

Demystifying Fellowship

June, 2017

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Presentation agenda

- Important dates/changes
- Jury responsibilities
- The jury process
- What the jury is looking for
- The submission process
- Resources
- FAIA data and statistics
- Questions & answers



Important dates

- October 13, 2017
 - Electronic submissions due
 - Reference letters due
 - By 5pm ET, NO EXCEPTIONS
 - Uploading the submission takes time, don't wait until 4:30pm to start!
- February 2018
 - Jury meeting
- February 12, 2018 (at the latest)
 - Email notification



2018 Jury of Fellows

- Karen Nichols, FAIA (New Jersey), Chair
- Peter Bardwell, FAIA (Ohio Valley)
- Mary Burke, FAIA (New York)
- Philip Castillo, FAIA (Illinois)
- Mary Cox, FAIA (The Virginias)
- Paul Mankins, FAIA (Central States)
- David Messersmith, FAIA (Texas)

Jury members come from many sources and represent a geographical and object mix



Jury responsibilities

- Review 1/7 of total submissions (approximately 30–35 per juror)
- Present assigned candidates
- View summary section for each and every candidate
- Rule – a juror will not review candidates from their own firm or region



The jury process

- Candidates are presented alphabetically
- Jurors review submission simultaneously
- Presenter draws attention to what does or does not support claims
- Presenter answers questions from jurors and makes recommendation
- Jury discussion—10-12 minutes total



The jury process continued

THEREFORE it is critical for the submission to be:

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



The voting process

- Only six jurors vote—one sits out (juror from their region or firm, or next presenter)
- A minimum of four votes is required for elevation
- Unanimous vote is *not required*
- Ties are set aside until the end



There are no quotas

- Number of candidates elevated
- Number of candidates per category
- Number of categories per component or region

Quotas of any kind are a myth!



What the jury is looking for

- 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?



What the jury is looking for continued

- Strong, specific sponsor letter
- Strong, specific reference letters
- Well organized submission, not to exceed 40 pages, *10 pt. font is the minimum!*
- Clear, concise summary statement that is not overreaching
- High quality images/exhibits
- Consistency
- Leadership
- Results



What the jury is looking for continued

A distinguished body of work

- Published work
- Award recognition

Notable contributions

- Impact on other practices
- Lecturing
- National leadership



What the jury is looking for continued

Widespread recognition of results

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

Sharing of knowledge or expertise

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



What the jury is looking for continued

Leadership in the AIA

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



Submission composition

- Sponsor letter – sent as part of your submission. **DQ'd if not attached.**
- Section 1: Summary of achievements
- Section 2: Significant work, awards, publications, volunteer work, presentations/lectures, service
- Section 3: Exhibits list
- Section 3: Exhibits – Properly signed
- References – **sent directly to the submission site by the letter writer**



Sponsor

- Must be an FAIA or AIA member in good standing
- Must provide a one-page letter of support
- Should be BEST and WORST critic, someone that knows you well!
- May sponsor more than one candidate, but they should be specific to candidate and/or in different categories



Sponsor continued

- Should be very knowledgeable about candidate's accomplishments
- Involved in submission process
- Letter speaks directly and specifically of achievements
- Serves as a buffer between candidate and references
- Should LAY IT ALL OUT IN THEIR LETTER



Object 1: Design

- Design, Urban Design, and Preservation
- MUST have 5 projects where candidate is “Largely Responsible for Design” with proper signoff
- Jury doesn’t judge design
- Jury looks for peer recognition through awards, articles, etc.



Object 2: Education, Literature, Research, or Practice

Practice – Management or Tech. 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
- OK not to have Awards but in lieu of those, expect to see sharing

Education

- Show impact through teaching tools; student work



Object 3: Led the Institute or Related Organization

Led Institute

- Jury looking for “So What?” factor
- Provide quantifiable results

Led related organization

- Not enough just to lead it
- What did you do to connect it to the AIA?
- Seat time is not important – what did you do?



Object 4: Advancement of Living Standards

- Government industry or organization
- 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?



Object 5: Alternative Career, Volunteer, Service to Society

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



Fellowship Submission

- Story about YOU—but not womb to tomb.
- 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



Section 1: Summary

- This is where you lay out your case
- Your “architectural tombstone”
- Focus on about 3 main points
- Expand information in Section 2



Section 1: Summary continued

- Be clear, concise, succinct
- Restate claims from sponsor letter
- HAMMER IT IN!
- Prove “ripple effect” of work
- Local work OK, but show broad impact



Section 2: Accomplishments

- 2.1 Significant work
 - Projects
 - Jury service
 - Presentations/lectures
 - AIA involvement
 - Civic/volunteer involvement
- 2.2 Honors, awards, recognition
- 2.3 Publications



Section 2: Accomplishments

continued

- Demonstrate broad influence and impact
- Can reformat, but keep in same order
- Group similar accomplishments together
- Jury needs a quick visual of
 - lectures and seminars
 - awards
 - publications



Section 2: Accomplishments

continued

- 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

- Exhibits supporting YOUR case first
- Show tangible results and explain the problem, your role, and then 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
- One picture worth 1,000 words



References

- Each reference 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



In short...

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



Fellowship myths

- It's best to get only Fellows to write reference letters
- Your reference letters should come from members only
- Letters from BIG names are best
- You can't get Fellowship in Object 1 unless you have a National Honor Award
- Horizontal format is preferred



2017 Fellowship statistics

258 candidates, 178 elevated (68.99%)

Number of candidates by year of nomination

- 1st year: 193 (74.81%)
- 2nd year: 53 (20.54%)
- 3rd year: 12 (4.65%)



2017 Fellowship statistics continued

Number elevated of number entries received in submission year

- 1st year: 129 of 193 (66.84%)
- 2nd year: 39 of 53 (73.58%)
- 3rd year: 10 of 12 (83.33%)



2017 Fellowship statistics continued

Number of candidates by nomination object

- Object 1: 63 (24.42%)
- Object 2: 128 (49.61%)
- Object 3: 23 (8.91%)
- Object 4: 20 (7.75%)
- Object 5: 24 (9.32%)



2017 Fellowship statistics continued

Number elevated of number nominated in object

- Object 1: 38/63 (60.32%)
- Object 2: 89/128 (69.53%)
- Object 3: 16/23 (69.57%)
- Object 4: 16/20 (80.00%)
- Object 5: 19/24 (79.17%)



So, why go through all of this...



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.



AIA College of Fellows

The purpose of the 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



Resources

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

- Fellowship FAQ
- Online submission FAQ
- Fellowship walk-through
- Best examples

Contacts

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