

AIA College of Fellows Nominees from AIA Seattle

Application Information

Fellowship

The AIA Fellowship program was developed to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society and who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession. Election to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of the architect as an individual, but also honors before the public and the profession a model architect who has made a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

Fellowship is bestowed by the national College of Fellows, and AIA's national office manage the submittal process. For many years, AIA Seattle has supported our local members who are interested in pursuing Fellowship through a nomination and coaching process.

Eligibility

Architect members who have been in good standing for at least 10 years may be nominated for Fellowship. Elevation to the College of Fellows recognizes significant contributions to the field of architecture that have national impact.

Information

Please take the time to carefully review the online application, successful applications, and walk-through at:

<https://www.aia.org/awards/7076-fellowship>

Chapter nomination

Each year, AIA Seattle nominates Seattle members that we feel would be successful applicants to the College of Fellows. Our Fellows and Honors Committee calls for nominations from our members, and also reviews the list of all AIA Seattle members that are eligible for FAIA based on years of service. We then send nomination letters to a small number of members the committee has chosen to nominate. Once nominated by the chapter, members are supported in development of their FAIA submittal through coaching and submittal review. The nomination is valid indefinitely, and we will continue to reach out to nominees annually until they successfully apply.

“Self”-nominations vs. chapter nominations

Many successful Fellows have been “self”-nominated—i.e., seeking and arranging for five Fellows or ten AIA members to nominate them, rather than the Chapter. Both methods are equally valid. It may be that the additional deadlines and meetings involved in the Chapter/Committee process are too much for a candidate's schedule. Self-nominated members can still benefit from portfolio review and coaching just as

Chapter nominees can, though they must request engagement no later than May 1 of each year to ensure room in the Fellows & Honors committee's schedule.

How AIA Seattle can help you

Our members have told us that regardless of the outcome, putting your submittal together is one of the most arduous and soul-searching, and also the most rewarding, exercises an architect can undertake.

AIA Seattle has had a long and successful history of identifying and nurturing potential candidates for Fellowship. This has been possible thanks to a dedicated and hardworking Fellows and Honors Committee.

The Committee nomination and mentoring process works in parallel with, and complements, the official Fellowship process at National. Keep reading for all the information you need to work with AIA Seattle to prepare your submittal.

AIA Seattle Nomination Schedule

Late January

Chapter hosts the annual Path to Fellowship program to discuss the full Fellowship process, led by current members of the College of Fellows who are part of the Fellows & Honors Committee

January-early March

Chapter accepts nominations for potential fellows

March-April

Committee reviews eligible candidates, and selects endorsed candidates it wishes to support in their FAIA submittal

May

Committee reaches out to new- and past endorsed candidates

June

Committee provides 30-minute coaching sessions to endorsed candidates

July-October

Committee provides remote critiques of Fellowship application drafts

October

Application deadline

Sponsor selection

Each nominee will need to select an individual FAIA sponsor. Your sponsor should know your work well and be willing to assist you in preparing and reviewing your

application. Sponsors needn't be from Seattle. AIA Seattle Fellows & Honors Committee Members may not sponsor individual candidates.

Members from other chapters

Not every component has the resources to maintain a nominating committee. We're been happy to provide review and support for members from any chapter in Washington state, but can only formally nominate members of AIA Seattle.

Successful submittals

These are the most important principles to impart about successful Fellowship submittals:

- Your submittal should explain how you have **advanced** or **influenced** the profession in a manner that **could not have occurred without your efforts**.
- Focus on **national impact** as evidenced by national awards, speaking engagements, publications, acknowledgement from peers outside Seattle, or other national leadership. What **ripple effect** did your achievement have on the profession?
- Fellowship is an **individual honor**, not a firm award. Your specific roles, responsibilities, authorship in all projects cited must be clearly defined.
- Everyone wants to win the award for Best Actor—and everyone would love to be elevated in Design. There are so many categories to choose from! Your strongest **story** may be about your achievements in Practice, or Alternative Careers.