





# The American Institute of Architects **College of Fellows**

Path to Fellowship  
2020



The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20006-5292



## **AIA** College of Fellows

Founded in 1952, the College of Fellows is composed of members of the Institute who are elevated to Fellowship by a jury of their peers. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member. Elevation to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievement of the architect as an individual, but also elevates before the public and the profession those architects who have made significant contributions to architecture and to society.

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# A

# About the College

1952  
The College was founded in

And is comprised of:

Members of the Institute  
who are elevated to  
Fellowship by a Jury of  
their peers.



“

**Fellowship**  
is one of the  
highest honors  
the **AIA** can  
bestow upon a  
member.

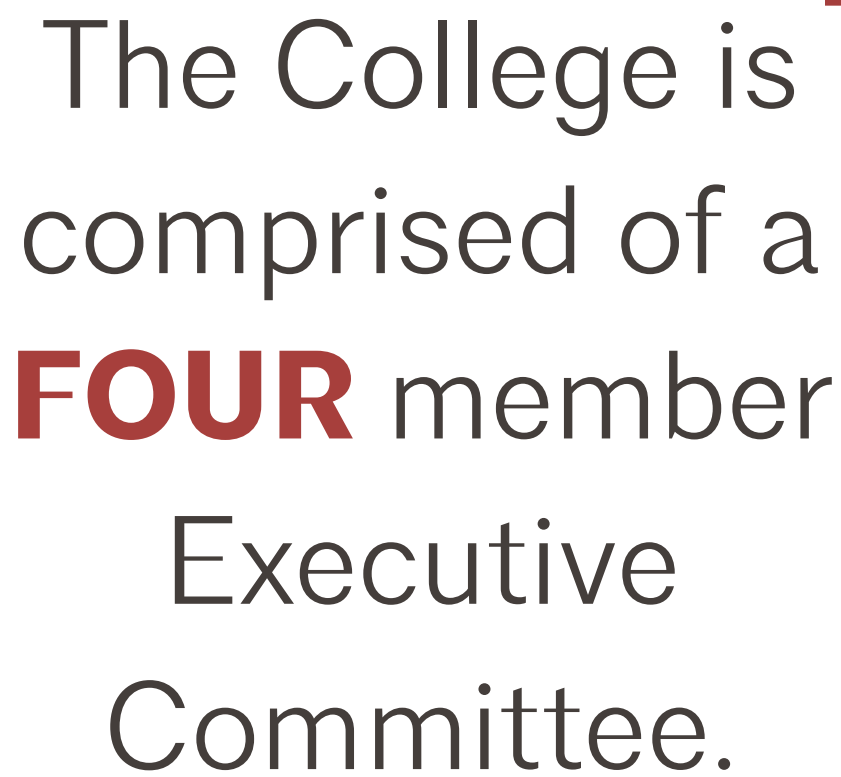
”

[only the Gold  
Medal is higher].

