2020 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 a date yet to be determined. Delegate cards will be mailed to components 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

First Vice President/President-elect (2022 President)

J.J. Scott, AIA

A lifelong Floridian, J.J. Scott, AIA, LEED AP BD+C is currently the President/Principal Architect of MLD Architects, a 41-year-old firm based in Tallahassee. J.J. graduated with his Bachelor of Architectural Studies and Master of Architecture degrees from the FAMU in 2005 & 2007. He joined his firm, MLD Architects, as an intern in 2005, became a licensed Architect in 2012 and became owner/partner of the firm in 2015.

J.J. served three terms as Associate Director of AIA Tallahassee before being elected as Associate Director At Large for AIA Florida in 2011, Vice President in 2013, Secretary/Treasurer in 2017, and Vice President again in 2019. J.J. has participated in two strategic planning sessions, served on various AIA committees including Membership, Professional Development, Communications, Finance, Advocacy, Convention, Tellers, the Repositioning and Emerging Professionals Task Force, and the board of the Jacob Leadership Institute.

J.J. continues to serve on multiple municipal, non-profit, youth sports and religious boards and committees, including Monticello Main Street, Tallahassee Architectural Review Board, and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Board of Directors. His focus continues to be investing in the future of our profession through advocacy, communicating the value of our profession, service to others, and the development of emerging professionals.

Philosophy

Florida architects have a unique set of issues to consider; rising sea levels, school safety, hurricane recovery, viral mitigation, and seemingly constant attacks to erode our profession. To address those issues, AIA Florida must continue as a strong voice for the Architectural profession, and with that voice; articulate the value of our knowledge and services, convey the importance of our involvement in our local community, and advocate for growth and solidarity in our industry.

I believe AIA Florida should continue to educate the public about our important role in the development of robust and sustainable communities. AIA Florida must continue to empower the next generation of architects by giving them a voice and platform, learning and responding to their needs, cultivating the future of our profession, and constructing the pipeline for their involvement in leadership, in our association and local communities. We
must clearly communicate our efforts to our membership, and in doing so, we will illustrate the value of AIA membership to those outside of the association, bringing them into the fold and increasing the volume of our collective voice.

I want to continue to help build on our strengths, explore our opportunities, amplify our voice, and help lead the way to a successful future. I ask for your support.

**First Vice President/President-elect (2022 President)**

**Lourdes Solera, FAIA**

With 30 years of professional practice, Lourdes’ experience in both the private and public sector has given her a clear understanding of the intricate relationships and coordination needed to successfully deliver projects that fulfill the client’s needs. Both her clients and the construction teams have praised her hands-on approach to project management and how her leadership is a testament to the success that can be achieved when people within several organizations work and strive towards a common goal.

Lourdes is highly regarded as an architect committed to both public service and advancing the cause of architecture. She has been a dedicated leader at AIA for many years, leading the institute in many positions at the state and local levels. Lourdes was AIA Miami Chapter President in 2004, a member of the 2010 AIA National local steering committee, and served on the Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design. Today she serves on AIA Florida’s Board of Directors as VP for Professional Development, is co-founder of AIA Miami’s Women in Architecture Committee, and sits on Miami-Dade County’s Historic Preservation Board.

Lourdes holds a Bachelors of Architecture degree from Mississippi State University and has a Masters of Architectural History from the University of Virginia.

**Philosophy**

I believe the AIA plays a vital role in all our professional lives. In today’s world, where we are now working from home, the idea of what “quality of life” means has taken a drastic change. Cities and how we use them will change. How buildings are used and how we perceive them as part of our daily lives has been impacted in countless ways. Despite all these changes, architects can provide the insight and design solutions to this new normal. Each of us as an architect has a voice and through the AIA, we are one larger voice impacting public advocacy and community involvement.

Now more than ever, how we communicate the value of design is vital. We must continue advocacy for design and for our profession. We need to think outside the box how we as an
organization can help the profession and ensure value to our members while also providing design solutions for our buildings and cities.

AIA has been part of my personal and professional life for more than 20 years and I have received and given to the AIA more than I can list. It would be my honor to serve you as AIA Florida President in 2022.

**Secretary/Treasurer 2021-2022**

**Trevor Boyle, AIA**

Trevor is currently a design architect at HuntonBrady Architects in Orlando. He received his Bachelor of Design in Architecture from the University of Florida in 2010 and his Masters of Architecture at UF’s Orlando CityLab campus in 2015.

