




2024 Nominees to the 2025 Board of Directors

Name:	Amy Eliot, AIA	
Position Nominated for:	VP of Education and Professional Development	
<p>A 100-Word (maximum) summary of your background, education, professional history, and service to the professions.</p>		
<p>Hailing originally from the East Coast, I have been a practitioner educator with a regional focus in Northern California since the 1990's and a passionate advocate for giving agency and voice to current and emerging professionals from every corner of our great state. Teaching at the California College of the Arts over the last 30 years, a tenure including curriculum development in professional practice, departmental and accreditation leadership, I have dedicated my career to addressing the challenges of reframing practice to define its value for future generations and open pathways to all those whose voices we truly need to hear.</p>		
<p>A 200-word (maximum) summary of the candidate's philosophy, goals, and objectives in serving in this office.</p>		
<p>We find ourselves in a challenging yet opportunistic time, characterized by economic uncertainty, political upheaval, societal transformation, and the irrefutable progress of climate change. This is a wake-up call to fully engage how we as architects can create powerful solutions that communicate our knowledge and vision to the world, and importantly, empower new generations of emerging architects.</p> <p>To seize this moment, I believe we must unflinchingly evaluate how we engage and support young practitioners from education into practice and address the structural and cultural issues that directly affect their opportunities. The last two years have seen meaningful progress through CAF and AIA CA initiatives -we must build on the Culture Shift pledge articulated by AIA CA in alignment with our core values in Strategic Plan 2023-2026. This is the moment to understand the imperative for creating foundational and deep-seated change, and key to that is dismantling silos that diminish our effectiveness, so we can support respectful and action-oriented dialog in its place. Bridging the gap between emerging professionals and practice leadership will be my top priority as VP to strengthen and diversify the pipeline into practice and create viable career pathways that enable young architects to thrive in whatever definition of practice they pursue.</p>		
<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.</p>	<p>Nomination and additional supporting documents attached.</p>	

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.

05 September 2024

To the Board of Directors for AIA California,

As a Principal of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and the current AIA San Francisco President, I am pleased to recommend Amy Eliot, AIA for the 2025-2026 term as Vice President of Professional Development and Education for AIA California.

Serving together on the AIA San Francisco Board since 2020, Amy and I share a passion for empowering the next generation. Strengthening our pipeline has been a particular focus of the AIASF chapter given the limited architectural schools in the Bay Area and the dwindling numbers of new members entering our local component. To address this, the Board created a Bay Area Local Intern Network (LINK) to supplement and strengthen the network between the regional architectural schools and our chapter, sponsoring eight local internships in its first deployment. As a California Board member and an active participant in the AIA San Francisco Board, Amy brought awareness of this successful local program to similar efforts occurring statewide. Acting in her dual capacity as AIA CA VP and as a CAF Regent, Amy facilitated merging the Bay Area LINK with the California Architectural Foundation "capX" Internship to bring more internship opportunities to California students statewide.

This year, Amy again embodied the philosophy of 'Think Global, Act Local' as our San Francisco chapter experienced higher than usual membership decline. To support the San Francisco Board addressing these non-renewals, Amy joined me in a series of meetings with AIA California Executive Vice President Nicki Dennis Stephens to unpack the demographics of these numbers, and how they can become part of a larger data set to create better assessment of our profession as well as those entering into it. Given this, Amy is doubling down her efforts statewide with the Architecture Education Task Force and Continuing Education Committee to better prepare California students studying architecture for the profession. She has brought back some potential program ideas to the San Francisco Board and we look forward to implementing them later this year to better support or local emerging professionals.

Her first term tenure as VP has focused on clarifying the "swim lanes" for all education and professional development activities both at AIA CA and how they interface with the component programs to avoid redundancy and create greatest value for our members. In 2023-24, one of those tasks involved her advocacy, support and evaluation of listening sessions for firm leaders and separate sessions for students to start to understand their different perspectives about the perceived "gap" which exists between academia and the profession. The resulting Workforce Readiness programs, currently in development, will offer online sessions which will address the practice skills and knowledge base for which graduates are often unprepared to deploy in practice, and which could lead to higher levels of responsibility and leadership, translating to higher earnings earlier in their careers.

Amy is an accomplished architect and practicing educator. She brings the experience of completing award-winning projects and leading multiple successful firms into the classroom. With an incredible ability to communicate the overall considerations as well as specific actions needed, Amy is a natural collaborator and is skilled at engaging others to proactively develop strategies in a people-focused manner. She is well suited to continue her efforts as Vice President of Professional Development and Education and evolve the practices of education to adapt to the changes in our profession. As a professor myself, I can attest that Amy is well qualified to advise on challenges on impediments of the current education process and identify opportunities to improve the transition of architecture students into practice. I recommend her without reservation.

Best,



Francesca Oliveira, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C
Principal, Technical Design, SOM
AIA San Francisco, President 2024
Adjunct Professor, Academy of Art University, San Francisco
francesca.oliveira@som.com

FOLLENWEIDER ARCHITECTS

architecture artistry advocacy

2674 E. Main Street E185
Ventura, CA 93003

Letter of Support
for Amy Eliot, AIA

September 22, 2024

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

Re: 2025-2026 Vice President of Professional Development and Education

AIA CA Board of Directors:

As the 2023-24 President of the California Architectural Foundation (CAF), I am pleased to recommend Amy Eliot, AIA as the 2025-2026 Vice President of Professional Development and Education for AIA California.

I have known Amy since 2022 when she joined as a contributing member of the CAF Board of Regents and in 2023 as the liaison to the AIA California Board of Directors Executive Committee. Her passionate commitment to better prepare California architectural students and emerging professionals within their chosen profession is well demonstrated by her enthusiastic contributions to CAF's new pilot program, California Architectural Practice Experience (capX), a beta-program developed by CAF to provide a framework for students to acquire architectural hands-on / practical experience. The program which was successfully launched this year, is outwardly focused on creating a community of firms, schools, and students working collaboratively to build a more resilient architectural profession within California. Again, Amy's commitment to securing a stronger future for young professionals and students is demonstrated by her willingness to volunteer her time as a mentor for the program.

Throughout her recognized and successfully long career, Amy continues to focus on strengthening the pipeline, through collaboration, communication and problem-solving and by supporting and identifying opportunities in order for students and young architects to securely advance within the professional arena in which they work. As a professional colleague, friend, and as a past member of the AIA California Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and as the current President of the California Architectural Foundation, I enthusiastically support and endorse Amy Eliot, AIA for the position of Vice President of Professional Development and Education.

Regards,



Mary Follenweider, FAIA LEED AP
2023-24 California Architectural Foundation President
2022-24 AIA Ventura County President
2021-23 AIA Strategic Council
2017-18 AIA CA VP: Government Relations
2010 AIA Santa Clara Valley President
2001-02 AIA CO State Government Affairs Chairperson