




**2024 Nominees to the Board of Directors
Candidate Submission Requirements**

Name:	Debra Gerod, FAIA, LEED® AP	
Position Nominated for:	VP of Government Relations	
A 100-Word (maximum) summary of your background, education, professional history, and service to the professions.		
<p>Debra Gerod, FAIA, LEED AP, joined Gruen Associates in 1988 where she has been a partner since 2002. Debra’s specialty is the collaborative design and delivery of complex, public-use projects. Recent projects are focused on adaptive re-use, historic renovations, low carbon and ZNE solutions.</p> <p>Debra is a Regent of the California Architectural Foundation and served as the 2020 President for AIA California and 2016 President of AIA Los Angeles. Debra volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and Heal the Bay and was a long-time board member for the ACE Mentor Program of Los Angeles. Debra became a Fellow in the AIA in 2013.</p>		
A 200-word (maximum) summary of the candidate’s philosophy, goals, and objectives in serving in this office.		
<p>AIACA’s advocacy was what initially drew me to want to be involved in AIA California over a decade ago. As VP of Government Relations, I want to help members better understand the implications of different regulations, legislations, and policies and in doing so, learn which issues are most significant and impactful to the members.</p> <p>Yet this position is not just about advocacy. It is also about charting the future of the organization as we explore ways to ensure that the organization is responsive and relevant. My institutional memory will be valuable in guiding the discussions on issues facing AIACA in both advocacy and governance. In partnership with AIACA’s Director of Government Relations, Scott Terrell, not only a voice but also a bit of a filter, I will help identify what is important to our members with a focus on what is achievable so that our efforts net the results we seek. Inherent in this is the need to establish reasonable expectations for what we can accomplish and communicate these to our members. I will work to reinforce the long-term coalitions we have built and cultivate the relationships we have developed with those outside of our Institute that further our goals.</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 will receive the virtual meeting invitation for the Friday, July 12, 2024 Board of Directors meeting where the election will take place.
- Please prepare your speech to be given at the Friday, July 12, 2024 meeting. Each candidate will give a speech not to exceed 3 minutes in length.

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June 25, 2024
American Institute of Architects California Board of Directors
1931 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Nomination of Vice President of Government Relations

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Debra Gerod, FAIA to fill the position of Vice President of Government Relations.

Debra has been a past President of AIA California (2020) as well as a past president of AIA/LA (2016). She served on the AIACA Advocacy Advisory Committee prior to serving as AIACA President. With her previous experience at the local and State level, Debra will bring that knowledge to this important position.

Debra, as a firm principal at Gruen Associates and her many connections within our profession lends additional qualities to her ability to help guide our various advocacy needs. She has championed many of our advocacy efforts including our most legislation to document gender and race within the California Architects Board database to allow the profession to address the issues of equity, diversity and inclusiveness (EDI).

On a personal level, I have admired her “can do” attitude and her pragmatic style of leadership for many years. She has that unique ability to listen intently and build consensus. These characteristics will serve us well in her role of Vice President of Government Relations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Scott F. Gaudineer", is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Scott F. Gaudineer, AIA