







MARIAH TOBIN

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TRANSFORM

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"The desire to reach for the sky runs very deep in the human psyche."

- Cesar Pelli

- 03 LETTER OF INTENT | MIDWEST QUADRANT DIRECTOR
- 04 RESUME
- 05 LETTER OF SCHOOL SUPPORT | DEAN KATHY ANKERSON
- 06 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
- 07 AIAS POLICY ON INTERN COMPENSATION
- 08 AIAS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS
- 09 CONTACT INFORMATION SHEET





MARIAH TOBIN  
AIAS ELECTION

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN  
MIDWEST QUADRANT DIRECTOR

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak;  
courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."  
- Winston Churchill

November 26, 2017

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



Past President Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA  
Chair of the Elections Committee,

I am writing to inform you of my interest to run for the Midwest Quadrant Director position on the 2018-2019 AIAS National Board of Directors.

My journey with AIAS started when I was a Freshman in college; I joined to become more involved on campus and within the architecture community. By the time that first semester was over I was completely invested in my AIAS Chapter, and I was attending Forum with a large group of my peers. My first ever Forum, Chicago 2013, I had never been in a room with as many people as I was that first general session. The experience **BROADENED** my understanding of what life outside of small, rural Nebraska could be. When Roll Call ended (back when we called all the chapters every day) I was hooked. I drank the "AIAS Kool-Aid" and I was addicted.

My second conference was Forum, Nashville 2014, the leadership that I saw had such an immense **IMPACT** on me. It was at this conference that I knew I wanted to be up on that stage. I wanted to run for a National Board position. The idea was exhilarating and terrifying all at the same time. When I got back home my goal was set. Now I had to achieve it, so I ran for Social Media Director at the UNL Chapter. Throughout the years, I have worked my way up **TRANSFORMING** into a stronger leader through my various positions, learning the ins and outs of AIAS. I served a year and a half as our Chapter President, served on the Elections Committee in 2015, last year I served on the Membership Committee and am currently on the Advocacy Committee. Finally, after four Forums, two Grassroots, and one Quad, I'm here, running for Midwest Quad Director for 2018-2019.

I had absolutely no idea how invigorating, exacerbating, rewarding, upsetting, beneficial, uneasy, and awesome these years in AIAS would be. Throughout all the ups and downs, the **OPPORTUNITY** this organization has given me has made it all worthwhile. The experiences I've had, the people I've met, and the lessons I learned have helped shape me into the person I always wanted to be, a better version of myself.

I am running for the Midwest Quadrant Director position, so I can continue to further grow as a person, but also to help others reach their goals. With my years of experience and passion for AIAS, I fully believe that I am capable of advocating for and leading those future leaders, creators, movers, and shakers, as their **NEXT** quadrant director.

Thank you for your consideration. Enclosed are the materials requisite to certify my candidacy.

Respectfully,

Mariah Tobin, AIAS  
2016-2017 AIAS Chapter President, University of Nebraska - Lincoln





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"To create, one must  
first question everything."  
-Eileen Gray

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## EDUCATION

2013 - 2017  
Current

Bachelor's of Science in Design Architectural Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Master's of Architecture - MArch; Master's of Community & Regional Planning - MCRP, UNL

## WORK EXPERIENCES

2014 - 2015  
2014 - 2016  
2017  
Current

Metropolitan Utilities District, Engineering Summer Intern  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Architectural Research Assistant  
The American Institute of Architects Nebraska Chapter, Summer Intern  
Encompass Architect p.c. - Architectural Intern

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH

2014-2016

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Architectural Research Assistant

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

2013 - 2015  
2013 - 2017  
2013 - 2017  
2017  
2017  
2017

(Student Alumni Association) Scarlet Guard  
(PSP) Phi Sigma Pi Honor Fraternity - UNL Chapter  
(AIAS) American Institute of Architecture Students  
(SPAN) Student Planning Association of Nebraska  
(APA) American Planning Association - Student Membership  
(NOMAS) National Organization of Minority Architecture Students

## LEADERSHIP

2013 - 2014  
2013 - 2014  
2014 - 2017  
2015  
2015 - 2016  
2015 - 2016  
2015-2017  
2016  
2016 - 2017  
2017  
Current

UNL, Residence Hall - Senate Representative  
UNL, Residence Hall - Floor Events Coordinator  
Student Ambassador - College of Architecture  
AIAS Nationals Elections Committee  
Phi Sigma Pi Honor Fraternity, Public Relations Coordinator  
American Institute of Architecture Students, Social Media Director  
(AIA) American Institute of Architects, Nebraska Chapter - Executive Boards Student Liason  
AIAS Nationals Membership Committee  
American Institute of Architecture Students, UNL Chapter President  
Architecture Committee at Parkside Homeowners Association  
AIAS Nationals Advocacy Task Force

## HONORS/AWARDS

2013 - 2014  
2013  
2016  
2017  
2017

Nebraska Alumni Association/Nebraska Legends  
UNL, James Canfield Scholarship  
AIA Cultural Diversity/Gender Equity Scholarship  
AIA Cultural Exploration Scholarship  
AIA Central States Student Design Competition - 3rd Place Award Winner

## SKILLS



Autodesk Flow Design



Autodesk Revit



Rhinceros



SketchUp



Microsoft Office



Adobe Acrobat



Adobe Photoshop



Adobe Illustrator



Adobe InDesign



Listener



Writing/Speaking



Loyal



LETTER OF SUPPORT  
KATHY ANKERSON

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN  
DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

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Sarah Wahlgren, Assoc. AIA,  
Past President AIAS  
Chair of the Elections Committee  
1735 New York Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Mariah Tobin – AIAS Midwest Quad Director Candidacy

Dear Ms. Wahlgren,

As Dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska (UNL), I write to support the candidacy of Mariah Tobin for the AIAS Midwest Quad Director. She currently serves as past president AIAS for UNL and during her year of presidency, was involved not only in the effective leadership of AIAS but as well in the student leadership team of the College (Dean's Student Advisory Board).

