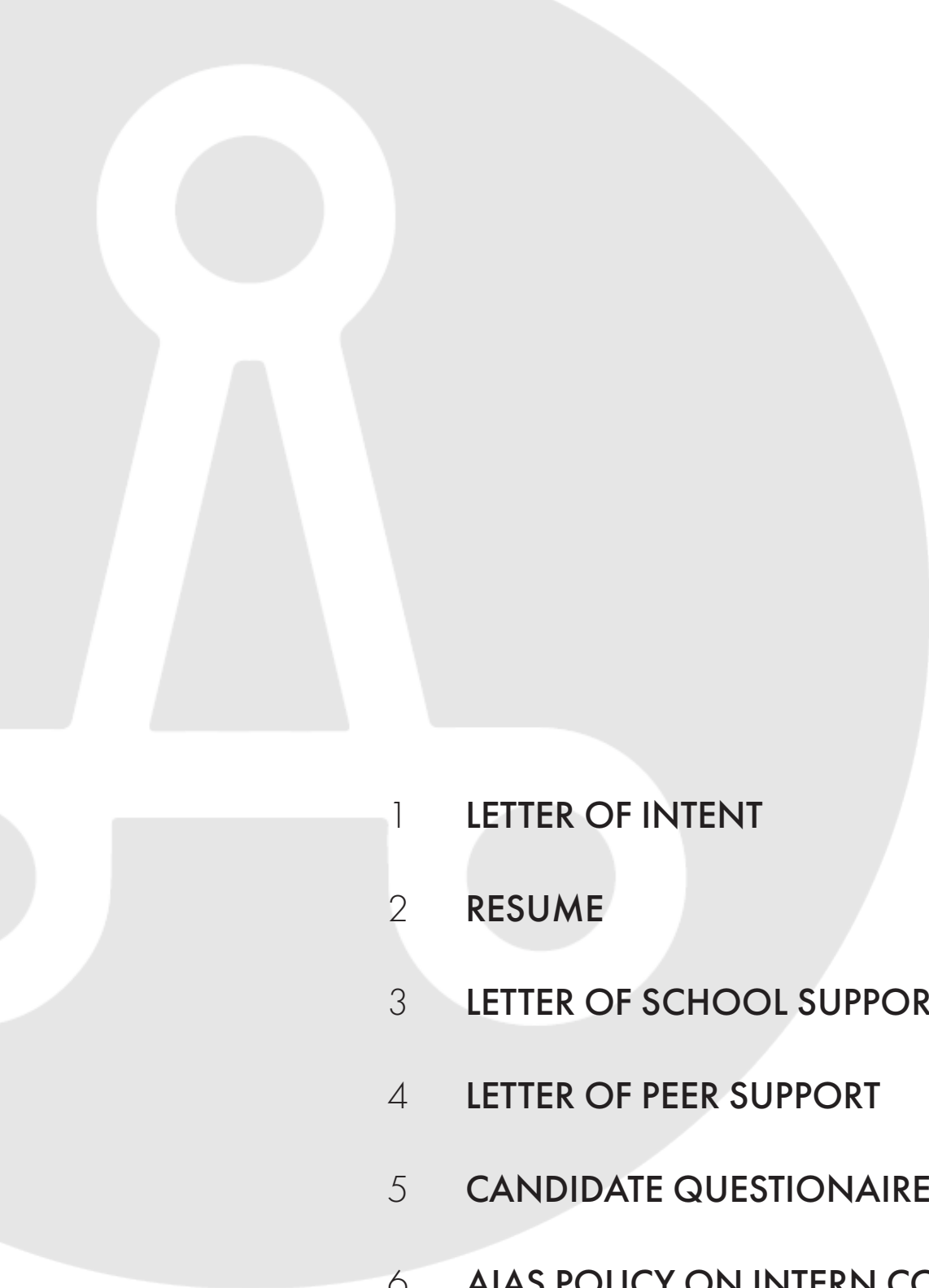




# LIZ FRAKA, AIAS

2023-2024 midwest quad director  
candidacy declaration packet



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- 1 LETTER OF INTENT
  - 2 RESUME
  - 3 LETTER OF SCHOOL SUPPORT
  - 4 LETTER OF PEER SUPPORT
  - 5 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
  - 6 AIAS POLICY ON INTERN COMPENSATION
  - 7 AIAS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS
  - 8 CONTACT INFORMATION

Scott Cornelius, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President  
American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave.  
Washington D.C. 20006

Past President Cornelius,

During the past three years of uncertainty, the American Institute of Architecture Students has served as my community and my constant. The AIAS has fostered my development as a leader and an advocate within my school community and beyond. I am undoubtedly a better person for the time that I have spent with this organization. The passion I hold for this organization and my belief in its continued potential have inspired me to continue my involvement.

