



2021-2022 west quad director candidacy packet

Nicholas Jonathan Romero

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table of contents

03	letter of intent
04	resume
05	letter of school support
06	letter of support (aias)
07	responses to candidate questionnaire
09	aias policy on intern compensation
10	aias elections code of ethics
11	completed contact information sheet

Sarah Curry, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Past President
Past President AIAS
Chair of Elections
1735 New York Ave. NW,
Washington D.C. 20006

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

I am very excitement to inform you of my intention to run for the 2020-2021 American Institute of Architecture Students West Quad Director Position on the National Board of Directors.

Since I first entered the architecture program at The University of New Mexico, I have come to love and appreciate the impact that AIAS has on the students education and wellbeing. From the many Workshops, TimeOuts, and Networking Mixers, we are always learning in a positive environment with other like-minded students. After 4 years of being a member I also served as the chapter president and was able to provide a healthy environment of inclusion for all students regardless of their background. The leadership, knowledge, and experience I gained has given me the skills needed to also serve as a member of the Membership Committee, Forum Site Selection Committee and recently the Learning and Teaching Culture Advisory Group. My experience collaborating on a national committee has taught me that team work and time management is incredibly important and that I could help create a positive experience for all students.

My participation in these leadership opportunities was not for self-interest but for the ability to make positive changes in my chapter. With that, my goal is to offer the same learning and leadership opportunities to other like-minded students as West Quad Director and help elevate our voices as students and advocate for change and wellbeing in all schools.

Enclosed in this packet, you will find all the necessary documents needed for the application. I look forward to being able to continue to serve our community on the National Board of Directors and elevate AIAS higher.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Jonathan Romero, AIAS
2020-2021 UNM AIAS Past President
Masters of Architecture Candidate | University of New Mexico
Bachelors of Arts in Architecture | University of New Mexico



NICHOLAS ROMERO

1ST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENT

nromero96@unm.edu
(505) 702-5920

<https://issuu.com/njnr>
@Nicholas Romero
LinkedIn

MY SKILLS

Hand Drawing	Revit
Illustrator	Rhinoceros 3D
Photoshop	Sketch Up
InDesign	Lumion
V-Ray	AutoCAD

MY STRENGTHS

Self Initiative
Team Engagement
Creative Problem Solving
Time Management

REFERENCES

James Doorn
APS - Instructor
doorn_j@aps.edu

Thea Evans
UNM Food - Director of Marketing
thea.evans@compass-usa.com

John McMahon
GAP - Assistant Manager
john_mcmahon@stores.gap.com

EDUCATION

University of New Mexico BA Architecture *May 2019*
Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 2015 - Present
M.Arch *May 2021*

La Cueva High School
Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 2011 - May 2015

EXPERIENCE

Albuquerque Public Schools
Construction Administration Intern
May 2019 - Present

Compass USA Group
Meal Plan Representative
Mar 2018 - May 2019

GAP
Sales Representative
Aug 2017 - May 2019

County Line
Feb 2015 - Aug 2017

LEADERSHIP

UNM AIAS Chapter President
Aug 2019 - May 2020

AIAS National Forum Site Selection Committee
Aug 2019 - Present

UNM AIAS Chapter Vice President
Aug 2018 - May 2019

AIAS National Membership Committee
Aug 2018 - May 2019

DISTINCTIONS

Matthew Smilovits Endowed Memorial Scholarship
Aug 2020

John Quinn Pate Endowed Scholarship
Aug 2019

AIA ABQ Scholarship
Aug 2018

Secondary Education Design Competition
D/P/S
Aug 2015

ORGANIZATIONS

American Institute of Architecture Students
Aug 2015 - Present

National Society of Leadership and Success
Aug 2016 - Present



School of Architecture and Planning
MSC04 2530, 1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87131-0001, (505) 277-2903

November 20, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to enthusiastically support Nicholas Romero in his campaign for the West Quad Director of AIAS. Upon my arrival as dean of the school this year, I immediately heard of the great work Nicholas helped spearhead as President of our AIAS chapter. As an alumni of our B.Arch program, and current first year graduate student in our M.Arch program, Nicholas would bring valuable perspectives to AIAS, not to mention his familiarity with New Mexico and this region, which sits at the heart of the Four Corners.

