



BRIANNA
ALEXANDER

NORTHEAST QUAD DIRECTOR
2024-25 CANDIDACY APPLICATION



01	LETTER OF INTENT
02	RESUME
03	FACULTY SUPPORT LETTER
04	PEER SUPPORT LETTER
05	QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE
08	AIAS POLICY ON INTERN COMPENSATION
09	AIAS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS
10	CONTACT INFORMATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cooper Moore, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, GRP, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20006

Dear Cooper Moore, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, GRP Past President,

I would first like to thank you, current Vice President Julia Andor, Northeast Quad Director, Jordan Luther, and my fellow AIAS peers for inspiring me to take my involvement in AIAS a step further. Never would I have imagined that I'd be vying for this opportunity. Your words of encouragement and exemplar leadership and friendship are what helped pushed me and, for that, I'm extremely grateful. My hope is that I will inspire those around me to go after all their endeavors and maximize their potential as well.

That being said, I'd like to formally introduce myself. My name is Brianna Alexander and I am currently a graduate student in the Masters of Architecture program at Howard University. I have been a faithful member of AIAS since my first year and have served twice on my chapter's executive board as the Public Relations Chair in 2021 and as President in 2022. I have loved every minute of serving my community, inspiring the architecture field's future leaders, and pushing for further connection between our school, the surrounding chapters, and the national team. I've witnessed the exponential growth of our program's student population during my time and have taken advantage of it by reintroducing and expanding the chapter. I did so by continuously advocating for the three principles that I stand by and that make AIAS unique (Leadership, Design, and Service) and by being the person others could always count on.

I firmly believe my journey through AIAS has led me down this path. I've seen first hand the impact that consistency, commitment, and strong leadership can do for the betterment of a chapter and a student body. I am hopeful that with my experience and love for this organization, I will be an asset in taking the organization to new heights. This is why I would humbly like to declare my candidacy for role of **Northeast Quad Director** of the 2024-25 school year.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brianna Alexander', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brianna Alexander

BA

BRIANNA ALEXANDER

ARCHITECTURE DESIGN STUDENT

WASHINGTON, DC

EDUCATION

2024 MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
Howard University, Washington, DC

2023 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN STUDIES
Howard University, Washington, DC

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

AIAS SPECIAL GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Looking into the governance structure of the organization and suggesting ways to resolve some existing issues in the way that the AIAS currently functions.

AIAS HOWARD UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT

2022-23

Leadership, coordination, representation, and communication. Guided the e-board, organized events, encouraged membership intake and renewal, and served as a liaison between the organization, the broader academic community, and the national team.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

2021-22

Managed chapter appearances on all social platforms and relations between the chapter and broader academic community. Created graphics to boost our appearance and impact on socials and the architecture community.

ZETA PHI CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI OMEGA, NATIONAL SERVICE FRATERNITY

VICE PRESIDENT OF SERVICE

2022-23

Organized all community service opportunities for the chapter and coordinated with the university and partners on various service projects. Built relationships with various service organizations. Created all service promotional graphics.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK (HUASB)

SITE COORDINATOR

2021-22

Organized, coordinated, and successfully executed a week-long community service initiative where I led 25 students down to New Orleans to participate in various service projects around the city during our spring break.

ARCHITECTURE WORK EXPERIENCE

INTERNSHIP AT LPA DESIGN STUDIOS

May 2022 - Aug 2022 & Jun 2023 - Aug 2023

San Diego, CA

Enhanced my graphic skills on BIM programming.

Gained first hand experience in LEED documentation.

Worked alongside project managers and coordinators to gain experience in project analysis, coordination and documentation through code analysis, feasibility studies and programming.