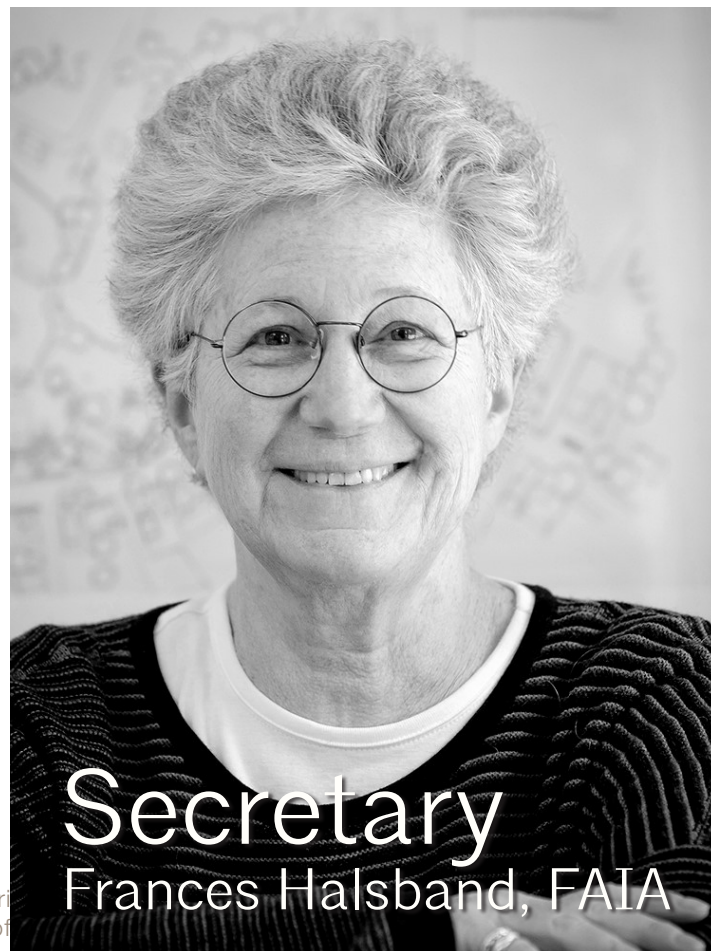
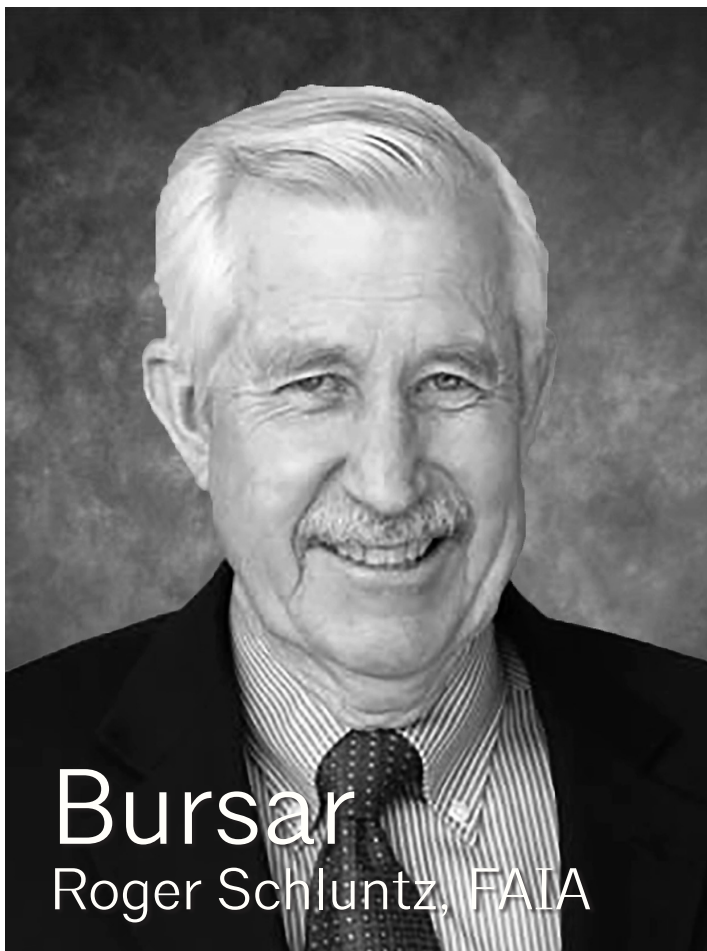
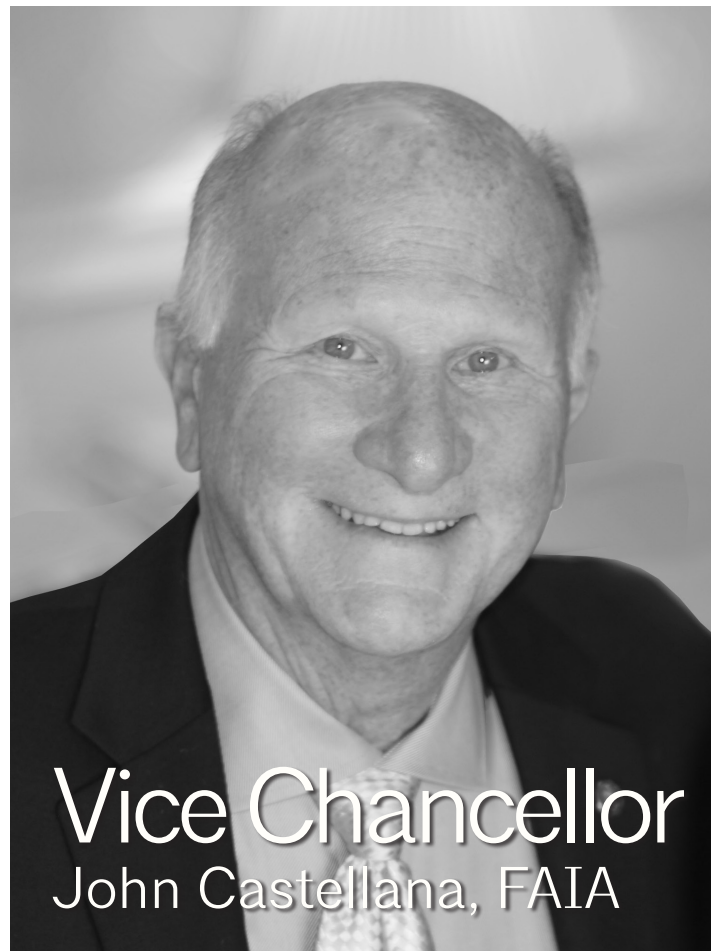








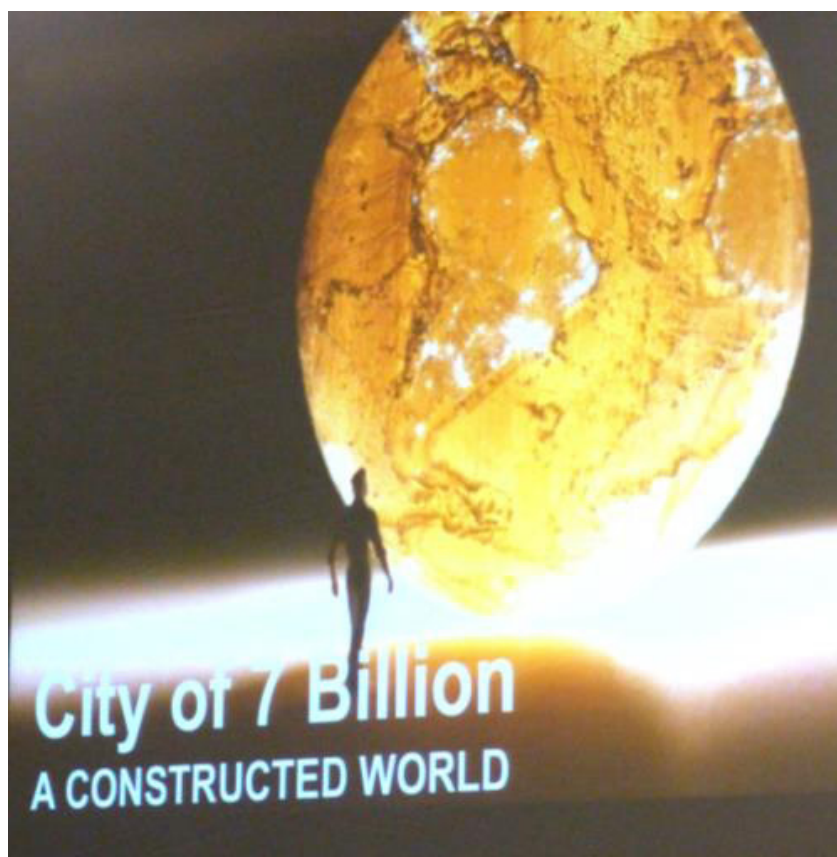
The College is  
comprised of a  
**FOUR** member  
Executive  
Committee.



# **Missions** of the College

# 1. Promote Research & Scholarly Work

The Latrobe  
Prize  
**A \$100,000**  
Bi-Annual  
Research Grant  
+  
EP Component  
Grants





# **Missions** of the College

# 2. Mentor Young Architects & Emerging Professionals

**YAF** YOUNG  
ARCHITECTS  
FORUM

MENTORSHIP | LEADERSHIP | FELLOWSHIP

A two-way mentoring program  
dedicated to lifelong learning and  
leadership development.

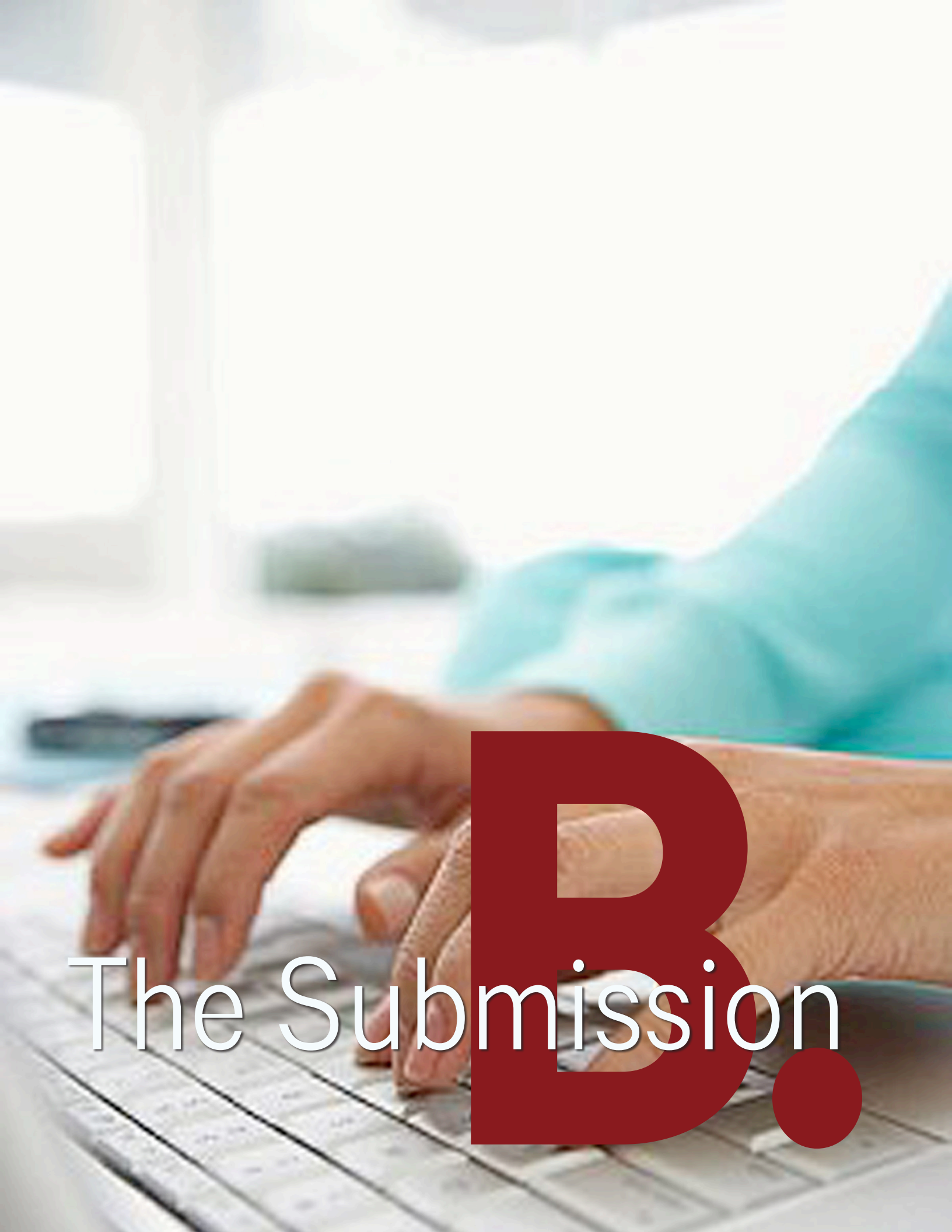
# **Missions** of the College

# 3. Sustain the College

Through  
Fellow  
Advancement  
&  
Building the  
College of  
Fellows Fund







The Submission

# YOU

## It's a Story about

- Who You Are
- What You've Accomplished
  - When It Occurred
  - Why it's Significant
- How it Benefited or was shared by the Profession
  - Then Prove IT!

with Documentation and Support



# The **Objects** (or categories)

1.  
Design

2.  
Education, Literature,  
Research, or Practice

3.  
Led the Institute or  
Related Organization

4.  
Advancement of Living  
Standards

5.  
Alternative Career,  
er, Service to Society





Design

1.

a.  
Design, Urban Design & Preservation

b.  
MUST have 5 projects where candidate  
is “Largely Responsible for Design”  
with proper signoff

c.  
Jury doesn't judge design

d.  
Jury looks for peer recognition through  
awards and articles



2

Education, Literature,  
Research or Practice

## **FOR EDUCATION:**

Show impact through “Teaching Tools and Student Work.”

## **FOR PRACTICE:**

Having a good firm is your job.  
How are you sharing with the profession?

## **FOR SPECIALTY PRACTICE:**

Show that through design/innovation  
that the field is better.

May not have Honor Awards – OK, but in lieu of those, expect to demonstrate sharing with the profession.



Led the Institute or  
Related Organization

## **LED THE INSTITUTE:**

Jury is looking for “So What?” factor.

Provide quantifiable results!

## **LED RELATED ORGANIZATION:**

Not enough just to lead it.

What did you do to connect it to the AIA?

Seat time is not important –  
what did you do?





# Advancement of Living Standards



## **ADVANCEMENT OF LIVING STANDARDS:**

- Government industry or organization.
- Need to document the benefit to the Institute.
- How is your work affecting policies?
- How are you making things easier for architects in the profession?



Alternative Career,  
Volunteer, Service to  
Society



## **ALTERNATE CAREER, VOLUNTEER OR SERVICE TO SOCIETY:**

- Show how contributions are significant because the nominee is an architect.
  - Volunteer work not used as a marketing vehicle.
- Must be clear you are NOT gaining commissions through volunteer service.



# **Submission** Composition

# **Sponsor Letter**

## **Section 1: Summary Statement**

## **Section 2: Significant Work**

## **Section 3: Exhibits**

## **Section 4: Reference Letters**





Your Sponsor

- **Must be a Fellow or an AIA member in good standing (for 10 years).**
- **Must provide a one-page letter of support.**
- **Should be your Best and Worst critic, someone that knows you very well!**
- **May sponsor more than one candidate, but be specific to each candidate and/or in different categories.**
- **Should be knowledgeable about your accomplishments.**



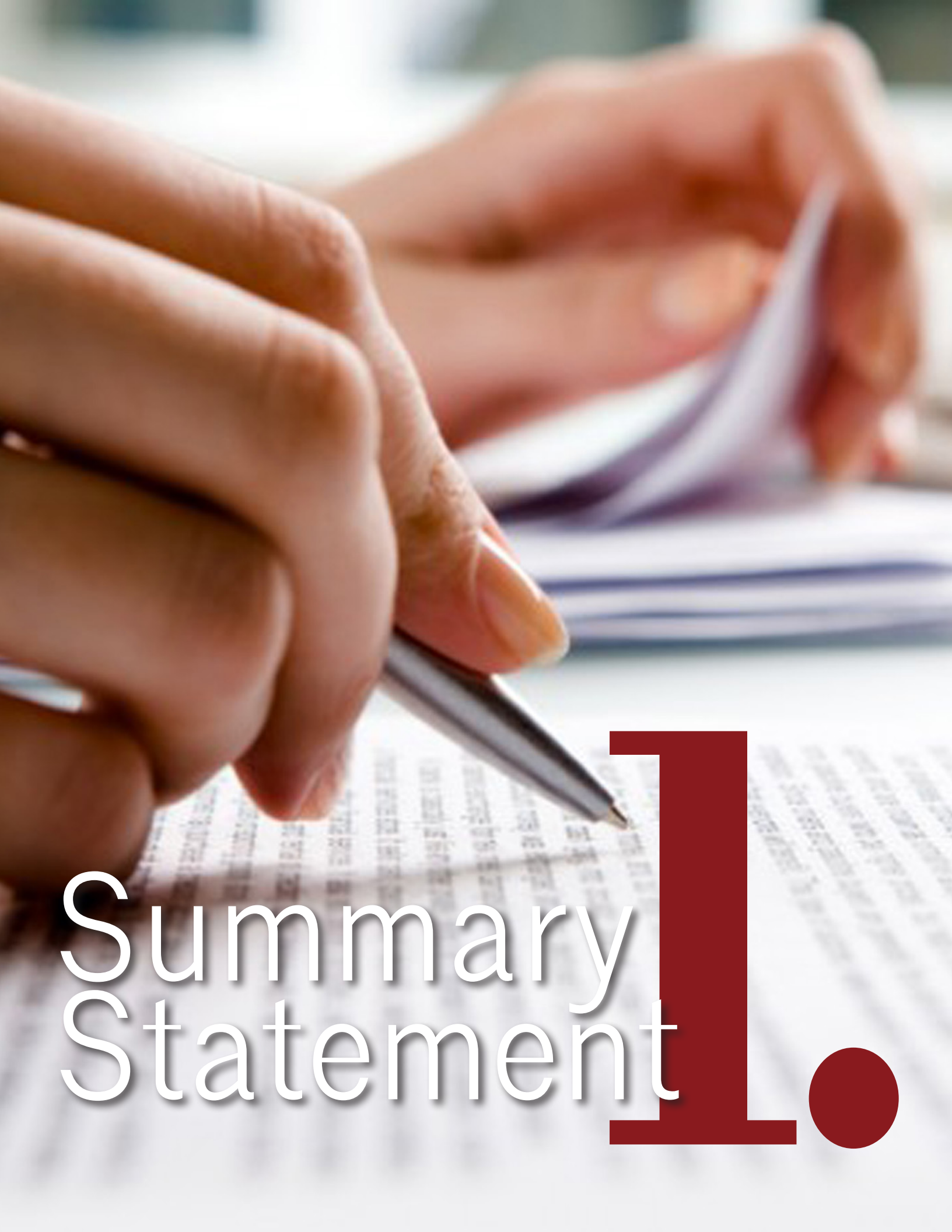


Your Sponsor



- **They should be closely involved in the Submission Process.**
  - **Their letter should speak directly and specifically to your achievements.**
- **They serve as a buffer between you and your references.**
  - **Lay it all out in the letter!**





# Summary Statement 1.



- **This is where you lay out your case. It's your "Architectural Tombstone."**
- **Focus on THREE main points, and expand them in Section 2.**
- **Be clear, concise and succinct, while restating claims from sponsor's letter.**
- **Prove "RIPPLE EFFECT" of work.**
- **Local work OK, but show broad impact!**
- **HAMMER IT IN!**



# Accomplishments 2

# 2.1

## **SIGNIFICANT WORK**

- Projects
- Jury Service
- Presentations
- Lectures
- AIA Service
- Civic & Volunteer Work

# 2.2

## **Honors, Awards & Recognition**

# 2.3

## **Publications (about or by you)**



2

Accomplishments

- **Demonstrate broad influence and impact.**
- **You can reformat, but keep in same order.**
- **Group similar accomplishments together.**

- **Jury needs a quick visual of:**

Lectures, seminars, awards & publications.

- **Work should support YOUR case first.**
- **Explain any time gaps.**
- **Divide up different types of awards.**
- **Make distinction about articles:**
  - about you or authored by you.





