

**connor jordan**

**2021-2022**

**west quad director  
nomination packet**





# letter of intent

November 15, 2020

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

Dear Past President Curry,

I am writing to you to formally declare my intent to run for the position of the 2021-2022 American Institute of Architecture Students West Quad Director. I am confident I possess the necessary characteristics to serve as an effective and successful Quad Director.

I joined the AIAS thinking it was just another box to check. I couldn't have anticipated the impact the AIAS would have on my future as an architecture student. The connections I have made have been essential in my successes over the past year and a half. The potential that this organization possesses to positively affect the future of architecture education and the profession at large is inspiring. I can't help but want to be more involved.

As a leader, I am confident, driven, and passionate about providing a voice to everyone. I pride myself on being adaptable in every environment and on being able to meaningfully contribute to the team. I want to help the AIAS grow both locally, nationally, and internationally and to continue to extend its platform of advocacy.

The AIAS has given so much to me. I am resolute in giving more than I take in life, and serving as West Quad Director would afford me the chance to give so much more back to the AIAS community.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Connor Jordan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Connor Jordan, AIAS



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Denver

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November 17, 2020

Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, Past President, NOMA

American Institute of Architecture Students

1735 New York Ave.

Washington D.C. 20006

Re: Connor Jordan for National Board of Directors of AIAS

Dear Sarah Curry,

The University of Colorado Denver is proud to support Connor Jordan in his candidacy for West Quad Director of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). Connor is currently a third-year student in our Bachelors of Architecture program. He is deeply involved with the school; currently serving as the Membership Director for our AIAS chapter. Connor is an outstanding student, well known in our department for both his academic performance and service work. I have had the pleasure of having Connor in several of my courses and have seen him function as a natural leader among his peers.

Connor is an outgoing, energetic force amongst his peers and demonstrates a strong desire to give back, often volunteering his time as a reviewer for lower studios. As Membership Director, he worked hard to find creative ways to encourage student involvement in AIAS programs during the pandemic. In his work, he often serves as a bridge builder. As an architecture student, he serves as the Creative Director for the Landscape Architecture Department's annual student journal, ROOT, and has successfully worked to expand the scope of the journal to include other disciplines such as Architecture and Urban Planning. Connor is also one of only four students from the Architecture Department chosen as a Design Horizons Fellow, where he's currently working on a socially innovative project to address the homeless crisis.

As a dedicated, outgoing, and passionate student leader, I give Connor my highest recommendation. He is among the best representatives the University of Colorado Denver has to offer and I am confident that he will serve as West Quad Director with the same level of passion and excellence that he approaches all his endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

*Jo Vandenburg*

Architect, Instructor  
Associate Chair of Architecture  
College of Architecture and Planning  
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November 17, 2020

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

Re: Connor Jordan for National Board of Directors of AIAS

Dear Sarah Curry,

Let this letter serve as my recommendation of Connor Jordan for West Quad Director at the American Institute of Architecture Students; 2021-2022 Board of Directors. I am confident in saying Connor is the best candidate. He currently serves as our chapter's Membership Director.

Connor is easily one of the most hardworking people I have met, and I am extremely fortunate to have him serving on our board this year. As I have gotten to know Connor over the past two years, I have found him to be an inspired leader and avid achiever. He is a highly collaborative worker and works hand in hand with the board to stay in touch with the needs of students.

In a year made entirely unpredictable by the pandemic, Connor has been steadfast in his resolve to accomplish everything he set out to do. He has gone above and beyond his role as Membership Director countless times. When we lost our FBD Director and the build project was left unfinished, Connor stepped in and worked to get the project finished. When we lost our Events Director, Connor again stepped in and worked to put together an events calendar. He is extremely creative in his work to reach every student. Connor is also spearheading our new Studio Representative program, designed to better facilitate conversations between students and faculty.

As a friend, Connor is caring and attentive to others' needs and strives to treat everyone equally. He will go out of his way to make time for you and he treats everyone with respect.

Sincerely yours,

*Chris Pennick*

Chris Pennick

Master of Architecture | 2021

Teaching Assistant | Undergraduate Studio I

Supervisor | Design Fabrication Lab

President | AIAS CU Denver 2020-2021

# resume

## education

<b>University of Colorado Denver</b> Bachelor of Architecture	<b>Denver, CO</b> December 2021
<b>University of Northern Colorado</b> Completed 75 credits, BA in Biology	<b>Greeley, CO</b> 2010-2014

## experience

<b>Denver Realty Guru</b> Marketing Guru, COO <i>Managed a successful team of 5 real estate agents and all related operations.</i>	<b>Denver, CO</b> 2016-2019
<b>Dandridge Construction</b> Project Manager, Site Supervisor <i>Responsible for coordinating all aspects of residential and commercial construction projects from initial permitting to final inspection.</i>	<b>Denver, CO</b> 2014-2016

## leadership

<b>AIAS UCD Chapter Membership Dir.</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>AIAS Ethics Committee</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>ROOT Magazine Creative Director</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>Design Horizons Fellow</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>

## skills

Photoshop	Graphic Design
Illustrator	Drafting
Indesign	Model Making
Rhino	Residential Construction/Renovation

## achievements

<b>Academic</b> UCD Dean's List Design Horizons Fellowship	<b>2019-2020</b> <b>2020-2021</b>
<b>Professional</b> Licensed Real Estate Broker - CO	<b>2014-Present</b>

# questionnaire

***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 originally became involved with the AIAS through Freedom By Design. I was encouraged to attend a design meeting by a friend during my first year. I didn't know much about it, but the project sounded fun. From that first meeting, I was hooked. I loved that there was a program that allowed architecture students to use their new skills and knowledge in real time and also in a way that gave back to the community. The AIAS provided me the opportunity to meet other students who were equally passionate about architecture and about doing good.

