

Nicole Bass

2022

2023



AIAS Vice President Candidate Packet

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Letter of Intent

Erin Conti, AIAS, Assoc. AIA Past President

American Institute of Architecture Students

1735 New York Ave.

Washington D.C. 20006

RE: Letter of Intent to Run for 2022 - 2023 Vice President

Dear Past President Conti,

In my time at architecture school, AIAS has been an incredibly welcoming community that gave myriad opportunities to connect with other architecture students and professionals around the world. These years of memories and experience has inspired me to be more active on a larger scale and push the potential of this organization. I am deeply honored to write to declare my intent to run for the position of the 2022-2023 American Institute of Architecture Students' Vice President.

My first experience of AIAS began with the REACH Quad 2018 as a freshman. I was a track leader of my favorite neighborhoods with the chance to express my knowledge and love for my city through an architectural lens. Through the tour and conference, I was able to connect with upperclassmen, students from other universities in the local area and the region, and professionals in my city. This was the first of many experiences with Quad and Forum conferences and the great connections that I would not have made anywhere else. It is not often that architecture students get time to embrace activities outside of the studio especially during the academic year. For that, I am grateful to AIAS for facilitating events where current students and alumni can engage with one another, support each other with insight on experiences in architecture, and give feedback on projects. This aspect is the main reason I choose to grow through with the organization and use its vast platform to push for the needs of architecture students in the States and internationally. From raising awareness to close the pay gap to talking about mental health and other topics of need in the field are where AIAS elected officers and committees can offer tangible and intangible aid to its members.

The Vice President's role is to be there for AIAS members. The role allows the person to create new chapters in schools and empower current chapters' leaders and members. This means having the ability and time to visit chapters, connecting with them socially and academically, supporting them in times of need, and celebrating achievements. Through this connection and insight, the Vice President can advocate for students academically and financially in committees and board meetings. I am running for Vice President because I want to be present for members and ensure that AIAS is doing its best to support and show up for all members. If I were to be elected for the position, I hope to carry out the empowering and safe environment as my previous AIAS leaders have done for me.

Thank you Erin for your consideration of my candidacy,

Nicole Bass, AIAS, NOMAS

Chair of Council of Global Representatives Committee

Resume

NICOLE BASS

Brooklyn, NY | 917-288-6076 | bass.nrb@gmail.com

EDUCATION

B. Arch., Architecture, Spitzer School of Architecture, The City College of New York, NY: 2022

Minor in Economics, The City College of New York, NY: 2022

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Principles of Management

Intermediate Microeconomics

Advance Studio 1-3

LEADERSHIP ROLES & RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Chair, Student Advisory Committee of Spitzer School of Architecture, CCNY

2/20 - Present

- Represented student concerns and perspectives in department committees
- Hosted student advisory meetings with students of multiple programs
- Conducted student surveys and enacted student requested initiatives

Vice President, Future Architects of the Middle East, CCNY

6/20 – 5/21

- Grew the club structure, constitutions, and resources templates for each role
- Co-created social and informative events each semester with President
- Developed initiatives such as the Directory of Middle Eastern/West Asian Designers and Middle Eastern Highlights

Vice President, AIAS CCNY

6/19 – 5/20

- Supported the team in hosting annual events such as firm tours and professional development
- Assisted the President with club paperwork and membership engagement
- Documented events and conferences to share with members

Social Media and Podcast Chair, NOMAS CCNY

9/17 – Present

- Build and maintain Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube for the chapter
- Coordinated, hosted, produced, and marketed the NOMAS-tea Podcast for the chapter
- Made and marketed social media campaigns to highlight BIPOC professionals and students

SKILLS

Design software: Adobe Creative Cloud, ArcGIS, Sketchup, Sefira, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros 3D

Applications: Microsoft Office, Google Documents, Sheets, and Slides, and Canva

Relevant Skills: problem solving, teamwork, communication, organized, initiative, time-management

Key Qualities: imaginative, detail-oriented, dedicated, passionate, studious, dependable, flexible

AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS

Committee Member, NOMAS Leadership Committee at NOMAS National Office

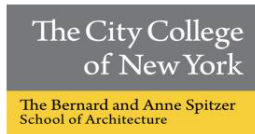
02/21 – Present

Committee Member, Council of Global Representatives at AIAS National

09/20 - 5/21

Recipient, Spitzer Changemaker Scholarship from the Architecture Department at CCNY 21' – 22'

Letter of School Support



141 Convent Avenue
New York, New York 10031
TEL: 212.650.7118
FAX: 212.650.6566

Bradley Horn
Associate Professor, Spitzer School of Architecture

AIAS National Board
1735 New York Avenue, NW / 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Letter of Support for Nicole Bass for VP Position on AIAS National Board.

