

# INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Brian  
Sehnert,**  
**AIA, LEED  
AP BD+C**



**Board Position:**

2018 Chapter President

**Firm:** bVerdant Consulting, *Principal*

**Education:** B. Arch, University of Oregon

**Member Since:** 1982

Thank you for electing me last year to serve as your 2018 AIA Central Valley Chapter President Elect, I am looking forward to serving the organization.

Previous Chapter Boards have established an impressive direction for the Central Valley Chapter, and your new Board will be tasked with improving upon the areas of excellence that have been our focus. Design and problem-solving are the significant skills we bring to the community. We will build on the success of our annual Experience Architecture public outreach event, continue to emphasize that Architecture Matters, and influence the importance of Regionalism as a defining characteristic of our uniqueness. Continuing education for our members remains a key objective. Building tours, workshops, code conversations, accessibility codes and guidelines, and architectural license exam training are just a few of our offerings.

We will continue to increase our value to the community through advocacy, supporting well-planned and well-designed projects that enhance and energize neighborhoods, respect the skyline, and don't displace residents negatively. We will always work to integrate design, sustainability, health, and high performance for buildings and occupants. We are fortunate to have an active group of Emerging and Affiliate Professionals that support our ambitions. The future of our profession requires that we offer mentorship, training and opportunities for success.

**Involvement:** I have been honing my skills on the AIA CV Board of Directors for several years, first as Director at Large, then as Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President/President Elect. I have served this Chapter and the profession in many capacities, ranging from AIA California Council and National AIA Membership Chair; locally as Chair of the Codes Committee, the Dialogue Series, Committee on the Environment, the Design Awards and Architectural Festival. I have also served the community as a Board member of Soil Born Farms, the City of Sacramento Design Commission and Mayor's Green Building Core Team. As a registered Architect and LEED Accredited Professional, I have successfully focused my career for the last 20 years on green building, sustainable design and construction.



# BOARD CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

## Genevieve Vargas, AIA, LEED AP ID+C



**Board Position:**

Vice President / President Elect

**Firm:** Placer County Department of Public Works and Facilities, Capital Improvements, Senior *Architect*

**Education:** Technical Associates Degree from HighTech Institute

**Member Since:** 2003

**Involvement:** I have been a licensed architect for over eight years and have been working in the architectural industry for over 21 years. My love for architecture started in elementary school, while dreaming of what type of buildings I could design. In high school I couldn't get enough of my drafting classes. I decided I would start with tech school and received my associate's degree from High Tech Institute. I went on to earn my license through experience and determination.

**Statement:** As I continue to work to find my place in the architectural world, I learn more about architects, myself and my passion. Architecture is very much a people industry. I feel that my involvement in the AIA Central Valley Chapter has helped me build on the people skills needed for our challenging work. My goal as a member of the AIACV board is to help other architects and soon-to-be architects see the value of being a member as well. I will continue to work towards increasing membership value, which is imperative to my membership.

As secretary, I have worked diligently to update the Chapter bylaws, which members will have an opportunity to approve. A couple of years ago I helped plan and organize a trip with the AIACV to Barcelona, Spain. The trip invigorated my desire to lead this chapter. I've enjoyed my last five years on the board, learning and growing. I am looking forward to continuing next year as Vice President, supporting and representing our members.

## Christopher Holt, AIA, LEED AP BD+C



**Board Position:**

Secretary

**Firm:** Dreyfuss + Blackford Architecture, *Project Manager*

**Member Since:** 2003

**Involvement:** I entered the industry in 1999 as a young apprentice, I was introduced to the concept of the Citizen Architect by my first mentor, thus promoting the expanded role of architecture in society has always been my primary goal. In addition to my service to the AIACV Board of Directors, (2015-2017) I serve as Vice Chair of the Woodland Planning Commission (2011-present).

**Statement: Serve Your Community:** Architects possess a unique skill set, we are problem solvers by nature. We are uniquely positioned to provide valuable input in complex planning and community development efforts. We hold relationships with private developers, building owners, code officials, and municipal employees. This proximity gives us a key role to play and our service on volunteer boards, commissions, and steering committees. Our role is to unify disparate goals and expectations from key stakeholders; which also the role we play within the AEC community.

