future generations. I am overwhelmingly excited to take these ideas and further them in an officer position on the National Board. Among these are the reasons why I feel like I am an excellent candidate for the 2017-2018 National Vice President.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Seidel
Director, West Quadrant 2016-2017, National AIAS
Chapter Past President 2016-2017, Montana State University AIAS

PROFESSIONAL

Western United States

_Director, West Quadrant National AIAS 2016-2017

Helena, MT

_CWG Architects_Intern 5/2015-8/2015

Bozeman, MT

_Karen Gilhousen_Personal Assistant 7/2011-8/2013

_Copper Spring Ranch

_Office Assistant, Bookkeeping Assistant

_Landscape Crew 2012-2013

Columbus, MT 2014 Summer Position

_Stillwater Community Hospital_Medical Record Intake

SKILLED

Revit_I have an excellent foundation in Revit design and have a beginning knowledge of parametric family creation and manipulation.

EQUEST_Developing

Sephira for Revit_Competent

WUFI_Developing

Rhinoceros_Competent

Sketch up_Competent

Adobe Design Suite CS6_Competent

Computer Rendering_Competent

Hand Drafting and Lettering_Competent

Hand Drawing_Competent

Hand Model Making_Competent

RECOGNIZED

AIAS Presidential Honor Award Nominee 2015-2016

By Montana State University AIAS, Faculty Advisor and MSU AIAS Executive Board

Leadership for the Profession Scholarship

By Doug Bailey and the Montana State University School of Architecture Scholarship Committee

Montana AIA Chapter Scholarship

Montana AIA Chapter

Montana State University AIAS Scholarship

By Montana State University Chapter of AIAS

Undergraduate Dean's Honor Roll

By Montana State University

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Inducted December 2010

OUTGOING

Gallatin Valley Mall Bozeman, MT

_Orange Julius_Blender Tender 2011-2014

_Chatty's_Soda Jerk 2011-2014

_Famous Wok_Server Summer 2012

_Bath & Bodyworks_Sales Associate 7/2011-1/2012 Seasonal

POSITIVE

Columbus, MT 2014 Summer Positions

_Kid's Club_Child Care Giver

_Beartooth Healthcare Community_Companion and Senior Aid

DEDICATED

Montana State University Bozeman, MT

_Master of Architecture Expectant Fall 2017

_Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design Spring

2015 - With Honors

Portland Community College Portland, OR

_Drafting Technology, Transfer Summer 2009

INVOLVED

_Director, West Quadrant National AIAS 2016-2017

_AIAS Montana State University Chapter Past President

2016-2017

_AIAS Montana State University Chapter President

2015-2016

_USGBC Montana Student Member 2015-2016

_AIAS Montana State University IDP Coordinator 2014-15

_AIAS Montana State University Fundraising Coordinator

2014-15

_MSU Faculty Lecture Committee Spring 2014

_MSU Faculty Gallery Committee Fall 2013

_AIAS Montana State University Historian 2013-14

_AIAS Montana State University Historian 2012-13

American Institute of Architecture Students Member Since 2010

CREATIVE

My current thesis work delves into equitable design for those on the Autism Spectrum. Through this investigation one will be able to understand how a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder experiences the built environment, and how we as designers can incorporate universal coping mechanisms in design to positively contribute to their passage through public and private spaces. My greatest desire is to broaden designer's understanding of what accessible design means by showing that **healthy architecture is architecture for everyone.**

When I am not designing, I fill my time with learning through leadership, watercoloring, expression through photography, furniture building and design, and swing dancing.

I am passionate about facilitating learning and leadership in a way that caters to many learning styles and positive working environments.

18 November 2016

Danielle Mitchell, Assoc. AIA,
Past President AIAS National
Chair of the Elections Committee
1735 New York Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Elizabeth Seidel
Letter of Support for Vice President of AIAS

Dear President Mitchell:

With alacrity, I recommend Elizabeth Seidel to you as a candidate for national Vice President of AIAS. She currently serves as west quadrant director and chapter past president for Montana State University. She has almost singlehandedly revitalized the AIAS chapter here and she has been a real force in the School for professional relations and professional education.

Elizabeth has been a real force in the school for engaged education and for collaboration with green building initiatives and other parts of the campus. Under her leadership our AIAS chapter has grown substantially and it has a level of spirit that spills over into the studios. Further, her work has made membership in AIAS a goal for incoming students. With an eye to fiscal responsibility and to the sustainability of the Chapter, Elizabeth restructured the finances and set up a system to ensure long term viability. She also has a sense of spirit of commitment for AIAS that is infectious and that has carried over into the halls and studios of the School.

School of Architecture

160 Cheever Hall
P.O. Box 173760
Bozeman, MT 59717-3760
www.arch.montana.edu

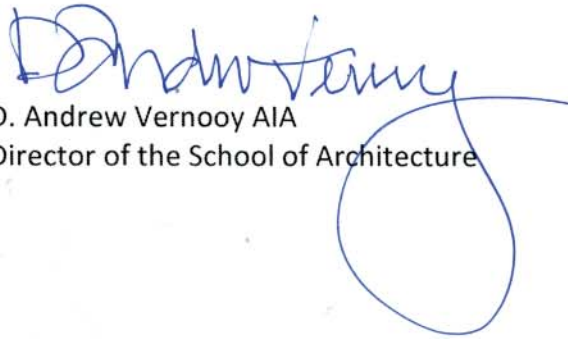
Tel (406) 994-4255
Fax (406) 994-4257
Email architect@montana.edu

It is important to point out that Elizabeth is also an excellent role model; she is sensitive, caring and supportive. Her description of the following AIAS chapter leadership was glowing and supportive; I was impressed in her humility. She is also a good student and being able to balance strong work with leadership is a skill that all architects must learn.

With knowledge of her abilities as a leader and as a student, and with knowledge of her organizational skills, I heartily recommend Elizabeth Seidel to you for the position of national Vice President of AIAS.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions: call or text 806.786.0641.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Andrew Vernooy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

D. Andrew Vernooy AIA
Director of the School of Architecture

November 18, 2016

To whom it may concern:

In reference to Elizabeth Seidel

For the past few years I have been the faculty advisor to the Montana State University (SOA) AIAS Chapter. In that capacity I have worked with and advised a number of AIAS presidents, Elizabeth stands out from this group for a number of reasons, largely based on her ability to motivate and lead her board and the chapter membership.

Elizabeth has always had a strong vision for the chapter centered on value and inclusiveness. Value for the members in the chapter through providing opportunities to engage with the academic communities on campus and across the country. And the creation of Opportunities to engage design professionals in our state and elsewhere in the country through active participation with the Montana Chapter of AIA and the MSU School of Architecture Advisory Council to involve students and professionals in activities where they are able to meet each other and share their skills and values.

The Advisory Council has recognized Elizabeth's outstanding leadership of the chapter by proposing a collaboration to strengthen the Council's activities with MSU AIAS and support chapter activities. They consider the direction that Elizabeth and her board have taken the chapter to be critical to the enhanced student learning, health, and professionalism that reflects a very positive image of the school. The Advisory Council generously supported several AIAS activities that were initiatives introduced by Elizabeth and her board and have resulted in the investment of more time and financial resources to support AIAS and the School of Architecture.

Under Elizabeth's watch the membership of the chapter increased and she has reached out to other student organizations of interest to architecture students, namely USGBC, to help student to understand the collaborative nature of the Practice of Architecture.

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The first issue Elizabeth tackled as president was a discrepancy in the Chapter's finances caused by a lack of coordination and record keeping by the preceding AIAS Board. With the help of SOA financial officer, the director of the school, and chapter advisors she was able to identify what the problem was and how it developed, and then formulated a plan to resolve the issue. During this period, she implemented a conservative approach to chapter finances by a thorough review of chapter activities and working with her board to set limitations on chapter activities. In a short time, the issue was resolved and the financial stability of the chapter restored. Elizabeth's experience with this process convinced her to reorganize board policies so the problems would not occur again. She made the duties of each board member more transparent so other board members could understand the division of responsibility and the effort required of each board position. She then developed a method to cross train board positions to build corporate memory and responsibility. As part of this process she wrote a policy manual to help board member orient themselves as to their duties and responsibilities, created a policy to review the efficiency of board members, and established a procedure for correcting non-performance. She wrote an outline of chapter activities, developed a yearly schedule that established milestones for each activity, and documented a process to follow for each activity. This is a great example of Elizabeth's leadership and skill as an organizer/administrator since she developed the information while supervising chapter activities, engaging and training her board, and coordinating activities with faculty, staff, and advisors. Her efforts created a culture of collaboration and inclusiveness that motivated her board and encouraged other students to become members of the chapter.

