2019 Slate of Candidates

AIA Florida and the AIA Florida/Caribbean Region gladly present this special preview of candidates for AIA Florida and AIA Florida/Caribbean offices. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on July 25 at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, FL. Delegate cards were mailed to component presidents on June 25.

First Vice President/President-elect (2021 President)

This office will be elected by nominations from the floor due to Stephen Panzarino’s appointment to serve the remainder of the vacancy of the term of the 2019 First Vice President/2020 President.

Vice President 2020-2021 (Two positions available)

Beverly Frank, AIA

Beverly Frank, AIA currently serves as the State Director for the AIA Tampa Bay Component. She has served the AIA Tampa Bay Component over the past five years in leadership positions – gaining valuable knowledge along the way of working collaboratively to help the component to promote the value of the architectural profession. Beverly sits on the advisory committee for the University of South Florida’s Florida Center for Research and Community Design and volunteers for the Wounded Warriors Ability Ranch. Her professional experience includes nine years with Gould Evans prior to founding BFrank Studio in 2016. As principal and partner of a teaching studio, Beverly is committed to bridging the importance of design and the business of architecture.

Philosophy

Elevating the profession through advocacy and professional development are two of the primary tenets of Beverly’s commitment to serve the AIA at the state and local level. She seeks to promote the value of the profession in the community and with civic leaders; acting as a mentor to emerging professionals. As Vice President of the AIA Florida Board, Beverly will do so with integrity and passion – remembering that the core meaning of “profession” is a calling, a vow, a promise.
**Vice President 2020–2021 (Two positions available)**

**Jason Hagopian, AIA**

Jason Hagopian is the managing Principal of the TSAO Design Group Miami office, which has been serving Florida for over 17 years.

Jason’s leadership extends beyond his executive responsibilities as managing Principal and includes active participation in the planning, design and production of projects.

Under his leadership, the TSAO Design Group Miami office has produced award winning projects for Clients such as Minotti Furniture, Princess Cruises, Citibank, Burger King, Ritz Carlton, Four Seasons, Axel Hotels, Westin, The Biltmore and WPP Group M.

Jason has served or is serving on several Associations and Boards including the Miami Center for Architecture and Design (MCAD) Board, The Pride Center at Equality Park (Board of Directors), AIA Miami (Past President, Membership Chair, Christopher Kelly Leadership Development Program Co-Chair), Rensselaer Alumni Association (Board of Trustees) and Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association (Allied Upgrade Member and Sustainable Hospitality Council), the City of Miami Beach Design Review Board (Chair) and Oakland Park Main Street (President).

Jason is a registered Architect in Florida, California, New York, New Jersey and Georgia.

He received his Bachelor of Architecture and his Bachelor of Building Sciences from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy NY.

**Philosophy**

I have been an active member of the AIA for over twenty years (in San Francisco and in Miami) and am excited for the evolution that I see happening in our profession and with the AIA. Serving as a president of the state’s largest chapter, AIA Miami, and being influential in its growth, it is personally gratifying to support the core values and goals of the AIA:

**ELEVATE PUBLIC AWARENESS** of the value of architects and architecture to society. We must always promote our value and encourage diversity and inclusion in our profession. The more we promote ourselves, the more effective we can be.

**ADVOCATE FOR THE PROFESSION** by championing the architect’s role in designing a better world. Every building that graces our skylines requires an architect’s stamp and signature. We must wholeheartedly believe we have the power to create amazing change in the world.

**ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE** that bring the transformative power of architecture to the built environment. Our up-and-coming leaders must be encouraged to look at the world in a way no one has imagined. Creative thinking and empowerment go hand-in-hand. The AIA must encourage and support its young leaders.
Vice President 2020-2021 (Two positions available)

Lindsey Perez, AIA

Originally from Missouri, Lindsey Perez moved to Orlando in 2010 and quickly became involved in AIA Orlando helping bring the idea of Women in Design–Kansas City to Orlando hosting the first Women in Architecture–Orlando meeting at DLR Group’s office in Spring 2011. Lindsey received both her Bachelor and Master of Architecture from the University of Kansas. Additional AIA Orlando and Florida involvement includes: Jacobs Leadership Institute committee; Women in Architecture – Orlando 2019 Chair; YAF Orlando 2011-2013.

"Without a doubt, my most memorable DLR Group project was being able to work on the Joplin Interim High School. It's not very often that you have the opportunity to experience first-hand how design can help an entire community respond to tragedy and rebuild in such a short amount of time."

A passionate advocate for integrated design, she works with project teams to incorporate sustainable strategies in every project. Lindsey is highly proficient with communicating and maintaining open lines of communication between all parties, with personal attention to every detail.

"Some of my best ideas come to me after spending time with my family. There's something about breaking away from the project that refuels the creative tank."

Philosophy

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” – Author Unknown

Volunteerism is a pillar of who I am as a mom, an architect and a member of the Orlando community. The perspective I bring to boards or committees is also as a Florida transplant. My point-of-view because of my Midwest upbringing allows me to bring other ideas for consideration. Though I have not served on the AIA Florida board to-date, I have served on a variety of AIA Kansas City, Orlando and Florida committees. I also recently served on the AIA National Leadership Institute planning committee helping shape our national agenda as well as Orlando’s as a host city. During LiI8, we covered a variety of topics important to our profession and how we as leaders influence the communities in which we live, work and play. One of the topics covered is very important to me and it’s a topic I bring to many boards I serve – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. AIA Florida can address the diversity of our profession and the inclusiveness of our design process in the communities we serve.
Vice President 2020-2021 (Two positions available)

