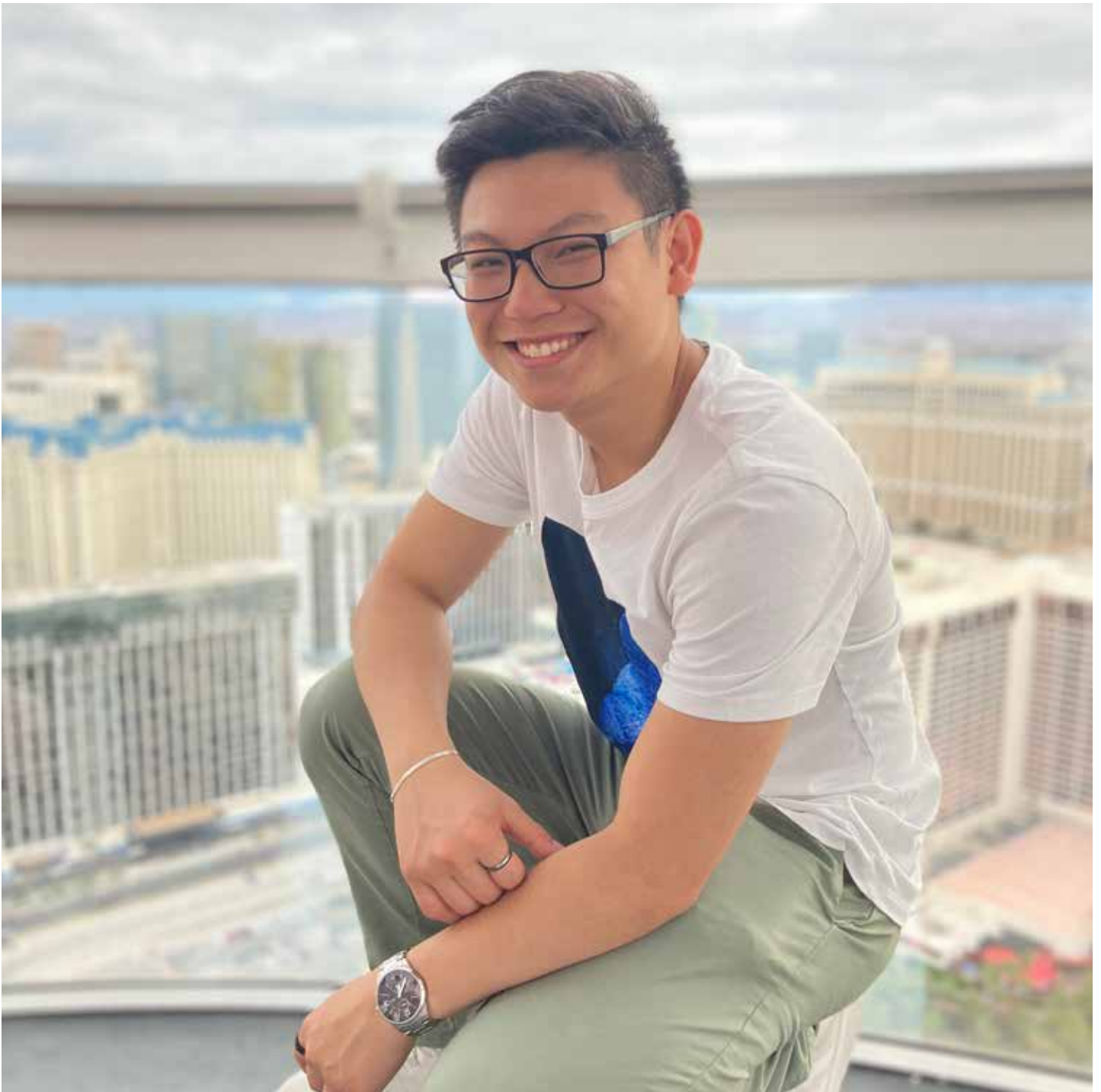


# CALEB KWOK

iitAIAS

## 2024-2025 Midwest Quad Director Candidate Packet



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Caleb Kwok  
Chicago, IL  
ckwok1@hawk.iit.edu | (319)-535-3378

November 30, 2023

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

Past President Cooper Moore,

I am writing to declare my intent to run for the 2024-2025 AIAS Midwest Quad Director position. Honestly, a few years ago, I would not have imagined that I would be doing this. I started university as things opened after months of COVID. My first year, my classes were hybrid, and at the time, AIAS was just another one of those school clubs. Interestingly enough though, one thing did stick out to me, Freedom by Design. It wasn't until my second year that I really started paying more attention to AIAS, especially after I met a young professor who had returned to Chicago after his time as National Vice President. Along with that, I also started getting to know upperclassmen who were involved with AIAS and were in the next executive board.

