



# KENTUCKY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

## SPRING 2026

### IN THIS ISSUE:

BOA JANUARY Board Meeting ..... 2

BOA Board Meeting Cont. .... 3

Newly Licensed Architects/Certified CIDs ..... 4

Board Reviews Unlicensed Solicitations ..... 5

New Board Member Spotlight ..... 6

NCARB Regional Meeting Update ..... 7

Barkley Regional Airport (PAH) ..... 8

L. Wayne Tune Scholarship Award..... 9

UK Design Project for Eastern KY Flood Recovery. 10

UK College of Design Career Fair Highlights..... 11

2026 AIA Legislative Day ..... 12

Upcoming Industry Events ..... 13

NCARB Exam Changes Coming April 27, 2026 ..... 14

The Power of Mentorship ..... 15

ACE Mentor Program of the Bluegrass ..... 16

U.S. Dept. of Education’s Proposed Rule to Exclude Architecture from “Professional Degrees” ..... 16

California offers new title for ARE candidates to use “Architect In Training” ..... 17

Tips To Protect Projects ..... 18

Announcements..... 19

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**BOA QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**  
Thursday, April 30, 2026

**BOA Offices Closed at 11:45 AM**  
**Good Friday**  
Friday, April 3, 2026

**BOA Offices Closed for**  
**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 25, 2026

**Annual Architect Renewal Opens:**  
June 1, 2026

**NCARB Annual Business Meeting**  
Minneapolis, MN  
June 25-27, 2026

As we move into the spring season (finally!), it’s a good moment to reflect on the work behind us and the opportunities ahead. Architecture and interior design continue to play a vital role in shaping our communities, and professionals who practice in our state carry a responsibility that extends beyond the designs we produce. The buildings and spaces we shape play a direct role in the safety and function of the places where we live and work.



Joey P. Nolasco, AIA, CID  
KY BOA President

April also brings **National Architecture Week**, which serves as an important reminder of the impact architects have in communities across the Commonwealth. It is also a time to recognize the responsibility we have in mentoring the next generation of professionals. The future of our profession depends not only on strong education and examination requirements, but also on experienced practitioners who are willing to guide emerging professionals and demonstrate the standards, ethics, and responsibility that licensure represents.

At the national level, the profession continues to evolve. **NCARB** has announced updates to the **Architect Registration Examination (ARE)** that will take effect on April 27, 2026. These updates are intended to better align the examination with evolving practice and the competencies required of licensed architects today. As these changes move forward, the Board encourages candidates and supervisors to stay informed and engaged.

Alongside these national changes, boards across the country are examining how best to maintain rigorous standards of practice while ensuring the profession remains accessible. The Kentucky Board of Architects is participating in these national conversations and carefully studying how licensure pathways evolve, always with the goal of protecting the public while supporting a strong profession.

States are also examining how professional pathways are communicated to the public. For example, California will adopt the title **“Architect in Training”** in 2027 for individuals actively working toward licensure. While Kentucky currently uses different terminology, developments like this illustrate the broader effort within the profession to improve public understanding of licensure and the path to becoming an architect.

You may have also seen recent news regarding a proposed rule from the **U.S. Department of Education** that would remove architecture from its list of “professional degrees.” Although this proposal does not affect Kentucky licensure requirements, it has generated important discussions nationwide about how architectural education and the profession are recognized. The Board will continue to monitor this issue and supports efforts that protect the rigor and value of our profession.

The Kentucky Board of Architects remains focused on its core mission of protecting the public’s health, safety, and welfare. This includes attention to licensure standards, the responsible use of the architectural seal, and opportunities for continuing education that help us stay current with evolving codes and technologies. I am grateful for the professionalism and dedication of the architects and Certified Interior Designers who serve communities across our Commonwealth, and I look forward to the work ahead as we continue strengthening the integrity and future of our profession.

Joey Nolasco

President, Kentucky Board of Architects & CIDs



# KY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS JANUARY 2026 BOARD MEETING

The January board meeting was held via Zoom due to the ice storm. The meeting was called to order by the board president, Joey Nolasco. Members in attendance were as follows: Sydney Goetz, Secretary; Olivia Davis, Public Member/Treasurer; Jeffery Johnson, Ex-Officio Member; and board members Jill Lewis Smith, M. Chad Beyer and T. Rexford Cecil. Also, in attendance: Cordelia Harbut, Executive Director; Rachael McClain, Ex. Admin. and Kara Legg, Attorney, McBrayer PLLC. Guests included: Kelly Ives, Executive VP, AIA KY; Tina Ash, AIA KY President Elect; Matt Barusch, CIDQ Director, Government Affairs and Advocacy.

The meeting began with a presentation from Mr. Barusch. During his presentation, he reviewed the progress that had been made to advance the regulation of the interior design profession. He noted there had been an increased level of communication and collaboration among the design professions, allowing more productive dialogue on legislative advancement at the state level.

The board meeting minutes will reflect that the following standard reports were given and approved at the January board meeting: October Minutes; Financial Report; Interim Report.

**AIA KY Update:** Ms. Ash gave a brief report pertaining to AIA advocacy initiatives at the state and national level. She stated, AIA has concerns about HB 206, HB 458 and HB 254. At the national level, she talked about AIA National opposing the federal policy to not recognize architects as professionals.

**NCARB Region 4 Report:** Ms. Smith reported that Region 4 is planning to host its first biennial education symposium in conjunction with the June 2026 NCARB Annual Business Meeting in Minnesota. She also reported on the NCARB Regional Summit being held March 20-21, 2026, in Oklahoma City.

**Licensure Research and Development Task Force:** Ms. Davis said the committee is now focusing on Claims and Assessment Criteria. This procedure involves reviewing each competency, identifying the “claim”, a just-qualified individual (JQI) would make to demonstrate that competency, and then determining which assessment criteria would verify that claim. The new assessment process is being developed in collaboration with psychometricians and will be part of the focus of the NCARB Regional Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

· *AIA Opposition to Federal Policy Failing to Recognize Architects as Professionals*—AIA is advocating for House Resolution 6718 to designate architecture as a professional degree.

· *ICOR Practice Overlap Report* – Ms. Harbut presented an update on the Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) Practice Overlap project. It is intended as a high-level guidance resource for state level boards and building officials to clarify practices incidental to each profession.

· *Executive Director Hiring* – President Nolasco announced the upcoming retirement of the Boards' executive director, Ms. Harbut.

· *HR Provider* - The Board voted to enter into a quarterly Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Public Protection Cabinet (PPC) for HR services effective July 1, 2026.

## **BOARD AGENDA JANUARY 27, 2025**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments
3. Presentation of Minutes
4. Presentation of Financial Report
5. Presentation of Interim Report
6. AIA Updates
7. National Committee Reports
8. New Business
9. Standing Board Committees
  - Licensure & Certification
  - Investigative Review
  - UK CoD Report
  - Statutes and Regulations
  - Continuing Education
  - AXP/IPAL Report
  - CIDQ Report
  - Financial Report
  - Newsletter Committee
10. Old Business
11. Adjournment

## **Next Board Meeting**

Thursday,  
April 30, 2026

**TO BE CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

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**FY 2026 STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following standing committee reports were given by the respective chair.

**Licensure, Certification Committee (L&C):** Mr. Nolasco reported on four separate cases:

Case 1: An architect failed to respond to an audit. L&C made a motion to send the case to IRC.

Case 2: Two architects were found deficient in CE's after an audit. L&C made a motion to accept the makeup CE's.

Case 3: An architect requested a license status change due to lapsed time. L&C made a motion to approve the request.

Case 4: An architect requested a reinstatement fee waiver. L&C made a motion to deny the request.

**Investigative Review Committee (IRC):** Mr. Johnson, reported on five open cases.

Case 1: Email solicitation from an unlicensed individual offering sealing and stamping services. IRC makes a motion to close the case due to insufficient information.

Case 2: Following a cease-and-desist letter an unlicensed individual removed all protected titles from their platforms.

Case 3: Architect referred to the IRC for violating KRS 323.120(1)(e) by failing to disclose prior disciplinary action in Delaware on their 2021 Kentucky initial application. Architect signed a settlement agreement and paid a \$500.00 fine.

Case 4: A complaint was filed by an individual who unknowingly purchased plans from an online freelance platform from a person using a stolen stamp. The case was referred to the Attorney General's Office.

**University of Kentucky – College of Design (CoD):** Mr. Johnson reported approximately 320 architecture students, including 50–60 graduate students, graduated in December. Within the College of Design there are approximately 120–150 Interior Design students, 40–45 Product Design students and 15 Historic Preservation students.

**Statutes and Regulations Committee:** Ms. Smith reported that the committee discussed the following: Iowa's model to alternative licensure; seal verification software; California's new law that allows the "Architect in Training" title; and BOA's architects' title research. No actions or votes were taken during the committee meeting.

**Alternative Paths to Licensure Ad-hoc Committee:** Mr. Nolasco noted the committee is still in the information gathering stage. Several other jurisdictions (notably Iowa) are moving proactively toward alternative licensure paths, the committee is focused on analyzing how such changes would impact Kentucky's staffing, costs, and professional competencies.

**Practice Law for Interior Designers Task Force:** Mr. Beyer stated the Task Force's objective is to review current legislation and determine its effectiveness in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The committee is on a "fact-finding" mission with the goal of providing a formal recommendation to the Board.

**Finance Committee:** Ms. Davis reported that Ms. Harbut is currently finalizing a "justification document" to pursue a sole-source procurement for the BOA's licensing system. Ms. Davis made a motion on behalf of the Finance Committee to authorize Board Counsel's attendance at the NCARB Regional Summit in March. Motion carried.

**Newsletter Committee:** Ms. Harbut reviewed the list of anticipated articles for the April newsletter. New topics included the legislative updates, CoD Career Fair, and an overview of the NCARB Regional Summit.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Attorney General Update on Stolen Seals:** - Ms. Legg reported that since the investigation centers on the misuse of architect seals by individuals utilizing foreign freelance platforms, it presents a complex challenge for the AG's office. No additional info has been received from the AG Office.

**B. Review KRS 323.230, State Titles for Non-Practicing Architects:** Ms. Legg reviewed how other states handle the title of architect. The board agreed to continue to monitor national trends and to continue to educate unlicensed individuals on acceptable title usage.

The Board adjourned after reviewing upcoming meeting Board Meeting date.

*The Kentucky Board of Architects extends our warmest wishes for a bright, healthy, and successful year in 2026 to all licensees, designers, interns, students, educators, and partners across the Commonwealth!*

# NEWLY LICENSED ARCHITECTS

LICENSE No.	Architect Name	Education	Employer
9504	Rebecca L Cox	University of Kentucky Bachelor of Architecture	Tate Hill Jacobs Architects Lexington KY
9522	Tricia Hourigan	Arizona University Mater of Architecture	Tetra Tech Louisville KY
9539	Daniela Boger	University of Kentucky Master of Architecture	Omni Architects Lexington KY
9541	Molly Guggenheim	Washington University (St. Louis) Master of Architecture	Studio Kremer Architects Louisville KY
9558	Shristi Tamrakar	University of Idaho (Moscow) Master of Architecture	Ross Tarrant Architects Lexington KY



*Congratulations*



# NEWLY CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS

CID No.	CID Name	Education	Employer
0431CID	Sarah E. Baker	University of KY Bachelor of Arts, Interior Design	University of KY Lexington KY
0432CID	Tristan Morgan	University of KY Bachelor of Arts, Interior Design	Gray AES Lexington KY
0433CID	Joseph Cavallo	University of KY Master of Architecture	alt32 PSC Louisville KY
0434CID	Shannon Ruhl	University of Virginia Master of Architecture	K Norman Berry Associates Architects Louisville KY
0435CID	Jody E. Boelhauf	Tulane University Master of Architecture	Elevate Collaborative Lexington KY
0436CID	Jeffrey T. Hulan	University of KY Bachelor of Architecture	Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. Lexington KY

## BOARD REVIEWS UNLICENSED SOLICITATIONS

### Unlicensed Use of the Title “Architectural”

The Board recently considered a complaint involving an email solicitation sent to Kentucky citizens advertising rendering services for “architectural and engineering plans.” The individual responsible for the communication was not licensed to practice architecture in the Commonwealth, raising concerns under **KRS 323.020**, which governs the practice of architecture, and **KRS 323.230**, which prohibits the unlicensed offering of regulated architectural services.

After confirming the individual was not licensed in Kentucky, by Board decision the attorney issued a letter directing them to **cease and desist** any use of language that could mislead the public into believing architectural services were being offered without proper credentials. The Board’s attorney outlined the statutory violations and requested corrective action.

The individual responded that the firm had taken steps to remove any misleading references and was actively monitoring third-party publications and online directories to ensure all titles and descriptions complied with Kentucky’s legal requirements. They indicated that the use of the term “architectural” was not intended to imply licensure in Kentucky; however, they were working with Kentucky-licensed architects.

To verify compliance, the Board’s attorney sent a follow-up request seeking the names of any architects collaborating with the firm, in order to confirm that any contractual arrangements met the requirements of **KRS 323.020**. The individual replied that all official company correspondence originates from their business email domain and not from public domains such as Gmail. They suggested that a third party may have used their company information without authorization and affirmed that they would take all necessary measures to prevent future misrepresentation.

After reviewing the correspondence and the corrective steps reported, the Board voted to close the case.

This matter underscores the importance of accurate representation in all public communications and the need for vigilance when third-party platforms or directories may inadvertently misstate a firm’s services or credentials. The Board remains committed to protecting the public by ensuring that only qualified, licensed professionals offer architectural services in Kentucky.

### Unlicensed Use of the Title “Architectural” and Offering “Architectural Plans, Seal, and Stamp” Services

The Board recently reviewed a complaint involving an email solicitation sent to Kentucky citizens offering “Architectural Plans, Seal, and Stamp” services. The individual responsible for the outreach was not licensed to practice architecture in the Commonwealth, raising immediate concerns regarding public protection and compliance with state law.

Under **KRS 323.020**, individuals are prohibited from practicing or offering to practice architecture without proper licensure. Additionally, **KRS 323.230** authorizes the Board to take action against those who unlawfully represent themselves as architects or offer regulated architectural services without credentials.

After confirming that the individual was not licensed, the Board decided to have the attorney issue a formal letter directing them to **cease and desist** advertising and/or providing architectural services. The letter outlined the statutory violations and the steps required to comply with Kentucky law.

No response was received to the attorney’s correspondence. The letter was sent via email, and since there was no available follow-up address or phone number, the Board closed the case.

This matter serves as an important reminder that protecting the public begins with ensuring that only qualified, licensed professionals offer architectural services in Kentucky. Licensees and citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious solicitations or unlicensed practice concerns to the Board for review.



# Kevin Gough, AIA, NCARB

The Kentucky Board of Architects is honored to welcome Kevin Gough, AIA, NCARB, as its newest Board Member. Kevin brings more than two decades of professional experience, deep technical expertise, and a strong commitment to education and preservation: all assets that will serve the Board and the Commonwealth well.

Kevin is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Design, where he earned a Bachelor of Architecture, and he also holds a Master of Architecture from Cornell University. He is a licensed architect in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee, and is actively affiliated with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), and the Association of Preservation Technology (APT).



Kevin serves as a Principal at Champlin | EOP, in Lexington. He is currently acting as the Executive Architect for the comprehensive renovation of the Kentucky State Capitol. In this role, he oversees a multidisciplinary team of architects, engineers, material scientists, and specialty consultants. The project includes major restoration of the Capitol dome, infrastructure replacement, accessibility and safety improvements, and extensive historic material conservation.

With more than 25 years of experience in architectural practice, Kevin’s knowledge and leadership represent an extraordinary asset to the Board.



### Why did you select architecture as a career?

*“I was actually focusing on photography when I was an undergraduate, and it was my photography professor who first suggested I consider it. I was a non-traditional student, only starting my five-year B.Arch. in my third year of school. I still do photography, too, which has always been a great supplement to my work as an architect. Later, I pursued a graduate degree in architecture to focus on research more deeply and to allow me to teach. I love teaching and find myself spending a good amount of time in my firm teaching our staff daily.”*

### What are three career lessons you’ve learned thus far?

*“I was told as a young man that a successful career as an architect begins at age 50. I don’t think that was much of an exaggeration, honestly. This profession takes time to master, and mastery never ends. Keep learning. Keep taking on new challenges. Try again when you fail.”*

### What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

*“I love movies, and I collect books. I try to play tennis every week when I can. I also really love to travel—both for the architecture and the food.”*

The Kentucky Board of Architects is pleased to welcome Kevin Gough and looks forward to the insight, experience, and leadership he brings to his new role.

# NCARB REGIONAL MEETING UPDATE



Jill Lewis Smith, AIA, NCARB,  
KY Board of Architects  
Member

The 2026 NCARB Regional Summit was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma March 20-21. Kentucky was well represented by Joey Nolasco, Sydney Goetz, Olivia Davis, Jill Smith, our attorney Kara Legg, and our executive director Cordelia “Dee” Harbut. Election for Regional

Officers were held (terms beginning June 27th, 2026). The incoming Regional Chair will be Sally Grans-Korsh from Minnesota, Regional Vice Chair will be Devron Sanders from Michigan, and the Regional Secretary Treasurer will be Sydney Goetz from Kentucky. Jill Smith, from Kentucky, our current Regional Chair, will serve on the NCARB Board of Directors as our Regional Director.

The meeting included training on “Best Board Practices”, “Understanding Reciprocity”, and “Responsible Control”. We took a deep dive into Continuing Education and the Future of Continuing Competency. National discussions included an ICOR update, discipline and enforcement panel, and a pathways to practice update.

Olivia Davis, our Kentucky public board member is running for a position on the NCARB Board of Directors reserved for public members. Olivia has diligently worked on the NCARB R&D task force for four years and will be an excellent board member. This election and the “directors at large” election will be held in June at the annual business meeting. The eight current candidates for the two NCARB board “directors at large” presented themselves. This is the third year these positions are available. The current eight candidates are widely different, and this looks to be an interesting election this summer.



Pictured above, Ed Marley, president of the NCARB Board of Directors answered questions from Region IV members. Jill Smith as the Region IV Chair, pictured second from right, facilitated the meeting.



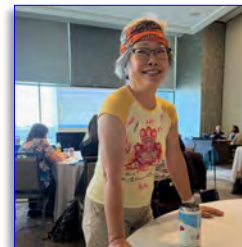
Pictured to the right is BOA board member Olivia Davis. She serves as the Public Member/ Treasurer of BOA. She gave her campaign speech to the NCARB membership. She is running for the public director position on the NCARB Board of Directors.



