



## 2023 – 2024 West Quad Director Candidacy Declaration Packet

James D. Armendariz, AIAS  
Newschool of Architecture & Design  
NCARB Representative  
Governance Committee

Scott Cornelius, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President  
1735 New York Ave. NW,  
Washington D.C. 20006-5292

Dear Past President Scott, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President

I am pleased to notify you that I intend to run for the 2023-2024 American Institute of Architecture Students West Quad Director.

Long ago, a young child made a cardboard sculpture in art class. All around, his classmates' projects looked like mosaics, but this child took the project on a different route. His rose above the paper, creating structure, space, and spatiality. It was at this time when the kid decided that he wanted to be an architect. That kid was me. From there on out, I went to an engineering middle school, then to an architecture high school. It was from this high school that I had my first interaction with the AIAS. It was this amazing organization where you could learn from the students from all years, taking trips to the local firms and construction sites, and having our local university come talk to us about how college worked. This was when I knew that this was something I wanted to be a part of—something I wanted to see grow as much as possible.

From a relatively young age, I've been attracted to leadership but really didn't understand what that meant. The responsibility, the stress, and the prolonged hours of work, but as I slowly took more and more leadership positions, I found how rewarding it could be. How seeing all the aid you provided to your fellow students can have them grow and soar, how you can see the fruits of your labor, blood, sweat and tears can create something that all can enjoy, creating positive and enjoyable experiences for all.

My previous experiences (Eagle Scout, army, AIAS in high school, in community college and university) have all led to this position. I feel that I am well equipped for this role, I am ready for another challenge and another position where I can help more people. The AIAS is one of the things I'm most passionate about in my life, and I'm ready to do whatever I can to see this organization grow farther. I am running for the West Quad Director position because I want to give back to my community, both academic and civil whenever possible, and however I can. It is for all these reasons and more that I wish to run for West Quad Director. Thank you Scott Cornelius and the rest of the AIAS for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James David Armendariz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

James David Armendariz, AIAS

2022-2023 NewSchool of Architecture & Design NCARB Representative

## JAMES D. ARMENDARIZ

707 10th Ave #442  
San Diego CA 92101  
(805) 612-4687  
jamesdarmendariz@gmail.com

### EXPERIENCE

#### May 2017 - December 2018: **Executive Communication Systems**

- + Assisted in the assembling production of dictation foot pedals and headphones
- + Software assistance
- + A company representative of out of state events
- + Assisted with jewelry assembly for a sister company

#### September 2019 - 2021: **Part Time Draftsman at Rasmussen and Associates**

- + Uses AutoCAD and Revit to create construction documents
- + Works with architects and other construction professionals to create designs and submit construction drawings to the city

#### August 2018 - present: **California Army National Guard MOS 12T Technical Engineer**

- + Enlisted August 25, 2018
- + Attended basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, MI From January 2019 to August 2019
- + Currently on M-day orders (serving one weekend a month, two weeks in the summer and on-call for international and state deployment.)
- + Was called to active duty for Covid-19 2020, George Floyd civil unrest May 2021, and fought fires in Sequoia National Forest (SQF complex), Mt. Shasta National Forest (Zogg Fire), and Lassen National Park (Dixie fire) in 2020 and 2021
- + Currently serving as a Battalion radio transmission operator, whose job is to communicate all current operation and future operations of a unit of 1000 people in real time, in both combat and non-combat operations

#### September 2019- 2021: **Barback at The Smoking Gun**

- + Assists bartenders in all duties, from cleaning glassware, to creating premixed drinks
- + Also covers for bussers, and food runners if short-staffed

## EDUCATION

August 2014 - May 2018: **Advanced Technology Academy (High School)**

- + Graduated with an emphasis on the Architectural Design Program.

August 2018 – 2021: **Ventura Community College**

- + Left with all credit required to transfer into an Architectural Design Program

2021- present: **Newschool of Architecture & Design**

- + Current full-time student, involved in extracurricular activities and a part of the community.

## ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

- + Rock-4-Change President (2016 - 2017 School Year): a non-profit after-school music enrichment program that empowers students to stay in school and be their best through the learning and performance of rock 'n' roll music.
- + Ordeal Master (2017): a boy scout sub organization position, oversaw event planning for 300 over the course of a weekend doing community service in a boy scout camp, all responsibilities fell to the ordeal master, from food planning, to ceremonies, to work planning, and logistics
- + Eagle Scout (2018): the highest rank in Boy Scouts of America, requires a minimum of three years of service. In my case I served eight years, gaining copious amounts of leadership experience, volunteer hours, and gaining various outdoors, organizational and life skills
- + AIAS President in A-Tech Chapter (2017 - 2018 School Year): first high school member to sit on a National Committee (Membership Committee)
- + AIAS Member (2018 - 2019 School Year): Ventura College
- + AIAS Officer (2019 - 2020 School Year): AIA Representative, President & Membership Committee Member
- + AIAS Officer (2022 - 2023 School Year): NCARB Representative & Governance Committee Member
- + Student Veterans of America (2022 - 2023 School Year): Vice President



Richard P. Welsh Memorial Library  
NewSchool of Architecture and Design  
1249 F Street  
San Diego CA, 92101

October 28, 2022

The NewSchool of Architecture & Design is aware of Mr. James's desire to seek a seat on the AIAS National Board of Directors and the implications thereof.

Please accept this letter of support for Mr. James Armendariz for the position of West Quad Director with the American Institute of Architecture Students. Since joining NewSchool in the summer of 2021 it has been a pleasure to see James grow both professionally and personally. He has not only excelled as a student but has also brought innovative ideas to NewSchool's AIAS Chapter. His willingness to learn and take on new responsibilities is appreciated by everyone on the AIAS NewSchool Board, and positively effects the wider campus community.

James is not only a dedicated and enthusiastic student but has consistently demonstrated strong leadership skills. He has a long history of interest and involvement with AIAS, having founded a high school chapter and served as AIA representative to his community college chapter. As NCARB Advisor, he currently sits on the NewSchool AIAS Chapter Board of Directors, where he regularly takes on additional responsibilities to ensure the success of our students. Most recently, he has been leading the event planning sub-committee. James is smart, capable, and an engaged individual with a passion for architecture.

He is a great asset to our school, and I recommend him to you unreservedly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucy Campbell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lucy Campbell, MLIS  
AIAS NewSchool Faculty Advisor 2021-2023  
Librarian  
NewSchool of Architecture and Design  
lcampbell@newschoolarch.edu  
Tel: (619) 684-8783



November 7, 2022

Bobby Dirkmaat, AIAS  
Chapter President

I am writing this letter in support of James Armendariz running for the position of West Quad Director within the AIAS organization. James has been an exceptional student and leader here at NewSchool both in class and on the AIAS NewSchool Chapter Board as our NCARB Advisor. He has always shown enthusiasm and excitement in his duties on the board. His commitment to helping students achieve their goals professionally and academically is evident in his willingness to go beyond just his duties as an NCARB representative as he serves on the event planning sub-committee and the AIAS National Governance committee.

James has been an excellent contributor to our board and our school. I look forward to the opportunity he has to bring his ideas, enthusiasm, and spirit to all those he would be influencing as West Quad Director. The leadership qualities he has developed over the years in the Boy Scouts, National Guard, and AIAS chapters in High School, Community College, and NewSchool have prepared him well to serve as the West Quad Director next year.

Best Regards,

Bobby Dirkmaat  
President 2022-2023, AIAS NewSchool

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. 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. Why are you running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors? What about the organization and its membership motivates you to seek a leadership position?

From my first interaction with AIAS in High School, then to community college, and now, in university, I can attest to one thing about the organization—it goes out of its way to enrich the experience of going through architecture school. It creates a bridge between students and professionals—making it an enjoyable educational journey.

Since high school, I was entranced by the AIAS, and have been ever since. The organization has a lot of benefits that it provides to students. However, there is a lot of room to grow. As I run for the West Quad Director position, I am passionate about helping the organization to grow.

I have held many chapter positions and sat on multiple committees, and from this, I have seen and first-handedly experienced the different levels of access to information and benefits (high school, community college and university) and I could say that there are some levels of inconsistencies. I want to change that. I want AIAS to feel more like an organization that it claims to be than just a conglomeration of chapters. I can see the bigger picture of AIAS and want to see it grow farther. I want to be the voice that has seen chapters of all levels, from 5 people to 45, and to represent them all and have an understanding of what they need and how they work.

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

I have a lot of experience dealing with multiple teams in different situations. I started with boy scouts to the army, to holding different board member positions in the AIAS in Nationals, high school, community college and university settings.

During high school as an Eagle Scout, I oversaw a group of 30 rowdy teenagers in the middle of nowhere (Las Vegas, NV). It involved managing the people during hiking, camping, and surviving. In addition, I was also in charge of events of up to 300 kids and adults on the side of mountains, doing community service and camping over the course of a weekend.

In the army, I am in charge of coordinating the movements of up to 1000 soldiers in simulated combat situations during Annual Trainings. The latest one happened this year on July 2022.

In AIAS itself, I first started being part of a chapter while I was still in high school. I was fortunate enough to be the First High School Member to sit on the National Membership Committee, in my junior year. After high school, I attended community college where I sat on the National Membership Committee for the second time, was an active member, later on the AIA Representative, and finally, chapter President. After community college,

I transferred to my current university, where I am the appointed NCARB Representative for my chapter, and now on the AIAS National Governance Committee.

With all the experiences I have, I would describe my leadership style as firm, delegatory and passionate. I realized that when working in groups, the most valuable skill to have is the ability to listen to other peoples' ideas, understand different perspectives, and trust yet verify that each delegated person's tasks will be done on time, if not, earlier. As a leader, I must admit that I cannot do everything or think of every problem or solution on my own, I need to listen to other peoples' viewpoints and trust in the people that I work with and treat everyone as my equal.

**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 & 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 personally find the transfer process for community college students to a 4/5-year university to be one of the largest and overlooked issues that plagues the current academic culture of today. As a transfer student myself, I spent 2 years in a community college. Although I put my heart and soul into my work, looked high and low, talked to counselors from many colleges and talked to previous alumni—I found only one school in Southern California that was willing to place me in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of their program from my accredited community college, and the rest of the 4/5-year universities would have me start from first year for studio. While most of my classes would have transferred for general education. I have already personally tried to champion this issue. I spoke at an ACSA conference about the problems of transfer students. As a candidate of West Quad Director, I hope to continue this fight and make sure that those who does not have a traditional start to their architectural educational career have the opportunity to not start from square 1 and be able to achieve their dream of becoming an architect.

As a plan, I will keep being involved with ACSA (and other organizations), continue to advocate for community colleges, and make aware of the gravity of this problem. As an addition, I will be in contact with not just community colleges but also other universities, find out what their main issues are, and guarantee that their issues are heard and addressed.

**4.** The AIAS has over 250 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size, age range, and even purpose. 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?

West Quad is the most sparsely populated but geographically diverse out of all the AIAS Quadrants. As a candidate for the West Quad Director, one of the major goals I have is to create a mentorship program between the chapters. This will ensure that high school chapters will have a close relationship with their local community colleges, community colleges to be working with their local universities, and universities doing joint events between each other. I want to set forth a best practice so that a larger sense of community and



organization can be created, while taking the time to reestablish chapters in communication with other local chapters—no matter the distance.

**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.

I plan on fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of being the West Quad Director by continuing the Quad Pod Calls monthly and keep the open-door policy for Chapter presidents and members for any issues they may have or advice they may need.

To be able to get in contact with all of the chapters, I am planning to pilot a mentorship program. To do this, the plan will involve visiting chapters in person (if reachable by car) to get a better understanding of the unique circumstances that each chapter is experiencing. With this, I will take the opportunity that the West Quad Conference and Grassroots will offer. I will speak with individual chapter leadership and get to know them.

After that, I stand in the unique position of my university starting the school year later than most universities. Therefore, I will have the opportunity to tour as many chapters as I can, starting from my university in San Diego, CA, all the way up to Seattle, WA, visiting as many chapters as I can, before my Fall Quarter starts. After that, I plan to get as many chapters as I can to get in contact with through Slack so that they could receive updates and be able to talk with other chapters.

The visitations include the foundation of the mentorship program. I want chapters to keep in contact with each other, by sharing events, having inter-chapter visits, and learning from each other's unique educational experiences. I want to set forth a best practice so that a larger sense of community and organization can be created, while taking the time to reestablish chapters in communication with other local chapters—no matter the distance.

## **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: JAMES D. ARMENDARIZ

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: 12/02/2022

## **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: JAMES D. ARMENDARIZ

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: 12/02/2022

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): JAMES D ARMENDARIZ

Chapter: NEW SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): NCARB REPRESENTATIVE

Email Address: JAMESDARMENDARIZ@GMAIL.COM

Mobile Phone Number: (805) 414-4216

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_
- o Twitter: @\_\_\_\_\_
- o Instagram: MANEWAR2
- o Other: \_\_\_\_\_