

Allyson Middleton
Northeast Quadrant Director
2024-2025 Candidacy Packet



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Allyson Middleton

(502)-648-4162

allyson.middleton@the-bac.edu

EDUCATION

Boston Architectural College: Boston, MA
Candidate for Master of Architecture

Present

University of Kentucky: Louisville, KY
Bachelors of Arts in Architecture

May 2022

SOFTWARE SKILLS

- Expert in Rhino, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, V-ray and, Twinmotion, Lumion
- Beginner in Revit and AutoCAD
- Model making skills in 3D printing, Laser cutting, CNC and wood shop.
- Other software knowledge Microsoft Office, Google Sheets, Google Docs, Google Drive and Google Sites.

EXPERIENCE

Design-Build Studio-University of Kentucky

August 2021-December 2021

- Gained construction knowledge throughout the project.
- Acquired experience in built design.
- Created a livable building.
- Collaborated with other designers to complete the project.

American Institute of Architecture Students

August 2021-Present

- Became President of AIAS at Boston Architecture College since January of 2023
- Organized Event and provided information for students about different design and network events.
- Discussed issues facing the world with professionals to find solutions within the design field.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Starbucks-Barista/Trainer

June 2022-Present

- Provide excellent service to satisfy customers needs.
- Gained more knowledge on conflict resolution and time management

University of Kentucky-Work-Study Student

June 2019-May 2022

- Gained technical knowledge on programs relating financial aid.
- Responsible for 100s of student scholarship documents and checks.
- Gained organization and filing skills.

All about kids -Lifeguard/Swim instructor

June 2016-June 2019

- Taught children and adults necessary skills to swim
- Helped create lesson plans for classes.
- Gained knowledge on conflict resolution and time management

VOLUNTEER WORK

Gateway Fellowship-Boston, MA

September 2023-Present

- Worked with local communities to provide welcoming spaces in the areas of Roxbury and Lawrence.
- Designed and constructed furniture with sustainable practices.
- Documented existing site conditions

Letter of Intent

Cooper Moore, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New, York Avenue, NW WASHINGTON D.C. 20006-5292

Dear Past President Moore,

I am excited to share with you that I am running for Northeast Quadrant Director.

When I joined AIAS during my undergraduate at University of Kentucky, I had no idea what the impact it would cause on my life. When moving to Boston architectural college and joining the AIAS chapter there I had no idea I would be running the chapter and creating this amazing community only the AIAS could prove. This community that was built with the chapter helped me with finding my footing in the college and within the new city. I also got to create a great community outside of my college to connect with people from all over. These connections want to continue to help grow the AIAS community and make it stronger than it is now.

I want to continue to empower students and want to build their communities. Whether this be with connections within everyday life or connections in the design field. This will make AIAS a stronger organization than it has been while I have been a part of it.

I am honored to state my intention in running for Northeast Quadrant Director of the American Institute of Architecture Students. Thank you Cooper for your consideration and thank you for building the AIAS community even more.

Sincerely,

Allyson Middleton

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allyson Middleton". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

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?

My experience and knowledge with AIAS has changed over my time in college. I had little experience with AIAS during my undergrad and did not know much about the organization. When I got to Grad School, I was welcomed into a leadership role in my chapter. This experience gave me a better understanding of how AIAS works and helps students grow. I am running for AIAS Northeast Quad Director because I want to continue my involvement and the foundations that the organization was built on. AIAS is solely run by students, for students, and encourages building a community. As Northeast Quad Director I want to help the chapters foster these communities to bring more students into the world of AIAS. By bringing more students into this world I believe will help bring more student voices into the work design world.

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?

One area I see AIAS needs improvement is providing more information about the different schools and their design programs. For example, if a school is accredited, how is it accredited, is it in bachelors and master's or just masters. What might a school be better for than others, what might be a better fit for one than another. Price is a big factor in choosing a school's program, how much does it cost and what benefits does each give. Making a pros and cons/comparison chart would work wonders. This could potentially be available to members only, like a treat for them. We could have each chapter for each school talk about their school and gather this information. I or someone else can be the main driver of the program giving the questions needed to answer and then compiling the answers given. This could be made into a large flow chart.

