

Robert L. Ooley, FAIA

Candidate for: VP Government Relations

Bio

Robert L. Ooley, FAIA, is an award-winning public-sector architect. He received the Grand Pinnacle from the Marble Institute of America, the California Preservation Foundation design award, and the Governor's Historic Preservation Award in 2012, 2015, and 2018. He was elevated into the AIA College of Fellows in 2015 for his distinctive accomplishments as the County Architect of Santa Barbara. He is the only County Architect in California to be elevated to AIA Fellow. As a three-diamond fellow, he is a Charter Member of the COF Heritage Society. He has served on the AIA- Santa Barbara since 2015 and was elected president in 2019. He also has served on the AIACA Board as the AIASB Representative. He is also a COF Southern California Regional Representative.

Mr. Ooley began his career in architecture in the private sector advancing from the "blueprint shop" to project lead in local Santa Barbara firms before joining the County of Santa Barbara in 1990 after receiving his California License. His work includes developing almost every type of building, from office buildings to detention facilities. He crafted some of the first ever adopted sustainable policies for a California county in 2000, work that has been replicated in other municipalities and continues to guide facility development in the county. His passion for historic preservation guided a 6-million-dollar rehabilitation of the Santa Barbara Courthouse- Hall of Records, a project gaining the attention of the U.S. Department of the Interior and contributed to the Courthouse being designated a National Historic Landmark.

He has spent the previous two years as Vice President of Government Relations, helping to shepherd the various issues of concern to our members through the legislative review process and regulatory rule-making agencies.

Philosophy

Robert is decisive and collaborative. No endeavor is ever accomplished in a vacuum or as the lone effort of one person. Collaboration is key to advancing common goals—however, collaboration without decision-making can only result in frustration and inaction. A systematic approach to problem-solving requires each person at the table to be engaged, involved, and invested in advancing a common outcome.

It is through the back and forth of the collaborative process that our individual views can be heard, the conversation can be facilitated, and a better result can benefit the whole organization. We gain the greatest satisfaction from being part of the process—the more we are engaged in that process, the greater the reward. I enjoy motivating others to be their best, relying upon the knowledge or expertise of those who are more informed than me, and drawing conclusions from fact-based data.