

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,

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