Another area that could see improvement is making a seamless transition for new leadership. Can we make a set of information and instructions for those who might have an underdeveloped chapter? This would be for certain individuals like myself who might have not had as much experience as others coming in who have a set structure to help them into their new role. This would assist with membership, key things needed to be done, key positions and their roles and expectations. It has a framework for how the chapter works and even how to start a chapter. Doing this would help new leaders that might have not had much experience in the past feel more comfortable jumping into the position.

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?

The most important issue to me is learning and teaching culture. This topic has affected me personally throughout my college career. This specifically happens when issues/problems/new ideas are brought into the offices of higher authorities within colleges. Typically what I see happens is ideas and issues are talked about but not much action comes from them. It feels like a bandaid might get put over an issue and then forgotten. These issues typically do not have a voice or group to see that it gets resolved. Then the effect on students is mainly negative and they think less of the institutions they are a part of. They can become frustrated with them and cause them to want to leave because of the politics of higher education. AIAS within design schools can be the voice that is needed, the group to see these issues through. It is all focused back to the idea of supporting the students and making a positive culture. Students are happy when they are heard and feel their voice and opinions matter. They need a safe place to vent, and the AIAS platform is a great place to bring concerns to not feel alone like you are the only one with that concern. AIAS is an inclusive environment.

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?

Connecting with others is super important for me. This is something that I have had to do over the past two years. I moved out to the northeast from the midwest knowing no one. I knew I had to connect with others and make friends, otherwise I could not survive grad school. I want to set up networking opportunities between different chapters, especially with those who are not in the northeast quad. Connecting with others especially outside the quad give opportunities for different perspectives and connections to be shared across the nation. For example, not every international student goes to the same school. They are spread out among many and can have people from the same country be in different states and chapters. Connecting them to others would be a goal for them to feel a sense of home and share their shared experiences from home and how they are moving forward through college. For others that are in the states connecting with others not from here can inspire curiosity to want to travel and experience different cultures and lands. Sharing shared experiences helps people connect and AIAS can give that by having different chapters connect in a way that has not been done in the past. Zoom is an example and can make it easy by randomizing break rooms where others can connect.

Questionnaire

Having a questionnaire before everything starts that the leader can use to help facilitate conversation can go a long way. This can be similar to how the button on youtube is played, the button might help facilitate conversation by saying “did you know that so and so can do this or has done this”. A great prompt to say is “I have organized you into specific break rooms based on your answers to the questionnaire, what is the commonality between you all.” Encourage multiple rounds of this. This specific thing does involve a lot of background work and organization, but with a team or a chapter leading, it could help supplement the work. I want to set up chapters within their area but also within other quads. You never know where you will end up so why not connect everywhere. I have the power of my school behind with more than half of my school as international and knowing a lot of other people from the Midwest also helps me connect with others too.

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.

Throughout my education and professional career I have learned that building a community and learning to speak up is what is needed. I want to encourage this with every student. Help them build their support system among a group of people that understand what they are going through. I want to see students supporting each other even if they are not from the same school. I believe given the one-year term I could lay out a plan and start to make it happen each year. Start by asking each chapter at the beginning of the school year what they need and partnering up with other chapters. Then bring those chapters together, through online or in person. Start a more affordable way of bringing chapters that are farther apart together. Having other regions start to interact with each other. I want to bring AIAS even closer together and create stronger bonds.

Letter of School Support

BOSTON
ARCHITECTURAL
COLLEGE
SINCE 1889

November 20, 2023

Letter in Support of Allyson Middleton

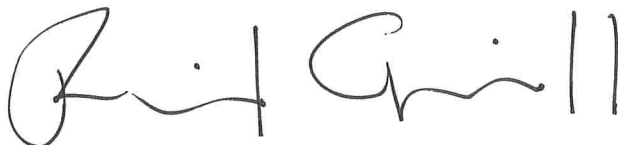
It is my pleasure to write in support of Allyson. First off, let me state that as a representative of the Boston Architectural College, we are aware of Allyson's efforts to seek a seat on the AIAS National Board of Directors, and the implications of this. She is our current chapter president and I hold her in high regard.

Allyson has made big contributions to student life at the BAC. She revived our AIAS chapter post-pandemic with strong management skills and excellent communication with my office. She has welcomed and engaged a strong cohort of her BAC classmates to help. At the Boston Architectural College, we prize professional leadership, and it is notable that she makes good use of her management skills from her work life, which have helped her implement her chapter's goals.

The result has been an impressive menu of events under her leadership, including several firm visits and other activities, which she arranged through her professional contacts and by engaging – and delegating to – other members of her chapter leadership.

Allyson is a strong leader and a great person. I believe that this opportunity will be good for her, for the BAC, and for AIAS.

Please contact me with any questions.



Richard Griswold

Associate Vice President, Dean of Students and Faculty Member

he, his

617-585-0219 | the-bac.edu

320 Newbury Street | Boston MA 02115

Letter of Member Support

Dear Past President Moore,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Allyson Middleton. I had the pleasure of working closely with Allyson at the Boston Architectural College (BAC) AIAS Chapter over the past two years.

In the 2021 Fall semester Allyson held the position of Secretary and I, the position of Treasurer. Around this time last year, as the roles of the former President and Vice President were leaving their position, Allyson and I recognized an opportunity to elevate the AIAS chapter. Despite the absence of a clear plan or transition strategy, we seized the moment and began strategizing to live up the potential of what our AIAS chapter could be.

Allyson played a pivotal role in the success of our BAC AIAS Chapter. Her organizational skills, proactive approach, and genuine passion for improving the student experience are why she is an excellent candidate for Northeast Quad Director. Recognizing the needs of our school and fellow students, Allyson took the initiative to deliver valuable opportunities, showcasing her dedication to fostering a positive and enriching academic environment. She has not only developed the building blocks our chapter needed to grow but given me, personally, the support and confidence to take control of my position and become a leader!

Having worked closely with Allyson, I can attest to her positive demeanor, productivity, and unwavering commitment to improving the student experience and expanding their opportunities. She faced numerous challenges head-on, such as organizing and planning events from scratch when we lacked contacts and access to previous connections. Much of her work involved establishing connections with AIAS national, creating a sense of belonging within the organization, inspiring student engagement, and successfully involving firms with our chapter. But most importantly, she has developed and supported a team that can confidently work together to continue running our AIAS Chapter.

Allyson proved herself as a leader when the need arose, playing a key role in creating the vibrant community that exists within our AIAS chapter today. I consider myself fortunate to have had Allyson as my president and partner, and I am confident that her dedication, initiative, and leadership skills will continue to make a positive impact on the AIAS National stage.

Sincerely,

Kassia

BAC AIAS Chapter Vice President

Kassia.shrum@the-bac.edu, (508) 887-2195

Sample Work

Tiny House

August 2021-December 2021

Design Build: Grey Construction and Bruce Swetnam

Team: Greg Vergara, Justin Kirk and Joseph Schulte

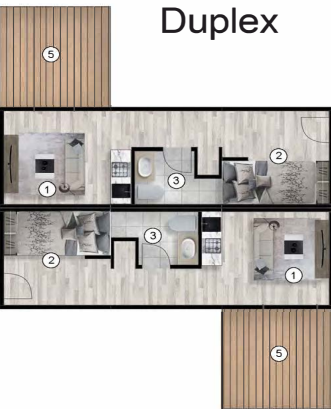


Our Modular Tiny Home is designed for those who are transitioning out of homelessness encountered with an emergency or a Natural Disaster. The home is customizable with a set of 8'x8' modules able to be arranged to the desire and needs of the inhabitants. Our home implements a material change between each section to emphasize the programmatic changes. An estimated cost for a 3-Module Structure (8'x24') is \$15-\$18,000 fully equipped, plus labor. Making it affordable and convenient to the less fortunate.

8'x8' MODULE LAYOUT

Duplex

Duplex



- 1. Living Room
- 2. Bedroom or Workspace
- 3. Bathroom
- 4. Dining Room or Workspace
- 5. Deck



Sample Work





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: Allyson Middleton

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employee 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: Allyson Middleton

Date: 11/25/2023

Election Code Of Ethics



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
1735 New York Ave., Washington, DC 20006
202.808.0075 | aias.org

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: Allyson Middleton

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: Allyson Middleton

Date: 11/25/2023

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): Allyson Middleton

Chapter: Boston Archectural College

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: allyson.middleton@the-bac.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 502-548-4162

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Allyson Middleton
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: @middletonallyson
- o Other: