Information and Application

The Emerging Leaders in Architecture: An Honors Academy of the American Institute of Architects Virginia (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 community project with a real client. Benefit gained from the project is directly proportional to the time and energy invested. The class project will require participants 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 various regions of Virginia in conjunction with the firms, schools, and the local AIA component in each area. Each workshop includes lunch, and refreshments.

2019 Program Outline

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

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

Class Project Kick-Off Day: March
Requires overnight stay through Saturday

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

Class Project Work Session: May

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

Working Together: July, 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.

Class Project Work Session: August
Ongoing work on class project

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

Community Advocacy: October
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: November, 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 AIA Virginia local component Boards may nominate one or more individuals for admission to the program. One participant will be selected from each component 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. Resume

3. 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?

4. A signed statement committing the applicant to attend all sessions, and join the AIA or AIAS (if not a current member).

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 AIA Virginia Architect members.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. EST on Nov. 16, 2018.

For information contact:

**Cathy Guske
Member Services Director
AIA Virginia
(804) 644-3041 x301
cguske@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, designers on track to registration, and architects licensed for 10 years or less.

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

AIAVA 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:
_____ AIAVA   _____ 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. 16, 2018.

Tuition for this program is $675 for students and $1075 for all others.

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

Send completed application (PDF) to:

AIA Virginia
Attn: Cathy Guske
2501 Monument Ave.
Richmond, VA 23220-2618
Email: cguske@aiava.org

Agreement Form

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

I am a current member in good standing with the AIA Virginia 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 AIAVA or AIAS, I agree to join and remain in good standing for the duration of the program. Non-refundable tuition is due, in full, prior to the start of the first session.

Applicant's Signature:

_____

Date:_____

I authorize and encourage the above applicant to participate in the AIAVA 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:_____