



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS  
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006  
202.808.0075 | aias.org

Dear Past President Keshika De Saram,

I would like to announce my intent to run for The American Institute of Architecture Students South Quad Director. As past Freshmen Education Co-Chair, past Treasurer, current member of the 2018-19 AIAS Membership Committee and current President of the Auburn University chapter, I believe I have learned essential leadership skills needed to be South Quad Director.

I joined AIAS in my first month of architecture school, and have actively pursued a leadership role since the beginning. I have never had a natural talent for leading others, but AIAS brought out the best in me. Being surrounded by hard-working and passionate individuals inspires me to become a better architecture student and a better person. I owe so much of my success to my role models and mentors who have helped me along the way.

Because AIAS has impacted me so much, I want to use my knowledge to help other members. I look forward to the opportunity to campaign at FORUM, meet more members, and continue my AIAS journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vijay Shankar", written in a cursive style.

# Kyra Stark

5108 W 157th Place  
Overland Park, KS 66224

kws0016@auburn.edu  
913.530.6971

## EDUCATION

Auburn University / Auburn, AL	
Bachelor of Architecture / CADC	08.2015-Present
Rural Studio Alumni	08.2017-12.2017
Frank J. Sindelar Endowed Scholarship Recipient	05.2017
President's Honor Roll	12.2016, 05.2017
Presidential Scholarship Recipient	05.2015

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

American Institute of Architecture Students Chapter President Ran largest AIAS Chapter in the organization, planned tours, started the Tech Tuesday program, applied to outside funding for conferences, and represented students at University functions.	08.2018-Present
Environmental Controls Teacher's Assistant Graded assignments, assisted with teaching class, and helped students on projects after hours.	08.2018-Present
CADC Student Ambassador Gave tours to prospective students and volunteered at CADC Events.	08.2018-Present
American Institute of Architecture Students Chapter Treasurer Handled chapter finances, planned conference trips, and coordinated fundraising efforts.	08.2016-05.2017
Intro to Architecture Teacher's Assistant Led group discussions, organized assignments, and graded sketchbooks.	08.2016-12.2016

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Fellow / Auburn University Research looks at how to incorporate studio and environmental controls classes as well as how to teach passive design strategies at a basic level.	05.2018-Present
Architecture Intern at Gould Evans / Kansas City, MO Worked on space planning and interiors for a co-work/co-play space. Also created models and graphics for a dining hall and recreation center for a local private school.	05.2018-08.2018
Architecture Intern at DESIGNhabitat / Auburn, AL Designed Habitat for Humanity prototype housing. The units were for low-income and aging in place residents in Birmingham, AL.	05.2017-07.2017

## REFERENCES

Justin Miller, Architect at DESIGNhabitat - jkm001@auburn.edu

Emily McGlohn, Assistant Professor of Architecture - mcgloem@auburn.edu



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, AND  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

November 15, 2018

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am writing to strongly express my support for the nomination of **Kyra Stark** in her bid to be the next **South Quad Director for the American Institute of Architecture Students**. I have worked with Kyra now for a little more than a year and find her to be an exceptional student; hard working, curious and ambitious in the best way. As a student leader she has proven herself to be a real asset to the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture at Auburn University. She has had exceptional mentors from within the previous AIAS Chapter leadership, and has transformed that into her own style of leadership and her own agenda for AIAS activities.

Kyra will point out in her submission material that her leadership of the Auburn University AIAS Chapter has been marked by an increase in the documentation of leadership policies and activities. She wants there to be some continuity but also the freedom of future presidents to make their own decisions. Part of this effort has been to expand the list of potential financial resources for the chapter through additional university sponsorship programs, like the Concessions Board funding she recently secured. She has also initiated an increase in the Freshman mentorship program, a reflection of her belief that mentoring younger students is an important activity, and if they enjoy AIAS as freshman it will encourage them to think about serving in leadership roles in the future.

I know that the purpose of this letter is to simply confirm that Kyra is in fact a student, and is eligible to campaign for this office. I am using this opportunity to make the case that she will not sit idly in this position, but will try new initiatives, experiment with the conventional method of accomplishing AIAS goals, and will be an excellent South Quad director if elected to the position. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christian Dagg, AIA  
Head, School of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
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334-844-4516

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**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 a member of AIAS the first month of college because at Auburn, being an AIAS member is a part of our school's culture. I wanted to learn more about architecture outside the classroom and meet people in different year-levels, and AIAS allowed me to do that. I got involved in leadership because I had incredible role models and mentors. I was encouraged to attend FORUM in San Francisco almost three years ago. Since then, I have been to every FORUM and all but one South Quad Conference. Over the past four years of college, upperclassmen role models have continued to motivate me, give advice, and encourage my progress with our AIAS chapter. These students were the ones who nominated me to become chapter Treasurer and later President because they saw potential and believed that I could lead our chapter. Seeing other Auburn Chapter Presidents serve on the AIAS National Board inspired me to reach beyond my comfort zone and run for South Quad Director.

My advice to others is to find a mentor who can offer advice and encouragement. It's also important to maintain involvement, even if you aren't a part of executive leadership. Also, it is never too early, or too late, to take on a leadership position. Having students of all year-levels is invaluable because it brings a wider perspective to the organization. All members are a unique part of AIAS who have different talents and skills. It's also important to remember that you don't have to be a copy of the leaders before you. There are many types of leadership styles and none are better than the others. If someone has a desire to lead and the genuine intent to help others and better the organization, that shows enough potential for leadership.

**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?**

The issue that I, personally, find most important is the lack of guidance on how to run a chapter. Auburn's AIAS Chapter is extremely well-organized with seven years of past presidents' files passed down, but I still have to ask our past presidents how to go about certain tasks, multiple times a month. I'm lucky to have communication with our past presidents, but I realize this is something not most chapters have. If every year has to start from scratch or be rebuilt, it becomes difficult for chapters to grow.

I would make progress on this issue by creating new media in the form of digital and print pamphlets or posters that would explain the tasks and skills needed to be a successful chapter executive board member. Because each chapter is so unique in the events it puts on, relationship with faculty, interest from students, etc., I think it would be important to create a leadership guide that chapters could make their own. If chapters have a complete guide on what needs to be accomplished during the year, it would make leadership transition much easier. These guides could also be shared amongst chapters as a resource for event, fundraising, and membership ideas. We know that combining all of our talents and ideas is the best way to grow, but members need a platform to share these thoughts.

**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?**

I thrive in an environment where I can connect with people face to face. I would use my position to attend all conferences and visit nearby chapters to create a relationship with members of the South Quad. Aside from the usual Quad Pod calls, I would personally contact each chapter once a semester. Although I would not be able to do chapter visits to schools like the AIAS President and Vice President, I still believe it is important to hear from chapter leaders on their struggles and triumphs.

The most useful resource I would propose to better serve chapter leaders is an interactive digital monthly calendar with all AIAS deadlines and conferences that can be printed and put up around schools. The idea of a calendar is nothing revolutionary, but architecture students are incredibly busy and need as many reminders as possible. Many members of my chapter missed the deadline for AIAS Committees and Task Forces Applications and NAAB Accreditation Team Student Representative Applications simply because they were unaware of when and where to submit things. This simple calendar resource would help grow chapters by having more informed members. The more students are aware of the numerous ways they can get involved, the more likely they are to find something that interests them.

Another resource I would propose to connect to other students around the world is an International Chapter Pen Pal Program. This idea was created in the AIAS Membership Committee I am a part of, and I think it would be very helpful for connecting American and International students. If members form relationships with students from other chapters, they have even more of a reason to attend conferences and meet their new friends in person. We have so much to learn from others, but we rarely have an outlet to connect.

**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 think that AIAS is essential to student representation during the emerging changes in architectural education. NAAB is rewriting the rules for accreditation, and I think that the student voices are essential in this change. AIAS presents a large population of involved architecture students who would be happy to voice their opinions if given the opportunity. We are fortunate to have the National AIAS President and Vice President represent us, but more student voices should be a part of the conversation.

At the smaller local level, I think that AIAS has the ability to work with school faculty and administrators on the constant changes occurring at all universities. In my four years of college, I have seen a shift in my school's curriculum, especially during first and second year. I've also seen my school start a new study abroad program and hire a new School Head. It is vital for students to have a seat at the table when big decisions are made within their school, because the student voice is the most relevant voice. Because AIAS is one of the five collaterals, we hold a legitimate position amongst practice and academy. I believe that AIAS Executive Board members should have the opportunity so sit on administrative boards or attend faculty meetings as a representatives for all students.