Representatives from Kentucky BOA are pictured from left to right: Kara Legg, BOA Attorney; Jill Smith, BOA Member/KY Regional IV Chair; Cordelia Harbut, BOA Exec. Director; Sydney Goetz, BOA Secretary; Olivia Davis, BOA Public Member/Treasurer; and Joey Nolasco, BOA President.



2007 Survivor: Fiji  
Exile Island



Pictured above and to the left with Dee Harbut, BOA Executive Director is Sylvia Kwan, of San Rafael,

California. She is the founder of Kwan Henmi Architecture/Planning, Inc and is NCARB’s FY26 second vice president. In 2007, Ms. Kwan competed on the Survivor show and was the third contestant voted off the Island. The Member Board Executive training was lead by Ms. Kwan which was based on a Survivor theme. Ms. Harbut stated, “The training was very informative and fun!”

# Barkley Regional Airport Redevelopment

## A Landmark Investment in Western Kentucky's Future

The new \$14.1 million terminal at Barkley Regional Airport is one of the most significant public investments in Western Kentucky in recent years. The 27,000-square-foot facility is envisioned as a “front porch” for the region, reflecting Western Kentucky’s values of hospitality, community pride, and a strong connection to nature. As the region modernizes its transportation infrastructure, this project demonstrates how licensed design professionals play a critical role in safeguarding public health, safety, and welfare—principles embedded in Kentucky law and central to the mission of the Kentucky Board of Architects.

Under Kentucky statutes, architectural services that affect public safety must be performed or supervised by Kentucky-licensed architects and regulated interior design services must be provided by Certified Interior Designers recognized by the Commonwealth. For a facility as complex and operationally sensitive as an airport—where circulation, security, life-safety systems, and passenger experience intersect—this level of professional oversight is not only required, but essential.

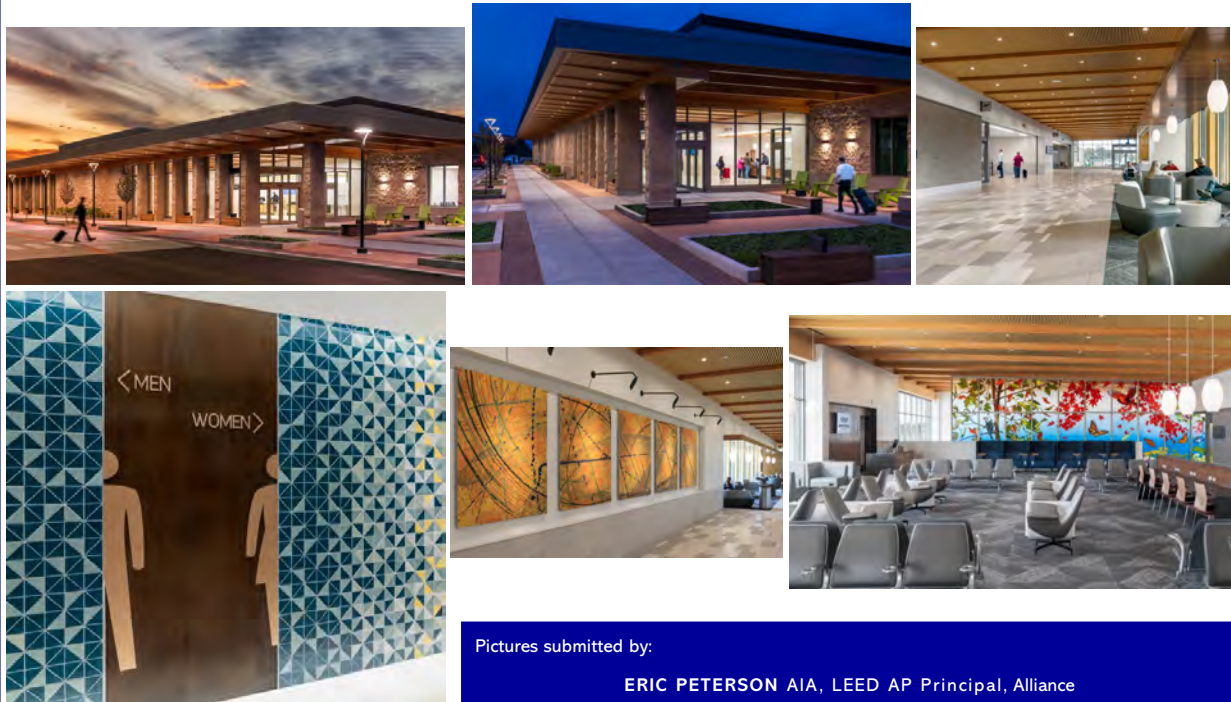
With the involvement of licensed architects and certified interior designers, the project team delivered:

Code-compliant design solutions that protect travelers, staff, and first responders

- Thoughtful, human-centered interior environments that enhance comfort, clarity, and accessibility;
- Effective coordination across engineering, planning, aviation, and construction disciplines;
- Long-term regional value through durable materials, adaptable planning, and resilient design strategies

As Kentucky continues to invest in civic and transportation infrastructure, the Barkley Regional Airport redevelopment serves as a model for how licensed design professionals contribute to safe, efficient, and future-ready public facilities. Inspired by Paducah’s UNESCO Creative Cities designation, the terminal incorporates commissioned artwork and abstract quilting patterns that reflect the city’s vibrant artistic identity. Limestone masonry and exposed timber framing blend historic character with modern design, expressing the community’s forward-looking vision.

Overall, the project highlights the strength of the Commonwealth’s regulatory framework and the commitment of its architects and certified interior designers to protect the public they serve.



Pictures submitted by:

ERIC PETERSON AIA, LEED AP Principal, Alliance

## 2026 L. WAYNE TUNE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The Kentucky Board of Architects is honored to recognize **Chloe Vance, the 2026 recipient of the L. Wayne Tune Scholarship**. A native of Cynthiana, Kentucky, and a distinguished student at the University of Kentucky, Ms. Vance exemplifies the academic excellence, professional promise, and dedication to the built environment that this scholarship was designed to support.

Ms. Vance's passion for architecture began early. At just ten years old, she found joy in sketching house plans and building structures from LEGO bricks—an early expression of the curiosity and creativity that continue to guide her academic journey. After learning more about the architectural profession, she committed herself to pursuing architecture as a career.

Reflecting on the impact of the scholarship, Ms. Vance shared, “It has given me more opportunities and outlets to continue my growth, without worrying about how I was going to pay for it. I was allowed to breathe and put forth my full effort toward my goals.”

The Board is proud to support students like Ms. Vance, whose dedication strengthens the future of the profession. After completing her bachelor's degree in architecture, she plans to pursue graduate studies, with aspirations of earning a master's degree in either architecture or interior design.

The L. Wayne Tune Scholarship was established to honor the legacy of L. Wayne Tune, a respected Kentucky architect who served as the Board's Executive Director for over 25 years. He was known for his leadership, professional integrity, and lifelong commitment to advancing the field of architecture. The scholarship continues to support students who demonstrate strong academic performance, a clear dedication to the profession, and a desire to contribute meaningfully to Kentucky's built environment.

### NEWLY APPOINTED

## INTERIOR DESIGN EDUCATOR'S COUNCILS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Kentucky Board of Architects proudly recognizes **Helen Turner, NCIDQ, LEED AP, Director of the School of Interiors at the University of Kentucky College of Design**, on her election to the **Board of Directors of the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC)**. This achievement reflects her exceptional leadership, her commitment to advancing interior design education, and her dedication to elevating the profession across the Commonwealth and beyond.



Beginning May 1, 2026, Professor Turner will serve as the Director of Strategic Initiatives. IDEC as the leading authority in interior design education, represents a community of more than 20,000 scholars and practitioners who will undoubtedly benefit from Professor Turner's vision, expertise, and passion for shaping the next generation of designers.

The Board extends its warmest congratulations and looks forward to the continued impact of her work on both the academic and professional design communities.

## UK COLLEGE OF DESIGN: PROJECT FOR EASTERN KENTUCKY FLOOD RECOVERY



In response to the devastating flooding that has impacted Eastern Kentucky in recent years, the need for resilient, affordable housing has become increasingly urgent. After engaging directly with residents of Breathitt County, University of Kentucky Professor Bruce Swetnam, AIA, and a team of 14 third- and fourth-year architecture students have developed a low-cost, rapidly deployable housing module designed to support families displaced by flood damage.

The prototype—now erected outside the Gray Design Building—demonstrates a thoughtful approach to both immediate shelter and long-term livability.

Key features include:

- **A steep pitched roof** to efficiently shed stormwater;
- **A centralized kitchen** to support family life;
- **A wet-room style bathroom;**
- **A lofted sleeping deck;** and
- **Generous daylighting** throughout the structure.

The design also allows homeowners to expand over time, offering the flexibility to add bedrooms, porches, or additional modules as needed.



This project provided students with a rare, full-cycle learning experience—from conceptual design to hands-on construction—while contributing meaningful service to communities facing housing insecurity. The initiative was made possible through the support of **Gray Construction, Gray AES**, and a strong collaboration between the **UK College of Design and the UK Cooperative Extension**.

**Professor Swetnam shared the following regarding the project's mission:**

*"Architects are more than form-makers. Like any artist, we must become masters of our craft by understanding and using the elements we have to work with. Those elements include site, structure, material, light, sound, and yes, public service. The Design-Build Program at the University of Kentucky School of Architecture sets our students on a path toward designing with the primary elements of architecture, not in spite of them. In the end, the goal is to prepare our students to become architects who can seamlessly integrate the art and science of design to create meaningful and beautiful space."*

### UK College of Design Spring 2026 Lectures, Workshops and Exhibitions

**Friday, April 3, 2026**

**Dr. Maegen Rochner | Dendrochronology: Lecture and Workshop**

Lecture: David Biagi Forum (GDB 111)

Workshop: Keith O. Woodard Maker's Suite (GDB 114)

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

**Carol Ross Barney, FAIA | Principal+Founder, Ross Barney Architects**

Co-sponsored by AIA-EKC

David Biagi Forum (GDB 111)

**Friday, April 24, 2026**

**Thomas Woltz, FASLA | Senior Principal and Owner, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects**

David Biagi Forum (GDB 111)

**May 7—August 7, 2026**

**Making Sense | End of Year Student Work Exhibition**

Gray Design Building

# UK COLLEGE OF DESIGN CAREER FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

## FEBRUARY 20, 2026



The University of Kentucky College of Design hosted its Annual Design Career Fair on February 20, 2026, at the Gatton Student Center in Lexington, Kentucky. The event brought together architecture, historic preservation, landscape architecture, interiors, interior design, and product design students with professional firms and organizations from across Kentucky and the nation.

Held in the Grand Ballrooms of the student center, the career fair provided students with opportunities to connect directly with practicing professionals, share portfolios, and discuss internship and full-time employment opportunities. The annual event is organized collaboratively by the **College of Design** and the **Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Department of Landscape Architecture** to help prepare students for entry into the design professions and to strengthen relationships between academia and the professional community.



Representatives from architectural and design firms participated in the fair to meet emerging talent and to support the next generation of design professionals. Events such as this play an important role in building connections between Kentucky's design education programs and the professional practice community, while providing students with valuable exposure to career pathways within architecture and related disciplines.

**Emma Healy**, of Lexington, Kentucky, is a fourth-year interior design student. She was excited about attending the event and talking to all the vendors to see if she would be a good fit for their organization's programs.

**Abby Chen**, of Corbin, Kentucky, is also a fourth-year interior design student. She was really surprised that there were so many firms in Lexington—*especially new firms*. She was energized to speak with them about career opportunities too.



UK College of Design Students:  
Emma Healy and Abby Chen

# 2026 AIA LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Picture submitted by AIA Kentucky

On February 24, architects and interior designers from across Kentucky gathered in Frankfort for AIA Kentucky's annual Legislative Day, which was co-hosted by the IIDA Ohio | Kentucky Chapter. The event provided an important opportunity for design professionals and future practitioners to engage directly with policymakers and share perspectives on issues affecting the built environment and communities across the Commonwealth.

Participants began the day with a breakfast briefing in the Annex Cafeteria, where attendees received updates on current legislative topics and discussed priorities for the profession. Following the briefing, attendees met with legislators and members of the Kentucky General Assembly to discuss how thoughtful design, responsible development, and strong professional standards contribute to safer, healthier, and more resilient communities.

Legislative Day offered a valuable forum for architects and interior designers to build relationships with elected officials, highlight the role of the design profession in shaping Kentucky's future, and advocate for policies that support quality design and the public good.

AIA Kentucky appreciates the time and openness of legislators and their staff, and thanks all members who traveled to Frankfort to represent the profession and engage in constructive dialogue.

For more information on upcoming AIA events: [Calendar + Events - AIA Kentucky](#)

# Upcoming Industry Events

(These events may be of particular interest to Kentucky Design Professionals.)

EVENT	HOST & LOCATION	DATE	REGISTRATION & INFORMATION
Central Kentucky Home Show Lexington, KY	Market Place Events Central Bank Center, Lexington	April 10-12, 2026	Of interest to interior designers for the latest in materials, furnishings, and interior finishes. <a href="#">Official Central Kentucky Home Show   April 10-12, 2026   Central Bank Center</a>
Kentucky Museum & Heritage Alliance Conference	KMHA Paducah, KY	June 7-9, 2026	A deep dive into preservation and Kentucky culture; highly relevant for professionals working in historic districts. <a href="#">KMHA 2026 Conference</a>
Kentucky State Fire School Lexington, KY	Fire Academy of Kentucky	June 10-14, 2026	Valuable for architects regarding building codes, fire life safety, and facility planning coordination. <a href="#">2026 Kentucky State Fire School - Save The Date!   KCTCS</a>

## MASTER/JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

The **Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)**, Inc. of Indiana/Kentucky Chapter is offering continuing education classes for Master and Journeyman electricians. The curriculum focuses on the most recent changes to the **National Electrical Code (NEC)**, covering applications ranging from residential and commercial to industrial sectors.

### Class Schedule & Logistics:

- Days: All classes are held on Saturdays.
- Time: Doors open at 7:30 a.m.; sessions run from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Cost: \$70.00 per class (Lunch is provided for all participants).

### 2026 Dates & Locations:

- Lexington: June 6, 2026, at 157 Venture Court, Lexington, KY
- Louisville: June 13, 2026, at 1810 Taylor Avenue, Louisville, KY

### Registration:

Participants may sign up by contacting Holly Baker at (270) 792-1128 or via email at [holly@abcindianakentucky.org](mailto:holly@abcindianakentucky.org).

**For more information** on available dates and specific course details, visit the [ABC Indiana/Kentucky CEU Courses page](#).

# NCARB Announces 2026 Updates to the Architect Registration Examination®

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has announced a series of updates to the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) that will take effect **April 27, 2026**. These adjustments are designed to align the exam with the **NCARB Competency Standard for Architects**, a comprehensive framework outlining the knowledge, skills, abilities, and professional behaviors expected of architects at the point of initial licensure.

While the upcoming changes refine certain exam objectives and introduce formatting updates to case studies, NCARB emphasizes that the **overall structure of the ARE will remain unchanged**. Candidates will see **no modifications** to the number of divisions, the number of items within each division, or the allotted testing time.

Importantly, **all previously passed divisions will remain valid**, including those reinstated following the retirement of the former rolling clock policy. Candidates currently testing or preparing to begin the ARE can continue their progress with confidence, knowing that their completed work will not be affected.

The **NCARB Competency Standard for Architects**—the foundation for these updates—identifies **16 core competencies** essential for newly licensed architects. These competencies span technical knowledge, design abilities, professional judgment, and ethical practice, ensuring that the ARE continues to reflect the realities and responsibilities of modern architectural practice.

NCARB notes that the 2026 refinements are part of its ongoing commitment to maintaining a fair, relevant, and rigorous examination that supports public health, safety, and welfare while providing clarity and consistency for candidates nationwide.

## NATIONAL ARCHITECT WEEK

**APRIL 12-18, 2026**

National Architecture Week recognizes the pivotal role architects play in shaping the spaces where we live, work, and gather. This week provides a unique opportunity to raise public awareness about the profession, celebrate the diverse contributions of architects to our built environment, and inspire future generations to explore careers in architecture

**Showcase Your Impact:** It's time to "toot your own horn!" We want to see how Kentucky's architects are celebrating. Whether you are hosting a firm open house, visiting a local school, or highlighting a recently completed project, we want to share your story.

**How to Participate:** Please share your photos and event highlights with the Board at [BOA.IRC@KY.GOV](mailto:BOA.IRC@KY.GOV).

- **Submission Deadline:** June 12, 2026
- **Publication:** Photos and events may be featured in the *Summer 2026 Newsletter*



# THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP

Architecture and interior design are crafts learned not only through formal education but through guided experience—through watching, questioning, trying, failing, and trying again with someone knowledgeable at your side. As Kentucky continues to grow, the next generation of architects and certified interior designers will inherit the responsibility of shaping our communities. They need more than technical skill; they need confidence, judgment, and a sense of professional identity. Mentorship is how we pass those things on. Strong mentorship strengthens the entire profession. It accelerates learning, reduces early-career burnout, and helps emerging professionals understand the ethical and regulatory responsibilities that come with licensure. It also reinforces a culture of collaboration and accountability—values that protect the public and elevate the quality of design across the Commonwealth. But mentorship doesn't have to be formal or complicated. It simply requires intention, consistency, and a willingness to invest in someone else's growth.

Every licensed architect and certified interior designer in Kentucky has the opportunity to shape the future of the field by guiding those who will one day lead it. When we mentor, we strengthen our practices, our communities, and the integrity of the profession itself.

## **Invite Emerging Professionals Into the “Why,” Not Just the “What”**

Explain design decisions, code interpretations, and project strategies. Share the reasoning behind choices, not just the final answer. Encourage questions and normalize curiosity.

## **Provide Exposure to the Full Project Lifecycle**

Bring interns or new hires to client meetings, site visits, and consultant coordination sessions. Let them observe how you navigate conflict, negotiate scope, or present design intent. Afterward, debrief what went well and what could be improved.

## **Teach the Business Side of Practice**

Discuss contracts, fee structures, risk management, and professional liability. Explain how Kentucky's regulatory requirements influence practice. Help them understand the responsibilities that come with stamping drawings.

## **Support Their Path to Licensure**

Offer guidance on NCARB's AXP requirements or NCIDQ

exam preparation. Share study strategies and resources.

Celebrate milestones—passing an exam, completing a project, earning a new credential.

## **Give Constructive, Actionable Feedback**

Focus on specific behaviors or decisions, not personal traits. Pair critique with encouragement and clear next steps. Model how to receive feedback gracefully as well.

## **Create Opportunities for Leadership**

Let emerging professionals lead a portion of a meeting or present a design concept. Assign them ownership of a small project component with your oversight.

Encourage them to mentor interns or students in turn.

## **Share Your Professional Story—Including the Hard Parts**

Talk about mistakes you've made and what you learned. Discuss career pivots, challenges, and moments of doubt.

Show that growth is nonlinear and that resilience is part of the profession.

## **Connect Them to the Broader Design Community**

Introduce them to colleagues, consultants, and professional organizations. Encourage participation in AIA Kentucky, IIDA events, or community design initiatives. Help them build a network that will support them throughout their career.

## **Model Ethical and Professional Behavior**

Demonstrate how to uphold Kentucky's standards of practice. Talk openly about ethical dilemmas and how you navigate them. Reinforce the importance of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

## **Be Present and Consistent**

Schedule regular check-ins, even brief ones. Ask about their goals and help them map out steps to achieve them. Show that you're invested in their long-term success.

For more tips and information on mentoring:

[Guiding the Future: The Role of Mentorship in Interior Design | IIDA](#)

[Mentorship at AIA | The American Institute of Architects](#)



### \*ACE Mentor Program of the Bluegrass: Strengthening Kentucky's Future Design Professionals



The future of Central Kentucky's architecture, engineering, and construction industry is taking shape in Lexington. Through the ACE Mentor Program of the Bluegrass, high school students gain direct exposure to the design and construction professions and to the professionals who lead them. Based at Lafayette High School, ACE of the Bluegrass is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program of America. The program connects students with architects, engineers, contractors, and industry specialists who volunteer as mentors. Together, students and professionals work through hands-on, team-based design projects that mirror real-world practice and introduce students to the collaborative nature of the AEC industry.

What sets ACE of the Bluegrass apart is the depth of its integration into the school environment. At Lafayette High School, project-based learning serves as the core of the curriculum, allowing students to engage with architecture, engineering, and construction concepts throughout the academic year. This continuous experience allows students to develop design thinking, technical and presentation skills within a studio-like setting.

Students learn in a state-of-the-art classroom utilizing industry-standard tools and gaining early familiarity with BIM software like Revit, digital modeling, and 3D printing. For many students, the ACE program provides their first interaction with AEC professionals. These connections help demystify the profession, clarify pathways within the industry, and allow students to begin seeing themselves in similar roles. By the time they complete the program, many leave with competitive design portfolios and a strong understanding of AEC career pathways. Should it be the students' desire, many graduate from the program and enter accredited university programs with a level of preparedness that distinguishes them among their peers.



The program's impact has also been recognized nationally. In 2025, a team of ACE of the Bluegrass students earned first place in the National Technology Student Association conference in Nashville, demonstrating the strength of both student work and professional mentorship supporting it. Continued success of the ACE Mentor Program of the Bluegrass depends on the involvement of industry professionals.

Kentucky AEC professionals are encouraged to engage with ACE of the Bluegrass in ways that fit their schedules. Whether that's mentoring periodically throughout the year, offering project feedback in the classroom, or hosting job-shadow opportunities within their firms.



If you're interested in getting involved, we encourage you to reach out to **ACE of the Bluegrass Curriculum and Mentor Coordinator, Adam Gillett, AIA, LEED, AP** at [adam@integrityarch.com](mailto:adam@integrityarch.com). To see the work of our students and stay up to date on our local affiliate, follow ACE of the Bluegrass on social media.

For more information: [ACE Mentor Program of the Bluegrass - ACE Mentor Program of America](#)

### UPDATE: Federal Redefinition of "Professional Degrees"

#### **Architecture Excluded—What It Means for Future Licensees:**

A recent federal update to the classification of "professional degrees" has removed architecture from the category, sparking questions across the design community. While this change shifts how architecture programs are grouped in federal data systems, it does not alter licensure requirements in any U.S. jurisdiction.

Starting July 1, 2026, a U.S. Department of Education policy change—stemming from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act—will reclassify architecture as a "general graduate degree" rather than a "professional degree."

#### **The Financial Impact:**

The primary impact of this reclassification is financial. Federal student loans for architecture students will now be capped at \$20,500 annually, a decrease from the "full cost of education" previously permitted for professional degree programs.

The federal definition now reserves "professional degree" status exclusively for fields where the degree itself is the sole gateway to licensure. Because architecture relies on a three-part pathway—education, experience, and examination—it no longer fits the updated federal criteria.

#### **What Stays the Same:**

- Despite the data reclassification, the core pillars of the profession remain untouched:
- State Licensing Laws: These remain unchanged; the legal authority to practice is governed by the states, not federal data categories.
- Mandatory Requirements: Completion of the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) and the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) remains mandatory.
- NAAB Accreditation: Degrees accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) still meet all educational requirements for licensure.
- Title Protection: Legal protection for the title "Architect" is unaffected.

#### **Administrative Impacts vs. Practice Rights:**

This shift may influence how universities report architecture programs and how the public perceives architectural education. However, these are **strictly classification issues—not changes to practice rights or the rigor of the profession.**

#### **Why It Matters:**

Architecture remains a vital licensed profession dedicated to protecting public health, safety, and welfare. The value of an accredited architectural education remains fully intact.

The Kentucky Board of Architects, alongside [NCARB](#), [NAAB](#), and the [AIA](#), continue to monitor these implications and advocate for the clear recognition of architecture as a high-stakes, regulated profession.

# CALIFORNIA'S NEW TITLE FOR ARE CANDIDATES TO USE THE TERM "ARCHITECT In Training"

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: CALIFORNIA ADOPTS "ARCHITECT-IN-TRAINING" TITLE

### A Shift in Professional Terminology for 2027

While many jurisdictions have historically restricted the use of the word "Architect" in any form for unlicensed individuals, California is moving toward a more transparent labeling system. Sponsored by **AIA California** during the 2025 Legislative year, [Assembly Bill 759 \(Valencia\)](#) was signed into law and will officially take effect **January 1, 2027**.

### What the New Title Means

The bill formally adopts the title "Architect-in-Training" (AIT) for individuals actively pursuing licensure. This change is intended to provide clearer language for the public and employers, distinguishing those progressing through the licensure process from those fully licensed to practice independently.

An Architect-in-Training (AIT):

- Is NOT a licensed architect and cannot offer architectural services independently.
- Must work under the direct supervision of a licensed architect, as required by law.
- Must be actively engaged in the required education, experience (AXP), or examination (ARE) process.

### National Implications & The Kentucky Context

California's move reflects a growing national conversation about how to identify "emerging professionals" without compromising public safety. By using "Architect-in-Training," the goal is to recognize the commitment of those on the licensure path while maintaining the integrity of the professional title.

*Kentucky's statutes and regulations currently use different terminology, and this change in California does not alter Kentucky law.* However, the Board continues to monitor developments in other jurisdictions to stay informed about best practices in professional regulation and public communication.

For more detailed information on the California shift, visit the: [New California Title: Architect-in-Training - American Institute of Architects, San Francisco](#)

## REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

It is the licensee and/or certificate holder's responsibility to insure that all contact information is current with the Board office. A Change of Address Form is available under the Forms tab on the Board website [BOA \(ky.gov\)](#).

KENTUCKY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS  
and Certified Interior Designers

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM**

INSTRUCTIONS:  
1. Complete the entire form and sign at the bottom of the page.  
2. Mail the original document to Kentucky Board of Architects, 155 E. Main St., Suite 300, Lexington, KY 40502 or Email the Form to [BOA@kyboa.gov](mailto:BOA@kyboa.gov)

Architect or CSD's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

License No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 Digits of Your S.S. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS IS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR:  BUSINESS  HOME  BOTH

WHERE WILL CONTACT LOCATIONS:  BUSINESS  RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENCE: This is my NEW business address and contact information, if applicable

Form Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular: \_\_\_\_\_  
Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE: This is my NEW home address and contact information, if applicable

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

EFFECTIVE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: It is the licensee and/or certificate holder's responsibility to insure that all contact information is current with the Board office. A Change of Address Form is available under the Forms tab on the Board website [BOA \(ky.gov\)](#).

RETURN THE COMPLETED CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM TO:  
KENTUCKY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS, 155 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 300, LEXINGTON, KY 40502 or [BOA@kyboa.gov](mailto:BOA@kyboa.gov)

# TIPS TO PROTECT PROJECTS

As architects and certified interior designers, who sit at the critical intersection of design vision, technical execution, and owner advocacy. Protecting a client's construction investment is more than just good practice—it is a core professional responsibility. In an environment of escalating costs and compressed schedules, our leadership is essential to navigating project complexity.

The following ten strategies strengthen project outcomes, mitigate risk, and reinforce the value of professional expertise:

1. **Establish a Precise Scope of Work** A well-defined program sets the foundation for clarity. Eliminating ambiguity early protects both the budget and the design intent.
2. **Produce Coordinated, High-Fidelity Documents** Quality documentation is the strongest predictor of success. Thorough drawings and specifications reduce RFIs, change orders, and costly field improvisation.
3. **Guide Owners Toward the Right Delivery Method** Whether it's Design-Bid-Build, CM-at-Risk, or Design-Build, our insight helps owners choose the structure that best aligns with their risk tolerance and complexity.
4. **Advocate for Contractor Prequalification** The lowest bid rarely equals the lowest cost. Evaluating a contractor's financial stability and team experience protects the project from avoidable performance issues.
5. **Promote Transparent Budgeting** Architects are uniquely positioned to identify unrealistic allowances or "value-engineering" risks before they compromise the project's integrity.
6. **Support Strong Contractual Frameworks** Clear, well-structured agreements—such as [AIA Contract Documents](#)—are essential tools for defining expectations and managing risk.
7. **Specify Durable, High-Performance Systems** Our product knowledge directly influences lifecycle value. Prioritizing durability and maintainability safeguards the owner's long-term investment.
8. **Maintain Active Construction Administration** Regular site visits and submittal reviews ensure the work aligns with the design. Our presence onsite is the strongest safeguard against costly deviations.
9. **Encourage Realistic Contingencies** Construction is inherently unpredictable. Advising owners on appropriate design and construction contingencies maintains financial stability through completion.
10. **Document Decisions Thoroughly** Meeting minutes, field reports, and RFI logs create a transparent record. This protects the design team, the owner, and the integrity of the built work.

**Resource Spotlight:** > For more information on improving project outcomes, see the [AIA Michigan "Protect Your Investment" PSA](#) for excellent client-facing advocacy tools.

For more information on improving your projects: [Michigan Protect Your Investment PSA](#)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REPORTING CONCERNS TO PROTECT ARE EXAMS

ARE Security Tip Line at [ARESecurity@ncarb.org](mailto:ARESecurity@ncarb.org).



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Staff Assistant

### COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

Donna Rabbitt-Murphy  
Donald Petrella  
Michael Scanlan

Pictured to the right:

Olivia Davis and Jill Smith, Kentucky Board of Architects' board members attended the December 2025 National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Committee Summit that was held in Washington DC.



### Architect Continuing Education For Calendar Year 2026

Twelve Continuing Education Hours (CEH) are required as a condition for the annual license renewal. Renewal begins June 1, 2026.

The CEH requirement for the annual renewal shall be earned during the period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of the previous calendar year (2025).

A minimum of 12 CEHs shall consist of structured educational activities on relevant topics addressing health, safety, and welfare (HSW) subjects as referenced in [201 KAR 19:087, Section 1\(3\)](#).

### CID Educational Total Hours: 12 Hours

During the period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 of the following year. A minimum of eight (8) of the twelve (12) hours of continuing education required shall structured activities composed of one (1) or more of the following topics: life safety codes, barrier-free codes, building structural systems, lighting, electrical systems, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system.

For More information see [Title 201 Chapter 19 Regulation 445 • Kentucky Administrative Regulations • Legislative Research Commission](#)



*The Kentucky Board of Architects was established by an Act of the Kentucky General Assembly in 1930 to protect the public health, safety and welfare by the regulation of architects. It was originally titled the Kentucky Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects.*