# Exhibits 3.

- **Exhibits should support YOUR case first.**

- **Show tangible results.**

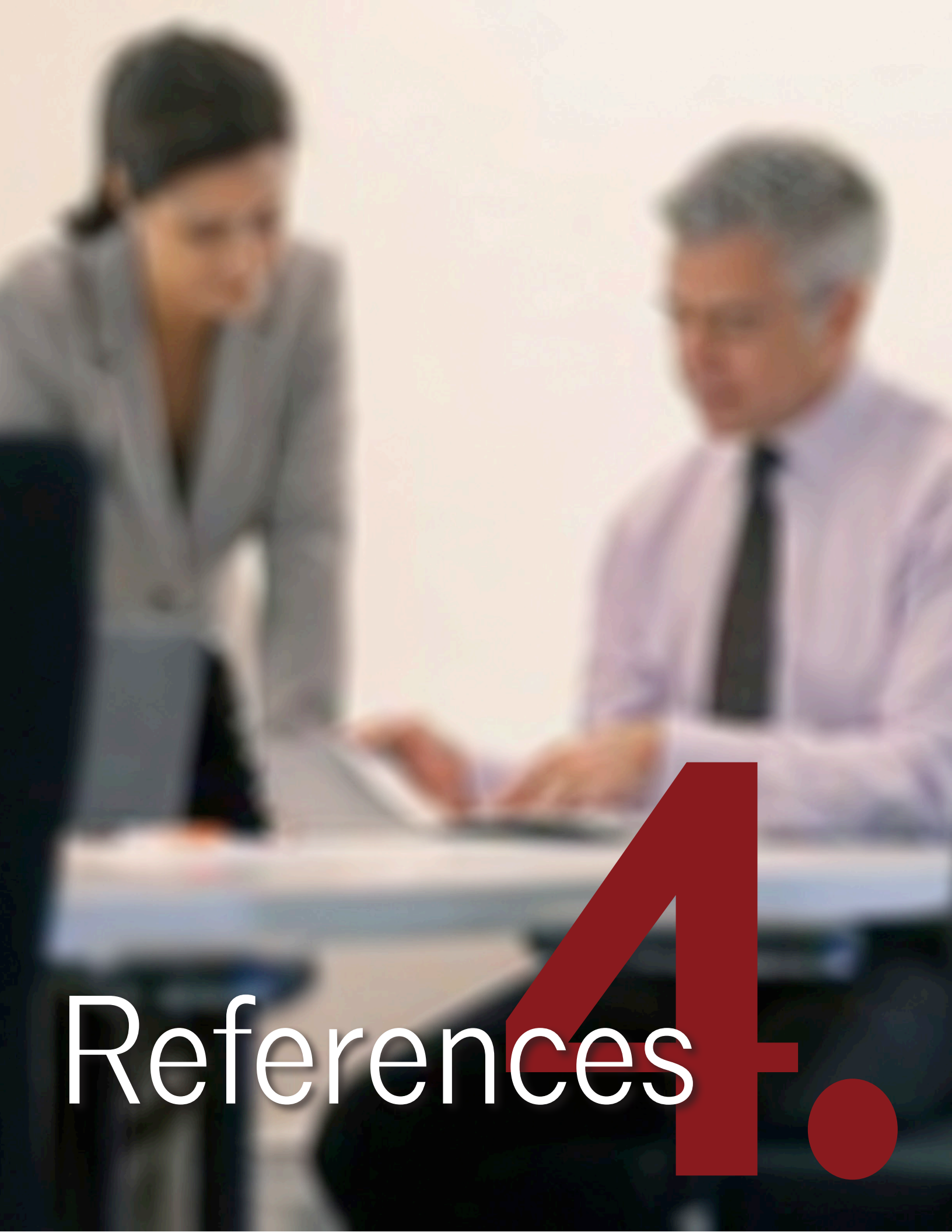
- **If submitting in design:**

Show a minimum of 5 projects.

**AND use only your strongest projects!**

- **If not in design, show them last.**

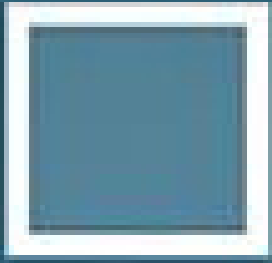
- **A picture is worth 1,000 words.**



# References

4.

- **Speak directly about your work.**
- **Seek those with a direct connection to you.**
- **Each reference should focus on one or two points from your Summary Statement.**
  - **Should be recognized leaders in your field.**
  - **Should have a broad geographic range.**
  - **Avoid “big names” offering no substance.**



# Summary

- **Prepare a Clear & Concise Presentation.**
- **Secure a Strong Sponsor.**
- **Secure Strong & Specific References.**
- **Support your Summary Statement.**
- **Focus on Results & Achievements.**
- **Demonstrate Influence on Profession.**





# The Jury Process



## **2020 JURY OF FELLOWS:**

- **Paul Mankins, FAIA | Chair (Iowa)**
- **Mary A. Burke, FAIA (New York)**
  - **Philip Castillo, FAIA (Illinois)**
  - **Mary Johnston, FAIA (Seattle)**
- **Nancy R. Trainer, FAIA (Pennsylvania)**
  - **Steven Spurlock, FAIA (D.C.)**
  - **Anna Wu, FAIA (North Carolina)**

Jury members represent a diverse geographical and object mix.



# The Jury Process

## THE JURY PROCESS:

- Candidates are presented alphabetically.
- Jurors review submission simultaneously.
  - Presenters draw attention to what does or does not support claims.
- Presenter answers questions from jurors and makes recommendation.
  - Jury discussion 10–12 minutes total.

**THEREFORE** it is critical that your submission be clear, concise and results oriented.

- Document **YOUR** influence on the profession.



# The Jury Process





## **JURY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Each juror reviews 1/7 th of total submissions (approximately 30 – 35 per juror)
- Presents assigned candidates.
- Each juror reviews the summary section for each and every candidate.
- **Rule – a juror may not review candidates from their own firm or region or if they served together on a national board or committee.**



# The Jury Process

## **VOTING PROCESS:**

- Only six jurors vote – one sits out (juror from their region or firm, or next presenter).
- Takes a minimum 4 votes for elevation.
- Unanimous vote is NOT REQUIRED.
  - Ties are set aside until the end.