**It is for this reason that I am writing to you with great excitement of my intent to run for the 2023-2024 AIAS Midwest Quad Director.**

I learned about AIAS in high school when I was researching architecture schools. I knew immediately, even before I had set foot on campus, that this organization was going to be something special. After my freshman year engaging as an active member of my chapter, I dove in headfirst. I ran for and became my chapter's Secretary, attended Grassroots, and joined the 2020-2021 Membership Committee. Jumping in was easily one of the best decisions of my life. My involvement on this committee so early in my academic career instilled a passion and drive for this organization, and introduced me to some truly incredible people. I then had the opportunity to serve as my chapter's 2021-2022 President as well as a member of the Education and Culture Task Force. It was special to regrow a chapter as we transitioned from totally online to in-person. This year I am enjoying taking the next step in my committee involvement as Chair of the Student Health and Wellbeing Task Force.

Through all these experiences and my time being a student, the work that I get to do for the AIAS has always been what I am most passionate about. I love creating valuable opportunities for members to engage with the profession, advocating for healthier learning and teaching culture, and building community with my chapter and nationally. I am beyond thankful for every opportunity this organization has given me and the community it has built around each and every one of us. I am excited to take the next step in my AIAS journey.

I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy and I cannot wait to continue to serve the AIAS in whatever capacity I am most needed.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Fraka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" being more prominent than the last name "Fraka".

Liz Fraka, AIAS

# LIZ FRAKA, AIAS

+1.913.475.4549 | lizfraka@gmail.com | issuu.com/lizfraka | linkedin.com/in/lizfraka/

## EDUCATION

2024

**Master of Architecture, University of Kansas (expected) | 4.0**

Study Abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark (Summer 2021)

Certificate in Service Learning

## EXPERIENCE

May 2021 - Aug. 2022 **Intern, Clark Huesemann, Lawrence, KS**

## INVOLVEMENT

2021 - 2022

### **AIAS Chapter President**

- Organized and hosted monthly professional development events inviting professionals and alumni
- Organized and hosted monthly general body meetings to engage with the chapter and provide updates from Nationals and the next month's events
- Managed executive board meetings to ensure progress towards each event, with a heavy emphasis on front loading planning at the beginning of the semester to ensure board members could balance their responsibilities with school while still planning regular events
- Planned and hosted five social events for membership week
- Continued the work of the chapter committees: Advocacy, Freedom By Design, Calendars (fundraising), and Creators' Ball (Beaux Arts Ball)
- Transitioned our chapter out of fully online back to in person from COVID
- Assisted in rewriting the chapter bylaws
- Communicated updates between the chapter and faculty
- Served as the Student Representative to the Dean's Advisory Board
- Represent the chapter at CoP

2020 - 2021

### **AIAS Chapter Secretary**

- Founded and chaired the Advocacy Committee which provided weekly engagement opportunities for the chapter to discuss each month's theme on advocacy
- Helped establish a regular panel series connecting students to professionals and hosted several of the panels
- Recorded, edited, and managed the AIAS KU YouTube Channel to document all virtual events

2020 - 2021

### **AIAS Membership Committee, Member**

- Assisted in the creation of the "Benefits of Membership" guide that was presented at the national conference FORUM
- Helped write the "Mentorship Guidebook" to be published on the national AIAS website

2021 - 2022

### **AIAS Education and Culture Task Force, Member**

- Assisted in the revisions to the Learning and Teaching Culture Policy

2022 - 2023

### **AIAS Student Health and Wellbeing Task Force, Chair**

- Host bi-weekly meetings
- begin developing a brief, highly graphical resources guide for students struggling with different topics to make these resources more accessible for all students.
- developing programming options for both in person and online conferences.