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Elizabeth Seidel to anyone that she might seek employment with. I know you will find her a worthy employee and capable leader.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas McNab". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas E. McNab AIA, NCARB, CSI, LEED AP

Montana State University School of Architecture
Director, MSU Community Design Center

Voice: 406-994-3793
tmcnab@montana.edu



August 6, 2015

RE: Elizabeth Seidel's Summer Internship

To whom it may concern:

This summer we had Elizabeth Seidel in our office as a working intern. I was her IDP/NCARB mentor and general office supervisor. Over the course of a few quick months she received a number of different experiences within the field of architecture and we found her to be very capable and a great team member.

She completed a wide range of tasks from ADA work to project facilitation, see below for a partial list of her work. Much of this required sitting in meetings, coordinating with owners, researching specifications, managing schedules as well as overall design.

Documented conditions of multiple buildings and apartments as part of an ADA accessibility Survey. Drafted and coordinated design on a re-roof project. She completed a building addition for an existing log cabin. She managed a pro-bono design project for Habitat for Humanity. She worked through assembling project specifications, material research and door hardware. She designed a porch addition. Completed schematic design options for the exterior of a car wash. She assisted with getting a new project by doing a schematic 3-D model for a school. She drafted a current school building from a 1950's & 60's set of drawings. All this work was in Revit.

My goal was to ensure she experienced a broad range of work and expand her understanding of architecture while utilizing her creative and organizational abilities. I hope you can see we reached that goal.

Aside from our need for her skills we provided opportunities to see buildings being built, she recently took a trip to see a highway department project under construction south of Butte, Montana.

I also met with her on bi-weekly schedule to review what she was working on and how it fit within her NCARB/IDP hours. She was very organized in this area. Elizabeth has a great personality and a passion to do the best work possible at each step. She was a great employee and I would recommend her as a valuable staff addition.

Officially her work with us will be done August 7th; however I will continue working with her through AIA Student Chapter in the fall of 2015.

Please call our office at 406.443.2340 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Jason Egeline, AIA, NCARB, LEED GA
Vice President
Crossman Whitney Griffin P.C. Architects

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?

When I was a freshman two of my studio teaching assistants were very involved in AIAS. They invited me to attend one of their meetings. Having always been involved in extracurricular activities that lent themselves to leadership roles, I was excited that there was a club dedicated solely to architecture. Our chapter only had about six active members at that time and they were all on the board and very excited I wanted to be involved. This little group gave me a student family, and they embodied this incredible positivity. Shortly after introductions I was hooked. By my second year in Montana State University's program I was asked to be the Historian and I have never looked back. I know I was drawn in because of that one on one interaction and mentoring I got from that older group of students. Now as the Director of the Western Quadrant, I have had the opportunity to bolster up leaders that maybe didn't have the support I did. It is has been so utterly rewarding and grown me in ways I didn't know possible.

I believe the most pivotal piece of encouragement anyone can give to a future leader is to let them know that at no point will they ever be asked to do something alone. Part of what we do as leaders is identifying what we are good at and where others excel. Being a part of a team allows all of those skills to be utilized. My response to them would be to view their weaknesses as challenges rather than a dis-qualifier and that leadership is a skill set that can be developed. Their passion is the most important piece.

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?

I believe hands down that a positive work environment is the key to creating successful young professionals. I feel that an AIAS Chapter Board has a much larger sway in the community of their school when they are unified both in the boardroom and in their public lives. This is not to say that board members have to spend all of their time together, more so that wherever they go they carry with them an uplifting spirit of encouragement. I am passionate about helping members across the country understand what their leadership style is individually so they understand how their strengths can be utilized within a group. It empowers a group of people when they know the strengths and needs of those around them. This knowledge creates a strong community of support and the ability to handle conflict resolution in a kind, professional manner. This ability to be positive in the scholastic environment has a direct transfer to the professional world, and will be a trait which will make a new hire invaluable.