As current President-Elect of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), I have had the pleasure of working with AIAS, which is one of our five collaterals. We work year-round in various collaborative efforts to enrich the student experience in all our architecture programs. I've enjoyed working with your organization's top leadership, and from my interactions with Nicholas, I can say he is poised to work in a similar capacity at the national level. The West Quad Director post is the right kind of position for him, as it will allow him to fine-tune leadership skills. It would also bring important representation to the students of our region and to emerging Latinx professionals.

Upon my arrival, I also quickly discovered that given our School's size and its numerous student organizations, solid leadership skills that forefront empathy, team-building, and consistency are an imperative. Our faculty are at a consensus that Nicholas fits this profile to the tee, and we are so lucky to have greatly benefited from his passion for organizing student activities around the clock—from annual fundraisers (to ensure our students can attend AIAS national conferences) to hosting workshops and mentoring sessions. In addition, his work with the Architecture Lobby, an organization for which I also currently serve as a Board Member, has played a critical role in the development of a critical Studio Culture Policy, which I am happy to say, we are now implementing at the departmental level. The ability to work with students as well as the leadership teams of various organizations has given Nicholas the experience needed for a West Quad Director post, where he'll be working with chapter leaders on a regular basis to implement key programs.

I cannot emphasize how excited I am to have Nicholas pursue this national-level post with AIAS. If there is anything else I can offer in support of Nicholas, please do not hesitate to contact me.

best,

Robert Alexander González, Ph.D, A.I.A.
Professor of Architecture and Dean of the School of Architecture + Planning



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

It is with great excitement that I recommend Nicholas Romero for AIAS West Quad Director for the 2021-22 year.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Nick for four years and this year, we have worked together in many capacities: as President and Vice President of our AIAS chapter at the University of New Mexico last term (2019-2020), in many studio classes, as members of the community and as good friends.

I have enjoyed my time working with Nick and came to know him as a truly valuable asset to any team. He is reliable, incredibly hard-working and a successful leader. Beyond that, he is dedicated to making our chapter of AIAS a welcoming, positive and successful group to be a part of. What he tackles, he conquers. That is what makes him the best candidate for West Quad Director.

Nick's knowledge and experience with AIAS is unparalleled by anyone else. He has served our organization at UNM for almost 5 years, being on the executive board for most of that, and sticking around as past president. Not only is he passionate about the organization as a whole, but he is passionate about how architecture can help others and make the world a better place. Along with his indisputable talent, Nick has always been an absolute joy to work with. He is a true team player and always brings out the best in other students.

Without a doubt, I confidently recommend Nick to join your team at AIAS. As a dedicated student leader and an all-around wonderful person, I know that he will be a favorable addition to your organization on a national level.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss Nick's qualifications and experience further. I would be delighted to expand on my recommendation.

Best Wishes,

Geena Gutierrez

Albuquerque, NM 87102
Phone: 505-323-1332
Email: geenagutierrez@unm.edu

1. Describe your origin story as a student leader.

My origin story really began in my first year at The University of New Mexico where I was in the same situation as many other first year students, lost and unsure of what I wanted to do with my future. This was also around the time when I was walking around the studio space and came across an AIAS flyer which was advertising for a representative from each academic level. I thought, well lets just see where this leads, not knowing that this was something I could really be interested in. Overall, the first year was inspiring and it truly amazed me by how involved all students were at my school. We had students from all grade levels and other degrees participating to create a healthy culture that I felt fortunate to be a part of. Two years later I decided to take a leap of faith and run for Vice President for a chance to be more involved and to help our then President lead a successful chapter full of amazing students. Close to the end of my term, I realized that AIAS has such an impact on my life and the many friends I had made along the way (even from the numerous conferences I attended) that it encouraged me to keep going and continue my passion for improving studio culture, mental health, and social interaction between all students regardless of profession or background. Now as president, I feel that I have learned so much in contributing to my chapter and school, yet there is so much more I can learn and give back to the organization that made me who I am today.

