




2024 Nominees to the 2025 Board of Directors

Name:	Mandy Freeland, AIA	
Position Nominated for:	First Vice President/President Elect	
A 100-Word (maximum) summary of your background, education, professional history, and service to the professions.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 Founder of first woman-owned architecture firm in Bakersfield, CA. • 2022-current Adjunct Instructor at Bakersfield College • 2021-2022 AIA California VP of the Academy for Emerging Professionals and AIACA Executive Committee. • Founded / Co-founded new connection communities: “Parents in Architecture”, “California Architects Collective” and “The Architects Lounge” • 2019-2020 Young Architect Regional Director, Southern California AIA Young Architects Forum • 2017-2018 Bakersfield HSR Historic & Cultural Mitigation Committee • 2018 AIA Champion for Better Communities 		
A 200-word (maximum) summary of the candidate’s philosophy, goals, and objectives in serving in this office.		
<p>Listen, Learn, and Lead the Way It’s important to open communication channels within our profession, to listen to the concerns of the professionals at all stages. An example of this is the Workplace Culture Shift Task Force, created collaboratively with the VP of Professional Practice to create a comprehensively representative perspective for actionable solutions in the workplace. I am eager to continue working on strategies for all career stages and generations, to create actionable solutions to continue to lead the way forward for a better profession. #culturepledge</p> <p>Expand the Innovative and Disruptive Advances Within Architecture We thrive on pushing the boundaries in California. We are unafraid of exploring and implementing energy-forward design strategies, collaborative regulatory and legislative solutions for the benefit of the people living in our state and being the first to create disruptive change for the better. It is an exciting time to continue the momentum within our profession.</p> <p>Develop & Expand Communications Efforts within AIA California I served on AIA California's Communications Advisory Committee since 2017 and was selected to an AIA National Task Force for Communications. My formal education extends beyond Architecture with a B.A. in Communications / Public Relations. I would like use this particular expertise in communications and public relations to further develop AIA California’s communications strategies, specifically with expanding our external communication to the general public to advocate for the value of hiring an architect.</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 8, 2024 Board of Directors meeting.
- Candidates will give a speech not to exceed 3 minutes during the November 8, 2024 board meeting. Speech can be in-person, virtually, or pre-recorded.

Attn: AIA California Board of Directors

Dear AIA California Board of Directors,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of nomination for Mandy Freeland for the position of 2025 First Vice-President/ President Elect for AIA California.

Six years ago, Jeff Gill, Executive Director of AIA Orange County, said to me, “You should meet Mandy.” It was during my efforts to organize a panel on overcoming adversity in professional growth, and after just one email exchange, Mandy agreed to participate. What began as a professional invitation has since blossomed into a profound and lasting friendship, and I have had the privilege of watching Mandy grow not only as a talented architect but also as a leader, mother, and advocate for women and parents in architecture.

Mandy’s contributions to our profession extend far beyond her architectural projects. She is an engaged and passionate member of the AIA, contributing at local, State and National levels, as well as through her dynamic social media presence. She has used all these platforms to unite architects, elevate women’s voices, and foster an inclusive and supportive community for those facing the challenges of parenthood in our field. Recognizing the unique adversities women and parents face in architecture, Mandy co-founded a Facebook group specifically to support these individuals. Her personal experience, paired with her dedication to mentorship, has provided countless architects with the resources and advice needed to thrive.

Throughout her career, Mandy has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership—whether at the helm of her own firm as an entrepreneur or serving as an AIA officer. As a member of the AIA Orange County board, I have observed firsthand the dwindling attendance in recent years, and I believe Mandy has the vision and capability to address these concerns by fostering a sense of engagement and camaraderie among all members. She has always emphasized creating positive, inclusive spaces where everyone’s voice is heard—a quality that will no doubt be crucial in reinvigorating our board’s work.

One of Mandy’s many strengths is her unique perspective, hailing from often-underrepresented Central California. Her election would serve as a bridge, promoting inclusion and collaboration across chapters. Her central location would also allow for easier in-person visits to both Northern and Southern California chapters, which will enhance communication and mentorship opportunities.

Mandy stands at the intersection of generational leadership—able to relate to those who paved the way before her while also deeply understanding the needs and aspirations of Millennials and Gen Z. Her forward-thinking plans and practical approach will resonate across all demographics of the AIA membership. She is also a savvy businesswoman, having successfully run her own architectural firm, and her financial acumen will be an invaluable asset to the board.

AIA California Elections
Letter of Nomination for Mandy Freeland
2025 First Vice-President/ President Elect

Mandy has served as a Committee Member on the AIACA Communications Advisory Committee for six years and held the role of Young Architect Regional Director for Southern California. She has led in various capacities within AIA California, including as VP of the Academy for Emerging Professionals, and was an outstanding representative of the AIA Golden Empire Chapter, serving in various capacities over the years as Vice President, President, Volunteer Executive Director, and Secretary. Among her many accomplishments, she initiated two incredible programs: the ARE/CSE California Study Hub and the Workplace Culture Shift with the Culture Pledge.

In 2018, she was also recognized nationally as a “Champion for Better Communities.”

I am confident that Mandy’s leadership, experience, and vision make her an ideal candidate for AIA president. Her proven ability to bring people together, foster positive change, and lead with integrity will guide the AIA to new heights.

Thank you for your time and consideration. It is with the utmost confidence that I support Mandy’s candidacy.

Sincerely,

Meghana Joshi AIA NOMA

Managing Principal

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