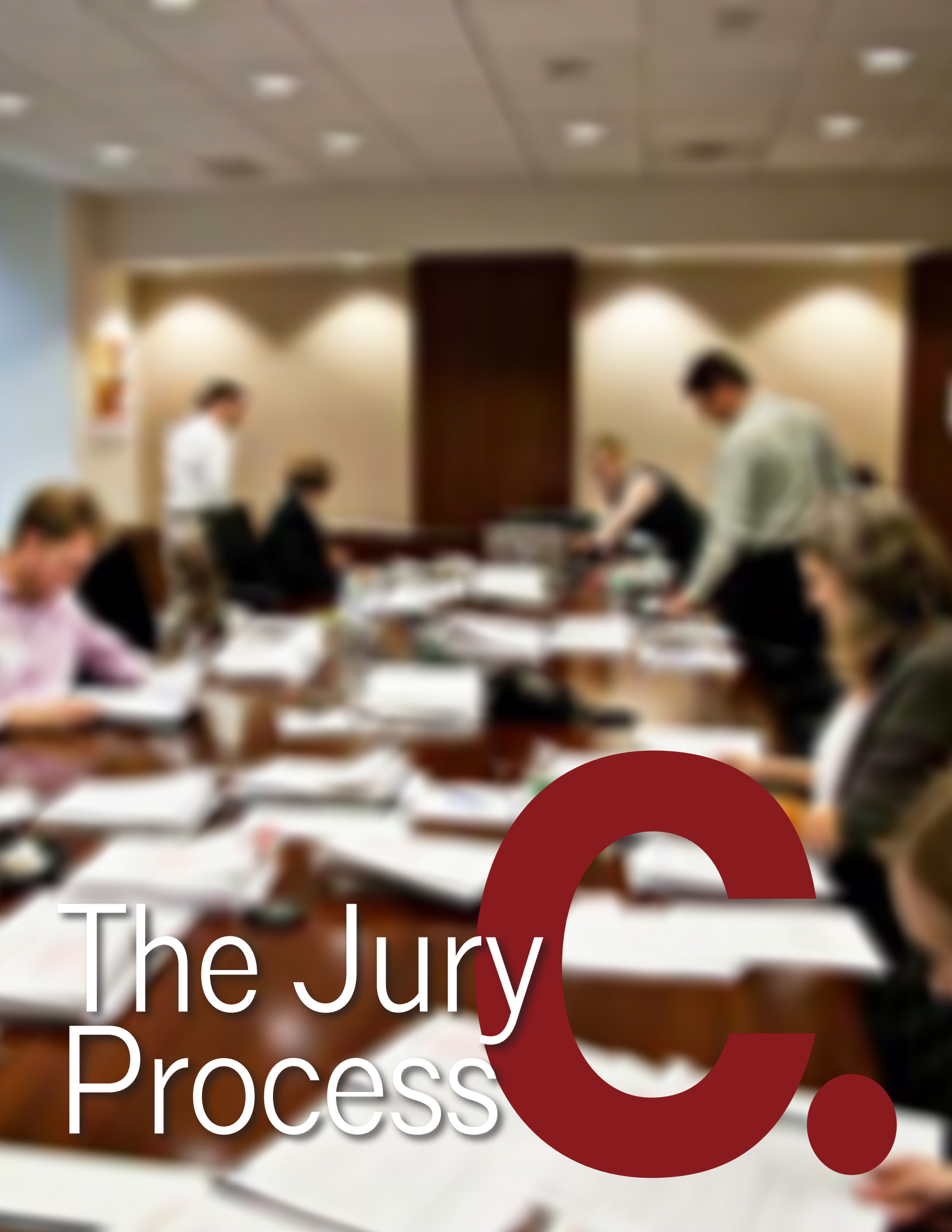
# The Jury Process



## WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

- Has nominee been nationally recognized?
- Has the nominee had a “ripple effect”?
  - What are those ripple effects?
- Has the nominee been active in the AIA?





# The Jury Process



## WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

- Strong, specific sponsor letter.
- Strong, specific reference letters.
- Well organized submission, not to exceed 40 pages. Ten point font is the minimum!
- Clear, concise summary statement that is not over-reaching.
- High quality images/exhibits.
  - Consistency
  - Leadership
  - Results



# The Jury Process



# WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

## **Distinguished Body of Work**

- Published work
- Award recognition

## **Notable Contributions**

- Impact on other practices
  - Lecturing
- National leadership





# The Jury Process





# **WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:**

## **Widespread Recognition of Results**

- Publications
  - Awards
- Requests to speak
- Requests to serve on juries

## **Sharing of Knowledge or Expertise**

- Speaking and leading seminars
- Publications in architecture journals
- Publications in associated professional journals
  - National news media coverage
  - Published peer recognition



