



COLLIN F BROWN

2022-2023 AIAS Vice President Candidate Packet

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Erin Conti, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, Past President
The American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Past President Conti,

I have been especially fortunate over the past four and a half years, not only to be able to study architecture at a school I admire, but also to have the incredible support of the AIAS and its many amazing members. The connections and friendships I have made during my time in the AIAS have motivated me to work towards enabling every student to have the same fantastic experience I have had. Please let this serve as notification of my intent to run undeclared for the position of 2022-2023 American Institute of Architecture Students National Vice President.

I can not overstate just how influential the AIAS has been during my architecture education. I will always remember the very first AIAS conference I attended (shout-out to the University of Tennessee Knoxville Maker Quad team,) and the desire to see, experience, and do more that it instilled in me. From organizing chapter events, to navigating the COVID-19 pandemic as chapter president, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve my classmates. Over the past three years I have also had the distinct pleasure of serving AIAS students through involvement on three different National Committees and Task Forces. I have learned a great deal connecting with not only students from Auburn, but students and professionals, and some extremely dedicated individuals. Most importantly, I have learned more about myself, not only as a designer, but as a person and a leader.

The AIAS offers members so many different opportunities, I am living proof of that. The role of Vice president is primarily an internally facing one and reflecting on all the work I have done over the past three years; it is an intuitive next step. I am excited to continue working with other students to advocate for ourselves and our collective future.

Thank you for all of your hard work and inspiration.

Sincerely,



Collin Brown

education

Auburn University | Bachelor of Architecture + Bachelor of Interior Architecture
 Auburn, Alabama. May 2022

Auburn University Fifth Year Thesis
Rural Studio Hale County, AL.

AU Abroad Scandinavia Aarhus School of Architecture
 Aarhus, Denmark. Spring 2020

Saskatchewan Polytechnic | Diploma, Architectural Technologies
 Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. May 2017

experience

Shop Technician | Auburn University APLA
 Auburn, Alabama. Fall 2019 - present

Undergraduate Research Assis- | Auburn University BSCI
 Auburn, Alabama. June - August 2019

Project Coordinator | Van Alstine Project Management
 Regina, Saskatchewan. August - December 2016

Engineering Student | PCL Construction Management Ltd.
 Regina, Saskatchewan. January - April 2016

Junior Architectural Technologist | 1080 Architecture Planning + Interiors
 formerly Pattison MGM Architectural Services Ltd.
 Regina, Saskatchewan. May - August 2015

involvement

- Co-Chair** | WASTE//LAND - South Quad Conference Spring 2022 2022
- Co-Chair** | AIAS National Technology & Sustainability Task Force 2021 - 2022
- Chapter President** | AIAS Auburn University 2020 - 2021
- Member** | AIAS National Design & Technology Task Force 2020 - 2021
- Member** | Auburn University CAD/C Student Council 2020 - 2021
- Member** | AIAS National Council of Global Representatives 2019 - 2020
- Co-Chair** | Pumpkin Carve AIAS Auburn University 2019

skills

Analog | drafting, model making, sketching, woodworking, leatherworking

Digital | Autodesk AutoCAD, Revit, Recap; Rhino; SketchUp; Bluebeam
 Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator; Microsoft Office Suite

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?

My journey as a student leader is a short one, starting only four years ago during my time at Auburn University. To be honest, I originally joined the AIAS as an excuse to and see new cities and architecture through conferences under the guise of “academic enrichment.” During that time though, I got to see some of the wonderful leaders that have come from Auburn University, and other schools around the country. My transition into leadership was more subtle than most. I found myself volunteering for more activities and responsibilities. Before I realized what was happening, I found myself as chapter president during a very uncertain time.

There are two pieces of advice I would give to others who may not have realized their potential: the first to start small, and the second is to surround yourself with other leaders. I remember the very first chapter meeting I attended, because who doesn't love free pizza, and it was the call for candidates for the following year's chapter board positions. Seeing and hearing all the position responsibilities listed was daunting then, and in some ways is still daunting now. My starting small, I was able to slowly build on the responsibilities I already had instead of assuming too many at once. One of the best things that happened to me during my time as a chapter leader was meeting connecting with other chapter leaders. Working with them allowed me to learn and improve who I was as a leader. If you learn through observation like I do, connecting with others in leadership positions is a great way to improve yourself.

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

I would describe my leadership style as engaging. From what I have been told, and some reflection, I try to use my position of leadership to engage with others and build collaborative relationships. My goal as a leader is help others reach their potential, using my own knowledge, experience, and skills to help them. I believe that the relationships stemming from this type of leadership lead to more open communication and collaboration in a team setting. In general, I see the role of a leader as someone who is able to delegate and facilitate, working with others and empowering them to do their best.

My tenure as chapter president at Auburn was about as far from ‘normal’ as it could have possible been. Starting with inheriting the mess that as left by the previous board at the beginning of the pandemic, and continuing entirely virtually, the year was not easy. What many saw as detrimental, we saw as a opportunity. The decreased number of typical events and gatherings allowed us to work more behind the scenes to build initiatives and providing more opportunities and value for all our members. Working with chapter representatives from Tuskegee University, we initialized a professional mentorship program to be integrated into the already existing peer mentorship groups. We were also able to put together a comprehensive Welcome Book for incoming architecture students, that would provide them with everything the need to know and a lot they might be interested in. over the course of these two projects, I transitioned from leading them to working on them as my team members really took ownership and the initiative with them as they progress.

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?

Recently I have found myself thinking more and more about the relationship between technology and sustainability and the role they play in architectural education. Through working on the Technology and Sustainability Task force, we have found that many schools and programs talk the walk when it comes to sustainability, but very few walk the walk. From requirements for new technology creating e-waste, to the environmental model tools available on that technology, the architectural education system has ways to go.

I will use my term on the National board of Directors to continue advocating for a more sustainable education, from the tools we use to the content in the classroom. Continuing my current work, I want to move forward an all-encompassing model sustainability policy for chapters, collateral organizations, and partner organizations, and even for schools. It is time that sustainability, and the tools we use to work towards it, become a cornerstone of our education and the profession.

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

I plan to use my position as Vice President to work directly with Quad Directors and chapter leaders to provide them everything they need for their chapters to thrive. I will continue using the open Town Halls to connect with and hear from students about their concerns and experiences. Based on my preferred leadership style, I will also be making myself available to members as much as possible through attending chapter meetings or even for individual meetings whenever possible.

One of the initiatives I worked on while chapter president was a proposal for a 'chapter development fund' that sought to mitigate some of the financial burden and lack of institutional knowledge for smaller/new chapters when they are looking to host events. Working with another chapter president, we were able to prepare the proposal and present it at the Grassroots Council of Presidents meeting. I intend to continue and expand the work I started on the Chapter Development Fund, to provide chapters not only monetary support, but also a knowledge base for them to use and continue to build on for future students.

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.

Of utmost importance in fulfilling the role of Vice President, is ensuring that chapters are equipped with everything they need to continue helping students. The first steps in doing so are maintaining an open and continuous dialog with members and working with them to ensure they are confident in themselves and the organization. During the transition process, I plan to work closely with current and incoming Board members to learn from their experiences and grow into the role. I also hope to bring new ideas to the role, balanced with institutional knowledge from many of the previous amazing Board members.

Making myself accessible through as many methods as possible and meeting members where they are comfortable are cornerstones of my approach to communication. Reliance on any single method of communication is not enough when every school, every chapter, and every student is different. Slack, e-mail, and social media are all methods I will be using.

During my one-year term, my primary goal is to work with chapter leaders to develop and implement a more complete approach to growing their chapters. Making use of the body of knowledge available to members everywhere. My secondary goal is to continue the work I started on the 'chapter development fund' and move it forward to help support chapters. My tertiary goal is to maintain a high level of transparency with everyone. The AIAS is made to spectacular by its members, and it is your right to know how we work.

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?

The AIAS is a large organization with a diverse membership, and that is a fantastic to see. One thing fundamental to remaining relevant, and that the AIAS struggles with is dynamism. Simply put, dynamism is a big contributor to resiliency, and the ability to adapt quickly is a scarce quality in large organizations. I want to fully acknowledge that change in such a large organization takes time, but the ability to quickly adapt is a necessary step if we are to continue our mission.

The current system has chapters acting nearly autonomously and that is a great thing! It allows chapters the flexibility to adapt to the needs and desires of their membership, while also allowing individual chapters to maintain a unique identity with some consistency across the organization. However, as we start to look up the organizational ladder, we a much more rigid and fixed hierarchy. So how wo go about making the organization more dynamic? Allowing chapters and members to continue to act semi-autonomously is a good start. The committees and task forces are also good instruments for remaining agile but looking past them at the national level leaves much to be desired. My goal is to work on that level, and to create a framework for a more dynamic and adaptable future.

I want to make the AIAS a more dynamic, agile organization; and it all starts with empowering every member.

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: Collin Brown-----

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: 01/01/2022-----



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: Collin Brown_____

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: 01/01/2022_____

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): Collin Brown-----

Chapter: Auburn University-----

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

Email Address: czb0077@auburn.edu-----

Mobile Phone Number: 334.332.0780-----

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: -----
- o Twitter: @-----
- o Instagram: @c.f.brown-----
- o Other: -----