

GERARDO RUIZ

Northeast Quad Director
2026 - 2027 Candidacy Packet



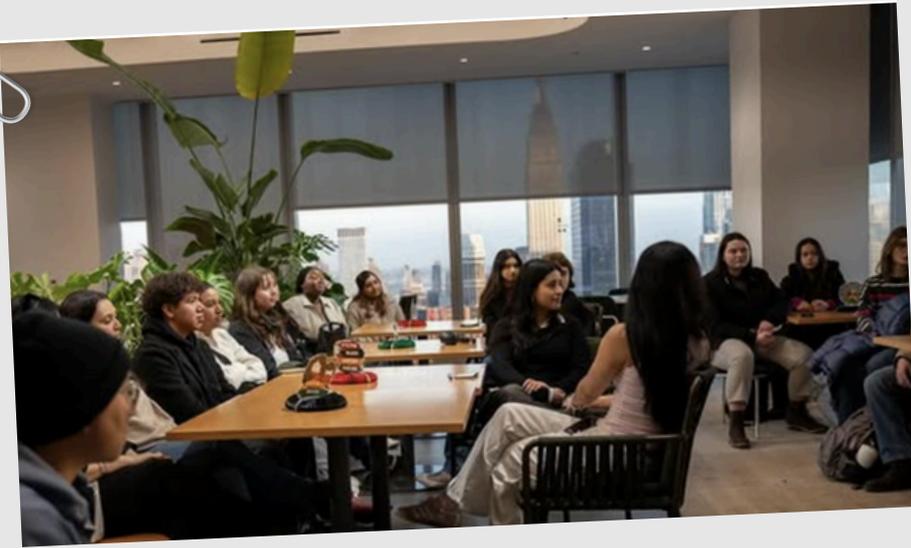


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November 1, 2025

Jordan Luther, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington DC, 20006-5292

Dear Past President Luther,

As the son of two immigrant parents, I had the privilege of growing up in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood that was filled with beautiful vibrant street art. The same art that gave voice to my community. When reflecting on this upbringing, I realized that our yearning for communal expression, although inspiring, was really a symbol that the architecture that inhabited our neighborhood rarely reflected our people. The revelations I found within this disconnect not only pushed me towards pursuing architecture, but they also helped me fully encompass the importance of representation. It is now my mission to help build places where community and belonging are not just a concept, but a lived experience. Those places don't only exist on a site, and it was this organization that showed me what true representation and belonging could feel like within our profession.

When I first got to college, I realized how isolating architectural education can feel. My freshman year was defined by the struggle of keeping up with the pressure and pace of studio culture, all while simultaneously feeling extremely disconnected. That sentiment quickly changed when I found the American Institute of Architecture Students. The AIAS helped me find a community when I needed one most. It has given me lifelong friendships, purpose, and a place where I finally feel that sense of belonging that is so crucial to me. Through this organization I was able to find my voice, and I truly cannot imagine having to navigate my college career without it.

For the past three years, as part of my chapter, I have dedicated myself to helping ensure that those around me, and those who come after me, get to experience that same sense of community I did. As I'm nearing the end of my time with my chapter, I am ready to continue that commitment on a larger scale. I'm honored to declare my intent to run for the position of 2026-2027 American Institute of Architecture Students Northeast Quad Director.

This organization has taught me many valuable lessons about leadership, collaboration, and service. These lessons have shaped the leader I am and the leader I strive to be. I am both excited and hopeful at the idea of using all that I have learned, to uplift and represent my peers to the best of my ability. Once again, it is truly an honor to run for this position, and I am grateful to all who take the time to consider my candidacy.

Cordially,



Gerardo Ruiz, AIAS
President at American Institute of Architecture Students - NYIT
Student, B.Arch. 2027

Contact**Gerardo Ruiz**

Email: Gruiz05@nyit.edu

Phone Number: 718-697-1411

Education**New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY**

Bachelor of Architecture, Literature & Culture

Organizations : AIAS , NOMAS

Experience**Chapter President** | 11/2024 to present

American Institute of Architect Students at NYIT

- Implemented a Freedom by Design program, expanding the chapter's outreach through community-based events and projects
- Launched a mentorship program connecting students with alumni to foster academic support and career guidance
- Organized and executed professional development events including firm tours, workshops, and conferences
- Oversaw all executive board roles and responsibilities, ensuring seamless operation and strategic alignment across club initiatives

Research Assistant | 01/2025 to present

New York Institute of Technology

- Supported academic research on Latin American urban development, with a focus on mid-20th century affordable housing initiatives
- Translated Spanish-language archival documents to aid in cross linguistic analysis
- Filed research materials, including the creation of a detailed timeline of the CINVA program

Staff Writer | 01/2025 to present

Manhattan Globe

- Wrote political commentary pieces, offering critical analysis on national and global issues
- Contributed original creative writing and poetry
- Assisted with layout design and formatting, ensuring cohesive visual presentation

Construction Laborer | 06/2023 to 10/2024

Apotheosis Construction

- Procured materials for client approval to ensure project quality
- Aided with enforcement of site safety protocols
- Coordinated and scheduled trades to maintain alignment with overall project timelines