## PROFICIENCIES

Revit, SketchUp, AutoCAD, Lumion, Enscape, Rhino, Adobe, Microsoft Office, Microsoft Teams, Slack

## OTHER

- Attended Grassroots (2020, 2021, 2022), FORUM (2021, 2022), and Midwest Quad Conference (2020)
- Danced recreationally and competitively for 14 years
- Won 1st at State in "Sounds of Music" Science Olympiad (2019)



November 15, 2022

## LETTER OF SCHOOL SUPPORT

American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) Board of Directors  
1735 New York Avenue, NW, Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear AIAS Board of Directors:

It is my great pleasure to write this letter, on behalf of the University of Kansas School of Architecture and Design, in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Liz Fraka (2021-2022 KU AIAS Chapter President / 2020-21 KU AIAS Chapter Secretary) for the position of 2023-2024 AIAS Midwest Quad Director.

I am writing this letter in my capacity as the KU AIAS Faculty Advisor for the past several years. I also benefit from having observed Liz's dedication to her studies in five separate courses that I teach in which she has enrolled over the past two+ years: ARCH 690/ARCH 692 Study Abroad; ARCH 509 Designbuild Studio; ARCH 510 Architectural Detailing; ARCH 508 Materials and Tectonics Studio; and ARCH 600 Solar Decathlon.

Liz Fraka is as determined a young person as I have yet encountered. She led KU AIAS during what must have been a very difficult year (during her third year when students at KU experience a semester of designbuild studio, understood to be a very demanding experience) while navigating the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these heightened challenges, Liz led with the kind of calm, firm, and thoughtful leadership one might expect from a seasoned leader.

As KU AIAS Secretary, Liz founded and chaired the Advocacy Committee which provided weekly engagement opportunities for the KU chapter to discuss each month's theme on advocacy; hosted a Learning and Teaching Culture Policy (LTCP) panel and developed a related survey to better understand the needs of the student body; and co-hosted and/or managed several important chapter events such as virtual professional panel discussions, virtual social events, and various outreach efforts, all during the height of the global pandemic. During this time, Liz honed her approach to leadership, which prepared her well for her next role.

As KU AIAS President, Liz presided over a highly functional team of architecture students that successfully transitioned KU AIAS from a largely virtual organization to in-person engagement as the impact of and approach to the global pandemic evolved. Among her many achievements as AIAS president, Liz organized and hosted monthly professional development events and general body meetings; wisely planned the semester activities with an emphasis on early productivity to relieve late-semester stresses on her team and fellow students; planned and hosted five social events for membership week; sent the largest delegation of KU AIAS students to grassroots and also facilitated the largest number of KU AIAS students to apply for and be selected for AIAS national committees; assisted in rewriting the chapter bylaws; participated in the Dean's Advisory Board to represent the student body to KU Architecture administration; served as a liaison between KU students and KU faculty; and generally led her team, strategically delegating tasks, to ensure successful fundraising/social events and community engagement. Once again, she continued to hone her leadership skills.

## Architecture

Marvin Hall | 1465 Jayhawk Blvd, Room 205 | Lawrence, KS 66045 | (785) 864-3390 | Fax (785) 864-5185



During this same period of time, Liz further demonstrated her leadership style in my ARCH 509 Designbuild Studio, where she naturally stepped into the Studio Lead role, organizing her colleague to maintain high levels of productivity and genuinely inspiring admiration from them along the way as they built the award-winning Polaris Pavilion at Wells Overlook Park. When the University of Kansas decided to participate in its first-ever Solar Decathlon Build Challenge project, Liz was among a handful of students enrolled in my studio who passionately lobbied for the opportunity. Once again, she enthusiastically volunteered to serve as the Solar Decathlon Team Lead where she has continued to lead with tenacity and a strong work ethic. The Solar Decathlon project has stretched across two and half semesters so far, and will wrap up in Spring 2023, and Liz's involvement in the project has exceeded expectations. She has the rare talent of organizing and pushing her colleagues without alienating or frustrating them, and as a student, she is both a quick learner and a critical thinker.

On the one hand, for anyone who has observed Liz's leadership skills, it would be tempting to state that Liz was a natural born leader; however, having had the opportunity to observe her over the past two years, I have seen her grow as a future architect and as a leader, shaped by her multiple experiences and a lot of hard work along the way. These experiences have, in my estimation, prepared her well for future leadership roles, such as the AIAS Midwest Quad Directorship.

It is with great confidence that I write this letter of support for Liz Fraka. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone or email.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chad Kraus'.

Chad Kraus, AIA  
Associate Professor of Architecture  
Dirt Works Studio, Director  
Technology | Architecture + Design, Associate Editor  
[The University of Kansas | School of Architecture and Design](#)  
1465 Jayhawk Boulevard | Marvin Hall Room 211  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045 | [www.dirtworksstudio.ku.edu](http://www.dirtworksstudio.ku.edu)  
<https://www.facebook.com/dirtworksstudio>  
o. 785.864.4129 | e. [ckraus@ku.edu](mailto:ckraus@ku.edu)

## **Architecture**

Marvin Hall | 1465 Jayhawk Blvd, Room 205 | Lawrence, KS 66045 | (785) 864-3390 | Fax (785) 864-5185

November 10, 2022

Scott Cornelius, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President  
American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave.  
Washington D.C. 20006



Dear Past President Cornelius,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I strongly recommend Liz Fraka for 2023-2024 Midwest Quad Director. I am Lauren Maloney, the past Chapter Vice President at the University of Kansas. I have been a general member for a year, and served on two executive boards, as well as serving on the National Ethics and Finance Committees. I have had the privilege to serve on two chapter executive boards with Liz, last year as she held Chapter President, and the year prior as she held Chapter Secretary.

I have gotten to know Liz over the past several years through AIAS and studio classes. Her strong work ethic, passion for architecture and the AIAS, and excitement to help others confirms that Liz would be a successful leader in the AIAS. As secretary, Liz founded the chapter Advocacy Committee, aiming to support students in school as well as their general health and wellbeing. Liz was critical to the health of our chapter, leading the transition back to in-person events after a full year of virtual programming. During her presidency, she organized engaging events, significantly growing our chapters' members. She encouraged the organization of all AIAS events for the semester at the beginning of the term. Setting these dates early ensured that AIAS members could plan their schedules accordingly. It also significantly improved the duties of several board members, allowing them ample time to promote and prepare for events.

Liz is constantly ready to offer a helping hand. In her time as secretary, she quickly and proactively provided links to resources AIAS members would need. In class, she actively listens to her classmates' projects and gives thoughtful feedback to encourage their progression. Her desire to help those around her combined with her strong work ethic are qualities critical to a great leader, and assure me that Liz would make an exceptional Midwest Quad Director.

If you need more information or examples, feel free to contact me at 847-922-0314, or by email at [laurenmaloney38@gmail.com](mailto:laurenmaloney38@gmail.com). This letter is only a small portion of Liz's qualifications and achievements, and I would be happy to elaborate on my time working with her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lauren Maloney'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Lauren' and last name 'Maloney' clearly distinguishable.

Lauren Maloney, AIAS

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?*

I am running for Midwest Quad Director because this organization has indeed been the most valuable part of my architectural education, and I hope to bring that value to other students around the quad. **The AIAS's emphasis on advocacy and community is what drew me to this organization**, and I am very passionate about the work that the AIAS moves forward. Having joined the organization right before COVID, I attended only virtual conferences until this summer's Grassroots conference. Despite having never met other members in person before, Grassroots felt like the best homecoming event ever. Every single person I talked to was so welcoming and it was inspiring to see so many people together who share my passion for making the profession a better place. As Midwest Quad Director, **I want to continue to foster a sense of community** as we experienced at Grassroots so that the AIAS continues to be a positive place to bring change to the profession.

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

**My leadership style is very methodical.** I am definitely a "lists" person, and I love to look at things from the big picture before zooming into the details. My previous experience in leadership roles, both in AIAS and in studios, has given me the ability to recognize patterns and anticipate problems before they arise, keeping the ship sailing smoothly. I also have plenty of experience handling tough conversations should there be a need for mediation.

As president of my chapter, I kept things moving smoothly by planning out the whole semester as early as possible. This ensured that the board would have plenty of time to pin down the details of the events while still managing their other commitments and having ample time to promote the event to maximize the potential attendance. At times, I also had to mediate conflict between members of my board, giving me experience in handling uncomfortable situations.

In my Design-Build studio, I served as Student Team Lead, akin to a project manager. My role was to assist my professor in guiding my peers to ensure that decisions would be made efficiently to allow the project to be completed well and on time. I feel that this experience has prepared me well for the role of the Quad Director. I **checked in with my peers** to see how their work was progressing and answer questions or provide assistance, just as the Quad Director works with the Chapter Leaders. I worked with my professor to do **long-term planning and strategize** different ways to work more effectively, just as the Quad Director works with the National Office. I also regularly was **my peers' advocate to my professor**, stepping in whenever something was not working or we needed to have a hard conversation, just as the Quad Director acts as the liaison between the chapters and the National Office.



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?*

It is hard to say that any of these issues are the “most important” but I am certainly most passionate about **Learning and Teaching Culture**, as it takes aspects from many of these issues and combines them into improving the culture of the places we spend much of our time. I am passionate about Learning and Teaching Culture because **I strongly believe that if healthy habits are encouraged and fostered for students by schools, it will help the profession change as those students graduate and move into the workforce.** I became interested in this topic after I had founded the Advocacy Committee at my chapter, and we took this on as one of our monthly themes. I, with the assistance of the committee, hosted a Learning and Teaching Culture Panel with Scott Cornelius, Sarah Curry, and Robyn Payne (<https://youtu.be/jTnAUQdXhgs>), and set up a survey for students at my school to compare our school’s Studio Culture policy with the model Learning and Teaching Culture Policy and presented the results to the faculty. While I was president, I served as a member of the Education and Culture Task Force, where I helped to examine the model policy and determine where it could be improved. This year, I am the chair of the Student Health and Wellbeing Task Force, where we are working on a document that gives advice on how to advocate for yourself as well as problems within the school. As Midwest Quad Director, I would like to encourage chapter leaders to spend time discussing Learning and Teaching Culture with their chapters, discuss the culture during Heartland Huddles, and be a resource for chapters who are working with their administration to move their own conversation forward.

4. *The AIAS has over 250 chapters across the U.S. and worldwide, ranging in size, age range, and even purpose. How would you use your position on the Board to connect better and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership? What resources would you propose to serve better Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students worldwide?*

As many of us have experienced, being active at the national level of AIAS has strongly influenced my commitment to this organization. While I was president, my primary objective was to get students from my chapter involved with the National Organization because one of the best benefits of being a member of AIAS is the community it provides. I was ultimately successful, as I was able to garner a large turnout from my chapter to attend Grassroots as well as encourage many of my chapter members to apply for National Committees. I feel that my **emphasis on involvement with the national organization has improved my chapter’s health** by creating a new generation of students in my chapter who are as passionate about the organization as I am and can continue to share that passion with students even after I have graduated.

**As Midwest Quad Director, I would encourage chapter leaders to connect their members with the opportunities provided by the National Office to share our passion for the organization.** When serving on the 2020-2021 Membership Committee, one thing we often discussed was the Active

vs Passive benefits provided by the organization. The National Office provides so many benefits to its members, but to grow a chapter, it is important that members can see the benefits available to them once they are engaged.

As far as connecting members from different chapters, the Midwest Quad has varying levels of accessibility for interchapter activities. It is less feasible for some chapters than others to organize in-person meetups. **As Midwest Quad Director, I would like to propose a pen pal or sister school program to connect chapters within the quad, with other quads, and even internationally.** This could be organized similarly to the Chapter Alumni Mentorship Program (CAMP) where schools that are interested can fill out a form to be paired with other chapters. It is my hope that through fostering intentional connections between chapters we would be able to create more opportunities for connection at a national level.

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 your primary goals for your one-year term.*

As much as I tout the benefits of being connected to the National Office, **the true lifeblood of the organization lies in the strength of our chapters.** Our chapters are what build the community that we love about AIAS. It is also important to recognize that every chapter is different, and each has different things that work best to benefit its members. The primary role of the National Office is to support the chapters in their mission to promote leadership, design, and service. My primary goal as Midwest Quad Director is to **be the advocate for the chapters to the National Office to ensure their needs are being heard**, as well as pass resources from the National Office to the chapters. As the AIAS has evolved, the resources that the National Office provides help chapter leaders not have to work as hard to bring high-quality programming to their chapters.

In my communication, I plan to **maintain the momentum from past quad directors** through regular Slack updates, Calendly appointments, and monthly Heartland Huddle calls to communicate updates and help chapters through any struggles. Like the design process, making changes to this existing system would be an iterative process, and **I want to hear feedback on what is and is not working.**

**I would also love to build relationships with and between members of the Midwest Quad.** This might look like a continuation of the weekly icebreaker questions or hosting more casual Quad calls where members can get on and we can hang out as a Quad outside of conferences.



## 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: LIZ FRAKA

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature: 

Date: 11.13.2022



## 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: LIZ FRAKA

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: 11.13.2022

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): LIZ FRAKA

Chapter: UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): N/A

Email Address: lizfraka@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: +1.913.475.4549

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

o Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

o Twitter: @\_\_\_\_\_

o Instagram: liz.fraka

o Other: \_\_\_\_\_