

# **LUIS F. BELTRAN**

## **AIAS President Candidacy Packet**



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# Letter of Intent

18 November 2020

Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Past President  
American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave.  
Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Past President Curry,

I am writing this to proudly inform you that I intend to run for the position of the 2021-2022 National President of the American Institute of Architecture Students.

I have only recently started my career path into architecture, and my first big step was joining the AIAS family. Some would consider this a small step or something that could supplement their future resume, but I view it as the beginning of something great. I write to you here knowing that my chances of being the National President are slim, but even so, I am still proud that I managed to push myself to this point. I know that I lack the work experience that comes with doing architecture in the field, and I could see how I am of no threat to the other candidates. But I am here to say that I have as much of a chance as they do.

My motivation is derived from the dream that I desire. I want a world that has progressed into the future, along with its architecture. For me, this progression would have to include sustainability and for every building to have some spice and depth. Sustainability has become an important topic in architecture, as it is the key to a healthier planet. I wish to increase awareness of multiple routes in sustainable architecture. Teaching architecture students' simple ways of applying sustainability will prove to be beneficial; their project does not have to be fully sustainable, but it could have sustainable alternatives in many aspects of their work. As said by Frank Gehry: "Most of our cities are built with just faceless glass, only for economies and not for humanities". I know that each architect has a creative voice, and I want help preserve their liberty while butting heads with construction management in order to aid the commitment to originality and vision.

If I had the power to change the way architecture is done in this modern age, I would give up anything for that small ripple effect, and hopefully, people will hear what I want to do and join along. For me, I hold these dreams close to my heart, as once I am gone, nothing will be left of me except, hopefully, the structures I have created and the people I have left an influence on. Even if I am not elected this year, I am determined come back next year and the year after that, and with each year my knowledge and experience will vastly grow, making me a better student, leader, and person.

# Luis F. Beltran

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Miami, FL 33143  
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## EDUCATION

Drexel University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Class of 2026  
  
Design and Architecture  
Senior High  
Miami, FL  
Class of 2020

## SKILLS

Hand Drafting  
Model Making  
Photoshop  
Sketchup  
AutoCAD  
Indesign  
Blender  
Lumion  
Rhino  
Vray

## INTEREST

Video Games  
Gardening  
Rendering  
Sculpting  
Cooking

## VOLUNTEER/ LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

5000 Role Models- President  
2019  
Miami Shores Recreation Center Volunteer Program  
2018  
Saint Timothy Parish Volunteer Program  
2017  
Camillus House Canvas Project  
2017

## Clubs/Organization

National Art Honor Society  
2019  
National English Honor Society  
2019  
Future Educators of America  
2019  
Architecture Club  
2016-2020

## ACHIEVEMENTS/ AWARDS

Lead Team Honor Roll  
Perfect Attendance





DREXEL UNIVERSITY

# Antoinette Westphal

## College of Media Arts & Design

Architecture, Design & Urbanism

Dr.-Ing. Ulrike Altenmüller-Lewis, AIA  
Architecture Program Director,  
Associate Professor

November 17, 2020

### Letter of Support for Luis Beltran for his Application as AIAS Director 2021-2022

I am writing to convey my high regard for Luis Beltran and my support for his candidacy for a 2021-2020 Director position with the American Institute of Architecture Students. I have known Luis since he started at Drexel this fall. He came to Drexel with strong skills and credentials from the Design & Architecture Senior High School in Miami, where he completed the rigorous architecture program that is led by one of Drexel's alumni.

Luis is a current first year student in Drexel University's 2+4 Option Architecture sequence – two years of full-time study followed by four years of part-time study and professional employment, leading to an accredited Bachelor's of Architecture degree. This program is highly competitive due to its unique mix of work and study. The first two years of full-time academics are especially intensive as students prepare for the workplace.

Luis Beltran entered our program in the fall of 2020 and has quickly shown himself to be a very capable and hardworking student. Besides our collaboration qua officio, I know him as his instructor in freshmen-year university seminar and as the coordinator for the architectural design studio courses. Luis is always prepared, attentive, and engaged in the course work and in his responsibilities. In these courses there is a close relationship between students and teachers, and much class time is devoted to individual and group discussions. I enjoy the thoughtfulness and enthusiasm Luis brings to our classes.

Luis has a healthy and mature personality. He is very organized and focused, cheerful and positive. His class participation is also notable. His interactions with faculty and with other students are always open and collegial – he is a natural leader, trustworthy, responsible and modest. Though we currently must meet remotely, I still had a chance to chat with Luis several times. He is an engaged and focused young man. I also have learned about Luis' desire to strengthen equity and inclusion in design education and thus have invited him to join as one of very few students the DEI consortium that is forming under Philadelphia's AIA Chapter.

Luis has been a member of AIAS when he started his freshman year. Since then, he has begun to contribute to the organization with enthusiasm. While Luis' interest in seeking the role as AIAS Director appears early, I appreciate his motivation for an early engagement on national level and support him. Here at Drexel, my colleagues and I are well aware that, should Luis join the AIAS National Board of Directors, the position brings additional responsibilities for him. Given his good time management skills and work ethic, I have no doubt that he will be able to combine these new demands with his responsibilities of advancing his degree. Drexel's Architecture Program in return will support him so he can be successful.

I support Luis Beltran in his candidacy for AIAS Director and I am confident in his promise at Drexel University, in the field of Architecture, and in his future pursuits.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you want to discuss my experiences with this exceptional young man further.

*Ulrike Altenmüller-Lewis*

Dr.-Ing. Ulrike Altenmüller-Lewis  
Director, Architecture & Associate Professor  
Department of Architecture, Design & Urbanism

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Dear Members of AIAS,

I would like to address my support for Luis Beltran as he is pursuing the position of President of AIAS.

I had the pleasure of meeting Luis this past September through AIAS' mentor/mentee program. Although Luis is not my mentee and I have not been able to meet him in person due to the pandemic and remote learning, after speaking with him and my own mentee on Zoom, I believe that Luis exhibits excellent leadership qualities. The transition to college can be difficult, especially considering how rigorous the Architecture program is. However, Luis seems to be excited and up to the challenge. Luis had background in architecture from high school and was happy to answer several questions my mentee had on a more personal level as they are classmates.

Despite only having a short amount of time to speak with him and my mentee, I recognized that he was outgoing and willing to learn. The first-year students have not been able to meet each other in person, so I cannot imagine how difficult it must be for them. Luis seems to be willing to help his classmates as much as he can, whether it be through schoolwork and his previous background in architecture, or simply by reaching out to a friend.

Luis Beltran is driven, outgoing, and friendly, and I believe that he is a good candidate for AIAS President.

Sincerely,

Vy Le

vtl25@drexel.edu

# 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?

Believing I had the facets to become a successful leader, I lacked the initiative to pursue the role. This was due to the peers that subdued my opinions and confidence, inserting doubt for myself and my work. However, during my senior year in high school, I decided to grasp the job of a leader and become president of an organization called 5000 Role Models. Over that year, I was presented with many challenges, one of them being a field trip to a local correctional institution. One of the inmates that we spoke to asked who the president of the club was. Multiple schools had come to this field trip and no other president stood up except me. He proceeded to ask what I was doing to better the organization and lead younger members into the right path, so I answered his question with what I thought was an acceptable response. Later that day, my club sponsor told me that he was proud of me for standing up and expressing an answer that was from the heart. The only advice that I would give to those who have not realized their potential is to stand up and take charge. You will know that you are a leader when the silence or hesitation of a group causes its own anxiety, and you become a strong individual who does not fumble and hope for the best but can take charge of the situation at hand.

2. Describe your leadership style. Explain how previous experiences working with teams have helped you discover your leadership style.

Recently, my team and I have completed a group project. In the beginning, nobody knew where to start. We had done all of our research, but since we were not familiar with one another, the conversation became awkward quickly. That was when I placed my foot forward and started asking questions to try and gather useful information for the team. Once a more talkative environment was made, the dense air was gone, and we started working as a whole. It is important to establish a foundation in a team to communicate effectively because from that point everyone involved can be on the same page and the work achieved can flourish and reach a new level of excellence.

