Submitting for Fellowship 2021

- Overview
- Important dates
- Submission
- Objects
- The jury
- Resources
- Q&A
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 two percent of AIA members achieve the Fellowship distinction.
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
OVERVIEW

2020 Fellowship Elevation

2020: 279 candidates, 116 elevated (41.58%)

Percent of elevated candidates by year of nomination

- 1st year: 71.55%
- 2nd year: 20.69%
- 3rd year: 7.76%

Percent of elevated candidates by object

- Object 1: 26.72%
- Object 2: 53.45%
- Object 3: 9.48%
- Object 4: 5.17%
- Object 5: 5.17%
Important Dates
Submitting for Fellowship 2021

IMPORTANT DATES

Opens

June 30, 2020

Deadline

October 6, 2020 prior to 5pm ET

Notification

Tuesday February 12, 2021
Submission
Submitting for Fellowship 2021

**SUBMISSION**

**Process**

**Submission must be:**

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

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.
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
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
SUBMISSION

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
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
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
Submission

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
Ripple Effect

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

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
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
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
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.
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
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?
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?
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
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.
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
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
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?
Submitting for Fellowship 2021

THE JURY

Target objectives

A distinguished body of work

- Published work
- Award recognition

Notable contributions

- Impact on other practices
- Lecturing
- National leadership
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
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
Submitting for Fellowship 2021

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