



2024-2025 West Quad Director Candidacy Packet

Trevin N. Thompson, AIAS

University of Washington

trevint@uw.edu | 209.627.5578

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November 30th, 2023

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

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to announce my intent to run for the position of West Quad Director of the AIAS once again!

I know you've heard my story before, but in writing you today I find it difficult to not reminisce on my time with our organization. Some of my fondest memories are my earliest, from an introductory studio at the University of Washington, just three days after my high school graduation, to just a couple months later attending my first chapter meeting. I became enamored with the culture and community of us architecture students and the mentorship that AIAS provided. While I certainly remained an active member in both UW and WSU chapters, I never saw myself in a leadership position until I was pushed to run by past leaders. For this, I am incredibly thankful. Through my role as President of the Washington State University chapter and now West Quad Conference Co-Chair, I have grown so much both personally and professionally.

This experience in student service and leadership stemmed my belief in the value of an architectural education and the need to address its implicit hurdles. I, of course, found the platform of the AIAS to be the greatest avenue to develop solutions in this space. Now, transitioning to graduate school and a new chapter, I am driven to seek out a position on the Board of Directors in order to serve students outside of Washington. In respect to my fit for the role, I'm happy to again express my dedication to our profession and service to our community, I'm proud to speak to my successes as a chapter president in difficult times, and I'm eager to speak to my experience becoming a leader within a second chapter. I anticipate the following documents will provide better insight as to who I am for those who may not be as familiar with me.

Thank you so much Coop, for your time in reading my letter of intent, and your years of dedication to the American Institute of Architecture Students.

Best,

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

Trevin N. Thompson, AIAS

Bloom: West Quad Conference Co-Chair

WSU AIAS Past President

trevint@uw.edu

TREVIN N. THOMPSON, AIAS

209.627.5578 | trevint@uw.edu

AIAS West Quad Director Candidate

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Architectural Intern, American Capitol Group, Bellevue, WA

May 2022 - August 2022

EDUCATION

Master of Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

September 2023 - Expected June 2025

B.S. Architectural Studies, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

August 2020 - May 2023

INVOLVEMENT

American Institute of Architecture Students

Co-Chair, Bloom: West Quad Conference

July 2023 - April 2024

Member, National Finance Committee

October 2023 - May 2024

Former Candidate, West Quad Director

2023-2024, Election held January 8th 2023

Chapter President, Washington State University

July 2022 - June 2023

Member, National Freedom By Design Advisory Committee

August 2022 - May 2023

Design Lead, Freedom By Design, Washington State University

September 2021 - May 2022

School of Design & Construction, Washington State University

Teaching Assistant, SDC 140

January 2022 - May 2022 & January 2023 - May 2023

Teaching Assistant, ARCH 309

August 2022 - December 2022

Alpha Rho Chi

Treasurer & Vice President, Sostratus

May 2021 - May 2023

AWARDS

2023 WSU Architecture Book Award

May 2023

Rolf M. Burger Memorial Scholarship

July 2022

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Studio Culture

Self-published zine documenting the architectural education experience through film photography

UW ARCHITECTURE→

November 27, 2023

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

Re: Trevin Thompson, AIAS – 2023 AIAS West Quadrant Director Elections

Dear Mr. Moore,

I have been asked to submit a letter in support of Trevin Thompson's candidacy for the West Quadrant Director for the 2023 American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) elections cycle. This letter is to confirm that the Department of Architecture and the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington are delighted to support him in this effort.

Trevin transferred into our two-year Master of Architecture program from Washington State University this fall. While my interactions with him have been limited to date, they have been very impactful. As you know, Trevin, together with UW AIAS Co-Chair Faith Fullerton, submitted and presented the winning proposal for the 2024 AIAS West Quad Conference to be held in Seattle this April. I was incredibly impressed by their combined enthusiasm, vision, organization, and leadership in assembling the proposal. The materials were clearly organized with a compelling message, complete supporting documentation, and effective graphics including a well-produced video. I was delighted, but not at all surprised, by the proposal's success.

Since then, Trevin and Faith have been working with a conference advisory committee consisting of Melissa Neher, Executive Director of AIA Seattle; Walter Schacht, FAIA, Partner at Mithun (winner of the 2023 AIA Firm Award); Jean Joichi, UW Architecture Outreach Coordinator; and me. Collectively, we continue to be impressed by the exceptionally mature leadership displayed by both of these students and Trevin (who is a graduate student – Faith is an undergraduate) in particular. In fact, below is an unsolicited email message Walter and I received from Melissa.

Walter, I so appreciate the introduction to Trevin, Faith and AIAS. I am super impressed with Trevin and Faith's enthusiasm and leadership. I am grateful to both you and Rick for your support for these leaders who are going to be wonderful contributors to the profession.

This is exceptionally high praise from the director of the fifth largest AIA chapter in the country and one nationally recognized for its progressive advocacy, innovation, and leadership. Melissa's praise reflects my own experience in working with Trevin and I enthusiastically and unequivocally recommend him as the AIAS West Quadrant Director.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Mohler, FAIA, NCARB
Professor and Chair

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS
3950 UNIVERSITY WAY NE, SEATTLE, WA 98105
uwaiaas@uw.edu | 253-495-9748



November 27, 2023

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

Mr. Moore,

As the standing President of the University of Washington's AIAS Chapter, it is my sincerest pleasure to endorse Trevin Thompson's campaign for the role of West Quad Director on behalf of the UW Architecture student body.

Over my three years in the AIAS, I have yet to encounter someone as passionate and ambitious as Trevin. He truly lives and breathes by the ideals of our organization, with a deep commitment to the field of architecture and a genuine enthusiasm for fostering a supportive and engaging community among students. Trevin has an exceptional work ethic, as is evidenced by his engagement and leadership in every meeting with the UW AIAS officer team, Fundraising Committee, Conference Planning Committee, Professional Advisory Board, UW ArchPAC, and more. His ability to advocate for students, problem-solve, and persuasively communicate his aspirations for the future of AIAS, no doubt make him an ideal candidate.

It is with deep gratitude and respect that I reiterate the tremendous impact Trevin has had on our chapter's internal engagement, external reach, and relationship with the national organization, an impact that is already well-known among the UW faculty and student body. I credit Trevin entirely for inspiring the UW AIAS chapter to propose our winning bid to host the 2024 West Quad Conference, for which he has continued to lead relentlessly. Speaking as someone who has shared months worth of meetings, trips, presentations, and late work sessions with Trevin, I cannot imagine having a more responsible, cordial, and dedicated Co-Chair. In a short time, he has proven to be an invaluable member of our community and a cherished friend.

I wholeheartedly endorse Trevin Thompson for the AIAS West Quad Director position, with absolute confidence that he will contribute significantly to the success and growth of the West Quad.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Faith Fullerton'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

2023-24 UW AIAS Chapter President
Department of Architecture | University of Washington

CANDIDATE 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?

The AIAS has given me more than I could have ever asked for. Personally, I'm incredibly grateful to be a part of this vibrant community, and to have gained close friendships that persist even across thousands of miles. It's been a great avenue to connect with students not only interested in a similar career path, but those who are invested in advocacy and service to their peers in the face of the hurdles of an architectural education. Professionally, from the Washington State chapter leadership that pushed me to take on that presidency, I can't be more appreciative for the skills and development that I gained through that position.

From leading that chapter, I developed a **passion in supporting my peers not only in getting through their degree program, but I felt obligated to push them with encouragement and new opportunities to achieve greater things** both in and outside of the academic institution. It is what, in part, led me to bid for and receive the support of our quad to host the 2024 Quad Conference in Seattle. It is again through this passion for supporting the architecture students that follow me, and my **aspirations for change at the national level**, that has driven me to run for the AIAS National Board of Directors.

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?

Although I understand that it is an issue that this year's national leadership is working to address, I feel that a **reevaluation of the benefits and value of membership** is paramount to the Institute's. After attending my first Grassroots, I immediately was sold on paying those 47 dollars for the remainder of my time as a student. But after returning to Washington State University as our chapter's leader, I was met with the challenge of expressing the value of membership to my peers. Fortunately, within a relatively small architecture cohort, I was successful in increasing our membership from just 5 students the year prior to nearly 30 by providing benefits at the chapter level. I'm proud of the growth under my leadership but work at the national level needs to be made to support student leaders in serving their chapters.

