

REBECCA HENNINGS

WEST QUAD DIRECTOR
candidacy packet 2024 - 2025



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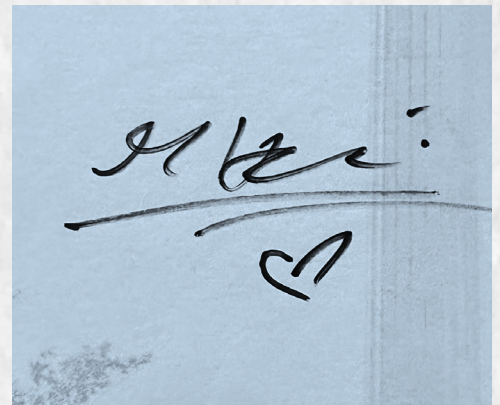
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To:
Cooper Moore, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, GRP Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Ave. NW
Washington DC, 20006

November 30th, 2023
Re: 2024-2025 West Quad
Director Candidacy

Dear Past President Moore,

It is with joy that I share with you my formal intention to run for West Quad Director for the 2024 - 2025 session. It is with great enthusiasm and a deep love for our organization that I submit my candidacy for this role.

I appreciate the AIAS for its capacity to foster connections. However, this doesn't happen spontaneously; rather, it is the people that make up this organization who build these bonds. The AIAS merely offers a framework that facilitates such relationships. The personal and professional benefits of developing these networks cannot be overstated. I firmly believe that cultivating these connections is one of the director's most crucial roles. When I was first joining the AIAS as the Vice President of the Montana State University chapter, I was unsteady in my capabilities, and needed help navigating the transition to an active role within my school and beyond. I found that aid in my West Quad Directors. This position has the potential to reach students at every chapter, and can be the figure to draw them closer to this wonderful community. Since that time, I have developed as a leader and an individual, and have the confidence and ability to offer the support that I once received.

In the past year I have reflected on my previous candidacy, and the opportunities that I have had since that time. Now pursuing my Master of Architecture, my perspective has been broadened. I have stepped into a supporting role at my home chapter to assist in the transitioning of ideas within our school. I've continued to serve on my college's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Committee, which has been focused on connecting and uplifting students. I had the opportunity to chair the first Celebration of Architecture at our school in four years, which was a significant effort of collaboration between AIAS, students at large, faculty, and architects in our community and beyond.

With the support of my school, my chapter, and my peers, I have been afforded the ability to continue to grow as a leader. In turn, I hope to pay this forward, and empower students present and future in the role of West Quad Director. Now, more than ever, I am equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to take on leadership at the national level.

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this keystone process of the American Institute of Architecture Students, and look forward to serving the organization in whatever capacity I may.

Thank you for your work in the AIAS, and for your consideration,



Rebecca Hennings

Education

Master of Architecture

Expected 12/24

Thesis research | blue-green infrastructure | urban design | social infrastructure | hydrosocial cycle | equity

Montana State University

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design

05/23

Academic Achievement, Cum Laude honors degree

Montana State University

Portfolio | architectural design | low impact development | master planning | complete streets | community engagement | biophilic design

National Involvement

Student Health & Well-Being Task Force

2023 - 2024

- Creating & leading FORUM programming
- Updating LTCP to empower students
- Promoting positive mental health in architectural education

Governance Committee

2022 - 2023

- Updated model bylaws & Rules of the Board

AIAS Chapter Honor Award Nomination

2022 -2023

- Chapter President for year that MSU received nomination

West Quad Director Candidate

2023

- Certified candidate in 2023 National Governance Weekend

Local Involvement

AIAS Chapter Vice President

F 20, 2023 - 2024

- Navigated difficult transition period MSU AIAS
- Support E-Board in detail management tasks

AIAS Chapter President

S 21, 2022 - 2024

- Developed student-led lunch & learn series MSU AIAS
- Increased engagement with students & local architects

Celebration of Architecture Student Co-Chair

F 23

- Organized MSU AIAS's largest fundraiser & networking event MSU School of Architecture
- Collaborated with students, faculty, & external donors

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Committee

S 23, 2023 - 2024

- Organizing mixers to promote cross-college connection MSU College of Arts & Architecture
- Evaluating DEIB presence in courses w/ faculty & staff

