




2023 Nominee to the 2024 Board of Directors

Name:	Darrell S. "Rocky" Rockefeller, AIA	
Position Nominated for:	VP of Climate Action	
A 100-Word (maximum) summary of your background, education, professional history, and service to the professions.		
<p>Rocky, a SoCal native, is the Senior Partner at Rockefeller Kempel Architects. A Cal Poly SLO graduate, he has also taught at UCLA and Cal Poly Pomona. He has served as CA Representative and L.A. Director for AIA, and often as a National Convention delegate. He is a contributor to the Urban Land Institute and a founding member of the LA Street Car board. Rocky's unwavering dedication is evident in his passion for diverse, intricate projects, driven by his commitment to realizing the collective visions of the broader community through Adaptive Reuse, leaving an indelible mark on LA's architectural landscape.</p>		
A 200-word (maximum) summary of the candidate's philosophy, goals, and objectives in serving in this office.		
<p>I have fully embraced change within my own practice. My guiding principle is inclusivity – to “shut no one out” and ensure that everyone is given a seat at the table, literally, and is aware of the diverse needs of our team. I believe we have a duty to assist all generations of our profession through coaching, education, hands-on experience, and active engagement across the entire design and construction process.</p> <p>Leading by example and providing professional opportunities that nurture growth while fostering a profound sense of community and responsibility within our recent graduates and soon to be licensed architects is a key goal to our profession's success. Active involvement by all is one way to gain lasting change as we address emerging issues in our architectural community. I am convinced that this goal can be achieved through strong leadership, as well as the provision of abundant educational and professional growth opportunities within our architectural community.</p> <p>I am a steadfast advocate for adaptive reuse – the reclamation of underutilized buildings by breathing new life into them and their surroundings, all while often preserving the historic fabric of our communities is my idea of high-performance sustainable architecture. Repurposed buildings must leave a positive and enduring impact on both the built environment and the community, characterized by longevity, energy efficiency, aesthetics, and functionality. Leadership through adaptive reuse design is pivotal in crafting and maintaining a sustainable built environment for both current and future generations.</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.

OMGIVNING

September 18, 2023

AIA / CA
Board of Directors,

I am honored to write this letter in support for the nomination of D. Rocky Rockefeller, AIA for the office of Vice President at AIA | CA for Professional Practice Advisory Committee.

Rocky is well-respected, a mentor to many and known for his wisdom on a wide range of topics critical to the professional practice of Architecture. He has successfully managed his own practice for many years and exhibits those key traits we all aspire to in our profession by being a good listener and a willing colleague who shares his wealth of knowledge and shows leadership through integrity. He has been both a peer and a mentor to me for over 12 years.

His project type experience is vast and diverse covering nearly all building types and uses for which he is an active participant in all phases of his firm's work. His success is in part due to his openness, team building leadership and tenacious navigation through the maze of city challenges and approvals. As a consummate professional his collaboration and team building leadership has led small to large complex teams of clients, consultants and his own internal staff to success.

I have admired his work and that of his firm Rockefeller Kempel. Both of our firms have been very active in converting underutilized high-rise buildings in Los Angeles into housing utilizing the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance which has become the model for many other California Cities. His practice includes the complex project types that many firms shy away from and include many award winning historic restorations and conversions. His other work includes non-profits, ground up high-rise housing, boutique hotels, very high end custom homes, resorts, entertainment venues, restaurants, commercial core and shell, offices and retail. In addition to his practice and experience with a variety of project types and scales, he is dedicated to the AIA and has spent decades as a leader with the AIA.

You would be hard pressed to find anyone more qualified, experienced or knowledgeable for the task of leading the pro practice advisory committee and I urge you to elect Rocky to this office.

Sincerely,



Karin Liljegren, FAIA
Omgivning Architecture and Interiors
Principal + Founder

AIA member #30145062