The summer between second and third year, I was motivated to start getting involved with architecture and organizations. I had great exposure to the profession at the AIA National conference in Chicago, and I got to help with a private event hosted at our College of Architecture. It motivated me to get to a place where I could represent students, being the one helping and inspiring others. That same summer, I asked the board if they had plans for FBD after it was inactive my second year. Few months later, I ended up as the FBD director, and along with our Vice President, I was able to build it back. In the fall, we successfully completed material carts for leftover materials students didn't need at the end of the semester. That led us to dream big for the Spring, when we found an organization taking on homelessness in the city. We reached out and ended up partnering for a transitional housing project where we really wanted to show how students could make a positive impact in the community.

Over the past few years with AIAS and NOMAS, I have realized the power of having organizations as platforms for elevating student voices. There is more weight in words when you not only speak for yourself, but on behalf of a student body, even if they do not know what you are doing.

That is why I ran for chapter president, and that is why I am running for Quad Director. I believe positions only mean something when they represent a greater voice. As Quad Director, I would do my best to represent students and continue doing what I think is best for the future of the architecture profession, helping students succeed and making sure our platform is used to build the future we envision ourselves actively taking a part in.

Sincerely,



Caleb Kwok

# CALEB KWOK

Chicago, IL | ckwok1@hawk.iit.edu | (319)-535-3378 | linkedin.com/in/caleb-kwok

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## EDUCATION

### Master of Engineering, Construction Management

Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL | 2025 Expected Graduation  
Accelerated Master's Program

### Bachelor of Architecture

Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL | 2025 Expected Graduation

- Minor in Urban Studies
- Specialization in Digital Design

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## SKILLS

Team-Management  
Collaboration  
Model-Making  
Problem Solving  
Cantonese

## ORGANIZATIONS

### iitAIAS Chapter President

Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL | May 2023 - Present

- Oversee a board comprising of several committees and lead event planning
- Communicate with the College of Architecture and represent student voices and opinions
- Foster professional development events such as firm tours and portfolio reviews
- Planning co-chair for the 2024 Midwest Quad Conference hosted by the iitAIAS chapter

### NOMASiit *Beyond the Surface* Podcast Co-Founder and Producer

Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL | March 2023 - Present

- Podcast highlighting underrepresented voices in architecture
- Identify, schedule, and confirm guests
- Research guests and prepare episode outlines
- Edit episode audio after recording
- Direct marketing efforts

### iitAIAS Freedom by Design Director

Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL | August 2022 - May 2023

- Led a team to build material carts collecting scrap model-making materials for student reuse
- Contacted a local organization to design and build transitional housing for homeless people
- Our team built a mock-up frame of the project for our College of Architecture end of year open house to bring awareness to issues of homelessness in Chicago and the US

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## SOFTWARE

Rhino  
Enscape  
Revit  
Illustrator  
Indesign  
Photoshop  
Adobe Audition  
AutoCAD  
V-Ray  
Grasshopper

## EXPERIENCE

### Elevate College Prep Program Assistant

Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL | August 2023 - Present

### Architecture Intern

Little Diversified Architectural Consulting | Charlotte, NC | June 2023 - August 2023  
NOMA Future Faces Fellowship Program (NFF) - Formerly NOMA Foundation Fellowship

### Student Shop Technician

Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL | August 2020 - May 2023  
IIT College of Architecture Model Shop student assistant

### Building and Operations Assistant

Illinois Institute of Technology | Chicago, IL | May 2022 - May 2023  
Construction work associated with the IIT College of Architecture

### Architectural Intern

Bright Star Community Outreach | Chicago, IL | August 2022 - September 2022  
Video rendering walkthrough of a renovated school for a local non-profit community group

**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?**

AIAS covers a diverse and wide range of students, and the organization should do what it can to help students succeed. As Midwest Quad Director I would continue advocating for the national board to support students, especially through providing guidance to chapters and seeing what they do at the local level. I believe the more we understand the needs that come up across different schools allows AIAS to take on the challenges at a national level to provide assistance that can benefit all students. I am motivated by the potential AIAS has to support and provide other avenues of exploration for students outside of a typical architecture school education.

