

This cover section is produced by the AIA Archives to show information from the online submission form. It is not part of the pdf submission upload.

2024 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Abigail R. Brown
Organization Gensler
Location Washington, District of Columbia
Chapter AIA Washington DC;

Category of Nomination

Object 3 (Led the Institute, Led Related Organization) > Led the Institute

Summary Statement

Abigail R. Brown propels the profession toward a robust, prosperous, and more equitable future. Her dynamic and transformative AIA leadership advances innovations in practice and forges avenues for emerging voices to drive the Institute forward.

Education

University of Cincinnati, 2007-2009, Master of Architecture
University of Cincinnati, 2003-2007, Bachelor of Science in Architecture

Licensed in:

Illinois

Employment

Gensler, 2022-present
Hickok Cole, 2012-2022
Loebl Schlossman & Hackl, 2009-2012
Metaphor, 2008
Clodagh Design, 2007
Pompei C3, 2006
BBGM Architects & Interiors, 2005

Date: 9.24.2023

Lisa Lamkin, FAIA, Chair, 2024 Jury of Fellows

American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Nomination of Abigail Brown, AIA, to the College of Fellows, Object 3

Dear Lisa,

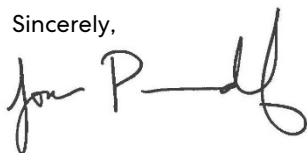
It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I nominate Abigail Brown, AIA, for elevation to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows. Abi has a proven record of dedication and impact on the Institute and makes an exceptional candidate for elevation. She has positioned AIA to advance meaningful changes in practice while opening avenues for emerging architects to help shape the future of the Institute.

Abi moved to Washington DC in 2012 and immediately engaged with the AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee, creating compelling programming and strengthening its mission. She adeptly took on greater leadership roles locally in AIA|DC and nationally with the AIA Young Architects Forum (YAF). In that position she expanded opportunities for her peers by advocating for more inclusive governance models, developing knowledge-sharing that specifically targets young professionals, and championing much-needed inclusion efforts in the AIA and her practice.

Abi's work in reimagining practice models is a unique approach to empowering architects. She was an invited participant in the YAF Practice Innovation Lab, where her team took the top prize for its idea for a subscription-based network of small firms to share resources and allow them to compete with larger firms. That initiative - JAMB Collective - is now a reality, with three dozen firms across 17 states participating. Her work on YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130 and the Align Mentorship Program (in partnership with the College of Fellows) has enabled new and bold conversations to take place across generational and geographic borders. Abi expanded the YAF as a powerful platform for young architects to engage with each other and the Institute as an actual force for change in the profession.

I have known Abi for over a decade and throughout that time her drive and curiosity have propelled her to exemplary goals and substantial impacts on the communities that surround her. In whatever she tackles - design work, community activism, and Institute leadership - she is uniquely adept at creating the systems needed for success and then delivering solid solutions. I have met no one else who can match her dedication to the future of the profession, and creating a more diverse and equitable community in which we all can thrive. The impacts of her work have been felt across the Institute, and for that reason I wholeheartedly support Abigail Brown's nomination and elevation to the AIA College of Fellows.

Sincerely,



Jon Penndorf, FAIA
Associate Principal, Perkins&Will

1.0 Summary

Abigail R. Brown propels the profession toward a robust, prosperous, and more equitable future. Her dynamic and transformative AIA leadership advances innovations in practice and forges avenues for emerging voices to drive the Institute forward.

● Advances Innovations in Practice through AIA Leadership

Abi lays the groundwork for a re-imagined profession that challenges traditional business models and advances equity in the face of disruptive economic and societal forces. One of 60 competitively-selected participants in 2017's AIA Practice Innovation Lab, she led her team to conceive a subscription-based network that empowers small and medium-sized firms – the vast majority in the country – to compete with large firms. The concept received top honors at the event and is now a reality. **JAMB Collective supports 36 firms in 17 states through resource sharing, technology access, and partnership opportunities.**

Abi leads conversations about innovation in practice around the country. She has spoken at seven AIA events including 2018 AIA Grassroots in San Diego, A'18 in New York, and A'19 in Las Vegas. In 2018, she organized an interactive workshop for AIAIDC members to build upon the Practice Innovation Lab's topics, trends, and themes. **The event's success sparked Practice Innovation Labs in New Orleans, Michigan, Wisconsin, the South Atlantic Region, and the Ohio Valley Region that reached over 400 participants.**

While leading the AIA Young Architects Forum (YAF) Summit 30: Mission 2130, Abi initiated a global dialogue about the future of the built environment, our planet, and humanity. **Her push to broaden participation beyond YAF brought together 300+ visionaries from four continents to imagine the world 100 years from now and develop a road map for a better, more equitable, and healthier future.** Mission 2130 directly led to YAF's 2023-2027 strategic initiative, "Architects in Action: Catalyzing for Change."

Abi championed the adoption of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as core values of YAF in 2018 and organized a series of listening sessions for members to discuss racial justice after the 2020 murder of George Floyd. She brought this action to practice, where she pitched the Just transparency label as a tool to benchmark her firm's DEI initiatives. **Abi led her firm's efforts to become the first DC-based firm to earn a Just label, and she brings this expertise back to the AIA, where she regularly shares the framework with other leaders.**

● Forges Avenues for Emerging Voices to Lead AIA into the Future

Abi has dedicated over a decade of leadership in the AIA to equipping emerging leaders to advocate for leadership diversity, business skills, mentorship, career resilience, and navigating uncertainty in the profession. As Chair of the YAF in 2021, Abi engaged with the College of Fellows to launch the Align Mentorship Program. This multi-year program matches AIA members with Fellows, providing mentees with support over their first decade of licensure and accelerating their ability to make notable contributions to the profession early in their careers. **Align now serves 98 mentors and mentees from 34 states, Washington, DC, and the US Virgin Islands.**

Abi was instrumental in enlarging the AIA Strategic Council, the YAF, and the National Associates Committee (NAC) to expand leadership opportunities and reflect more equitable representation by providing voices from all 50 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, all other US territories, and the AIA International component. **Her advocacy transformed AIA national governance and created 94 new single-state national leadership roles for young architects and Associate members.**

As YAF Community Director, Abi developed resources to motivate and guide AIA components to build programming for early career professionals. She led her workgroup to publish a toolkit featuring "Emerging Professional Friendly Firm" programs that recognize firms for promoting professional development and growth opportunities for young architects. Since first published in 2019, **AIA components in Houston, Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, New Mexico, New England, the North Central States, and the Northwest and Pacific Region launched new firm recognition programs using the toolkit.**

Abi transformed the AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee from a small group of self-starting individuals in 2013 into one of the chapter's most dynamic committees. The committee leadership structure she implemented and programs she shepherded – including Architecture Uncensored and Thesis Showcase – **provide emerging professionals platforms to hone leadership skills and spark conversations that will guide AIA in the coming decade.**

2.0 Accomplishments

53

States and territories impacted through AIA leadership and initiatives



Section 3

94

National AIA leadership positions created

Exhibit 3.5

4

Continents represented at YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130

Exhibit 3.3



750+

Attendees reached by YAF webinars on AIAU

Exhibit 3.4

36

Small firms empowered by JAMB Collective

Exhibit 3.2

200+

AIA components engaged in developing programs for emerging professionals

Exhibit 3.6

400+

Participants reached by local AIA Practice Innovation Labs

Exhibit 3.1



36

National speaking engagements, including A'16, A'18, A'19, and WLS 2023



Pages 9-10

98

Mentees and mentors connected by the Align Mentorship Program

Exhibit 3.7

300+

Visionaries mobilized at YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130

Exhibit 3.3

49

Recent graduates featured at the AIA|DC Thesis Showcase

Exhibit 3.8

\$20k

Future Forward grants awarded to emerging professionals

Exhibit 3.1



- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

2.1 Significant Work | Leadership Positions



Young Architects Forum
AIA Member group



2022 YAF Advisory Committee



A'22 in Chicago

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

Abi leverages AIA's platforms to push for new ways of thinking about practice and to empower recently licensed architects to influence the direction of the profession. She brings this experience back to practice, where she leads initiatives that expand opportunities for firms, bolster the voices of young professionals, and measure progress in meaningful ways.

AIA National Leadership

Secretary's Advisory Committee

2023 Appointee

- Abi strategizes governance and equitable development of the Institute through policy changes regarding Honorary Fellowship, membership categories, board composition, awards programs, and ethics. ●

Young Architects Forum (YAF)

2022 Past Chair

- Abi led the YAF's transition from regional to state-based representation. She negotiated new liaison agreements with the Large Firm Roundtable and Committee on the Environment, which were only possible due to the expanded committee size. ● Exhibit 3.5
- Abi provided strategic guidance as the YAF prepared to adopt a new five-year strategic initiative. ● Exhibit 3.3

2021-2022 YAF Summit 30 Steering Committee

- Abi conceptualized and facilitated YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130, which included virtual charrettes and a two-day summit. Participants imagined the world 100 years from now and developed road maps to a better built environment, a healthier planet, and a more equitable society. ● Exhibit 3.3

Young Architects Forum (YAF), continued

2021 Chair

- Abi worked with the College of Fellows to transform the Align Mentorship Program from a pilot to an official AIA initiative open to all Fellows and young architects. ● Exhibit 3.7
- Abi led the remote YAF network through engaging virtual events, including the YAF Annual Meeting, meet-ups with YAF alumni, and fireside chats with the College of Fellows, Strategic Council, and AIA Board. ●
- Abi worked with AIA President Peter Exley to include YAF members on monthly Leadership Exchange calls and to expand young architect participation on AIA Board Committees. ●

"A vibrant voice for the profession, Abi is shaping the future. Summit 30: Mission 2130 exemplifies her irrepressible passion for the profession and the engagement of young professionals locally, nationally, and globally, resulting in deliberate actions influencing the architecture industry for years to come."

Cheryl McAfee, FAIA

2020-2022 AIA Strategic Council Regional Representative & 2021 Strategic Council Liaison to the YAF, Atlanta, GA

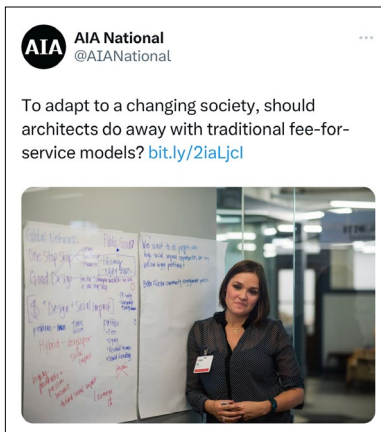
2.1 Significant Work | Leadership Positions



2021 YAF Annual Meeting on Zoom



2019 Women's Leadership Summit



2017 Practice Innovation Lab

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

Young Architects Forum (YAF), continued

2020 Vice Chair

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Abi pivoted YAF to a fully remote committee using collaboration tools to increase virtual engagement. The virtual Transition Meeting she chaired became a model used by AIA staff for other remote meetings. ●

2018-2019 Community Director

- Abi advocated for YAF to select "Practice Innovation" as YAF's strategic initiative for 2018-2022. ●● Exhibit 3.1
- Abi championed adopting diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values of the YAF as the #MeToo movement rippled through the profession. ●● Exhibit 3.4
- Abi led her six-person focus group to build toolkits and resources that support components and emerging professional groups nationwide. ● Exhibit 3.6

2017 Practice Innovation Lab Invited Attendee

- Abi was one of 60 people competitively-selected to attend this three-day summit at the 1776 startup incubator where she developed one of ten new business models for the profession. ●● Exhibit 3.1

Resolution 18-7 (Study of AIA Regions) Implementation Task Force

2020-2021 Appointed Task Force Member

- Appointed by AIA President Jane Frederick, Abi guided the AIA's implementation strategy for dissolving the 18 regions and moving to state-based governance. She co-authored transition guidelines for the Strategic Council and By-Laws Amendment 21-A. ● Exhibit 3.5

Young Architects Forum/National Associates Committee Joint Regions Task Force

2020-2021 Co-Chair

- Abi led an exploration of new governance models for the YAF and NAC in response to the AIA's elimination of regions. Both committees expanded from 18 regional representatives to include representation from all 50 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, all other territories, and the AIA International component. ● Exhibit 3.5

AIA-AGC (Associated General Contractors of America) Joint Committee

2018-2019 Appointee

- Abi co-wrote the *AIA-AGC Joint Committee Guiding Principles* that call on architects and contractors to jointly address common industry challenges including workforce pipeline and culture, the climate crisis, economic resilience, and emerging technologies. She prompted the creation of a DEI sub-committee. ●

"I volunteered to be a mentor in the Align pilot program because of Abi's passion, and I have not been disappointed. I have been a first-hand witness of a woman who will continue to lead our profession in a passionate, equitable, and innovative manner."

Wendy Ornelas, FAIA

COF/YAF Align Mentorship Program Mentor, Manhattan, KS

2.1 Significant Work | Leadership Positions



2022 AIA DC & DC NOMA Joint Mixer



2019 AIA DC Licensure Celebration



2017 AIA DC EAC Study Tour

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

AIA|DC Leadership

AIA|DC Board of Directors

- 2022-2023 Role: **Director-at-Large**
- Abi organized and led joint board meetings and member events with the DC chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. The first joint mixer that she organized drew over 100 attendees.

- 2023 Role: **Finance Committee**
- Abi works toward AIA|DC's financial independence by diversifying revenue, ensuring responsible spending, and prioritizing engaging member programming.

- 2023 Role: **District Architecture Center Task Force**
- Abi collaborated with members of the AIA|DC and Washington Architectural Foundation boards to co-author a joint vision statement and envision the future of the District Architecture Center.

AIA|DC ACEL (Architects Coaching and Empowering Leaders) Committee

- 2021-Present Role: **Steering Committee**
- Abi strategizes and supports leadership training events and programs for mid-career architects.

AIA|DC Licensure Celebration

- 2019 Role: **Event Co-Chair**
- Abi planned a reception to honor nearly 60 newly licensed architects who are members of AIA|DC. She raised over \$4,000 in sponsorships to fund the celebration.

AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee (EAC) Executive Committee

- 2017 Role: **Past Chair**
- Abi founded the annual EAC Study Tour series, which organized day trips to Fallingwater, Charlottesville, VA, and Philadelphia, PA. She formed a scholarship for EAC members to attend the AIA Leadership Institute and mentored new committee leadership as she transitioned off the EAC.
- 2016 Role: **Chair**
- Abi developed the mission, work plan, event calendar, and a new member guide. She established a budget and sponsorship structure that allowed the size and breadth of the EAC's programming to grow. She formalized a new leadership transition plan, which the EAC uses seven years later.
- 2015 Role: **Vice Chair**
- Abi created a yearly strategic planning session that focuses the committee's vision, goals, and priorities. Her efforts tripled average monthly meeting attendance.

"Abi's legacy for making a positive difference in her community and inspiring the next generation built the Emerging Architects Committee into one of the most enthusiastic at AIA|DC. I have worked alongside Abi, and her passion and determination are a source of inspiration for the leader I wish to be: A Woman of Action."

Mika Naraynsingh, AIA
2023 AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee Advocacy Chair, Washington, DC

2.1 Significant Work | Leadership Positions



2017 AIA DC CKLDP Class



2016 AIA DC EAC Event Promotions



2015 AIA DC EAC Strategic Planning

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

AIA|DC Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program (CKLDP)

- 2017-2018 Role: **Graphics Advisor**
- CKLDP is AIA|DC's cornerstone leadership development program for young architects. Abi elevated and maintained the program's visual identity through toolkits, slideshows, session booklets, and marketing collateral. ●
- 2015-2016 Role: **Emerging Architects Committee Liaison**
- As liaison between the CKLDP and EAC, Abi ensured alignment in vision and facilitated a close working relationship between the committees during its third year. ●

AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee (EAC) Program Leadership

- 2016-2018 Role: **EAC/SEAMW-YMG Joint Event Chair**
- Abi planned lectures and construction tours for hundreds of emerging professionals with the Structural Engineers Association of Metropolitan Washington's Young Members Group (SEAMW-YMG). The relationship continues in 2023 with regular joint happy hours and events. ●
- 2016 Role: **Mentorship Workshop Event Chair**
- Abi facilitated a three-part series of mentorship workshops entitled *Leadership and the Emerging Architect*, which included a panel discussion, an interactive goal setting session, and speed mentorship. ●
- 2015-2016 Role: **Sip & Sketch with Moleskine Event Chair**
- Abi organized a series of three events at a local Moleskine store to facilitate networking through one of the main skills at the core of the profession: sketching. ●

AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee (EAC) Program Leadership, continued

- 2014-2017 Role: **Thesis Showcase Co-Founder & Chair**
- Abi created an annual event to bridge the gap between recent graduates and practicing architects by empowering emerging professionals to present their theses at the District Architecture Center. ● **Exhibit 3.8**
- 2014-2015 Role: **Architecture Uncensored Event Chair**
- Abi revamped the annual lecture series by turning it into a debate about taboo topics in the profession. The 2014 series, *Navigating Uncertainty*, and the 2015 series, *Debating the Dollar*, each attracted 30-40 attendees. Abi applied for and received a COF grant to produce a series of mini-documentaries in 2015 that are now available on YouTube. ●●

"Abi encouraged the AIA|DC Board to expand its perspective towards inclusivity, and she helped broaden our reach by collaborating with DC NOMA to better connect the Washington, DC, design community. **Abi is an exceptional leader, something that is clear when you see the excitement, enthusiasm, and eagerness from her peers who wish to volunteer and follow her direction.**"

Yiselle Santos Rivera, AIA
2023 AIA|DC President, Washington, DC

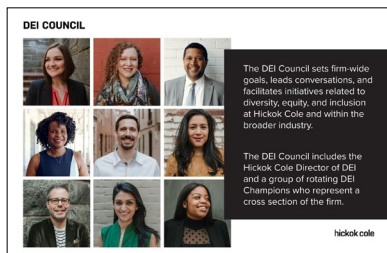
2.1 Significant Work | Leadership Positions



Gensler District Ambassadors



Hickok Cole Fireside Chats



Hickok Cole DEI Council



JAMB Collective

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

Practice Leadership

Gensler

- 2023-Now Role: **Gensler District Ambassadors**
- Abi collaborates with a team of mid-career professionals at Gensler to develop events with the next generation of industry leaders to cultivate and explore ideas that will shape the future of Washington, DC. ●●

- 2022-Now Role: **Race & Diversity Committee Champion**
- Abi represents her studio in Gensler's regional DEI network. She organizes office-wide workshops on inclusive design and curates a monthly cultural calendar. ●

Hickok Cole

- 2021-2022 Role: **Director of Diversity, Equity + Inclusion**
- Abi served as the first firmwide Director of DEI from October 2021 through February 2022. She recruited and onboarded nine DEI Champions while developing a road map to guide their first year. ●●● Exhibit 3.4

- 2020-2021 Role: **DEI Working Group Member**
- Abi co-authored a firmwide DEI and values statement, generated a list of short and long-term goals, facilitated six workshops to foster inclusivity and belonging in the workplace, and conceived a new permanent DEI Council. ●●● Exhibit 3.4

- 2020-2021 Role: **Just Label Task Force Chair**
- Abi led the firm's effort to earn a Just transparency label from the International Living Future Institute. Hickok Cole was the first DC-based firm to earn this distinction. ●● Exhibit 3.4

- 2019-2020 Role: **Staff Operations Committee Chair**
- As leader of the firm's culture committee, Abi prioritized diversity, equity, and inclusion for the first time. ●●● Exhibit 3.4

Hickok Cole, continued

- 2019-2022 Role: **Fireside Chats Founder & Host**
- Abi hosted 15 candid conversations about career path development as a mentorship opportunity for the firm's emerging professionals. Topics included project roles, firm ownership, and entrepreneurship. ●
- 2013-2022 Role: **Full Circle Committee Leadership**
- Abi's leadership fostered a thriving philanthropic committee that organized over 70 events and donated thousands of hours during her nine years at the firm. Leveraging her experience leading AIA committees, Abi developed a transition plan for Full Circle to prevent burnout and create additional leadership opportunities. ●

JAMB Collective, LLC

- 2017-Now Role: **Co-Founder & Co-Managing Partner**
- Abi co-founded and co-manages this network of small and medium-sized firms that empowers them to compete with larger firms through resource sharing, technology access, and collaboration opportunities. ●● Exhibit 3.2

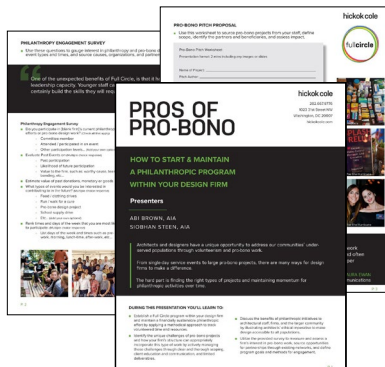
"Abi leverages the foundations of her AIA leadership to lead programs and initiatives within practice. At Gensler, she elevates the people around her, developing and championing programs focused on her passions of career advancement and DEI."

Theresa Sheils, FAIA
Co-Managing Director, Gensler,
Washington, DC

2.1 Significant Work | Speaking Engagements



2021 AIA Illinois EP Summit



2018/2019 The Pros of Pro-Bono



2016 AIA DC Thesis Showcase

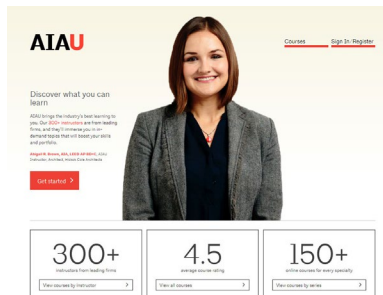
- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

Abi speaks to national and local AIA audiences about innovation in practice through topics including new business models for architects, building philanthropic programs within design firms, applied research, and modular construction. She facilitates conversations that empower emerging professionals to be self-advocates and stronger leaders.

AIA Speaking Engagements

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 2023 | <i>Building and Benchmarking a Socially Just Firm</i> , AIA Women's Leadership Summit, Boston, MA - Moderator ●● Exhibit 3.4 | 2020 | <i>Emerging Young Leaders: Networking and Mentorship</i> , AIAS Grassroots, Virtual - Mentor ● |
| 2023 | <i>Building and Benchmarking a Socially Just Firm</i> , AIAIDC Equity Committee by WIELD, Washington, DC - Moderator ●● Exhibit 3.4 | 2019 | <i>The Practice Innovation Lab Shark Tank</i> , AIA Conference on Architecture, Las Vegas, NV - Co-Presenter ● Exhibit 3.1 |
| 2022 | <i>Increasing Ethnic Diversity in Leadership Roles</i> , AIA Grassroots, Virtual - Co-Presenter and Small Group Facilitator ● | 2019 | <i>Conversations on Practice Innovation and How to Start Your Own</i> , AIA Conference on Architecture, Las Vegas, NV - Panelist ● Exhibit 3.1 |
| 2022 | <i>Practice Innovation in Practice</i> , AIA Southern Arizona, Virtual - Co-Presenter ● Exhibit 3.1 | 2019 | <i>Licensure Celebration</i> , AIAIDC, Washington, DC - Program Chair and Moderator ● |
| 2022 | <i>Manifesting Your Leadership</i> , AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee, Washington, DC - Presenter ● | 2019 | <i>Mini MBA: Mastering the Business of Architecture for Emerging Professionals</i> , AIA Conference on Architecture, Las Vegas, NV - Small Group Facilitator ● |
| 2021 | <i>Communicating Your Value and Knowing Your Worth</i> , AIA Illinois Emerging Professional Summit, Virtual - Panelist ● | 2019 | <i>Expanding the Definition of Practice</i> , AIA Detroit Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program, Virtual - Panelist ● Exhibit 3.1 |
| 2021 | <i>DE&I Discussion with Mid-Sized Architecture Firms</i> , AIAIDC, Virtual - Panelist ●● Exhibit 3.4 | 2019 | <i>AIAxAIAS Engagement</i> , AIAS Grassroots, Washington, DC - Panelist ● |
| 2021 | <i>Toward a New State of DC: An Architectural Case for Statehood</i> , AIAIDC PROVOCATIONS, Washington, DC - Panelist ● | 2018 | <i>YAF Practice Innovation Lab: Disruption of the Profession</i> , AIA Conference on Architecture, New York, NY - Panelist ● Exhibit 3.1 |
| 2020 | <i>The Skill You Need: Career Resilience</i> , AIAU, Virtual - Moderator and Panelist; available to view on AIAU ● | | |

2.1 Significant Work | Speaking Engagements



2016 "Fabulous Pre-Fab" on AIAU



2016 AIA National Convention



2015 World of Modular

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

- 2018 **YAF Practice Innovation Lab: Disruption of the Profession**, AIA Grassroots, San Diego, CA - Panelist ● **Exhibit 3.1**
- 2018 **Do As I Say, Not As I Did: Lessons Learned Through Early Mistakes in Architecture**, AIAS Grassroots, Washington, DC - Panelist ●
- 2018 **The Pros of Pro Bono: How to Start & Maintain a Philanthropic Program Within Your Design Firm**, AIAIDC DesignDC, Washington, DC - Co-Presenter ●
- 2018 **The Future is Emerging: Lessons from the Practice Innovation Lab**, AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee, Washington, DC - Panelist ● **Exhibit 3.1**
- 2017 **Research, Education & Practice**, AIAIDC Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program, Washington, DC - Panelist ●
- 2016 **Fabulous Pre-Fab: Applying Modular Construction to Multifamily Residential Projects**, AIA Conference on Architecture, Philadelphia, PA - Solo presentation delivered to a sold out crowd of 400+ attendees; available to view on AIAU ●
- 2016 **Architecture Uncensored: For What It's Worth**, AIAIDC, three-part lecture series, Washington, DC - Program Chair & Opening Remarks ●
- 2016 **Leadership and the Emerging Architect**, AIAIDC, three-part mentoring workshop series - Facilitator ●

- 2015 **Fabulous Pre-Fab: Applying Modular Construction to Multifamily Residential Projects**, AIAIDC DesignDC, Washington, DC - Presenter ●
- 2015 **Architecture Uncensored: Debating the Dollar**, AIAIDC, five-part lecture series, Washington, DC - Program Chair and Opening Remarks ●●
- 2014-2017 **Thesis Showcase**, AIAIDC, Washington, DC - Program Chair & Opening Remarks ● **Exhibit 3.8**
- 2014 **Architecture Uncensored: Navigating Uncertainty**, AIAIDC, four-part lecture series, Washington, DC - Program Chair & Opening Remarks ●●

Other Speaking Engagements

- 2022 **Walking the Walk: Building a Socially Just Brand**, Society for Marketing Professional Services Amplify AEC Conference, Atlanta, GA - Panel Moderator ●● **Exhibit 3.4**
- 2019 **The Pros of Pro Bono: How to Start & Maintain a Philanthropic Program Within Your Design Firm**, West Virginia Construction & Design Expo, Charleston, WV - Co-Presenter ●
- 2018 **This Sh*t is Definitely Worth It: A Debate About the Potential for Equity in Architecture**, Turncoats DC, Washington, DC - Panelist ●●
- 2015 **An Architect's Approach to Multifamily Modular Construction in the US Capital**, Modular Building Institute's World of Modular Conference, Las Vegas, NV - Presenter ●

2.1 Significant Work | Juries



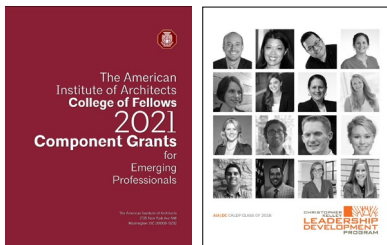
2022 YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130



2021 AIA Young Architects Award



2020 AIA DC Awards for Great People



2021 COF EP Component Grants & 2015-2016 AIA DC CKLDP Scholars

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

As a frequent juror for national, regional, and local AIA honors and awards, Abi seeks to recognize diverse and unique voices. Her jury service includes regional design awards, honor awards for individuals and firms, College of Fellows emerging professional component grants, selection committees for mentorship programs, and national and local leadership positions.

National/Regional AIA Juries

- 2023 AIA Connecticut Women in Architecture Awards
- 2022 AIA National YAF Summit 30 Participant Jury ● Exhibit 3.3
- 2022 AIA National COF/YAF Align Mentorship Program Participant Selection ● Exhibit 3.7
- 2021 AIA National 2022 Young Architects Award ●
- 2021 College of Fellows 2022 Executive Committee Nominating Committee
- 2021 College of Fellows Emerging Professionals Component Grant Jury ●
- 2021 YAF Advisory Committee Selection ●
- 2021 AIA Central States Region Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Awards ● Exhibit 3.6
- 2020 YAF Advisory Committee Selection, Jury Chair ●
- 2018 YAF Advisory Committee Selection ●
- 2018 AIA New England Design Awards

AIA|DC Juries

- 2022 AIA|DC Awards for Great People
- 2021 AIA|DC Awards for Great People
- 2020 AIA|DC Awards for Great People
- 2019 AIA|DC Mentorship Program Participant Jury ●
- 2017 AIA|DC Awards for Great People
- 2016 AIA|DC Board Nominating Committee
- 2016 AIA|DC Thesis Showcase Selection ● Exhibit 3.8
- 2016 AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee Advisory Committee Selection ●
- 2015 AIA|DC Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program Scholar Selection ●
- 2015 AIA|DC Thesis Showcase Selection, Jury Chair ● Exhibit 3.8
- 2015 AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee Advisory Committee Selection, Jury Chair ●
- 2014 AIA|DC Thesis Showcase Selection ● Exhibit 3.8

2.1 Significant Work | Advocacy & Activism



2022 AIA Grassroots Virtual Lobby Day



2022 Architects for Abortion Access



2017 March for Science with the Architect Action Network

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

The granddaughter of a city councilwoman, Abi inherited a passion for activism that includes but also extends beyond the built environment. She amplifies the voice of architects in the public sphere by gathering fellow architects with similar values and empowering them to get involved in civic issues through fundraising, government advocacy, and marching at protests.

AIA Advocacy

AIA|DC Advocacy Committee

- 2022- Role: **Liaison to Board of Directors**
Now
- Abi lobbied the DC Council to pass the Bird-Friendly Building Act and Good Samaritan laws to legally protect architects who volunteer their services during emergencies.

AIA Grassroots Capitol Hill Lobby Day

- 2022 Role: **Delegate**
2021
2019
- Abi met with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to lobby for legislation that improves the profession and built environment, including bills related to school safety, energy codes, and student loan relief.

AIA SpeakUp

- 2016 Role: **Scholarship Winner & Participant**
- Abi won a scholarship to attend AIA's first SpeakUp advocacy training event, where she learned how to run a legislative campaign.

Other Notable Advocacy Projects

Architects for Abortion Access

- 2022- Role: **Co-Founder**
Now
- Abi gathered architects from around the country to take action after the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Hosted a fundraiser that raised over \$3,500 for the DC Abortion Fund. ●

Neighbors United for DC Statehood

- 2017- Role: **Advocacy & Outreach Volunteer**
Now
- Abi advocates for the 700,000+ disenfranchised residents of the nation's capital without voting representation in Congress through government and citizen outreach. ●

Planned Parenthood Action Fund & NARAL Pro-Choice America

- 2017 - Role: **Advocacy Volunteer**
Now
- Abi used personal storytelling to advocate for guaranteed birth control coverage in health insurance plans. She testified at a DC Council hearing and spoke at several rallies in 2017. ●

Vote Forward & Indivisible

- 2020- Role: **Get Out the Vote Volunteer**
2022
- Abi wrote 250 letters and sent hundreds of text messages to potential voters from historically underrepresented groups in Ohio and Georgia, encouraging them to vote and providing resources. ●

Architect Action Network

- 2016- Role: **Co-Founder**
2018
- Abi created a network of civically engaged architects after the 2016 national election. She organized meetups at major national protests, including the Women's March, March for Science, the People's Climate March, and the March for Our Lives. ●

2.1 Significant Work | Community Impact



2013 DCBIA Community Improvement Day at Lederer Gardens



2018 Park(ing) Day



2013 Hurricane Sandy Relief

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

Abi recognizes that community engagement projects not only build sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant communities, but they also build leaders. She regularly leads and participates in volunteer community efforts and creates opportunities at her firms for younger staff to assume leadership roles by organizing service projects aligned with their personal values.

AIA Community Impact

AIA Puerto Rico Service Day

- 2019 Role: **Volunteer**
- Abi and members of the Young Architects Forum teamed up with AIA Puerto Rico to build a community park in San Juan after Hurricane Maria.

AIAIDC Canstruction

- 2017 Role: **Co-Chair**
- Abi led Hickok Cole's collaboration with structural engineer Ehlert Bryan to raise money and collect canned goods for the Capital Area Food Bank.

AIAIDC Architecture in the Schools

- 2016-2017 Role: **Workshop Leader**
- Abi led annual workshops for the Howard Garner School to introduce sixth-graders to architecture and design. ●

AIAIDC Taller de arquitectura para niños

- 2014-2015 Role: **Volunteer**
- Abi facilitated weekend workshops for primarily Spanish-speaking eight to 12-year-old children and their families. ●

AIA Chicago Architect Barbie Workshop

- 2012 Role: **Volunteer**
- Abi worked side by side with second-grade girls to introduce them to architecture by designing their own Barbie dreamhouses. ●

Other Notable Community Impact

Kelly Miller Middle School Backpack Drive

- 2022-2023 Role: **Gensler Studio Captain**
- As captain for her 50-person studio, Abi organized a backpack and school supplies drive for nine local middle schoolers. ●

Park(ing) Day

- 2017-2018 Role: **Hickok Cole Co-Chair**
- Abi collaborated with industry partners and neighborhood businesses to build curbside parklets that facilitated community engagement through sustainable design.

Hurricane Sandy Relief Service Day

- 2013 Role: **Volunteer**
- Volunteered with Occupy Sandy and the World Cares Center to remediate mold in houses on Staten Island.

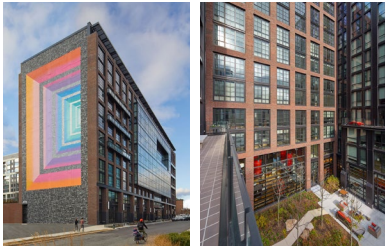
DCBIA (District of Columbia Building Industry Association) Community Improvement Day

- 2013 Role: **Design Team & Build Volunteer**
- Abi led Hickok Cole's team to design and build a play area for Lederer Gardens. ●

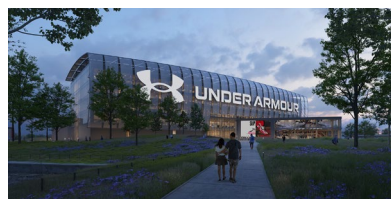
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & Northwest Indiana Gold Award Committee

- 2010-2011 Role: **Gold Award Coach**
- Abi coached four high school girls as they developed and led their Girl Scout Gold Award service projects. ●

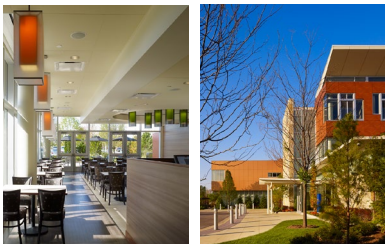
2.1 Significant Work | Notable Project Work



The Belgard



Under Armour Global Headquarters



College of DuPage Culinary & Hospitality Center

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices
- Built Work

As a project architect dedicated to shepherding projects from inception through construction, Abi's work results in mixed-use projects that create vibrant places to live, learn, and work. Her projects have incorporated net zero sustainability strategies, community partnerships, and innovative learning environments for the 21st century.

Under Armour Global Headquarters

2024, Gensler, Baltimore, MD

Role: **Project Architect**

Certifications: Targeting LEED Platinum, Net Zero Carbon, Net Zero Energy, WELL Certification

Under Armour's new 200,000 SF global headquarters includes workspace, flagship retail, showrooms, and fitness. A project architect for the core and shell, Abi detailed a high-performance exterior envelope and coordinated net zero sustainability strategies including geothermal power and a PV canopy. ●

Pierce at the Highlands

2021, Hickok Cole, Arlington, VA

Role: **Project Architect/Sustainability Coordination**

Certifications: LEED Gold

Pierce is the 26-story, 104-unit marquee tower of the Highlands, a new landmark mixed-use community that includes a public school, fire station, urban park, retail, and over 1,000 multifamily residential units. Abi was a project architect from design development through construction. ● [Exhibit 3.9](#)

Frager's Hardware/Penn Eleven

2019, Hickok Cole, Washington, DC

Role: **Project Architect/Unit Design & Documentation**

Certifications: LEED Certified

Initially opened in 1920, Frager's Hardware was a Capitol Hill institution before a fire closed its doors in 2013. As a project architect, Abi significantly contributed to a restoration of the historic facade while adding 34 mixed-income residential units to the neighborhood.

● [Exhibit 3.10](#)

The Belgard

2016, Hickok Cole, Washington, DC

Role: **Architect/Sustainability Coordination**

Certifications: LEED Certified

As a core and shell architect on this 13-story, 324-unit apartment building, Abi closely collaborated with the interior designer and landscape architect to create a home for young professionals seeking an affordable urban lifestyle. The facade includes a bold mural that celebrates the neighborhood's history of street art. ●

College of DuPage Student Resource Center

2014, Loeb Schlossman & Hackl, Glen Ellyn, IL

Role: **Architect/Interior Designer/BIM Manager**

Certifications: LEED Certified

Abi was instrumental in planning and designing this 300,000 SF renovation of the outdated student resource center, which included modernization of the main campus library to meet the needs of the 21st century with technology-enriched learning spaces. ●

College of DuPage Culinary & Hospitality Center

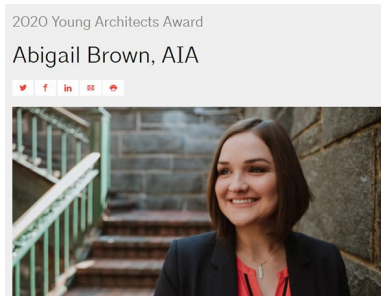
2011, Loeb Schlossman & Hackl, Glen Ellyn, IL

Role: **Architect/Interior Designer**

Certifications: LEED Certified

The country's first LEED-certified culinary school, this 60,000 SF facility accommodates the culinary arts and hospitality programs. A core member of the programming, architecture, and interior design teams, Abi designed innovative learning spaces including commercial kitchens, bakeshops, six boutique hotel rooms, and two restaurants operated by students. ●

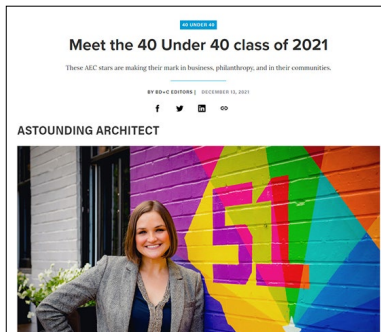
2.2 Significant Honors, Awards, and Recognition



2020 AIA Young Architects Award



2016 AIA DC Emerging Architect Award



2021 Building Design + Construction, 40 Under 40

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices
- Built Work

AIA Awards and Recognition

- 2020 AIA National, Young Architects Award ●
- 2016 AIA National, SpeakUp: AIA Advocacy and Action Event, Scholarship Winner ●
- 2016 AIAIDC, Emerging Architect Award ●
- 2007 AIA Ohio Foundation Scholarship ●

Recognition of Nominee's Initiatives

- 2019 Trimble Consulting's ZeroSixty Accelerator participant, JAMB Collective ● Exhibit 3.2
- 2018 Charrette Venture Group Business Plan Competition Winner, JAMB Collective ● Exhibit 3.2
- 2018 College of Fellows Emerging Professional Component Grant, AIAIDC Thesis Showcase ● Exhibit 3.8
- 2017 AIA Practice Innovation Lab People's Choice Award Winner, JAMB Collective ● Exhibit 3.2
- 2017 Washington Business Journal Corporate Philanthropy Award, Third Place, Hickok Cole ●
- 2016 Washington Business Journal Corporate Philanthropy Award, Sixth Place, Hickok Cole ●
- 2015 College of Fellows Emerging Professional Component Grant, AIAIDC Architecture Uncensored Lecture Series ●●

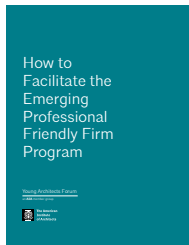
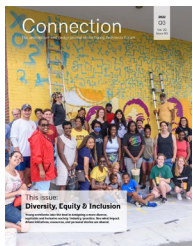
Other Awards and Recognition

- 2021 *Building Design + Construction*, 40 Under 40 ●
- 2017 District of Columbia Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies, Young Architect Award ●
- 2015 Hickok Cole iLab Micro Grant for *Fabulous Pre-Fab: Applying Modular Construction to Multifamily Residential Projects* ●

Notable Project Awards

- 2022 USGBC National Capital Region Awards, Innovative Residential Project of the Year; The Highlands ● Exhibit 3.9
- 2022 Best of NAIOP Northern Virginia Awards, Multifamily Residential Award of Excellence; Pierce + Cortland East at the Highlands ● Exhibit 3.9
- 2022 Best of NAIOP Northern Virginia Awards, Amenity Space Award of Merit - Rooftop Amenity; Pierce + Cortland East at the Highlands ● Exhibit 3.9
- 2020 MHN Excellence Awards; Silver Award: Unbuilt; Pierce + Cortland East at the Highlands ● Exhibit 3.9
- 2020 Multifamily Executive Awards, Mixed-Use Project of the Year; Penn Eleven ● Exhibit 3.10
- 2019 Delta Associates Annual Industry Awards for Excellence, Best DC/Baltimore Boutique Condo Community; Penn Eleven ● Exhibit 3.10
- 2019 MHN Excellence Awards, Silver Award for Development and Design: Mixed-Use; The Belgard ●

2.3 Significant Publications



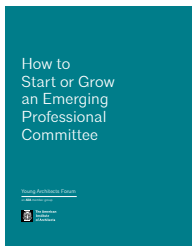
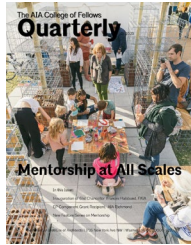
- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices
- Built Work

Abi contributes to resources and toolkits published by AIA and her firms, and her work has been cited in national publications such as *Architect*, *Architectural Record*, and *ArchDaily*. She frequently contributes articles to *YAF Connection*, the official quarterly publication of the AIA Young Architects Forum, which has a distribution of 20,000+ readers.

Publications Authored by Nominee

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 2023 | "YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130 Event Findings," AIA Young Architects Forum ● Exhibit 3.3 | 2021 | "Architects Should Stand for Something," <i>Connection</i> , Issue 2: Mentorship, Citizen Architects & 2021 Awards ● |
| 2023 | "Mission 2130: Code Red Charrette Toolkit," AIA Young Architects Forum ● Exhibit 3.3 | 2020 | "Disrupt for Enduring Change," <i>Connection</i> , Issue 04: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion ● Exhibit 3.4 |
| 2023 | "Mission 2130: Crew Manual," AIA Young Architects Forum ● Exhibit 3.3 | 2020 | "How to Facilitate the Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Program," AIA Young Architects Forum ● Exhibit 3.6 |
| 2022 | "Walking the Walk: Using the Just Label to Benchmark EDI Initiatives," <i>Connection</i> , Issue 3: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (with Laura Ewan) ● Exhibit 3.4 | 2019 | "How to Start or Grow an Emerging Professional Committee," AIA Young Architects Forum ● Exhibit 3.6 |
| 2021 | "National Associates Committee and Young Architects Forum Regions to States Transition Plan," AIA National ● Exhibit 3.5 | 2019 | "Finding Acceptance at WLS 2019: An Interview with EB Kinkel Srygley," <i>Connection</i> , Issue 4: Technology ● |
| 2021 | "A Guide for Transition: Moving from a Region-based Model to a State-based Model," AIA National ● Exhibit 3.5 | 2019 | "WLS Recommendations," <i>Connection</i> , Issue 4: Technology (with Graciela Carrillo, Katelyn Chapin, Katie Kangas, and Jessica O'Donnell) ● |
| 2021 | "Never Stop Thinking Big: A Look Back on the Practice Innovation Lab as YAF Develops a New 5-Year Initiative," <i>Connection</i> , Issue 4: PracticeInnovation ● Exhibit 3.1 | 2019 | "AIA-AGC Joint Committee Guiding Principles," with members of the AIA and Associated General Contractors of America ● |
| 2021 | "Let's Keep Showing Up," <i>Connection</i> , Issue 3: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) ● Exhibit 3.4 | 2015 | "Fabulous Pre-Fab: Applying Modular Construction to Multifamily Residential Projects," Hickok Cole iLab Research Manual ● |
| 2021 | "The Climate Crisis Impacts Our Existing Priorities," <i>Connection</i> , Issue 1: Climate Action ● | | |

2.3 Significant Publications

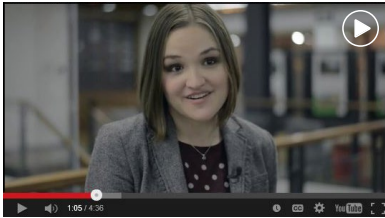


Notable Publications About the Nominee/Nominee's Initiatives

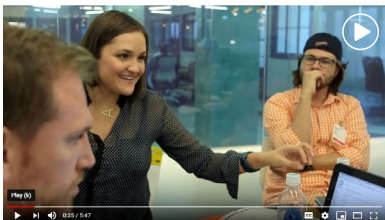
- 2023 **"News from YAF: Mission 2130 Highlights,"** Kate Schwennsen, *The AIA College of Fellows Quarterly*, Q1 2023 ● [Exhibit 3.3](#)
- 2023 **"Mission 2130,"** *Connection*, Issue 1: Mission 2130 ● [Exhibit 3.3](#)
- 2022 **"YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130,"** Kate Schwennsen, *The AIA College of Fellows Quarterly*, Q4 2022 ● [Exhibit 3.3](#)
- 2021 **"Meet Our 40 Under 40 Class of 2021,"** *Building Design+Construction*, Nov/Dec 2021 ●
- 2021 **"Zerosixty Accelerator Announces Second Cohort Focused on Design, Construction, and Real Estate Technology for the AEC Industry,"** Trimble News ● [Exhibit 3.1](#)
- 2021 **"Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Program Comparison: New England vs. North Central States,"** Katelyn Chapin and Ryan Welke, *Connection*, Issue 3: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion ● [Exhibit 3.6](#)
- 2020 **"The iLab Initiative: Innovation Through Research and Experimentation,"** Zachary Edelson, *Metropolis* ●
- 2020 **"AIA Announces Winners of the 2020 Young Architects Award,"** Madeleine D'Angelo, *Architect* ●
- 2020 **"2020 Young Architect Award Winners,"** *The AIA College of Fellows Newsletter*, May 2020 ●
- 2020 **"Practice Innovators: Initiating Innovation Across the Nation,"** Katie Kangas, *Connection*, Issue 5: Practice Innovation ● [Exhibit 3.2](#)
- 2020 **"How to Start or Grow an Emerging Professional Committee,"** Beresford Pratt, *Connection*, Issue 5: Practice Innovation ● [Exhibit 3.6](#)
- 2019 **"Fabulous Pre-Fab: Designing Modular for DC,"** Niall Patrick Walsh, *ArchDaily* ●
- 2019 **"JAMB Collective: 2017 Practice Innovation Lab Follow Up,"** John Clark, *Connection*, Issue 3: Redefining Purpose ● [Exhibit 3.2](#)
- 2018 **"The Young and the Restless: Practice Innovation Lab Wants the Building Profession to Catch Up,"** Wanda Lau, *Architect*, January 11, 2018 ● [Exhibit 3.1](#)
- 2018 **"5 Innovative Business Models for Young Architectural Practices,"** Evelyn Lee, *ArchDaily* ● [Exhibit 3.1](#)
- 2018 **"Announcing CVG's 2018 Architecture Business Plan Competition Winner: JAMB Collective,"** Charrette Venture Group ● [Exhibit 3.2](#)
- 2017 **"A New Generation of Architects Rethinks Practice,"** Joann Gonchar, *Architectural Record* ● [Exhibit 3.1](#)

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices
- Built Work

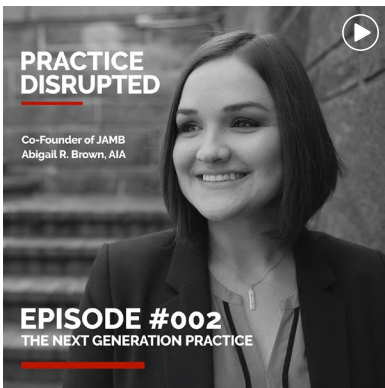
2.3 Significant Publications



2015 AIA DC Architecture Uncensored



2017 AIA Practice Innovation Lab



2020 Practice Disrupted Podcast

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices
- Built Work

Podcasts & Media About Nominee/ Nominee's Initiatives

- 2020 "The Next Generation of Practice," *Practice Disrupted*, Podcast Episode 002, Evelyn Lee and Je'Nen Chastian ● Exhibit 3.2
- 2019 "Small Firm Networks," *EntreArchitect*, Podcast Episode 259, Mark LePage ● Exhibit 3.2
- 2017 "The Future of Architecture," Practice Innovation Lab video recap ● Exhibit 3.1
- 2015 "Architecture Uncensored: Balancing Google & Google," AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee video recap ●
- 2015 "Architecture Uncensored: A Debate on Research in Corporate Practice," AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee video recap ●
- 2015 "Architecture Uncensored: A Debate on the Ethics of Design and Business," AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee video recap ●
- 2015 "Architecture Uncensored: A Debate on the Value of Professional Memberships," AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee video recap ●
- 2015 "Architecture Uncensored: A Debate on Licensure Upon Graduation" AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee video recap ●

Notable Publications About the Nominee's Project Work

- 2022 "Under Armour reveals modern stadium-like design for global headquarters in Port Covington," Lorraine Mirabella, *Baltimore Sun*, 12 May 2022 ●
- 2021 "Luxury and affordable units available at new apartments and condos in Rosslyn," Michelle Lerner, *Washington Post*, 03 August 2021 ● Exhibit 3.9
- 2021 "Penn Eleven: A New Residential Building Rises at the Site of DC's Beloved Frager's Hardware," Hillary Kelly, *Washingtonian* ● Exhibit 3.10
- 2020 "A View of Capitol Hill from Atop Frager's Hardware," Michele Lerner, *The Washington Post*, 28 May 2020 ● Exhibit 3.10
- 2020 "Frager's Hardware Comes Back to Capitol Hill as Part of Penn Eleven Apartments," Marisa M. Kashino, *Washingtonian* ● Exhibit 3.10
- 2017 "Redevelopment project for Rosslyn gets final approval in Arlington," Patricia Sullivan, *Washington Post*, 25 February 2017 ● Exhibit 3.9
- 2017 "Apartments and Retail to Replace Robinson Terminal in Alexandria," Michael Neibauer, *Washington Business Journal* ●
- 2012 "Culinary School Sizzles," *Architectural Woodwork Institute Design Solutions*, vol. 32, No. 04 ●

3.0 List of Exhibits



3.1
Expanding the Practice
Innovation Conversation
Nationwide ●●



3.2
JAMB Collective ●



3.3
YAF Summit 30:
Mission 2130 ●●



3.4
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion in Practice ●●



3.5
Broadening AIA National
Leadership Opportunities ●



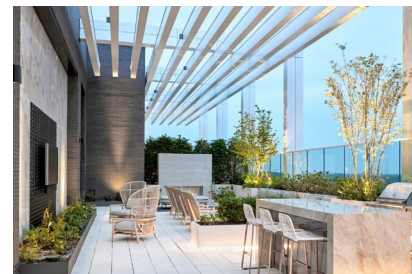
3.6
AIA Component Program
Toolkits & Spotlights ●



3.7
COF/YAF Align Mentorship
Program ●



3.8
AIA|DC Thesis Showcase ●



3.9
Pierce at the Highlands ●



3.10
Frager's Hardware/
Penn Eleven ●

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices
- Built Work

3.1 Expanding the Practice Innovation Conversation Nationwide ●●

Organization of Record:

Young Architects Forum (YAF)

Roles:

Practice Innovation Lab Invited Participant, YAF Community Director, Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair

Completion Date:

2017-2022

Publications:

Architect, *ArchDaily*, *Architectural Record*, *Connection*, AIA website

Speaking Engagements:

A'18, A'19, AIA Grassroots, AIAIDC, AIA Detroit, AIA Southern Arizona

Challenge & Response

Abi entered the profession during the Great Recession and experienced first-hand how established practice models are vulnerable to economic fluctuations. In 2017, she embraced the opportunity to attend the AIA Practice Innovation Lab as one of 60 competitively-selected attendees. The three-day event was a fast-paced, charrette-style summit that challenged ten teams of six to generate a new service, delivery, or practice model for architects. Abi's team's pitch won the Lab's top award ([Exhibit 3.2](#)).

After the summit, Abi joined the YAF leadership team and challenged the committee to expand the Practice Innovation Lab from a one-time event into a series of local and regional workshops, resources, and spotlights that foster conversations about new business models for architects.



Abi dedicated her five years in YAF leadership to ensuring that the work started at the Lab did not end after the summit ended. She became an ambassador for the Practice Innovation Lab by speaking at seven events in six states.

Role & Outcomes

- At the 2018 YAF Annual Meeting, **Abi pushed the committee to embrace “practice innovation” as its 2018-2022 strategic initiative**. As the only YAF leader to hold a leadership position for all five years of the strategic initiative, Abi ensured the theme's continuity and visibility.
- When Abi joined YAF leadership, there were five director positions, but none focused exclusively on the strategic initiative. **She advocated for repositioning an existing director role to fill this gap. In 2019, YAF launched a new Strategic Vision director position and workgroup.**
- In 2018, Abi organized a panel discussion and interactive workshop for AIAIDC members to build upon the Practice Innovation Lab's topics, trends, and themes. AIAIDC event's success sparked Young Architect Regional Directors to host similar events nationwide. **Abi catalyzed and advised seven local, state, and regional Practice Innovation Labs that reached over 400 participants.**
- **Abi led conversations about innovation in practice through seven national speaking engagements** at AIA Grassroots 2018 in San Diego, A'18 in New York City, A'19 in Las Vegas, AIA Detroit, AIA Southern Arizona, and AIAIDC.
- **Abi provided ongoing direction to the Strategic Vision workgroup to guide members who had not attended the original Practice Innovation Lab.** The workgroup developed a toolkit to support components hosting events and created a Future Forward Grant in partnership with the Large Firm Roundtable. As of 2023, YAF and the LFRT have awarded \$20,000 in grants to help early career architects explore ideas that redefine practice.

● Practice Innovation
● Emerging Voices

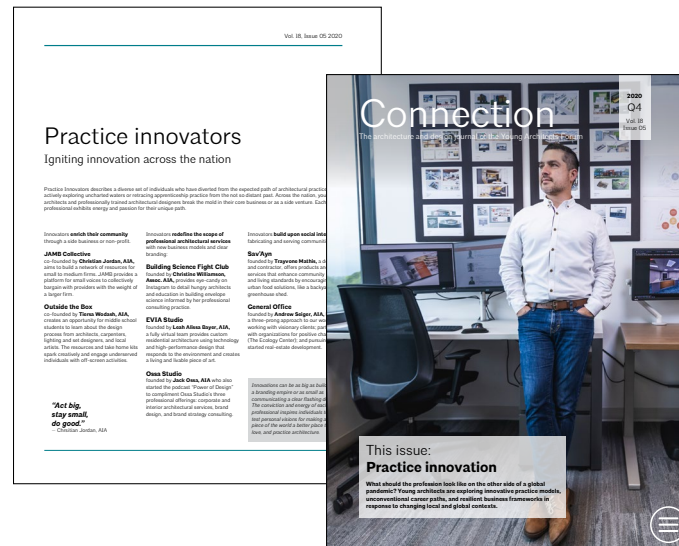
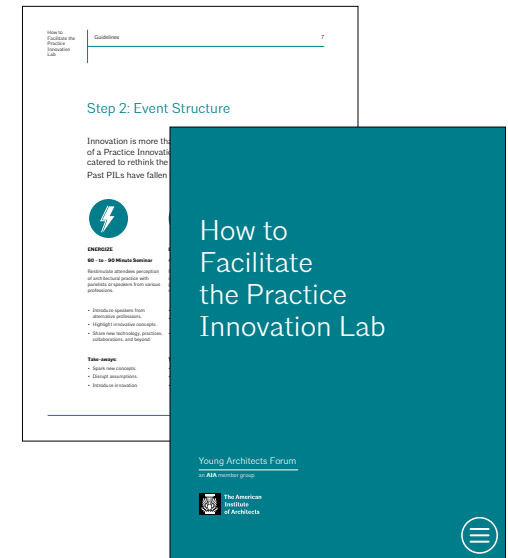
3.1 Expanding the Practice Innovation Conversation Nationwide

“The 2017 Practice Innovation Lab elevated the Young Architects Forum within the Institute. The impacts of the Lab continued well after the 3-day experience, and that continued success would not have happened without Abi’s vision, leadership, and commitment.”

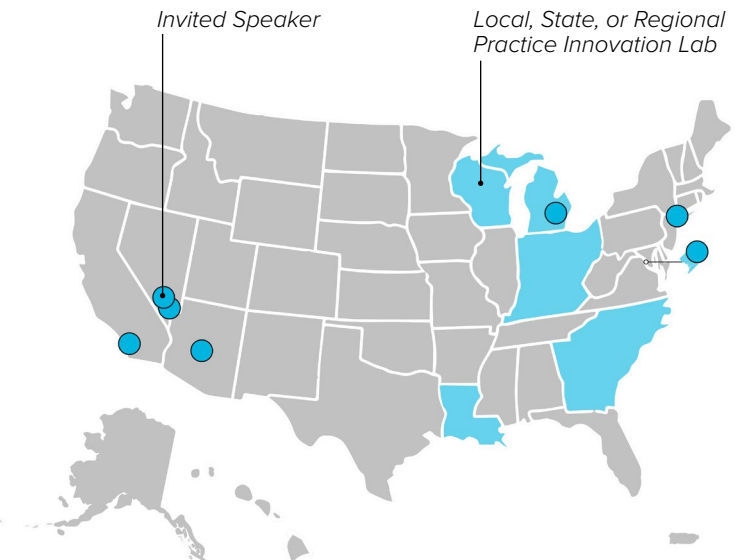
Milan Jordan, Assoc. AIA
2015-2022 AIA National Staff Liaison to the YAF Executive Committee, Washington, DC



The AIA DC Practice Innovation Lab event that Abi organized sparked similar events nationwide. Under her leadership, YAF published a toolkit with case studies and resources for components to help them get started (right).



From 2018-2022, YAF published five innovation-themed issues of Connection that gave 82 authors a platform to explore new practice models, alternative career paths, and industry trends.



Since 2018, AIA components in Washington, DC, New Orleans, Michigan, Wisconsin, the Ohio Valley Region, and the South Atlantic Region have hosted Practice Innovation Labs. AIAS hosted a series of virtual Labs for students.

Declaration of Responsibility:
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for this exhibit. That responsibility included shepherding the YAF’s strategic initiative from 2018-2022.

Evelyn Lee, FAIA | Head of Workplace Strategy and Innovation at Slack, San Francisco, CA

Relationship to Exhibit:
Practice Innovation Lab Chair

3.2 JAMB Collective ●

Organization of Record:

JAMB Collective, LLC

Roles:

Co-Founder & Co-Managing Partner

Completion Date:

2017-present

Awards:

2017 AIA Practice Innovation Lab People's Choice Award; 2018 Charrette Venture Group Business Plan Competition Winner

Publications:

Practice Disrupted podcast, *EntreArchitect* podcast, *Connection*

Speaking Engagements:

A'18, A'19, AIA Grassroots, AIAIDC, AIA Detroit, AIA Southern Arizona

Challenge & Response

Many architecture firms struggle with inefficient practice models that make it hard to earn a profit, land desirable projects, or compete with large global firms. Often this leads to overworked, underpaid, and dissatisfied staff.

Small and medium-sized firms are hit especially hard by these challenges since they have limited ability to invest time and resources into dedicated marketing staff, research, expensive technology, and business development. The numbers back this up: although large firms represent only six percent of architecture firms, they claim 56 percent of billings.

Abi identified this gap as an opportunity. At the AIA Practice Innovation Lab ([Exhibit 3.1](#)), she led her team to conceive and pitch a membership-based network – JAMB Collective – that empowers small and medium-sized firms to compete with larger firms through resource sharing and partnership opportunities for a monthly fee at one of two affordable tiers.

Role & Outcomes

- **After the Practice Innovation Lab, Abi leveraged her AIA leadership experience to transform her team's winning pitch idea into reality.** As a co-managing partner, she wrote a strategic plan, interviewed over 25 small firms in the first year, and created a call for applications to identify early adopters for a beta phase.
- **Using Abi's strategic plan, JAMB Collective won Charrette Venture Group's annual business plan competition in 2018 and was competitively selected for Trimble's ZeroSixty Accelerator in 2019.** Abi's pitch to venture capitalists at the A'19 Practice Innovation Lab Shark Tank in Las Vegas resulted in new strategic partnerships with technology leaders and resource contributors.
- **The connections Abi facilitates between firms have resulted in expanded opportunities and tangible benefits for members.** From partnering on small projects and sharing best practices to acquiring new software and gaining early access to innovative technology, JAMB is changing how small and mid-sized firms provide their services.
- For example, two-person firm M3 Architects from Irvine, CA, and four-person firm PJA Architecture from Philadelphia, PA, collaborated on a 74-unit apartment building project in Pennsylvania. **Neither firm was able to take on the project alone, but together they assisted a first-time developer to achieve zoning approval.**
- **Abi's leadership built JAMB from a concept to a network of 36 firms spread across 27 cities in 16 states, Washington, DC, Kuwait, and Italy.** JAMB members have access to an online community to communicate with each other about opportunities, questions, and resource sharing. Regular community calls – JAMB Sessions – provide software tutorials and showcase recent project work.

"JAMB has directly benefited from Abi's years of experience in local and national AIA leadership roles. From its initial founding to its continued expansion, Abi has been a guiding force in keeping JAMB true to its mission, vision, and values."

Christian Jordan, AIA
JAMB Co-Founder,
Philadelphia, PA



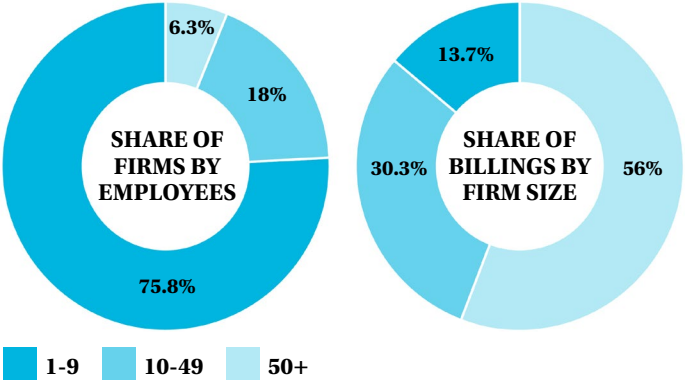
JAMB helps small firms close the gap and compete like larger firms through an online collaborative resource-sharing network.

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

3.2 JAMB Collective ●

“JAMB democratizes access to networks and resources that have, historically, limited the reach of individuals and smaller practices. A model that allows small teams new modalities to practice on a global scale is really interesting. **This is precisely the kind of ambition and innovation we should be rewarding and cultivating in our profession.**”

Eric Reinholdt
Charrette Venture Group
Business Plan Competition
Jury, Mount Desert Island, ME



Although large firms represent only six percent of architecture firms, they claim 56 percent of billings. To help close the gap, JAMB members can choose from one of two subscription tiers based on their needs (below).

JAMB+ For the Firm Principal ready to level up their practice with our community and tech offerings. \$50/month +JAMB Slack community +Practice of Architecture community +Discount for ONE of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monograph• Building Science Fight Club• UpCodes	JAMBx For the Firm Principal ready to level up their practice with our community, curated content, full tech stack, and exclusive collaboration with TestFit. \$125/month +JAMB Slack community +Practice of Architecture LAB +Discount for ALL of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monograph• Building Science Fight Club• UpCodes +Exclusive TestFit partnership
--	---

Declaration of Responsibility:
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for this exhibit. That responsibility includes co-founding and co-managing JAMB Collective, LLC.

Christian Jordan, AIA | Principal at PJA Architecture, Philadelphia, PA

Relationship to Exhibit:
JAMB Collective Co-Founder and Co-Managing Partner



JAMB Collective won the People’s Choice Award at the Practice Innovation Lab (below). Afterward, Abi’s leadership transformed JAMB from a concept to a network of 36 member firms spread across 27 cities located in 16 states, Washington, DC, Kuwait, and Italy.



3.3 YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130 ●●

Organization of Record:

Young Architects Forum (YAF)

Role:

YAF Summit 30 Steering Committee

Completion Date:

2021-2022

Publications:

YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130 Event Findings, Mission 2130: Code Red Charrette Toolkit, Mission 2130: Crew Manual, Connection, The AIA College of Fellows Quarterly

Challenge & Response

Every five years, YAF hosts an application-based, future-focused, two-day summit to drive the profession forward. While summits historically looked inward on the practice of architecture, Abi recognized that the 2022 summit – which commemorated the 30th anniversary of the YAF – was an opportunity to explore larger conversations about the future sparked by the global impacts of COVID-19. What will the world look like in 100 years? How can architects collectively work toward a prosperous future for the planet and humanity?

As a steering committee leader for YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130, Abi drew from her experience at the Practice Innovation Lab ([Exhibit 3.1](#)) to conceptualize a series of virtual and in-person events focused on the challenges of the distant future while broadening the tent to include more voices. She prompted over 300 professionals to envision the future of the built environment, society, and the planet 100 years from now and chart a course to get us there.



At the in-person summit in Pittsburgh, PA, Abi organized 50 attendees into eight crews tasked with envisioning the year 2130 and creating a new call to action for the building industry to follow the Architecture 2030 Challenge.

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

Role & Outcomes

- Mission 2130 started with three virtual Code Red Charrettes that gathered a global audience to crowd-source future risks and opportunities associated with the built environment, the planet, and society. **Abi co-authored the *Code Red Charrette Toolkit*, which is published on the AIA website and empowers everyone to participate.**
- Abi and the steering committee used the overarching themes and outcomes from the virtual charrettes to curate an in-person summit. **Abi organized 50 attendees into eight crews tasked with envisioning the year 2130 and creating a new call to action for the building industry to follow the Architecture 2030 Challenge.**
- **Abi led the development of the *Crew Manual*, which included five weeks of pre-mission modules, and outlined the deliverables for teams at the summit.** Each mission crew developed a vision for the future using text and A.I.-generated visualizations, a road map to reach that vision, and three actionable steps that the AIA could start tomorrow. The result was eight unique visions for 2130 and a menu of 24 action items.
- **Abi's push to broaden participation beyond an in-person summit resulted in Mission 2130 having the most extensive reach of any Young Architects Forum event in its 30-year history.** The virtual charrettes and in-person summit reached over 300 registrants from 37 states, Puerto Rico, Washington, DC, and 13 additional countries on four continents.
- YAF synthesized the output from the mission crews to identify three overarching themes: social responsibility, innovation in education, and planetary health. **These topics informed YAF's 2023-2027 strategic initiative, "Architects in Action: Catalyzing for Change," which will guide the committee's work over the next five years.**

3.3 YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130 ●●

“Abi was instrumental in the success of Mission 2130. Without her leadership, creativity, and intentionality, our steering committee and the participants of the event would have lacked the clarity of purpose she helped drive forward. She leveraged her ability to elevate emerging voices and her experience with the Practice Innovation Lab to curate a monumentally impactful event.”

Kate Thuesen, AIA
YAF Summit 30 Steering Committee Member,
Des Moines, IA

Declaration of Responsibility:

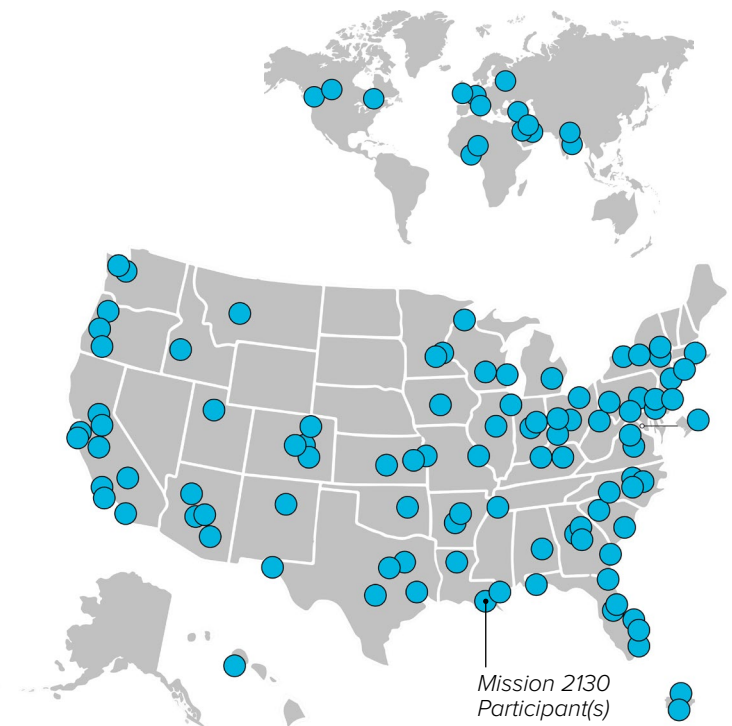
I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for this exhibit. That responsibility included envisioning and coordinating YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130 as a leader on the steering committee.

Kate Schwennsen, FAIA | Professor Emeritus + Director Emeritus at Clemson University School of Architecture, Clemson, SC

Relationship to Exhibit:
2022 College of Fellows Representative on the YAF



Abi developed a Crew Manual and Code Red Charrette Toolkit to crowd-source ideas and prepare each crew to hit the ground running at the in-person summit. Afterward, YAF published an event summary and dedicated recap issue of Connection. These documents have been downloaded or viewed over 1,000 times.



Mission 2130 engaged over 300 visionaries from 38 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and 13 countries from North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.



Abi recruited a digital strategist to help each crew visualize a version of the year 2130 using artificial intelligence.

3.4 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Practice ●●

Organization of Record:

Young Architects Forum (YAF)
Hickok Cole

Roles:

YAF Community Director, Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair. Hickok Cole Staff Operations Committee Chair, Just Label Task Force Chair, DEI Working Group, and Director of DEI.

Completion Date:

2018-present

Publications:

Connection

Speaking Engagements:

AIAIDC, AIA Grassroots, SMPS Amplify AEC, AIA Women's Leadership Summit

Challenge & Response

As the #MeToo movement rippled through society in 2018, architecture firms were not untouched. The movement transformed Abi's political activism into a call to action for firms to address entrenched gender dynamics and pervasive workplace equity issues.

Those ripples expanded to become an undeniable wave in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread racial reckoning intensified the need to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion. As firms grappled with deep-rooted systemic inequities that had long pervaded the profession, many struggled with where to start and how to measure progress toward their goals over time.

Through AIA and firm leadership, Abi demonstrates ways to take action, amplifies underrepresented voices, and empowers firms to take steps toward addressing systemic inequities in the profession.

Role & Outcomes

- **Under Abi's leadership, YAF adopted DEI as a priority area that weaved through all committee work during her five-year tenure.** YAF published five DEI-themed issues of *Connection*, curated two webinars on AIAU about inclusive design that reached over 750 attendees, and hosted a booth at A'18 to encourage conference attendees to commit to building safe and harassment-free workplaces.
- In addition to outward-facing initiatives for all AIA members, Abi focused on increasing diversity and belonging within YAF leadership. **Following the 2020 murder of George Floyd, she organized a series of listening sessions for YAF leaders to discuss racial justice in society and the profession.**
- **Abi was at the forefront of Hickok Cole's DEI strategy from 2019-2022.** As the Staff Operations Committee Chair, she prioritized DEI for the first time. As a DEI Working Group member, she drew on the *AIA Guides for Equitable Practice* to co-author a firmwide values statement and a list of short and long-term goals. As Director of DEI, she transitioned the ad hoc DEI Working Group into a permanent DEI Council and developed a quarterly work plan.
- **Abi led Hickok Cole's effort to earn a Just transparency label from the International Living Future Institute.** She pitched the program to firm ownership, assembled a task force of collaborators from around the firm, and co-wrote 21 new policy statements. Abi strategized with the firm's CFO to expand employee retirement and healthcare benefits and to roll out a new paid-time-off policy that supports community impact work.
- Abi brings her experience as a firm DEI leader to the AIA. **She has widely shared lessons learned about DEI in practice and benchmarking DEI initiatives through transparency labels at six national speaking engagements.** She regularly meets one-on-one or in small groups with other firm leaders to share her knowledge about the Just label.



Under Abi's leadership, YAF organized two webinars on AIAU about inclusive design topics that reached over 750 attendees.

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

3.4 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Practice ●●

“While I was serving as YAF Advocacy Director, Abi continually encouraged me to focus on DEI issues and offered guidance on navigating what can be complex, critical topics. Her support was vital in launching the first-ever YAF webinar series through AIAU – providing a platform for engaging discussions on themes ranging from universal design to mental health, reaching a broad audience, and amplifying underrepresented voices.”

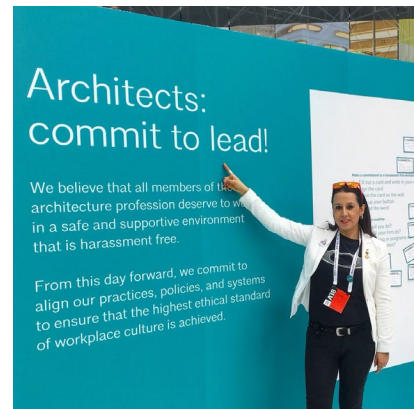
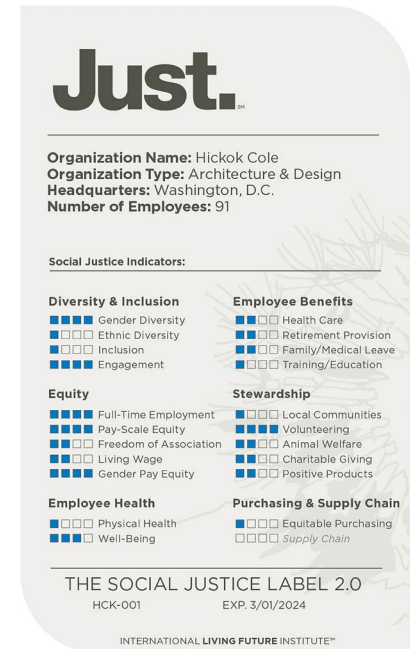
Monica Blasko, AIA
2021-2022 YAF Advocacy Director, Pittsburgh, PA



Abi has spoken about benchmarking DEI initiatives at six national speaking engagements in Boston, Atlanta, Washington, DC, and virtually.



From 2020-2021, Abi directed Hickok Cole's effort to earn a Just transparency label, using it as a road map to kickstart the firm's DEI strategy (right). As Director of DEI, she recruited and onboarded the inaugural nine-person DEI Council.



Declaration of Responsibility:
I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for this exhibit. That responsibility included leading DEI strategy and initiatives at Hickok Cole and within YAF.

Yiselle Santos Rivera, AIA | Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at HKS, Washington, DC

Relationship to Exhibit:
Co-presenter and AIA collaborator on DEI initiatives



In response to the #MeToo movement, Abi and the YAF hosted a booth at A'18 to encourage conference attendees to commit to building safe and harassment-free workplaces.



From 2019-2022, YAF published five DEI-themed issues of Connection. Abi contributed two op-eds and an article with a step-by-step process for pursuing a Just label.



3.5 Broadening AIA National Leadership Opportunities ●

Organizations of Record:

AIA National
Young Architects Forum (YAF)
National Associates Committee (NAC)

Roles:

Resolution 18-7 (Study of AIA Regions)
Implementation Task Force Appointed
Member and YAF/NAC Joint Regions
Task Force Chair

Completion Date:

2020-2021

Publications:

*National Associates Committee and
Young Architects Forum Regions to
States Transition Plan, A Guide for
Transition: Moving from a Region-
based Model to a State-based Model*

“Abi is an insightful and courageous leader. Her ability to speak persuasively, aspirationally, and with credibility on integrating emerging professional leaders into AIA’s new governance model was instrumental in our success.”

Mark Schwamel, FAIA
Member of the Resolution
18-7 Implementation Task
Force, Chicago, IL

Challenge & Response

In early 2020, the AIA National Board passed a motion to transition from a region-based to a state-based representation model to streamline Institute governance. Soon after, AIA President Jane Frederick appointed Abi to the Resolution 18-7 (Study of AIA Regions) Implementation Task Force, where she strategized transition guidelines for the Strategic Council and by-laws amendments ahead of a vote at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Abi immediately recognized the opportunity to establish a new vision for how the AIA recognizes and engages emerging professional leaders and integrates their talent, experience, and knowledge into the organization’s governance. Further acknowledging that the existing structure of the YAF and NAC would no longer align with the Institute as a whole, Abi engaged with the YAF and NAC leaders to study how the two committees might respond to the proposed shift away from regions.



Abi expanded leadership opportunities and facilitated more equitable representation for young architects in AIA governance. This created 94 new national leadership positions, including 47 for the YAF.

Role & Outcomes

- **Abi assembled and led the YAF/NAC Joint Regions Task Force comprised of regional young architect and Associate representatives. They studied five potential ways to respond to AIA’s proposed dissolution of the regions.** While maintaining the existing regions-based model for YAF and NAC was an option, the task force’s research revealed many inequities in the existing structure that made it challenging for a single volunteer leader to effectively represent multiple states.
- **Abi’s strong testimony in support of by-laws amendment 21-A at the 2021 AIA Annual Meeting was influential in passing the amendment with 86% of the vote.** This amendment formally eliminated the AIA regions.
- As of 2023, the Strategic Council, the YAF, and the NAC each include at least one representative from all 50 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and AIA International. **In total, this created 94 new single-state leadership roles in AIA National that provide a platform for young architects and Associates to influence the future of the Institute.**
- **Since the governance transition began in 2022, engagement with states that were historically underrepresented on the YAF and NAC has increased.** Recognizing that it may be difficult for some states to fill these new roles, the YAF/NAC Joint Regions Task Force anticipated that only 75% of positions would be filled the first year. Instead, 88% of states filled their open positions in 2023.
- **The larger committee size has increased the YAF’s capacity to collaborate within the AIA network and broadened the reach of young architects in the Institute.** Since 2022, YAF has filled new liaison positions with the Committee on the Environment, the Large Firm Roundtable, and the Small Firm Exchange. This outreach was not possible with a smaller committee size due to limited bandwidth.

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

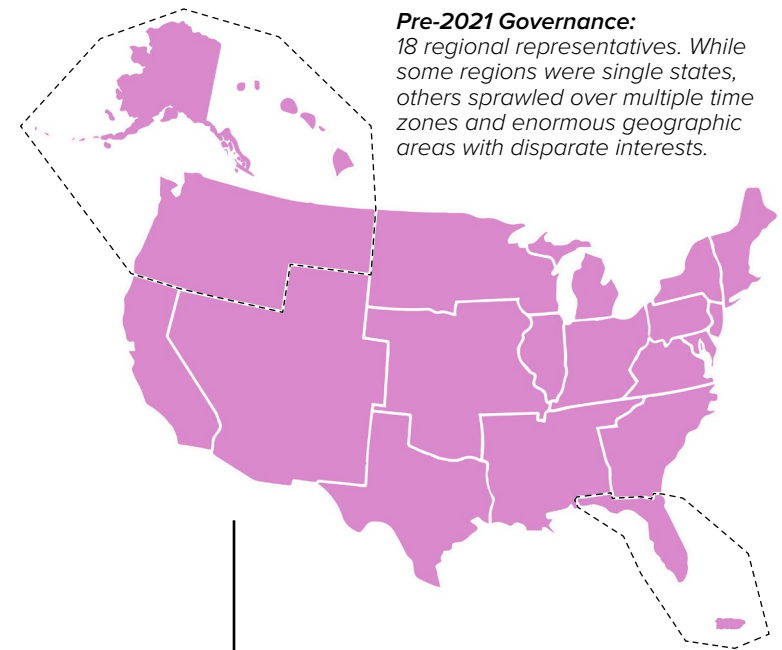
3.5 Broadening AIA National Leadership Opportunities ●

“Abi’s role in the leadership, advocacy, and implementation of the AIA governance shift to a state-based model has created not only leadership opportunities, but representation pathways that did not previously exist. Through Abi’s vision, the YAF has experienced a growth in leadership that has increased impact across the Institute and allied organizations.”

Sarah Nelson-Woynicz, AIA
2023 YAF Community Director,
Atlanta, GA



Abi spoke in support of by-laws amendment 21-A at the annual meeting. It passed 4,128 in favor and 685 against.



Pre-2021 Governance:
18 regional representatives. While some regions were single states, others sprawled over multiple time zones and enormous geographic areas with disparate interests.



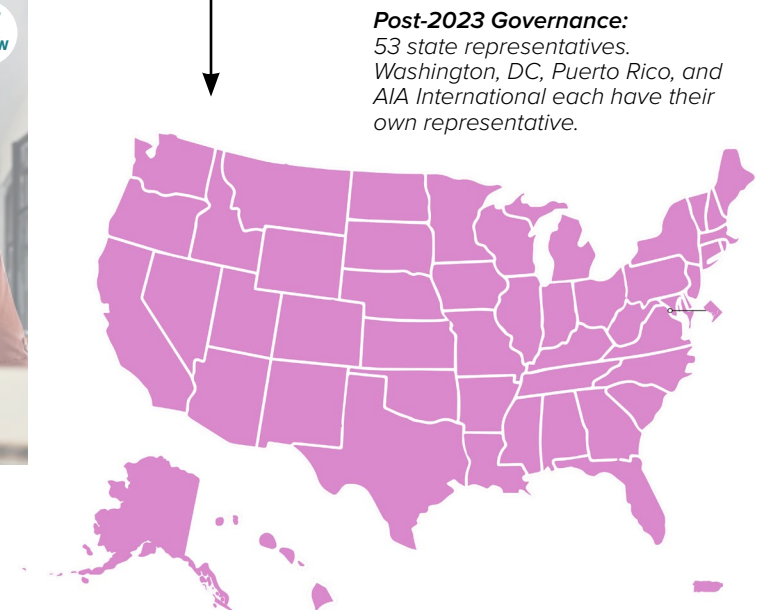
After a phased transition, 2023 was the first year with the fully expanded committee size for YAF and NAC. Exceeding expectations, YAF filled 49 of 53 open positions.

Declaration of Responsibility:

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for this exhibit. That responsibility included serving on the Resolution 18-7 Implementation Task Force and chairing the YAF/NAC Joint Regions Task Force.

Jane Frederick, FAIA | Managing Principal at Frederick + Frederick Architects, Beaufort, SC

Relationship to Exhibit:
2020 AIA President & Chair of Resolution 18-7 Implementation Task Force



Post-2023 Governance:
53 state representatives. Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and AIA International each have their own representative.

3.6 AIA Component Program Toolkits & Spotlights

Organization of Record:

Young Architects Forum (YAF)

Roles:

YAF Community Director

Completion Date:

2018-2019

Publications:

How to Facilitate the Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Program, How to Start or Grow an Emerging Professional Committee, Connection, Component Connect

Challenge & Response

When Abi became YAF Community Director in 2018, she was fresh off the AIAIDC Emerging Architects Committee leadership team. She intuitively knew that young architects primarily connect with local AIA components for early career resources and networking. A survey of over 200 components quickly verified this assumption but revealed that many did not have adequate programming or committee structures to support emerging professionals.

Abi dedicated her two-year tenure as Community Director to challenging and guiding AIA components to build robust programs and committees that better support their emerging professionals and enhance AIA membership value for young architects.

Role & Outcomes

- After surveying over 200 AIA components to better understand the status of programming for emerging professionals nationwide, **Abi led the seven-person YAF Community workgroup to identify and source case studies from successful component programs. They developed toolkits and resources that support other components interested in developing similar programs.**
- ***How to Start or Grow an Emerging Professional Committee* highlights eight committees that range from Hawaii to Vermont.** The toolkit provides resources and templates for leaders building or growing committees for emerging professionals.
- **Abi collaborated with the Council of Architectural Component Executives (CACE) to publish 14 program case studies on *Component Connect*.** These case studies were complimented by social media posts and *Connection* spotlights that featured 29 mentorship, community engagement, new architect recognition, and other emerging professional programs from 11 states.
- ***How to Facilitate the Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Program* profiles six state and regional programs that recognize firms who do an outstanding job supporting early career professionals. The toolkit provides a step-by-step process with easy-to-use templates. Since first published in 2019, seven additional components have launched new Emerging Professional Friendly Firm recognition programs.**
- **Abi's leadership resulted in one of the most engaged workgroups from 2018-2019. Five of her workgroup members later became YAF directors or chairs.** Abi continued to elevate AIA component programs during her three years on the YAF Executive Committee, and her Community Director successors fully embraced the direction she set during her tenure.



With members of the YAF Community workgroup, Abi assembled and deployed toolkits, case studies, and resources that spotlight exceptional programs to help components elevate emerging voices throughout the country.

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

3.6 AIA Component Program Toolkits & Spotlights

"The How to Facilitate the Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Program toolkit provided not only the inspiration we needed to start a program, but it also provided invaluable resources and materials that helped those of us working to start the program in Ohio hit the ground running. AIA Ohio would not have this valuable program if not for the support of Abi and the Young Architects Forum."

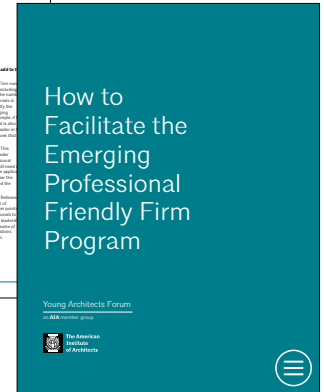
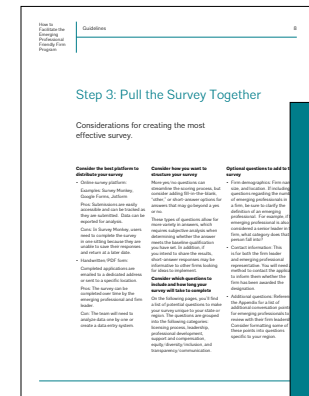
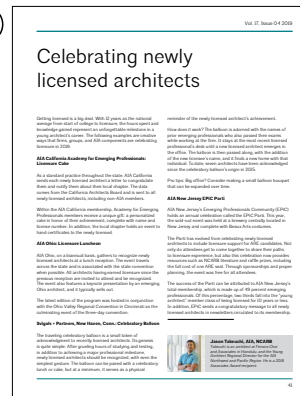
Seth Duke, AIA
2020-2023 AIA Ohio Board of Directors, Cleveland, OH

Declaration of Responsibility:

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for this exhibit. That responsibility included chairing the YAF Community workgroup.

Laura Lesniewski, FAIA | Principal at BNIM, Kansas City, MO

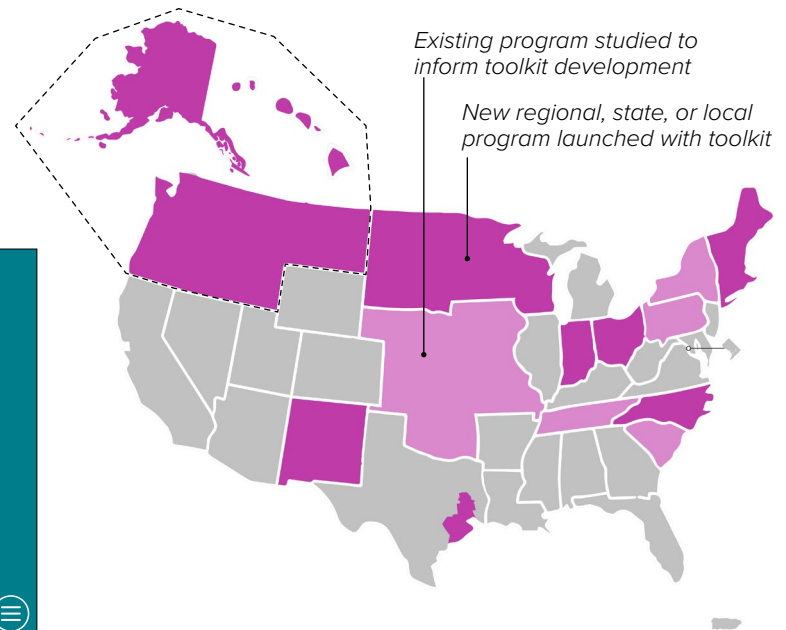
Relationship to Exhibit:
2019-2020 Strategic Council liaison to the YAF



Abi's workgroup published Connection articles and social media posts (left) to spotlight successful local programs. They developed a toolkit to help components start their own Emerging Professional Friendly Firm programs (right).



Abi led the YAF Community workgroup to interview and collect resources from eight AIA emerging professional committees. They published a toolkit that has been viewed over 700 times.



After studying five existing Emerging Professional Friendly Firm programs, Abi's workgroup helped seven local, state, and regional components launch their own programs.

3.7 COF/YAF Align Mentorship Program ●

Organization of Record:

College of Fellows (COF)
Young Architects Forum (YAF)

Roles:

YAF Chair & Past Chair

Completion Date:

2018-2022

Publications:

Connection, The AIA College of Fellows Quarterly

Challenge & Response

In 2019, the College of Fellows (COF) and YAF began developing a new vehicle for long-term mentorship that supports young architects over the first decade of licensure. By grouping participants into pods, the Align mentorship program connects four to six young architects with two to three Fellows to facilitate a multi-year relationship with both peer-to-peer and traditional mentorship. Align kicked off as a pilot that included three pods with 19 participants.

Originally meant to last one year, the pilot stretched into two years without a clear plan for how to transition it into an official AIA National program. As a mentee in a pilot pod, Abi recognized Align's enormous potential value. When she stepped into the role of YAF Chair, she charted a course to officially launch the program to all AIA members by the end of 2021.

Role & Outcomes

- **Abi transformed the Align mentorship program from an invite-only pilot to a thriving national program open to all Fellows and young architect AIA members.** While she was YAF Chair in 2021, Abi organized a workgroup to develop guidelines, collaborated with AIA staff to launch an application, and partnered with the COF Executive Committee to recruit more mentors. Her pitch at the COF Annual Business Meeting resulted in over 30 Fellows expressing interest, with 12 becoming mentors.
- **With the first official year of Align underway in 2022, Abi established a leadership plan to sustain the program into the future.** After many conversations with COF and YAF leadership, she determined that YAF should maintain primary ownership of Align, with leadership responsibility going to the YAF Community Director's workgroup.
- **With Abi's leadership and transition planning efforts, Align participation quintupled in two years, expanding from three pilot pods with 19 members in 2019 to 16 pods with 98 members in 2023.** The 98 members include 69 young architect mentees and 29 FAIA mentors spread across 34 states, Washington, DC, and the US Virgin Islands.
- Align helps mentees focus their time and efforts toward making notable impacts on the profession earlier in their careers. After being recognized with the AIA Young Architects Award in 2020, Abi provided mentorship to other Align mentees deserving of recognition for their contributions to the profession. **Eight Align members have received the AIA Young Architects Award, which includes 42% of pilot program participants.**

"Abi's leadership and dedication to the COF/YAF Align Mentorship Program was critical to its success. She created templates and toolkits to support the growth and succession of the program, along with a roadmap for each tier, supporting all members with a clear path of direction."

Ryan McEnroe, FAIA

Co-Founder of the Align Mentorship Program & 2020 YAF Chair, Washington, DC



In 2019, the COF and YAF started an invite-only pilot program that stretched from the intended one year into two years without a clear path forward. Abi's leadership led to an official launch in 2021.

- Practice Innovation
- Emerging Voices

3.7 COF/YAF Align Mentorship Program ●

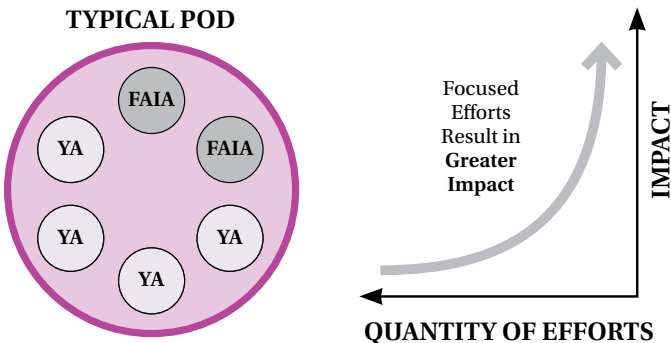
“Align has provided a tremendous amount of encouragement and clarity through mentorship, from both peers and Fellows, in helping me curate the story of my impact within the design profession. My pod helped me pinpoint my diverse passions and actions, which allowed me to be recognized as an AIA Young Architect Award recipient.”

Beresford Pratt, AIA
Align Mentorship Program Participant, Baltimore, MD

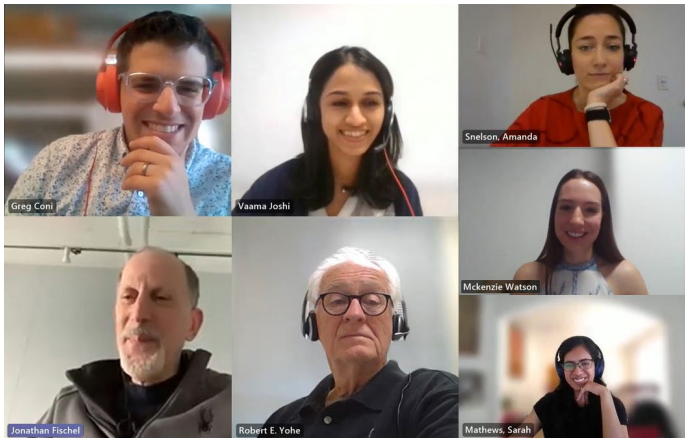
Declaration of Responsibility:
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for this exhibit. That responsibility included expanding the Align Mentorship Program and formalizing its leadership structure.

Ron Blitch, FAIA | President at Blitch Knevel Architects, New Orleans, LA

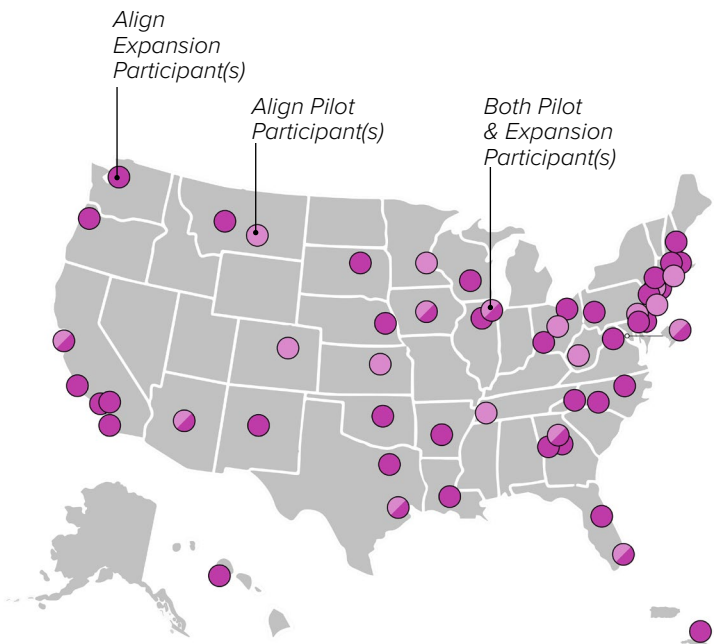
Relationship to Exhibit:
2021 College of Fellows Representative on the YAF



Typical pods include two to three FAIA mentors and four to six young architect mentees. The program encourages young architects to focus their time and efforts to make notable impacts on the profession earlier in their careers.



Pods are organized by experience level and focus area, which roughly align with the objects of AIA Fellowship (right). All pods include geographic diversity, a major benefit to the 33% of participants who come from a remote or small chapter with limited local mentorship opportunities.



Under Abi’s leadership, Align expanded from three pilot pods with 19 members in 2019 to 16 pods with 98 members in 2023. This includes 69 young architect mentees and 29 FAIA mentors spread across 34 states, Washington, DC, and the US Virgin Islands.

FOCUS AREA	EXPERIENCE TIERS		
	1 Year Focused Engagement (Beginner)	Refinement Effort (Intermediate)	10 Years Define Legacy (Advanced)
Practice Leadership & Design	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●
Scholarship Education & Research	●●●●		
Civic Community & Public	●●●●	●●●●	

● Pilot pods launched in 2019
● Expansion pods launched in 2022 and 2023

3.8 AIA|DC Thesis Showcase ●

Organization of Record:

AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee (EAC)

Roles:

Thesis Showcase Founder, Chair, and Advisor

Completion Date:

2014-2018

Awards:

2018 College of Fellows Emerging Professionals Grant

Challenge & Response

The transition from architecture school to the profession is often a challenging one for recent graduates as they build professional networks and shift from theory to practice. At the same time, as practicing architects accumulate experience, they become more and more disconnected from the work emerging from academia.

Abi led the AIA|DC Emerging Architects Committee to conceptualize and implement a new annual event that bridges this gap. Thesis Showcase gives recent graduates a venue to share their work and allows practicing architects to view the latest projects from architecture schools. Each year, four to five recent graduates are selected to present their thesis projects at the District Architecture Center.



Thesis Showcase has become a landmark AIA DC program that draws 50-75 attendees, making it one of the most popular events hosted by the Emerging Architects Committee.

Roles & Outcomes

- Abi established the initial concept, program schedule, administrative work plan, competitive selection process, and funding model for Thesis Showcase. She chaired the program for four years before mentoring a former speaker as her successor in 2018. **Abi's long-term commitment and dedication to a successful leadership transition ensured a thriving annual program that AIA|DC has hosted eight times and is now in its third generation of leadership.**
- Thesis Showcase introduces students and new graduates to local leaders in DC firms and provides an unparalleled networking opportunity. **Several participants received job offers as a direct result of the exposure they received from the program.**
- **Abi pushed to welcome applications from any recent graduate, not just those from local universities, to ensure diversity in gender, ethnicity, and thesis topic.** From 2014 through 2021, AIA|DC Thesis Showcase featured 49 emerging professionals who represent 20 universities that span 11 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and the United Arab Emirates.
- In celebration of the program's fifth anniversary in 2018, **Abi applied for and received a \$5,000 College of Fellows grant to fund an exhibition at the District Architecture Center.** *Next Generation Architects: 5th Annual Thesis Showcase* exhibited 20 thesis projects from 11 architecture schools.
- **Many former Thesis Showcase speakers are now active leaders of AIA|DC.** They have led the Emerging Architects Committee and the Equity Committee by WIELD, been scholars in the Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program, and spoken at other AIA|DC events.

3.8 AIA|DC Thesis Showcase ●

“Speaking at Thesis Showcase profoundly impacted my career. It inspired me to become involved with the AIA, which led to me chairing the Thesis Showcase event myself for several years. **Leading the program with Abi’s guidance empowered me to take ownership, develop leadership skills, and help strengthen the platform for future emerging architects to share their ideas.”**

David Leestma, AIA
2016 Thesis Showcase Speaker
& 2018-2019 Thesis Showcase
Chair, Washington, DC

Declaration of Responsibility:

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for this exhibit. That responsibility included establishing and chairing the AIA|DC Thesis Showcase.

Mary Fitch, Hon.AIA | AIA|DC
Executive Director, Washington, DC

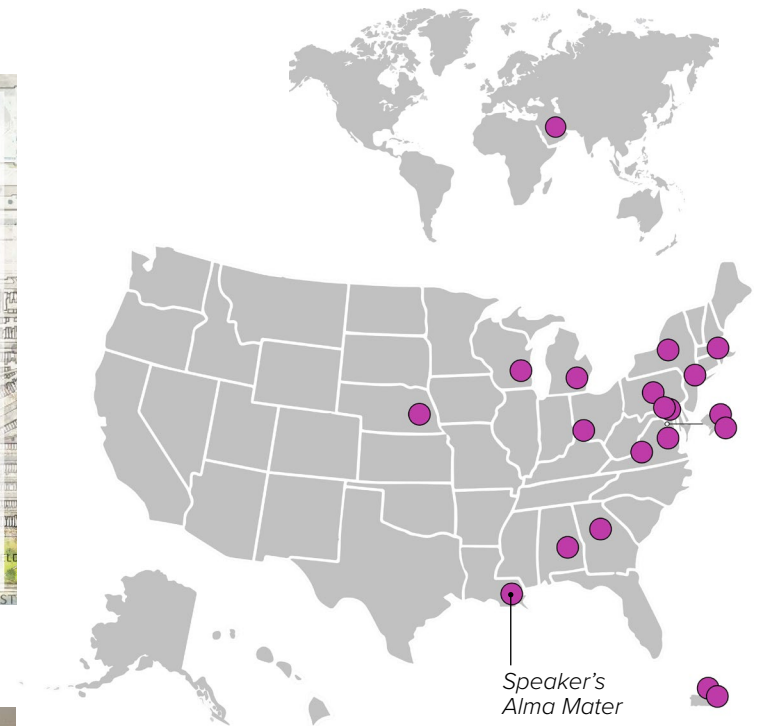
Relationship to Exhibit:
AIA|DC Executive Director



Each year, four to five recent graduates are selected to present their thesis projects at the District Architecture Center.



With support from a College of Fellows grant, the District Architecture Center hosted an exhibition to celebrate Thesis Showcase’s fifth anniversary in 2018 (above and right).



Thesis Showcase has featured 49 recent graduates from 20 universities that span 11 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and the United Arab Emirates.



3.9 Pierce at the Highlands ●

**Design Architect/
Architect of Record:**
Hickok Cole

Role:
Project Architect

Completion Date:
2021

Awards/Certifications:
USGBC National Capital Region Awards, Innovative Residential Project of the Year; Best of NAIOP Northern Virginia Awards, Multifamily Residential Award of Excellence; Best of NAIOP Northern Virginia Awards, Amenity Space Award of Merit - Rooftop Amenity; MHN Excellence Awards, Silver Award - Unbuilt; LEED Gold

“Despite the scale and complexity of the Highlands, Abi took on a significant leadership role while always making time to mentor emerging professionals. Her dedication as a project architect, a leader, and a mentor made a positive impact on firm and team culture long after the project’s culmination.”

Tanya Ally, AIA
Former Team Member at
Hickok Cole, Washington, DC

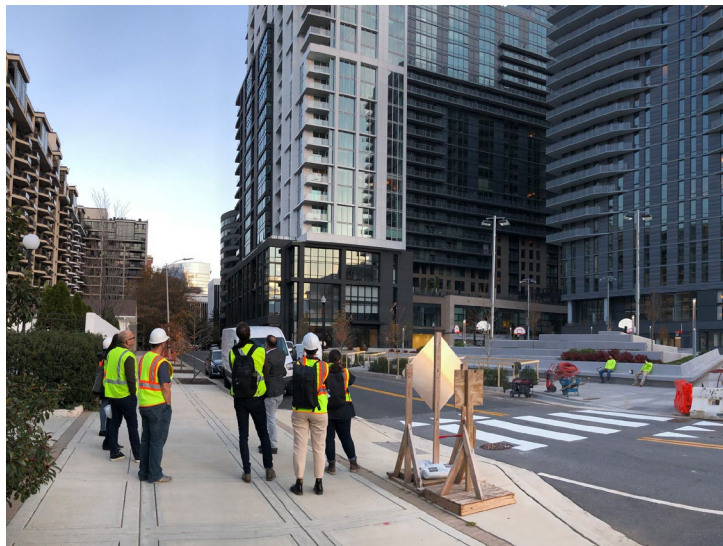
Challenge

Activate the West Rosslyn neighborhood in Arlington, VA, with a residential tower that serves as a beacon for the Highlands mixed-use development while mentoring emerging professionals and building a team culture rooted in inclusion and belonging.

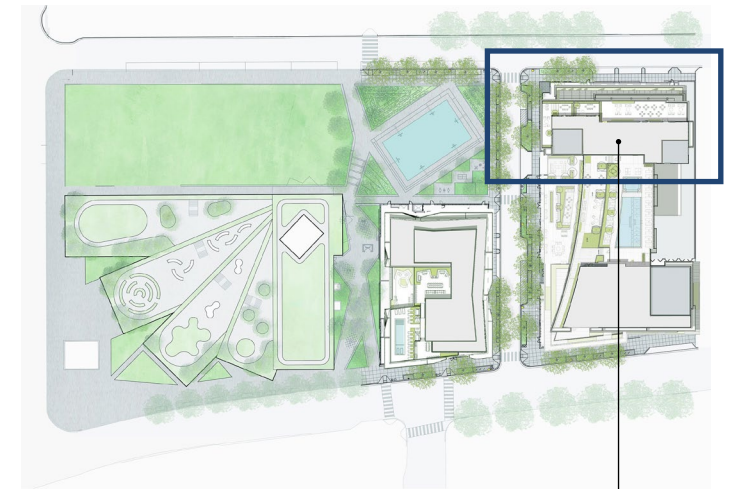
Role & Outcomes

- As a project architect from design development through construction, **Abi painstakingly detailed the 26-story tower’s facade.** The design includes a bright and airy white structure nestled in a contrasting volume of dark Roman brick. The massing gently steps back as the tower rises to respect Arlington County’s design guidelines and the pedestrian experience.

- Despite a constant high-pressure environment and vast network of internal team members, consultants, design firms, contractors, and the client, **Abi modeled a culture of respect, authenticity, and open communication that supported the team’s collaboration toward a clear shared purpose.**
- Dedicated to mentoring emerging professionals, Abi led several educational site tours over the three-year construction process to showcase the building as a learning opportunity.**
- Abi coordinated a high-performance envelope, aggressive stormwater retention, low-carbon construction materials, and an abundance of electric vehicle charging stations. **These strategies contributed to LEED Gold certification and the USGBC National Capital Region award for Innovative Residential Project of the Year.**



Abi led tours during the construction phase to mentor emerging leaders at Hickok Cole and share the project with the entire firm.



Pierce at the Highlands

The Highlands activates the West Rosslyn, VA, neighborhood through a new public park, fire station, retail space, school, and three mixed-income residential towers.

3.9 Pierce at the Highlands ●

“Abi’s long-term leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence over five years contributed to Pierce becoming a signature element of the Highlands. In the face of persistent complexity during design and the uncertainty of construction during the pandemic, Abi remained a steadfast and indispensable driving force behind the project’s success.”

Michael E. Hickok, FAIA
Senior Principal at Hickok
Cole & Principal in Charge,
Washington, DC

Declaration of Responsibility:

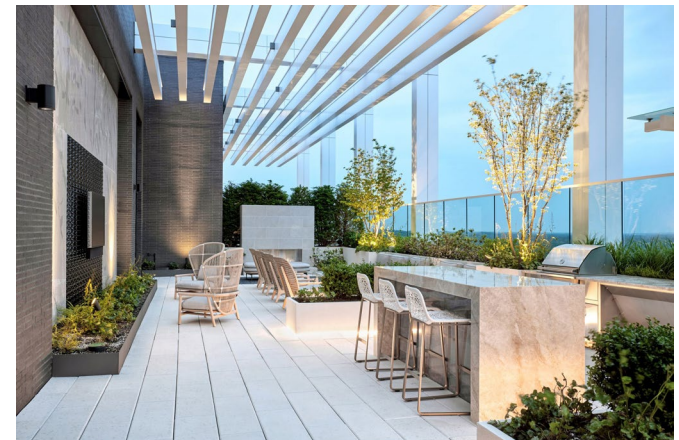
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for this exhibit. The nominee’s firm executed the project as described.

Michael E. Hickok, FAIA
Senior Principal at Hickok Cole,
Washington, DC

Relationship to Exhibit:
Principal in Charge



Groundbreaking ceremony in 2018.



Pierce is a landmark within the Highlands. The bright white structure is a beacon both in the neighborhood and from across the Potomac.

3.10 Frager's Hardware/Penn Eleven ●

**Design Architect/
Architect of Record:**
Hickok Cole

Role:
Project Architect/Unit Design &
Documentation

Completion Date:
2019

Awards/Certifications:
Multifamily Executive Awards,
Mixed-Use Project of the Year; Delta
Associates Awards for Excellence,
Best DC/Baltimore Boutique Condo
Community; LEED Certified

Publications:
*Washingtonian, The Washington
Post, DCist, Urban Turf, PoPville*

Challenge

Restore a beloved Capitol Hill hardware store in Washington, DC, after a catastrophic fire while adding mixed-income residential units to the neighborhood.

Role & Outcomes

- Initially opened in 1920, Frager's Hardware was a Capitol Hill institution before a devastating fire closed its doors in 2013. **Through design leadership and city engagement, Abi shaped the site's transformation into a 34-unit mixed-income residential building – Penn Eleven – that welcomed the return of Frager's in the ground floor retail space in 2019.**
- Abi supported design conversations with the Historic Preservation Review Board and the community.** The team preserved and restored most of the original facade, including the iconic Frager's Hardware sign, and rebuilt the street level retail bays that were fully destroyed by the fire.
- Recognizing the site's historic nature and the community's goal to respect the scale of the surrounding neighborhood, the team stepped the massing back away from the street.
- The massing setbacks, triangular property line, and need to align second-floor units with the preserved facade windows resulted in unique floor plans for almost every residential unit. **Abi led the client, sales consultant, and interior design teams through a collaborative design process that resulted in 34 distinctive condo units with varying sizes and features that uniquely serve different income brackets.**
- The redevelopment allowed for an expansion of the Frager's Hardware retail space, including the addition of a below-grade level, large garden center, and dedicated parking. **The reopening of Frager's was met with great fanfare in the Capitol Hill community and widely covered in local media.**



Initially opened in 1920, Frager's Hardware was a Capitol Hill institution before a catastrophic fire in 2013.



The team preserved and restored the original facades of historic Frager's Hardware while transforming the site into a 34-unit mixed income residential building.

● Built Work

3.10 Frager's Hardware/Penn Eleven ●

"I appreciate that while Penn Eleven is located in a neighborhood with 19th-century homes, its interior and architecture reflect change. It is contemporary, it is youthful, it is warm without being traditional and it does not scream modern. **Someone who cared about light, space, tall ceilings, sustainability, finishes and colors had a lot to say about its design.**"

Michele Lerner
Resident of Penn Eleven,
via The Washington Post



Frager's ribbon cutting in 2019 (above). The building's upper volumes, which contain the new residential units, step back from the street to maintain the scale of the neighborhood (left).

Declaration of Responsibility:

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for this exhibit. The nominee's firm executed the project as described.

Yolanda Cole, FAIA

Senior Principal at Hickok Cole,
Washington, DC

Relationship to Exhibit:
Principal in Charge



Groundbreaking ceremony in 2017.



Abi led a collaborative design process for 34 condo units, most of which have unique layouts due to the building's massing.

4.0 List of References

Sponsor

Jon Penndorf, FAIA ●●

Associate Principal, Perkins&Will
Washington, DC

Relationship: Jon and Abi have been AIA leadership colleagues and frequent volunteer collaborators since 2013.

References

Yolanda Cole, FAIA ●●●

Senior Principal, Hickok Cole
Washington, DC

Relationship: Yolanda was Abi's firm leader and mentor at Hickok Cole from 2012-2022.

Peter Exley, FAIA ●

Dean, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture & Built Environment, Robert Gordon University
Aberdeen, Scotland

Relationship: Peter and Abi met at the AIA Chicago Bridge mentorship program in 2012. He was AIA National President in 2021, the same year Abi was YAF Chair.

Jack Morgan, FAIA ●●

Architect, ASRC Federal
Oklahoma City, OK

Relationship: Jack and Abi met at the Practice Innovation Lab in 2017. Jack was the 2017-2018 Strategic Council liaison to the YAF while Abi was YAF Community Director.

Jessica O'Donnell, AIA ●●

Architect, Urban Practice
Camden, NJ

Relationship: Jessica and Abi met in 2016 at AIA SpeakUp. She was Abi's successor as YAF Chair in 2022.

Roger Schluntz, FAIA ●●

Professor Emeritus & Dean Emeritus, School of Architecture & Planning, University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Relationship: Roger and Abi met in 2019 when Roger served as the College of Fellows representative on the YAF. His service on the COF Executive Committee was concurrent with Abi's leadership on the YAF.

Sean Stadler, FAIA ●

Managing Principal, WDG Architecture
Washington, DC

Relationship: Sean was the 2016 AIAIDC President, the same year Abi was Chair of the AIA DC Emerging Architects Committee. They first met in 2015.

Matt Toddy, AIA ●●

Partner and Director of Operations, Astra Studios
Columbus, OH

Relationship: Matt served on Abi's YAF Community focus group from 2018-2019. He is the 2023 YAF Chair, and his firm, Astra Studios, is a member of JAMB Collective.

● Practice Innovation
● Emerging Voices
● Built Work