**Serve Your Profession:** Architecture is a fraternal profession, we seek to support and serve each other, through service at the Chapter, State, and National levels. We strive to interconnect the three main strata of our membership, the Associate, Emerging Professional, and Experienced Architect/Emeritus through engaging social and educational programming such as our Chapter's Mentor Match, Be an Architect, Be a Mentor, and the AIA ARE Prep Seminar Series.

**Serve Each Other:** The transfer of knowledge happens through many channels, the most effective method for me has been through Mentorship. This two-way knowledge transfer occurs within architecture and adjacent professions; I am both a mentor and a mentee and find these relationships among my most fulfilling. Mentorship is critical to the success of the AIA.



# BOARD CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

## Paul Menard, AIA



**Board Position:**

Treasurer

**Firm:** Judicial Council of California, Facilities Services

**Education:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Member Since:** 1991 (AIA), mid-1980's (Assoc. AIA)

**Involvement:** AIACV Board. AIACV Past President, 2000. Co-founded with Barry Wasserman, FAIA, the Smart Growth Leadership Recognition Program. Led the effort, along with Laura Macaulay, AIA, to relocate the chapter office from 19th Street to Alhambra Boulevard.

**Statement:** Along with supporting the traditional practice of architecture in this time of evolving and changing project delivery methods and technology, it is also important that the AIA be involved with: 1) Studying and guiding development patterns to promote truly integrated affordable work force housing; multiple transportation modes including public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian; and renewal of the ubiquitous aging and obsolete commercial corridors; 2) Engaging with and supporting our next generation of architects by increasing the focus on their individual needs in both private and public sector employment; providing meaningful career guidance and training; and creating an environment where our Associates and Emerging Professionals feel included and needed; and 3) Working with local elected officials as a trusted resource on issues such as homelessness, urban planning, sprawl, permit process, zoning ordinances, and design review guidelines.

As treasurer, I continue the Chapter's prudent approach to revenue generation, spending, and investments and to maintain a strong balance sheet, while supporting chapter programs that engage our members and encourage our Associates and Emerging Professionals.

## Teresa Endres, AIA, EDAH, AAH



**Board Position:**

Director

**Firm:** Kitchell CEM, *Senior Architect*

**Education:** Art Center College of Design | Pasadena, CA | 1994

**Member Since:** 2004

**Involvement/Statement:** I worked for several years before finding my true calling, healthcare design. The majority of my career consists of working as a medical planner, healthcare architect and director dedicated to specialized and ultra-specialized facilities throughout the U.S. and internationally. I have been fortunate to contribute at all levels of design, management, and business development, cultivating my design expertise and the business skills necessary to advance our profession.

Recently I have gravitated towards mentoring younger staff as they navigate the nuances of the practice of architecture to find their own true calling. As a member of the AIACV Academy of Architecture for Health (AAH) Committee, I have been instrumental in the reactivation of the Committee with the intent of bringing the membership educational opportunities to keep up on the latest and greatest advances in healthcare design.

If approved for this position, I intend to pursue the following objectives:

1. Expand on my work educating architects and aspiring architects on the many career paths within our profession.
2. Be an advocate for the AAH committee to engage and educate all healthcare design stakeholders.
3. Assist in the advancement of our profession within our local community through this AIACV position.



# BOARD CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

## Lauren Knauss, AIA, ALEP, LEED AP



**Board Position:**  
Director

**Firm:** Lionakis, *Principal*

**Education:** M. Arch, University of Illinois

**Member Since:** 1988

**Involvement:** Laura Knauss has 30 years of architecture experience, 27 of those with Lionakis, where she serves as Principal and Practice Leader for the educational facilities market sector. Laura currently serves as a Board Member for the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) where she chairs the Architects Committee and is a frequent presenter for the organization’s outreach and training. Recently, Laura has been included in two committees for AIACC focused on improving procurement of architectural services.

**Statement:** As a Principal with Lionakis, I believe I am in a position to share my experience as a “seasoned veteran,” while encouraging greater participation in our organization from our colleagues and our Emerging Professionals alike. I am passionate about ensuring that architects are valued as critical problem solvers, making a difference for our clients and communities and ensuring that we are creating a future for the profession that will inspire the next generation of architects.

Our industry must continue to evolve; encouraging diversity and embracing a broad range of perspectives. The design and construction industry of the 21st century is increasingly connected and collaborative, requiring a truly integrated approach to how we design and deliver projects. The AIA must be leaders in enhancing the value of the architect in this integrated approach; the AIACV network can strengthen connections with our industry partners while educating our communities on the real value of design. I’m excited for the opportunity to engage our profession in discussions about design, the urban fabric and the role of architects as partners in that transformation.

## Greg Taylor, AIA, LEED AP



**Board Position:**  
Director

**Firm:** City of Sacramento, *Supervising Architect*

**Education:** M. Arch, Harvard University; B. Arch, CSU San Luis Obispo

**Member Since:** 2006

**Involvement:** Greg Taylor was responsible for three urban design documents totaling more than 1,200 acres of central city redevelopment. He concurrently held the positions of City Urban Design Manager, the City’s design liaison for the Golden 1 Center arena, and Project Manager for the rehabilitation to the historic Sacramento Valley Station. His focus for the past three years is on the station, and now master planning the site as a regional transit development center.

**Statement:** I believe what I can bring to the Board is my diverse experience in public design work, non-profit experience, and public-sector relations, to support the many talented professionals overseeing the diverse committees that AIACV continues to pursue and excel.

My professional work has been focused on the public realm through Urban Design with a focus on transportation and sustainable design.

In the mid-2000’s, I founded the Urban Design Alliance (UDA) – Sacramento, from the realization that the design professions and the public share common aspirations, but that a conversation about what kind of city we aspire to be is missing. A neutral ground is needed to share ideas amongst the constituent players and learn about city-making.

UDA sponsored educational events that culminated with a monthly series of Design Dialogues that served as a respected forum for understanding. These dialogues were held at the AIACV office, and eventually, UDA formally passed that series on to AIACV.

In short: I believe in inclusivity in all forms, and will carry that philosophy in my work on the AIACV Board of Directors.



# BOARD CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

**Cody  
Carpino,  
AIA**



**Member Since:** 2009

**Involvement:** Building Design and Construction (BD+C) 40 Under 40 Class of 2013, Leadership Auburn Class of 2013, Leadership Roseville Class of 2017, and Habitat for Humanity Design Committee in Sonoma County

**Statement:** Both of my parents were high school teachers, so it's no irony my career has been focused on planning and design of K-12 educational projects in Northern California. I am a firm believer in professional growth through enlightening lectures, mentorship, conferences, seminars, and innovative technologies. It seems recent graduates are far more educated with enhanced design software and problem solving. My goal in office is to harness this wealth of knowledge, broaden the resources to those in our profession and clientele, and be an advocate for inspirational opportunities.

**Board Position:**

Emerging Professional Director

**Firm:** Williams + Paddon Architects + Planners, *Associate Principal of the Learning Environments Group*

**Education:** B. Arch, Minor in Mathematics, Washington University | St. Louis, MO

**Jose  
Vaca,  
AIA, LEED  
AP BD+C**



**Member Since:** 2007 (Assoc. AIA); 2017 (AIA)

**Involvement:** Active member of the Emerging Professionals Group, EP Ambassador at Boulder Associates leading the firm's participation in events such as Parking Day 2017

**Statement:** Born and raised in Sacramento, I love this community and want to start giving back. I've been a quiet member of the AIACV for too long and made the realization that I need to be active to get the full value out of my membership. Having attended Chapter EP meetings this past year, I've found out about so many events I'd been missing out on. I want to build on the work others in the committee have done and get the word out on all the events that happen. With a focus on the interorganizational events that really connect the AIACV with the rest of the Sacramento design community. The EP committee actively engages in mentorship opportunities that I want to personally be a part of, both as a mentor and mentee. We all could benefit from being teachers and students and it is a great way to connect the future leaders of the EP group with the current leaders in our local architecture community.

**Board Position:**

Emerging Professional Director

**Firm:** Boulder Associate Architects, *Associate, Healthcare & Senior Living Project Architect*

**Education:** No formal education; licensed through work experience



# BOARD CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

## Jennifer Harris, Assoc. AIA



**Board Position:**  
Associate Director

**Firm:** Moniz Architecture, *Project Designer*

**Education:** B. Arch, Cal Poly | San Luis Obispo, CA

**Member Since:** 2014

**Involvement:** My involvement with the AIA began with Mentor Match in early 2014. The contacts I made there led to my current employment at Moniz Architecture working on a wide variety of commercial, residential and local government projects. I am currently four exams away from becoming a licensed architect, and in 2016 was one of five recipients awarded the Fellowship for Emerging Leaders to attend the AIA National Convention in Philadelphia.

**Statement:** My primary goal going into 2018 is to give Associate AIA members a louder voice in our Chapter. Bringing these members into the fold is extremely important when guiding our Chapter's future because the reality is: Associate members are our Chapter's future.

While the knowledge of our licensed AIA members is invaluable, it comes with a confidence that can drown out those just starting out. Being new to the AIA myself I know it can be intimidating to get involved with the new and unknown. That is why the past few years on the Emerging Professional Committee I have focused on reaching out directly to Associate Members and Emerging Professionals and educating them on what our Chapter has to offer them. I would like to continue that work by working directly with individual firms on how to best foster their newest employees' involvement in the AIA. I want to be an advocate for our Associates and highlight within our Chapter their achievements and contributions to our architectural community.

I believe that in the end my success as Associate Director will not be measured by my own achievements, but rather the achievements of the members I can get involved.

## Sugra Panvelwala, Assoc. AIA



**Board Position:**  
Associate Director

**Firm:** Architectural Nexus, *Designer Professional, LEED Green Associate*

**Education:** M. Arch, University of Toronto

**Member Since:** 2016

**Involvement:** AIACV Experience Architecture: Design|Access Event Co-Chair, Treasurer for University of Toronto's faculty's graduate student union

**Statement:** The ongoing real estate boom within the Sacramento region has resulted in an associated social, cultural and economic change. It has brought Sacramento to the verge of transformation at a pace not witnessed in the recent past. This phenomenon makes it highly important to critically analyze the situation at hand and develop solutions that address the present and have the ability to sustain the future.

A sustainable future involves dealing with the question of resiliency, whether it be economic or environmental. Architects play a vital role in advocating for and designing spaces that enhance resiliency in the built environment. An important aspect of this process is understanding the requirements and defining an architectural response that works for Sacramento.

If elected to the position of Associate Director for AIA Central Valley, I hope to build up on the advocacy and community engagement efforts undertaken by the Chapter. As an Emerging Professional who has enjoyed getting acquainted with other members of our profession and learning from those experiences, I will work towards increasing such opportunities for fellow members and garner enhanced input as we deal with new possibilities for Sacramento.

# BOARD CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

**Kevin  
Young,  
Assoc. AIA**



**Board Position:**

Associate Director

**Firm:** DGA Architects, *Project Designer, LEED Green Associate*

**Education:** B. Arch, University of Oregon

**Member Since:** 2013

**Involvement:** AIA Emerging Professionals Committee, AIACV Winn Park EP Design Competition Event Chair, AIACV Bite of Design Event Chair, Metro Chamber Leadership Sacramento 2017, Adjunct Professor at Sacramento State's Interior Design Program, MetroEDGE Member

**Statement:** Very recently, I had the opportunity to help lead the effort of putting together a design competition for the AIACV Emerging Professionals. It was an amazing experience partnering with the City of Sacramento and the Midtown Association to put together an opportunity for us to take part in shaping the future of Sacramento. But the most rewarding part was seeing the creativity, energy and talent of our local AIACV Emerging Professionals. Through this design competition, we were able to give a spotlight for young professionals, help communicate the value that architecture brings to the community, and create a meaningful partnership with both the City and the Midtown Association.

As Associate Director, it would be my goal to create more opportunities similar to the EP Design Competition to celebrate the young professionals that are the future of our local architecture industry. At the same time, I believe it is important to provide meaningful professional development and clear paths to licensure and leadership opportunities. I also want to create more programs that help connect young professionals and the AIA with our community-at-large, so that everyone can see the value that local architects and young designers can bring.