

Gabby Spatz

Declaration of Candidacy

AIAS Midwest Quadrant Director

2022 - 2023



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Letter of Intent

Erin Conti, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

November 19, 2021

Dear Past President Conti,

I am overjoyed to be writing to you to formally declare my intent to run for AIAS Midwest Quadrant Director for the 2022 – 2023 term on the National Board of Directors.

Since becoming a member of AIAS over 4 years ago, I have grown as a scholar, designer, leader, and most importantly as a human being. I have had the honor of serving in my chapter as Treasurer and Graduate Representative, in the Midwest Quad as the Sponsorship and Funding Director for the Fall 2020 conference, with the National Office as a member of the Finance Committee and now as Chair of the Professional Development Advisory Group. AIAS has challenged me beyond belief and I am truly blessed to have AIAS family at Bowling Green State University, in the Midwest Quadrant and across the world. I often say that I have no idea what my life would look like without the community of AIAS, and I would never want to find out.

Throughout my various leadership roles, I have developed skills that are applicable to the many facets of the Midwest Quadrant Director position. In particular, the conflict management tactics, networking methods, experience with conferences and committees, and marketing abilities I have gained will help me to navigate the challenges presented to a Quadrant Director. My involvement in AIAS has revolutionized my collegiate experience and has given me more confidence, leadership opportunities, and new skills than I ever could have imagined. I aspire to give back to the organization by helping chapters in the Midwest to grow and empower each other. I also aim to build more bridges in this role, helping everyone within the AIAS and outside of it to understand it as an inclusive and endlessly supportive environment.

Most importantly, I am running for Midwest Quadrant Director because I want to be in each member's corner, just as I have had the support of so many current and previous Board of Directors members. I want to be a voice for them when they feel they have none, a guidepost when they feel lost, and a reliable resource in a world of unreliable information. I want to push them to discover their inner leaders, connectors, and advocates to better our organization, our educational systems, and the architecture profession as a whole. It would be an absolute honor to serve the members of AIAS in the capacity of Midwest Quadrant Director for 2022 – 2023.

Thank you for your endless support of AIAS and its membership and for this wonderful opportunity.



Gabriella Spatz, AIAS

Gabby Spatz



spatzgabriella@gmail.com



937.241.5892



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gabriella-spatz/>

Education

Bowling Green State University - Bowling Green, OH
Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Environmental Design

August 2017 - May 2021

- Summa Cum Laude
- Graduated with University Honors
- Honors College Presidential Scholarship Recipient
- Presidential Award: Granted for 4.0 GPA and Dean's List

Universidad de Salamanca - Salamanca, Spain
Course Credit towards Minor in Spanish

January 2020

Bowling Green State University - Bowling Green, OH
Master of Architecture

Expected in 2023

Master of Business Administration

- Graduate Teaching Instructor - AutoCAD for Architecture and Construction
- Graduate Assistant - BGSU Graduate College of Business
- 4.0 GPA

Leadership and Recognition

American Institute of Architecture Students

- Chair, National AIAS Professional Development Advisory Group
- Graduate Representative, AIAS BGSU
- Recipient, National AIAS Chapter Leader Honor Award
- Treasurer, AIAS BGSU
- Sponsorship and Funding Director, Fall 2020 Midwest Quad Conference
- Member, National AIAS Finance Committee

September 2021 - Present
February 2021 - Present
February 2021
February 2018 - 2021
2019 - 2020
September 2019 - June 2021

Additional Roles

- University Dance Alliance BGSU Choreographer and Member
- BGSU College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering Ambassador
- National Society for Leadership and Success Member
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Member

2017 - Present
2018 - 2021
2018 - 2020
2019 - 2020

Experience

BGSU Honors College - Bowling Green, OH
Marketing and Event Management Intern

September 2018 - Present

Architecture by Design, Ltd. - Sylvania, OH
Intern Architectural Draftsperson

May - August 2019

Troy Christian Early Childhood Education Center - Troy, OH
Preschool Childcare Professional

May - August 2018, January 2019

AIAS National Office
ATTN: Past President Erin Conti
1735 New York Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

November 17, 2021

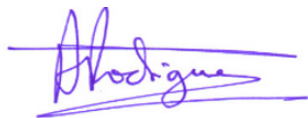
Dear Past President Conti,

The Department of Architecture and Environmental Design at Bowling Green State University is honored to support the candidacy of Ms. Gabriella Spatz for the 2022 – 2023 Midwest Quadrant Director position. Gabriella has served AIAS BGSU and the School of the Built Environment with passion, dedication, and integrity for more than four years as a student, College Ambassador, Treasurer, Graduate Representative, and now as an Graduate Teaching Instructor. The administration, faculty, staff, and students of the SBE are collectively proud to endorse her efforts in running for the National Board of Directors. Over the past four years working with Gabriella, I have known her to be a responsible and efficient leader who truly wants the best for others. I have no doubt that she would make a wonderful representative for the Midwest Quad and that she has all the leadership and organization skills necessary to succeed in the role.