Notably, as president, Ms. Tobin worked hand in hand with the leader of NOMAS to develop conversations among our students regarding diversity. She worked to build the chapter's membership, and coordinated with local professionals to add relevancy and interest to the activities and offerings of the chapter. She has the support of the chapter and the students as well as the faculty. She knows what leadership entails, and consistently works to advance both her skill as a leader and build on her experiences.

Based on her record of leadership and her strong desire to serve the profession in leadership roles, I strongly recommend Mariah Tobin as a Midwest Quad Director candidate. I am convinced you will not find a stronger advocate for the AIAS nor for the profession! She has a demonstrated desire to move the profession forward in an equitable manner, and a history of serving in leadership roles which position her quite well for this position.

Ms. Tobin is strongly motivated, and demonstrates an ethic of hard work and is a good student. These attributes, when coupled with her leadership skills and experience, make her an ideal candidate for Midwest Quad Director!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katherine S. Ankerson'.

Katherine S. Ankerson, AIA, FIDEC, IIDA, NCARB  
Dean, College of Architecture







MARIAH TOBIN

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"SO MANY KIDS DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT AN ARCHITECT IS.  
THEY DON'T THINK ABOUT HOW BUILDINGS ARE BUILT...  
BUT THAT'S WHERE ALL OF YOU COME IN." - MICHELLE OBAMA

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@mjtobin5

## ELECTIONS 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 became an AIAS member my first few weeks into college as a Freshman and I've been a member ever since. I was very involved in high school and I wanted to get my foot in the door with some of the leading organizations within the college. I wanted to find my niche within the architecture community and further develop my potential to take on a leadership positions. It wasn't too hard of a decision to join AIAS, although, I do remember looking it and AIA up on my phone, just to see if it was legit.

The best advice I have ever gotten on how to be a leader is to, "Speak without Fear." Surprisingly enough, the advice was actually written on a necklace, but in all fairness my mother had been saying something similar my entire life, however, her saying was more like "Let your freak-flag fly." Either way the best advice I could give students who have yet to realize their potential for leadership, is to not let fear stop you, but to lean into it.

### 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?

Studio Culture is an ever-changing issue; we see this with the vote of COPs to reconvene the AIAS Studio Culture Task Force every couple of years. I think there needs to be a stronger governance on studio culture, how the policy per Institution can be reviewed and revised, and to make sure that students and AIAS leaders are given a platform to discuss these issues in a respectful and an un-objective manner, with faculty and administration. However, I believe this governance has to be enforced on the Chapter level. Of course, the National Board and the collaterals would always be available to those who need assistance in facilitating or handling these issues. I believe AIAS needs to initiate a streamlined process for review and assessment of each institutions' Studio Culture Policy, which can be implemented by the AIAS Chapter leaders. The first steps in this process would be to create a survey that chapters could distribute to the student body in order to obtain adequate, non-biased feedback from students about their experience with the institution and the Studio Culture Policy.







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"A GROUP OF PASSIONATE INDIVIDUALS WHO PUT THEIR MINDS, TALENTS AND ENERGY INTO SOMETHING CAN CHANGE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING."

- DEANNA MOORE, 2008-2009 AIAS NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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## ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE (CONT.)

**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?**

AIAS has pushed through many initiatives to produce more and better digital content as well as creating a greater level of transparency within the organization, however, there is still a long way to go. Having served within national committees and serving as a chapter president for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I have seen first-hand the production and establishment of some of these initiatives. If I were to be elected to the 2018-2019 Board of Directors, I would, of course, continue creating and refining this content. As far as new resources, I would like to see the board become more transparent. Most members are unaware of everything that Nationals is promoting, distributing, and discussing; they don't know what goes on behind the curtain! This is how we lose members. If students don't see the initiatives we as a national organization are promoting or the level at which we are discussing these issues with (the collaterals), then they don't see the importance of becoming a member and getting involved.

One way we could facilitate this transparency is to distribute National Board meeting minutes to all members, whether this be through the email blasts, or a news update on the webpage, or both. Another resource would be a list of current and in-progress initiatives/programs, which would allow for chapter leaders to better show who AIAS is as an organization, what it is we do, and why they should join. As for engaging with the international chapters, I am a big proponent of International Forums, but there are other ways to get international members to conferences, so as to engage with the entire membership. These are things such as, Travel scholarships, conference discounts, and even teleconferencing.

**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.**

The greatest fallacy that the organization faces today is that students, faculty, and even some professionals think that AIAS is only an organization for architecture students. Of course, architecture students are a major part of the organization, but it is an organization for all students interested in architecture, design, and leadership; as the newly worded mission statement addresses. To dismantle the misconception, we need to establish partnerships with other design oriented organizations (other than NOMA) such as, AIGA, Design Council, USGBC, Americans for the Arts, etc.







## 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: Mariah Tobin

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: Mariah Tobin

Date: 10/18/2017





## 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: Mariah Tobin

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: Mariah J. Tobin

Date: 10/18/2017

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): Mariah Tobin

Chapter: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Past-President

Email Address: mariah.tobin@huskers.unl.edu

Mobile Phone Number: (402) - 870-2062

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mariah.tobin>
- o Twitter: @ mytobin5
- o Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_
- o <sup>LinkedIn</sup> Other: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mytobin5>