

AIAS ELECTION

MICHAEL J CHANG
President 2018



LETTER

20 November 2017

Sarah Wahlgren
American Institute of Architectural Students
1735 New Your Ave
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Sarah Wahlgren:

My name is Michael J Chang and I intend to run as the AIAS national president on the national board of directors. I have made the decision to run due to my interest and commitment in advocating the student voice within 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).

In 2015, I transferred to The University of Houston for their B. Arch program. From there, I served as AIAS chapter vice-president and as an AIAS national membership committee member. I am currently serving as AIAS chapter president at The University of Houston and continue to commit to NAAB as an AIAS representative. In addition, I am the programming director for Forum Texas in Austin 2017-2018: responsible for submitting and connecting speakers for keynotes, workshops and educational sessions in the collective program of the event.

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 the AIAS national president.

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 six years of my life to this organization in hopes of furthering the AIAS mission: advancing leadership, design, and service among architecture students.

Respectfully Yours,



Michael J. Chang

Chapter President | 2017-2018
E | chang.michaelj@outlook.com
P | 702.556.6064

EXPERIENCE

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

Houston TX Current	FORUM PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR Secured key players including professors, firms, professionals and preconference tour Helped develop theme and direction of the conference Generated schedules, keynotes, sessions, and workshops Coordinated with AIAS national on logistics, sponsorships, and planning Investigated site and attended events such as SouthBySouthwest to study program
Houston TX Current	CHAPTER PRESIDENT Furthered internal affairs with faculty/staff increasing an additional advisor resource Projected quantitative objectives to qualitative goals of the board Procured new partnerships with firms elevating member value Labored to help sponsorships double by several thousand from previous year
Houston TX 2016 2017	CHAPTER 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
San Antonio TX 2013 2014	CHAPTER PRESIDENT Worked with AIA generating new competitions and installations at AIA Beaux Ball Collaborated with peers to set milestones and directive Oversaw responsibilities and growth resulting in a progressive environment Construction competition winning "Best use of Labels" against 26 offices/firms
San Antonio TX 2012 2013	FREEDOM BY DESIGN DIRECTOR Assembled ramps with Texas Ramp for more handicap accessible homes Lifted a second story porch for a home in a historic neighborhood Outreach creating partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, The Food Bank, and S.T.A.R.

ARCHITECTURAL FREELANCE

Baytown TX 2015 2017	STELLA MARIS ARCHITECTURE Composed marketing material which brought in multiple new clients Created digital models for interactive client selections and visualization Rendered project imaginary for client presentation and development
San Antonio TX 2015 2016	RISING BARN Conditioned comprehensive models to be used for construction Staged assembly of buildings with materials/kit of parts creating a catalog Designed SIP building prototype for software development

MICHAEL G IMBER ARCHITECTS

San Antonio TX
2013 | 2015

ARCHITECTURAL INTERN

Produced floor plans and sections that furthered company vision
Appointed in full responsibility of 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

LOTUS RESTAURANT

San Antonio TX
2010 | 2013

MANAGER

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

HONORS | AWARDS

AWARDS & VOLUNTEER

Houston Habitat for Humanity	Current
Houston Food bank	2015 2017
San Antonio Habitat for Humanity	2013 2015
San Antonio Food bank	2012 2015
Presidential Honors	2012 2014
Jurors Choice Sophomore Competition	2013 2014
"Best use of Labels" Construction	2013 2014
San Antonio College Student Student Leadership Award	2013 2014
San Antonio College Student Student Leadership Award	2012 2013
Project Community Garden Adaptation	2012 2013

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

Planned, scheduled and organized meetings, webinars, workshops and agendas
Multiple organized leadership positions
Taught workshops, sessions and lead tours
Fluent in both Chinese and English
AutoCAD | Rhino | Revit | SketchUp | 3dsMax | Sketching | Blender | AdobeSuite

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design

November 20, 2017

Dear Committee Members:

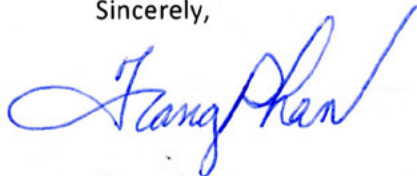
I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation in support of Michael Chang's candidacy for the position of the American Institute of Architecture Students' (AIAS) National President for the 2018-2019 term.

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 chpt-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

QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

I started out like every other student – I was figuring myself out in the world and AIAS was a way for me to better understand architecture and design. However, the leadership within AIAS has taught me to do so much more. They have inspired me to get involved and really invest myself within the community. After all this time, I hope to do the same for others.

The one nugget of advice I would give is to ask ourselves: “Who do I want to be in the future? Does that future involve leadership qualities?” I do not believe that everyone wants to be a leader. Quite honestly, there is a ton of responsibility and commitment that come with the territory. However, if your goals are in line with leadership, AIAS is the perfect place to learn. Just go for 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 is not a simple solution, but I believe that it starts with connectivity between students, faculty and even the profession.

As an elected leader, I would borrow from my experience across my previous positions to bring about a better-connected organization. From the chapters, a resource catalog to better connect not only events, but the chapters’ work and materials. From the faculty/staff, to express AIAS as part of their own resources and better involve or highlight AIAS as a component to the school itself. From the profession, AIAS would be a better organization with more partners. Partners such as Black Spectacles or even Rhino, Zbrush, printing/publishing companies, etc. The list and possibilities are endless. These are just a few ideas to be discussed.

QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

One of the things the planning board really focused on for this conference is cultural, gender, and ethnic diversity. As a leader and in part of making this a primary goal at the start, the board succeeded (to the best available) in having relatable and culturally diverse speakers to engage the geographically and culturally diverse members.

As for connecting students, the team on the national membership committee focused on researching different possibilities of engagement. We found that most students have trouble with the time and cost of engagement. Therefore, using technological means made the most sense as the medium.

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. Besides the peer to peer resource catalog, there are opportunities that can expand out from the existing podcalls and conferences to a more open digital system.

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.

I have talked about some of the ways we may engage in many of these topics. Therefore, I will expand on other ways we may connect as 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.

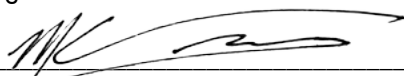
The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduates doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants 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 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: November 20, 2017



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.

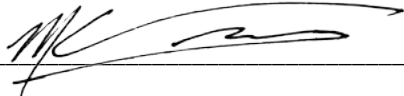
As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Elections Chair.

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: _____ November 20, 2017 _____

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: _____ University of Houston _____

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): _____ Chapter President _____

Email Address: _____ chang.michaelj@outlook.com _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____ 702.556.6064 _____

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: _____ www.facebook.com/chang.michaelj _____
- Twitter: @ _____
- Instagram: _____ www.instagram.com/michaeljchang/ _____
- Other: _____ www.linkedin.com/in/michael-j-chang-241553a8/ _____