From the beginning of Gabriella's involvement with AIAS BGSU, she helped to revive our chapter, raised thousands of dollars in her three years as Treasurer, and expanded the school's professional network to architecture firms and students across the world. I witnessed her poise and resolve in action on a larger scale as the Sponsorship and Funding Director for the Fall 2020 Midwest Quad Conference. She was integral to the team when they were participating in the bid and demonstrated adaptability when the fully planned, in-person conference pivoted to a virtual one. Gabriella continues to prove that she has endless creativity up her sleeve for the AIAS. She works constantly within the chapter and school community to create an environment of inclusion and respect.

Gabriella's involvement extends past regional and chapter initiatives to participation with AIAS National. With her active membership on the Finance Committee for 2019 through 2021, acceptance of the Chapter Leader Honor Award earlier this year, and recent appointment as chair of the Professional Development Advisory Group, Gabriella demonstrates a tenacity for the betterment of AIAS and the architecture community as a whole. I am proud to give my full support and that of the School of the Built Environment to Ms. Gabriella Spatz in her pursuance of Midwest Quad Director.

Respectfully



Arsenio Rodrigues, PhD, AIA, LEED AP, EDAC, NCARB, CoA
Professor and Director, School of the Built Environment
College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering
Bowling Green State University

Erin Conti, AIAS Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006



Dear Past President Conti,

When I was an incoming student to Bowling Green State University like most, I was excited to be involved but unsure where to start. One of the students that introduced me to AIAS and welcomed me into my new home at BGSU was Gabby Spatz. I am humbled and honored to endorse her for the AIAS National Board of Directors as the Midwest Quad Director for the 2022-2023 cycle.

During her undergraduate years, I was able to observe and learn from Gabby's three consecutive terms as Chapter Treasurer. Aside from this role, she has also served on the Fall 2020 Midwest Quad Planning Committee, the first virtual quad in the history of AIAS, the National Finance Committee, and the Professional Development Advisory Group. Her efforts alone on the MWQ Planning Committee were no less than extraordinary. Through her own innovative methods in the last few weeks before the conference, she continued to follow up with potential sponsors allowing us to not only break even for the conference, but to bring in around 3 thousand dollars profit. This allowed for a substantial donation to AIAS students across the country via the National Membership Grant. In addition to planning this conference and being a vital piece in the BGSU Chapter Board, she continued her hard work on the Finance Committee helping to write and edit the "So You're The Treasurer" series to serve as a guidebook for future treasurers and chapters among other committee accomplishments.

I could continue on about how she was awarded the Chapter Leader Honor Award this year among other recognitions but those are only surface level accomplishments. They do not relay how she sits down with students she does not know each semester to help them schedule classes or how she takes time out of her busy schedule and weekends to assist the students in her AutoCAD class. Even today, she continues to go above and beyond for BGSU, the students, and our AIAS chapter. After our Events Director resigned this year, Gabby stepped up in her board role as Graduate Representative to take over our entire annual Career Fair. From organizing the event details to drafting email templates and allowing for nearly 2000 contacts, it is no exaggeration to say this fair and many other events would not be possible without her.

It is my pleasure to support Gabby Spatz in her endeavors in running for Midwest Quadrant Director and I believe she is more than capable to fulfill the role. She has been a wonderful leader, role model, teammate, and friend to myself and everyone here Bowling Green State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jack Collins'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Collins
AIAS BGSU Chapter President

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?

I have always been drawn towards serving others for the greater good. Whether that looked like 3-year-old Gabby telling the dance steps to her friends on stage during the recital, 9-year-old Gabby volunteering to teach Sunday School to the kids, or 18-year-old Gabby joining her first college organization, the urge to participate in something successful and wonderful was always present. I felt a drive to help those around me but didn't recognize service as a form of leadership. Hoping to both serve others and lead, I came into college with two objectives in mind: to meet as many people as I could and to find a place where I felt I would make an actual difference. AIAS presented me with an opportunity to run for the executive board and I was excited. I felt I could lead from behind the scenes, handle our finances, manage the logbooks, and raise funds. That Treasurer position turned into an opportunity to completely rebuild the BGSU chapter with a few other dedicated board members. I did not expect to take over in an outward-facing position, but it built my confidence, my public speaking skills, and the voice of my inner leader. Being in AIAS made me see that students were the ones with the true power in education and I wanted to be a part of that bigger picture. I leaped at the chance to become involved in the Midwest Quad and National initiatives after that. AIAS is both a family and a driving force for change in architecture and I simply hope to lead in a way that makes others want to be a part of it.

I would give one piece of advice to others who have not realized their leadership potential and that is that we have different types of leaders for a reason. It may be difficult, but we each have to find our way to a leadership style that makes sense for us, and we have to listen to those trusted folks who encourage us in leadership. You never know when agreeing to serve for something you care about could take you on a remarkable journey of leadership and growth. (At least that's what happened to me!)

