

AIA California, Nominations for Open 2021 AIA CA Offices

Vice President of Professional Practice

[Background, education, professional history, and service to the profession]

Carina Mills is a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona's BArch program and began her service to AIA as soon as she moved to Long Beach and joined the local chapter. She served for only a few years on the local Board of Directors in the roles of Director and representative to AIA CA, before being asked to serve as VP/President.

Over the last 2 years Carina's perspective on practice issues has shifted as she took on roles of VP of the AEP, and Senior Director of Talent Management for a medium size firm in Long Beach.

[Philosophy, goals, and objectives in serving in this office]

Carina began her career dedicated to developing her skills as a technical architect, but she has taken on leadership roles to support practice improvements in each firm she's worked for. She is an exceptional communicator who often jumps in to help translate across stakeholder lines, and this strength has increased in value as she advances through leadership roles.

Carina has a deep love for the profession coupled with a tenacious commitment to change aspects of it. She harbors a genuine belief that everyone should have ample opportunity to find joy, reward, and life-balance in their career, and her work in AIA has often focused on empowering emerging professionals. In her term as VP of AEP, Carina has challenged the assumptions about mentorship and culture being tethered to in-person office work.

As VP of Professional Practice, Carina's primary ambition is to see our understanding of mentorship and culture evolve to be more inclusive of younger generations while honoring traditions of the profession that still serve us well. This is motivated by a passion for making the profession more inclusive and equitable, and understanding that junior talent pools have been increasingly diverse while leadership ranks remain mostly homogeneous.