In my time involved with student organizations, I see how they can help connect students, and how the leadership teams help provide guidance for the student body. While at IIT in Chicago, I've been fortunate to get connected with the greater architecture community from professionals down to student organizations (NOMAS, Arquitectos, ASLA) including those from other universities. Organizing events and speaking with our faculty has made me consider what other students experience and the types of challenges that everyone goes through. Student organizations can create a strong architecture community that supports exploring architecture with other passionate students, leading people towards their future, whether they remain in architecture, or pursue separate careers after graduation.

**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?**

AIAS fits into a greater ecosystem of architecture, and it has a unique platform for students. One of the greatest opportunities for AIAS is the continued growth of high school chapters. I believe that AIAS can create a support system like NOMA's mission with Project Pipeline programs. Guiding high schoolers will inform the next group of students entering universities to study architecture, and hopefully get those students to continue their involvement with organizations and leadership as well. AIAS should continue advocacy and representing students in conversations with other organizations such as NAAB, NCARB, ACSA, AIA, and NOMA, especially when discussing how students see studio culture, education, and entering the profession.

I strongly support finding ways to get perspectives from students not already involved with AIAS. At the end of the Spring 2023 semester, along with the other on-campus architecture organizations, we conducted a survey from faculty and students in our College of Architecture to better understand the time, money, and other factors for students. That successfully brought some awareness for professors, and started to bring some positive changes with costs, and it was evident that students wanted their concerns to be heard. I believe that any leader in AIAS should be aware that they represent a wide range of students beyond the ones that show up to conferences and other events.

**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 there are so many issues that students face, and AIAS acknowledges, I believe it is important to look internally within AIAS as an organization and what that means for students, especially regarding equity and education. With AIAS being a large organization primarily run by students, a question comes to mind:

“How can AIAS improve architecture education and provide benefits for all students, regardless of their involvement?”

There are students that may not see the benefits of being involved, and an even greater issue, there are those that may not have the ability to commit their time due to other factors. One way to combat that is to take on challenges on behalf of students. As mentioned in the previous question, the student survey helped our team really understand that as a chapter, beyond providing typical opportunities like firm tours and portfolio reviews, another priority should be getting students engaged and advocating for issues students see. Student leaders should speak up regarding issues when other students can't, and the leaders should represent a larger collective voice.

This fall, I joined the National Membership Committee because I believe that part of the issues regarding benefiting students comes from understanding what it means to be in AIAS. As the Midwest Quad Director, I would have conversations with chapters to create clear mission statements for their chapter and how they can increase their impact at a local level. At the national level, I would be a voice on the board of directors to consider what AIAS membership and involvement truly means for students, especially when it comes to ideas of equity in cost and access to benefits.

**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?**

As a member of the board, I would like to help the organization continue broadening member diversity and accessibility. One of the biggest steps for helping AIAS engage more students would be connecting more with NOMAS chapters, and any other student architecture organizations. The cost of membership in organizations acts as a barrier for some students, and with a good partnership between different organizations, it can help close the divide and help students access more opportunities. In my experience, being active in AIAS and NOMAS has been very beneficial, and having a good line of communication with the other student organizations on campus has helped our planning and events.

When it comes to helping chapter leaders with growing chapters and being more accessible, it would be helpful to first understand issues most architecture students face regardless of background, and then find ways to support the students with additional hardships, such as international students. As part of that understanding, again, it helps to communicate with NOMAS chapters, but at the same time, part of what the national board and committees can do is continue fostering chapter relationships across regions, so students get a cross-pollination of ideas beyond their geographic

region. AIAS nationally already has resources packets and templates, so it may be helpful to pair emerging schools with other schools that have similar conditions (eg. Art colleges, state schools). In general, AIAS national can continue acting as a base, and a good way to improve situations at a local level would be to have more help connecting chapters to others that have similar experiences or knowledge on how to get through situations.

**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.**

In my role as Midwest Quad Director, I would like to continue the monthly “Heartland Huddle” calls for chapters to interact, because I think it is a good time to get updates from other chapters for inspiration, but also to help understanding of the challenges students face (and what is successful). The Slack quad updates are also helpful, and I will also be open to one-on-one meetings and messaging when chapters need any guidance or want to voice their ideas.

I have written about what I hope AIAS can continue doing and the direction I think the organization can be for students because I believe that AIAS is unique and has the potential to really shape how the future of architecture goes. We are now at the point where my academic cohort/year began in the fall of 2020, meaning very few university students have experience pre-COVID. I hope that in my one-year term, I can contribute to the board in expanding what AIAS can do for students, and what it is like to be an architecture student, and what that means for the future of students after graduation.