After graduation he became involved with the Young Architects Forum for AIA Orlando and stayed active with UF through teaching classes at the Orlando and Sarasota CityLab campuses for their Master in Architecture program. In addition to serving the YAF, in 2016, he ran for the Associate Director at Large position for AIA Florida. When his two-year term was over in 2018 he became the State Director for AIA Orlando and continued to serve on the state board. At the start of this year, he joined the Finance Committee for AIA Florida to better understand the financial workings of the organization.

At this time, he also serves on the board of directors for Black Architects in the Making in Orlando and is involved in workshops with students to introduce them to architecture.

In the small amount of free time that Trevor finds in between work and volunteering, he appreciates spending time with his wife and daughter.

**Philosophy**

As essential as it is to network and share information with peers in the industry, an architect must first and foremost be connected to the people in their communities. Outside of being an art form, architecture is predominately a service industry. Architects must be relied upon to provide this service to those who are in the most need. We are paid to be problem solvers. We must be a resource for our communities when they have a problem to be solved.

It should be our aim to be excellent stewards of our craft. As such, it is our job as trained professionals to emphasize educating the local community on the advantages of intelligent and purposeful design.
Secretary/Treasurer 2021–2022

David Huggleston, AIA

Born and raised in southern Maryland, David’s passion for conservation, preservation, and sustainable design came at a young age. He grew up exploring the Chesapeake Bay area in a community founded by environmental scientists. David learned the importance of balance between man and nature and is still guiding him to this day.

David attended the University of Miami, graduating in 1995 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. In 2002, he moved to Tampa where he attended USF School of Architecture and Community Design, earning his Master of Architecture in 2005.

David’s architectural experience includes governmental, municipal, military, healthcare, multi-family residential, commercial, hospitality, and forensic remediation consulting. He has been as adjunct professor at USF and the Art Institute of Tampa. David has managed the development of several sustainable design projects, and constantly strives to expand his knowledge of environmentally conscious design and construction.

David has dedicated much of his time toward raising awareness of smart growth and promoting safe and resilient built environments. He has held several key leadership roles in the AIA, including President of AIA Tampa Bay and Vice President of AIA Florida. David is currently State Director on both boards.

David is currently an architect for the City of St. Petersburg overseeing construction of the new St. Pete Pier™.

Philosophy

Today’s architecture profession, perhaps more than ever before, requires steadfast leadership, fortitude, and fiscal responsibility from AIA Florida. As Secretary/Treasurer, David will be laser-focused on the ever-important goal of maintaining a strong and financially healthy organization in support of its members. Florida architects expect and deserve their professional association to maintain the same level of service and excellence that has made AIA Florida the best in the nation. And that’s exactly what they’ll get.
Vice President 2021-2022 (Two positions available)

John Bryant, AIA

John Bryant is a native of New Jersey, and has lived in Iowa, Washington D.C., and New York City, before making Sarasota, Florida his home in 2010. John received an undergraduate degree in Music from Grinnell College and worked at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, prior to starting architecture school at the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation in 2004. He received his Master of Architecture from the University of Maryland in 2007 and was awarded the Dean’s Thesis Award.

John joined Sweet Sparkman Architects in Sarasota, Florida in 2012 and became a partner in the firm in 2018. John’s work at Sweet Sparkman has focused on community and educational projects, including award-winning projects for the Siesta Key Public Beach, Venice Public Library, and multiple elementary school projects in Sarasota County.

John has been an active member of the state and local AIA since moving to Florida, where he served as the President of the AIA Florida Gulf Coast Chapter in 2014.

Philosophy

I’m passionate about the civic role and responsibility of architecture. I believe the buildings we design need to serve their users and the public, first and foremost. For many people, a public building will be the safest and most beautiful piece of the built environment they can inhabit and feel ownership of. A great public building can strengthen both communities and individuals. I will bring this community-focused mindset to the Vice President position for the AIA Florida Board of Directors.

AIA Florida has built a phenomenal state organization that is a model for state chapters around the country. It is with a sense of service and gratitude that I seek the Vice President position for the state board. I look forward to the chance to serve and further the interests of our state AIA members and the community at large through this position. I respectfully ask for your vote. Thank you for your consideration!
**Vice President 2021-2022 (Two positions available)**

**Chris Culbertson, AIA**

Chris Culbertson grew up in Memphis, TN and attended the University of Memphis, earning a Bachelor of Science in Architecture. He continued his education in Atlanta, GA, obtaining a Bachelor of Architecture. Chris moved to Tampa Bay in 1994 and has lived in the Seminole, FL area since.

Chris is the President and owner of EMPAD Architecture in Clearwater, FL, mentoring his team and designing commercial projects in Florida and throughout the USA.