November 8, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

It is a great pleasure to write on behalf of Nicole Bass, who I got to know over the past year while I was serving as Interim Dean of the Spitzer School of Architecture. During that brief time, Nicole was part of a key group of students within the leadership of our clubs & student organizations, that served as advisors to the Dean's office. Nicole has played vital roles in organizations such as Future Architects of the Middle East (FAME) and the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMAS), has served on our school's Student Advisory Committee, and has been deeply embedded in our AIAS chapter in various capacities, for some time. Nicole has worked both from within these organizations and independently, to give voice to all students in the school on critical matters related to studio culture, and to improve communication between students, faculty, and the administration. To acknowledge Nicole's tireless advocacy on behalf of her classmates, this year she was awarded one of the school's very first *Spitzer Changemaker Scholarships*, which offers a full-tuition scholarship to students with a strong track record of instigating positive change at the school. Nicole is a true leader. She is smart, compassionate, and well-organized. She has experience in diplomatically working with diverging voices to achieve constructive outcomes. She is a remarkable person who attains excellence in her academic endeavors and believes that architecture must be firmly rooted in community engagement. She is a trailblazer at the Spitzer School of Architecture and an excellent candidate for the Vice President position on the AIAS National Board. I hope you will join me in acknowledging Nicole's stellar achievements and visionary leadership at our school by giving her serious consideration for this role.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Brad Horn", written over a white background.

Brad Horn



Letter of Peer Support

Hamees Gabr

2135 Walnut Street, Baldwin, NY 11510

(347) 753-7981

hgabr000@citymail.cuny.edu

November 12th, 2021

To:

Erin Conti, AIAS, Assoc. AIA Past President

American Institute of Architecture Students

1735 New York Ave.

Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Conti,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter in recommendation of Nicole Bass for the AIAS Vice President position. I have known Nicole since our first year in architecture school. I have watched her grow, learn, and excel in the myriad of roles she has taken on.

While I have had the opportunity to collaborate with Nicole in both a studio and extracurricular setting; it is noteworthy her ability to be both a leader and a team member. Her collaboration skills, initiative, and drive are unmatched by anyone I have ever met. She is consistently pushing herself and others to do better.

Before starting her role on the student advisory committee, Nicole single handedly organized and distributed mental health surveys to the students of Spitzer in which she then shared with the administration in the hope of improving the school environment. In her time as AIAS Vice President, she not only recruited dozens of new members but also brought the club back to life with her various initiatives. In her three consecutive years as NOMAS social media chair, she has started a podcast series to interview practitioners and students on a range of topics. As Vice President of the Future Architects of the Middle East (FAME) Nicole not only grew the social media network but also fostered a relationship with the AIAS Middle East as well as worked to establish a national directory of Middle Eastern Architects. Most recently as a testament to all of her efforts as a leader, Nicole received the first-ever Change-makers scholarship from Spitzer. While this is only a small percentage of what she has accomplished alongside her academics, Nicole's capability seems to be never-ending.

Nicole is a leader, friend, and force to be reckoned with. Her determination in everything she does is not only inspiring but makes her a true role model. I am certain that you will not find a better candidate.

Sincerely,

Hamees Gabr

5th year B.arch

President, Future Architects of the Middle East

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?

In school, there were always extracurricular activities to participate in from student government to poetry club. I joined to connect with my classmates and teachers outside of just class. These clubs were a great way to see how the people involved were multifaceted. The presidents of the clubs at the time created an environment where **I was welcomed and encouraged to be myself and share my interests with my peers.** Through the years, I wanted to take part in more of a leadership role to help facilitate and maintain the spaces that connected and showed how versatile students and teachers were. Since then, I have participated in organizations that shared my passions, and I looked forward to passing it forward by taking a higher role in it. To my fellow peers at my school and other colleges, I would encourage you to find an organization that aligns with your interests and actively works towards furthering your passions. Find out what inspires you to work with that place and how it makes you feel as a participating member. As you have time and energy to increase your involvement, pay it forward by taking more leadership roles, and continue to share that environment with new and potential members.

