ela
emerging leaders in architecture

Information and Application

The Emerging Leaders in Architecture: An Honors Academy of the VSAIA (ELA), develops future leaders in architecture firms, in communities, and in the profession. The goal is to accelerate the growth of emerging architects and provide the tools and experiences needed to advance their careers and serve society as leaders in the community.

The program is designed to:

1. Examine the evolving roles of architects and firms;
2. Provide the resources to make informed business decisions about financial and practice management matters;
3. Consider the fundamental legal, ethical and societal responsibilities of architects;
4. Develop a peer network to serve as an ongoing resource.

It is an intensive program of educational sessions structured around presentations, discussions, team exploration, analysis, consensus-building, collaboration, and case study activities undertaken over the course of a year by a small cadre of participants selected for their potential to be outstanding contributors to the profession and the community. A class project provides participants with a practical opportunity to apply leadership principles from the sessions by completing a real project with a real client. Benefit gained from the project is directly proportional to the time and energy invested. Participants should expect to invest a significant number of additional hours beyond the scheduled class time.

Program faculty are established leaders in the building, finance, non-profit, development, university, legal, consulting, and design professions. Each of the seven day-long sessions focuses on essential strategies or skills such as financial management, presentation and communication skills, negotiating techniques, understanding legal and ethical issues, and public service.

Program Features

Workshops are interactive, drawing on real examples and actively involving participants. They rotate among sites in Roanoke, Charlottesville, Richmond, Alexandria and Norfolk in conjunction with the firms, schools, and the local AIA component in each area. Each workshop includes lunch, refreshments, and a tour.

Important Note: Acceptance to the program requires a commitment on the part of the participant and management of his/her firm. Participants are expected to attend all scheduled sessions, personally pay 50% of the tuition and to complete all assignments.

2014 Program Outline

Inheritance and Inspiration: Jan. 10, Richmond
The future of architecture and the fundamentals of planning, design, documentation and service in a forward-thinking and fast-changing profession

Firm Foundations: Feb.14, Roanoke
Firm leadership, ownership, and transition, small business management, financial planning, and business/project financial management standards

Class Project Work Session: March 14

Practicing Professionalism: April 11, Alexandria
Ethics and law, from contracts and codes to professional ethics and standards of behavior

Communicating Effectively: May 9, Richmond
Business and professional communications including public relations, presentations, writing and professional speaking

Working Together: June 13, Norfolk
The role of architects relative to other project stakeholders, including public and private owners, developers, contractors, consultants, financial institutions, and allied professionals, including interior designers, suppliers, vendors, manufacturers, etc.

Summer Sessions: July 11 and Aug. 8
Ongoing work on class project (ELA Cookout **July 12**)

Serving Communities: Sept. 12, Charlottesville
Community involvement, the role of volunteerism in a market-based society, professional expectations for social responsibility and public service

Community Advocacy: Oct. 10
The role of mentorship, education, economic development, and politics in nurturing creativity, talent and public interest in the arts and architecture as a means of community identity and expression

Conclusion: Nov. 6, Richmond
Participant presentation of the class project at Architecture Exchange East followed by closing ceremony and reception

Dates and locations subject to change. Sessions are scheduled 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

"The program identified the missing links that aren't taught in school."

– ELA Participant

How to Apply

The committee seeks applicants from three categories:

Component Nominees Each of the five Virginia AIA local component Boards may nominate one or more individuals for admission to the program. One participant will be selected from each chapter for a total of five.

Student Nominees Each Virginia Architecture School (UVA, VT, Hampton, and WAAC) may nominate one or more students for admission to the program. One participant will be selected from each school for a total of four.

Open Applications Applicants may apply on their own or be nominated by someone else. Seven participants will be selected from among these applicants.

Each applicant must submit an application in PDF, consisting of the following:

For all applicants:

1. Completed application form
2. A 500-word essay on one of the topics below
    a. Why would you like to be accepted into the program: what do you hope to achieve from it, what do you hope to contribute to the program, and what will the program allow you to accomplish?
    b. What are the three most significant issues confronting the profession of architecture?
3. A signed statement committing the applicant to attend all sessions, join the AIA or AIAS (if not a current member), and to personally pay at least 50% of the program tuition.

In addition to the form and essay:

For Component Nominees:

A letter of nomination from the component President or executive officer.

For Students:

A letter of nomination from the Dean or Department Chair.

For Open Applicants:

Three letters of recommendation, two of which must be from licensed architects that are VSAIA members.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Nov. 15, 2013.

Tuition for this program is $575 for students, $975 for all others. It is expected that at least 50% of the tuition will be paid by the participant to indicate a commitment to the program.

For information contact:

Wayne Conners
Director of Professional Development
Virginia Society AIA
(804) 644-3041 x303
wconners@aiava.org

Selection

Candidates will be selected in order to achieve a diverse class with preference given to students enrolled in a professional architecture degree program, interns on track to registration, and architects licensed for 10 years or fewer.

In addition, the selection committee will look for candidates from diverse backgrounds who demonstrate promise, leadership potential, unique insight, and/or exceptional talent

VSAIA Emerging Leaders in Architecture Program

Application for Admission

Name:_____

Firm or School Name:_____

Mailing address:_____

City State ZIP:_____

Telephone:_____Fax:_____

Email:_____

Present Title or Responsibility:

_____Since (date):_____

I am a:

☐ Student. *School name*:_____

☐ Component nominee. *Component*:_____

☐ Open applicant

I am a member of:

_____ VSAIA _____ AIAS _____ Neither

(*NOTE: if you are not a member, you must join prior to beginning the program)*

Licensure Status

☐ Licensed since_____

☐ Not Licensed

Education

Name of School/City:_____

Degree/Major:_____

Graduation Date: (Month/year):_____

Name of School/City:_____

Degree/Major:_____

Graduation Date: (Month/year):_____

Organizations and Activities

List three architectural, community, civic, professional, business, religious, social, athletic and other organizations of which you are or have been a member. Please provide approximate dates of membership and your role in the organization.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Honors and Awards

Please list any significant honors, awards or prizes you have received for professional, academic, community or civic achievement.

_____

_____

_____

_____

All application materials must be submitted as one PDF and received by Nov. 15, 2013.

Tuition for this program is $575 for students and $975 for all others.

NOTE: Send no money now. Tuition will be requested upon admission to the program.

Send completed application (PDF) to:

Virginia Society AIA
Attn: Wayne Conners
2501 Monument Ave.
Richmond, VA 23220-2618
Email: wconners@aiava.org

Agreement Form

I fully understand the attendance and tuition requirements for the VSAIA ELA program and agree to fulfill those requirements if selected.

I am a current member in good standing with the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects or AIAS and will continue to be a member in good standing for the duration of the program. If I am not a member of VSAIA or AIAS, I agree to join and remain in good standing for the duration of the program. I agree to personally pay at least 50% if the program tuition.

Applicant's Signature:

_____

Date:_____

I authorize and encourage the above applicant to participate in the VSAIA Emerging Leaders in Architecture Program and fully understand the attendance and tuition requirements as outlined above.

Signature of Firm Principal, Dean, or Dept. Chair:

_____

Date:_____

Printed/Typed Name and Title:

Name:_____

Title:_____