

2027 AIA Young Architect Representative (YAR) Position Description

The Young Architects Forum (YAF) is a member group of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and is organized to address issues of particular importance to recently licensed architects (within 10 years or less of first licensure).

YAF/YAR Representative Composition as a Body

The body is made up of 53 AIA members, including representatives from each US state, Washington DC, Puerto Rico and one international region member.

NOTE: AIA is a three-tier organization. YAF exists at the national level. Many, but not all, state and local chapters have groups and/or committees that respond to the needs of recently licensed members. These groups range in name and intent – Emerging Professionals, Emerging Architects, Young Architects Forum, etc.

Leadership

YAF is moderated by an Advisory Committee (AdCom). The Advisory Committee members consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, (5) Directors, a liaison from the AIA Strategic Council, and a College of Fellows Representative. Each summer, the Advisory Committee places a call for candidates to fill open positions for the following year, to be determined by a Selection Committee.

Demographic Conditions

- Must be an AIA member in good standing.
- Must be licensed within the last ten years, counting back from the time of selection.
- Must be from a state not currently represented.
- Preference to women, ethnic minorities, and younger members, currently underrepresented.
- Preference to volunteers who help achieve a diversity of firm size, age, structure, and service area/project types.

Term: Two-year commitment. Option to re-up once, for a total of 4 years.

Timeline

- A YAR is selected by the state chapter's preferred method, either appointed or elected.
- Notification/updates of new YARs are sent to the AIA YAF staff liaison by September 11.
- Positions begin in January, with AIA National-paid travel to the YAF Annual Meeting* in Q1.
*For 2027, the YAF Annual Meeting is TBD.

Roles and duties of the Young Architect Representative (YAR)

Young Architect Representatives represent young architects within AIA at the state and national level. They are the primary connection between local AIA chapters and the national YAF Advisory Committee (AdCom).

1. The Young Architect Representative communicates information from AIA National to local emerging professional groups and vice versa by:
 - Maintaining quarterly communication with all YAF chapters within their state
 - Serving as a conduit between local YAF chapters and the AdCom
2. The Young Architect Representative contributes to the direction and planning of the YAF at the national level by:

- Participating in the YAF Annual Meeting and attending YAF full committee conference calls
 - Working with the AdCom on various national issues through participation in at least one YAF Focus Group
 - Attending AIA Leadership Summit and AIA National Conference, when possible
3. The Young Architect Representative serves young architects at the state level by:
 - Serving on their state Board of Directors if required by the state
 - Providing reports regarding the activities of the YAF and emerging professionals groups when requested
 - Maintaining quarterly communication with the following counterparts from their state: National Associates Committee (NAC) state representatives, Strategic Council representative, and College of Fellows (COF) regional representative
 - Attending quarterly AIA Leadership Exchange calls
 - Suggesting or encouraging young architects for nomination for state or national awards, positions or committees/subcommittees.
 4. Young Architect Representatives have the option to represent YAF within the larger AIA National community by serving as a member of or liaison to any of the following: Strategic Council work groups, Knowledge Communities, Board Committees, Member Interest Groups, or Task Forces. These opportunities may vary from year to year.
 5. Additional responsibilities may be required by each respective state. Young Architect Representatives are required to work with their states to ensure that expectations from state leadership are clearly defined and met. The AdCom encourages all applicants to discuss the position with their state leadership (either the state AIA President and/or Executive Director) to fully understand the role and commitment that the Young Architect Representative will have to their respective state prior to submitting an application.

Activities of a YAR

Every month this position will require 4-5 hours of your time. The state representative should expect to participate in the following calls and meetings:

- Full committee Annual meeting (Q1, travel and lodging paid by AIA National)
- Bi-monthly Full Committee Calls (2 hours each call)
- Working group calls (frequency depends on the work group and their current load, but assume 1-2 hours a month)
- Special calls as needed (generally no longer than an hour)
- AIA Leadership Exchange calls (1 hour quarterly)

If you have any questions, please contact: RachelGresham@aia.org.