AIA SEATTLE BOARD APPOINTED ROLE FOR EMERGING PROFESSIONAL

American Institute of Architects, The Seattle Chapter (AIA Seattle) and Seattle Design Festival (SDF) are two nonprofit organizations working together who envision a culture of design that fosters equitable, resilient, thriving communities. AIA Seattle is a membership organization serving more than 2500 architects and allied professionals in a ten-county area. Seattle Design Festival is an organization dedicated to unleashing the design thinker in everyone. The two organizations are governed by two aligned Boards of Directors who give time to support the vision, mission, and values of both organizations. AIA Seattle + SDF are deeply committed to JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) in both the internal workings of our organizations as well as the member and public facing parts of our work. Serving the designers of the future as well as the public, the two organizations actively lead programming to engage youth and young and emerging voices in design.

AIA Seattle is seeking an emerging professional for a one-year commitment to bring diverse perspective into the Board leadership space. Current elected Board members are design and allied professionals who recognize the need to support a pipeline of future designers as community leaders. They serve three-year terms with a number of responsibilities. The appointed one-year term emerging professional position is an opportunity for a student or early career professional to develop nonprofit leadership skills, network with established leaders, potentially grow into future leadership roles, and help shape the future of our organizations serving design professionals and the public. The invited emerging professional will join Board spaces but will not be a voting member of the Boards of Directors, and will not have the same level of commitment to the organizations as the Board members.

COMMITMENT

- Attend at least ten monthly Board meetings of AIA Seattle as an appointed, non-voting participant within the year of service, running from September 2026 through August 2027. Board meetings are the third Thursday of the month from 4-6PM. Part of this block of time is for Seattle Design Festival Board of Directors meeting which the emerging professional is also expected to attend in interest of our aligned visions. Board meetings are hybrid in format, and advance notice is given for which meetings will be held virtually or in-person.
- Attend the Honor Awards and/or a full day program as a guest of the organization
- Attend a one full-day Board retreat, depending on availability, usually in May
- Support Seattle Design Festival by volunteering at the festival or at a SDF event in some capacity to be determined with the Seattle Design Festival Program Manager

CRITERIA

- Student or early career professional
- Excitement to connect their network to AIA Seattle and Seattle Design Festival programs and events

- Willingness to speak up and engage with other board members
- Bring energy and excitement for the profession

BENEFITS OF SERVICE

- Opportunity for networking and gaining knowledge about AIA Seattle, Seattle Design Festival, the local design community, professional landscape, and nonprofit service
- Potential mentorship opportunities
- Learning the value of engaging with the design community outside your immediate professional obligations
- Exposure to information about additional future leadership opportunities
- Free attendance throughout the year to all AIA Seattle and Seattle Design Festival programming
- Coverage of out-of-pocket expenses for participating in board spaces
- Coverage of membership dues for year of board service if the Emerging Professional's firm does not cover them

APPLICATION + TIMELINE

If you are interested in applying for the Emerging Professional board role, upload a resume and statement of interest here by Monday February 1, 2027 - 5pm PST.

- Applications will be reviewed by the AIA Seattle Member Advancement Committee (MAC). MAC selects a candidate to be approved by the AIA Seattle Board of Directors. The recommended candidate is notified in April to confirm their interest of being put forward to the Board of Directors for vote.
- The approved Emerging Professional candidate will be notified in May that their service is confirmed, with the term of board service beginning after onboarding in September 2027 and ending at the end of August 2028.