# Questionnaire

3. 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 learning and teaching 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?

An issue I find important is the learning and teaching of culture and creativity. Over the few years that I have been studying architecture, I have started to realize how bland the world is when it comes to its architecture. On one hand, I feel like the designs people make are impressive and well put together, but on the other hand, the concept of the building typically lacks the exquisite depth it deserves. Each building should have its own personality. The structure should be able to represent the architect, but also the community that surrounds it. Is it wrong for some cultures to be represented in every building? Why should every building look so similar when we have the power and technology to do something differently? As a leader in the AIAS community, I would constantly challenge the architecture students around me to think outside of the box and commit to being creative at every level of developing a piece of work. Creativity/brainstorming workshops would be implemented, as well as guest speakers who constantly utilize culture in their everyday process. In conjunction with members of AIAS, I would also like to apply a new standard that prioritizes innovation and diversity to further make the world a more vibrant and exciting place.

4. The AIAS has over 250 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?

Firstly, I would set up a way for all the chapters to communicate with one another. This is possible with the enforcement of Slack. It is an application that would allow every chapter to communicate with one another. As for seeking growth, I believe you cannot force people to like architecture, but the solution can be achieved with a collaboration of chapters from around the world. For example, perhaps a student in a chapter does not like their environment, or it is too crowded for their voice to be heard. They could simply connect with another chapter in another country. It would not necessarily mean that they will transfer to a different chapter, but they would have the opportunity to take part in another chapter's activities. This could as well lead to them recruiting more people to join this said collaboration, thus creating a link between two chapters.



# Questionnaire

5. Describe how you intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of your chosen position on the Board. Elaborate on your intended communication/action plan and the primary goals you have for your one-year term.

I would like my role as president to be a stone that falls and creates a ripple across the organization. My action plan would consist of putting sustainable architecture at the forefront. As it stands currently, sustainable architecture has been greenwashed with the façade that simply putting vegetation on a structure makes it “sustainable architecture”. If you search up sustainable architecture, you will be greeted with a structure that has a green façade on it. Personally, this should not be the case; it only provides misleading information for younger aspiring architecture students. In the first term, I would send information to every chapter about what truly sustainable architecture looks like, and from there the ripple begins. Then those students will be informed and can weed out any falsehoods and teach others what true sustainable architecture is. From there it is a matter of reaching out to the community and having guest speakers talk about what they are currently doing to better help the world with sustainable architecture and if possible, reach the roots and start teaching at a high school level, possibly even hold competitions for a sustainable project for an area in their local city.

6. We all love the AIAS for different reasons, but it takes a critical and constructive analysis of the institutions we appreciate most to continue to evolve them into entities that can support each new generation of membership. What facet of the AIAS would you most enjoy innovating or improving to help the organization remain relevant to architecture and design students around the world? What are your ideas for that kind of growth?

I believe that reaching a younger demographic, specifically high school students, would provide quality input in the architecture community and enrichen the content AIAS seeks to provide to the public. As new generations rise, brilliant minds come with them. The AIAS does have memberships for high school students, but I feel like there can be more that can freshen up the overall outlook of the organization. In my years of being in high school and taking part in an architecture program, I did not hear about AIAS once, until I started doing my own research. I know that if I was presented any form of recruitment for the organization, I would immediately sign up and about half of my class would have as well. In the end, it comes down to finding people who want to make a difference or are actively engaged in architecture and its inventiveness. In my opinion, it is worthwhile to hold a competition within AIAS for a certain project and have it excessively advertised to the high school majority. When it comes down to it, you never know what they might create; it may just surprise you.



AIAS

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## 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: Luis Beltran

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: Luis Beltran

Date: 11/16/20





## 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 and Board 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: Luis Beltran

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: Luis Beltran

Date: 11/16/20

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



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## 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): Luis Beltran

Chapter: Drexel University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: lewisbelt@outlook.com

Mobile Phone Number: 786 357 4457

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- ☐ Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Twitter: @\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Instagram: leleleluis / art account: lucipodus
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_