Tau Sigma Delta

Inducted S 22

- Honor Society for Architecture & Allied Arts MSU chapter

AdvoCat Campus Tour Guide

2020 - 2021

- Provided information & guidance to prospective students MSU AdvoCats

Employment

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Architectural Structures I

F 23

- Connect students & faculty MSU School of Architecture
- One on one education & aid
- Foundations of sizing structure

Engagement Coordinator

10/22 - 05/23

- Collected qualitative data for code update Interboro
- Engaged with public for community input Partners
- Managed Bozeman student team

Digital Literacy Coach

08/22 - 04/23

- Developed & conducted workshops MSU Digital Literacy
- Taught Adobe tools to all skill levels Integration Team
- Presented at SOLC conference

Research Assistant

08/22 - 04/23

- Collaborate with Lincoln, MT community MSU Community
- Distill information on complete streets Design Center
- Propose high-level solutions to clients

Conferences

AIAS Attendance

- Grassroots 2022, 2023
- West Quad 2023
- FORUM 2024

Presentations

at MSU

- Student Organization Leadership Conference S 23
- National Conference on Undergraduate Research S 21
- First Year Research Experience Conference F 20

Skills

Illustrator | Photoshop | InDesign | ArcGIS Pro
Rhino | Revit | Lumion | Enscape | Hand Graphics
Collaboration | Presentations | Project Management

QUESTIONNAIRE pg 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?

The AIAS as it stands has been an inviting community where I have been able to build lifetime connections amongst a network of people that ranges from local chapters all the way to the international level. At the beginning of my architectural education, I was content to stay within the circle of my school. However, this quickly changed soon after joining Montana State University's AIAS chapter as Vice President, and subsequently President. Through navigating the complex transition into leadership, meeting fellow students with the same drive and passion as myself through calls, conferences, and committees, and building upon those friendships, I have found my community.

I feel called to reach out and empower more students to take an active part in their education at large, as I have been drawn into the AIAS by my peers and leaders. I have realized that the people who have played the largest role in the expansion of my academic career have been students and leaders engaged in national efforts. I look at the people who have inspired me in the AIAS, and I see leaders who will influence practice and create lasting positive changes that are needed within the profession.

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?

The AIAS has an immense opportunity to expand into its connections to other student organizations in adjacent professions within the built environment. This can include the disciplines of landscape architecture, interior design, urban planning, and more. The current alliance of architectural organizations has shown the feasibility and effectiveness of connecting with other organizational entities. There are many chapters already that coordinate with such student chapters at their schools to broaden events and share resources. To see an effort of connection with these organizations at the national level would only strengthen the work that is happening at the local level.

Creating connections with other organizations that work in the built environment would serve to support students that are seeking an alternative or nontraditional career path. Through diversifying resources by networking with other professional organizations, we can expand the development of foundational technical skills that our architectural programs already provide. This will aid all students, whether they are pursuing licensure or an alternative path. As a professional student organization, it is important to provide members with the tools to prepare them to pursue a fulfilling career.

QUESTIONNAIRE pg 2

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?

I believe that equity must be addressed in order to face the issues at hand, and develop effective solutions that serve all people. Otherwise, we risk continuing to be a part of the problem. The world is rapidly changing, and the field of architecture must work to acknowledge the mistakes it's made, and we must subsequently take responsibility for our future. This needs to be addressed in a timely manner and as students, we have the agency to provoke change within the profession through networking solutions and inspiring the people around us. "NCARB by the Numbers" shows that while there are decided improvements, there is much to be desired in leveling the playing field to allow individuals of all backgrounds to achieve their goals in architecture. Diverse voices are critical in creating sensible solutions to urgent problems. The inequities of access that are pervasive in this profession, with its exclusionary history, will not be changed without the active reframing of those that participate. The AIAS has the ability to undertake both grassroots efforts through its local chapters as well as larger, more concerted efforts through its national presence. Individual chapters have pioneered unique ways of addressing inequity in their schools and beyond. As West Quad Director, it would be my goal to empower chapter leaders to share these strategies and help bolster each other. In the capacity of an officer of the national board, I would champion these issues and solutions to expand the outreach of the AIAS.