Jennifer Suharmadji, AIA

Jennifer is a Senior Architect at Haskell in Jacksonville, FL. Prior to moving back to Florida, she spent the early part of her career at architecture firms in New York City, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She has a variety of project experience ranging from hospitality, to commercial, to industrial, and enjoys the aspect of the discovering creative solutions for a project through the process of drawing especially when it benefits the client. As AIA Jacksonville President in 2018, one notable effort was spearheading the submission to the AIA National Film Challenge in which the film received a Finalist award recognition. She served as AIA Jacksonville President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and Trade Show Chair. For the last three years, she has participated at AIA Florida Legislative Day and also on the AIA Florida Convention Committee. This year she is part of the inaugural class of the Jacob Leadership Institute. Outside of the AIA, she can be found volunteering her time and energy in philanthropic community organizations such as the Junior League of Jacksonville and the Rotary Club. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Design in Architecture from the University of Florida and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Architecture and good design are not a privilege but a necessity to life. Architects are the conduit to facilitate the implementation and influence of thoughtful solutions.

Philosophy

I believe in the Institute as the platform where architects can come together to have a collective voice for our profession. There is strength in numbers. Outside of academia, it is also the forum where intellectual forward thinking can evolve.

I believe in the future of our profession. I believe in cultivating the next generation of architects, through mentoring and training, to be leaders and stakeholders to their community.

As Vice President to AIA Florida, I will serve to propel the mission of the Institute by being an active board member by listening to the membership and working to achieve the goals of the board and organization.
Vice President 2020–2021 (Two positions available)

Associate Director at Large 2020–2021 (One position available)

Jonathan Villaman, Assoc. AIA

Jonathan Villaman holds a Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a Bachelors of Architecture from Florida Atlantic University. He also holds an Associate of Arts degree from Palm Beach State College in which he held the AIAS President position and played a key role in the creation of ArchAttack in 2011, which continues today. ArchAttack is a bi-annual final review competition in which students get exposed to practicing professionals and the design community at large. He is an active member of his chapter and received Associate Member of the Year in 2018 for the added value he brought to the membership. In 2019 he has continued his pursuit of adding value to the AIA by organizing lectures and social events that foster networking between professions within the construction and design industries. Some of these social events include, an upcoming tour of an award-winning local project, and the inaugural AIA Palm Beach and AIA Fort Lauderdale Soccer Tournament. The goal of the tournament is to expand the reach of the AIA both in professions and levels of professional experience. Jonathan is pursuing licensure in Florida while working at EDB Architects and Borrero Architecture as an Assistant Project Manager.

Philosophy

Architecture is the creation of space and has the capacity to influence our life in deep and meaningful ways, as such we must take every decision with the utmost respect and thorough considerations for its ramifications. As conductors of great construction works we must also understand the world outside our bubble and we must engage other professions to increase communication and ease the flow of information and the value we bring to the general public.
Regional Associate Director 2020-2021 (One position available)

Tamara Elena Perez Hernandez, Assoc. AIA

Tamara Elena Pérez Hernández is a passionate architectural designer, writer and editor based in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Throughout her academic journey, Tamara has pursued the crossroads between design, art and literature in an effort to broaden the boundaries of our discipline. She completed a triple bachelor’s degree in Environmental Design, Art History and Comparative Literature at the University of Puerto Rico while completing research on the relationship between Puerto Rican Festivities and the Urban Ephemeral. Her findings, which have been published at academic and design magazines, took her to the Czech Republic as the sole speaker from the Americas at Conference Ritualizing the City in March 2016. This same year, Tamara graduated with a 4.00 GPA from the prestigious Graduate program at the UPR School of Architecture, feat that won her the Jaime Cobas Medal awarded by the AIA, Puerto Rico Chapter.

Philosophy

Since serving as President and Senator for the Architecture School Student Council, challenging the status quo has been at the core of her academic and professional journey. Tamara strongly believes that that abuses of power in Academia should never be tolerated, that architecture education is in dire need of a shift that address the distinctly unique challenges that characterize the times we are living in, and that architectural practice at Puerto Rico and the USVI are worthy of a distinctive representation at the AIA. Being selected RAD would allow her to bring visibility these issues and work towards their resolution.

Together with her thorough preparation, Tamara’s philosophy of design as a method to exercise interdisciplinarity have allowed her to diversify professionally. She held the position of Executive Assistant at award-winning firm Fúster + Partners, has led multiple remodels at the residential sector in Puerto Rico and more recently worked under NFP Enterprise Community as Project Manager for Keep Safe PR: A guide for resilient housing in the wake of Hurricane María’s transit through the Caribbean in 2017. Currently, Tamara is in the process of creating an interdisciplinary trademark that encompasses research and artisan manufacture in contemporary discourse, while preparing for the ARE in her pursuit of architecture licensure.
Regional Associate Director 2020-2021 (One position available)

Sofia Salvat Mere, Assoc. AIA

Sofia Salvat Mere is a design professional who has been actively working in the architectural field for the past 12 years. A native of Miami, Florida, Sofia has had a hand in designing restaurants, bars and public spaces in Coral Gables as well as high end residential homes in Miami Beach and the Caribbean Islands. She is known for her keen attention to detail and dedication to aesthetics and functionality in all of her designs.

Sofia started her career attending a summer study at the University of Florida and continued on to pursue her Masters degree at Florida International University. She then began work as a junior architect at various firms in Coral Gables and has recently joined Strang Design as senior project manager. Her involvement with the AIA, along with her pursuit of licensure, has inspired her to become more engaged in the architecture community and hopes to mentor other aspiring architects.

Philosophy

A creative at heart, Sofia is always looking for new sustainable ways to bring traditional architectural methods to upcoming projects. Longevity, sustainability and efficiency are the elements that inspire her vision to deliver ease and harmony to the ever growing South Florida community. She is passionate about her city and its cultural, sustainable and progressive growth.