## 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: Kyra Stark

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: 11.15.2018



## 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: Kyra Stark

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:   
Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

Date: 11.15.2018



## 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): Kyra Stark

Chapter: Auburn University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: kws0016@auburn.edu

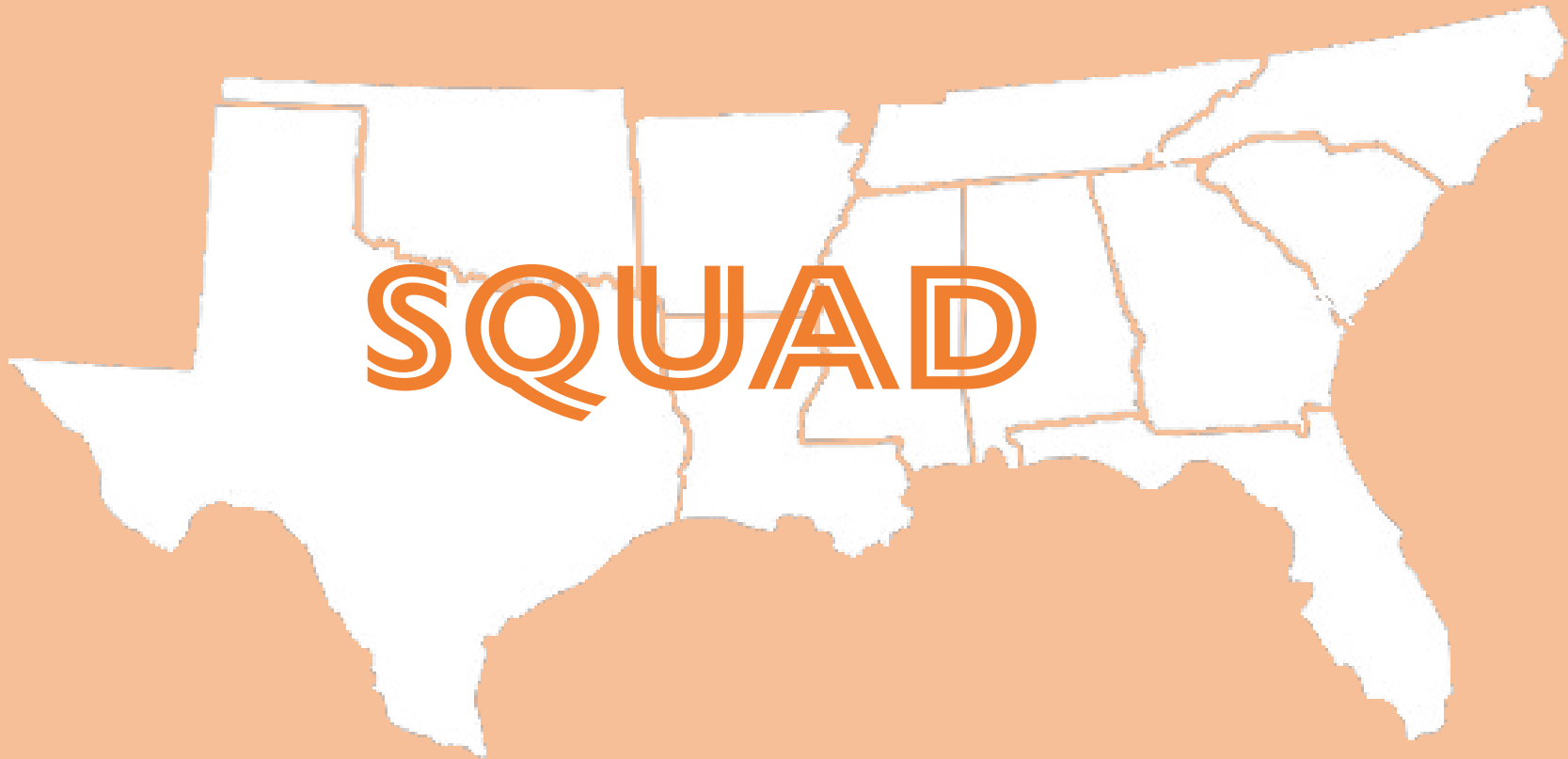
Mobile Phone Number: (913)-530-6971

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: Kyra Stark
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: kyra.stark
- Other:



STARK FOR



SQUAD

KYRA STARK FOR 2019-2020 SOUTH QUAD DIRECTOR