

2027 REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTION

Candidate Profile



Dennis Tanida, AIA

Candidate for Regional Director

REGION 8

AIA California Desert; AIA Inland California

Term: 2027

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Dennis Tanida, AIA is a Principal at Stantec in Los Angeles, California. Graduating from the University of Southern California School of Architecture, Dennis has practiced architecture in Southern California his entire career, designing projects throughout the world. His portfolio of projects includes arts and entertainment, civic, commercial, healthcare, higher education, hospitality, and public assembly sectors.

Dennis joined the AIA as a student at USC and has been actively involved with the AIA Inland California (AIAIC) chapter for 25 years. He served as AIAIC president in 2008 and 2011, secretary, board member and AIA California representative since 2009.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

As architects, we aspire to contribute to the human experience through our work. AIA California's mission is to support architects with resources that will help us achieve this goal. As a regional director representing AIA California Desert and AIA Inland California, my goal is to be the region's representative focused on issues and concerns that affect us. These include the advocating of proactive and reactive bills in Sacramento that affect our practice, navigating environmental sustainability and resilience impacts of our projects, and improving our client's perceptions of the value of an architect.

The profession of architecture is challenging in 2026. The amount of education, training and expertise we must possess as an architect has exponentially increased over the past two decades. The growing amount of available technological tools alone is overwhelming. We must always remember, architects are not a commodity. We are thoughtful professionals that tackle complex problems by developing solutions that create not only an object called a building, we ultimately design the day to day human experience. I look forward as your representative to engage with the AIA California Board on relevant issues that need to be addressed to make our practices successful.