CONTACT



301.456.6190



BRIANNA.ALEXANDER
@bison.howard.edu



BRIANNA.ALEXANDER07
@gmail.com



BRIANNA.ALEXANDER



www.linkedin.com/in/
brianna-alexander-aias

TECHNICAL SKILLS

REVIT

AUTOCAD

RHINO

ADOBE PROGRAMS



PHOTOGRAPHY

SKETCHING & DRAWING

OTHER INVOLVEMENT

2022- present Girl Scouts Junior Troop
Leader

2021-2022 NOMAS Professional
Development Program
Cohort



Excellence in Truth and Service

Department of Architecture
College of Engineering and Architecture

Cooper Moore, Past President
The American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20006

November 28, 2023

Dear Past President Cooper Moore,

I am pleased to recommend **Brianna Alexander** for the AIAS Northeast Quad Director. Ms. Alexander is a high achieving 5th year architecture major pursuing the Master of Architecture 1st professional degree at Howard University. As the Chairperson of the Department of Architecture, I have the opportunity to teach, advised and work with Ms. Alexander as one of the brightest and most active student at Howard University. We are aware of Ms. Alexander's desire to seek a seat on the AIAS National Board of Directors and understand the implications thereof.

Ms. Alexander is a very talented, enthusiastic student and a creative thinker in architecture and environmental design. Along with her stellar creative and critical thinking abilities, she has a strong interest in diversity in architecture education and practice. She has excellent intellectual, analytical, and conceptual abilities making her a very thoughtful and conscientious student with an impressive direction and commitment to environmental justice. She has grown and developed over her matriculation in the program and has taken a leading role in Howard's revival of the AIAS. Ms. Alexander is an outstanding student leader. She served as Public Relations Chair and President of the AIAS, a student leader and site coordinator for Howard Day of Service and for Howard's Alternative Spring Break, and as a student representative and advocate for the architecture student body at large. As a student leader, she fought for more funding for student organizations, more access to school resources, drafted the important letter to the Dean of the College addressing student's concerns, and consistently speaks on behalf of AIAS members and architecture students to the Department, College, and University Administration.

Most importantly, Ms. Alexander is incredibly kind, passionate about our impact as stewards of the built environmental, and a servant leader. I most strongly recommend **Bria Alexander** for the AIAS Northeast Quad Director.

Sincerely,

Brad Grant

Bradford Grant, Interim Chairperson

2366 6th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20059
202.806.7424 OFFICE | www.howard.edu

 Howard.edu

Subject: AIAS Northeast Region Quad Director candidacy of Brianna Alexander

Dear Cooper Moore **AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA**, GRP Past President,

I have the pleasure of writing a letter in support of the candidacy of Ms. Brianna Alexander for the Northeast Regional Quad Director. I have worked alongside her on the Howard University AIAS Chapter Executive Board for the past two years. I consider it a pleasure that I have been able to work alongside such a hard-working and driven individual. She has set an example for many students in the architecture department, including myself, for far more than just her academic skillset. Her conscientious work ethic is evident in her many campus involvements, various leadership positions and engagements.

Working alongside her as she served as chapter president in 2022, I witnessed her commitment to uplifting the chapter at our university, with the goal to increase the organizations impact and presence. She has played an immense role in building the foundation to a community that is now constantly growing. Her passion for service was evident, in not only the events and initiatives she instituted through AIAS, but how she constantly strives to be a helping hand to her peers and the many underclassmen that follow.

I am exceedingly confident that she is not only fit, but destined to be an exceptional leader in any endeavor that she chooses to pursue. I wholeheartedly recommend Ms. Brianna Alexander for the 2024 Northeast Regional Quad Director.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chase Knox". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Chase" and "Knox" being capitalized and prominent.

Chase Knox, AIAS

Howard University '24

2023 AIAS Chapter President

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?

Having been a member and then serving on my school's executive board, it's taught me a lot about myself as a leader; a good leader needs to know how to communicate, motivate, and listen. Also through AIAS, I learned the value of mentorship, connections and friendship. Without fail I know that I've made long-term friends out of the amazing people I met in this organization. I would love to share my knowledge and give my support to the upcoming generation. I know by serving on the Board of Directors, I will be able to that and so much more.

From what I know about my school's chapter, Howard hasn't always been involved with the organization on a national level. It's unfortunate because we have always been a unique program and, historically, have produced the most black architects in the country. Knowing this motivates me even more to not only represent Howard but, to further connect our school with the countless others that we don't usually interact so, in turn, we exchange knowledge, insight, and further our professional connections. I speak of Howard but, I know that we aren't the only chapters that have somewhat isolated ourselves for various reasons over the years. Whether this be from lack of resources, retention, or size, I would like to our members to understand that they have the backing of the national team and their regional peers to be their advocates, their listening ear, collaborators, and friend whenever necessary.

