




2023 Nominee to the 2024 Board of Directors

Name:	Lynn N. Simon, FAIA	
Position Nominated for:	VP of Climate Action	
A 100-Word (maximum) summary of your background, education, professional history, and service to the professions.		
<p>Lynn N. Simon, FAIA, LEED Fellow has decades of experience in sustainability across tech, real estate, and AEC sectors. She recently joined Arup as a Principal and climate leader. She was Head of Sustainability for REWS at Google and a Senior VP at Thornton Tomasetti, who acquired her successful consulting firm. Lynn founded the AIASF COTE, served on the AIASF Board, and has been involved in the USGBC nationally leading committees, co-chairing Greenbuild, and serving on the Board. Lynn has a bachelor's degree in environmental design from UC Berkeley, and a Master of Architecture from the University of Washington.</p>		
A 200-word (maximum) summary of the candidate's philosophy, goals, and objectives in serving in this office.		
<p>Under Bill Leddy's leadership, the AIA Climate Action Committee has made significant advances on behalf of AIACA in education and outreach, codes development and adoption, and partnerships and engagement. My goal in serving as VP of Climate Action in 2024-2025 is to honor this legacy by continuing to advance and advocate for these efforts, with a focus on decarbonization. I will draw upon my decades of experience in leading and facilitating committees such as the USGBC Education Committee and AIASF COTE, educating building industry professionals as a LEED Faculty and public speaker, and accelerating efforts through partnerships and engagement. Examples include co-creating the Women's Empower building industry group in the Bay Area, and co-founding the ReGen Lab at Google, a gathering of diverse industry voices to tackle climate change.</p> <p>My leadership philosophy focuses on inclusivity and action through the creation of a clear, concise, achievable plan that has maximum impact! Time is of the essence. Over the next two years, in partnership with the committee, chapters and stakeholders, we will guide architects and building industry professionals by providing a roadmap and resources to decarbonize our buildings and infrastructure and create more resilient communities continuing to lead by example in California.</p>		
Candidates are also permitted to submit a letter of support for their nomination from any individual, AIA member or otherwise. This letter shall not be longer than 2 pages in length, including letterhead. Letters exceeding this requirement will not be accepted.		Nomination and additional supporting documents attached.

Next Steps:

- Candidates have received the virtual meeting invitation for the Friday, November 3, 2023 Board of Directors meeting.
- Candidates will give a speech not to exceed 3 minutes during the November 3, 2023 board meeting.

August 9, 2023

Board of Directors
AIA California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Board Members:

I am writing to nominate Lynn Simon for the position of VP of Climate Action for the AIA California Board of Directors. Lynn is eminently qualified for this position – she is both a green building pioneer and an exemplary leader.

Lynn is one of a handful of people in California who have led green building efforts from the beginning -- first within the architectural community, and later with affordable housing builders, public officials, and major corporations. Lynn is a tireless and enthusiastic educator and promoter for the importance of green building. And she has also been an inspiring team builder and mentor to many collaborators over the years. She will make an excellent board member.

Lynn was one of the earliest green building consultants in Northern California and has gone on to successfully lead green building efforts on many notable public and private projects throughout the state -- airports and transit centers, corporate and government offices, schools and universities, museums and environmental education centers. She has been the “go-to” person.

Lynn is currently a Principal at Arup in charge of Sustainability, Climate, Resiliency, and Environmental Services for their western region. She was previously the Head of Sustainability for Real Estate and Workplace Services at Google and has more than two decades of experience in climate and equity for tech, real estate, and architecture. Prior to Google, she was the Senior Vice President of Sustainability at Thornton Tomasetti, who acquired her successful consulting firm. She has a diverse set of skills in developing strong team and client relationships and building multi-disciplinary teams with a focus on carbon, waste, water, health, and EDI.

Lynn is both an AIA and LEED fellow. She received the SHERO Leadership Award in 2020 from the USGBC Pacific Region, and a Women in Sustainability Leadership Award from gb&d Magazine in 2018. In her spare time, she has served on the boards of several non-profits.

In short, it would be hard to imagine a better fit for this important position. I believe she will help lead AIA California with urgency on climate action. I strongly support her candidacy,

Sincerely,



Henry Siegel, FAIA
Communications Chair, 2020-2023
AIA California Climate Action Steering Committee



Date: 8.11.2023

Address: Board of Directors
AIA California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Attn: AIA California Board Members

Re: AIA California, Vice-President of Climate Action 2024-2025
Letter of Endorsement for Lynn Simon, FAIA, LEED Fellow

Dear Board Members:

I strongly recommend Lynn Simon, FAIA, LEED Fellow for the position of AIA California, Vice-President of Climate Action 2024-2025 and Chair of AIACA's Climate Action Committee.

Over the last few years, the AIACA Climate Action Committee has made significant contributions to the goals outlined in AIACA's Strategic Plan thanks to the efforts of a remarkable assembly of passionate experts whose engagement has paved the way for trailblazing achievements, including:

- Adoption of reach codes in dozens of jurisdictions across the state
- Legislation requiring mandatory continuing education on carbon reduction for licensed architects
- Approval of first-of-their-kind code requirements for carbon accounting in CALGreen

A critical component of these accomplishments has been strong and respected leadership, which the Committee has enjoyed during Bill Leddy's tenure in the position. In anticipation of the transitions that the Committee will see in 2024 and to avoid losing the momentum that exists, careful thought has been given to finding new members and a compelling candidate to propose for the 2024-2025 AIACA VP of Climate Action and Committee Chair.

I have known Lynn for 25 years and can think of no better person to take on this role. She is a highly respected, California-based, national leader in deep green building with experience in multiple types and scales of projects. In addition to her exceptional team building skills and equity awareness, her warm and engaging leadership style has been a key component of numerous successes and won many accolades over the years.

Those on the Climate Action Steering Committee who know Lynn, including Mike Malinowski, FAIA; Pauline Souza, FAIA, LEED Fellow; Bill Burke, and Henry Siegel, FAIA, support her enthusiastically and those who do not know her yet will surely become fans as well.

On behalf of the AIACA Climate Action Committee, I urge you to elect Lynn Simon to this position. We would be lucky to have her leading the team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Refvem', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sharon Refvem, FAIA, LEED Fellow

Associate Principal | Director, Sustainability Resource Group
Vice-Chair, 2020-2023 AIA California, Climate Action Steering Committee
President, 2019 AIA Silicon Valley

cc: Nicki Dennis Stephens and Mirna Douet, AIA California



25 August 2023

Board of Directors
AIA California
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

**Re: AIA California, Vice-President of Climate Action 2024 – 2025
Letter of Endorsement for Lynn Simon, FAIA, LEED Fellow**

Dear Members of the Board:

It is with tremendous professional respect and great personal pleasure that I submit this letter of endorsement for Lynn Simon, FAIA, LEED Fellow to become the Vice-President of Climate Action.

Our firm first began collaborating with Lynn in the mid-1990s when our newly formed practice was striving to do good design work that incorporated smart and economic sustainable design features, prior to the formalization of LEED Certifications. Since then we have partnered with her on multiple projects and consider her a partner, co-strategist and friend. We have observed and supported her career development as a firm owner, practice leader for global AE firms and as Head of Sustainability for Google. She has succeeded in whatever challenge or positions she has sought.

I also served with Lynn on the AIA San Francisco Board of Directors and always found her to be extremely thoughtful and practical regarding various chapter issues. She was willing to express her opinions and it was also quite obvious that fellow board members respected her insights and appreciated her wisdom.

Lynn's dedication and leadership in the sustainability world, and our profession in general, is unparalleled; she was the co-chair of USGBC's 2012 Green Build Host Committee, she founded the AIA San Francisco's Committee on the Environment, she served on the National USGBC Board and chaired their Education Committee and first LEED Residential Committee. She also was a Board member of LEAP – Arts in Education and currently sits on the Board of the Beverly Willis Architectural Foundation, advancing women and minorities in the AEC professions.

Lynn's work to date, has been impressive and it is imperative to me that our world needs more leaders of her caliber who possess extensive knowledge, who are capable of in depth analysis of complex issues and who are passionate voices for our profession and for the importance of immediate climate action. Therefore, I respectfully request that you carefully consider Lynn as the next Vice-President of Climate Action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Tom".

Douglas Tom, FAIA, LEED AP
AIA San Francisco Chapter President, 1998
Founding Principal

LETTER OF SUPPORT - LYNN SIMON



September 10, 2023

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT #2

Dear AIA California Board Members,

I am writing this letter to express my full support of Lynn Simon, FAIA, LEED Fellow for 2024-2025 Vice President of Climate Action.

In consideration of the duties of the VP of Climate Action, which require collaboration, education, oversight, and engaging and decisive leadership from an individual with deep knowledge of and expertise in California's environmental issues and policy, there's no one else that comes to mind than Lynn Simon.

At every step of my own journey through professional practice in architecture, Lynn has been setting a gold standard. I first became aware of Lynn's work during my first architecture job at a small firm in Mountain View, where she was the leading sustainability consultant on our most ambitious projects. Her work set the stage for my understanding of sustainability in practice. At my next position with a large firm in San Francisco, known for their investment in research and cutting edge design, I had the pleasure of working with her team at Thornton Thomasetti on large projects. This illustrated to me her valuable ability to make an impact at any scale, a skill that takes tremendous depth of knowledge and command of diverse teams. Now an owner of a firm based in San Jose, I have found the majority of our portfolio of award-winning and LEED Platinum projects were led by Lynn and her team. She is truly the go-to expert for deep green buildings.

Beyond her expertise in sustainable design, I was also fortunate to come to know Lynn on a more personal level through her volunteerism with AIA Silicon Valley's Women In Architecture Committee. Not only a skilled leader herself, Lynn had recently completed training to become a leadership coach to help others accomplish their ambitious goals, and offered to conduct a live coaching session for a WIA event, where I was selected as the coachee. This interaction came at a pivotal point in my life where I faced a number of challenges as a mid-career professional who couldn't see the right path forward. Lynn dedicated hours of her time to dig into my background and professional challenges, and in a room full of women who were facing or had faced similar challenges in architecture, she was warm yet firm as she helped me uncover and embrace my authentic self. I am so grateful for Lynn's support and insight - it's through her workshop that I found the confidence to start my own firm in 2018 designing off-grid, sustainable homes, going on to acquire a legacy practice in 2021 with a majority of LEED and Living Future certified projects.

Lynn is dedicated, knowledgeable, and is an effective leader that makes big, positive impacts on many scales and in many ways.

Reflecting on all that Lynn stands for, all she has accomplished, and the significant impression she has had made on my own career, I cannot imagine a more qualified choice for VP of Climate Action. We would be incredibly lucky to benefit from her leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Alissa Bayer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leah" and last name "Bayer" clearly distinguishable.

Leah Alissa Bayer, AIA, NOMA, NCARB
President, Architects FORA
2023-2025 AIA Strategic Councilor
2021-2025 AIA CA Board Member
2022 AIA Silicon Valley President