November 25, 2023

Dear Cooper Moore:

It is my pleasure to recommend Caleb Kwok in his run for AIAS Midwest Quad Director. Caleb is a student in our Bachelor of Architecture program, and I have known him for nearly his entire time at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). Caleb and I have discussed this position and the implications of his desire to pursue it. I have encouraged him because I believe he will discharge the associated duties with great skill and enthusiasm, and because I know he will grow in the process.

How do I know this? Because time and again, Caleb has proven himself to be an exceptional young man. As his resume will indicate, Caleb is a leader. He is the current president of our AIAS chapter, which he drove to (successfully) pursue the Midwest Quad Conference. He headed the chapter's "Freedom by Design Initiative." And he helped create and produce our National Organization of Minority Architecture Student's new and provocative "Beyond the Surface" podcast, which has been an enormous success. What his resume won't indicate is that Caleb has accomplished all of this while maintaining a 3.7+ grade point average, working as a technician in our shop (a sought-after and highly competitive appointment at IIT), volunteering in a university-sponsored development program ("Elevate"), completing an advanced master's program (while finishing his bachelor of architecture), assisting the Dean's office in a number of activities, and serving repeatedly as an unofficial-but-regular College of Architecture student ambassador.

In short, Caleb never stops. It truly is an inspiring thing to watch, and makes it very easy to support him for the Quad Director position.

Resumes can tell us things about people's accomplishments, but they can't tell us much about them as people. So let me confirm here that Caleb Kwok is exactly the type of person one hopes to find in leadership positions (frankly, he's the type of person one just hopes to find in life). As noted above, he is bright and industrious. But he is also unfailingly positive: Caleb is a naturally kind and happy person. He always has something nice to say to people; he's always ready to lend a hand. So much so, in fact, that we talk about it in the Dean's office. We know a lot of the students in this school personally, and Caleb has always been one who inspires confidence and respect. It is very difficult not to like him instantly, a quality that few people possess, and one that draws others to him.

After 30 years in professional life (more than half of them in academia), I have known quite a few Quad Directors (and others in AIAS leadership). Because of that, and for all of the reasons listed above—particularly the nature of his character, I am happy to recommend Caleb Kwok for this position. Not only will he discharge his duties successfully, he will quietly and quickly become the person his colleagues turn to most, the one they trust, the one who will lead the group in the most natural and supportive of ways.

I recommend Caleb to you in the highest possible terms. If there is anything else I can do to support his candidacy, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Reed Kroloff  
Dean and Rowe Family College of Architecture Endowed Chair



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**Anna Karel**

iitAIAS Vice President  
3201 South State Street,  
Chicago, IL 60616  
616-822-2153  
akarel1@hawk.iit.edu

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November 29, 2023

**Cooper Moore,**

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

Hello Cooper,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Caleb Kwok for the Quad Director position. Working with Caleb this past year on the iitAIAS Executive Board has been an amazing experience and has provided me great insight into his character and work. Without his dedication, insight, and passion for our chapter; we would not have had a great year for our corner of Chicago: IIT.

Like I mentioned, Caleb has shown up time and time again for us and has led us to some great new ideas and opportunities for our chapter. With his push and motivation, we were able to bid and win this upcoming Midwest Quad Conference! Something that hasn't happened within our recent cycle of graduates.

Other than his great motivation and goal setting, he is also reliable. Without him as our base for our executive board, and greater chapter meetings, I doubt we would be nearly as organized or productive. Caleb is always thinking ahead, and I can honestly say that I look up to him in not only a professional manner but also as an individual.

He pushes me to think outside the traditional course and path of architecture. He makes me reconsider what this field could be and what the expectations are. He is not only a great resource for me, but also for other students. I haven't met anyone else who is as focused as he is at surpassing the default mold of an architecture student. His passion for the NOMAS Podcast, Freedom By Design, and even our Chapter and what it **could** be, is a breath of fresh air.

Caleb is outstanding, and I don't think this letter will do him justice with how great of an individual he is. I have no doubt that Caleb will excel as a Quad Director. If he were to run this position like he did our chapter, you would be in great hands.

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me. Goodnight Moon.

**Anna Karel**



## 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: Caleb Kwok

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: November 30, 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: Caleb Kwok

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: November 30, 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): Caleb Kwok

Chapter: iitAIAS (Illinois Institute of Technology)

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: ckwok1@hawk.iit.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 319-535-3378

### Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_
- o Twitter: @\_\_\_\_\_
- o Instagram: caleb\_clkwok
- o Other: \_\_\_\_\_