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

During my time as Vice President for AIAS and FAME, a school club at CCNY, there were a lot of opportunities to improve my leadership style and skills. School and outside organizations allowed me to see a range of leadership styles. From my experience and what I learned from others, two main ways I like to work with teams and members is to **have as much transparency, communication,** and possible group decision when needed to move forward with events, initiatives, and goals. With membership, I have done some **needs assessments** to talk directly with members about topics they would like help on and ways the organization can direct their energy and actions to support those topics. For the teams, I like to start with **co-creating board role agreements that specify expectations and how to hold accountability on both ends** as a Vice President to another board member. These two methods allow for open dialogue throughout the year and a direct way to meet with members that I would not typically meet during school. With this clear mutual understanding of each position, **I co-write with the President monthly to-do lists** for each role with the main goal, suggested steps, and deadlines. This method makes it **easy and fair to delegate** and get feedback from the board if deadlines need to move or if tasks need to be broken down to include more support. I hope I can carry out similar principles and actions if I get elected for Vice President.

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?

The initiatives AIAS has taken to give voice to architecture student's concerns and take steps to resolve them has been increasing over the years. The main gesture that I believe overlaps with a lot of issues is the **equity of each topic.** There needs to be **concrete and consistent ways of moving forward** that level the playing field for women and minority groups **in the academia that carry out in the professional field.** If I were an elected leader, I would assess how many times AIAS incorporates women and minorities in our events, initiatives, and partnerships. I would advocate for reaching out and including groups that typically have not been involved. These new partnerships would participate in AIAS future conferences, initiatives, and networking events. In addition to advocating, I would try my best to work **hands-on with the committees to find, reach out, and collaborate with these communities.** It is important to me that if I am elected Vice President on the AIAS National Board of Directors, I should **suggest ways to grow collectively and follow through with any of my suggestions to ensure that initiatives do not fall through the cracks.**

Candidate Questionnaire

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?

One of the Vice President's role is to grow membership throughout Quads. With this goal in mind, talking directly with members through **social and professional platforms** like Slack, Instagram, and LinkedIn can quickly show that **AIAS is present in their architecture careers**. The Vice President should introduce themselves to each chapter by attending events and engaging online. Members can see the regional and national support that AIAS can regularly offer by being present on a chapter level and aiding the Directors and Ambassadors in those conversations. As Vice President, I would advise chapter leaders to **use the existing AIAS resources to develop their content, graphics and to contextualize the value of being a member**. Additionally, I would continue surveying members and leaders on their needs and collaborating with them to create solutions that would involve multiple chapters across quads and regions. By having **honest conversations and following up with strategic collaboration allows chapter leaders to have agency in also growing the AIAS community**.

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.

My first few steps, if elected, would be continuing to **talk with the current Vice President and past Vice President about their experience**, struggles, and insight on the position. Concurrently, I would prepare for the role with the President-Elect to **share ideas and get on the same page of goals and strategies** we'd like to pursue during our term. During the role, I would uphold transparency of my process, have clear and consistent communication, and meaningful collaboration with committees and chapters. I believe this level of connection is needed on a local, regional, and national level. One of my main goals would be to ensure chapter leaders and their boards are on **AIAS emails, slack channels, and follow Instagram accounts**. This allows the entire board to be involved and notified on a regional and national level. Secondly, I would develop a more **robust marketing and communication strategy on a local and regional level**. This is to ensure that the correct people participating are tagged and **recognized for their work** on shared events and opportunities. Thirdly, I want to improve **access to information and clarity on how AIAS operates internally and externally with the NAAB, NCARB, ACSA, AIA, NOMA**. This would mean continuing to update the website and social media platforms accordingly.

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?

AIAS has a vast range and amount of resources for members. The resources come through **tangible and intangible ways** like enhancing their education, facilitating connections with academics, professionals, and students worldwide, and financial award opportunities that set members up for success. As Vice President, I would push for engaging and informing the membership about all these resources and continue to recognize who participated previously in these opportunities. I want to work with the membership committee, chapter presidents, and most importantly, **Quad Directors and Ambassadors to strategize the best ways to communicate information**. Some great resources that I think require more marketing content are ARE scholarships, In-Studio competitions, CRIT Journal, Freedom By Design projects, and events with international students and other organizations like NCARB and ACSA. Additionally, I want to create marketing content to **explain membership benefits on a chapter, region, and organizational level**.

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: Nicole Bass

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: Nicole Bass

Date: 11/19/2021

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.

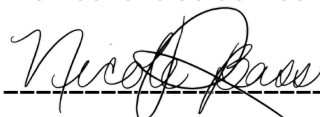
As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Past President.

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: Nicole Bass

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: 11/19/2021

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): Nicole Bass

Chapter: City College of New York

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Vice President '19 - '20

Email Address: nbass000@citymail.cuny.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 917 - 288 - 6076

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Nicole Bam
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: @nicoleinspitzer @nikiey1
- o Other: Linkedin: Nicole Bass