

2027 REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTION

Candidate Profile



Melody Tang, AIA

Candidate for Regional Director

REGION 5

AIA Orange County | Region 5

Term: 2027-2028

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

A 2022 AIA Young Architect Award recipient, Melody holds a B.Arch from Cornell University. She began her career at Bostwick Design Partnership and is now Associate and Technical Director at LPA Design Studios, leading diverse commercial, civic, and educational projects from renovations to high-rise campuses. Melody has served AIA Orange County as Student Design Competition Co-Chair, Design Awards Chair, Board of Directors member, Secretary, Vice President, and 2026 President. Her state and national contributions include serving on the 2025-2026 AIA California Board of Directors, jurying the 2026 Regional & Urban Design Awards, and speaking at the 2023 AIA Conference.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Architecture lives at the intersection of the practical and the poetic, combining logical problem-solving with human-centered design. Growing up as a Chinese-American and building a career that blends complex technical execution with effective communication, Melody excels as a translator and bridge-builder across disciplines, generations, and perspectives. On the AIA California Board of Directors, her objective is to leverage this collaborative mindset to elevate the collective impact of architects across the state while mentoring the next generation. Grounded in her experience leading diverse project teams of designers, engineers, contractors, and clients, she is dedicated to fostering productive dialogue that drives tangible action. With two years on the AIA California Board and over a decade of leadership at AIA Orange County, Melody brings both a current understanding of statewide priorities and local perspective. Her primary goal is to advocate for design that delivers real, lasting value to the communities architects serve. She believes architects hold a unique responsibility to shape environments that are sustainable, culturally resonant, and accessible to an increasingly diverse population. By aligning practical expertise with visionary service, she aims to strengthen our profession's capacity to craft meaningful, beautiful spaces that address California's evolving needs.