Accomplishemnts**AIANY "Recipe for a Room" winner** : September 2024**Presidential Honors** : Spring 2023 to present**NYIT Merit Scholarship****Skills****- Rhino 3D****- Revit****- AutoCAD****- Adobe Creative Suite**

- Illustrator

- Photoshop

- Lightroom`

- Rendering**- Model Making****- Illustration****- Photography****- Microsoft 365****- Fluency in Spanish**

November 22, 2025

Gilberto Lozada Báez, AIAS, Intl. AIA
Jordan Luther, AIAS, Assoc. AIA, NOMA
Elections Chair and Past Presidents
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington DC, 20006

Esteemed Chairs and Past Presidents,

In my capacity as Department Chair, Associate Professor, and Faculty advisor at the New York Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Design, it is my honor to offer this correspondence in support of Gerardo Ruiz. I respectfully ask that you receive my sincere recommendation as he seeks election to the AIAS National Board of Directors and undertakes the responsibilities inherent to this distinguished role.

I can share with confidence that Gerardo demonstrates exceptional commitment and professionalism in his roles as a student leader, research assistant, and mentor within the NYIT SoAD community. As AIAS President, he has made meaningful and visible contributions, carrying out his responsibilities with both efficacy and enthusiasm. Under his leadership, SoAD students have benefited from a series of highly informative and thoughtfully curated events that will have a long-lasting impact on their academic trajectories and professional development. His ability to extend his reach beyond the boundaries of our institution has also led to successful collaborations with student leaders from neighboring distinguished institutions, further enriching our collective network and expanding opportunities for all involved.

Gerardo's influence extends well beyond student engagement. He works closely with the NYIT SoAD leadership team, including our Dean, Associate Deans and Department Chairs to secure funding, time and other essential resources for students. His initiative has resulted in tangible support for student participation in conferences, industry partnerships, networking events, mentorship, and community-centered activities. These efforts have created vital pathways for students to gain direct exposure to the architectural profession and have significantly strengthened the bridge between academic preparation and career advancement.

In addition to his leadership and organizational skills, Gerardo maintains exemplary academic standards, earning the respect and support of both his peers and professors. His dedication to intellectual and professional growth is evident inside and outside the classroom, where he consistently seeks opportunities to deepen his knowledge and broaden his impact. This commitment has been recognized through notable achievements and awards, including his selection as a recipient of the AIANY *Recipe for a Room* award in 2024.

I am therefore proud to endorse Gerardo Ruiz in his pursuit for office as National Board of Directors. If granted this opportunity, his leadership will be guided by his deep sense of civic responsibility, compassion, professionalism and collective interest for the benefit of the extended community.

Sincerely,

Trudy Brens, M.Arch., AIA, NOMA
NYIT SoAD Department Chair
Associate Professor | NOMAS Faculty Advisor
New York Institute of Technology
School of Architecture and Design



AIAS

NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY - MANHATTAN

04

November 10, 2025

Jordan Luther, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington DC, 20006-5292

Dear Past President Luther,

It is with the utmost pleasure that I write this letter to recommend Gerardo Ruiz for the Northeast Quad Director position of the American Institute of Architecture Students. I have always believed that passion is the foundation of success, and there is no better example of this than Gerardo's dedication to our New York Institute of Technology chapter.

I first met Gerardo last year when I was a freshman anxious to get involved in the field. He noticed my enthusiasm and immediately took me under his wing without hesitation. During our first conversation, he told me that he saw himself in me because of my passion for architecture, and from that moment he became not only a mentor but also a great friend. Since then, I have seen him devote every spare moment to our chapter, and his guidance has been a true privilege.

Although I am a few years behind Gerardo, I have had the opportunity to work alongside him in the fourth year studio and witness the deep respect his peers have for him. From the moment I stepped into the studio, I saw his models displayed and his drawings showcased, a clear reflection of the excellence and care he puts into his work. He is one of the most hardworking and dedicated students in his year, and that dedication is evident in everything he does.

Gerardo consistently goes above and beyond. In every meeting, event and conversation, his passion for AIAS shines through. He leads by example and inspires those around him to do the same. As president of our chapter, Gerardo has led with compassion, integrity and a genuine commitment to helping others grow. His dedication to strengthening our community has been extraordinary. Such that, together with our team, he successfully developed the proposal for our chapter to host the next Northeast Quad Conference. His vision for what our AIAS chapter could achieve was brought to life thanks to his organisation and leadership. I have no doubt that he will bring the same energy, kindness and unwavering commitment to the Northeast Quad Director role.

Cordially,

Maria Paula Navarrete, AIAS, NOMAS
Secretary at American Institute of Architecture Students - NYIT
Student, B.Arch. 2029

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?

For the first fifteen years of my life, all I ever truly wanted to be, was a lawyer. Being a first-generation child meant the concepts of culture and community were extremely prominent figures in shaping my upbringing. I've always felt an innate responsibility to make sure I gave back to the community who supported me, and immigration law felt like the obvious path to do so. However, over time I ended up growing disillusioned with the same systems I once dreamed of working within. I realized that I would rather be a part of building new forms of support for communities rather than uphold the structures that often fail them.

The AIAS is truly an organization where representation, identity, and belonging are not only discussed but actively cultivated. I have witnessed a deep passion for creating inclusive spaces and for the advocacy of all students. That passion for communal cultivation and for ensuring that present and future members can experience the same sense of connection and support that has even shaped my own journey, is exactly what motivates me to seek a leadership position within the Board of Directors. I hope to carry these qualities forward and to become a part of strengthening the culture of belonging and empowerment that defines our organization.

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?

I believe that our greatest strength, the ability to cultivate community, is also exactly where we have the most room for improvement. Although we are really great at creating meaningful networking opportunities at the national level, there remains a huge disconnect between chapter members and our broader national community. Evidently students experience a strong, supportive community within their chapters, but many have no clear pathway to transition into national engagement. It is no secret most chapters struggle to promote national membership, and I believe this gap is exactly why, especially when the only real taste many students have for our national community is through conferences. An opportunity which not everyone has the ability to attend.

To address this issue, I believe the organization should create a third tier of membership: a free national membership that exists between chapter involvement and paid national membership. While it wouldn't offer the full benefits of paid membership, it would provide students with an accessible introduction to our national community. Although we are an established organization that provides amazing benefits, we are also competing for students' time and attention. We must meet students where they are and give them reasons to invest in us. Diverting our efforts towards finding solutions such as this one would not only help alleviate the burden of promoting paid membership, but it would also ensure we are continuing to build a community that is welcoming, supportive, and growing.

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 Board of Directors?

I believe a crucial issue for the AIAS to continue advocating for is economic accessibility within architectural education. We are all essentially pursuing a degree, and ultimately a profession, that in many ways is pay to win. From software subscriptions to fabrication materials to exam preparation, there are immense financial barriers placed on students, and they disproportionately affect those from underrepresented and lower-income backgrounds. While the organization has already taken some great steps towards a solution like securing discounts for ARE study programs, I think it's critical we continue expanding these efforts. Making the finish line cheaper is not just a matter of convenience; it is truly a matter of equity towards access to the profession.

Personally, I would also really like to work towards pushing this advocacy further by addressing the disparities between institutions. Some schools offer free software access or discounted materials, while others provide no such support. While it may be unrealistic to unify all institutions under a single standard, we can help set up precedents and develop resources that chapters can use to advocate within their own schools. This could include model proposals or setting up the building blocks for partnerships with companies willing to offer chapter wide discounts. It is important that we set our efforts towards alleviating the financial burdens placed on students. Ultimately, our goal should be to level the playing field so that a student's economic background or institution is not a detrimental factor in their ability to succeed in architecture.

4. The AIAS has over 250 active 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?

I believe that the Northeast Quad already has a really strong foundation for inter-chapter communication, but I would slightly adjust how we approach our engagement to ensure we're inclusive towards all chapters within the region. Right now, there is a major focus on cultivating networks within cities with dense chapter populations, such as New York or Boston. While this approach is evidently effective, it unintentionally leaves geographically isolated chapters out of certain opportunities. Through more regionwide initiatives that do not rely on proximity, I would work towards ensuring that all chapters are actively brought into conversations and collaborations.

A student should never receive fewer networking opportunities or feel like they belong to a smaller community just because of the location of the school they attend. By offering resources that help isolated chapters connect with one another, we can create a more equitable and connected membership experience across the entire organization.

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.

Anyone who has been a part of event planning within their chapter knows that our timelines become heavily dependent on the academic calendar. Chapter introductions happen at the beginning of each semester, and Beaux Arts Balls happen towards the end. Yet, outside of our summer leadership conference, “Grassroots,” engagement between chapters and national does not reflect this rhythm. I want to avoid communication like Hub Hangouts feeling repetitive or disconnected from what chapters are actually experiencing. I believe an effective way of combating this is to orient my communication/action plan around stages that mirror chapter timelines.

My goal for the year and for these stages is to create a more supportive environment where chapters never have to wonder about where they can turn for help. These stages would begin with ensuring chapters understand every support system national provides, followed by actively helping chapters build connections with other nearby chapters, as well as assisting them in forming and maintaining relationships with local organizations such as AIA chapters.

I want to help eliminate the feeling of reliance on an individual resource. Instead, I want chapters to feel comfortable navigating the full ecosystem of support around them so they can channel their energy into picking initiatives and collaborations that best fit their own workflow and community. My primary goal is to cultivate a year in which every chapter feels seen, supported, and confidently connected.

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: Gerardo Ruiz

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: 11/20/2025

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: Gerardo Ruiz

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: 11/20/2025

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.

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): Gerardo Ruiz

Chapter: New York Institute of Technology - Manhattan

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: gruiz05@nyit.edu

Mobile Phone Number: (718) 697-1411

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: _____
- Twitter: @_____
- Instagram: 13.gin.13
- Other: _____