

AIA Honors & Awards

Submitting for Fellowship

2020

Submitting for Fellowship 2020

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Overview

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OVERVIEW

AIA College of Fellows

The College of Fellows, founded in 1952 (Modern College), is composed of members of the Institute who are elected 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). Elevation to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievements 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. Only three percent of AIA members achieve the Fellowship distinction.



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OVERVIEW

AIA College of Fellows Purpose

College of Fellows is to:

- Stimulate a sharing of interests among Fellows
- Promote the purposes of the Institute
- Advance the profession of Architecture
- Mentor young architects
- Be of ever-increasing service to society

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OVERVIEW

2019 Fellowship Elevation

2019: 279 candidates, 115 elevated (41.22%)

Percent of elevated candidates by year of nomination

- 1st year: 67.83%
- 2nd year: 28.70%
- 3rd year: 3.48%

Percent of elevated candidates by object

- Object 1: 23.48%
- Object 2: 48.70%
- Object 3: 13.91%
- Object 4: 5.22%
- Object 5: 8.70%

Important Dates

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IMPORTANT DATES

Opens

July 1, 2019

Deadline

October 1, 2019 prior to 5pm ET

Notification

Tuesday February 18, 2020

Submission

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Process

Submission must be:

- clear and concise
- results oriented
- well-documented influence on profession

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Fellowship submission tips

- WHO you are
- WHAT you accomplished
- WHEN it occurred
- WHY it's significant
- HOW it benefited or was shared with profession
- PROVE IT—documentation and support

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Eligibility

- AIA architect members who have been in good standing for at least 10 years may be nominated.
- Nominees must have completed 10 cumulative years as an AIA architect member prior to the nomination deadline.

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Nomination

Fellowship nominations may be made in one of two ways:

1. by petition of individual members or Fellows, it must bear the signatures of any 10 architect members or any 5 Fellows in good standing
2. by an AIA chapter or state organization bearing the signature of the president or secretary of the component

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Composition

- **Sponsor letter**
- **Section 1**
 - Summary of achievements
- **Section 2**
 - **2.1** Significant work
 - **2.2** Honors, Awards, Recognition
 - **2.3** Publications
- **Section 3**
 - Exhibits list
 - Exhibits (Properly attested)
- **References**
 - Confidential Reference Letters

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Target objectives

Submission documents

- Strong, specific sponsor letter
- Strong, specific reference letters
- Well organized submission
- Not to exceed 40, 8.5" x 11", pages
- Landscape format preferred
- 10 pt. font is the minimum
- Clear, concise summary statement that is not overreaching
- High quality images/exhibits
- Consistency, Leadership, Results

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Sponsor

- Must be an FAIA or AIA member in good standing
- Should be someone that knows you well, and can speak knowledgeably and critically about your career
- Ideally not someone from your own firm
- May sponsor more than one candidate but should speak specifically to each candidate's individual achievements
- Involved in submission process
 - Sponsor letter
 - Assist in crafting submission
 - Liaise with reference writers

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Sponsor letter

- Addressed to jury chair
- A one-page letter of support about candidate
- Must be uploaded with the submission portfolio
- Set up the submission to follow
- Specifics

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Section 1

Summary

- Focus on about 3 main points
- Expand on these points in Section 2
- Be clear, concise, and insightful
- Restate claims from sponsor letter
- Speak to “ripple effect” of work

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Ripple Effect

- Impact beyond your day to day
- Speaking, publications, mentoring
- Service to the profession
- Geographic impact
- Legacy through others

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Section 2

2.1 Accomplishments

- Projects
- Jury service
- Presentations/lectures
- AIA involvement
- Civic/volunteer involvement

2.2 Honors, awards, recognition

2.3 Publications

- By you, about you, about your work

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Section 2

Tips

- Demonstrate broad influence and impact
- Group similar accomplishments together
- Work supporting YOUR case first
- Explain any time gaps
- Divide up different types of awards
- Make distinction about articles
 - about you
 - authored by you

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Section 3

Exhibits

- Show tangible results and explain:
 - The challenge
 - Your role
 - The outcome
- If submitting in design:
 - Show more than minimum of 5 projects
 - BUT use only your strongest projects
- If not in design, don't put projects first
- Good, clear images and diagrams are essential

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References

- Must remain confidential
- Five letters must be from AIA members (sign their letters with their AIA designation to avoid disqualification)
- Each reference should focus on one-two points from Summary Statement
- Speak directly about your work
- Seek those with a direct connection
- Recognized leaders in your field
- Broad geographic range
- Avoid “big names” offering no substance

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Submitting Reference Letters

- Application sends a link for writers to upload their letter
- Provide ample time for reference writers to submit
- The application system will notify you when they have been received
- Don't submit your application before they have been received
- Letter's are only accepted through this system – **no hard copies, no emails accepted**
- 2nd and 3rd year applicants previous letters are rolled over

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In short...

- Clear, concise presentation
- White space is a good thing
- Eligible
- Strong sponsor
- Strong/specific references
- Support for summary statement
- Focus on results/achievements
- Demonstrate influence on profession

Objects

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OBJECTS

1: Design

Design, Urban Design, and Preservation

- MUST have five projects that the candidate is 'Largely Responsible for Design' with appropriate signatory
- Jury doesn't judge design
- Jury looks for peer recognition through national and local awards, articles, etc.

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OBJECTS

2: Education, Literature, Research, or Practice

Practice-Management or Technical Advancement

- How have you elevated your firm?
- How are you sharing with the profession?

Specialty Practice

- Show that through design/innovation the field is better
- Awards not necessary but the jury will expect to see sharing in the form of speaking engagements, publications, and mentoring

Education, Literature, Research

- Show impact through teaching tools; student work
- Show how research has changed the profession, metrics

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OBJECTS

3: Led the Institute or Related Organization

Led Institute

- Jury looking for extensive and diverse relevance
- National impact
- Provide quantifiable results

Led a related organization

- Not enough just to lead it – what was your role? What was the outcome? What is the legacy?
- What did you do to connect it to the AIA and/or the practice of architecture?

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OBJECTS

4: Public Service, Government, or Industry Organizations

- Need to document the benefit to the AIA
- How is your work affecting policies?
- How are you making things easier for architects in the profession?

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OBJECTS

5: Alternative Career, Volunteer, Service to Society

- Show how contributions are significant because you are an architect
- Volunteer work not used as marketing tool
- Must be clear you are NOT gaining commissions through volunteer service

The Jury

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THE JURY

2019 Jury of Fellows*

- Mary Cox, FAIA (Virginia)
- Peter Bardwell, FAIA (Ohio)
- Mary Burke, FAIA (New York)
- Philip Castillo, FAIA (Illinois)
- Mary Johnston, FAIA (Northwest & Pacific)
- Paul Mankins, FAIA (Central States)
- Nancy Rogo Trainer, FAIA (Pennsylvania)

The Jury consist of Fellows, nominated annually by the Secretary for approval by the Board. One of the Jury members is designated as chair. An effort is made to achieve an equitable distribution of members by geographic region and by Fellowship accomplishment.

*For Reference



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THE JURY

Process

- Assigned to review a fraction of the total
- Present assigned candidates to the voting jurors in 5 minutes
- A juror cannot review candidates from their own firm or region
- A juror must recuse themselves from candidates they know personally

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THE JURY

Process

Deliberation

- Presenter draws attention to what does or does not support claims
- Presenter answers questions from jurors and makes recommendation
- Jury discussion–10-12 minutes
- There are no quotas

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THE JURY

Target objectives

Initial questions

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

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THE JURY

Target objectives

A distinguished body of work

- Published work
- Award recognition

Notable contributions

- Impact on other practices
- Lecturing
- National leadership

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THE JURY

Target objectives

Widespread recognition of results

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

Sharing of knowledge or expertise

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

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THE JURY

Target objectives

Leadership in AIA

- Need impact and results
- National office
- Local and regional offices
- Committee chair
- Jury service
- Authored articles
- Presented at conventions

Resources

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RESOURCES

Visit aia.org/fellows for

- Fellowship FAQ
- Online submission FAQ
- Sample submission
- Best examples

Contacts

General inquiries HonorsAwards@aia.org

Membership Eligibility aiamembershiphistory@aia.org

Q&A