I am also aware of the limitations of my own perspective, and the privileges that I have been afforded as I have pursued architecture. By elevating and placing importance on all voices, we can benefit and learn from a wider range of lived experiences in order to create impactful change. I believe that the Quad Director is a position uniquely suited to advocate for equity. As I seek this position, I am sensitive to the responsibilities that come with being the voice for many, and the consideration and care that must be dedicated. To be an advocate for every student in the West Quad would be my highest priority.

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?

One of the great strengths of the AIAS is how widespread its network is. This organization links together people who otherwise may not have had the chance to build a relationship. This comes with its own challenges as well. It can be difficult to bridge the gaps between chapters, and the time between conferences. Additionally, not every student has the means to attend national events in person. It is important to ensure that all students feel the full benefit of their membership, and the national backing that they have. To do so, outreach to members must be a priority.

QUESTIONNAIRE pg 3

One way that I would fill these holes is to utilize the social media tools available to the fullest extent. Sharing the work of chapters, as well as interactive polls and check-ins can create smaller, more casual points of interaction between students and the national leadership.

In line with this, I believe that resources that help communicate and connect students with the benefits of their membership would be a benefit to those aiming to grow their chapter. Many members will not seek leadership roles, or have the opportunity to attend a conference. Every student has a different reason for joining the AIAS, and providing them with the ability to easily access the resources that will aid the fulfillment of their goals will maintain and strengthen the affiliation that they feel with the organization.

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 am fully prepared to take on the responsibilities that come with this position. To serve on the national board is to guide not only the student members, but the organization at large. I have developed a robust understanding of the operational functions and needs through my term on the Governance Committee. Combining this experience with the skills honed during my years of leadership on the Montana State University executive board, I am well-equipped to attend to the nuances of this unique organization

As with everything else I have written, the heart of the AIAS is the students that make up its membership. To create a safe place to share our successes, work through our troubles, and deepen our camaraderie is of the utmost importance. To continue to develop the connection that drives so much of what we do, I would structure the Quad Pod Calls to allow for rapport to be developed on a personal level. Utilizing the West Quad social media accounts would additionally be a way to maintain a level of visibility, in a smaller, more casual way. I would work to meet every chapter where they are at, and provide them with the resources that are most relevant to them. There are a variety of factors, such as chapter size, history, or school support, that will impact the paths of action they may utilize. Regardless of any of these differences, however, we are all members of the AIAS. I will strive to deepen the bond that calls us together, through any means of support that I can offer.

November 13, 2023,

Letter of Recommendation for Rebecca Hennings, AIAS West Quad
Director Candidate;

AIAS West Quad Director Jury,

I was introduced to Rebecca the fall semester of 2020, when she was enrolled as a student in my second-year design studio at the School of Architecture at Montana State University. Despite the constraints and stressors imposed by the COVID pandemic, Rebecca performed at a remarkable level. The caliber of her work was exemplary under normal circumstances, and I marvel at her abilities and the tenacity required to complete her studio work at such a high level during such a challenging time. This example exemplifies Rebecca's unwavering commitment to her education and passion for learning.

Rebecca exhibited these same traits her involvement with the Montana State University School of Architecture chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). She began her MSU School of Architecture AIAS tenure in 2021 and then was elected to serve as the vice president for the 2021-2022 academic year, paralleling her third year in the program. The individual who was elected to serve as the president did very little to fulfill the obligations of the office, and Rebecca quietly stepped-up to serve as ex facto president while simultaneously serving as vice president. Her willingness to shoulder the responsibilities of both offices for the good of the chapter, while maintaining a positive relationship with the president even though he was not effective in that position, clearly demonstrated Rebecca's ability to gracefully navigate leadership challenges. As the MSU AIAS Faculty Advisor, I had a unique perspective to witness Rebecca's mature and collaborative leadership style as this situation unfolded.

Rebecca was elected to formally serve as president of the chapter for the 2022-2023 academic year. Her primary focus was to breakdown the silos between students in the various years of the curriculum, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all, not just AIAS members. She facilitated outreach events specifically targeting the first and second-year students including "milk/cocoa and cookies" during their studio deadlines, and sponsoring workshops to help introduce lower-level students to various software fundamentals.

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Additionally, Rebecca coordinated a series of workshops to prepare our students for real-world scenarios such as interviewing and salary/benefit negotiation strategies and applying for internships. Also, these workshops, open to the entire student body, included portfolio and resume' writing workshops. She engaged local practitioners and members of the School's Advisory Council to lead these workshops, thus increasing AIAS and the school's contact with the professional community.

For the 2023-2014 academic year, Rebecca again stepped-up and was successful in her bid for MSU's AIAS chapter vice president. In this role, she has created a co-governance model with the current AIAS president, eliminating the often-awkward transition in leadership from year-to-year, maximizing effectiveness of the chapter. Her humility to again serve the chapter, in a lesser role in title only, speaks loudly to her commitment to the chapter and her unwavering desire to see it succeed.

In this role, Rebecca's efforts were key in bringing back the annual Celebration of Architecture event, put on hold since the onset of the pandemic. This event is the largest annual fundraiser for student scholarships, featuring both live and silent auction items. In addition to raising money, Celebration offers students the chance to engage practitioners who sponsor tables for the event. Securing firm sponsors, live and silent auction items, and arranging the logistics was all accomplished in an incredibly short timeline of a mere five weeks!

As the AIAS chair for the Celebration of Architecture event, Rebecca put on full-display leadership and organizational skills, as well as ability to rally the support of AIAS chapter membership to make this year's Celebration an outstanding success! In addition to her "heavy lifts" on behalf of the chapter and school, Rebecca was appointed to serve on the AIAS National Governance Committee last year and the Student Health and Wellbeing Task Force this year, demonstrating her unwavering passion for supporting AIAS at the chapter and national levels.

Rebecca quietly leads by example. She is incredibly hard working, focused, and perhaps most importantly, KIND. These traits and have her on an extraordinarily positive trajectory both academically and professionally and make her an excellent candidate for the AIAS West

Quad Director! I give Rebecca my highest possible endorsement and I can think of no-one more deserving of such an honor.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chere LeClair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chere LeClair, FAIA NCARB LEED AP
Teaching Professor

November 22, 2023

To whom it may concern,

It is an honor to write in support of Rebecca Hennings as the 2024-2025 West Quad Director.

As current President of AIAS at Montana State University, I have been able to witness Rebecca's work ethic, positive attitude, responsibility, and outstanding leadership skills. I have been on the board with her for three years and have seen her succeed at President and Vice President roles. Rebecca is an excellent leader, always encouraging fellow students to become involved in AIAS and her fellow board leaders to do the best job possible. Her ability to delegate tasks has been beneficial in reducing stress and making sure everyone feels that they are part of a team. Rebecca provides a constant source of positivity, which is especially helpful when solving problems. Her commitment to AIAS and work ethic has helped our chapter create and host many successful events.

Rebecca's efforts have helped our chapter achieve our goals of increasing engagement, supporting more students, connecting to professionals, and creating relationships with faculty. An example of supporting students is her help planning and executing an "Open Office" event, where we rented out drafting tools AIAS owns to first year students. This allowed us to connect with students and decrease the cost of buying tools. We also held the Celebration of Architecture, which is a main fundraising event for our chapter and allows students to connect with faculty members and professionals. Rebecca had a major role in planning the event, and her hardwork and commitment made the event a huge success. Other events such as Lunch and Learns and firm tours were started by her and have been a continuing success that many students look forward to attending.

Rebecca has played a crucial role in reviving Montana State's chapter of AIAS and making it a successful organization. It has been an honor serving with her, as she is always excited and willing to help out when needed. Above all, Rebecca is comfortable being in leadership positions which benefits those around her. Her reliability, work ethic, and positive attitude would make her a great asset to the AIAS National Board of Directors.

For any further questions you can email me at reesesjostrom.aias@gmail.com.

Kind regards,

Reese Sjostrom
AIAS Montana State University
Chapter President 23-24



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS
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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: Rebecca Hennings

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: 

Date: 11/24/2023



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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: Rebecca Hennings

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: 11/24/2023

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



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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): Rebecca Hennings

Chapter: Montana State University

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Vice President

Email Address: rebeccahennings.aias@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: (970) 430-8007

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

o Facebook: _____

o Twitter: @_____

o Instagram: @squeakypumpkin

o Other: www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-hennings-aias-8abb09209/