2. Describe your leadership style.

Leadership starts with a team. This team is comprised of varying experiences from students ranging from just starting their architecture degree to those who are on their last year of grad school. My style when it comes to leadership follows the sequence of collaborate, divide, and concur. To further explain, an initial brain storming session with the team is an opportunity to hear out everyone's thoughts and opinions and see how that aligns with our goals and our wants and needs. From this we are able to cater new events, workshops, group studio breaks, and fundraisers that will create learning and networking opportunities for all students. I will also delegate certain rolls in any event based off of the team members chosen position to produce or gather information for the given event. I trust that each member will produce what is needed in time to ensure maximum involvement. In the event that a team member is unsure of their skills in that roll, I either pair them with someone who has experience in that area or personally assist them, this then becomes a mentor-mentee relationship that I believe is very beneficial to overall learning and team strategizing.

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?

I believe recently there has been extremely important discussions about the health and wellness of students around the United States. Now more than ever we are seeing the disconnect between the students and the education we are looking for. During my time as the Chapter President at the University of New Mexico I was approached by my schools Studio Culture committee to help construct a new and improved living studio culture policy that brought together a unified voice between all students in our school and the expectations our professors and students should have that are healthy and inclusive. Today I am apart of the Learning and Teaching Culture Policy Advisory Group where we discuss the disconnect that occurs at each school and how we can create a healthy culture of respect and inclusiveness at any school. Now during this pandemic that is altering our daily lives and mental health, it is important to address the health and wellness of the students where our education is equitable and inclusive. One thing that I want to create as the west quad director is a open call where any student can just talk about their wants and needs so that they are heard as well as receive the resources they are needing. As the west quad director I also want to bring together all students and advocate for the changes we need and want from our education.

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?

There are many successful chapters, and for those who are starting a new chapter or those that contain a smaller group of members that are interesting in growing should be connected with another chapter(s). The best way to build a relationship with other chapters is through conferences like Grassroots and Forum, but also with regular Quad Pod calls. Above all, I think the best way connect and engage each chapter is through open calls where there's just times throughout the year where students can come and go as needed to chat openly with other chapters. I think discussions like studio culture, participation in events, fundraising ideas, and event suggestions are great conversation starters and help create a friendship that is able to bridge the distance and create life long friends. These calls focus more on what a chapter needs and act as a way to see what works ad what doesn't work when planning events or to get student participation throughout the school year.

5. Describe how you intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of your chosen position on the board.

With my role as the West Quad Director, I want to bring together our chapters beyond the Quad Pod calls. I know that we all have something to learn from each other, and we all have the potential to do some pretty incredible things, such as increasing our membership numbers, financial stability, AIA involvement, and much more. I want to see us all succeed and create healthy relationships where we can all bounce ideas off of each other in brain-storming sessions. I intend to dedicate some time each day of the week solely for AIAS. This way I can spend more time to be interactive with the different chapters and give them what they are needing most. This can be advice on how to do a certain task or if they need someone to hear our their opinions and concerns. I like to think of my self as a easy to talk to person that can be serious when needed but approachable at any time.

6. Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS.

An untapped opportunity that I see with AIAS is the utilization of our graduate students. Their knowledge of the world beyond the four walls of studio is extremely beneficial. There are things that we do not yet know that they may have been exposed to. Such topics may include advanced softwares used in the profession, how to get experience needed in a specific category on NCARB, and/or what you should expect when starting an internship. In the short time they have moved on from school they have experienced so much and I think by having them come back and lead specific sessions at all conferences or even lead small Q&A discussions at our schools, we could learn so much about what our profession is like. This is something that I am bringing to my university this spring to give the current undergrad and grad students the opportunity to ask questions that will benefit us all. What I see today is that most Alumni students finish and leave. But if we invite them back to our school, to lead certain discussions, workshops, or to event donate their art pieces for our annual art auction fundraiser, we have the opportunity to speak with them and get their insight on the profession before we graduate.

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.

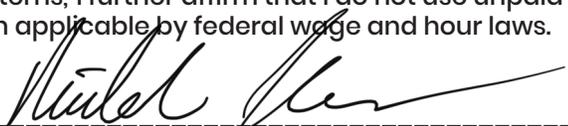
The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to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

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: 11.19.20

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: Nicholas Jonathan Romero

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: 11.19.20

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): _____ Nicholas Romero _____

Chapter: _____ University of New Mexico _____

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): _____ Past President _____

Email Address: _____ nromero96@unm.edu _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____ 505-702-5920 _____

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: _____ Nicholas Jonathan Romero _____
- o Twitter: @ _____
- o Instagram: _____ _njnr_ _____
- o Other: _____