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?

This is something I've thought a lot about because it was questions that myself, the executive board of my school's chapter, and our members discussed profusely. One of the issues we talked about were benefits and incentives to membership. Everyone is required to pay dues to nationals as well as chapter fee's (amount varies on the school) and understandably so. However, there are only a few things you receive in return and that's a free subscription to the CRIT Journal and newsletter. It would be nice if upon joining, you are given something tangible. For example, a certificate of membership, a membership card, a t-shirt, or if so inclined, all three. I will say I'm fully aware that some chapters do this already but, for those chapters who struggle with membership retention (as Howard has in the past) and inadequate funding from their schools, this would help so much; members signing up for the first time would feel special and it would give even more of an incentive to join, for smaller chapters especially.

Another issue that was talked about amongst myself and my executive board was lack of organization to our chapter's membership roster through AIAS National and receiving our chapter dues. To this day I am unsure why it's such a hassle to receive a tracking sheet of some sort with an updated chapter membership roster. I think one way to resolve this is by having a separate chapter login on the website that is only accessible to national and updated chapter executive boards. On this separate channel, chapters would have access to a membership roster that automatically updates member information once they sign up or renew. This will also make communication between the board of directors and chapters easier when it's time to contact good and not good standing (this will also help chapters know if they're in good standing or not and hold themselves accountable). In addition, this channel will also be a way to track and access finances from chapter dues and bulk membership, and a chapter forum that gives information on the happenings of their specific quad, nationally and internationally, contact information for the board of directors, chapter presidents, and possibly local NOMA and AIA professional chapters as well.

Lastly, another thing AIAS could work on is the student to professional pipeline. What this could entail is partnering with firms and the local professional organization chapters (relative to the chapter and quad region) to have a professional development program (free for members and a charge for non-members) -- NOMAS has a similar program for HBCU architecture students and it works! Again, I will say I'm aware some chapters have great programs set in place that assist with this but, there should be no reason that every chapter doesn't have one and through the assistance of AIAS.

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?

Personally, I find the school to licensure pipeline an issue that is most important. Unsure which one of these that issue would fall into because it has a place within each of them. Licensure is a health and wellness, equity, student loan debt, learning and teaching culture, practice experience, leadership, and technology issue. Unless your school has the resources, advocates, or the new iPal program, it's harder for students to imagine a possibility of licensure happening for them. As far as I've heard from students and professionals alike, fewer people are wanting to pursue it out of financial obligations, necessary experience, lack of motivation, undesirability, and the time commitment. Ensuring that students are being motivated, especially being a member of AIAS, to pursue licensure and other credentials. How I, as an elected leader on the Board of Directors, would what to work to address this is by partnering with NCARB, ASCA, LEED, Well Building, etc, to grant members a reduced price or free access to training and testing materials, workshops tailored to students, and discounts on conferences. This is especially needed for students who don't have the financial capabilities to access these resources. I will say that I'm aware of the student reduced price of some exams but, as students, we are responsible for other expenses throughout our schooling and afterwards; for most it's an unnecessary burden to bare. Also, as an organization that is tied to the largest professional equivalent (AIA), our goal should always be to assist in paving a pathway in that direction for our members who truly want to get there but can't by themselves.

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?

An idea I pitched before about there being an AIAS membership forum amongst chapter leadership boards, could be applied to regular members as well. I believe we can take full advantage of the AIAS website and socials (I would even go as far as pitching an AIAS app that acts as an information hub and social connector with all of those options available). I say this because as a member, I felt that I would only go on the website to pay membership dues, and catch additional information I needed that the instagram didn't provide but, directed me to and there's so much more that could be offered.

