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November 16, 2018

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



9 Conferences down and more to come!



Midwest = Beautiful, Sexy, People



First Grassroots Conference



AIAS Int' Conference Dubai #ilookup

Past President Keshika De Saram, 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 2019 - 2020 AIAS National Board of Directors.

I have been involved in AIAS for six years and throughout my time and many conferences later, this organization has left its mark on me. 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. I wanted to take this letter of intent to share with you some of the people who helped me realize my potential.

I learned from Charlie Klecha that being professional and having fun are not mutually exclusive. I realized that letting fear inhibit you is a transgression against yourself. Danielle Mitchell was right chasing those butterflies is liberating! Sarah Wahlgren showed me how to be a powerful leader without taking yourself too seriously. We all make mistakes because we are all human. I learned that being a leader doesn't stop with leading, it starts with everything else. Jeremey Gentile showed me how to be the leader, a friend, a confidant, and an advocate. Our current quadrant director, Adam Fogel, helped me realize that Midwest is not just a Quadrant but a mentality.

I am running for the Midwest Quadrant Director position, because I want to inspire younger students to have fun, chase those butterflies, make mistakes and make them often, and to encourage others to lean into the fear. 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 required to certify my candidacy.

Respectfully,

Mariahfohn

Mariah Tobin, AIAS

2016 - 2017 AIAS Chapter President, University of Nebraska - Lincoln 2018 - 2019 AIAS Freedom By Design Director, University of Nebraska - Lincoln





LETTER OF SUPPORT KATHY ANKERSON

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

Keshika De Saram, Assoc. AIA, Past President 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 Mr. De Saram,

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,

lathering S ankerson

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



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 during 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 position. 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. 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?

Advocacy is an ever-changing issue; we see this with the newly created Task Forces within the existing Advocacy Committee. Equity and Diversity, Health and Wellness, and Resiliency are all important factors to consider within the profession and within our architectural educations. Being on the 2017 – 2018 Advocacy Task Force, I saw how the creation of these separate task forces would better align the organization's initiatives and give us all more insight into these vastly different factors which all fall under advocacy. I am excited to see the work that I and the Health and Wellness Task Force produce this year. As your 2019 – 2020 Midwest Quad Director I would continue efforts to push these group's charges to advance the future of Advocacy within AIAS.

One specific issue I want to address more proactively as the 2019 – 2020 Midwest Quad Director would be Studio Culture and the Accreditation of Architecture Schools. This year our organization has been given the opportunity to work with NAAB and provide the Accreditation Review Forum insight into student's struggles, worries, and innovative approaches to bettering their own educational framework. I want this collaboration to continue past the NAAB's review. We need to continue these discussion more regularly and bring about a more concise Studio Culture Policy and policy implementation/review across all schools accreditated or not.



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?

The most eye-opening experience I have had within AIAS was attending the first International Conference in Dubai. I learned so much about other cultures, different architecture schools, and what is happening within the profession all over the globe. I also got to meet and make friends with AIAS students that I normally wouldn't have gotten to interact with at any other conference. Many of us know and research shows that studying abroad is a major benefit! What if you could study aboard and hit an AIAS conference (that's what I did, Dubai for Spring Break)? I believe AIAS needs to provide students with more travel/leadership scholarships to help students attend international conferences and International Chapters to attend Grassroots/Forum.

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 is a discrepancy amongst Chapter faculty advisors and administrators. Some Chapters can have an active engagement within their school's administration and faculty advisors that continuously push and fight for their chapters to function better, think more innovatively, and encourage personal/academic growth. However, this is not the case for all Chapters and some struggle to navigate this atmosphere. One way the organization might begin to combat this is through a streamlined education for all faculty advisors. This could be facilitated in many ways such as an advisor and faculty track at grassroots, special workshops at Forum, administrator reception at Quads, or even something as simple as a Slack Channel just for faculty advisors/administration.



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: Mariah Tobin

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: Mariah & Jah

Date: 10/23/2018



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 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: 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: Nariah V Jahn Please submit bis form with your confirmation for participation.

Date: 10 23 2018



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS 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): Mariah Tobin

Chapter: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): FBD Director

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

Mobile Phone Number: 402 - 870 - 2062

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: <u>mariah.tobin</u>
- Twitter: @ <u>Mjtobin 5</u>
- Instagram: <u>Mitobin 5</u>
- · Other: LinkedIn: Mariah Tobin, ALAS