

2027 LEADERSHIP ELECTION

Candidate Profile



Jessica Orlando, AIA

Candidate for Vice President

Term: 2027-2028

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Jessica Orlando, as Higher Education Practice Leader at Perkins&Will, has managed projects from single room renovations to entire campus redevelopment plans. She is a leader in the SoCal region, and also serves as the JEDI Principal Advocate. Jessica is the Founder of the Design by Diversity Day Block Party, a free event that connects students of all ages to design professionals through a day of activity. She is currently the President and Wildfire Response Lead for the AIA Pasadena & Foothill Chapter and spearheaded the creation of the 'Ask an Architect' public service program after the Eaton Fire in 2025.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

I decided I wanted to be an architect when I was 12 because I thought that architects merged art and science to make the world a better place. Over time, I have come to understand just how complex our field is, and the many challenges that we contend with on a daily basis, from managing clients and partners to supporting our own staff to running a business and managing legal risks. While I think we do still make a positive impact on the world, it's often fraught with many other challenges. One way to combat this is to double down on what makes us great design service providers: our empathy and human understanding. By connecting within our community and with the people we serve, we can demonstrate our value, both in the everyday and in times of great need, and we can find opportunities to create positive change in our typical practice. I hope that in having the opportunity to stay engaged within the leadership of the AIA, that I can continue to advocate for our members, but even more importantly—find ways to broaden our message and make it more accessible. Make architecture for everyone.