Chris has served the Tampa Bay AIA as West Director, Treasurer, President-Elect, President, Past President, and currently as a board member of the Tampa Bay Foundation for Architecture. Chris has chaired the AIA Awards, membership & nominating committees, and Meat Eat & Skeet events. He has learned considerably from and recognizes the importance of the AIA, the members, collaboration and its awareness to the profession of Architecture.

Chris is involved in many national and local corporate and community organizations. He helps to push Architectural agendas at the State Legislative Day in Tallahassee and is expressively interested in working with our political leaders wherever possible. Chris has been interested and involved in Advocacy for the Architect profession since becoming a part of the AIA.

**Philosophy**

It is not enough to simply work in your profession; you must contribute your help, guidance and knowledge to others in that organization and its related associations. I believe that a person’s maturity, growth and happiness comes from how adeptly they can help others. I believe the AIA is the best pathway to create this awareness and advocacy of architecture. I desire to further my involvement with AIA Florida to learn, contribute, and better serve the Florida Architectural members. I believe that I can better help the architect community, my peers, and promote a better working environment with my experience and leadership direction
**Vice President 2021–2022 (Two positions available)**

**Rhonda Hammond, AIA**

Rhonda Hammond is a principal at Hammond Design Group Architects, located in Tallahassee just completing its 20th year. She received her Bachelor of Architecture from Florida A&M University’s School of Architecture and Masters of Sustainable Design from the University of Florida. She began her career in 1993.

Rhonda has served AIA Tallahassee as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President/President Elect, and President in 2019. Under her leadership, AIA Tallahassee received the Pullara Chapter Award and an Excel Award Scholarship. She witnessed the impact architects can have while AIA Tallahassee coordinated disaster relief efforts when Hurricane Michael devastated 9 of the 12 counties it serves. Inspired by the Mayor’s Panel during Grassroots 2019, she organized a charrette with City of Tallahassee Mayor, John Dailey. Rhonda coordinated the Architecture in Education program at Pineview Elementary School in Tallahassee. She completed the inaugural JLI Leadership Program.

At the state level she participates in the Annual Legislative Day, and in 2020, serves on the Annual Convention Committee and as Vice Chair of Board of Trustees.

Rhonda further serves her community on the Tallahassee–Leon County Architectural Review Board and as Chair for the annual Market Days event that supports the local Natural History Museum.

**Philosophy**

I believe there is no more honorable a profession than that of an architect. We are privileged to design spaces that influence our lives and shapes our world. From the moment we are born until the day we pass—architecture affects our life’s experiences. With this privilege comes responsibility; to our world, our community, our clients, ourselves, and most importantly, to the profession of architecture. AIA champions our efforts to lead the way.

As Vice President, I’ll continue efforts to promote the value architects provide society as a whole and individual projects as well. Primarily, I’d focus on efforts to protect and enhance our practices through advocacy and member services. I would continue encouraging architects’ involvement in our communities engaging in the decision making process for several reasons. Additionally, my priorities would continue support and encouragement in the development of our most treasured resource—our emerging professionals. They are the future of the profession.
We also must address issues affecting our future—climate change and the resulting sea level rise, technology and future of architectural education, design’s response to pandemics and how it will alter the practice of architecture, all very daunting but possible.

I would be honored to serve.

**Vice President 2021-2022 (Two positions available)**

**Joshua Shatkin, AIA**

I knew I was to be an architect at age 5. Born in Brooklyn and raised in Zambia and St. Thomas USVI, I transferred from the University of the Virgin Islands to UF, where I completed my Bachelors and Masters. I worked with Cavallino and Associates in Gainesville for 16 years before starting my own firm, Shatkin Architecture, in 2010. I have been fortunate to work on a wide range of projects and have received numerous beautification awards from the City of Gainesville. I have organized many workshops, ranging from architectural design to spirituality. I served and chaired the Development Review Board for the City of Gainesville from 2003 through 2009. For my local AIA chapter, I have served in every board position. While on that board, I met Joe Garcia, AIA, who encouraged me to serve at the state level. I am presently serving a second term as state director. I am honored to be part of the AIA, especially proud of our AIA Florida reputation and the great work we do. I would love to continue the legacy and be of service to our architecture community.

**Philosophy**

Being of service has been a big part of my life. My mentors have shown me that getting out of self and helping others is a reward in itself. One of my mentors wrote a two-page book:

Page 1: Listen.

Page 2: And you will have said enough.