Another idea I would pitch is having an "Architecture Around the World" day, like Leadership Day before Grassroots and Council of Presidents and held virtually. This program would talk about the architecture school culture in various parts of the world, the architectural typologies that differ, share the professional work experience of that region from professionals themselves, and talk about internship opportunities that are offered. This would give chapters a great opportunity to connect with the national and international chapters and hear more from the international members we don't always get to interact with.

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 intend to fulfill my given responsibilities through several means that I hope will have a significant impact on the future and current members and, ideally, the organization as a whole. The values I want to serve my term by are as follows: Transparency and accessibility, connectivity, and service.

I would like to serve my term on a basis of transparency and accessibility. Being as though I'd be the representative for the Northeast Quad on the Board of Directors, I inherently have to be transparent with the members about national updates because I serve as a connector bridge. To that, I would like to the work with the Board of Directors about the possibility of giving the chapters access to their chapter specific information that we, as national representatives, have access to. I would like to let the chapters know that all they have to do is ask (at least for the time being) and have that be a constant reminder at the beginning of each term. I specifically brought this up because I found it be too much of a hassle to get that information and it made tracking our members even more difficult not having confirmed numbers. This also ties into the bigger goal I would like to work towards that I mentioned in an earlier response, and that is, making a separate "Chapter Executive Board" channel on the website so chapters can have access to all of their information.

The next value that goes hand-in-hand with accessibility, is connectivity. What connectivity would entail is creating opportunities (other than NEQ), for chapters, ideally ones local to each other, to get together for bonding events, firm crawls, and professional panels throughout the year. This would be heavily encouraged by me during my term and any assistance on my front would be given. Two other ideas that I believe would be nice to implement is all, if not most, of the NEQ chapters came together for a virtual chapter-wide activity night (i.e game night, movie night, sip N paint, etc.) at least once during the term (ideally before or after the NEQ Conference) to further connections regionally. I feel that the only chance we do get to interact is at NEQ Conference or via Quad Hangouts and it's typically only the executive boards and representatives of the school. Having more chapter-wide, virtual, events that involve everyone will insure everyone is given an opportunity to participate regardless of circumstances that may be a burdensome.

Lastly, I would like to heavily advocate for my service project initiatives that give students the opportunity to give back to their communities, develop a sense of place-making, and feel good knowing that the work they do might have a direct impact on someone's life in a positive way before getting that experience in a professional setting. Service is one of the principles of our organization but sometimes I feel it only applies to people within our own organization. I would be amiss, however, to not mention that our largest service initiative is Freedom By Design and when seen through is quite impactful. However, I definitely think it should be pushed more and walked through better. It's quite confusing and daunting to start especially if a chapter has never participated in it. I think having walk-through sessions and designated mentors per region/ per chapter (especially if there isn't a Freedom By Design mentor at the school), would be greatly beneficial and allow more chapter the opportunity to actually participate and make a difference. As future architects and designers, every decision we make has an impact on something or someone else. Students being reminded of that in a tangible manner will only benefit the world in the long run. I consider myself a life-long servant leader so I'd pitch an AIAS Day/Week of Service and work towards implementing that, starting in the Northeast Quad. I envision the work being done having a design, sustainable, or humanitarian element.

I know this would be alot but, if I could implement at least one of these initiatives, I truly think it would have a substantially positive impact on the organization for years to come.



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

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: **BRIANNA ALEXANDER**

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: **11/30/2023**



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.

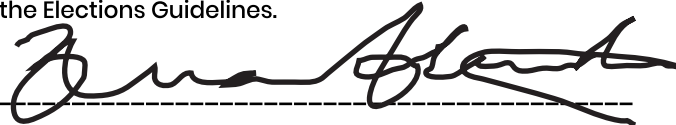
As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Past President.

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: **BRIANNA ALEXANDER**

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: **11/30/2023**



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): BRIANNA ALEXANDER

Chapter: HOWARD UNIVERSITY CHAPTER

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): 2022-23 CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Email Address: School: BRIANNA.ALEXANDER@BISON.HOWARD.EDU
Personal: BRIANNA.ALEXANDER07@GMAIL.COM

Mobile Phone Number: 301-456-6190

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: _____
- o Twitter: @_____
- o Instagram: BRIANNA.ALEXANDER
- o Other: _____