I would love to move our board to seek out partners most relevant to our members as they transition to their careers. Though I'd like to recognize the work currently being done on this issue; the most notable success of these efforts is in the new partnership with Betterhelp. This partnership provides a well needed resource for students that may be struggling with their mental health and wellness during the sprint that is an architectural education. With a seat on our National Board of Directors, I'd continue to advocate for a multitude of these part-

nerships. A great example of these is in our former partnership with Black Spectacles in which students received discounts on their products with an AIAS membership. In addition to other partnerships, these **financial benefits of a paid membership** with our organization justifies asking college students to spend 47 dollars annually.

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?

Last year, in the wake of the pandemic, I focused most of my energy on the need for a re-evaluation of Learning & Teaching Culture. And although I feel there is still plenty of space for progress on this issue, I believe that our organization's capacity for advocacy could be best used in the rising issue of **student loan debt**. I likely don't need to preach to our community of students the severity of the cost of education, particularly in our field with all the additional costs of software, stationary, and physical models. These **extreme costs are only rising** at unfortunate rates, and this barrier to entry then brings about the concern for equity. Will future generations of architects consist of only those who are able to afford it, or those willing to put themselves into tens of thousands of dollars in debt?

In 2022, the AIA published a study of its membership documenting that **89 percent of members under the age of 35 took out loans for their education**, and after graduation owed an average of **\$53,200 in debt**. Compared to our friends in other STEM programs, we graduate with greater debt and see lower salaries, I find this issue to be most pressing to our generation's economic future.

While I applaud the AIA for their study and letter to U.S. Senate Committee leaders, I believe that a greater effort, led by the students most effected is imperative. As a 501 c3 non-profit organization, we have the ability to work with our publicly elected officials to discuss and **advocate for specific public policy**. I would push our board to seek out elected officials passionate about the student debt issue and invite them to speak with us about the student debt issue. We can push our members to advocate to each of their elected officials to make a difference, however small, on the crippling debt that most of us will face in the coming years.

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?

Some of my most fruitful personal friendships and partnerships, like those in studio, arise from others who come from completely different backgrounds. A specific example might be my friend David here at the UW who, as an international student from Nigeria, has opened me to a whole new world of design and theory never discussed in my undergraduate studies. Here in the West Quad, we are incredibly fortunate to have just as diverse a

population as our landscapes, from the temperate rainforests of my home in the Pacific Northwest, to the deserts and mesas of the Southwest. As we are the most geographically divided Quad, I want to push to **create spaces for our student bodies to meet in a virtual format to share their backgrounds and the impact it may be having on their coursework**. I hope to bring not only our Westie Besties together, but to reach out to representatives from other areas of the country as well as our international peers.

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.

To ensure the strength of our communications, I believe strongly in the benefit of continuity within leadership, whether that be at the chapter or national level. I would continue with our two previous West Quad Directors focus on **Slack and Email messages** to provide updates from the board. Additionally, representatives from our chapters meet on a monthly basis in our pod calls to share our experiences and potentially learn from one another. This has been a great avenue for students to meet in a group setting that is somewhat informal and provide our chapter leaders with the necessary resources, but I feel that it alone isn't the best strategy to promote inter-chapter relationships. In my presidency last year, I found the one-on-one relationships with leaders from other chapters to be the most valuable I've gained from the AIAS. Often these arise from our conferences such as Grassroots, but it is my intention that **fostering these relationships outside of our in-person activities be one of my main priorities**. In collaboration with incoming student leaders of our quad, I'd love to create a less formal space outside of the standard shared document and video call format.

In addition to my plan for our communications as stated above, I hope to make myself available to all of our West Quad members (westie besties) on a regular basis. I understand the difficulty in running a chapter, particularly when there is not an adequately prepared transition between leaders, so I hope to **support each chapter with all of the "back of house" resources** needed for their success.



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: TREVIN N THOMPSON

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



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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: TREVIN N THOMPSON

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

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



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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): TREVIN N THOMPSON

Chapter: UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): QUAD CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR / PAST PRESIDENT

Email Address: TREVINT@UW.EDU

Mobile Phone Number: 209.627.5578

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: _____
- o Twitter: @_____
- o Instagram: TREVINTHOMPSON
- o Other: LINKEDIN: TREVIN-THOMPSON-AIAS