Listening and restraint are powerful tools that can be balanced with appropriate action. As I am a bit of a maverick, I believe if something is working and functioning well, then let it be, but if it can be improved, let’s think outside the box. As architects, we are taught to ask if that really is the best way, or how can we make it better. We are fortunate that our profession can assert positive influence on a wide-range of issues, as evidenced by our newly formed Resilience Committee, that is considering many issues which affect our communities, quality of life and environment. The saying “they did the best they could” has never sat well with me. There is always room to improve. Wherever I am able to be of service, I hope to improve whatever is in front of me, and that includes myself.
I appreciate your consideration of me for a Vice President position of AIA Florida.

**Associate Director at Large 2021–2022 (One position available)**

Rachel Holmstock, Assoc. AIA

Candidate information not received.

**Associate Director at Large 2021–2022 (One position available)**

Briana Johnson, Assoc. AIA

Briana is a Florida native who began her involvement with AIA during graduate school at the University of Florida City Lab–Orlando. After graduating with her Master of Architecture in 2017, she continues to cultivate their philosophy by actively engaging in community efforts and advancing the initiative to improve the built environment around the Orlando area. Her involvement with the Young Architects Forum (YAF)-Orlando has offered the opportunity to create real impact as a young professional in the industry.

Since 2018, Briana has contributed on the NEXT Event committee of YAF–Orlando Board to develop an event that highlights up-and-coming professionals and businesses through an engaging evening of networking. Simultaneously, she has also acted as the Co-Chair of Black Architects in the Making (BAM)–Orlando; a grassroots organization dedicated to educating and inspiring minority youth on the importance of architecture. Most recently, Briana was selected for the Jacob Leadership Institute (JLI) Class of 2020 and is eager to apply the principles she has learned.

Currently employed with DLR Group, she continues working on the path to licensure and encouraging her peers to do the same..

**Philosophy**

As a minority woman and emerging professional, I hope to be a prominent voice in the ever-changing spectrum of the architectural industry. By serving on the AIA Florida Board, I would use my platform to reach a broader audience and inspire others.

I believe in community, collaboration, volunteering, mentoring, leading, and going after what you want! Too often architecture is plagued with formalities and criteria under which we have historically operated, but great design and great leadership comes from taking great risks. The advancement of our society offers unlimited solutions to our everyday problems. It is our duty as architects to find these solutions, develop them, and put them into action. Our youth depend on us to lead by example.
My extracurricular work is grounded in provocative, sustainable, and innovative solutions for the future with a strong focus on adaptive reuse. As Associate Director at Large, I will encourage greater interdisciplinary collaboration and motivate others to pursue projects that have an impact on their immediate communities.

I will encourage my fellow emerging professionals to participate more, to collaborate and network, to mentor their peers, and get more involved through volunteer or professional efforts. Together, we can improve our design community!

**Regional Representative to the AIA Strategic Council 2021–2023 (One position available)**

**Bill Hercules, FAIA**

Bill Hercules inspires healthcare leadership teams by shaping their future places of care. He founded WJH Health, which resolves the architectural nexus of health and performance for future-oriented healthcare systems. He is one of two global triple-Fellows in the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American College of Healthcare Architects (ACHA), and the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). A recent Past-President of the international ACHA, the certification body for healthcare architects, he currently serves on the select national AIA’s COVID-19 Rapid Response Safety Space Assessment taskforce which advises federal officials.

He is a Past President of the Florida Foundation for Architecture, which under his guidance launched the People’s Choice Awards and the Architects in Education programs, which continue to connect the value of our region’s architecture to millions of people globally. He had served as a subject matter expert to the AIA Florida/Caribbean Strategic Council, and he is currently serving as the Senior Regional Representative to the AIA’s College of Fellows. He is also leading an ad hoc investigatory taskforce within AIA Orlando to define, amplify, and clarify an architect’s longitudinal career arc, from pre-collegiate dreams to post-retirement influence, which may become a national model for career development.

**Philosophy**

It is that same focus on the value of the architectural profession that has prompted Bill to seek service as the Florida/Caribbean Strategic Councilor to the national AIA. The role of the Council is to identify the internal and external forces affecting this value and meaningfully engage with them through research-based and continuous ideation about the values of the profession to support the AIA Board’s policies. Bill believes that professional value is a simple matrix of internal and external means, and personal and community effects. And these combine to clarify the meaning of one’s career, client satisfaction, professional impact, and community relevance. All of these require constant nurture and development to ensure the relevance of future generations.
As the Institute represents the profession in the often-conflicted space of public policy, the basic value proposition of architecture and its architects require is a disciplined and clear drumbeat supported by solid research and relevant data for our profession to retain its relevance.

Current and former Florida/Caribbean Representatives to the national Strategic Council, the current AIA Florida/Caribbean President, and a recent AIA National President have all encouraged Bill to serve in this position to advance our profession.