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

As a person, I have always valued leaders who demonstrate confidence, empathy, time management, and honesty. When developing my leadership style, I had to focus first on pure confidence so building up the confidence of team members has become central to my approach. Within AIAS, I have been able to give support in my leadership roles in a way that constructively prepares each individual for success and, in turn, the team. I believe I am good at seeing through to people's true emotions, which allows me to cater my approach to each person's needs at that moment. I am patient and can direct statements or delegate tasks without dominating other personalities. Especially in helping to plan the Fall 2020 Midwest Quad Conference, I spoke my mind to the team, architecture professionals, and school administration in a respectful but effective way. I have also become skilled at discovering various tactics for managing time and relaying them to team members when they are struggling. Finally, I try to practice honesty in leadership. There will be times when we do not know the answers and must consult other leaders to solve the problems. There has hardly ever been a time in history where one person has made a difference all on their own and it's important for us to recognize that fact.

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?

Having worked on initiatives in many of these areas, it is difficult to pick just one. In all honesty, I see these not as separate issues, but as prongs of a plan that must be developed together. My current National efforts are within the Professional Development Advisory Group to create resources for all members to learn how they can use their degree in architecture in different ways. I believe our resources will empower students to lead in their career paths, but could also challenge the current educational culture. In that way, I believe that change will begin at the educational level in our colleges and universities. I want to help students to advocate for better culture and resources from their schools, which hinges on learning and teaching culture that promotes equity and diversity of ideas and people, healthy physical and mental practices, and integration with architecture professionals. If elected as Midwest Quad Director, I will build upon the work of previous officers to establish better Learning and Teaching Culture across the country and help AIAS chapters and schools start to direct their voices towards the profession. I aim to help prepare Midwest Quad members to advocate for themselves while in school and once they leave. We are the next generation of architecture and AIAS members have the power to set a new precedent.

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?

I believe that as an organization, we have yet to tap into our resources fully at a Chapter level. Although we are all different, from what I have witnessed in the past we are most successful when we support each other's ideas and ask each other for help. It is the responsibility of a Quad Director to keep track of the various chapters and be able to share the ideas with chapter leaders who seek growth or change. Rather than trying to reinvent the wheel, we can serve as direct connections to current and past AIAS members who have been through similar experiences. I think that better management of past interactions could revolutionize our ability to connect. I propose a more in-depth system of chapter success, event, and funding tracking by each quadrant director during check-ins. If we log what our chapters are doing, we would also have research to cater our National events towards the people as opposed to what we believe the people want. This approach could also lead to more collaborative opportunities between schools, greater participation in virtual events, and a referenceable history of successfully handled situations for Quad Directors and Boards to come. As an organization with incredible turnover (yearly elections at all levels) this system has the potential to trickle down to benefit chapter management across the world, grow our chapters and increase the ease of networking.

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.

My communication plan hinges on meeting the members of the Midwest Quad where they are at. First, I will expand check-ins and connections to more than just Chapter Presidents. I believe that a good chapter has a board that hears all voices and I think the Midwest Quad Director's job is to listen to all the voices as well. This requires communicating with them via methods that make sense. I will connect via Slack, email, text, virtual meetings, hangouts, social events, and possibly some in-person visits. I also want to help advocate the needs of chapters to Faculty Advisors and administration when they feel they aren't being heard. From listening to chapters, I know that managing the politics of a board, administration, and advisors can be a major detriment to expanding membership. I hope to put out team building resources and strategies to various chapters to strengthen their base and then connect them to each other to drive up creativity in planning. My hope is that this also leads to direct collaboration between chapters to reinforce member networks. Finally, I am looking forward to connecting the National Board of Directors with the thoughts and feelings of all the Midwest members.

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 spoke above about our organization leadership turnover and separately about using our membership to integrate with the profession and advocate within our careers. Although these present challenges, I think we could tap into our network of past AIAS members and leaders who are out working in the profession more. I feel that once they graduate, many of them either jump into other organizations or throw themselves wholeheartedly into their work and we have lost their valuable knowledge and insight. There isn't often an incentive for them to remain involved with the AIAS at that point. For that reason, we usually have more experienced professionals who want to come speak, lead workshops, or interact with students. While these can be very beneficial, it feels to me that the current and incoming AIAS members are more enchanted by the idea of connecting with people closer in age and experience. I think we could develop our alumni mentorship programs more, create large scale events to allow members to connect with younger professionals and work to support our recently graduated AIAS members to encourage their continued participation and support. We have an opportunity for members to find value in AIAS long past their graduation, but we will have to work for it. More involvement with professionals of all ages will help us to remain relevant, help AIAS members to be better prepared and create a larger and more long-lasting community.



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: Gabriella Spatz

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: Gabriella Spatz

Date: 11/19/21

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: Gabriella Spatz

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: Gabriella Spatz

Date: 11/19/21

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): Gabby Spatz

Chapter: Bowling Green State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Graduate Representative

Email Address: spatzgabriella@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (937) 241-5892

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Gabriella Spatz
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: @gabbytastic1999
- o Other: