



Position Description: Emerging Professional Directors (North and South)

Role Overview

The AIA California Board of Directors is the governing body responsible for setting the strategic direction, overseeing fiduciary health, and ensuring that the mission, vision, and values of AIA California are advanced in service to the architectural profession and the public. Board members serve as ambassadors, advocates, and stewards for the organization, representing the collective interests of California members.

Emerging Professional Directors (North & South) are elected by the AIA CA Board to serve from a geographic area of California but their commitment in Board service is to AIA CA. They will vote based on what's best for AIA CA vs. what may be preferred by a specific constituency.

Key Responsibilities

- **Strategic Leadership**
Contribute to the development and oversight of AIA California's strategic goals and initiatives; ensure alignment with emerging professional member needs and emerging industry trends.
- **Fiduciary Oversight**
Review and approve the organization's annual budget, set the membership dues rate, financial reports, and key policies to safeguard the financial health and integrity of the organization.
- **Governance & Policy**
Help shape and uphold policies that govern the profession; participate in decisions related to advocacy, licensure, sustainability, equity, and practice innovation. Participate in the election process, selecting candidates for elected positions.
- **Member Engagement**
Represent the voice of members across the state; seek input from local chapters and constituents and communicate key decisions and initiatives back to them. Review/respond to annual report from California Representative Council.
- **Advocacy & Representation**
Serve as a public and professional representative of AIA California; engage with stakeholders including government agencies, educational institutions, and allied organizations. Establish advocacy positions, review and take action on legislative and regulatory initiatives impacting the profession.
- **Participation & Commitment**
Attend and actively participate in board meetings, committee assignments, and key events; be prepared and ready to collaborate.

Serve concurrently on the California Architectural Foundation (CAF) Board of Directors (CAF is the charitable 501c3 organization of AIA California.)

Term & Time Commitment

- **Term Length:** 2-year term
 - **Meetings:** Approximately 4–6 board meetings annually (in person and virtual), along with committee work and events
 - **Time:** Estimated 6–10 hours per month, depending on role and engagement level
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Ideal Qualifications

- AIA membership in good standing (AIA member licensed 10 years or less, Associate member or Student member)
 - For purposes of geographic election, the dividing line between Northern and Southern California shall be designated by the northernmost boundaries of AIA California Central Coast, AIA Golden Empire, and AIA Inland California (those whose membership is in any component above this line shall be designated as eligible to serve as EP Director North, those whose membership is in any component below this line shall be designated as eligible to serve as EP Director South)
 - Demonstrated leadership within the architectural profession or AIA components
 - Commitment to advancing the mission of AIA California
 - Ability to collaborate and contribute in a constructive, mission-driven manner
 - Understanding of the architectural practice landscape in California including issues facing future practitioners
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Key Qualities of Ideal Candidates

- Are passionate about shaping the future of the profession
 - Bring leadership experience with diverse perspectives and lived experiences
 - Value equity, sustainability, and innovation in practice
 - Are willing to listen, engage, and lead with integrity
 - Understands non-profit organizations, fiduciary responsibilities, and demonstrates leadership qualities; willing to dedicate time, energy and expertise
 - Elected or nominated by members in local chapter area
 - Shows up prepared, follows through, and is invested in making a difference
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What You'll Gain Through Service

- An opportunity to shape the future of the architectural profession in California.
- Connections with leaders across the state
- Non-profit leadership experience including a deeper understanding of financial and organizational management
- Personal professional development
- Expanded knowledge of advocacy, practice issues, and programs designed to support members
- A meaningful way to serve your colleagues and the profession in California