I have many principles through which I navigate life, but they all seem to orbit around a common altruistic center. Everywhere I go, in everything I do, I want to give more than I take. The AIAS was the platform through which I could give back to the school, to my fellow students, and to the community at large. Encouraged by our then Vice President, I ran and now serve as our chapter's Membership Director. I'm proud to serve our chapters members.

To those who feel they haven't yet reached their potential, my best advice is to just start. I am now and have always been the kind of person that would tell myself "I know I could do it if I really wanted to," and for a long time was comfortable just knowing I could do something. If I've taught myself anything this past year or two, it's that I am beyond capable, all I ever had to do was try. So you should try, too.

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

In my life, I have had the great privilege to serve in several different leadership roles. Those combined experiences have taught me two very value lessons in being an effective leader: you have to want to make a difference, and to give more than I take.

Leading for the sake of leading is dumb. In every role I've ever held, I've always sought to make a worthwhile difference. A few years back, I was elected President of a running club I'd been a member of for almost ten years. In that time, I watched the club transform from one that was welcoming to runners of any ability into one that seemed to cater only to people like me, that could run a mile in under 6 minutes. I ran for President with the goal of reimagining the club as one that could serve the needs of all runners again. As President, I worked closely with the other board members to design a program and bring in coaches to serve the needs of everyone, and in doing so, grew our membership by 50% in the first year alone. Our membership numbers had fallen each year for the previous 5 years.

One of the greatest pleasures in life I to be able to give back to those who have helped you. For

# questionnaire

me, it's a guiding principle. I've learned so much in each leadership role I have held, but I care far more about the legacy I leave when I pass the torch. As a member of the AIAS Ethics Committee, we're working together to lay the groundwork for what will be an invaluable resource to uphold the ethical standards of the AIAS and its members. It's a powerful reminder of the real impact I can have. It's an inspiring opportunity, and one I wish to continue to grow as the West Quad Director.

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*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?*

Without diminishing the importance of each of the issues listed, I have to say the issue of health and wellness is the most important for me. The pandemic and transitioning to fully remote learning has been a catalyst for me in recognizing the importance of my mental health and the direct effects of failing to take care of it has on my work. I've been more open in talking with my studio instructor when I am struggling and in doing so have found more people in my studio are opening up when they're struggling. It's allowed for an incredibly constructive dialogue and has given us a chance to step back from studio work for a few days without penalty.

As Membership Director, I've worked with my board to bring in wellness related events, and they've been great. I think we can go further though. As West Quad Director, I'd love to be able to help normalize the conversations around the importance of mental health within Architecture Education. I want to work with members and chapters to begin having these conversations within their schools and beyond. The AIAS is a platform for advocacy and change. With a focus on mental well-being, I believe the AIAS can be a catalyst for change in the design community at large.

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*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?*

One of the good things to have come from the pandemic and shift online is a greater ability to connect and collaborate with people from across the world. I believe it's also important to recognize that diversity comes in many forms. The AIAS has an incredibly diverse body of

# questionnaire

members with a wide range of experiences. Our members, within our quads and beyond, represent countless different cultures, races, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It's beautiful, really.

Practically speaking, Zoom (or any other digital meeting program, for that matter) and Slack are both incredible tools to connect members from anywhere. But simply having the tools isn't good enough. As West Quad Director, I want to use my platform to bring our rich diversity to the forefront. I want to design programs that are engaging and that gives members an opportunity to share their experiences with each other. I want to provide a platform for anyone and everyone where they can feel welcome and valued.

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***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.***

A year ago, I think this might have been a pretty straight forward question to answer. Today, it's hard to know with any level of confidence what next week or next month might bring. The pandemic has demanded an extreme amount of flexibility and has made planning ahead a virtual impossibility.

With COVID, my goals as West Quad Director are simple. I want chapters and their members to feel supported. I want them to have a place to come and feel heard, and understood. To talk with each other and to work collectively to solve problems. To be have a platform for sharing ideas. I'd love for AIAS to be a respite from the stresses of school and endless quarantine. I want to be engaging, fun, and most importantly, accessible. If I can achieve half that, I'll have been successful.

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***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 can't think of a better way to stay relevant to students than by working with chapters to develop an open line of communication with school faculty and administration. A studio representative program, for instance. It's an incredible tool that would allow studios to elect a representative to speak monthly with school faculty regarding concerns or ideas the student body may have. In creating a line of communication, schools can work collaboratively with students to develop more responsive and current curriculum and studio cultures.





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

## 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: Connor Jordan

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: November 20, 2020



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## 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: Connor Jordan

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: 

Date: November 20, 2020

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



## 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): Connor Jordan

Chapter: University of Colorado Denver

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Membership Director

Email Address: connor.n.jordan@ucdenver.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 720.435.7730

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_
- o Twitter: @\_\_\_\_\_
- o Instagram: @im\_connor\_jordan
- o Other: \_\_\_\_\_