

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested AIA Massachusetts (AIA MA) Members
From: John Nunnari, Executive Director, AIA MA
Date: 07/24/2025
Re: Massachusetts Representative to AIA National Young Architects Forum (YAF/YAR)

The AIA Young Architects Forum (YAF) exists to support and advocate for recently licensed architects—those within ten years of earning licensure—by addressing their unique professional needs and interests. The Young Architect Representative (YAR) serves as a critical liaison between local AIA chapters and the national YAF Advisory Committee, ensuring two-way communication and collaboration. This role helps shape national initiatives, promotes leadership development, and strengthens connections across the AIA's three-tiered structure, with a focus on elevating diverse voices and fostering a strong network of emerging architectural leaders.

All questions related to roles, responsibilities, time commitment and travel/expense reimbursement should be directed to Kathleen McCormick, Director, Professional Practice, at (202) 626 7450 or kathleenmccormick@aia.org.

Role of the YAF/YAR

Young Architect Representatives represent young architects within AIA at the state and national level. They are the primary connection between local AIA chapters and the national YAF Advisory Committee (Ad Com).

1. The Young Architect Representative communicates information from AIA National to local emerging professional groups and vice versa by:
 - Maintaining quarterly communication with all YAF chapters within their state
 - Serving as a conduit between local YAF chapters and the Ad Com
2. The Young Architect Representative contributes to the direction and planning of the YAF at the national level by:
 - Participating in the YAF Annual Meeting and attending YAF full committee conference calls
 - Working with the Ad Com on various national issues through participation in at least one YAF Focus Group
 - Attending AIA Leadership Summit and AIA National Conference, when possible
3. The Young Architect Representative serves young architects at the state level by:
 - Providing reports regarding the activities of the YAF and emerging professionals groups when requested
 - Maintaining quarterly communication with the following counterparts from their state: National Associates Committee (NAC) state representatives, Strategic Council representative, and College of Fellows (COF) regional representative
 - Attending monthly AIA Leadership Exchange calls
 - Suggesting or encouraging young architects for nomination for state or national awards, positions or committees/subcommittees.
4. Young Architect Representatives have the option to represent YAF within the larger AIA National community by serving as a member of or liaison to any of the following: Strategic

Council work groups, Knowledge Communities, Board Committees, Member Interest Groups, or Task Forces. These opportunities may vary from year to year.

Activities of YAF/YAR

Every month this position will require 4–5 hours of your time. The state representative should expect to participate in the following calls and meetings:

- Full committee Annual meeting (Q1, travel and lodging paid by AIA National)
- Bi-monthly Full Committee Calls (2 hours each call)
- Working group calls (frequency depends on the work group and their current load, but assume 1–2 hours a month)
- Special calls as needed (generally no longer than an hour)
- AIA Leadership Exchange calls (1 hour quarterly)

YAF/YAR body makeup

The body is made up of 53 Associate AIA members, including representatives from each US state, Puerto Rico, Washington DC, and one international associate.

NOTE: *AIA is a three-tier organization. YAF exists at the national level. Many, but not all, state and local components have groups and/or committees that respond to the needs of recently licensed members. These groups range in name and intent – Emerging Professionals, Emerging Architects, Young Architects Forum, etc.*

Leadership

YAF is moderated by an Advisory Committee (Ad Com). The Advisory Committee members consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, (5) Directors, a liaison from the AIA Strategic Council, and a College of Fellows Representative. Each summer, the Advisory Committee places a call for candidates to fill open positions for the following year, to be determined by a Selection Committee.

Qualifications

- Must be an AIA member in good standing.
- Must be licensed **within the last ten years**, counting back from the time of selection.
- Preference to women, ethnic minorities, and younger members, currently underrepresented.
- Preference to volunteers who help achieve a diversity of firm size, age, structure, and service area/project types.

Term:

Two-year commitment. Option to re-up once, for a total of 4 years.

Timeline

- Applications accepted through **5 pm on Tuesday, September 2, 2025**
- Notifications sent after the Board of AIA MA makes their selection at their September board meeting (date TBD).
- Notification of new YAF/YAR is forwarded to the AIA staff liaison **by October 1**.
- Positions begin in January, with AIA National-paid travel to the YAF Annual Meeting in Q1.

*For 2025, the YAF/YAR Annual Meeting is TBD.

To apply

Submit a single pdf file containing a cover letter that expresses your interest and unique qualities, along with a current resume to AIA MA Executive Director @ jnunnari@architects.org