Additionally, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Advocacy Task Force. We have greatly honed in on what equity and diversity means to our generation. It has been empowering and eye opening. I am convinced that we, as the progressive generation, can push our desires for equitable design and diversity of the workforce into the profession as a whole. There has never been a generation like us. Being the Vice President would allow me the opportunity to further the voices of our membership into the professional realm. This will happen particularly with the relationships formed from serving on the ACSA Board, and in conjunction with the AIAS President's outward facing role to the profession as a whole.

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?

The implementation of the Global Counsel as a special committee of the National Board of Directors has fostered the beginnings of real international representation and relationship with our local constituents. I can only see greater things coming of this as we move to understand what AIAS means on a global scale. I believe it is important to understand that each member carries with them experiences of places and events that are entirely unique. It is our passion for our futures that bind us together, all we need is the routes of communication to be opened. #Slack is a platform that we have been using on many scales for communication and logistics. It has allowed me to keep in closer contact with student leaders I met at Grassroots this year and is making Forum seem much more like a family reunion than a conference. To build this connection on a national level, I would like to extend this connection to the other leaders within the chapter boards. It allows us to network on a more intimate level than on other social media sites because it is like creating a forum in which challenges and successes can be discussed. It has been great to hear chapter presidents giving shout outs to what their members are doing within their school and local communities. On a global scale, I believe we can better understand our international constituents through broadcast panel discussions about topics such as diversity in our programs, representation of emerging professionals, studio culture, and where we as a progressive generation plan on carrying our profession. It would be intriguing to understand where students from Bahrain, Egypt, Guatemala, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates stand on these issues and what other concerns they face locally that differ from the United States. It is our responsibility as a generation to think and strategize with tact at a global scale.

As far as growing membership, I can only speak from personal experience having been a part of two rebuilding cycles within my chapter at Montana State University. Community service outreach opportunities have been the most successful venue to add value to AIAS membership and have had a direct impact on the growth of our chapter. Joining AIAS becomes more valuable to students when businesses within the community come forward to thank us for helping with an after school program or with offering our analytical skills to community master planning projects. **Our minds are our greatest untapped resource, and exploiting that resource is free.** I encourage you to think big, think out of the box, and think service. Discovering and offering opportunities to your student body to better one's community with this resource is unquantifiable. These venues of service create an organizational identity that can be tapped into globally. Paramount to our success as an organization is the sharing of chapter successes. It has been an integral part of our bonding this year across the West Quad, and across our country. Organizing larger platforms on Slack could aid in gathering all of our chapters together, internationally.

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.

Something I have seen in my local chapter as a venue for growth over the last few years was an integration of local professionals and students. I believe there is a disconnect between what students think architecture is as a profession and what it is actually like. The only people that can explain what the first day, week, and year of an intern's journey is going to be like is a professional that hires interns. Similarly, the only people that can explain the value of hiring a millennial in this time of technological flux is a millennial. Personally, I believe there needs to be more involvement between AIAS and professionals on the micro scale. By encouraging students to reach out to local professionals we can close this generational gap that seems to be growing wider with exponential speed. Examples of these exchanges could simply be inviting a professional to coffee with a group of students, asking professionals to give their schematic presentations at a general meeting, going on informal firm tours in small groups with question and answer sessions, or talking about the current problems within the practice. All of these fulfill the need for the cross generational connection we are currently experiencing. Then in return, **architecture students have the responsibility to teach what they understand about the profession to children in the k-12 realm.** Do you have the tools to break architecture down so a third grader can understand it? Try and make our skills and tools building blocks for their future. If you can conquer this, you can conquer the fears and misconceptions your future clients will have about why and how we design.

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: Elizabeth Seidel

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature:  _____

Date: 11/20/2016

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: Elizabeth Seidel

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: 11/20/2016

CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate 2017-2018 Vice President

Elizabeth Seidel

Chapter: Montana State University

Leadership Position: Director, West Quadrant

Chapter Leadership Position: Chapter Past President

Email Address: west@aias.org

Mobile Phone Number: 406-321-1430



<https://www.instagram.com/elizabeth.seidel>



<https://www.facebook.com/eliza.seidel>



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lizseidel>



[@ElizabethRoseMT](#)



[permanently.liz](#)

#Lead**Bow**daciously



ELIZABETH SEIDEL

61ST AIAS NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT