

**sarah curry**

**2019 - 2020 national aias president**

*candidate packet*



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**2019 - 2020 national aias president**

*enclosed*

**Letter of Intent  
Resume  
Letter of School Support  
Candidate Questionnaire  
Flyer  
Signed Statements**

# LETTER OF INTENT

**Keshika De Saram, Assoc. AIA, AIAS**  
**Past President AIAS**  
**Elections Committee Chair**  
**1735 New York Avenue NW**  
**Washington, D.C., 20006**

November 8, 2018

Dear Past-President De Saram,

It feels as though the American Institute of Architecture Students has been with me through every step of this exhilarating and daunting path that has been architecture school. My attitudes about architecture, the world, and my future in both have evolved dramatically over the past five years, thanks to the encouragement and motivation I've been exposed to at the chapter, regional, and national levels. As my interests and goals have varied, the many facets and missions of the AIAS have made the growing pains of matriculation inseparable from the ardent discoveries of my own agency and tireless desire for leaving things better than how I found them. From speaking with the friends I have made through the AIAS, I have learned that my experience in this organization is not unique! We have all become better versions of ourselves through the inspirational programs, motivating workshops, and empowering initiatives that have filled (and overflowed) the gaps in our university educations.

For these reasons, and many more, it is with great joy and esteem that I humbly announce my intent to run for the office of 2019–2020 National President of the American Institute of Architecture Students.

My time on the National Board of Directors as the 2017–2018 South Quad Director taught me that the strength in our collateral organization stems from its engaged following and dedicated team. Serving on the Governance Committee, Advocacy Task Force, and the Freedom by Design Advisory Committee gave me the opportunity to create indispensable resources and content while contributing to the contagious delight in our network. The passion that has earned us a seat at the table to affect change in the profession is the same passion I've felt since becoming involved in my Auburn University chapter. Using the power and privilege of the position wisely in order to represent the student voice is one of the many responsibilities of the President that I know I am qualified to uphold. Making sure that my peers and fellow students have access to the same, and many more, opportunities that I have been afforded is one of the many prerogatives of the President that I am excited to innovate and expand. I look forward to learning and growing into that which I do not know now, because of the outstanding National Staff and Board of Directors that have taught us to embrace challenges and collaborate effectively in order to accomplish our goals.

It takes passionate and disciplined leadership to make this organization what it is, and we have been blessed with leaders that have inspired us year after year. The membership, and all architecture students around the world, deserve a President who stands up for their diverse and impactful voices and futures. I look forward to showing you and the membership that I can uphold the position with the respect and excellence it deserves.

Thank you, Past-President De Saram, for your service to the AIAS,



Sarah Curry, AIAS

# RESUME

Sarah Marie Curry | 8448 AL-HWY 61, Newbern, AL | s95curry@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

- Auburn University's Rural Studio - Hale County, AL 2018–2019  
Design + Build Thesis Project  
20Kv22 Home + Post-Occupancy Research
- Auburn University - Auburn, AL 2013–2018  
School of Architecture, Planning, & Landscape Architecture  
Bachelor's of Architecture, Class of 2018, GPA: 3.5
- Starr's Mill High School - Fayetteville, GA 2009–2013

## EXPERIENCE

- Rural Studio - Newbern, AL Fall 2017-Summer 2018  
**Information Technology Intern:** Handled and coordinated all IT and technical matters and issues for Rural Studio campus. Also monitored and ordered supplies, and supervised computer lab.
- Chapman Sisson Architects - Huntsville, AL Summer 2017  
**Architectural Intern:** Worked on renderings, construction drawings, and punch lists for projects under construction and prospective projects in the Healthcare and Education Departments.
- Perkins+Will - Atlanta, GA Summer 2014–Present  
**Architectural Intern:** Created graphics, diagrams, and site documents for several prospective projects in the Science + Technology department. Also researched and collected data for the publishing and e-publishing of Principal Dan Watch's book about the design of Health Sciences Education.
- Auburn University School of Architecture - Auburn, AL Spring 2017  
**ARCH 2600 Teaching Assistant:** Helped teach, coordinate, and curate content for the ARCH 2600 class - The Art of Architecture, Place, and Culture.

## HONORS

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| AU CADC Distinguished Service Award    | 2018      |
| Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal             | 2018      |
| AU CADC Dean's List                    | 2016-2017 |
| Rural Studio Best Chair Award          | 2016      |
| Foundation Unit Book Award Recipient   | 2014      |
| Auburn University Presidential Scholar | 2013      |
| NOMA Student Design Competition Winner | 2013      |
| Girl Scout Gold Award                  | 2012      |

## SKILLS

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Adobe Creative Suite | Hand Drafting              |
| AutoCAD              | French                     |
| Revit                | Writing/Public Speaking    |
| SketchUp             | Violin                     |
| Rhino                | Kayaking                   |
|                      | Construction + Tool-work   |
|                      | Digital + Film Photography |

## INVOLVEMENT

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| CRIT Journal Associate Editor                           | 2018-2019 |
| AIAS National South Quad Director                       | 2017-2018 |
| AIAS Freedom by Design Advisory Committee               | 2017-2018 |
| AIAS Governance Committee                               | 2017-2018 |
| Auburn University Study Abroad Media Contributor/Editor | 2017      |
| AIAS Auburn University Chapter President                | 2016-2017 |
| AIAS Advocacy Committee                                 | 2016-2017 |
| Auburn University CADC Ambassador                       | 2016-2017 |
| AIAS Auburn University Chapter Fundraising Chair        | 2015      |
| AIAS Auburn University Chapter Secretary                | 2014-2015 |



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, AND  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

November 12, 2018

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am writing to strongly express my support for the nomination of Sarah Curry in her bid to be the next President of the American Institute of Architecture Students. I have worked with Sarah now for more than two years and find her to be one of the most outstanding students to have studied in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture at Auburn University. She has been an exceptional leader, first as the chapter president of Auburn University's AIAS and more recently as the Director of the AIAS South Quad. As the AIAS has become more involved in the national discussions concerning work experience, licensure and professional practice I think the AIAS President needs to be an individual who can display some presence in a room with the other "Five Collaterals". I have no doubt that Sarah Curry would be a leader that would speak up for the AIAS and contribute to these important discussions.

Sarah Curry has a long list of accomplishments, many through the AIAS, but also through her academic work as a student. During her tenure as AIAS Chapter President, she oversaw the continued growth of the largest AIAS Chapter in the United States. She organized and executed along with her executive leadership team a successful Pumpkin Carve and Internship Fair; a series of mentoring events between fifth year students and incoming freshman; and finally she put in motion the first ever AIAS endowed scholarship for future students. As a student she has spent her final year of school at Rural Studio, working on the 20K Initiative. This research and design project has received funding at the federal level through Fannie Mae and been awarded a significant (\$1.5 million) grant from the President of our University to study the barriers to affordable housing in impoverished rural communities. This is a fifteen-year-old research project; but Sarah and her team have been "living" this research for the past year.

I mention all this as a testament to Sarah's exceptional character and her wonderful personality. She is thoughtful, curious, strategic in her thinking and wants to do good while contributing to the lives of others. I have seen her walk into a room of "famous" architects armed with a few introductions and be engaging. I do not think she will sit on the sidelines in any discussions with AIA, NCARB or ACSA. Without knowing the other nominees for President and with no disrespect intended, I cannot imagine there would be a better candidate. Please contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Christian Dagg, AIA  
Head, School of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
daggchr@auburn.edu

104 Dudley

Auburn, AL 36849-5361

Telephone:

334-844-4516

# 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 have been involved in the AIAS almost since stepping foot on Auburn University's campus. Back in 2013, Auburn University and Tuskegee University were co-hosting the Fall Quad Conference, so our professors allowed us to miss studio and heavily encouraged us to attend. Throughout the conference, my classmates and I were floored as the South Quad Director and National Vice President at the time, Obi Okolo and Jennifer Taylor, respectively, explained and demonstrated what the AIAS had done, and was doing, for us architecture students at local and national levels. Everyone seemed to be on the same page about the potential of our fellow students to improve their educations and, therefore, the world through the AIAS. After that conference, I remember wondering, "How could one 'club' feel so local, and still be backed by such a large following? How do we, as students, get to have a seat at the same table as the adults that run our entire profession?"

When encouraging faculty, dedicated leaders, and eager students come together, the profession of architecture cannot lose. I realized that the AIAS was something that I had to be involved with, and I was overjoyed to discover over the years that it was the kind of "club" that had a place for me during every stage of my personal and professional growth. To those reading this that aren't sure of their potential for leadership, I would say that it is much easier to lead things that you are passionate about. The AIAS contains many facets and opportunities to be apart of and fall in love with, whether that is running a chapter, taking a design from paper to built reality, or being the best member and student you can be. There are chances to lead by simply living out the best version of yourself, either inside your comfort zone, or completely outside. This inclusive organization has a place for everyone to seek success while pursuing their goals.

## **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?**

While each of these issues are initiatives worth fervently pursuing, if only certain members or students are benefited by our advocacy, then are we truly following our mission and vision of advancement and empowerment? During my time as South Quad Director, I was able to witness the infinite diversity of thought, passion, talent, experience, and perspective among my fellow students at universities across the country; and, for as unique as we all are, we are also all dealing with student loan debt, unhealthy behavior, toxic studio culture, firm experience deficiencies, and lack of leadership confidence. We troubleshoot and attempt to solve these problems every day as individuals and as an organization, and we will succeed—as long as the strength of privilege lifts others up as well as ourselves.

Other organizations will measure the success of our equity by the statistics of our demographics, but we will know that our work isn't done until the profession, and those in charge of it, are as diverse and as committed to a well-represented future as we are. I believe that the Board of Directors and I could make progress towards this goal by considering the implications and availability of our programs and initiatives *throughout* our operations, as opposed to as an afterthought, or on a segregated committee.



**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?**

As the AIAS' influence and membership grows across the globe, so will the enrichment that comes from staying in touch with our friends and colleagues with diverse perspectives and backgrounds. If elected, I would use my position on the Board of Directors to continue supporting the Global Council of Representatives and make sure that our international and domestic members have more than just opportunities, but are actually encouraged and prompted, to learn from each other.

Learning from each other when we are so far apart will require a remix of our usual tools and methods of communication: the newsletter will need to evolve into something that shares information about other chapters and offers tips and tricks to try, rather than an email full of ads and links; the work that our committees are doing can have better membership input and garner more interest by appearing more frequently on Quad Pod/Hub Hangout calls; breakouts and meet-ups at conferences can be even more constructive by dividing and conquering based on issues, instead of by Quad; and the website should incorporate resources for design students in studio throughout the semester just as much as it is geared towards leadership and service-oriented members. Showing members and student bodies that the AIAS is filling gaps in all areas of our education in order to create well-rounded graduates, alumni, and architects promotes intersectional inclusion: the best strategy for chapter growth.

**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 construction of an exquisite building requires the harmonious teamwork of several fields and trades. The AIAS has always reached out to others in the design community in order to foster partnerships, but we lack familiarity with the construction industry, both as a national organization and as students. If collaborating with contractors and engineers is inevitable for a successful career, then why don't we encourage those partnerships at chapter and national levels? Our Freedom by Design Program already introduces architecture students to stepping away from the desk and walking out on a job site, but we can take it a step further by expanding how much information we're disseminating.

The potential outreach is endless: in the national office, we can search for sponsorships that generate resources about materials and construction practices that can improve your studio projects and research; Freedom by Design could gain more nationwide material sponsorship and publicity; at our conferences, we can invite session speakers that discuss the latest innovations, similar to Expos at AIA Conventions; during Grassroots, where we typically emphasize AIAS chapter dynamics, we can also discuss the benefits of coordinated coexistence between an AIAS chapter and other design and construction organizations at our schools and universities; and if elected as President, while I represent your interests and values to the profession and other industries, I would also encourage and implore their active engagement with us—the future designers who will decide what the beautiful buildings of tomorrow will be made of.

# CANDIDATE FLYER

*standing and speaking up for  
the American Institute of...*

problem solvers  
bicycle enthusiasts  
almost architects  
earth quakers  
risk takers  
freelance photographers  
the loud and the proud  
those with heart  
the very best  
sexy beasts  
setting goals  
accomplishing dreams  
everyone  
us



*hey, my name is*

**SARAH  
CURRY**

*and I'm a great fit for*

**2019-2020  
AIAS National  
President**

T V A A D V O C A C Y N F T U  
N A Z V I R D T D E P G O U I  
Y H Z T I N I A P B S I N Z L  
K H I X T S D H W V D S X Q K  
G R P Q N S P C T U U E G L Y  
L J O S G G X P T Y C D G K R  
E H T W I A P S E I T F U L R  
A U S K M K L C V E F X H R U  
D D E W L A N R U O J T I R C  
E X P E R I E N C E C E D S H  
R L X U L S Q T C P T R K Q A  
S T R A T E G I C P L A N Y R  
H M G T U N Q G N W Z G T R A  
I L A R E T A L L O C L N K S  
P W T C D D U Y R M D Y R U M

my passion for **advocacy** stems from the belief that **everyone deserves good design** - something I get to practice everyday out at the **Rural Studio**, where I currently study and do design-build work; I have learned a lot about **teamwork** from **building a house** with three other people, as well as serving as last year's South Quad Director and leading **Auburn University's** AIAS chapter two years ago; putting together the national **strategic plan** with the governance committee and the latest editions of **crit journal** as part of the editorial team have been the highlights of my extensive **experience** in this amazing organization; and if elected, I promise that the **sixty-third national president** of the best **collateral** organization in the profession will be dedicated to advancing **design, leadership,** and **service** in studio, in the boardroom, and in your future

*you don't have to search too hard to see what  
Sarah Curry is all about!*



## 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.

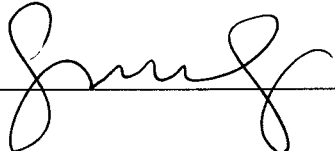
The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to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

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 / 14 / 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: SARAN CURRY

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: [Signature]  
Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

Date: 11/14/2018

## 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): SARAH CURRY

Chapter: ARBURN UNIVERSITY

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): ~~MODERATOR~~ N/A

Email Address: S9SCURRY@GMAIL.COM

Mobile Phone Number: (678) 993-8711

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: SARAH CURRY
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: MURRY-CURRY
- Other: