

AIAS // Midwest Quad Director Candidacy Declaration Packet

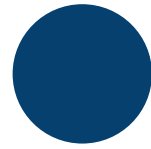
Aliyah Immeker



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Aliyah Immeker



Cooper Moore, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, GRP Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)
1735 New York Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Past President Moore,

I am writing to express my intent to be considered for the position of Midwest Quad Director with the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). As a senior architecture student and the current President of the South Dakota State University AIAS chapter, I am eager to bring my passion for architecture and leadership experience to a broader level within the organization.

During my tenure as AIAS chapter President, I have implemented initiatives that have fostered collaboration, engagement, and professional development among our members. I am dedicated to promoting the values and objectives of AIAS and am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of the Midwest Quad.

My experiences have equipped me with strong organizational and communication skills, as well as a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing architecture students. If given the chance, I am committed to working tirelessly to enhance the AIAS experience for students in the Midwest, fostering a sense of community, and providing valuable resources for professional development.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,

Aliyah Immeker

INVOLVMENT

10/2023–Present

AIAS NATIONAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Member

- Perform review of all governing documents within the AIAS
- Evaluate the Strategic Plan, and in collaboration with the Board and the Executive Director
- Provide suggestions to the Board on simplifying and ensuring the relevance of the National Bylaws.

05/2023– Present

AIAS SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

President

- Conduct board meetings within the AIAS SDSU chapter
- Oversee and assist fellow board members in coordinating events and opportunities
- Advocated for SDSU AIAS members to be recognized and receive funding from the University.
- Create a consistent and clear line of communication between local members and the national level.
- Represented the chapter at CoP and Heartland Huddles

05/2022– 05/2023

AIAS SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Social Media Chair

- Post about happenings and opportunities within the AIAS SDSU Chapter.
- Stayed engaged with the professional community through postings.
- Assisted in helping the SDSU AIAS become an official organization on campus.

EXPERIENCE

05/2023– Present

DESIGNARC GROUP LLC

Student Intern

05/2021–05/2023

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Lead Community Assistant

07/2020–11/2020

SOUTH DAKOTA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Campaign Fellow Intern

EDUCATION

2020–2024

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture | Minor in Spanish

SKILLS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| • Communication | • Revit | • Time Management |
| • Conflict Resolution | • Rhino | • Problem Solving |
| • Detail Oriented | • Adobe Products | • Adaptive Leadership |



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Design

November 25, 2023

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

RE: Applicant Aliyah Immeker for AIAS Midwest Quad Director 2024-2025

Dear Members of the Committee,

It is my honor to express our School's support for Aliyah Immeker in her bid for the AIAS Midwest Quad Director. I am confident that you will see her stellar personality and her passion for advocacy for other architecture students. Our administration and faculty are aware of the university impact of this role and we also see the huge benefit of this effort for her growth, as well as her chapter. The benefits clearly outweigh the challenges of this position.

Aliyah is a strong student with good people skills that would serve her well in this role. She is excellent in time management and we believe she will be able to minimally impact her coursework. Her communication skills and collaborative expertise is nothing but top notch. I have watched as she continually works to strengthen her AIAS Chapter and expand its reach for awareness to the entire student body. She is a strong advocate for those she represents, and you will enjoy her engagement level.

This week, she and her team are acting as the official hosts of our first of many portfolio reviews to review student work and help to elevate all student's output, further elevating her impact. I know she will do an exemplary job for you in her position, and I look forward to how this experience will further impact our AIAS chapter as well.

I hold no reservation in expressing my support and even elevating that support to a strong recommendation for you to accept her as a strong candidate for this role.

Thank You for your consideration,

Sean O Ervin, AIA, MCM, LEED AP, WELL AP
Architecture Program Coordinator/Professor of Practice

Anna Hamling
anna.hamling15@gmail.com · 402-741-9591 · M.Arch Student @ SDSU

November 26th, 2023

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

Dear AIAS Board of Directors,

I am excited to recommend Aliyah Immecker for the position of Midwest Quad Director at the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). Having closely collaborated with Aliyah, I can attest to her outstanding leadership qualities and unwavering commitment to creating a vibrant and collaborative architectural community. Aliyah's passion for excellence and proven successful project leadership track record make her an ideal candidate for this crucial role within AIAS.

My name is Anna Hamling, and I am the past President of AIAS South Dakota and current SD student NCARB Licensing Advisor. I have enjoyed working with Aliyah since she was the Social Media Chair on the 2022-2023 South Dakota AIAS Board. I could always count on her to complete her tasks on time and to the best of her ability. She also was a massive part of making it possible for AIAS to become a club on campus and secure funding for the following year. Aliyah took up jobs beyond her position because she strives to make everything the best possible and push people to strive for their goals even when our school was not collaborating enough with us.

Aliyah, as the current SD AIAS President, has continued to have an unwavering commitment to South Dakota AIAS to improve our organization and keep us connected with the National Office. She has continued to open opportunities for students that our school otherwise would not have provided. Opportunities include portfolio reviews, college resume workshops, and speakers like our NCARB Licensing Advisor speaking to the students. She continues to reach out to professionals to provide as many opportunities to our student body as possible. She would be the best advocate for students throughout the Midwest.

I am confident, without question, that Aliyah Immecker would be an excellent fit for the AIAS Midwest Quad Director position. As a passionate and hardworking leader, she will be a productive addition to your organization.

Please feel free to contact me at 402-741-9591 or anna.hamling15@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely, *Anna Hamling*

Anna Hamling
SD AIAS Student NCARB Licensing Advisor

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?

I am running for the Midwest Quad Director position because I am deeply passionate about advocating for people. More specifically, advocating for students where universities have fallen short. Having successfully navigated the challenges of making SDSU AIAS an officially recognized organization on campus and securing funding for future events, I am driven to extend this advocacy at a national level.

In the wake of the post-COVID struggles faced by student organizations in terms of membership and retention, I aim to ensure that every AIAS chapter thrives, fostering a sense of community and engagement that was sorely lacking. My commitment goes beyond election rhetoric – I see the campaign as a means to an end and instead as just the beginning of the work. With my experience directing my chapter at SDSU, and with a clear vision for the future, I am not afraid to tackle the complexities of the role, particularly in bringing positive change to the Midwest Quad.

I aspire to be a voice for all chapters, working to create new ones and being a reliable source of help and guidance for the AIAS community. I firmly believe in the significance of a national organization in shaping and supporting local communities, and I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to its continued growth and success.

2. Though it may be hard to believe, the AIAS is not perfect. A critical analysis of any organization is a healthy part of its operation. There may be things that you feel the AIAS could do better, or maybe you see new opportunities or partners to engage. Where do you see room for improvement or new areas for the organization to expand into?

Having served as an active board member of the South Dakota State University AIAS, I've had the opportunity to witness both the strengths and areas where improvement is needed within the organization. One significant area that I believe warrants attention is the need for enhanced guidance and outreach in establishing and supporting new chapters, as well as assisting struggling chapters in terms of membership.

For a couple of years, our chapter faced a period of decline, and unfortunately, we experienced a lack of engagement at both the national and local levels. This brought to light the importance of a support system for chapters navigating challenging times. Implementing a structured guidance program and proactive outreach initiatives could prove instrumental in preventing chapters from falling off the map, as South Dakota State University once did. This would help foster a stronger sense of community and continuity.

By strengthening the connection between the central organization and its chapters would not only provide a more cohesive network but also ensure that every chapter, regardless of its size or location, feels supported and connected to the broader AIAS community. This could involve regular check-ins, resource-sharing platforms, or mentorship programs to facilitate knowledge transfer and mutual support.

I believe that a focus on guidance and outreach, along with improved national-level engagement strategies and strategic partnerships, can contribute significantly to the growth and resilience of the AIAS.

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 & 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?

While these issues are essential, equity is the most pressing and impactful. Equity forms the foundation of any organization, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone involved can thrive. By addressing and promoting equity, we strengthen the AIAS's internal cohesion and extend our influence beyond, positively impacting the broader architectural community.

As Midwest Quad Director, I would advance equity by involving three key strategies:

- **ADVOCATE** for the implementation of inclusive policies that promote diversity at all levels of the organization. This would involve creating opportunities for underrepresented voices to be heard and ensuring equitable access to resources.
- **FOCUS** on educational initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of equity within the architecture profession. By integrating discussions on equity into the curriculum and organizing workshops, we can empower architecture students with the knowledge and tools to actively contribute to a more inclusive future in the field.
- **COLLABORATE** with external organizations and professionals to establish mentorship programs, internships, and networking opportunities that specifically focus on individuals from underrepresented backgrounds. This proactive outreach will create pathways for success and contribute to a more diverse and enriched architectural community.

By fostering an environment where everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive, we can elevate the collective potential of the AIAS and the architectural profession.

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?

During my experience as an AIAS member, my favorite part thus far has been the opportunity to establish connections with architecture students worldwide, both in person and online. Through Google Meets calls, Slack, quad, and national conferences, I have met and connected with so many people! As Midwest Quad Director, I want to build upon the existing resources used to recruit members and assist in creating a stronger sense of unity among geographically and culturally diverse members.

One key initiative I intend to focus on is the encouragement of members to participate and attend Quad and National conferences. To alleviate financial barriers, I am committed to assisting students in finding various grants, travel scholarships, and fundraising opportunities.

I also firmly believe in the power of personalized engagement. I would implement more one-on-one chapter meetings to foster these connections. These individualized sessions create a more intentional connection and demonstrate a genuine commitment to listening to the unique needs of each chapter.

To also better serve chapters all across the U.S. and the world, I would establish and promote resources tailored to the specific needs of chapter leaders. This would include a guide on effective chapter growth strategies, encouragement and assistance for chapters in staying connected with the national office, and resources and guides for new chapter leaders to better transition into their new positions.

By providing resources and facilitating connections, these items can empower chapters all over to continue to grow and engage with one another. As Midwest Quad Director, I want to strengthen the bonds that make AIAS a truly global community of aspiring architects.

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.

If chosen for the position of Midwest Quad Director, I intend to continue what each Midwest Quad Director before has done; advocate for each chapter and their needs within the region. This would include continuing regular weekly updates, Heartland Huddles, and connecting via one-on-one meetings. They have proven to be instrumental in continuing strong connections among chapters.

I intend to expand outreach efforts by encouraging more individualized chapter meetings alongside these existing initiatives. These meetings provide a sense of genuine interest and authenticity in understanding the unique needs and challenges each chapter faces. This would also aim to create conversations that help continue advocacy and provide a sense of clarity.

My communication and action plan both include my commitment to clarity. Coming from experience with struggles within my own chapter, transparent communication is vital in creating a sense of trust and unity within the Midwest Quad. By keeping lines of communication open (via Slack, email, and Zoom calls), chapters can continue to receive the information they need to navigate their circumstances.

My approach to fulfilling the roles and responsibilities as Midwest Quad Director revolves around maintaining established communication channels, introducing a more personalized outreach strategy, and promoting transparency and collaboration. Through these efforts, I am confident in my ability to advocate effectively for the chapters within the Midwest Quad, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are addressed on the national level.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS

In July 1993, the AIAS Board of Directors adopted a "Public Policy on Uncompensated Interns." The policy has been subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board and reads as follows:
The AIAS maintains that employers must properly compensate all employees.
Compensation must be in compliance with the regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

In 2010, AIAS crafted a public statement on intern compensation in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, which reads as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. Because of current economic transformations, some architects have both solicited and accepted the services and labor of interns without pay. We strongly urge architectural firms and other for-profit employers to respect the law and comply with the ethical standards of our profession, and we strongly encourage interns to refuse to accept employment without pay, and to notify the Department of Labor in cases where employers propose such an arrangement. For more information on labor laws and professional ethics, please see the AIA Code of Ethics and the U.S. Labor Department standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to determine their own hours and degree of involvement. The AIA has established guidelines for service that are provided on a Pro Bono basis. They can be found under the member section of the AIA website.

POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS AFFIRMATION

As a way of confirming that the AIAS is not promoting or being promoted by architects employing unpaid interns, we ask that each participant in an official AIAS function review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation in our event and thank you for your support of our position against unpaid internships. This position is supported as well by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Name: Aliyah Immeker

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:

Aliyah Immeker

Date: 11/28/2023



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: Aliyah Immeker

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: *Aliyah Immeker*

Date: 11/28/2023

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006

202.808.0075 | aias.org

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): Aliyah Immeker

Chapter: South Dakota State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: Aliyahrimmeker@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (605)-376-0354

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

Facebook: _____

Twitter: @ _____

Instagram: Aimmeker _____

Other: _____