

# OUR TEAM





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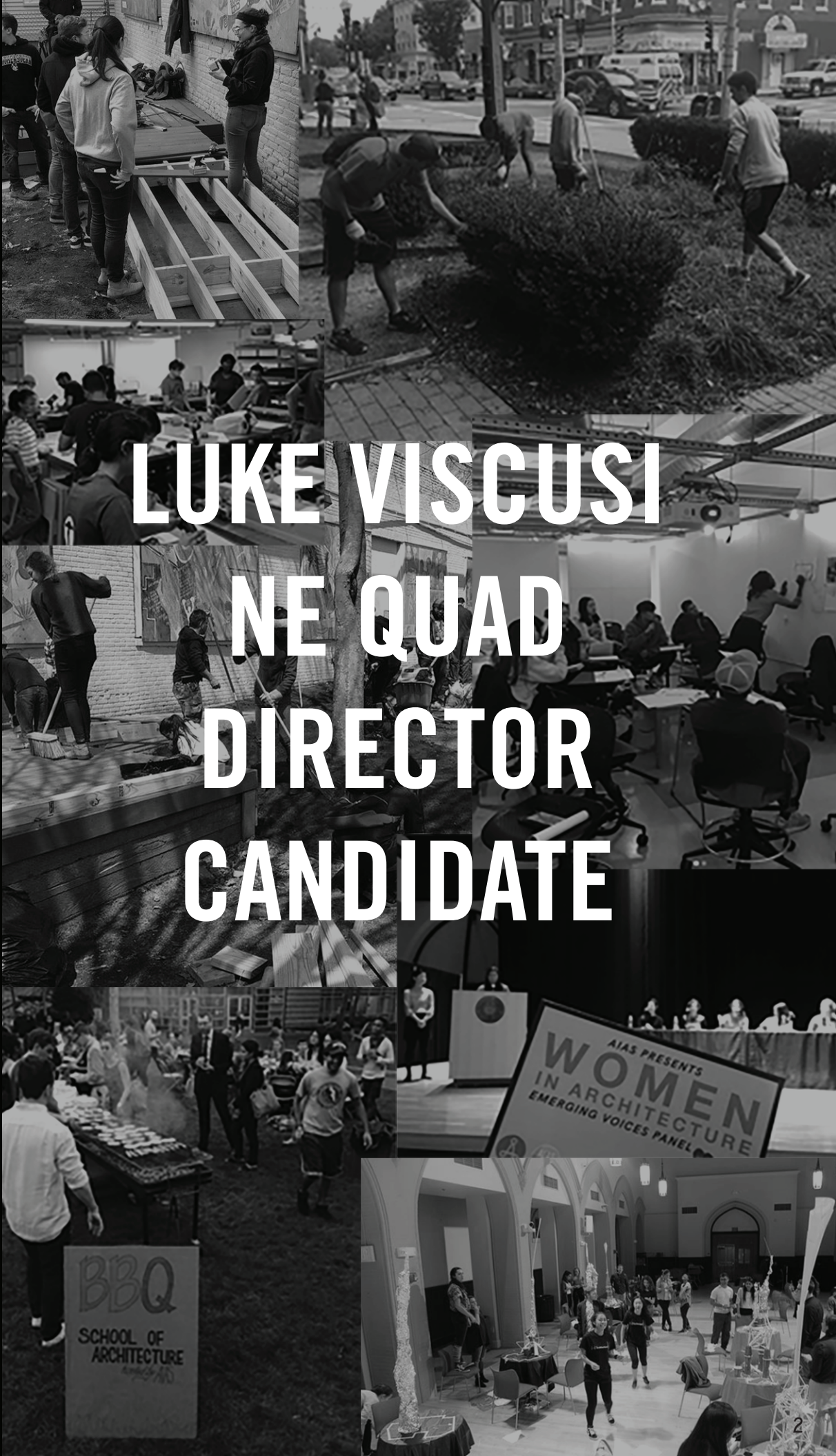
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# LUKE VISCUSI NE QUAD DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



BBQ  
SCHOOL OF  
ARCHITECTURE

AIAS PRESENTS  
WOMEN  
IN ARCHITECTURE  
EMERGING VOICES PANEL

# LETTER OF INTENT

*"IT'S NOT  
ABOUT THE  
THING YOU  
BUILD. IT'S  
ABOUT THE  
COMMUNITY  
YOU BUILD  
AROUND THE  
THING YOU  
BUILD."*

*"I SEE MY  
VALUE AS  
WHAT I CAN  
GIVE TO  
OTHERS, AND  
DESIGN AS  
THE TOOL I  
USE TO MAKE  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S LIFE  
BETTER."*

NOVEMBER 16TH, 2018

KESHIKA DE SARAM, AIAS, ASSOC. AIA,  
PAST PRESIDENT  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS  
1735 NEW YORK AVE. NW  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20006

DEAR PAST PRESIDENT DE SARAM,

MY NAME IS LUKE VISCUSI, AND I AM A GRADUATE STUDENT ENROLLED AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY. I RECEIVED MY B.S.ARCH FROM NORTHEASTERN LAST MAY, AND WILL BE RECEIVING MY M.ARCH THIS COMING MAY.

I AM HONORED TO DECLARE MYSELF AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE 2019-20 NORTHEAST QUADRANT DIRECTOR POSITION. I SERVED AS THE CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT FROM 2016-17, CHAPTER PRESIDENT FROM 2017-18, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2018. I AM ALSO A MEMBER OF THE 2018-19 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.

SINCE MY FIRST FORUM, I HAVE BEEN IN AWE OF THE CULTURE OF THIS ORGANIZATION, AND PARTICULARLY PUZZLED ON HOW TO BEST BRING THAT CULTURE TO THE NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE. AFTER YEARS OF EXPERIMENTATION, INITIATIVES, EVENTS, AND FBD PROJECTS, I THINK THE BEST WAY TO BRING THAT CULTURE TO ANY CHAPTER IS WITH A TEAM. I HAVE LEARNED A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT FROM OUR TEAM OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE PAST THREE YEARS I'VE SERVED OUR SCHOOL. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON I'VE LEARNED AS A YOUNG DESIGNER THOUGH - IT'S NOT ABOUT THE THING YOU BUILD. IT'S ABOUT THE COMMUNITY YOU BUILD AROUND THE THING YOU BUILD.

I LOVE BEING A CHAPTER PRESIDENT BECAUSE IT MEANS BUILDING COMMUNITY BY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS. USUALLY THAT MEANS ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS, BUT THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE NU AIAS TEAM OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THAT HAS ALSO MEANT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC THROUGH FBD. I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE WORK OUR TEAM HAS DONE TO SUPPORT THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES WE SERVE, WHICH IS WHY I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BRING THIS MENTALITY TO THE ROLE OF QUAD DIRECTOR AND SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY OF CHAPTERS. I AM ONCE AGAIN WILLING TO STEP INTO AN UNFAMILIAR ROLE FOR THE SAKE OF CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS - THIS TIME I'M LOOKING TO DO IT ON A REGIONAL SCALE.

MY HOPE, WHETHER ELECTED OR NOT, IS TO PUSH THE NORTHEAST QUAD, AIAS NATIONAL, AND THE PROFESSION FORWARD, TOWARDS A MORE INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY OF DESIGNERS. I AM NOT NECESSARILY RUNNING TO WIN, BUT RATHER TO IMPROVE THE QUAD AND ORGANIZATION IN ANY WAY I CAN BECAUSE I'VE SEEN THE IMPACT JUST ONE CHAPTER CAN HAVE ON A STUDIO, SCHOOL, AND CITY. PLEASE CONSIDER MY CANDIDACY AS YET ANOTHER CRITIQUE FOR THE SAKE OF IMPROVING OUR TEAM AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE PRESENTLY, I STRIVE TO BE A RESOURCE TO THE STUDENTS OF NORTHEASTERN, THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, AND THE GREATER BOSTON COMMUNITY. IF ELECTED AS NORTHEAST QUADRANT DIRECTOR, THAT COMMITMENT WILL DIRECTLY SHIFT TO BEING A RESOURCE TO THE STUDENTS AT ALMOST 50 CHAPTERS ACROSS THE NORTHEAST, THE ORGANIZATION AS A WHOLE, AND THE PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMMUNITY. I SEE MY VALUE AS WHAT I CAN GIVE TO OTHERS, AND DESIGN AS THE TOOL I USE TO MAKE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE BETTER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, AND TAKE CARE.

SINCERELY,



LUKE VISCUSI  
PRESIDENT  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY AIAS



# LUKE VISCUSI

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NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040  
(516) 404-1973  
LVISCUSI.ARCH@GMAIL.COM

## SKILLS

### DIGITAL: ABILITY:

REVIT	● ● ●
AUTOCAD	● ● ●
SKETCHUP PRO	● ●
RHINOCEROS	● ●
MAXWELL RENDER	●
QGIS	●
ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR	● ● ●
ADOBE INDESIGN	● ●
ADOBE PHOTOSHOP	● ●
MICROSOFT OFFICE	● ● ●

### MANUAL:

MODEL MAKING	● ●
CARPENTRY	● ●
METAL FABRICATION	●

## HONORS

**2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY AIAS**  
AWARDED BY EGGLESTON SQUARE MAIN STREET

**CHAPTER LEADER OF THE MONTH - JULY 2018**  
AWARDED BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

**2018 ALPHA RHO CHI MEDAL**  
AWARDED BY THE NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

## EDUCATION

### NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY - BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

CANDIDATE FOR MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE, 2019.  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE, 2018.  
JANUARY 2014 TO MAY 2019

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN - DUBLIN, IRELAND

STUDIED ARCHITECTURE FOR ONE SEMESTER THROUGH NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S NU.IN IRELAND PROGRAM.  
SEPTEMBER 2013 TO DECEMBER 2013

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### HKT ARCHITECTS INC. - SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS - ARCHITECTURAL INTERN

RESPONDED TO RFI'S, DRAFTED CONSTRUCTION DETAILS, AND COMPLETED LEED DOCUMENTATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS  
MAY 2018 TO AUGUST 2018

### HACIN + ASSOCIATES - BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS - ARCHITECTURAL INTERN

COLLABORATED WEEKLY WITH CLIENTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, MEP ENGINEERS, AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS IN DEALING WITH SITE CONDITIONS AND ACHIEVING CODE COMPLIANCE.  
EXPANDED RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PUBLIC APPROVALS PROCESS THROUGH INVOLVEMENT IN MEETINGS WITH ABUTTERS, CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSIONS.  
JANUARY 2017 TO AUGUST 2017

### LAVALLEE BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS - CHARLESTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS - ARCHITECTURE DESIGN ASSISTANT

UTILIZED REVIT AND PHOTOSHOP FOR SCHEMATIC DESIGN, DESIGN DEVELOPMENT, AND RENDERINGS ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE PROJECTS.  
JANUARY 2016 TO JUNE 2016

### HOWELL BELANGER CASTELLI ARCHITECTS - NEW YORK, NEW YORK - INTERN

CONDUCTED SITE SURVEYS FOR MAJOR RETAIL COMPANIES SUCH AS DOLLAR TREE AND CHIPOTLE.  
MAY 2014 TO AUGUST 2014

### SUPIN INC. - NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK - APPRENTICE

FABRICATED MATERIAL AND INSTALLED CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING SYSTEMS IN BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.  
JULY 2010 TO AUGUST 2013

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

### AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS - NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY - PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT FROM MAY 2017 TO DECEMBER 2018, VICE PRESIDENT FROM MAY 2016 TO APRIL 2017.  
OVERSAW AND ASSISTED IN ALL MAJOR OPERATIONS, INCLUDING FUNDRAISING, EVENT PLANNING, BUILDING OUR COLLABORATION WITH THE AIAS BOSTON CHAPTERS, COMMUNICATING WITH THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND HELPING TO ORGANIZE OUR MENTOR PROGRAM.  
PROPOSED AND PASSED NATIONAL POLICY AS A MEANS TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE COMMUNITIES WE STRIVE TO BE A RESOURCE FOR.  
MARCH 2016 TO PRESENT

### FREEDOM BY DESIGN - NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

ASSISTED IN THE MASTER PLANNING OF EGGLESTON SQUARE PEACE GARDEN IN JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS.  
DESIGNED AND BUILT ADA RAMP FOR THE PEACE GARDEN, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PROJECT TEAM.  
FACILITATED TRANSITION OF THE NEW FREEDOM BY DESIGN TEAM INTO A PROJECT AT BIRD STREET COMMUNITY CENTER IN DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.  
MARCH 2016 TO PRESENT

### YOUTH BUILD BOSTON - BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS - GUEST CRITIC

CRITIQUED PROJECTS DESIGNED BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE FIELDS OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION AT "THE DESIGNERY" IN ROXBURY, BOSTON.  
NOVEMBER 2014 TO PRESENT

### NEU HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

COLLABORATED WITH OTHER STUDENTS AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY IN CONSTRUCTING HOUSING PROJECTS RUN BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.  
APRIL 2014 TO JULY 2015



# CANDIDATE 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 WOULD SAY I AM SOMEONE WHO NEVER REALLY WANTED TO PURSUE 'LEADERSHIP'. SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, I REALIZED THAT IF I WASN'T GOING TO TAKE ACTION, THEN NEITHER WOULD ANYONE ELSE. ANY SUCCESS I'VE HAD WITH AIAS OR FBD HAS COME BECAUSE I BECAME SOMEONE WHO STEPS UP WHEN OTHERS WON'T. IT WAS FORUM 2014 THAT MADE ME REALIZE OUR CHAPTER WAS NOT FULLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CULTURE AND RESOURCES THAT AIAS HAD THE POTENTIAL TO OFFER OUR SCHOOL. ALL OF THE NORTHEASTERN STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED WITH ME WERE SENIORS, SO I KNEW AND ACCEPTED THAT IF THE CHAPTER, AS WELL AS THE OVERALL STUDIO CULTURE AT NU, WAS GOING TO IMPROVE IN THE COMING YEARS, THEN I WOULD NEED TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THAT CHANGE.

MY DEFINITION OF 'LEADERSHIP' IS TAKING ACTION, DESPITE ANY RULES OR THE BELIEFS OF OTHERS, BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. WITH THAT BEING SAID, MY ADVICE FOR ANYONE, WHETHER THEY DEFINE THEMSELVES AS A LEADER OR NOT, IS TO BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE. UNFORTUNATELY, IF YOU WANT SOMETHING TO CHANGE, YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED TO BE THE ONE TO STEP UP AND CHANGE IT. JUST STEPPING UP MAKES YOU A 'LEADER', WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. THE OTHER THING I WOULD POINT OUT IS THAT THERE ISN'T REALLY ANYTHING THAT MAKES ME DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER STUDENT WHO WANTS TO IMPROVE THE WORLD AROUND HIM/HER. I WOULD NOT SAY I AM 'SPECIAL' AND I CERTAINLY WASN'T BORN A 'LEADER' - ANYONE CAN BE CHAPTER PRESIDENT. I JUST STEPPED UP WHEN OTHERS WOULDN'T.

2. IN RECENT YEARS, THE AIAS HAS INCREASED ITS EFFORTS IN ADVOCACY FOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS ON ISSUES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS, EQUITY, STUDENT LOAN DEBT, STUDIO CULTURE, PRACTICE EXPERIENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND TECHNOLOGY. 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?

IT'S CERTAINLY NOT AN ORIGINAL ANSWER, BUT I FEEL HEALTH AND WELLNESS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF HOW THEY AFFECT THE STUDIO COMMUNITY. BUILDING A STRONG AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE OF OUR STUDIO HAS BEEN THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF OUR TEAM AT NU THIS YEAR. I'VE ALSO PULLED TOO MANY ALL-NIGHTERS AND DONE A LOT OF DAMAGE TO MY MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH IN THE PROCESS, SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE OTHERS DON'T GO DOWN THAT PATH. THESE ARE ISSUES I BELIEVE WE CAN NOW ADDRESS AT A QUAD LEVEL BECAUSE OF THE FOUNDATION MIKE CHIAPPA HAS BUILT THROUGH A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF CHAPTER DOCUMENTATION ON THE AIAS NORTHEAST QUAD SHARED DRIVE.

I DON'T BELIEVE A QUAD DIRECTOR IS IN ANY POSITION TO SAY, "CHAPTERS SHOULD MAKE THIS THEIR PRIORITY", BUT I BELIEVE IT IS THE QUAD DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO FACILITATE CRITICAL DISCUSSIONS ON TOPICS THAT REACH BEYOND A CHAPTER'S MEMBERSHIP. STARTING CONVERSATIONS ON HOW CHAPTERS CAN ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDIO CULTURE CAN HAVE EXTENSIVE EFFECTS NOT JUST ON A SCHOOL, BUT ON THE QUAD AS A WHOLE. IF WE WANT TO MOVE ACADEMIA AND THE PROFESSION FORWARD, THE ORGANIZATION NEEDS TO MOVE PAST CONVERSATIONS OF 'HOW MANY MEMBERS'. THE BREADTH OF AIAS IS SO MUCH MORE THAN ITS MEMBERSHIP, SO WE SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGING OUR EFFECT ON THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE THROUGH SLACK AND DURING OUR QUAD CALLS.

IN OUR CALLS, WE WILL USUALLY TALK ABOUT CHAPTER EVENTS AS ISOLATED INCIDENTS. INSTEAD, WE NEED TO BE ANALYZING THEM AT THE SCALE OF STUDIO CULTURE - A COMPLEX CONSTRUCT INVOLVING OTHER STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, FACULTY RELATIONS, AND CURRICULUM. TO BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH CONVERSATION, THE FOCUS NEEDS TO BE ON THE 'WHY' OF THE EVENT, NOT THE 'WHAT'. THESE IN-DEPTH CONVERSATIONS WILL BE MUCH MORE FRUITFUL BECAUSE THEY CAN SHINE LIGHT ON THE ROOT OF THE ISSUES, WHICH THE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS CAN LEARN FROM. THIS ALSO MEANS CHAPTERS CAN BRING UP ISSUES THEY DO NOT HAVE SOLUTIONS FOR, AND OUR QUAD PODS CAN REACT AND ADDRESS THEM AS A TEAM. SIMPLY RE-FRAMING THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE CAN LEAD TO BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE SHOULD MOVE AWAY FROM "WE HAD A T-SHIRT SALE", AND ON TO "OUR STUDIO CULTURE HAS BEEN LACKING A SENSE OF IDENTITY, SO WE FELT THE BEST SOLUTION WAS A T-SHIRT SALE". FROM "WE HAVE PIZZA AT OUR MEETINGS", TO "STUDENTS ARE NEGLECTING TO EAT SINCE THEY ARE OVERWORKED, SO WE ORDERED PIZZA TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY TAKE A BREAK FOR JUST A FEW MINUTES".

# CANDIDATE 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?

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 CANNOT SPEAK FOR OTHER QUADS, BUT NORTHEAST QUAD DIRECTORS AMY ROSEN AND MIKE CHIAPPA INITIATED A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM AMONGST THE CHAPTERS OF THE NORTHEAST. EVERY CHAPTER HAS A MENTOR AND A MENTEE CHAPTER BASED ON THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE CHAPTER. FOR EXAMPLE, THIS GIVES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A CHAPTER IN NEW YORK WHICH HAS STRONG ENGAGEMENT WITH FRESHMAN THE ABILITY TO HELP A CHAPTER IN VIRGINIA WHICH IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH FRESHMEN INVOLVEMENT.

THIS INITIATIVE CAN ALSO BE USED AS A WAY TO CONNECT THE INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS TO ONE ANOTHER, AND TO MAKE THEM FEEL MORE CONNECTED TO AIAS NATIONAL BY POSSIBLY PAIRING THEM WITH CHAPTERS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, AS THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OF GLOBAL REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE, CAN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHICH CHAPTERS WOULD BE BEST TO PAIR THE INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS WITH. CHAPTERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA ARE ALREADY SETTING HIGH STANDARDS FOR HOW CHAPTERS ENGAGE WITH ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION, SO THIS WOULD ALSO BE A GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY CHAPTER IN THE U.S.

CROSS-QUAD MENTORSHIP IS ALSO AN AREA THAT WE CAN MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IN. COMMUNITY COLLEGES HAVE VERY DIFFERENT ISSUES THAN FOUR-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS, SO WE SHOULD BE PAIRING COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHAPTERS ACROSS THE NATION TOGETHER TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER. ESPECIALLY WITH THE INCREASE IN CHAPTER DOCUMENTATION OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, THERE SHOULD BE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE QUAD DIRECTORS TO PAIR-UP CHAPTERS OF SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. CHAPTERS THAT OFFER CO-OPS SHOULD BE PAIRED WITH OTHER CHAPTERS THAT OFFER CO-OPS, CHAPTERS FROM GRADUATE-ONLY PROGRAMS SHOULD BE PAIRED WITH OTHER CHAPTERS FROM GRADUATE-ONLY PROGRAMS, AND SO ON.

THERE WAS AN ARTICLE RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES IN REGARDS TO THE RICHARD MEIER SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ACCUSATIONS, CALLED " WHY DOESN'T ARCHITECTURE CARE ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT?" AS THE AUTHOR, STELLA LEE, POINTS OUT, "TO REALLY EFFECT CHANGE, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON CULTURE, AND WHERE IT IS SOLIDIFIED - IN EDUCATION. ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION IS PLAGUED BY THE MENTALITY THAT SUFFERING IS A NECESSARY PART OF ITS PRACTICE. SLEEPLESS NIGHTS AND POOR SELF-CARE SEEM TO BE PAR FOR THE COURSE FOR CREATIVE PRODUCTION."

AIAS CHAPTERS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE REGULATING FORCES WITHIN SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF HOW BROAD THE MISSION AND VALUES OF THE ORGANIZATION ARE. WHILE THERE ARE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS SOLELY FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABILITY, ADVOCACY FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED AND UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AIAS CAN BE FOCUSED ON ALL OF THAT AND MORE AT THE SAME TIME. THERE IS NO NATIONAL, STUDENT ORGANIZATION SOLELY FOCUSED ON PROMOTING HEALTHY HABITS AND MENTAL WELLNESS IN STUDIOS, BUT AIAS CHAPTERS CAN STEP UP AND FILL THE VOID. BY THIS I MEAN IT IS CERTAINLY WITHIN THE POWER OF OUR ORGANIZATION AND CHAPTERS TO FIGHT AGAINST THIS MENTALITY THAT DELIVERABLES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ONE'S WELL-BEING.

THE REACH OF AIAS CHAPTERS GO WAY BEYOND JUST INFLUENCING MEMBERSHIP. CHAPTERS SHOULD BE TAKING STANCES ON ALL-NIGHTERS, ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH, AND WORKING TO BREAK PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ARCHITECTURE STUDENT. BY ADDRESSING AND PUSHING AGAINST THE RELICS OF PAST STUDIO CULTURES, WE CREATE STRONGER CHAPTERS, THAT IN TURN CREATE STRONGER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES. CHAPTERS SHOULD BE ENGAGING WITH FACULTY ON THIS ISSUE, BUT AIAS NATIONAL, EITHER THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY, ONE OF THE TASK FORCES, OR COMMITTEES, SHOULD ALSO BE ENGAGING WITH THE COLLATERALS SO THAT THE PROFESSION ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE DETRIMENTAL BEHAVIORS LEARNED IN ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE. NAAB ACCREDITATION VISITS EVERY FEW YEARS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY STUDIO CULTURES. CONSTANT CONVERSATIONS AT A CHAPTER LEVEL ABOUT IMPROVING STUDIO CULTURE WILL BUILD STRONG AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES IN AND OUT OF STUDIO.





# Northeastern University

## College of Arts, Media and Design

Re: 2019-2020 AIAS Northeast Regional Director Position

November 14, 2018

Keshika De Saram, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, President  
The American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave. NW  
Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Keshika,

I am writing to strongly support Luke Viscusi to become the 2019-2020 Northeast Regional Director for the AIAS. I have known Luke for six years since he was a high-school senior visiting architecture programs. Luke was a student in my classes and served as a student mentor in a freshman introductory course I lead, and I've gotten to know him while he's been an active participant in our school's student advisory board, president of our school's chapter of the AIAS, and an active leader of our school's chapter of Freedom By Design, FBD. In my seven-year time at Northeastern, I have not encountered another undergraduate and later graduate student who has undertaken so many successful projects and led or participated in as many initiatives to advance our school and the comradery amongst peers.

Before highlighting some of Luke's specific projects and initiatives I want to highlight his dependability and dedication. Beyond his own initiatives, he is a highly valued presence at all of our schools events and undertakings, and he consistently encourages other students to be involved in the life and events of the school. This includes our after-hours lecture series, faculty search presentations, visiting accreditation events, student orientation and welcome events, field trips and more. Often, such events are not glamorous or specifically rewarding, they do not become recorded on a CV, but they are vital to the success of our program, and without fail, even when other students feel too busy to participate, Luke not only participates but makes the extra effort to rally others with him. Beyond the many other amazing and specific accomplishments that I'll discuss below, this continued devotion to community building in the program is an incalculable and often un-recognized yet remarkable benefit to our school.

Luke has accomplished many profound achievements in service to the school and the Boston community. The most significant of these achievements were undertaken through leadership of our chapters of two student organizations AIAS and FBD.

As a leader of AIAS, Luke has led the effort to create firm tours, site visits, and presentations addressing the professional development of architecture students. He successfully coordinated the improvement of a mentorship program for both undergrad and graduate students. He has coordinated large and significant events to build comradery and studio culture among architecture students, such as a large school-wide BBQ every September. Luke spearheaded the AIAS Boston initiative - a collaboration between the four AIAS chapters of Boston at

### School of Architecture

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Northeastern University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and Boston Architectural College. Luke helped to lead the coordination efforts to host a Women In Architecture Panel, which was the largest and most ambitious event that AIAS has ever held at Northeastern. All of these events and undertakings have made notable impact on the studio culture and energy within and amongst our students. Luke has shown a consistent interest in building a community of architecture students.

All of these achievements were made possible by his highly professional and carefully considered approach to management and coordination. Each year, Luke has prepared detailed budgets and schedules which he has presented to me as the Director of the School in order to coordinate our projects and seek support. Luke self-initiates these efforts and manages the efforts of both the AIAS and FBD teams without instigation or administration by us- the school. As such, Luke has made our job of supporting these organizations very simple. In his time as AIAS President, he has stabilized the finances of the group and achieved all projects with great success within the planned budget.

Luke has also done an excellent job initiating new relationships of our School with the community of Boston beyond our University. He has established a relationship with YouthBuild, where AIAS arranges architecture students to critique and encourage high school students interested in design and architecture. Through FBD, Luke has led the design/build efforts of two significant projects- The Egleston Square Peace Garden and furniture for the Bird Street Community Center. The success of these projects has led to lasting relationships between our school and these organizations. FBD now undertakes monthly clean-ups of the Egleston Square Peace Garden, and FBD is developing lesson plans for architectural education sessions at the Bird Street Community Center. As a result of these projects FBD, under Luke's leaderships, was honored by Boston City Mayor with a 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award, which was a great moment for our whole school community.

Owing to these great and diverse achievements, his consistent and dedicated interest to advancing a community of students studying architecture, and his careful, effective and open-minded management skills, I couldn't think of a better person, than Luke, to be the Northeast Regional Director of the AIAS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Adams'.

Dan Adams  
Director  
School of Architecture  
Northeastern University  
Da.adams@northeastern.edu





## 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: LUKE VISCUSI

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: Luke Viscusi

Date: 11/16/18



## 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: LUKE VISCUSI

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: Luke Viscusi  
Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

Date: 11/16/18





## 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): LUKE VISCUSI

Chapter: NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): PRESIDENT

Email Address: theviscuus@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (516) 404-1973

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: luke.viscusi
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: daviscuuz17
- Other: