

2027 LEADERSHIP ELECTION

Candidate Profile



Carol Lanham, AIA

Candidate for Vice President

Term: 2027-2028

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Carol Lanham, AIA, Assoc. DBIA, is a Principal at Lionakis leading the firm's Southern California Civic Studio, with 40 years of experience in justice facility and public agency work. She has directed large teams through needs assessment, programming, design, and construction documents on multi-million-dollar projects, grounded in a collaborative, team-based approach to project delivery. Her AIA and industry service includes the AIA AAJ Leadership Group, past President of AIA Pasadena, past Chair of AIA OC Women in Architecture, and past AWA+D Mentorship Director. She currently serves as a Vice President on the AIA CA Executive Committee.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Service to the AEC industry has always mattered to me, not as a credential, but as a way to make the practice of architecture better for the people doing the work. I've learned that you can't drive change from the sidelines. If you want to actually shape outcomes for architects, you have to be at the table where those decisions get made, not commenting on them afterward. There's work to do and that's why I'm running for another term as Vice President. Project delivery has changed dramatically over the course of my career, first Design-Build, and now Progressive Design-Build, have shifted how projects get structured, how risk gets allocated, and, too often, how architects get positioned in the process. These delivery methods aren't going away, and the AIA can't afford to treat them as a side issue. I want the organization to take a stronger, more deliberate role in advocating for the architect's value and authority within these models — making sure that as delivery methods evolve, the profession's role in design doesn't get diminished in the process. That's the work I want to do if elected to serve on the Executive Committee.