

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 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

Sessions are interactive, drawing on real examples and actively involving participants. They are typically scheduled for the 2nd Friday of each month. They rotate among sites in various regions of Virginia in conjunction with the firms, schools, and the local AIA component. **Attendance is expected at all sessions.** Tuition is non-refundable and repeated absences may result in being dropped from the program.

Program Outline

Sessions are usually scheduled for the 2nd Friday of each month unless it falls on a holiday week. Dates, locations, and topics subject to change. Sessions are scheduled 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

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

Class Project Kick-Off Days: February, Roanoke
Requires overnight stay through Saturday

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

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

Class Project Work Session: May

Working Together: June, 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.

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

Class Project Work Session: August

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

The Value of Good Design: October, Roanoke
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. This session includes a community and/or AIA Virginia Board presentation.

Conclusion: November, Richmond
Presentation of class project at Architecture Exchange East Conference.

“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. If interested, please contact your local AIA chapter representative. Each chapter sets their own deadline and application requirements for these positions.

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. If interested, contact your department Chair/Dean.

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

All application materials must be submitted as one PDF (10MB max) and received by Nov. 5, 2021.

Tuition for this program is \$685 for students and \$1,092 for all others.

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

Send completed application (PDF) to:

Email: cguske@aiava.org
or Mail: AIA Virginia
Attn: Cathy Guske
2201 W. Broad St. Suite 207
Richmond, VA 23220

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

For all applicants:

1. Completed application form
2. A signed statement committing the applicant to attend ALL sessions, and join the AIA or AIAS (if not a current member).
3. One-page resume which should include - organizations, community activities, honors and awards.
4. A 500-word essay on the topic below
Discuss the relationship between leadership and architecture and your role in both.
5. One-page with your project/work samples

In addition:

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.

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.

The selection committee strives to compile a class of candidates with leadership potential, unique perspectives, and complementary talents.

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:

AIA Virginia AIAS Member #: _____

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

Licensure Status:

Licensed since _____

Not Licensed. Expected license date: (MM/YY) _____

Education:

Name of School/City: _____

Degree/Major: _____

Graduation Date: (Month/year): _____

Name of School/City: _____

Degree/Major: _____

Graduation Date: (Month/year): _____

**Applications must be received
by 5 p.m. EST on Nov. 5, 2021.**

**Demographic Information
(optional)**

AIA Virginia is working proactively toward equity and inclusivity in our programming. In an effort to help assess how well we're serving members, we've developed the standard demographic questions below. The following questions are completely optional and data will not be reported in a way that allows an individual respondent's identity to be known or tied to their responses.

Age range:

20-29

30-39

40-49

50-59

I identify my ethnicity as:

(may choose multiple)

Asian

Black/African American

Caucasian

Hispanic/Latinx

American Indian/Alaska Native

Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian

Other

I identify my gender as:

Male

Female

Nonbinary (neither, both, or something else)

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

I am a current member in good standing with the AIA Virginia/AIAS and will continue to be a member in good standing for the duration of the program. If I am not a member of AIA Virginia 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 AIA Virginia Emerging Leaders in Architecture Program and fully understand the attendance and tuition requirements as outlined in this application.

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

Printed/Typed Name and Title: _____