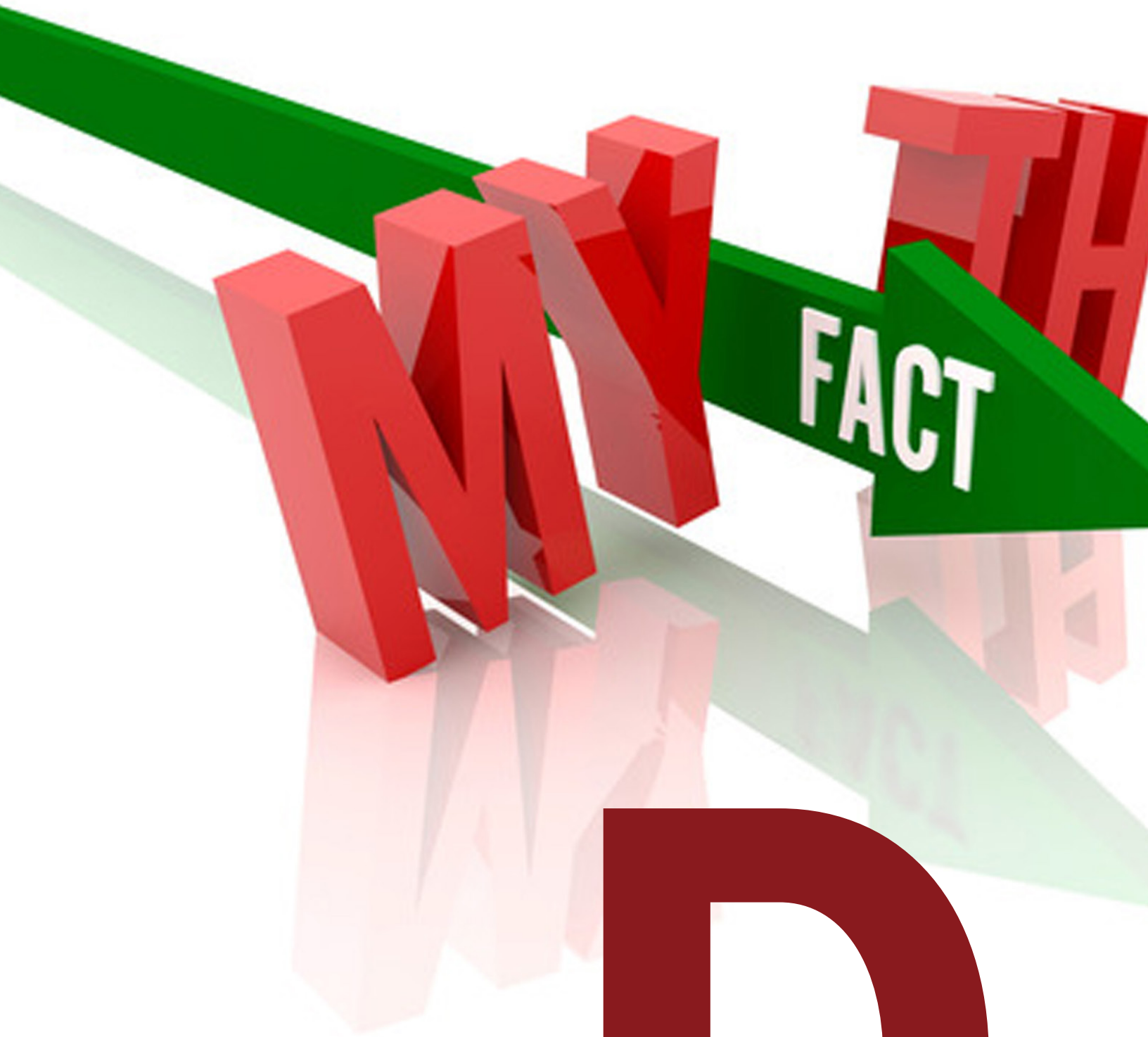
# The Jury Process



# WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

## **Leadership in the AIA**

- National offices held.
- Local and regional offices held.
  - Committee chair.
  - Jury service.
  - Authored articles.
- Presented at conventions.
- Demonstrate impact and results.



Myths

**D.**

## **The following are all MYTHS!**

- It's best to get only Fellows to write reference letters.
- Your reference letters should come from members only.
- Letters from BIG names are best.
- You can't get Fellowship in Object 1 unless you have a National Honor Award.

## **There are no Quotas!**

- Number of candidates elevated.
- Number of candidates per category.
- Number of categories per component or region.





Important  
Dates

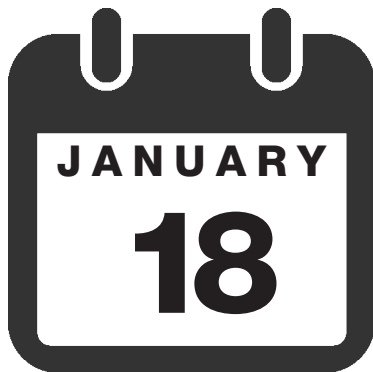
E.



- **by 5:00 p.m. EST**
- **Electronic Submissions Due**
- **Reference Letters Due**
- **NO EXCUSES**



Uploading the submission takes time, don't wait until 4:30 to start!



- **Jury Convenes**



- **E-mail notification**

The background of the slide features a collage of statistical charts. On the left, there is a 3D bar chart with five bars in red, yellow, green, red, and yellow. In the center, a line graph with four lines (blue, orange, green, and grey) is plotted on a grid. On the right, there is a 3D pie chart with five slices in red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The year '2020' is written in a large, dark red serif font in the upper right corner.

# 2020

Statistics &  
Resources

F.

# Totals

**279**

Candidates

**116**

Elevated

**42%**

Elevated

## 1st Year

Submission

**185**

Candidates

**83**

Elevated

**45%**

Elevated

## 2nd Year

Submission

**66**

Candidates

**24**

Elevated

**36%**

Elevated

## 3rd Year

Submission

**28**

Candidates

**9**

Elevated

**32%**

Elevated

The background of the slide is a blurred image of statistical data. It features a line graph with a red line on the left, a large stacked bar chart in the center with yellow, red, and purple bars, and a magnifying glass focusing on a portion of the bar chart. A pen is visible in the lower-left area.

# 2020

# Statistics & Resources





## OBJECT 1

<b>77</b> Candidates	<b>31</b> Elevated	<b>40%</b> Elevated
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## OBJECT 2

<b>143</b> Candidates	<b>62</b> Elevated	<b>43%</b> Elevated
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## OBJECT 3

<b>22</b> Candidates	<b>11</b> Elevated	<b>50%</b> Elevated
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## OBJECT 4

<b>18</b> Candidates	<b>6</b> Elevated	<b>33%</b> Elevated
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## OBJECT 5

<b>19</b> Candidates	<b>6</b> Elevated	<b>31%</b> Elevated
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# Statistics & Resources



Go to:

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**[www.aia.org/fellows](http://www.aia.org/fellows)**

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For

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**FAIA FAQ**  
**Online Submission FAQ**  
**Sample Submission**  
**Best Examples**

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Contacts:

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General Inquiries **[HonorsAwards@aia.org](mailto:HonorsAwards@aia.org)**

Membership Eligibility **[aiamembershiphistory@aia.](mailto:aiamembershiphistory@aia.org)**

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**Q&A**





**AIA**  
College of Fellows